

SAPPHIRE

THE

Philatelic Record

VOL. XXIII.

JANUARY to DECEMBER,

1901.

SMITHSONIAN
JUL 3 1 1958
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P-54
Hist. (Phil.)

THE

Philatelic Record

EDITED BY

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

Member of the Institute of Journalists.

JANUARY, 1901.

Editorial Notes.

THE new century opens full of promise for the Philatelist. The old gloom of a depressed market, of unsettled and drooping prices, is passing, and confidence and better trade are slowly but certainly making their influence felt. There is no disguising the fact that collectors and dealers have, during the last few years, paid a heavy penalty for inflated prices, due mainly to erratic and individual eccentricity. The corrective of bad trade and shaken confidence has taught a lesson which is not likely to be repeated nor forgotten. South African War Issues have done much to popularise our hobby and strengthen our ranks, and there is still to come the New Series for the Australian Commonwealth, and probably a preliminary series of overprinted remainders from each member of the new Commonwealth. There is in fact in sight for the modern issue collector an ample supply of exceptionally interesting material for the immediate future, and a grand historic past, with its multitude of unsolved problems, to fascinate and engross the attention of the deeper student.

The New Century: Philatelic Outlook.

In the dawn of the new century let us, one and all, endeavour to remember that the pursuit of Philately is the pursuit of a hobby that has its best basis in its pleasure-yielding possibilities. Every rancorous exhibition of trade jealousy, every petty attempt to belittle the direction of our enthusiasms, drives a nail into its coffin. On the other hand, every honest attempt to help the beginner, every encouragement we give to research, every endeavour to work together for the common good of the body Philatelic, cements our Philatelic friendships and clears the Philatelic horizon.

In the past the specialist has monopolised the attention of the leading Philatelic Societies, but we venture to suggest that some systematic attempt should be made to help and encourage beginners, both young and old ; for it is most important that we should generously and kindly train recruits to fill the gaps that time and change inevitably make in our ranks.

Unequal Collecting.

Mr. Beckton, in some notes on the Paris Philatelic Exhibition, drew timely attention to striking examples of what we may term unequal collecting. Taking the Medal Exhibit of Hawaii by M. Paul Mirabaud, he says: "It is a remarkable thing that whenever the first issue is well represented, the subsequent issues are weak past comprehension, and *vice versâ*. In the latter case there is not, however, much room for surprise, having regard to the extreme rarity of the first issue, but there is no excuse for those who possess a grand lot of the first issue and have little better than a schoolboy's collection of the others. I don't like seeing this same mistake constantly repeated with such a fine country, from a Philatelic and rarity point of view, as Hawaii, and that is why I have ventured to speak out."

To some Philatelic circles these outspoken remarks will be particularly applicable, There is far too much rarity hunting and two little Philately in some monied sections of the body Philatelic. In not a few instances rarities are bloated, whilst ordinary issues are regarded with something akin to contempt. So-and-so, Esq., makes a dead set for copies of such and such a rarity, and he has already secured one half of the known copies. We can appreciate the pride of possession, and we can most heartily envy the possessor; but, all the same, it is not Philately. All specialists are prone to this weakness. It is quite a human frailty. Still, we repeat, it is not Philately, and it is a wee bit selfish to gobble up all the attainable copies of a rarity and leave none for a famishing Philatelic brother. Its continuance is likely to lead to fervent and earnest prayers that the possessors of such hoards may, at no too distant date, be wafted into the Regions of Eternal Praise, and their treasures distributed amongst the needy.

But the interesting point of Mr. Beckton's remarks is his plea for a more even collection of all issues, and especially of later issues. He is himself a great sinner, hence he can, from experience, drive home the point of his argument. Ten years ago he ceased collecting modern issues. Many interesting stamps have been issued in those ten years, yet those later issues are not even partially collected, *a la* M. Paul Mirabaud, but are absolutely ignored.

Current Roumania: Pink paper.

Through the courtesy of our excellent Bucharest correspondent, we are now in a position to settle the question of pink paper versus pink gum of the current series of Roumanian stamps. From the first, relying on our correspondent's information, we have described the new paper as a pink paper. Major Evans, on the contrary, described it as pink gum. To decide this interesting point we asked our correspondent to get us, if possible, a scrap of the paper *ungummed*, and he has succeeded in sending us a small strip some inches in length and about half the width of a stamp, which clearly establishes our description. But properly speaking the paper is what is more commonly known as a duplex paper. That is to say, it is white on one side and coloured on the other side. This latest Roumanian paper is white on one side and pink on the other. The stamp is printed on the white surface, and the pink side is gummed.

Orange Free State.

1d. on Drei Pence.

By John W. Jones.

NOW that the erstwhile Orange Free State has become a fully fledged British colony, an interest has arisen in the various issues such as has never been known before, especially in the numerous provisionals issued from time to time.

Unfortunately few, if any, specialists gave heed to these and the many minor varieties and types connected therewith at the time of issue, and to the multitude they were *caviare*, consequently many varieties well worthy of study are practically unknown, and I fear the Bloemfontein records, if any, will hardly help us as to the style of setting, quantities issued, and method of production.

It is a matter of common knowledge that all the stamps (the production of Messrs. De la Rue & Co.) were printed in sheets of 240, consisting of four panes of 60 stamps each, but as to the overprinting with provisional value very little authentic information is forthcoming.

Having devoted some time to the study of these stamps, I am enabled to supply a few facts concerning them which may be of interest, and helpful to those who are taking up the stamps of our new colony. I may say by way of preface that practically all the overprinting was done on an old-fashioned platen press by C. Borckenhagen & Co., *Express* Office, Bloemfontein.

Normally two panes, right and left, were overprinted in one operation, the sheets being folded for the purpose, but in some few instances all four panes were surcharged in one operation. For the present I propose to confine myself to a few remarks concerning the 1d. on Drie pence—these stamps are found normally with a thick figure, sloping serif—less commonly a similar figure with straight serif, or a very thin figure with thin straight serif—or none at all, probably due to defective printing—varieties may also be found with "1 d" wide spread, "1d," d dropped, in various positions, and with double surcharge. The double surcharge must have been caused by two panes being overprinted twice.

Of the 1d. on Drie pence there were two distinct issues in which not only is the type of a totally distinct setting, but there are marked variations in the style of the type and even in the stamps themselves.

The normal or commonest setting consists of a right and left pane of 60, the lower panes being exactly the same as the upper except in one instance, to which I shall presently allude.

The left pane contains no errors and consists mainly of the commonest type, all being so except 1st Row No. 6, 3rd Row No. 5, 4th Row No. 4, 6th Row and 10th Row No. 6, which have thin figures

and straight serif, and No. 4 in Row 6, which has the larger figure and straight serifs.

The right pane contains the well-known wider spaced variety, "1 d," being the second stamp in the top row. The "1d" dropped d is the 6th stamp in the 5th row. This last appears to have been corrected before the lower panes were overprinted, as although I have seen several sheets I have not seen a dropped "d" in the lower pane and shall be glad to know if it has been so found.

In Row 4 No. 6 is a curious deformed figure **1**, but the rest of the stamps are all normal except Row 1 No. 4, Row 2 No. 3, Row 3 No. 6, Row 6 No. 3, Row 8 No. 6, which have thin straight serif figures, and Row 3 Nos. 1 and 3, Row 5 No. 3, Row 10 Nos. 1 and 5, which have the larger figure and straight serif.

The next printing and, I think, very much the rarer, contains no errors, and appears to have been printed in right and left panes half a sheet at a time. It is principally noticeable for the number of thin straight serif figures it contains and the stamps themselves are evidently from a different printing to those first described, being of a decided milky blue.

Stray Notes on Transvaals.

By Edward J. Nankivell.

Mr. E. D. Bacon's Discoveries.

MR. E. D. BACON contributes to the November number of the *London Philatelist* what are termed "some new discoveries in the First South African Republic Stamps."

The One Shilling Yellow-Green on hard-surfaced Paper.—Mr. Bacon writes: "I have been recently shown by Mr. R. B. Yardley, a very keen Philatelist, an uncatalogued variety of the First South African Republic one shilling value that he has discovered. The stamp in question, which is unused, is printed on hard-surfaced white wove paper, like that of Nos. 42 and 42*a* of Stanley Gibbons' Catalogue. It is yellow-green in colour, is imperforate, and has yellowish gum. The one penny on this paper has been known for many years, the six pence has since been found, and now we have the one shilling to add to the set."

I have not seen the stamp in question, but the description appears to dispose of its claim to be catalogued as the last printed 1s. of the First Republic on *hard-surfaced paper*. I have in my collection unused pairs, strips, and blocks of the 1d. and 6d. on hard-surfaced paper, and in every case the gum is a pure white. I have also the 1d., 6d., and 1s. on coarse soft paper in pairs and blocks, unused, and in every case the gum is a pure white. I have seen other copies of both these varieties,

and the gum has always been a pure white. Now the first local shilling, which was printed by Viljoen, in colour bears a close resemblance to the last, or yellow-green, shilling. But the first local shilling is on hard paper, which, by a little pressure, might be given the appearance of the hard-surfaced paper of the later printing, and the gum is yellowish, and on no other shilling is it yellowish, that I have ever seen. I therefore doubt the genuineness of Mr. Yardley's "discovery." At the same time, I may add, there is no reason why such a stamp should not exist. The yellow gum, however, seems to me to be fatal to Mr. Bacon's identification. I know of no yellow gum subsequent to Viljoen's printing, of which it was a distinguishing characteristic.

The Borrius Shilling Imperforate.—Mr. Bacon further calls attention to another uncatalogued variety that he has come across during the last few months, viz., a Borrius shilling *imperforate*. This is an old acquaintance. I have had a copy for many years, but as I believe Borrius fine rouletted most, if not all, of his stamps, I shall not include an imperforate shilling until I have seen an imperforate pair. And I submit that it is unwise to catalogue imperforate copies of any stamp of which the normal condition is rouletted or perforated, on any evidence other than imperforate pairs.

Borrius 3d. Imperforate.—Mr. Bacon says he has also seen several used *imperforate* specimens, including pairs, of the three pence of Borrius printing. Here Mr. Bacon furnishes the evidence that has been wanting to justify the cataloguing of an *imperforate* variety. I have several single copies imperforate, but no imperforate pair. All the same, I should like to see a pair.

The German Threepence.—On the other hand, Mr. Bacon does not believe the threepence printed in Germany was ever issued for postal use in the Transvaal in an *imperforate* condition. I have a used pair, despite which I am inclined to agree with Mr. Bacon that these stamps were probably not sent to the Transvaal for postal use *imperforate*. At the same time we have no sufficient evidence to decide aye or nay. Mr. Jeppe, the then Postmaster-General, told Mr. Tamsen "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 direct to the printer in Germany, who would send them the stamps at face value. He also wrote to Mr. Otto in 1870, authorising him to sell to certain parties, giving names and stating quantities ordered, at face value, and to credit the moneys so received against his account for plates and stamps. And in conformity with this permission dealers were apparently supplied even before stock was sent to the Transvaal. They were, in fact, circulating in Europe as early as January, 1870, but were not received in the Transvaal till sixteen months later." The first copies were chronicled by the Philatelic journals in Feb., 1870, as imperforate. But the German printers must also have supplied the dealers with rouletted copies, for in August, 1870, the *Stamp Collectors' Magazine* chronicles the roulette. Mr. Tamsen tells us that the supply sent out with the plates is given in the official records as 8,000, and that the colour is lilac; but he adds there is no evidence to show whether they were rouletted or not.

Arrangement of Varieties.

By a Specialist.

A "NOTE" in Bright's Catalogue under the head of South Australia opens up a very wide and a very interesting question. The "note" says, "Many of the issues of this country being difficult and confusing an attempt has been made in this list to classify by types instead of adhering to the strict chronological order." Now although, like most specialists, I am a stickler for chronological order, I am bound to confess that there are occasions when it may with advantage be disregarded.

For instance, why should not variations of the same design in watermark and in the minor degrees of shade, perforation, and even of paper be placed side by side? The gain of such an arrangement may be rendered obvious. Take, for example, a series which varies in all three particulars noted. Personally, I break away from the orthodox methods and arrange such stamps in vertical columns. In the first column I put the stamps of the first perforation. Then in the next column I place such stamps of the series as were issued with a second variety of perforation. Then the third variety of perforation in the third column and so all through all varieties of perforation, taking care to keep each value in line across the page. The advantage of this arrangement is that it tells at a glance what stamps are, and what are not, to be found in each variety of perforation.

Another page may be given to varieties of shade and another page to varieties of paper. But, as a general rule, all may be kept on the one page, except in the case of what is irreverently termed a "Bloater's" collection, in which, of course, each minute variety is given a page to itself.

The chief objection to this plan of mine seems to me to arise in the case of the re-issue of old designs in new perforations after the lapse of years and after the intervention of another design.

I am doubtful whether watermarks are amenable to this kind of classification. Up to the present I have only tested it for perforations and, so far, I am delighted with its apparent utility in dealing with such varieties.

The more a particular design, or series of designs, can be so arranged as to tell at a glance their own tale of variation the more perfect must be the classification which readily lends itself to such a valuable result. The dealer must set out all varieties separately for the purpose of pricing and the collector slavishly follows the dealer's catalogue. Hence we have varieties of perforation arranged separately as in the catalogue.

Collectors in Council.

By Sir Charge.

Topic: The Reign of the Dealer.

OUR little coterie had quite a lively discussion at its last fireside gathering. The topic was one that seemed to me to merit a more public ventilation, and I am, for that reason, tempted to trouble the readers of the *Philatelic Record* with a brief account of the trend of opinions in our small but select circle.

By way of preface, I may say that we do not pretend to represent any outside constituency. We are, as I have before explained, a little gathering of very old friends, whose friendship is cemented by the best of Philatelic ties. We examine and criticise each other's collections and methods of arrangement, and we are never tired of comparing notes, testing information, and helping each other in every possible manner.

Some day I may have the presumption to outline our simple methods of Philatelic study, for I am often, in my quiet moments of meditation, tempted to believe that, in our simple way, we make a deeper and more truly Philatelic study of our treasures than those larger gatherings which shine as great Societies. But I am anticipating what I may have to say on this matter. For the present I must confine myself to the lively discussion of which I have promised you a brief account.

"Do you know," said friend Pelure, knocking the ashes out of his pipe, "that I forsee in this action of the Gibbons firm in dropping envelopes, postcards and other postal stationery a very serious and far-reaching development of the Reign of the Dealer in matters Philatelic."

"But I thought, Pelure, that you were all in favour of that action?" queried Tête Bêche.

"Then you misunderstood me, Tête Bêche. I did not go so far as that. I certainly do hold the opinion that the collecting of envelopes and wrappers is practically dead; that it is irrevocably going quite out of fashion."

"Just so," interposed Tête Bêche, "and that being your settled conviction, on what possible grounds can you object to the action of the Gibbons firm?"

"Ah, my friend, you are not looking far enough. You are content to accept the inevitable of the present and let the future look out for itself," replied Pelure.

"Well, as another great man remarked, I am not aware that posterity has ever done anything for me, so why the dickens should I trouble myself about posterity?" said our facetious friend.

"It is not so much a question of posterity, Tête Bêche, as of the immediate future," responded Pelure.

"Ain't we getting a bit fogged?" questioned Mr. Charles Perf.

"You may be, Charlie," said Tête Bêche; "but I am quite sure Pelure has something to explain."

"I have," said Pelure. "And what I want to emphasize is not the mere action of abandoning envelopes, postcards, &c., as a trade policy, but the effect upon matters Philatelic of a trading firm deciding what shall or what shall not be collected."

"Is not that rather overstating the case?" said Wide Roulette.

"I think not," said Pelure. "I do not for a moment accuse the Gibbons firm of even attempting to dictate to collectors what they may or may not collect. I believe it has simply been guided solely and entirely by trade reasons. It has presumably found the trade in envelopes, postcards, &c., not worth cultivating any longer, and has consequently decided to abandon it. From a trade point of view, the decision was possibly a wise one."

"Then what on earth have you to object to?" again asked Tête Bêche.

"What I have to object to," said Pelure, "is the position which we collectors occupy in regard to the decision. Practically, we have not even been consulted in the matter. A trading firm has in effect issued its fiat that the collecting of envelopes, postcards, &c., is in future to be abandoned."

"But is not that a very unfair way of putting it?" asked Wide Roulette.

"I am inclined to think our friend Pelure is a bit rough on Gibbons in his apportionment of blame for the decision," said Marcus Aurelius. "The Gibbons firm deals in stamps, postal stationery, albums, and whatever a collector is likely to demand from it. The collector has for some years almost ceased buying envelopes, postcards, and other postal stationery, and I am told that, as a consequence, a lot of shelf room in the Gibbons establishment is filled with unsaleable goods. And yet you blame the firm for saying we intend from and after a certain date to cease adding to this stock of unsaleable goods, or chronicling the further productions of such unsaleable goods. In effect it is the collector, and not Gibbons, who has really made the decree inevitable. Gibbons is only the mouthpiece of an announcement rendered inevitable by the collector himself."

"And that is just what I object to," said Pelure. "Why should one trading firm assume the power of dictating to collectors what they may and what they may not collect? Why should it regard itself as the special mouthpiece of collectors."

"It does not," contended Marcus Aurelius. "It simply says 'so far as our experience goes collectors have ceased to buy these goods. We, therefore, are compelled to publicly announce that in future we cannot profitably either stock or chronicle further productions of such goods.' From a trading point of view it seems to me that its position is absolutely unassailable."

"From the sordid trading point of view it may be," conceded Pelure, "but that is not my point. What I want to emphasise is the fact that we collectors by our apathy practically relegate our powers to a mere trading firm, and we every year of our lives acquiesce in that relegation of our powers."

"What the Jericho are you driving at, old man?" asked Mr. Charles Perf.

"My dear friends, you must be very shortsighted if you do not recognise the drift of my objections. I do not care a fig for Gibbons and his shelves, but I do care a great deal for the position which is being created by these Decrees which are issued from 391, Strand, W.C."

"Decrees! They are not Decrees!" said Mr. Charles Perf. "Gibbons says he's not going to keep such stuff in future. Surely that does not prevent your going elsewhere."

"Charlie!" said Tête Bêche, warningly, "we'll have to put you to bed if you don't behave yourself.

"I said 'Decrees,' advisedly," continued Pelure, "for this latest Decree about envelopes, postcards, &c., is only one of other indications we have had of the reality of what I may term 'The Reign of the Dealer.' First we had a Decree as to Locals. Certain stamps were relegated to the limbo of Local rank, whilst certain others, presumably for trade reasons, were retained in the more important part of the trade list. Should that division have been left to a dealer, and when done by a dealer, should it have been accepted, as it has been by collectors, without criticism, without investigation, and without a word of protest? Our boasted Philatelic Societies slept the sleep of characteristic apathy. The next Decree with one stroke of the dealer's pen removed from all future catalogues a large number of most valuable stamps on the ground that they had never been issued as postage stamps, and this, too, without offering to make restitution in the case of such stamps sold at very high prices as genuine postage stamps. That Decree was also accepted by collectors without investigation and without protest. Again our boasted Philatelic Societies slept the sleep of characteristic apathy. And now, we are called upon to swallow another Decree lopping off another list. Where, I ask in all seriousness, is this 'Reign of the Dealer' to end? For all we know, the next Decree may play havoc with some of our most treasured possessions. We may next have a Decree that official stamps, not having paid postage, must be relegated to the waste paper basket, and unpaids may share the same fate. My contention is that if these things are to be done they should be done by responsible and elected representatives of the leading Philatelic Societies, after the most careful investigation and discussion, and not by a dealer's Decree. We cannot afford to stand by and see our property reduced to waste paper by the eccentric Decrees of a dealer. We, as well as he, have some rights in the matter."

After a considerable pause, during which we all seemed to be ruminating deeply on our friend's appeal, Wide Roulette voiced our thoughts. He asked, "What would you have us do? In what way can we interfere? What power have we to say aye or nay?"

"We have the power of already existing association in Societies if we care to use it. The latent power undoubtedly rests with us if we care to exert it," said Pelure.

"In what way? What would you propose?" asked Wide Roulette.

"I don't propose anything, for I know only too well it would be useless at present. But I cherish the hope, nevertheless, that some

day the Reign of the Dealer will be found to be sufficiently irksome to rouse Collectors to action, to compel them to decide for themselves what they will collect and what they will reject, what shall be catalogued and what shall not, and the *dernier ressort* will be, must inevitably be, a Collectors' Catalogue compiled by Collectors for Collectors."

That was an old cry and a hopeless one. At least, so it seemed to us that evening as we separated and wended our ways to our separate homes.

New Philatelic Books.

Bright & Son's "A B C" Catalogue, 1901.

Bright & Son's "A B C" Descriptive Priced Catalogue of the World's Postage Stamps, Envelopes, Postcards, &c. In Two Parts: Part I.—Adhesives; Part II.—Entires. Thoroughly Revised up to date of going to press. Well and fully Illustrated. London: Bright & Son, Wholesale and Retail Dealers and Importers of Postage Stamps, 164, Strand, W.C. Simpkin, Marshall & Co., Stationers, Hall Court, E.C. Fourth Edition. Paper Boards. 2s. 6d. net.

WE accord a hearty welcome to this new and much improved edition of Bright's "A B C" Catalogue, for it is the only catalogue published in this country that pretends to be a competitor to Gibbons's, and the vagaries of recent issues of our Gibbons have been so eccentric and extraordinary that one cannot be desirous of the welfare of Philately without offering up a fervent prayer for the permanent success of a well-compiled competitor. No one wishes to see Gibbons elbowed out of the field, but the corrective influence of a strong competitor, such as Bright's "A B C" now undoubtedly is, cannot fail, from the Collector's point of view, in being an unmixed blessing.

This new "A B C" is up to date, we might almost say, to the end of the century just closed. The very latest provisionals issued in South Africa must have been dropped in up to the last moment of going to press.

The illustrations show considerable improvement, but many are still very far from clear. Indeed, every edition of an English catalogue that is published seems to emphasise the great disadvantage under which English Collectors suffer in this respect, compared with their fellow Collectors in other countries. It should not be so.

The pricing we have not had time to examine and compare, but so far as we have glanced at the figures, they seem to fairly reflect the trend of the market. Some are up and some are down. No sensational interference has, we believe, been attempted. The greatest change, of course, will be looked for, and will be found in Transvaal and Orange Free State issues, which have been raised all round. But it is not a little curious that some of the grandest old stamps of the non-rare class are kept at their old level; in fact, some which must be getting scarcer in mint and fine used condition are lower than in 1897. We open haphazard at Sicily, which for some time has been gradually growing in favor. The Moens remainders, which so long kept these grand stamps at a low level, are now practically exhausted, and yet they show but little rise in price in unused; indeed, the 50gr. is dropped from 10s. 6d. to 7s. 6d. Here are the prices for comparison :—

	1897.				1901.			
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
½gr., orange yellow	5	0	6	0	7	6	8	6
1gr., olive brown	9	0	5	0	12	0	4	0
1gr., olive green	5	0	4	0	5	0	4	0
2gr., blue	2	6	1	0	2	0	2	0
2gr., pale blue	1	6	0	9	1	6	1	3
5gr,, vermilion	2	6	5	6	8	6	10	6
5gr., rose red	10	0	8	0	10	0	8	0
10gr., indigo	5	0	4	6	6	6	7	0
20gr., violet black	7	6	6	0	10	0	10	0
50gr., red brown..	10	6	35	0	7	6	30	0

We have a strong suspicion that these prices are mainly put "a little under Gibbons," and are not priced from stock, or from the market. We have seen most of the dealers' stocks, and we don't know one with a good selection at these prices.

What applies to these grand old King Bombas applies to other Italian States, and probably to not a few other countries. There is a dominating desire to price down all old non-rare stamps. We do not complain, for if dealers will keep to these prices Collectors will get good value for their money, and it is far better that catalogue prices should represent the minimum than an inflated and eccentric maximum of prices.

There is one suggestion we should like to make to the publishers, and that is that they should restore to the cover the bold figures which proclaimed the year of issue. At present there is absolutely no indication on either the cover or even the title page to show the year of publication. In the years to come, it will be a tiresome matter to pick out a particular year's "A B C." No other standard catalogue sins in this respect.

German China Provisional Stamps.

A Paper read before the Philatelic Society, London, on October 26th, 1900,

By Franz Richenheim.

FOR the first time since German stamps have been issued, a provisional issue has been put into circulation by the Post Office, Tsingtau, in the German Colony Kiautchou (China), on or about May 9th, 1900. About this date the German Post Office in this Colony ran out of 5 pf. stamps, and to comply with the public demand for this value, some sheets of 1897 10 pf. stamps, surcharged diagonally "China," were surcharged horizontally in black

5 Pfg.

underlined with blue pencil drawn with a ruler, except on the very first sheets, on which only the figures 5 were underlined.

As the little printing office in Tsingtau had not a sufficient number of types of figure 5 and the letters of the same kind in stock, they were obliged to take three sorts of types, one after the other, to be able to surcharge at least half a sheet at a time (50 stamps). These three different types are arranged on each pane in the following way:

I. 1	I.	I.	I.	I.	I.	I.	I.	I.	I.
I.	I.	I.	I.	I.	I.	I.	I.	I.	I.
I. 21	II. 22	II.	II.	II.	II.	II.	II.	II.	II.
II.	II.	II.	II.	II.	II.	II.	II.	II.	II.
II.	II.	II. 43	III 44 *a*	III.	III.	III. 47 *b*	III.	III.	III. 50

Type I. (stamps Nos. 1 to 21) 5 Pfg. The top line of the 5 is short, the lower curve ending in a dot. The letters are in medium serif type. The whole surcharge is 11 mm. long.

Type II. (stamps Nos. 22 to 43) **5 Pfg.** The top line of the 5 is longer and more curved, the lower curve ending in a flourish. The letters are in thick serif type. The whole surcharge is 12 mm. long.

Type III. (stamps Nos. 44 to 50) 5 Pfg. The surcharge is in narrow "antique" type. The top line of the 5 is well curved, the lower curve ending in a dot. The whole surcharge measures 10½ mm.

There exist two minor varieties—

(*a*) Fourth stamp of bottom row on each pane broken f

(*b*) Seventh ,, ,, ,, 5

and as these two minor varieties happen to appear on Type III., of which only seven specimens exist on each pane, only ten regular surcharges of this type are found on each sheet.

As each pane has been separately surcharged, the position of the surcharge varies, and appears on some panes through the centre of the stamps, and on others over the original value.

The first postmark known on these stamps is May 9th, 1900, and the latest date of obliteration I have seen on them so far is the middle of August this year.

The two pairs of these stamps—in Types I. and II. respectively on original envelope, forwarded by a firm in Tsingtau to Hamburg, and obliterated "Shanghai 11. 5. 00."—you have before you, have very probably escaped obliteration in Tsingtau, and the mistake was discovered and made good in Shanghai, as these surcharged stamps were not issued by the German Post Office in the latter place.

In July a new surcharge, also horizontally in black, on the 10 pf. German China stamps, appeared in Tsingtau, reading "**5 Pf.**" only 9½ mm. long. The 5 and letters are similar to the Type II. of the previous issue, the dot at the end of the surcharge surrounded by a small circle, the whole surcharge also underlined with a blue pencil, as in the May issue.

The German Post Office in Futchau (China), opened on June 7th, 1900, issued the same value surcharged "**5 pf**" in black, on the 10 pf. German China stamp of 1897, in August this year. The surcharge here is only 8½ mm. long, and has neither a dot at the end nor is it underlined. The 5 and letters are much larger and thicker than in the other issues, and instead of a capital letter P, we find here a small p.

I am afraid we shall hear by-and-by of some more authorised German Colonial provisionals, not to speak of the use of bisected stamps, as the "Steamer" issue for the German Colonies, and the surcharged "Germania" and "Picture" stamps for the German Post Offices in foreign countries, which were expected before the 1st October this year, seem to have been delayed for some reason or other.—*From "The London Philatelist."*

Stamps of Mecklenburg-Schwerin.

By A. H. Weber.

A Paper read before Pacific Philatelic Society October 16th, 1900.

THE stamps of this ancient dukedom present many interesting facts to the general collector, while to the specialist, or the student of minute varieties, there is a mine of wealth in store for him.

The first issue was an imperforate one, in July, 1856, engraved on wood, printed on white wove paper, and consisted of four values: 4-4 sch. red, 3 sch. orange-yellow, 3 sch. yellow, and 5 sch. blue. These were printed by the Prussian State printing office, and delivered to the authorities on the dates and in the quantities named :—

June 9th, 1856	6,300	sheets	4-4	sch.	—756,000	stamps.
	1,800	,,	3	,,	—216,000	,,
	600	,,	5	,,	— 72,000	,,
November 26th, 1856 ..	200	,,	3	,,	— 24,000	,,
December 16th, 1856 ..	1,650	,,	3	,,	—198,000	,,

The sheets contained 120 stamps each—12 rows of 10. The 4-4, or whole, was spaced uniformly through the sheet, so that each quarter was an equal distance from its neighbour, or $1\frac{1}{4}$ mm. apart. The sheet thus contained of this value 480 stamps. The 3 sch. and 5 sch. were spaced $1\frac{3}{4}$ to 2 mm. apart. No dividing lines were printed in, but on the margins at the right and left were printed the numerals 1 to 12 as counters for the rows. The necessary postage rate conditioned by the variations of the tariff for local and foreign mail matter was made up by combining the various values with the requisite number of the 4-4 value.

The second issue was made July, 1864, the stamps having been printed and delivered June 12th in response to a rush order of May 31st, and consisted of 500 sheets, or 60,000 stamps, of the 4-4 value. This issue was voluntarily rouletted by the printing office, the squares being of $24\frac{1}{3}$ mm. in size, and was accepted by the authorities as desirable. The narrow spacing of the stamps made it awkward to roulette them accurately, and a new plate was prepared for the next issue, by removing the ground work of dots and spacing each group of four $\frac{1}{4}$ sch. a little wider apart, $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. instead of $1\frac{1}{4}$ mm. as formerly. Although 60,000 stamps were printed and issued, the demand for them was so urgent that they were immediately distributed, and a further lot of the 4-4 value (the third size) was delivered by August 10th, 1864. The scarcity of this stamp may be attributed to the fact that very little notice of it was taken at the time of its issue. The soft, mesh-wove paper on which it was printed was not durable, and the stamps were soon destroyed; besides this, the whole lot was used up in about two months.

The third issue began in July, 1864, and continued until August, 1867, though the official announcement is dated September 30th. It consisted of two values, the 4-4 red, vermilion, rose-red, carmine, pale red, and the 4 sch. brown and red brown. This time the sheets contained 100 stamps each, and the several deliveries were as follows :—

August 10th, 1864 ..	..	4,000	sheets	4-4	sch.—	400,000 stamps.
January 9th, 1866 ..	..	5,000	,,	4-4	,,	—500,000 ,,
February 23rd, 1867	..	2,000	,,	4-4	,,	—200,000 ,,
August 24th, 1867..	..	1,200	,,	4-4	,,	—120 000 ,,
July 15th, 1864 ..	..	100	,,	5	,,	— 10,000 ,,
March 20th, 1865 ..	..	150	,,	5	,,	— 15,000 ,,
October 20th, 1865	..	150	,,	5	,,	— 51,000 ,,
January 26th, 1867	..	60	,,	5	,,	— 6,000 ,,
June 11th, 1867 ..	..	100	,,	5	,,	— 10,000 ,,

The paper used for the second issue was a peculiar mesh-wove, and a sub-issue can be made of the third issue because a quantity of each value was printed on this paper, which is the typical paper of the 4-4 value rouletted with background of dots. A further variety of this issue is the 5 sch., brown on thick paper, but it is impossible to approximate the date of its printing, delivery, or issue.

The fourth issue was made September, 1865, and consisted of the 3 sch. orange-yellow, rouletted 12, but the squares rouletted were 23 mm. instead of $24\frac{1}{3}$ mm. as were the 4-4 and 5 sch. in last issue. The paper of this issue is rough, somewhat yellowish, showing pores, but not like the mesh-wove paper used before. The stamps of this issue ordered were printed August 1st, 1865, and August 16th 800 sheets, or 96,000 stamps, were delivered. The old plate of 1865 was undoubtedly used for this issue, and when the rouletting began, then the difficulty arose, caused by the lack of space between the stamps.

The fifth issue was in October, 1866, consisting of 500 sheets, or 50,000 stamps, of 2 sch. violet. The stamps were delivered to the authorities August 18th of the same year.

The sixth issue was made in June, 1867, and consisted of the 3 sch. orange-yellow, on a paper whiter and smoother than the previous issues, rouletted 12. A new plate was prepared for this issue, with wider space between the stamps, and the roulette squares were $24\frac{1}{3}$ mm. each side. The deliveries of this issue were as follows :—

June 11th, 1867 ..	..	..	200 sheets	3 sch.—	20,000 stamps.
August 24th, 1867	..	..	200 ,,	3 ,,	—20,000 ,,

A sub-issue can again be made, as this stamp was also printed on a thick paper similar to the paper used for the 5 sch. brown, but the dates and quantities are unknown.

The seventh issue was made September, 1867, the 2 sch. value, lilac, greyish lilac, and bluish-lilac. Delivery was made September 7th, 1867, consisting of 200 sheets, or 20,000 stamps. There is a variety of this stamp in which the figure 2 in the upper right-hand corner has no dot or ball at the beginning of the character.

There are many other minor points of interest to the specialist, the consideration of which show how much there is to learn in even the most insignificant stamp issue, and how well the study of the collector is repaid.

—*From "Filatelic Facts and Fallacies."*



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.

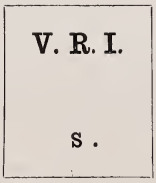
New Zealand.—The new penny stamp intended to inaugurate the universal penny postage for the Colony is reported to have been designed, engraved, and printed by Messrs. Waterlow and duly forwarded. According to the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* "The stamp, which is printed in red on a white ground, is symbolical of New Zealand disseminating penny postage. In the centre is a female figure bearing in her hand the caduceus, the rod or staff borne by Mercury as a sign of office and authority. In the background is a steamer with a mountain in the distance, which are intended to represent New Zealand, and beside the figure is a globe to represent universality."

Mr. J. W. Jones has shewn us the 1s. brown of the 1882-7 series, Gibbons' type 22, perf. 11½, thick paper, and current double-lined NZ watermark. This reprinting from the old plates instead of from the Waterlow plates of the picture series is strange.

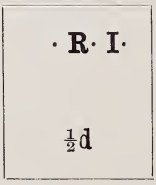
Adhesive.

1s., brown, Gibbons' type 22, perf. 11½, thick paper, wmk. double-lined NZ and star.

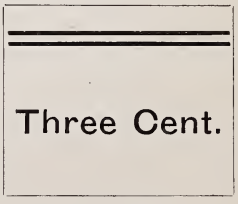
Orange River Colony. — We have some additions to make to our Reference List published in last month's *Philatelic Record*. Mr. Daun has seen the 5s. in the Misplaced, or Mixed, Stops setting. He has also shewn us a new variety in a pair, namely, the 1s., with figure omitted and wide spacing between the s and the stop, Level Stops setting.



The Earl of Crawford informs us that he has received the ½d. of the Raised Stops setting with the "V" of V·R·I· omitted.



Straits Settlements. Perak.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the 1 dol. and 2 dols. overprinted "Three Cent." in bold sans serif capitals and small letters, and two heavy lines across the top of the stamp cancel the original value in the corner labels. In the Malay Peninsula there is no waste of letters; "cent." is made to do duty for both singular and plural. A variety with no stop after the word "cent." has been found on the 3c. on 50c. To date the list stands :—



Adhesives.

1c. on 2c., lilac and brown.
1c. on 4c , ,, carmine.
1c. on 5c., ,, ochre.
3c. on 8c., ,, blue.
3c. on 50c., green and black.
3c. on 1 dol., ,, emerald.
3c. on 2 dols ,. ,, carmine.

Variety. No stop after "Cent.'
3c. on 50c., green and black.

Foreign Countries.

Chili.—According to the *Metropolitan Philatelist* the colour of the 10c. of the new design has already been changed from violet to yellow.

Adhesive.

10 centavos, yellow.

Dominican Republic. — We have received from Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., a series of a new design of the map order, which we illustrate.



Adhesives

¼	centavo,	blue; *perf.*	14.
½	,,	rose ,,	14.
1	,,	olive-green; *perf.*	14.
2	centavos,	deep green ,,	14.
5	,,	red-brown. ,,	14.
10	,,	orange ,,	12.
20	,,	lilac ,,	12.
50	,,	grey-black ,,	12.
1	peso,	pale brown ,,	12.

The *Monthly Journal* says there are probably full sets perf. 12 and perf. 14.

Formosa.—Acording to the *Metropolitan Philatelist* the current set of Japanese stamps has been surcharged with "Formosa" in small Japanese characters for use here.

Adhesive.

5	rin,	grey; red surcharge.	
1	sen,	lilac-brown; red surcharge.	
2	,,	green ,,	,,
3	,,	brown-violet; black	,,
4	,,	carmine ,,	,,
5	,,	orange-yellow; red	,,
8	,,	olive ,,	,,
10	,,	blue; black	,,
15	,,	violet ,,	,,
20	,,	red-orange; black	,,
25	,,	blue-green ,,	,,
50	,,	violet-brown ,,	,,
1	yen,	carmine ,,	,

France.—The much talked of artistic series has been issued, and we have received a full set from Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd. The designs are not quite such repulsive abhortions as the Colonial series, but they are, to say the least, very disappointing. There is a decided lack of strength and definiteness in all the designs. The lower values up to 5 c. inclusive are of the figure of Justice type, the 10 c. to 30 c. inclusive are of the seated figure type, and the higher values, viz., 40 c., 50 c., 1 fr., 2 fr., and 5 fr. are of the oblong shape. The centre of the oblong series is in a different colour, said to represent the sky seen through the foliage.

Adhesives.



1 c., grey.
2 c., claret.
3 c., orange.
4 c., brown.
5 c., green.



10 (c.), carmine-red.
15 (c.), orange.
20 (c.), claret.
25 (c.), blue.
30 (c.), lilac.



40 (c.), red, *sky in* pale blue.
50 (c.), brown ,, lavender.
1 fr., lake ,, yellow-green.
2 fr., slate ,, dull-yellow.
5 fr., deep blue buff.

China.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the current French 2 fr. overprinted "Chine" in black. They also inform us that on October 26th, 1900, 3,000 provisional 25 c. on 1 fr. stamps were issued.

Adhesives.

25 con. 1 r., olive green.
2 fr., brown on bluish.

Germany. LEVANT. — The current stamps of Germany have been surcharged

for use in the Levant as follows. The surcharge is in black, except on the 15pi. on 3m., which is surcharged in red :—

Adhesives.

10p. on 5pf., green.
20p. on 10pf., carmine.
1pi. on 20pf., blue.
1½pi. on 25pf., red and black on yellow.
1½pi. on 30pf., red and black on buff.
2pi. on 40pf., red and black.
2½pi. on 50pf., carmine and black on buff.
4pi. on 80pf, red and black on rose.
5pi. on 1mk., carmine.
10pi. on 2mk., blue.
15pi. on 3mk., violet-black.

Colonies.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us an announcement of the new colonials. The design is a ship in the central portion of the design. The lower values, up to and including the 80 pfennig, are of the usual rectangular shape and size. The high values are oblong. The ship in the lower values presents a front view and on the high values a side view. The name of the colony appears on a scroll above the ship. The new stamps will be for the following colonies :—Cameroons, Caroline Islands, German New Guinea, German South West Africa, Marianne Islands, Marshall Islands, Samoa. The full set for each colony will be as follows :—

Adhesives.

2pf., grey.
3 ,, brown.
5 ,, green.
10 ,, carmine.
20 ,, blue.
25 ,, blk. and red on *yellow*.
30 ,, blk. and orange on *buff*.
40 ,, blk. and carmine.
50 ,, ,, violet on *buff*.
80 ,, ,, carmine.
1m., carmine.
2m., blue.
3m., violet.
5m., carmine and black.

German East Africa.—For this colony the values will be the pesa and rupee as follows :—

Adhesives.

2 pesa, brown.
3 ,, green.
5 ,, carmine.
10 ,, blue.
15 ,, black and orange.
20 ,, black and carmine.
25 ,, ,, violet.
40 ,, ,, carmine.
1 rupee, blue.
2 rupees, violet.
5 ,, carmine and black.

Portugal. Portuguese India. — Mr. Godinho informs the *Philatelic Journal of India* that in order to avoid the application of a large number of stamps to heavy articles transmitted by post, a ministerial decree authorises the issue of high value stamps, namely, 12 tangas and 2 rupees.

Macau.—The decree above referred to also authorises a 78 avos for this colony.

Timor.—And a 78 avos also for this colony.

Paraguay.—The *American Journal of Philately* states that in May last the 30 and 50c. telegraph stamps were surcharged in black with new values, respectively 5 and 10 centavos, that they might be used for postage stamps. The old value is blocked out and the new value printed on each side of the central coat of arms. There is nothing to indicate that either of these varieties is intended for postal use.

The *A.J.P.* has also seen the current 40c. telegraph stamp used postally.

Adhesives.

Telegraph stamps used postally.

Perforated 11½.

40c. black, red and grey-green.
5c. on 30c. black, green and grey.
10c. on 50c. black, dull violet and grey.

Roumania.—We have received from Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., the 10 bani and 25 bani of the current design on the pink paper. Perf. 11½, no watermark. The series on the pink, unwatermarked, paper, up to date, is therefore as follows :—

Adhesives.

1 bani, pale brown.
2 ,, chocolate.
5 ,, emerald.
10 ,, carmine.
15 ,, black.
25 ,, blue.

Russia. Finland.—*The Monthly Journal* publishes the following from a correspondent :—

"On the 1/14 of August, when the Finnish stamps were replaced by those of Russia, there was issued by way of protest (not officially, but by private enterprise), a funereal label, with a solid *black* ground, bearing the Arms of Finland in *yellow* and *red*, and the words 'Suomi' above and 'Finland' below, in *white*. There was also a post card, with the same device in the right upper corner, 'union postale universelle—carte postale' at top, four dotted lines for the address, and an instruction in four languages at foot, on pale buff card 140 × 91 mm.

"The price of the label, '1 penni,' is marked on the back, and the profits, if any, were to be devoted to the national schools. These labels were to be placed on the address side of the letters, and the Russian stamps on the other side.

"The Governor-General soon put an end to these demonstrations. Referring the matter to the Russian Ministry of the Interior, he obtained authority to forbid absolutely the use of these labels and cards, which were in circulation for not more than about forty-eight hours.

"These labels were never sold at the post office at Helsingfors, as has been stated in a French journal. H. L. F."

United States. Tutuila.—*The Metropolitan Philatelist* says the question of a surcharged series for this island is now under the consideration of the U.S. Post Office Department. It will be remembered that in the International Settlement of the Samoan difficulty the island of Tutuila was awarded to the United States.

Philately in the Mags.

Grenada: Early Penny Issues.

Mr. J. Wray Mercer, who specialises in Grenadas, writing to the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* concerning its "Guide to Values," says:—"An exceedingly scarce stamp in the unused state, is the one penny blue-green, of the unwatermarked issue—no modern catalogue lists, or even mentions it—but none the less it has a history distinct from the commoner, and probably later issued penny yellow-green, with no watermark, usually over-priced at 10s. to 12s. unused. The former is a stamp to look for and perchance find, the latter to avoid. The second issue is stated to consist of:—

1d., yellow-green.
1d., blue-green.
6d., dull-red.
6d., rose.
6d., vermilion.

The stamps being printed upon small star watermarked paper and said to be perforated in a compound manner.

"Here we have included in this misleading and imperfect summary, in the case of the penny value two distinct stamps differing in colour as well as quality of paper and gum, and in gauge and method of perforation as well as in the position of the star watermark (which may appear upright or sideways according to the particular stamp). Another stamp, the 1d. perf 14, small star, formerly also entangled in this list has only in the very latest catalogue received a place to itself."

A Luxemburg Error.

The *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* publishes the following interesting letter from the Rev. Mr. Raynor:—

"I enclose for your inspection (he writes) an error which I do not think has been noticed, viz.: 8. P for S. P. on the Luxemburg 1c. The 8 is not merely a broken or faulty S, nor a heavy impression of an S. This was my own thought on first noticing it, but on looking at it through a glass I saw it was a genuine figure 8. The shape of the character is different, and its size rather smaller than the capital S. As a printer of over 30 years standing, frequently handling types and noticing their differences, I am quite certain on this point; and I think every practical printer would confirm it. . . . . Of course in these heavy faced types ('Egyptian') there is necessarily very little difference between the S and 8; and the smaller the type the nearer they approach each other. This would account for the error having escaped detection so long."

The Editor adds:—"A close inspection of the specimen sent shows that the supposed 'S' of the surcharge is indeed a veritable '8.'"

Saxony: 1850. 3 pfennig.

Mr. G. B. Duerst in the *Monthly Journal*, quoting from *Der Philatelist*, gives the following interesting history of the production of the Saxony 3 pfennig of 1850:—

"The stamp was made after the pattern of the Bavarian 3 kreuzer value. The original matrix was engraved in wood, and from this matrix 20 *clichés* were made, which were formed into one block of four rows of five. The firm entrusted with this work was J. B. Hirschfeld, in Leipzig. The first order, for 120,000 stamps, was given to a printer named Georg Meyn, and 6,000 sheets of 20 stamps were delivered to the head office at Leipzig in the latter part of June.

"A very interesting remark contained in the official notification of June 22nd runs as follows:—'This form is, however, only provisional, and will be altered when postage stamps for correspondence (letters) are introduced.' Another paragraph contains the instruction to the officials not to demand any more than the face value of the stamps.

"Although 120,000 stamps had been delivered at the end of June, only 19,000 were left on August 20th. It is therefore evident that the public appreciated the novelty.

"Further orders were given, and fresh lots delivered as follows:—

22nd August,	1850 ..	60,000
8th October	,, ..	40,000
4th November	,, ..	60,000
19th December	,, ..	60,000
22nd February,	1851 ..	40,000
3rd April	,, ..	80,000
17th June	,, ..	40,000

"The total number printed was, therefore, 500,000. One sheet of twenty stamps was sent as a sample to the Finance Ministry at Dresden, 463,058 stamps were sold, and the remaining 36,922 were burnt on December 10th, 1851.

"When the new 3 pfennig, *green*, stamp was issued, on August 1st, 1851, it was decreed that no more *red* stamps should be sold at the post offices, that the public could use the stamps in hand, but that they would not be exchanged for the new ones.

"This is the reason why the 3 pfennig, *red*, is so rare with the lozenge obliteration, which was only introduced in March, 1852. The usual postmark is the name and date stamp, but the earliest obliteration was in pen and ink.

Niger Territories.

A correspondent sends the *Monthly Journal* the following information concerning the division of the Niger Territories :—

"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 eastwards.

"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 African possessions, having roughly an area of 300,000 square miles.

"It will be seen from the above that the Northern Nigeria stamps do *not* supersede the Niger Coast stamps as was supposed, but only serve the northern portions of the late Niger Company's territories. But the Niger Coast stamps are about to be, if they have not already been, superseded by a new set of stamps for the new Colony of Southern Nigeria, which comprises the southern part of the late Niger Coast Protectorate."

Wei-hai-Wei Courier Post.

The *London Philatelist* publishes the following interesting history of the Wei-hai-Wei Courier Post by one "whose position and residence in China lends authority" to the information :—

"When first the territory of Wei-hai-Wei was taken over by the British in 1898 no arrangements were made to establish a post office, either on the island of Liu-kung-tao or on the mainland itself. In consequence of this the mails for the residents and garrison were sent by the postal authorities to the nearest Chinese post office, viz. that of Chifu, and there they remained till one of H.M. ships could call for them. In the same way the letters from Wei-hai-Wei were taken by one of H.M. ships to Chifu and there posted. This arrangement naturally caused considerable delay, and although Chifu is only fifty-six miles distant by road from Wei-hai-Wei, mails often lay there for a week or ten days before they were called for. In order to do away with this inconvenience, some of the residents of Liu-kung-tao obtained the Commissioner's permission to try and start a courier post in conjunction with the postal authorities at Chifu, and in order to pay for these couriers his sanction was also obtained for issuing a sufficient number of 2 cent and 5 cent stamps to cover the expenses.

"This courier post was started in the beginning of December, 1898, and as it was found impossible to print stamps at Wei-hai-Wei itself, Messrs. Kelly & Walsh, of Shanghai, were asked to print 4,000 2 cent and 4,000 5 cent stamps, as it was thought that this number would be required during the first six months. Over a month elapsed before these stamps arrived, and during that time a provisional issue was made by stamping Messrs. Cornabe & Co.'s 'dollar chop' on the 'dark room' paper belonging to one of the officers. The post was successfully run till April, 1899, when the Chinese Imperial Post decided to start a post office at Wei-hai-Wei, and took over the couriers. A British post office was established on Liu-kung-tao in or about September, 1899.

"During the time that the courier post ran, about 850 2 cent and 300 5 cent stamps of the provisional issue, and 4,000 2 cent and 4,000 5 cent stamps of the "Shanghai" issue, were struck. Of these $50 worth of 5 cent stamps were in hand when the post was stopped, and these were sold to a dealer in Shanghai. The 2 cent stamps were used for letters, the 5 cent stamps being used for parcels.

"It is noticed that Messrs. Stanley Gibbons catalogue the courier post in Part III. of their Catalogue. As, however, the post ran from British into Chinese territory, it is a question whether it would come under the heading of a local post. Be this as it may, it should in any case be considered as a genuine post, supplying as it did a much-felt want, and bringing Wei-hai-Wei within a week of Shanghai, instead of three weeks as was previously the case."

The question now raised as to the status of these Wei-hai-Wei stamps emphasises the necessity for some authoritative definition of what is to be regarded as a local stamp. It seems to us that the only acceptable limitation of a local stamp is that its use shall be restricted to a town or district.

Mafekings: Numbers Printed.

The *London Philatelist* for October and November give the following particulars of the numbers printed and the dates of issue of the Mafeking stamps. The "No." quoted is that of Stanley Gibbons's November list :—

Stamp.	Number.	Date.
1d. on ½d., green (No. 1)	7,680	March 23
3d. on 1d., carmine (No. 3)	6,000	,, 23
6d. on 3d., claret (No. 4)	840	,, 24
1s. on 4d., green (No. 5)	1,440	,, 24
6d. on 3d., lilac (No. 10)	3,600	,, 27
1d. on ½d., vermilion (No. 6)	6,000	,, 28
1s. on 4d., green and brown (No. 11)	2,320	,, 29
1d. on ½d., green (No. 2)	5,280	April 4
3d. on 1d., lilac (No. 7)	1,800	,, 4
6d. on 3d., brown on yellow (No. 9) ..	1,440	,, 4
6d. on 2d., green and red (No. 8) ..	1,200	,, 6
3d., Baden Powell, small (No. 18) ..	6,072	,, 7
3d., ,, ,, large (No. 19) ..	3,036	,, 10
1d., Bicycle (No. 17)	9,476	,, 10
3d. on 1d., lilac (No. 12)	1,800	,, 25
6d. on 2d., green and red (No. 13) ..	1,200	,, 25
1s. on 6d., lilac on red (No. 14) ..	1,440	,, 25
2s. on 1s., green (No. 16)	570	,, 25
1s. on 6d., lilac on red (No. 15) ..	240	May 3

Mr. J. V. Howat, Staff-Postmaster to Major-General Baden-Powell during the Mafeking siege, says the following stamps

were not issued by him and are, therefore, clearly forgeries :

6d. on 3d. Cape, claret ; watermarked CA.
1s. on 6d. 'Bechuanaland Protectorate' on English. Serif surcharge.
1s. on 6d. 'British Bechuanaland' on English. Serif surcharge.

Those issued were :—

6d. on 3d. Cape, magenta ; watermarked *Anchor*.
1s. on 6d. 'Bechuanaland Protectorate' on English. Small plain black letters surcharge.
1s. on 6d. 'British Bechuanaland' on English. Small plain black letters surcharge.

When a Staff-Postmaster writes familiarly of watermarks he gives the impression that he is a bit of a Philatelist. We should, as a matter of Philatelic interest, now like an official return of the number, age, rank, etc., of Philatelists engaged in the production of these most interesting issues, together with the numbers of stamps issued to the public and the numbers issued to "self and friends."

Mafekings : Pious Opinions.

The *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly*, continuing the publication of the opinions of leading collectors and dealers on the status of the Mafeking Siege stamps, adds the following :

H. R. Oldfield : Have done genuiue postal service. Unused well worth collecting, but be careful about used.

R. Ehrenbach : Decidedly unnecessary. Postmaster a Philatelist. Yah !

W. Hadlow : Unnecessary. Mere mementoes of the siege. Philatelic value, nil ; except those that passed through the enemies' lines. Those, buy, buy, buy.

Judge Philbrick : Did postal duty and must be collected, but not at present prices.

W. D. Beckton : Will ultimately be accepted by Philatelists generally with a "Don't let it occur again." Prices absurdly high.

Kirkpatrick & Pemberton : Not a speculative issue. Prices justified by small numbers printed.

Stanley Gibbons : No opinions gratis from this shop.

Hawaii Provisional Government : Errors.

Mr. W. H. Colson contributes to *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* a warning against certain so-called errors of 1c. mauve Hawaiian Provisional Government. He says the only genuine errors are as follows :—

"*a :* '189'

"*b :* No period after 'Govt'

"The error 'a' (Mr. Colson explains) was caused by the figure '3' dropping out of the forme ; the mishap was almost immediately discovered and rectified. This rarity is found on the middle stamp of the bottom row of the sheet.

"The error 'b' is a genuine error in the type. It occurs on the first stamp in the second row and is found on nearly all the values. This omission was supplied in the second printing."

Other errors that have recently come under his notice Mr. Colson denounces as frauds. These include double and inverted surcharges, surcharged without "9" in date, etc. He adds :—

"I have come to the conclusion that the following test is a good one :

"In the genuine the words Prov. Govt. measure about 16½ mms. in length.

"In the counterfeit the same words measure about 15½ mms., showing a difference of 1mm. There are also slight differences in the letters which become apparent on very close comparison."

Transvaal Bisected.

We have never attached much importance to bisected Transvaals, as we have always regarded them as unofficial curiosities—collectable, but not Philatelically valuable. This view finds confirmation in a letter just published in *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* from its South African correspondent. He writes :—

"Another gentleman I met in Kimberley told me he was the first to cut Transvaal stamps in half diagonally, and use them for half their face value. He says that one day in Johannesburg not having any penny stamps, but only twopenny ones, the idea suddenly occurred to him that one of these cut in half would serve as a penny stamp. For some time he did this, and others followed his example, and the stamps passed without challenge, but ultimately the postal authorities put a stop to the practice."

Transvaal : Recent Surcharges.

The *Monthly Journal* publishes the following cutting from a correspondent. It is a timely and much-needed notice and should have been issued months before it was. We trust our contemporaries will join us in refusing to chronicle unauthorised local surcharges.

"SURCHARGED POSTAGE STAMPS.

"The following notice, signed by the Military Governor, Pretoria, appears in the Transvaal *Government Gazette* of October 24th :—'Whereas it is desirable and necessary to prohibit and guard against the surcharging aud issuing of surcharged stamps by unauthorised persons : Therefore, by virtue of the authority committed to me, I hereby give notice that any person or persons who shall, not being duly authorised thereto by the Administrator of Civil Posts, surcharge, or cause to be surcharged, with the letters V.R.I., and issue, or cause to be issued, any revenue or postal stamps, shall be liable to prosecution under martial law, and that all stamps so surcharged without authority will not be recognised, and will be confiscated if passed through the post."

Transvaal : Questionable Provisionals.

WOLMARANSSTAD PROVISIONALS.—From the same source we quote the following history of the so-called "Wolmaransstad Provisionals" :—

"Early in November I was fortunate in meeting the gentleman who surcharged the

Transvaal stamps used provisionally at Wolmaransstad. When the British forces were marching towards this little town, the Boers in possession left somewhat hurriedly, but managed to take all the stamps then in stock at the local post-office (about £100 worth) away with them. When our soldiers entered the town and a commissioner was appointed, the post-office was opened, but, of course, no stamps could be found. The firm of Messrs. Thomas Leask & Co. were then approached and the supply of stamps they kept on hand for their private use was requisitioned to supply temporary postal needs. This stock included all values from ½d. to 10s., and also the 1d. Commemorative, the total face value being about £10.

"The commissioner wished the stamps to be surcharged. and the representatives of Messrs. Leask being again appealed to, they offered to stamp the necessary overprint with the rubber type they kept on hand for business purposes. It was decided that the surcharge should be "Cancelled—V.—R.—I.," set in two lines. The word "Cancelled" was meant to infer that the stamps were no longer contributing to the revenue of the late Transvaal Government. The letters in the surcharge were all very roughly formed and the ink used was violet in colour. Two types of surcharge were used, the one having round letters and the other pointed ones. The former type was stamped on all values from ½d. to 10s., and the latter was used principally in surcharging the 1d. Commemoratives, though it was in one or two instances surcharged on other values. Very few of the higher values were overprinted, as only a small number of them were obtainable.

"A number of these stamps were used for postage for about a fortnight, and then the Boers returning in strong force, the commissioner and his few men had to vacate the town."

Krugersdorp.—Again from the same correspondent:—

"Recently I have been making enquiries regarding the provisional stamps said to have been issued at Krugersdorp and chronicled in *E.W.S.N.* for week ending October 6th. The acting postmaster of the town, Mr. M. French, writes me as follows:

"'The postage stamps in use in this office under this administration are the 'V.R.I.' issued by Her Majesty's Military authorities of the Transvaal Colony. The various values are ½d., 1d., 2d., 2½d., 3d., 4d., 6d., 1s, 2s. 6d., and 10s. The same were first issued when this office was opened on the 11th October.'

"This letter leads one to the opinion that the so-called provisionals were never properly authorized In July, too, when the stamps were issued, there was only a small military post office at Krugersdorp, with no regular postmaster in charge, so that it is not very likely that postage stamps would be required as there were probably no civil, or in any case but few, letters to be dealt with. However, I again wrote to Mr. French, enclosing the extract from *E.W.S.N.* describing the provisionals, and asked his opinion thereon.

"His reply was as follows:—

"'Re your extract from a leading English stamp journal, I regret to say I am unable to ascertain the culprits. The stamps in question are frauds, and the perpetrators thereof would undoubtedly be severely punished if found.'"

Dundee Provisionals.—Again quoting from the same source, the following is the history of the so-called "Dundee Provisionals":—

"At the beginning of October I wrote to Colonel R. H. Evans, the officer in command of the troops at Dundee, Natal, asking if he could furnish me with any information regarding the stamps used by the Boers during their occupation of Dundee.

"Colonel Evans handed my letter to the local Postmaster, from whom I received the following note:—

"'The enemy used the date stamp left behind by us for defacing Transvaal stamps. This date stamp was afterwards removed by them. They defaced several sets of stamps for persons who remained behind, including the Rev. Mr. Bailey, the Guttridges, the Durhams, and others. I understand they can be purchased at local stores, but as postal officials are prohibited from making collections of stamps, I have taken no interest in the subject.'"

In our opinion none of these so-called Provisionals are worth album space. Not a solitary one of them has been shown to be necessary. If necessary, every town and village at which the moving army made a stop should have had its "Provisional." Vryburg, Rustenberg, Lydenberg—they are all in the same boat.

Notes and News.

"The Philatelic Record."

Some important changes are in progress for strengthening the position and the prospects of *The Philatelic Record*. The success of the new series fully justifies the changes. For the present we content ourselves with announcing that for the future the price per number will be *Fourpence* instead of Sixpence as heretofore, and the annual subscription will be five shillings instead of seven shillings. All those subscribers who have already renewed at the old rate will be duly credited with the over-payment by our publishers, Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, 1, Amen Corner, London, E.C. As heretofore, *The Philatelic Record* may be ordered through any bookseller or newsagent, but readers will do well to secure copies early as we have no intention of stocking an unlimited number of copies for dilatory subscribers. Our increasing sales are likely to frequently result in such announcements as "Sold out," and there is nothing more annoying to a subscriber than to find himself faced with an "out of print" announcement.

The changes which are being effected have necessarily somewhat delayed the issue of this January number, but with the publication of our February issue we shall resume our wonted punctuality, which, during the past twelve months, has been so marked a feature in our arrangements. We have, in fact, more often been a day or two before our time than a day after it.

Forthcoming Australians.

All sorts of rumours are about as to what the Australian colonies will do in the matter of their postage stamps after the inauguration of the Australian Commonwealth, which came into being the first day of the new century; and the problem remains unsolved. One thing is certain; they are not likely to issue a Commonwealth series till the meeting of the Commonwealth Parliament.

But the question still remains, what will they do in the meantime? Will each colony continue to use its separate stamps without change till then? or, will all recognise the new order of things in the actual existence of the Commonwealth and overprint their stamps to indicate the one-ness of federation? And if they overprint, will each colony do its own overprinting? If so, then will be the harvest of the dealer, to which even the war issues of South Africa will play second fiddle. The variety hunters will be in a state of "animated expectancy," and stamp collecting will be gathering new recruits all along the line by the thousand. Whatever happens, stamp collecting cannot fail to profit from the important postal changes which are now so imminent in one of the most favoured sections of the British Empire.

Victoria Adopts Imperial Penny Postage.

General Sir Andrew Clarke, Agent-General for Victoria, has received a telegraphic despatch from his Government to the effect that the Inland Penny Postage Act has passed, and that it will come into force in the colony on April 1 next.

What does this mean? We imagined that with the inauguration of the Australian Commonwealth, the postal rate would be a Commonwealth matter. This seems to indicate an independent adoption, rather late in the date, of Imperial Penny Postage by Victoria.

New Zealand Inaugurates Universal Penny Postage.

As we are going to press late, in fact in the new century, owing to changes to which we have already referred in our first Note, we are able to quote the following interesting telegram from the Wellington, New Zealand, Correspondent of *The Times*, dated 1st Jan., 1901:

"The Inauguration of Penny Postage was celebrated to-day throughout the Colony. The General Post Office was illuminated, and Mr. Ward, the Postmaster-General, was presented with a souvenir of the occasion in the form of a gold stamp, for which 10,000 people had subscribed 1d. each. The first stamp sold was purchased for *The Times*, and a news letter, to which it was affixed, has been despatched."

We congratulate *The Times* upon its Philatelic instincts. It is a straw which shows that the wind, in newspaper circles, is blowing in a more intelligent and appreciative direction.

Unnecessary Fear.

A writer in *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* veritably shivers with fear at the prospect of an avalanche of surcharged stamps from each of our Australian Colonies. We do not tremble at the prospect. We are quite ready to collect, classify and criticise all that we are likely to receive from our Australian friends. They stray a little sometimes from the strict path of Philatelic virtue, but the grand past of their treasured issues more than compensates for occasional wayward wanderings. With the prospect of a special series of postage stamps for every country show, we can quite understand that our friends across the water will have little time to waste in future on such

unconsidered trifles as Australians. Still, there are a few antediluvians on this side who will prefer the stamps of our greatest Commonwealth to the plaster advertisement labels of country shows which can have no genuine Philatelic status.

I.P.U. Philatelic Exhibition.

The Philatelic Exhibition which is being arranged by the members of the International Philatelic Union is to be held on the 26th January, 1901. We understand that the rooms of the Philatelic Society of London will be placed at the disposal of the committee of the exhibition, and that the exhibition will therefore be held at Effingham House. It will be an interesting and attractive show, and we trust it will be well attended.

Philatelic Displays.

At the risk of being committed for the remainder of our natural life to the Philatelic Tower for daring to speak of what takes place at the meetings of the Philatelic Society of London, we venture to express our unfeigned surprise at the small attendance which even the best displays bring together. Were we strangers to its meetings we should find it extremely difficult to believe that such grand displays as are afforded at the most ordinary meetings, rarely attract more than a score of members; and yet every display by a great specialist, such as are common to the meetings of the Philatelic Society of London, is an education in itself, representing years of study, and, frequently, the expenditure of almost fabulous sums of money. The displays of the present session have been most remarkable.

Rare English Stamps at Auction.

The following prices for British stamps were realized at Messrs. Puttick & Simpson's recent auction :—

	£.	s.	d.
1d. black, V.R., mint, block of six	40	0	0
2d. ,, ,, pair	15	15	0
2d. blue, no lines, 1840, a magnificent block of 24, forming the lower two rows of a sheet, with full margins and plate number 1 at each corner..	155	0	0
1d. red, a similar block of 24, showing marginal plate numbers 5	8	5	0
Mulready letter-sheet, 1d. black, uncut sheets of 12 .. .. £4 and	5	0	0
Ditto, 2d. blue letter-sheets, uncut sheets of 12 .. .. £8 and	9	5	0

Ewen's Weekly thinks the price realised for the block of 2d. blue—£155—must surely be a record for a single block of British stamps. The Editor of *E.W.S.N.* bid £150, but the agent of a well-known collector went £5 higher.

Fine Copies of U.S.

Messrs. Bright & Son have shown us some fine picked blocks of four of early United States issues in splendid mint condition. The lot is a recent purchase and comprises the 5 c. post office, 3 c. with outer line, 10 c. premier gravure, 3 c. scarlet, 3 c pink of 1861, and 90 c. of 1861.

The Philatelic Society, London. Expert Committee Arrangements.

The *London Philatelist* makes the following official announcement concerning the future arrangements of the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Society of London :—

1.—The Committee can in future examine stamps only once a month, and will meet for that purpose at dates as nearly as possible at the commencement of each month.

2.—All stamps submitted to be expertised must be received not later than the last day of the month preceding.

3.—The fee must always be sent with the stamps, and in future will be as follows :—

For Stamps Pronounced Genuine.

Three shillings for a single stamp.

Two shillings and sixpence each for more than one stamp; a proportionate return being made in the case of forgeries or reprints.

For Stamps Pronounced Forgeries or Reprints.

One shilling and sixpence each. Pairs, strips, and blocks counted as one stamp.

It should be remembered that the fee for genuine specimens includes a certificate and photograph of the stamp, and it has been found that the expenses of registration and postage between the various members of the Committee, with the photographs, has on the average entailed a loss to the Society. The difficulties that at one time blocked the path of the Committee have now happily been removed.

Collecting in South Africa.

Ewen's Weekly News South African Correspondent writes :—

"Kimberley is not a very flourishing Philatelic centre, and although it has a Philatelic Exchange Club I do not believe the membership exceeds a dozen. I one day had the pleasure of looking over a fine general collection which was very rich in early Transvaal and Free State issues; in fact, the owner told me he devoted his efforts chiefly to obtaining African Stamps. Nearly every issue of the Transvaal was represented and there was a very fine display of the 'V.R. Transvaal' types. The 1878 issue was complete and the collection was rich in surcharge varieties of all descriptions.

"The Orange Free State stamps, too, were nearly complete and included the '4' on 6d. carmine surcharge ordinary and inverted. In fact, nearly all the surcharges were shown, many being inverted. The majority of the stamps were postally used and mostly in good condition.

"I find that on the whole South African collectors prefer stamps used. Indeed, very few collect unused specimens."

Transvaal or Vaal River Colony.

The new Blue Book on Cape affairs shows conclusively that the name of the late Boer Republic will be "The Transvaal" and not, as some curious folks thought, "The Vaal River Colony."

THE

Philatelic Record

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Member of the Institute of Journalists.

FEBRUARY, 1901.

Editorial Notes.

THE new series, which we illustrate under the head of New Issues this month for Turks Islands, mark an unusual departure from the usual De la Rue Colonial type. But a departure of a still more marked character is the alteration of the name from the simple one of "Turks Islands" to the fuller and more comprehensive name of "Turks and Caicos Islands." It may be of interest to quote the following from Mill's excellent "International Geography": "Turks and Caicos Islands, the most southerly of the Bahamas, are under the jurisdiction of Jamaica. They consist of about twenty islands and cays, forming two groups. The Turks Islands were so called from the prevalence of the Turk's-head cactus, which gives a character to the soil. The most important of the group is Grand Turk, which is 6½ miles long by 2 wide. In South Caicos, the small town, Cockburn Harbour, is a port of entry, and there is another port on Salt Cay. Most of the black and coloured people are descended from the slaves of loyalist refugees who left the southern States during the American War of Independence. Up to late years these people have been living a half savage life, but latterly, by the introduction of sponge fishing, salt raking, and the cultivation of sisla hemp, some progress has been made."

Turks and Caicos Islands: New Designs.

The Colony is notable amongst Philatelists for its rare surcharges, and its fine old Perkins-Bacon stamps, some of which have only recently been superseded.

Despite its complicated surcharges Turks Islands issues have been ranked amongst the prime favourites of many leading specialists, and it is no secret that H.R.H. the Duke of York, President of the Philatelic Society of London, has a very fine collection of the rarest surcharges. Few countries have been more closely studied or more scientifically written up, and the new departure in the direction of original designs will help to further popularise the stamps of the Colony.

The Tapling Collection.

Philatelists will be glad to learn on the authority of the *London Philatelist* that wiser and more enlightened counsels are prevailing amongst the British Museum authorities as to the custody of the Tapling Collection and the additions which may be made thereto. The *London Philatelist* says :—

"The Crown Agents for the Colonies have recently presented to the authorities of the British Museum a large series of postage stamps manufactured for them for use in the Colonies. These stamps are to be incorporated in the great collection bequeathed to the nation by the late Mr. T. K. Tapling, which will thus be rendered more complete. Moreover, the Crown Agents intend to deposit in the Museum specimens of future issues. The whole of this magnificent collection will ere long be made accessible for purposes of comparison."

This announcement is a most important one. It marks the end of the red tape régime which at one time seriously threatened the splendid Tapling Collection with practical extinction.

We are now promised rational and almost unrestricted opportunities for personal examination of the Tapling treasures, and we may also evidently hope that the collection will be a grand reference authority even on New Issues. Under these altered circumstances is it too much to ask that Philatelists should be allowed to fill up the hiatus between the end of the Tapling Collection, viz., 1890, and the promised supply of New Issues? If the premier Philatelic Society of London, or some recognised and reliable authority, will take the matter up and systematically organise a movement for the completion of the Collection from 1890 to date we feel sure the response will a generous one, for it is to the interest of all to possess and maintain in as complete a form as possible a grand National Collection of the postal issues of the world.

Mafekings.

Mafekings still occupy considerable space in our pages. We do not wish to exclude any information which may be useful when the time comes to finally determine the status and the varieties of these interesting stamps. But the excitement of the speculation, which has been so assiduously worked up in certain quarters, is obviously cooling down, and prices are now rapidly moderating as a natural consequence. Before even the present auction season closes prices will probably have touched a very low level, and stamps that were started at pounds may be selling at as few shillings. At all events, the trend of prices is decidedly in that direction. There is a great deal of talk about genuinely used and so-called "Refugee" sets. The genuinely used should, we are told, be secured on the original envelope, and bear dates of a certain limit. Outside that limit are the "Refugee, post-marked to order" sets. These distinctions may be left to the devotees of the cult to fight out amongst themselves. Some irreverent collectors, by way of possessing a few of the stamps as souvenirs, will no doubt wisely be content with the cheaper "Refugee" sets. In each case it is, we believe, admitted that the original was the same, the distinction being confined to the subsequent cancellation. Even the cancellation stamp is said to vary only in the date. Ergo, say the irreverent, it is the stamp, and not the cancellation, we are buying. We are content with the more moderately priced "Refugee" supplies.

Transvaals Inverted.

Ewen's Weekly says the source of supply of the inverted "V.R.I." Transvaals which are coming over appears to be Holland. We trust our contemporary will further investigate this question, for if Holland is the source of supply, the strong probabilities are that the inverted overprints are forgeries. As the type used on "V.R.I." issues in the printing office in Pretoria probably came from a Holland type founder, the danger is a real one and should be enquired into forthwith. We cannot keep too close a watch upon the appearance of so-called rare varieties, nor can we be too prompt in investigating any challenge as to their genuineness. It is a safe policy to receive with extra caution all deviations from the normal type in the absence of unquestionable evidence of their absolute genuineness. We have been told that certain errors were detected and weeded out by the authorities, and no one will be surprised to learn that some fraudulently-minded busybody has manufactured a supply.

New Issues.

The New Issues, which we have the pleasure of chronicling this month, embrace some interesting novelties. We have the new series for Turks and Caicos Islands, breaking away from the stereotyped De la Rue Colonial design, in having a ship instead of the Queen's head as the distinguishing characteristic; also the much talked of Malta farthing value, which we presume indicates that the farthing stamp initiated by Barbados will probably be added to many series for Philatelic purposes, if not for local use. Chili has once more brought a fiscal stamp into postal use; Korea has added fresh values of new designs to the series recently chronicled, and Uruguay has started a series of new and most handsome designs. We have also the new Colonial design for the German Colonies, poverty-stricken in design and engraving; and Paraguay sends us some low values of an effective design for a new series. There is also a rumour that the postal authorities of the United States are contemplating the issue of a new series of postage stamps. Still further developments are in progress, and will be duly chronicled in our next number.

Orange River Colony "V.R.I." Issues.

By G. Fred. H. Gibson,
Hon. Sec. of the Manchester Philatelic Society.

AS a small contribution towards a complete and reliable list of these stamps which afford at present such a wide field for enquiry and frequently for conjecture, I venture to make a few remarks upon the article dealing with the subject which appeared in the December number of this Journal.

Whilst fully agreeing with the writer as to the undesirability of multiplying varieties by the introduction of such trivial details as large and small stops, broken letters, &c., it seems to me that the specialist must of necessity classify the settings of the surcharge under one of *four* heads :—

1. With level stops.
2. With errors in the position of the stops.
3. With all stops raised.
4. With all stops raised and thick V's.

No. 2 is clearly the first result of that curious and apparently senseless "inversion of the point" by which setting 1 was changed to setting 3, and for which, so far as I know, no reason has been assigned or even suggested. The fact that the 4d. value exists only with settings 1 and 2, whereas most, if not all, of the other values are found with all the four, proves to my mind that setting 2 was printed quite separately and at a different time from setting 3, and must therefore be recognised as a distinct and legitimate variety.

For convenience of reference I make use in the following notes of the arrangement and numeration adopted in the previous list.

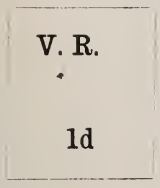
Level Stops after V.R.I.

5. Figure of value omitted.

A pair of the 6d. which I have seen, and a pair of the 1s. in my collection, each with margin, shew that these stamps are in the fifth and sixth vertical row respectively. In the 1s. value the stop is a considerable distance (1½ mm.) from the s.

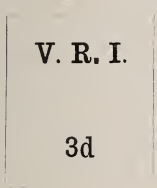
V. R. I.	½d. on ½d., orange.
	1d. ,, 1d., purple.
	6d. ,, 6d., carmine.
	6d. ,, 6d., blue.
	1s. ,, 1s., brown.
s .	5s. ,, 5s., green.

9. Letter I of V.R.I. omitted.
This stamp in the 1d. value is on the second horizontal row, and the distance between the serifs of the V and R is only 1 mm.



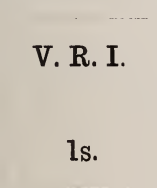
½d. on ½d., orange.
1d. ,, 1d., purple.

11. Large square stop instead of ordinary round stop after R of V.R.I.
This is found also on the 2d. and 1s. values.



½d. on ½d., orange.
1d. ,, 1d., purple.
2d. ,, 2d , bright lilac.
2½d. ,, 3d., blue.
3d. ,, 3d., blue.
4d. ,, 4d., blue.
1s. ,, 1s., brown.

15. Wider spacing between 1 and s.
In my pane there is no sign of wider spacing on the last stamp of the fourth row, but the foot of the figure 1 is broken on the left side.



1s. on 1s., brown.

Raised Stops after V·R·I·

1. Misplaced Stops.
In all settings of the ½d. except the one with seven thick V's (see subsequent paragraph) the stop after the V on the last stamp of each pane is level, and those after the R and I are raised. In one setting of the 1d. value the same thing occurs, in another the stop error is found on the last stamp of the top row, and in a third on the second stamp of the third row, the stops after V and R are raised and the one after I level, the arrangement of the thick V's being in the first case (*a*) and in the second and third (*c*). (See subsequent paragraph.)

2. All Stops raised.
It is quite a mistake to say that the Raised Stops, excepting those which are misplaced, are all small. The most striking variations certainly are found on the sheets of what I have called the second printing, and lend additional proof to the claim for its recognition, but considerable differences can be seen on sheets of what are undoubtedly of much later date.

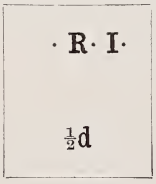
3. Thick **V** in **V**.R.I.

The positions of the thick **V**'s are not accurately stated. In one setting (*a*), which is in my opinion the earliest, they occur on the second stamp of the first, third and fourth rows, the fourth of the seventh and the first and fourth of the eighth row. In another (*b*) on the fifth stamp of the first, third and fourth rows, the third of the seventh, and the third and sixth of the eighth row. Another (*c*) (which I have only found in the 1d. value) shows them on the sixth stamp of the second and fifth rows, the first of the seventh and eighth, the fifth of the ninth and the fourth of the tenth row. There is also a setting of the ½d. with seven thick **V**'s instead of six, the positions being the same as (*b*) with the addition of the fifth stamp of the eighth row.

Of varieties not mentioned in Mr. Nankivell's list I have:—

1. A pane of the 1s. of the fourth printing in which the fourth stamp of the last row shows a distinctly wider space between the 1 and the s than can be found anywhere else on the pane, though it is not nearly so pronounced as on the stamp of the setting with level stops.

2. The ½d. (Raised Stops) with letter V omitted and with margin shewing the stamp to be in the last vertical row.



½d. on ½d., orange.

3. A pane of the 1d. of the second printing on the last stamp of which there are two Level Stops after V, those after R and I being raised.

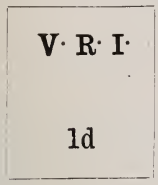
Note by Edward J. Nankivell.

I am indebted to Mr. Gibson for kindly pointing out the slip which has been made in giving the positions of the thick **V** variety. I may perhaps be pardoned for saying that it is the first error that has been notified in a long and complicated list. I append the paragraph amended as it should read:—

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 third in the seventh row, and the third, fifth and sixth in the eighth row. In another setting it is the second stamp in the first, third and fourth rows, the fourth in the seventh row, and the first and fourth 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.

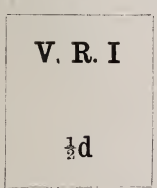
In Level Stops No. 11. Large square stop after R of V.R.I. Mr. Daun has also notified the 2d. and 1s. and the ½d. as well, all of which I have now added to the list. This list should be completed by the inclusion of the 6d. carmine, 6d. blue, and 5s. green, all of which most probably exist with the square stop variety. I shall be glad to hear from any collector who has them.

The question of the ultimate classification is better deferred till we have some reliable information from the authorities at Bloemfontein as to how the many varieties have occurred and how the printing was done.

I am indebted to Mr. C. J. Daun for the particulars as to the position of the following varieties lacking in the Reference List published in the December number of *The Philatelic Record*. It will be noted that in each case it is the ½d. value only which is given. I hope we shall eventually, with the kind help of our specialist friends, be able to complete our Reference List in every detail.

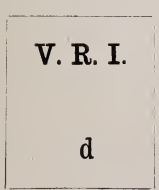
Level Stops after V.R.I.

4. No stop after I of V.R.I.
In the ½d. value this is the third stamp in the first row.



½d. on ½d., orange.

5. Figure of value omitted.
In the ½d. value this is the fifth stamp in the seventh row.



½d. on ½d., orange.

The World's Postmasters.

Mr. Fred. Jeppe.

MR. FRED. JEPPE is the most interesting personality of all those who were connected with the first issue of stamps in the Transvaal.

He was appointed Postmaster of the Potchefstroom in 1866. In 1867 he was promoted to the office of Acting Postmaster-General, an appointment to which he was permanently gazetted in the following year.

He it was who undertook what was practically an inauguration of the Postal Service of the Transvaal. To quote Mr. Tamsen, his "first care was to arrange better and quicker communication, and to place the whole department on a proper footing. He started a mail-cart on the main line between Pretoria, Orange Free State, and Natal; laid in a stock of Cape and Orange Free State postage stamps for the convenience of the public; ordered a special stamp to be prepared for use in the Transvaal, as well as the necessary cancellation stamps; drew up the first Postal Law; and must be considered the real originator of the Postal Service of the Transvaal, as well as of its postage stamps."

Mr. Jeppe was a native of Mecklenburg, in Germany; and it was to his brother in Germany that he wrote to get the stamps, plates, press, etc., prepared by some competent person. His brother gave the order to one Adolph Otto, of Gustrow, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, who supplied the articles required.

Some hard things have been said of Mr. Jeppe's manipulation of the first issues, and his direct dealings with dealers. He sold the first issues of the stamps to dealers in Europe in quantities from 1st September, 1869, to 30th March, 1870. The money received he remitted to Germany to pay for the plates, &c. The reason for this, Mr. Tamsen explains, was that the paper currency of the Transvaal, consisting of Government notes, called blue-backs, from the blue paper on which they were printed, for sums varying from 6d. to £1, was not accepted outside the Republic at any price, so he could not remit them in payment to Germany, and there being no bank in the country, he could also not remit in gold, therefore it suited him best to use the money, notes, drafts, &c., he got from dealers and collectors in Europe as a remittance. In all this there is nothing to which exception can be taken. Large quantities of British Colonials are purchased every month direct from postmasters by dealers. Surely a stamp is none the less a stamp because it is sold to a dealer.

The death of Mr. Jeppe in the Transvaal was recorded in 1898. His son, Mr. Carle Jeppe, I am told, is an enthusiastic specialist of the stamps of the Transvaal.

Our portrait is from a photograph by J. Perrin, Barberton, kindly sent us by the Ex-Postmaster-General, Mr. Isaac Van Alphen.



Fred. Jeppe

Mr. Fred. Jeppe,

First Postmaster-General of the South African Republic.

Varieties Worth Noting.

Introductory.

ALMOST every country that has been raised to specialist rank comprises a number of interesting minor varieties that are but little known outside the ranks of specialism. Some of those minor varieties have been included in the more advanced catalogues of the day, and some are noted only in the album of the specialist. Many of them have interesting associations of their own, not a few are of real Philatelic importance, and quite a number open up questions that still remain to be solved.

We propose to devote an occasional page or so under the general heading of "Varieties Worth Noting" to historical sketches of the more important and interesting, and we shall be glad to hear from any specialist who will help us with these so-called "Minor Varieties."

These articles will be very clearly illustrated, mostly with enlarged reproductions, so as to enable even the beginner in specialism to readily grasp the minute variations which at times differentiate a retouch from the original die. We do not, however, wish to encourage the recognition of such varieties as require a highly-strung imagination, aided by a powerful microscope. On the contrary, in our opinion, varieties which are not easily recognisable may judiciously be left to the uninterrupted enjoyment of their discoverers.

Transvaal: The Defective "Zes."

What is known as the "Defective '*Z*es'" variety arises from an injury to the plate which erased the letters "*Ze*" of the word "*Z*es" from the left-hand border. This defect occurs in the fourth stamp of the bottom row.

In the stamps surcharged "V.R. TRANSVAAL," the defective "*Z*es" is found only on the pane with the roman "V.R.," that is to say, the left-hand pane.



The earliest copies of the "Defective '*Z*es'" that I have seen occur in the stamps printed by Borrius. I have not met with it

in any of Viljoen printings. From this I infer that the injury must have been caused to the plate during transmission from Pretoria to Potchefstroom when Viljoen gave up the printing of the stamps, and the work was transferred to Borrius, at Potchefstroom. If I am right in this surmise the injury must have been caused in September, 1870, when the plates were forwarded from Pretoria to Borrius at Potchefstroom, and the variety, consequently, will not be found in any printings prior to that date.

If any of my readers have met with this variety in any of the first local printings by Viljoen, I shall be glad to hear from them.

E. J. N.

Transvaal: Corner "6" Barred Out.

This variety is remarkable. The figure "6" in the right hand corner, as will be noted in the illustration, is not only wanting, but its place is marked by a heavy diagonal bar across the figure space. Presumably it is due to some accident to the plate during the changes consequent on the first British occupation; so far, at all events, I have never seen or heard of this variety prior to the issue of the "all capitals" overprint of the first British occupation. Its absence from any of the unsurcharged issues of the first South African Republic seems definitely to settle its place in the catalogue as a variety in the first



issue under the British occupation. It finds no place in the catalogues of Gibbons or Bright. It is treated as a minor variety that is not of catalogue rank. Yet it is a much more pronounced variety than many that are included in the catalogues, and when a dealer does happen to get hold of a copy most of the catalogued varieties pale into insignificance in the matter of pricing. Up to this time there has been no means of determining its position on the plate. I have never seen or heard of a complete sheet of the 6d., unsurcharged or surcharged; nor have I seen any blocks which would afford a clue to the position on the sheet.

E. J. N.

Griqualand: 4d. Varieties.

By E. D. Bacon, in the "London Philatelist."

I AM indebted to Lieut. F. H. Napier for particulars of an interesting discovery he has recently made in the stamps of Griqualand West.

It appears that Mr. W. H. Peckitt has lately purchased a number of these stamps, all of which came from the same merchant's office, and in nearly every case the specimens were still attached to a portion of the envelope, etc., on which they had been used. Mr. Peckitt asked Lieut. Napier to arrange the stamps for him, and on sorting them into the different types the latter found specimens of two varieties with the small "G" surcharge (Types 13 and 14 of the Society's work) on *Type I.* of the Four Pence, blue, Cape of Good Hope stamps. The surcharge of both the varieties is in black, and from an examination I have made of the specimens in question I am entirely convinced of their genuineness. Nearly all of the few copies found had the "Kimberley" postmark, and were used either in November or December, 1878.

No genuine specimen of Type I. of the Four Pence with any of the varieties of the large "G" in black, issued at the end of 1877, is known; and it certainly seemed most unlikely that the small "G" surcharge would be found on a Type I. stamp. It has, in fact, always been thought that all the Type I. stamps were used up for the issue which had the large "G" surcharged in red, and that no specimen of Type I. with small "G" could, therefore, have a genuine surcharge. This old argument, which must now be thrown aside, has no doubt been responsible for the condemnation of more than one specimen of Type I. with the small "G," as I well remember having seen the variety before.

It becomes, therefore, necessary to make the following additions to the list of Griqualand West stamps in the Society's recently-published work:—

Page 93. Type 13.
b. Black surcharge.
4d., blue. Type I.

Page 94. Type 14.
b. Black surcharge.
4d., blue. Type I.

National Stamp Collections.

THERE are not wanting gratifying indications that the Governments of many countries are beginning to realise the desirability of forming National and representative collections of the Postal Issues of the World. Germany has led the way by many years in this direction, and now it is announced that the United States Postal authorities have courteously and gratefully accepted from Mr. J. M. Bartels, a dealer of Washington, a handsomely mounted collection of unused United States internal revenue stamps. This collection is to be placed in the Post Office Museum Department, and will be open to the inspection of visitors.

Under the arrangements of the Postal Union each country receives specimens of every stamp issued, and those supplies should be utilised for display in National Collections. If leading Philatelists in each country would bestir themselves much might be done to promote and help in the formation of National Official Stamp Collections.

The Mafeking Siege Stamps.

AT the fortnightly meeting of the Junior London Philatelic Society, held in Clapham Hall on Saturday, the President, Mr. F. J. Melville, read to the members a statement which he had received in reply to inquiries addressed by him to Major-General Baden-Powell on the subject of the postage stamps issued during the siege of Mafeking. The President's letter was referred to the authorities of the General Post Office, Cape Town, whose communication in answer contains many particulars hitherto unpublished, corrects some erroneous statements that have got abroad, and will guide Philatelists and dealers in avoiding forgeries when acquiring Philatelic memorials of the historic siege and defence of Mafeking. The memorandum is in the following terms :—

"Postage Stamps Over-printed and Re-issued at Mafeking during the Siege.

"After careful inquiry into the matter, the following would appear to be the facts so far as can be ascertained in connection with the over-printing, surcharging, and re-issue of the stamps now known as 'Mafeking Siege Stamps,' a complete list of which, showing the number of each denomination issued, is appended.

"Shortly before the 23rd of March, 1900, it was found possible to forward despatches by runners from Mafeking, both by the north and south routes, and a service was accordingly established by the military authorities. Owing to the high amounts which had to be paid to the runners it was decided to charge special rates for any private letters conveyed, and the following tariff was adopted, viz.:—*Via* the north, 1s. per ½oz.; *via* the south, 6d. per ½oz.

"From a statement made by the military authorities it would appear that, in order to provide a sufficiency of stamps to admit of the prepayment of private letters, it was further decided to surcharge all the unsold stamps in the possession of the local postmaster, and Lieutenant-Colonel Lord Edward Cecil, under whose supervision the Post Office was carried on during the siege, accordingly purchased the stamps at their face value and caused them to be over-printed and surcharged at the works of Messrs. Townshend & Son, the publishers of the *Mafeking Mail* newspaper. On the 23rd of March the stamps as over-printed were issued for the first time at their enhanced values, and, it is understood, the whole of the over-printed issues had been disposed of before the relief of the town was effected.

"Owing to the interruption of communication, the postal authorities at Cape Town could not be consulted in the matter, either as regards the sale or the over-printing, and from the time the stamps originally passed out of the hands of the civil postmaster the Colonial Post Office Department ceased to have any control whatsoever over their treatment. In view of these circumstances, and of the fact that the whole of the additional revenue derived from the sale of the stamps at their surcharged value was retained by the military authorities, the Postal Administration of Cape Colony, and the Bechuanaland Protectorate have decided to regard the stamps in question as purely military issues, and (in the month of November last) official notices have consequently been published in the Government *Gazette* proclaiming their non-availability for the prepayment of mail matter posted either in the Cape Colony or in the Protectorate.

"The average number of letters per week forwarded *via* the north from the 23rd of March was, approximately, 60, a runner leaving Mafeking twice per week, and *via* the south, 30, once per week. It is, however, more than probable that many of the runners were captured by the Boer forces, and that the letters being conveyed by them never reached a British Post Office.

"The local stamps—viz., those actually manufactured in Mafeking and bearing representations of Major-General Baden-Powell and Sergeant-Major Goodyear, of the Cadet Corps, on a bicycle—were used entirely for a postal service which was arranged within the town and between the various outposts. The whole of the three varieties of these stamps were printed by means of photography, the photograph being taken by Dr. D. Taylor, and the gumming and perforating by Messrs. Townshend & Son. The two varieties of the 'Baden-Powell' pattern were designed by Captain Greener, the Chief Paymaster, whilst the one of the bicycle pattern was designed by Dr. W. A. Hayes.

"It is evident, from specimens which have been submitted to the Postmaster-General at Cape Town, that extensive forgeries of the over-printed stamps have taken place, the fraud consisting in the

unofficial over-printing, surcharging, and, in many cases, date-stamping of genuine Cape Colony stamps.

"General Post Office, Cape Town,
"*December 7th*, 1900."

LIST OF POSTAGE STAMPS ISSUED BY THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES AT MAFEKING DURING THE SIEGE.

Face value.	Description.	Number of Stamps.
½d.	Cape of Good Hope (old design), over-printed and surcharged "Mafeking 1d. Besieged"	7,680
½d.	Cape of Good Hope (new design), over-printed and surcharged "Mafeking 1d. Besieged"	5,280
½d.	Great Britain, over-printed "Bechuanaland Protectorate," surcharged and over-printed "Mafeking 1d. Besieged"	6,000
1d.	Great Britain, over-printed "Bechuanaland Protectorate" and "Mafeking 3d. Besieged"	1,800
1d.	Great Britain, over-printed "Bechuanaland Protectorate" and "Mafeking 3d. Besieged" (smaller type)	1,800
1d.	Cape of Good Hope, over-printed and surcharged "Mafeking 3d. Besieged"	6,000
2d.	Great Britain, over-printed "Bechuanaland Protectorate" and "Mafeking 6d. Besieged"	1,200
2d.	Great Britain, over-printed "Bechuanaland Protectorate" and "Mafeking 6d. Besieged" (smaller type)	1,200
3d.	Cape of Good Hope, overprinted "Mafeking 6d. Besieged"	840
3d.	British Bechuanaland (lilac series), over-printed "Mafeking 6d. Besieged"	3,000
3d.	Great Britain, over-printed "Bechuanaland Protectorate" and "Mafeking 6d. Besieged"	1,440
4d.	Great Britain, over-printed "British Bechuanaland" and "Mafeking 1s. Besieged"	2,320
4d.	Cape of Good Hope, over-printed "Mafeking 1s. Besieged"	1,440
6d.	Great Britain, over-printed "Bechuanaland Protectorate" and "Mafeking 1s. Besieged"	240
6d.	Great Britain, over-printed "British Bechuanaland" and "Mafeking 1s. Besieged"	1,440
1s.	Great Britain, over-printed "British Bechuanaland" and "Mafeking 2s. Besieged"	570
3d.	Local Postage Stamp, with Photograph of Lt.-Gen. Baden-Powell's bust (small size)	6,072
3d.	Local Postage Stamp, with Photograph of Lt.-Gen. Baden-Powell's bust (large size)	3,036
1d.	Local Postage Stamp, with Photograph of Sergeant-Major Goodyear on bicycle	9,476

The Salomon Type of Hayti.

UNDER this heading, Mr. Victor Flandrin publishes a letter he has received from a correspondent in Hayti, which contains some very interesting information about the issues of the island republic. The letter which is dated from Port au Prince, is as follows:—

As you no doubt know, before July 1, 1881, when Hayti entered into the Postal Union, we had no stamps. Letters for the interior were prepaid in cash; those for abroad were handed to the Consuls (representing their destined countries), who, after postage was paid, affixed the stamps of their proper country. When the question arose that Hayti was to enter the Postal Union, I had an uncle who was a member of the Senate, while I was a member of the Philatelic Society just created, and which was composed of gentlemen who were greatly interested in the new stamps. Fortunately I was one of the first to learn what they were to be, for my uncle was one of the Commission appointed to decide the matter. I waited outside the Palace to learn from him the decision of the meeting. My uncle said: "The President is in favour of an allegorical representation of the arms of the Republic, and I believe that the members of the Commission are, by a large majority, of his opinion." The arms of the country! That was what none of us desired. As I had already mentioned to my uncle, we had hoped that the proposed stamps would be adorned with portraits. My uncle said: "If you want effigies, the only chance of obtaining them is by sending a delegation from the Philatelic Society to present the request to the President. As a gentleman, you know already that General Salomon is one of the very best, and if your delegates know how to take him, I believe that he may allow it to pass."

I followed his advice and went to the President of our Society, who profited by the suggestion. The next day we again met and agreed to visit the chief of the state. The following day three of my colleagues and I, provided with the highest recommendations, went before the President of the Republic. I need not tell you that this was General Salomon, for history has noted his amiable character and civic virtues. For the rest you know he was a negro of colossal stature.

One of us, the best speaker of course, brought forward the question. He said that generally the arms were represented on the stamps of monarchial countries (citing Russia, Germany, Denmark, Bulgaria, Austria, in support of this), while republics more generally reproduce on their stamps the portraits of their great men, or at least a figure personifying the form of Government. Referring to this subject, he said that if 20 or 30 years ago the allegorical type could have met with approval, it was obsolete in 1881, and that the true stamp of the present time and for the future should be the "effigy." In conclusion he assured the President that stamps with portraits would be far more popular than stamps showing only the "arms" of the country.

General Salomon appeared to listen with great affability, and after a few moments' reflection, he answered in these words :—

"After what you have said, gentlemen, I am inclined to believe that stamps in effigy would be more to the present taste than the allegorical stamp. I proposed to the Commission, stamps with the Haytian arms, but I left it to the members to consider, and cannot decide until I have received their opinion. Meanwhile, the majority is in favour of the stamps to which I am now opposed, and I should not give reasons which would find favour with you. The question will arise, if we decide on portraits, whose portraits shall they be?

"Oh! Monsieur le President, there need be no embarrassment of choice. The Republic of Hayti can revive its great men. Have we not Toussaint-Louverture, Christophe, Dersaluies Petiou, Boyer, Soulouque, and have we not now President Salomon?"

"Here, gentlemen, I cannot help telling you, that I do not concur. I should not consent to have my portrait on the stamps nor those of my predecessors, for if they were portrayed, public opinion would claim me as well. Nevertheless, I do not abandon the idea of stamps bearing an effigy, and as a compromise I propose the head of Liberty. In this we should only imitate one of the best countries in Europe—France—which has personified its Government on its very first stamps. It would be nothing extraordinary for Hayti to take the French idea, for already we have adopted the 'Code Francais' (French law-book)."

Seeing that the President was resolved not to yield any more, we did not insist further, and after assuring him that in default of historic portraits, a head of Liberty was still preferable to arms, we thanked him and took our leave. That is how it is that we have on our first stamps the effigy of Liberty.

You know, of course, that the stamps were designed by M. Laforesterie, a Haytian sculptor, and engraved and printed by M. T. Richard, of Paris, in sheets of 300 stamps, viz., six panes of 50; that the first issue was of 1,025,000 stamps for the six values. Of these only 25,000 were 20c. The stamps were perforated in September, 1882, for the second issue.

Now you will undoubtedly want to know why General Salomon so completely changed his views that he allowed his portrait to appear on the stamps in 1887. The reason is rather a curious one, and is as follows: When our stamps were put in circulation, someone stated that the head of Liberty resembled Madam Salomon. By and bye this statement spread, and one journal said "The President would not have *his* portrait on the stamps, but he put his wife's on instead. That is not what he was asked for!!!" The President was finally bound to admit that the likeness, by a singular coincidence, was very marked, and finally agreed to the portrayal of his features on the issue of 1887. —*The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain.*



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.

Bermuda.—This Colony, following the lead of the Barbadoes, has sent home for a supply of stamps of a farthing value, and we learn from Messrs. Bright, that as a first supply, the 1s. grey has been surcharged ¼d. and forwarded to the Colony.

British Guiana.—The colour of the 48c. has been changed from mauve and red to dark grey and lilac-brown

Adhesive.

48c., dark grey and lilac-brown.

Messrs. Bright & Son inform us that the last lot of the 1-cent value sent out was printed in doubly fugitive ink, the frame-work of the design being in grey-green, and the inner portion in pale green.

Canada.—The *Metropolitan Philatelist* (U. S.) has received the 20c. value in the numerals type, and changed in colour to sage green. The previous 20c. was a larger size than the ordinary stamp, but our contemporary does not say whether the new stamp is changed in size as well as in design.

Adhesive.

20c. Sage green.

Hong Kong.—Messrs. Bright & Son inform us that there have been some further changes of colour: the 4 cents has been changed from the slate of the 1863-71 series to carmine; the 5 cents from the blue of 1880 to orange-yellow, and the 30 cents from the dull green of 1890 to brown.

Malta.—We have received from Messrs. Kirkpatrick & Pemberton the already chronicled and much talked of farthing value, which we illustrate. As already announced, the design embraces a view of the harbour of Valetta. The watermark Cr CA is sideways, and the perf. is the usual 14.



Adhesive.

¼d., red-brown.

Mauritius.—The 1c., 2c., and 4c. of the current arms type have been changed in colour—the 1c from lilac and blue, to grey and black, the 2c. from lilac and orange to lilac and violet, and the 4c. from lilac and green to lilac and carmine on yellow.

Adhesives.

1c., grey, *value in* black.
2c., lilac ,, violet.
4c., ,, ,, carmine on *yellow*.

New Zealand.—The *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* has seen the Postage Due stamps with two varieties of the letter "D" in the value. It says, "These varieties can be found in stamps of the same value. There are also two types of the design apart from this, and both varieties of "D" are found on each type—at any rate, in some of the values, and probably in all. In one type the circle enclosing the value is 15¼mm. in diameter, and the words "POSTAGE DUE" measure 13¾mm. In the other type the circle is 16⅜mm. wide, and "POSTAGE DUE" measures 15mm. There are also many other differences, but perhaps the most striking is in the fact that the last-mentioned stamps are 1mm. wider altogether than those of the first mentioned type."

South Australia.—Mr. Frank H. Oliver has shown us the 9d. value of this colony with clean cut perforations, $11\frac{1}{2}$ and $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$.

We are very dubious whether it is well in a general chronicle to notice these distinctions in the same perforation. As it is, this Colony is already swamped with perforations. A comprehensive simplification would be a god-send.

Southern Nigeria. – What we now term Niger Coast Protectorate is in future to be known as Southern Nigeria. Messrs. Bright & Son inform us that the long talked of issue with the new name has at last been forwarded, and that it is not of the usual De la Rue Colonial type, but of a new and original design.

Straits Settlements. Federated States.—Messrs. Bright & Son inform us that a full set, with the name "Federated States" incorporated in the design, has been forwarded.

Turks Islands. — We have received from Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., the new series of the ship design which we chronicled in November last, and which we now illustrate. It will be observed that the name now includes the Caicos Islands. But Philatelists will probably remain satisfied with the briefer name. As our illustrations show, the lower values are of the ordinary size, and the higher values of a larger size. Perf. 14.

Adhesives.

Watermark, Crown C.A.



½d., green.
1d., rose.
2d., black-brown.
2½d., blue.
4d., orange.
6d., violet.
1s., purple-brown.

Watermark, Crown CC.



2s., violet.
3s., brown lake.

Foreign Countries.

Austria. Bosnia.—The *Monthly Journal* has received three new values for this province. One, 40 heller, is of the same type as the other values of the current series; the other two are of similar design, but larger size, and have the value expressed as "1 K" (or "2 K") in each corner.

Adhesives.

40 (h.), orange; *perf.* $12\frac{1}{2}$.
1 k., lake ,,
2 k., ultramarine ,,

The publishers of the *M. J.* have found the following varieties of perforation:—

Type 1, *perf.* $9\frac{1}{2}$. 5 (nov.).
,, ,, $11\frac{1}{2} \times 10\frac{1}{2}$. 5, 10 (nov.).
Type 2, ,, $10\frac{1}{2}$. 1, 2, 6, 20, 30 (heller).
,, ,, $12\frac{1}{2} \times 10\frac{1}{2}$. 3 (heller).

Chili.—Owing to a shortage in the supply of the new 5c., the use of the 5c. fiscal has been authorised for postal purposes. This is not the first time this same fiscal has done duty for postal purposes. It was extensively used in 1891, but since then its colour has been changed from red to blue, or perchance it is now printed in blue to accord with the ordinary 5c. postage stamp for which it now does duty.

Adhesive.

Fiscal, used for postage.



5c., blue.

France. French Congo.—The *Monthly Journal* says:—"We learn from *La R. Ph. F.* that all sorts of fancy varieties were supplied by the printers of the works of art chronicled for this Colony some months ago. Perforations running in every direction but the right one, double in one place, deficient in another; background upside down or omitted altogether; inverted watermarks; defects of omission and commission

in the engraving, etc. And the whole work is stated to have been so badly done that it has been handed over to another firm, and in a short time, we are told, we may expect to see something worthy of the beautiful designs of M. Merwart. In the meantime the original edition appears to have been exhausted by the demands of the International Bureau at Berne, and by other demands nearer home, so that none of that stock reached the Colony! The second edition is to be something very superior and evidently quite different, and thus collectors are to be permitted to pay for two sets, one of which seems hardly to come even under the head of 'prepared for issue.'"

German Colonies.—We have received the lower values of the new Colonial designs from Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., which we illustrate.



Korea.—Mr. W. H. Peckitt sends us two new values with new designs to add to the current series chronicled and illustrated by us in December last (p. 284).



Adhesives.
15 cheun, violet.
20 cheun, brown-red.

Paraguay.—We illustrate from a specimen received from Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., the new design. Perf. 11½.



Adhesives.

2	centavos,	olive-grey.
3	,,	brown.
5	,,	deep green.
8	,,	marone.
10	,,	carmine.

Persia.—According to the *Monthly Journal* some more of the values printed last year on *greenish* paper appear to have run out, and others of the 1898 issue have been surcharged in pairs with the device recently applied to the 5 chahi. The same disfigurement has also, says the *M. J.*, been inflicted upon some of the stamps that had already received an impression of one of the control marks used last year, and in these cases the additional security seems to have been carefully printed in the centre of a block of *four*. All these adornments would be more interesting if they were rather more clearly printed. As it is the latest comers have an uncomfortable sort of "postmarked-to-order" appearance, which must be distressing to those who collect them." The *M. J.* adds, "we are told that there is a lion depicted somewhere in the rectangular blotch, and we can see some Persian characters, which might tell one all about it if they were legible. We have seen all the following except the 8 chahi, which we quote from the *M. C.*:—

"*Stamps of 1898, with rectangular surcharge.*

1	ch.,	grey.
2	,,	brown
3	,,	lilac.
4	,,	vermilion.
8	,,	orange.
12	,,	carmine.

"*Same type, with two surcharges.*

5	ch.,	yellow.
10	,,	blue.
12	,,	carmine."

Spain.—Just as we are going to press we have received from Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., several values of a new series with an up-to-date portrait of the young King. All the stamps have printed on the back, in blue figures, what we presume are control numbers of some sort. Those we have seen range from 000,938 on the 20c. to 153,581 on the 15c. We shall be glad if some correspondent can supply an explanation of the use of these numbers. The stamps are of pleasing design and effective ranges of colours. *Ewen's Weekly* says the 2c., 5c., 10c. and 15 cents are printed in sheets of 200, while the other values are printed in sheets of 100. The stamps are perforated 14, and the values and colours are:—

Adhesives.

2	cents,	grey-green
5	,,	dark-green
10	,,	salmon
15	,,	blue-black
20	,,	olive-grey
25	,,	sky blue
30	,,	pale green
40	,,	olive green
50	,,	blue-green
1	peseta,	magenta
4	,,	dark violet
10	,,	bright orange

FERNANDO PO.—The new set of stamps for this Colony, which has been rumoured for some time, has appeared. Only the colours have been changed, the designs remaining the same as before. The

following list is given in the *Weekly Philatelic Era*.

Adhesives.

1 mil, black
2 ,, ,,
3 ,, ,,
4 ,, ,,
5 ,, ,,
1 cent, deep green
2 ,, violet
3 ,, carmine
4 ,, black-brown
5 ,, bright blue
6 ,, red-orange
8 ,, bronze-green
10 ,, claret
15 ,, dark violet
20 ,, olive-brown
40 ,, brown
60 ,, green
80 ,, deep blue
1 pes, red-brown
2 ,, Turkish red

Switzerland.—*The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* says two of the values which were recently issued to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Postal Union have been re-touched. The lines of the back-ground have been strengthened and in the 5c., the numeral of value has the tail more pointed than before. The lock of hair on the top of the head is made clearer in both values, than it was before.

Adhesives.

5c. green, re-touched.
10c. rose, ,,

United States.—We quote the following *in extenso* from the usually well-informed *Metropolitan Philatelist*, U.S. :—

"One of these fine days Uncle Sam is going to hand out a new invoice of chromos for postal purposes; in other words, a new series of postage stamps will be issued, and they will not be commemorative, either.

"Specific details bearing upon this prospective issue cannot at this time be announced for the very simple reason that details have not been given consideration. In fact, the project in the abstract has not been given consideration, yet I have assurances that it is tangible and that it will materialize in due time.

"From reliable sources it has been ascertained that the official of the Post Office Department in charge of such matters, has in mind the production of a new series of postage stamps that will supersede the regular set now in use, the latter having, so far as the Department goes, been in service since 1894, although of course, Philatelists regard the 1894 and 1895 sets as separate and distinct, by reason of the watermarking of the paper since 1895. At what time work will begin upon the new series cannot be stated as that point has not yet been determined. All that can be said is that the official referred to made the statement, when asked if a new series was in contemplation, that he was seriously revolving that proposition in his mind and that it was quite likely that a new issue would be brought out in the not distant future. It may be assumed from certain remarks dropped by this official that the new series will differ in several points from the current issue. He is a man of advanced ideas and originality and is certain to incorporate some new features in the next set. It may be stated that the series will bear a face upon each stamp, as at present, but the identity of the person so honoured will not be shrouded in doubt—the name of the individual whose face appears upon the stamp will be set forth in letters immediately beneath the portrait. The date of the issue will also be given a place on the stamp. Such details as size, shape and colour, together with other points, have not been worked out, and may not be for several months. It would have been a nice thing could the Department have arranged to bring out a new regular series to start in the new century."

Uruguay. — The *American Journal of Philately* states that another new set is impending, the following new varieties having been ordered from Waterlow :—

1,000,000 stamps of 1c. green, with design "A herd of cattle."

1,000,000 stamps of 2c. red, design "Genius of Agriculture"

4,000,000 stamps of 5c., dark blue, design "Genius of Uruguay."

500,000 stamps of 7c. orange, design "Fertility of the country."

1,000,000 stamps of 10c. violet, design "Commerce controlling the cattle industry of the country."

We have received and now illustrate the 5c. and 10c. values.





Venezuela.—More of the stamps for inland postage are chronicled by the *Monthl Journal*, changed in colours and surcharged "1900"; also the 50 cents, yellow, official, of 1893, with similar overprint.

Adhesives.

5 centavos, orange, surcharged "1900."
10 ,, blue ,, ,,
25 ,, purple ,, ,,
50 ,, yellow-green ,, ,,
1 bolivar, grey-black ,, ,,

Official.

50 cents., yellow ,, ,,

Philately in the Mags.

In Defence of Mafekings.

Mr. J. R. F. Turner, the well-known collector of Oxford, is a foeman to be reckoned with when he takes up the cudgels on behalf of any particular country. But he has no light task to defend Mafekings from the onslaughts to which they are subjected by all and sundry. However, he is not appalled. On the contrary, we are still inclined to back him against all comers. In the current number of the *London Philatelist* he hits hard. Says he, "By the way, what real evidence that the stamps were speculative at their date of issue has been forthcoming? Up till now I have seen none whatever. Nobody says that the Orange River Colony and Transvaal V.R.I. are speculative; but, as a matter of fact, there has been far more *speculation* in these stamps than in Mafekings. Both Messrs. Stanley Gibbons and Ewen have sold enormous quantities. I maintain that if the dealers—both amateur and professional—had been able to secure unused sheets of Mafekings at face value, and do a roaring business in them, not a word would they have said against them!

"Stamp collectors nowadays act and speak as though every issue of stamps was made for their especial benefit. The real function of a stamp is to frank a letter, not to adorn a stamp collection, and if, as I have no doubt was the case, Colonel Baden-Powell authorised the issue, having regard to the postal needs of the place without giving the slightest thought to stamp collectors, it is absurd and illogical to say it was a speculative issue. Supposing I or anyone else interested in stamps had been in Mafeking during the siege and had heard that special siege stamps were being issued, what should we have done? Hurried off to the post office to buy some, without the shadow of a doubt. On being told that unused stamps were not sold we should have asked by what means we could secure specimens, and on being informed that we could get some sent through on a letter we should have immediately taken one addressed to one of ourselves to the post office, paid for the stamps that the post office official affixed to it, and departed in peace. The next day we would have sent another similar letter, and so on to the end of the siege. But it might also have occurred to us that we could not possibly do any harm by applying to the fountain-head for a full set, and the Colonel being a good-natured man, it is quite conceivable that he might have instructed the postmaster to furnish a set carefully obliterated. We might have tried other officials in Mafeking as well, and by a stroke of luck may have succeeded in raising a few unused. Consequently at the end of the siege we would find ourselves the owners of quite a nice assortment of Mafeking stamps, which cost us next to nothing. But because of all these circumstances how ridiculous it would be to say that the stamps were speculative. Practically the same methods are being adopted at the present time with all kinds of stamps. New issues appear, and collectors will have them. If they cannot get them at the post office, they get them somewhere else; but get them they will There are many cases in point (*e.g.* English Government Parcels and I.R. Official and U.S.A. Periodicals), but though considerable speculation has taken place in them, they were certainly not speculative issues. It seems to me that nearly all the adverse criticism against Mafekings comes from people totally unconversant with facts—people who, for the moment, actually appear to forget that Mafeking was in a state of siege, and under strict martial law. Under the existing circumstances, it is surely the height of folly to imagine that the stamps as authorised could have been of a speculative character. All the evidence to hand is diametrically opposed to such a conclusion.

"Moreover, since not more than one out of every dozen stamps newly issued is really necessary *from a stamp collector's point of view*, it is immaterial whether Mafekings were *absolutely* necessary or not. At the same time it should be apparent to every fair-minded Philatelist that the authorities at Mafeking were far better able to judge of the postal needs of the place than irresponsible people sitting comfortably at home over 6,000 miles away!"

Great Britain: Proofs.

Filatelic Facts and Fallacies (U.S.), in the course of a detailed description of the remarkable collection of Mr. Henry J. Crocker, of San Francisco, publishes the following letter from Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., concerning colour proofs and trials of recent English issues supplied by them:—

"Dear Sir,—We have just succeeded in obtaining a complete and absolutely unique set of the colours, proofs, and trials made for the Commissioners of Inland Revenue of the last issue of English stamps. We give you this written undertaking that this is absolutely and positively the only complete set that has been made up; it is from one of the highest officials of the Government, and no such set or nearly so exists complete anywhere, not even in the

government office, or with De la Rue, the printer. There are 182 pieces in it, and our price is net cash. If these stamps were sold separately they would sell at from 30sh. to 50sh. each, but the set is very fine and we do not wish to break it. As we believe you are specializing in English, we send these to you next to Mr. Ferrary, who admired them very much, but did not care to buy, as he had given away his collection of these things to the Vienna Museum."

This letter could scarcely have been intended for publication, but since it has been published we quote it for the delectation of our readers.

Australian Federation Boom.

Mr. J. H. Smyth, of Messrs. Smyth & Nicolle, Sydney, and Mr. Fred Hagan, of the same city, have been interviewed by newspaper representatives on the present boom in Australian stamps.

"In view of the accomplishment of Federation," said Mr. Smyth, "many people are hurrying to secure complete sets of the stamps now issued in the different Colonies or States, some to complete a collection and others to hold for an increase in values."

"Is anything known of the design of the new Federal stamp?" asked the interviewer.

"Not yet; that will have to be decided later on. My opinion is that the new stamp will not be issued for some little time after Federation is accomplished. There will be preliminaries to arrange. But what will happen will probably be this: The issues at present in use in the States will be 'surcharged' with the words 'Federal Australia,' and the year 1901, just as the Transvaal and Orange State stamps were utilised with the letters 'V.R.I.' printed across them."

"One good effect which Federation will have on the stamp business," said Mr. Fred Hagan, chatting to the same Press representative, "is that it will bring about something like finality in the issue. At present dealers are quite disgusted at what goes on in some Colonies. The stamps are changed and rechanged with remarkable rapidity. In Queensland there have been numerous issues and alterations in a year or two.

"In Victoria the Government has decided to make a business of issuing cancelled stamps in sheets. This is playing it low down, and is on a par with what little South American Republics or Borneo do to make revenue. But I believe it is contrary to the agreement at the Intercolonial Postal Conference."

"Has the prospect of Federation led to an increase of business in Australian stamps?" Mr. Hagan was asked.

"Yes; already local collectors are buying full sets of present State stamps to hold for a rise, which is sure to come by-and-bye when the issues are out of date. There have been enquiries, too, by dealers abroad, and I have sent to England some very large parcels of Australian stamps—about 300,000 of New South Wales alone"

U.S. Stamp Printing.

A Pittsburg (U.S.) newspaper gives the following interesting description of a visit to the stamp printing establishment in the United States:—

"No visitor is permitted inside the building without one of the guides especially detailed for this service, while the work of each of the hundreds of employees is so carefully checked and recorded that even the most insignificant error is readily traceable. Ink, paper, the engravers' dies, the printers' plates, are all given out on properly signed receipts, and until all are accounted for, even to the tiniest scrap of paper, the employees who have handled them are not permitted to leave the building; so that only by a widespread plot could all these safeguards be successfully eluded.

"The little party was now shown into a very long room, at one end of which was ranged a row of compartments like sentry boxes. In each of these sat a silent engraver, bent over the small square of steel upon which he was cutting some part of the design for paper money or stamps. The plates from which the stamps were formerly printed are the property of the Government, so that the old designs, with a slight modification, are still in use. This modification consists of a trefoil mark placed in the upper corner of the new stamps, which will serve to distinguish them from the old issues printed by the American Bank-Note Company. The work of the engravers is necessarily so painstaking and slow that the original dies are considered too expensive to use in the printing presses. Thus, after the engraver has completed a die, it is subjected to a hardening process, and the design multiplied indefinitely upon soft steel plates by what is known as the transfer-press. The children were shown a long row of these presses, as well as the great vaults where all the designs, dies, and plates are locked up after the day's work. From the silence of the engravers' department they were led into the din and clatter of the press-room below. Here they found the new steam presses as well as old-fashioned hand presses in operation, and were able to see every detail of the actual printing of stamps.

"The hand presses are worked by a plate printer and one assistant, the printer first inking and polishing the engraved plate over a series of small gas jets, after which it is placed on the press. His assistant now lays a dampened sheet of paper upon the plate, the printer gives the press a turn, and a sheet of bright new stamps is drawn out at the other side. This work is done

quickly and accurately, but it is a very slow process compared with that of the steam presses, which turn out sheets of 400 stamps each at the rate of 100,000 stamps an hour. The steam presses carry four plates on an endless chain around the sides of a large square, in the circuit of which the plates are automatically heated to the proper temperature, inked, wiped off, and printed. The blank paper is laid on the plates by one assistant, while a second helper takes out the printed sheet. The printer in charge of the press has the most difficult part of the work, which consists in polishing the plate with his bare palms after it has been mechanically inked. This must be done so delicately as to leave neither too much nor too little ink upon the plate, but only just enough to give a clean, fine impression."

Chinese Stamps.

Mr. R. A. Walter writes to *Ewen's Weekly* as follows :—

"I received last week a letter from Shanghai a letter stamped with ten cents worth of ordinary Chinese stamps of current issue, postmarked with the ordinary Shanghai postmark, but over these and hiding part of the stamps and postmark too is placed a French 25c. stamp surcharged "Chine," this being again postmarked with the French obliteration "Shanghai—Chine." Can any of your "Postcard Column" friends explain this business? If it is of interest to you I should be pleased to submit it for your inspection. I have also received to-day a copy of the new colour one anna India. It is a carmine tint rather than crimson as foretold by S.G. & Co. in their September Journal."

To this query the Editor of *Ewen's Weekly* replies on the authority of a missionary just returned from China, that the French stamps are placed on the letters by the Chinese postal officials, and that they are almost invariably used because they are fractionally cheaper than those of other nations.

Habilitados of Porto Rico.

Mr. Fernando De Juan, a leading collector of San Juan, Porto Rico, under date Nov. 12th, 1900, supplies *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* with the following list of stamps surcharged in Porto Rico "Habilitado para 1898 y 1899."

"1896 Issue.

1m. lilac-brown. red surcharge.
2m. yellow-green, red surcharge.
4m. blue-green, red surcharge.
1c. claret, red surcharge.
2c. red-brown, red surcharge.
3c. ultramarine, red surcharge.
4c. brown, red surcharge.
5c. light blue, red surcharge.
6c. lilac, red surcharge.
8c. rose, violet surcharge.
20c. olive-gray, red surcharge.
40c. salmon, red surcharge.

"1897 Issue.

3c. claret-brown, red surcharge.
80c. black, red surcharge.

"Impuesto de Guerra—1894 Issue.

2c. on 2m. flesh, violet surcharge.
2c. brick-red, violet surcharge.
2c. light violet, violet surcharge.
5c. on 1m. blue, carmine surcharge.
5c. on 1m. violet-brown, carmine surcharge.
5c. blue-green, violet surcharge."

Mr. De Juan adds :—

"These are the only surcharges officially made, circulated and sold here between June and October, 1898. After the auction of remainders a great many fraudulent surcharges have been made by dealers and collectors of ill-repute.

"The series of Habilitados begins with the 1m. violet. Those ½m. surcharged are frauds.

"The 5c. yellow-green does not exist officially surcharged, Habilitado, or Impuesto. All those known were fraudulently surcharged.

"It is not possible that stamps of the 1890-91 issue should exist officially surcharged, because all the stock remaining in the Government Warehouse was ordered to be burnt and was actually burnt in 1894."

U.S. Postage Stamps Supplies, 1900.

The *Metropolitan Philatelist* publishes the following official particulars of stamps printed and delivered by the United States Post Office Department to Postmasters throughout the States :—

"*Ordinary Series of 1894* :—

Dolls. 0 01	965,632,500
02	2,825,727,900
03	29,624,550
04	31,663,100
05	56,139,950
06	9,226,400
08	14,293,600
10	22,818,550
15	2,911,980
50	73,170
1 00	25,970
2 00	2,345
5 00	2,345
Total ..	3,958,142,360

"*2c. in books* :—

Volumes	2,263,400
No. Stamps	40,400,904
Special Delivery 10c.	6,940,600

"*Postage Due, series of 1894* :—

Dolls. 0 01	5,478,400
02	12,537,100
03	410,300
05	853,600
10	1,682,350
30	5,330
50	1,630
Total ..	20,968,710

"*Stamps delivered to Department of Posts of Cuba: Cuban, ordinary series of 1899* :—

Dolls. 0 01	4,000,000
02	7,000,000
03	2,000,000
05	2,000,000
10	600,000
Total ..	15,600,000

"*Cuban Special Delivery* :—

10c.	100,000

"*Cuba, surcharged on U.S. dues, series 1894:—*

Dolls. 0 01	100,000
02	200,000
05	70,000
10	60,000
Total ..	430,000

"*Stamps delivered to Department of Posts, Porto Rico. Porto Rico, surcharged on U.S series, 1894:—*

Dolls. 0 01	500,000
02	1,000,000
08	50,000
Total ..	1,550,000

"*Porto Rico, surcharged on U.S. dues, series 1894:—*

Dolls. 0 01	50,000
02	50,000
10	5,000
Total ..	105,000

"*Stamps delivered to Department of Posts, Philippines: Philippines surcharged on U.S, series 1894:—*

Dolls. 0 01	1,000,000
02	3,000,000
05	500,000
15	300,000
50	1 0,000
Total ..	4,900,000

"*Philippines, surcharged on U.S. dues, series 1894:—*

Dolls. 0 01	60,000
02	120,000
05	60,000
10	60,000
50	1,000
Total ..	301,000

"*Stamps delivered to Department of Posts, Guam: Guam, surcharged on U.S., series 1894:—*

Dolls. 0 01	15,000
02	75,000
03	5,000
04	5,000
05	15,000
06	5,000
08	5,000
10	10,000
15	5,000
50	4,000
1 00	3,000
10 spec. del.	5,000
Total ..	152,000

"Specimen stamps (though not surcharged 'specimen') were delivered to Third Asst. Postmaster-General, as follows:—

"Series of 1894, one sheet of 100 stamps of each denomination from 1 cent to 5 dolls. Special delivery, 50 stamps. Dues, 100 of each value.

"Cuba, surcharged on U.S. series of 1894, 100 of each value. Cuba, regular issue of 1899, 400 of each value. Dues, surcharged on U.S., 200 of each value.

"Porto Rico, surcharged on U.S., 100 of each value, save the 8 cent, of which there were 200. Dues, 100 of each value

"Philippines, surcharged on U.S., 100 of each value, save 15 cent and 50 cent, of which 200 of each value were issued. Dues, 200 each value.

"Guam, surcharged on U.S., 200 of each value, save 1, 2, 5 cent, of which 100 were printed, including special delivery."

A Philatelic Census.

Herr J. Walter, as quoted in the *London Philatelist*, has compiled for *Der Philatelist* the following list of new issues during the last ten years. The varieties, which are taken from Messrs. Senf's catalogue, do not include variations of type, watermarks, or any small differences. Were these all counted, as also the marked shades, the total number of "varieties" issued in the last ten years would be well over 10,000! No wonder that the tribe of specialists increases!

New Issues of the Last Ten Years.

	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	
Europe	146	89	69	71	61	73	31	56	44	110	= 780
Asia.....	90	124	100	98	107	119	120	158	148	64	= 1128
Africa.....	137	221	230	293	260	221	173	319	128	75	= 2057
America....	223	259	217	149	207	235	206	333	219	144	= 2192
Australia ..	52	67	121	20	37	12	35	30	39	65	= 478
Totals...	648	760	737	631	672	660	565	896	578	488	= 6635

Swiss: Current Issue and Perfs.

According to the *Philateliste Française* the present issue of Switzerland, figure of Helvetia, hitherto catalogued only perf. 9½ and 11½ is also known perf. 12 in the following values:—

20 centimes,	orange.
25 ,,	green.
40 ,,	grey.
50 ,,	blue,
1 franc,	claret.
3 francs,	yellow-brown.

The obliterations on these stamps date from 1882-1891.

Besides the above, the following values are found perforated 12 × 11:—

20 centimes,	orange.
25 ,,	green.
25 ,,	blue (1899).
30 ,,	red-brown.
40 ,,	grey.
50 ,,	blue.
1 franc.	claret.

All stamps with this perforation are obliterated 1892-1899.

Cook Islands Federation.

Mr. Walter Morley, in the January number of his *Philatelic Journal*, publishes the following *resumé* of the issues of Cook Islands Federation. He follows Gibbons in making separate sets of the first issue, one on so-called toned paper, and the other on white paper. For the present we query the toned paper. His perforations extend to perf. 12 of the Head of Queen issue.

"1892. Large stamp, type set. No wmk. Perf. 12½.

"(*a*) *Toned paper.*

1d., black.
1½d., dark mauve.
1½d., pale mauve.
2½d., dark blue.
2½d., pale blue.
10d., carmine.

"(*b*) *White paper.*

1d., black.
1½d., mauve.
2½d., blue.
10d., carmine.

"*Variety, with short* 1 *to* ½ *of* ½d.

1½d., mauve.

"1893-94. Head of Queen Makea. Wmk. N.Z. and star.

"(*a*) *Perf.* 12 × 11½.

1d., dark brown.
1d., dark blue (1894).
1d., pale blue.
1½d., mauve.
1½d., pale mauve.
2½d., pale rose.
2½d., dark rose.
5d., pale olive.
5d., olive.
5d., dark olive.
10d., pale green.
10d., green.

"The pale shades belong to the first printings, and this perf. is the one commonly met with in this series. The catalogues give 12 × 11½ or 11½ only.

"(*b*) *Perf.* 11½.

1d., pale blue.
1d., dark blue.
1½d., mauve.
2½d., pale rose.
2½d., dark rose.
5d., pale olive.
5d., dark olive.
10d., pale green.
10d., dark green.

"This perf. 11½ I find very scarce.

"Varieties.

1½d., mauve, perf. 11½ × 12.

"(*c*) *Perf.* 12.

1d., dark brown.
1d , pale blue.
1d., dark blue.
1½d., pale mauve.
1½d., mauve.
2½d., pale rose.
2½d., dark rose.
5d., olive.
10d., green.

' 10d., green, perf. 11½ at top and right side, and 12 at bottom and left side.

"1898. Some time during 1898 a new perforation was adopted for all values, and the colours of this series are of a somewhat brighter tint than the preceding issues. Wmk. N.Z. and star. Perf. 11.

1d., blue.
1½d., mauve.
2½d., pale rose.
2½d , rose.
5d., olive.
5d., dark olive.
10d., green.

"1899. In this year the 1d. was changed back to its old colour, but is readily distinguished from the early variety by the perforation. Wmk. N.Z. and star. Perf. 11.

1d., brown.

"1899. Provisional. The 1d. blue, surcharged ONE-HALF-PENNY in three lines in black.

½d., on 1d., blue. Perf. 11.
„ „ „ (double surcharge).

"1898-99. Oblong stamps, with bird flying. Wmk. N.Z. and star. Perf. 11.

½d., pale blue.
2d., brown.
6d., purple.
1s., pale carmine.
1s., dark carmine.

"1900. Same type, but a fresh printing in brighter colours. Wmk. N.Z. and star. Perf. 11.

½d., dark blue.
2d., violet brown.
6d., mauve.
1s., lake."

Egypt—Inverted Watermarks.

Are inverted watermarks worthy of notice or collection? We doubt it. However, as some good folks may still favour them, we quote the following letter from Mr. Beckton from the current number of the *London Philatelist*:—

"In answer to the letter of Mr. W. F. Hughes, the 1879 issue of Egypt exists with reversed watermark in all the six values. The 10 paras, lilac-rose, according to my experience, is always with reversed watermark, and I doubt very much whether it exists with the watermark in the normal position.

"In the 1881 issue I know of only the 10 paras, grey, and this is a scarce stamp with reversed watermark. In the 1888 issue the 1 millieme, but probably the others also, exist. The 20 paras on 5 pi. is known with reversed watermark, but I have heard it said that in this state it is the rarest stamp in Egypt.

"I cannot agree, however, with a statement of this kind, because however rare it may be it is putting an altogether exaggerated value upon this class of variety, a value which is not warranted by the present feeling collectors evince towards reversed watermarks. In a specialised collection they certainly tend to make it more complete, but the interest attaching to them is very small. Collect them if you will, by all means, but don't look upon them as objects of all-absorbing interest, otherwise you will some day have a cruel awakening.

"I venture to refer Mr. Hughes for further information upon Egypt to an article by Mr. Duerst in the *Philatelic Record*, vol. xviii."

Notes and News.

The Sale of the Season.

We have received from Messrs. Puttick & Simpson a very handsomely got up catalogue of grand collections which they will sell by auction at their rooms, 47, Leicester Square, W.C., on the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th of February, 1901. In size it is a large quarto, and contains fine photographic process plates full of rare stamps.

So far, it may fairly be described as the Sale of the Season. The sale will commence on each day at 4.30 p.m., and there are 825 lots to be disposed of in the four days.

Hawaiians Booming in America.

A Californian writer in *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* reports that Hawaiians are very much sought after on the Pacific coast, and he believes that already collectors will experience considerable difficulty in filling up some gaps. He says:—

"Among the stamps that are considerably scarcer than has generally been believed is the 2c. lilac-rose of the old monarchical issue. In endeavouring to equalize their supply of the stamps of Hawaii, Makins & Co., of San Francisco, wrote for a supply of this stamp to Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., of London, and offered twice the catalogue price for them. In reply they received a letter from the great English firm stating that the latter had got practically 'left' on Hawaiians."

Sale of the Dionian Collection.

We quote the following concerning the recent sale of the Dionian Collection in New York from the *Metropolitan Philatelist*:—

"The superb Dionian collection is now a thing of the past, the splendid aggregation of stamps which had taken so much money to amass, patient search to secure and loving care to protect has now been scattered among some hundreds of amateurs, all of whom we trust will be made happier by the beautiful additions to their album. From a business standpoint the auction was a great success as practically every lot sold at an advance over prices secured at last season's sales. No small part of this desirable showing is owing to the publicity given to the sale in the pages of this paper, an advantage not shared by the auctions with which a collector would naturally compare the Dionian sale. Many stamps sold much above catalogue price, some as high as three times the regular quotations, all of which goes to show that no hard and fast rule can usurp the place of a careful study of the market by intelligent amateurs. Three-quarters of the collection will remain in New York City, the out-of-town buyers usually sending very inadequate bids; perhaps the most curious feature of mail bids is the insistence on every stamp being in perfect condition when the price offered could only secure very poor specimens. In a collection like the one under review where every stamp was perfect, conditions were superfluous, but bids should in no case fall below half catalogue price, while many thousands were offered at from one-quarter to one-third. There is certainly not a single dealer in the United States who had the cash, who would not gladly have purchased the entire collection at these prices and yet amateurs expected to get their pick of a part at less than the value of any portion of the whole. One notable instance of this was the bids on lots 1320 and 1321, the penny and two pence Mauritius; these were catalogued as grand specimens and very early impressions, and yet several hundreds of collectors sent bids of from half to full list price ($3 to $15) of ordinary stamps; they sold after much competition at $31 and $50 respectively."

First Stamp Auction in Berlin.

According to the *London Philatelist*, the first sale by auction of stamps was held in Berlin on October 22nd of last year in a room of the Restaurant, Unter den Linden 27.

"The sale attracted a very numerous assembly, including practically all possessors of the larger collections in Berlin. We noticed Herr Heften, jun., whose collection stands unrivalled in Berlin, Herren Huff, Blankertz, Elster, Schneider, etc. Representatives were present from London, Paris, Stockholm, Wiesbaden, and Dresden, as well as from many other places.

"Many of the stamps which came under the hammer went out of the country, as, for instance, Mr. v Blume, of the Parisian Rothschild's house, availed himself of this opportunity to select many peculiarly rare things. The Roumanian 81 paras, blue, 1858, fetched the highest price in the four hours' sale. The hammer fell after a bid of 5,000 marks for the stamp, which is considered to be the rarest of Europeans. As we ascertained afterwards, a dealer of this place had a commission to bid to 6,000 marks for the stamp, so the purchaser has saved 1,500 marks. There was also a second bid which ran to 4,800 marks, while a third ran to 15 marks! The 27 paras, Roumania, belonging to the same collection, was also bought by Mr. v Blume, of Paris, for the

sum of 750 marks. Among the rest of the stamps other than the Europeans the 5c., Brattlebro', U.S.A., fetched the highest bid – 1,000 marks. Two St. Vincent's—the 5s., 1880, and the 4d. on 1s., 1881—went to London for 200 and 100 marks respectively. The 6d., Tobago, realised 111 marks. A 10s., Swazieland, found a purchaser in England for the sum of 130 marks."

A New Postal Idea.

It was recently stated that Spain is going to issue a special 10c. stamp which is to be used for the franking of all correspondence between Spain and the post offices on the west coast of Africa. Here then is the germ of a fruitful series for our Leebeck-Assenjo friends. Why not have a separate series of stamps for letters to every separate State on earth, and a few for the moon? They might be "commemorative" of the assassinations of Presidents in Central America, and the Postmaster General of the United States, instead of issuing only one speculative commemorative set for every country show, might issue as many sets as there are States in the Union, *e.g.*, a separate set for the letters addressed to each particular State. In this way the official milking of stamp flats in the great Republic would be considerably accelerated, for some would be certain to "go the whole hog."

Philatelic Journal of India—Retirement of the Editor.

Philatelists at home will read with sincere regret Mr. A. C. Stewart-Wilson's announcement of his retirement from the Editorship of the *Philatelic Journal of India* at the completion of the current volume which closes with the December number. He has edited it with unquestionable Philatelic ability for two and a half years, and we trust that his fellow members of the Philatelic Society of India will be able to prevail upon him to continue his greatly appreciated labours. If he must retire we plump for our old outspoken friend "Dâk." Whoever he may be he is certainly a Philatelist of the right stamp for a Philatelic Editor.

A Mourning Stamp.

A mourning label and postcard was lately issued unofficially in Finland, and promptly suppressed by the Russian authorities. A correspondent in the *Monthly Journal* gives the following further details:—

"On the 1/14 of August, when the Finnish stamps were replaced by those of Russia, there was issued, by way of protest (not officially, but by private enterprise), a funereal label, with a solid *black* ground, bearing the Arms of Finland in *yellow* and *red*, and the words 'SUOMI' above and 'FINLAND' below, in *white*. There was also a post card, with the same device in the right upper corner, 'UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE — CARTE POSTALE' at top, four dotted lines for the address, and an instruction in four languages at foot, on pale buff card 140 × 91 mm.

"The price of the label, '1 PENNI,' is marked on the back, and the profits, if any, were to be devoted to the national schools. These labels were to be placed on the address side of the letters, and the Russian stamps on the other side.

"The Governor-General soon put an end to these demonstrations. Referring the matter to the Russian Ministry of the Interior, he obtained authority to forbid absolutely the use of these labels and cards, which were in circulation for not more than about forty-eight hours.

"These labels were never sold at the post office at Helsingfors, as has been stated in a French journal."

Government Stamp Dealing.

We quote the following drastic paragraph from the *Monthly Circular* on the postal peculiarities of Roumania:—"The Postal Administration here has opened publicly in the stamp-mongering line. It announces that on December 1st the current stamps (excluding the 1½ bani) were issued on special paper watermarked with Arms 6 times on each sheet of 150 stamps, so that each block of 25 shows the watermark entire. It now sends round a lithographed circular to dealers asking if they 'are disposed to buy a certain number of them.' It also has 'a great number of illustrated postcards issued at the New Year of 1900 as per sample enclosed.'

"Not content with hawking this rubbish, the Roumanian Post Office has also been playing the cheap-jack with the 25 bani, blue, errors of 1893-7. These, instead of being destroyed, were started, it is said, at £2 each. What lower price they reached we do not know, but the sale hung fire, and now no less than 842 are offered to the highest bidder. We mention this as a warning to collectors."

THE

Philatelic Record

EDITED BY

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

Member of the Institute of Journalists.

MARCH, 1901.

Editorial Notes.

Death of the Queen.

THE deeply-lamented death of Her Gracious Majesty, Queen Victoria, ends a long and resplendent reign. Philatelists, in common with other citizens of her world-wide Empire, will mourn her loss with sincere respect for the many great qualities that have endeared her to the nation. In the pursuit of their hobby, they treasure up historic souvenirs of her past in the postal labels of the Mother Country and its Colonies—from the girl Queen to the widowed Mother and the aged Sovereign. She has reigned supreme in the hobby to which they are so deeply attached, and as the years roll on those simple postal portraits will acquire an historical interest of their own that will serve to perpetuate her memory so long as Philately lasts.

Our New Stamps.

WITH the accession of Edward VII. to the throne we shall naturally expect a change of portraits on our coinage and our postage stamps. His Majesty is said to have already given a sitting for the coinage, and presumably the same portrait will be adopted for the postage stamps. But we imagine there will be no very early change. Possibly no change may be made till the coronation. It would seem more fitting that there should be no undue haste to remove or replace the effigy of Her late Majesty during the prescribed year of mourning.

And then? What changes there will be! In our first postage stamp we had an idealised profile of the young Queen. And, with few exceptions, that portrait set the fashion throughout our Colonies. In our new stamps shall we have a real portrait of the King? Shall we have a series of postage stamps worthy of a great and rich Empire, or must we continue those poverty-stricken designs that so persistently proclaim to the world our utter lack of art?

It is passing strange that great nations like Germany, France, Austria, and our own, are all represented by postage stamps of most miserable designs, whilst smaller states such as Sweden, Switzerland, and the South and Central American States revel in the choicest

examples of the engraver's art; some exquisitely simple, others elaborate, but many handsome in design and beautiful in execution.

Of late years there has been a tendency to break away from the established usage of presenting only the effigy of the ruling Head of the State. Some countries have given us galleries of portraits of the men who have dominated the destinies of their countries. The stamps of the United States familiarise the citizens of the Republic with the faces of their greatest Presidents. And is not the memory of the men who have made our England famous worthy of like perpetuation? Why not retain on one stamp the latest and best portrait of Queen Victoria, on another that of the King, and on the others England's greatest in Science, Literature, the Senate, and the Battlefield?

In the production of postage stamps that are gems of art—for other countries—we stand foremost in the world. Why then should we accept, at the dictation of a printing firm or the initiative of a parsimonious Government department, postage stamps that are anything but beautiful or worthy of the country of their origin?

Recent Swiss Forgeries.

A SUCCESSFUL attempt has been made during the past month by a foreigner now in custody to palm off on stamp dealers in London a number of forgeries of Swiss Cantonals. In most cases the forgeries are wonderfully good, and must be classed amongst the most dangerous yet produced, as they have been made by photography. They differ very slightly in size from the genuine. The envelope stamp (Gibbons number 6) is slightly larger than the genuine; but all the others are fractionally smaller; the double Geneva, of which we have seen used and unused copies, are exactly 1mm. smaller than the genuine. They are rather a paler yellow green than is generally found on the original. They also show a few minor differences, the most prominent of which are on the right-hand half—the lower beak of the eagle does not touch the wing, which it should do. The 4c. Vaud, of which we have also seen used and unused copies, is slightly darker in colour, but this forgery is easier to detect, as the figure "4" is not quite correct. The Post Locale without frame is an attempt to be number 40 on the plate, but on comparison differs slightly in the background.

Collectors and dealers are indebted to Mr. Peckitt for his prompt warning to be on their guard.

Orange River Colony Varieties.

WE fear that some one has been continuously tampering with the settings of the "V.R.I." surcharges of the Orange River Colony, for it is very hard to believe that the many minor varieties which have recently been created could possibly result from straightforward printing. There are grave suspicions that some harpy has been doing a back-stair business, and it is to be hoped that the authorities will inquire into the matter forthwith. They effectually stopped the multiplication and sale of more serious errors. The variety-producers, whoever they may be, are therefore now shrewdly confining themselves to such variations as are likely to escape official notice.



By Edward J. Nankivell.

THE death of Her Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, regarded for the moment only from the Philatelic point of view, is an event of far-reaching significance. It must eventually affect the issue of postage stamps in every Colony of the British Empire. There may be one or two Colonies which may develope the present tendency to picture stamps to the exclusion of the King's portrait, but the probabilities are that loyalty will demand the use of the Royal effigy on at least one or more of every Colonial series. Hence the changes that loom up in the immediate future as a consequence of the lamented death of the Queen render that sad event one of over-mastering importance from every Philatelic point of view.

From first to last Her late Majesty's Philatelic sway has been widespread and unquestioned, if we except the Colony of Western Australia, which has from start to finish pardonably stuck to its typical swan with all its associations of the early free settlement on the Swan River; British Guiana, with its full-rigged ship; and











Cape Colony, with its figure of Britannia. Apart from these exceptions, no important Colony has failed to emphasize its loyalty by placing the Queen's Head upon one, or more, or all, of its postal labels.

The introduction and the development of the use of postage stamps for defraying the postage of letters belongs entirely to the glorious reign just closed. Indeed, the initiation of penny postage and postage stamps was one of the earliest of the important questions which came before the young Queen; and if we could be admitted behind the scenes of those early days of the reign we should probably learn that her interest in the movement was an active and personal one. It could scarcely be otherwise, for when the question as to the design for the then forthcoming first issue of postage stamps was discussed, the immense preponderance of designers and public alike seems to have been pronouncedly in favor of a presentment of the young Queen's head. Royal arms, crowns, lions, and other heraldic emblems were suggested, but the "Queen's Head" bore down all competitors, and eventually monopolised the design of every stamp; and from that day to this the Queen's Head has held its supreme place of honour on our postage stamps.

And most of the Colonies rapidly followed suit. One has only to turn over the leaves of a collection of the stamps of the British Empire to be deeply impressed with the Philatelic sway of the dead Queen.

As our tribute, we reproduce types of most of the representative portraits that have been issued in the various Colonies. Some are idealised, some are crude, not a few are curious, but all are of historical interest to the

Philatelic student. And not a few of us hope that the presentment of her portrait upon one or more of all British postage stamps will long perpetuate her memory.

The following is a list of "first issues" of the Queen's portrait throughout the British Empire :—

Great Britain, 1840.
Mauritius, 1847.
Victoria, 1850.
New South Wales, 1851.
Canada, 1851.
Nova Scotia, 1851.
Tasmania, 1852.
India, 1854.
Ionian Islands, 1855.
New Zealand, 1855.
South Australia, 1855.
St. Helena, 1856.
Ceylon, 1857.
Bahamas, 1859.
St. Lucia, 1859.
Jamaica, 1860.
New Brunswick, 1860.
Natal, 1860.
Malta, 1860.
Prince Edward Island, 1860.
Queensland, 1860.
British Columbia, 1861.
St. Vincent, 1861.
Sierra Leone, 1861.
Antigua, 1862.
Hong Kong, 1862.
Bermuda, 1865.
British Honduras, 1865.
Gambia, 1866.
Newfoundland, 1866
Heligoland, 1867.
Straits Settlements, 1867.





















Turks Islands, 1867.
Trinidad, 1869.
Lagos, 1874.
Gold Coast, 1875.
Montserrat, 1876.
Falkland Islands, 1878.
Transvaal, 1878.
Labuan, 1879.
Tobago, 1879.
Nevis, 1879.
Virgin Islands, 1880.
Cyprus, 1880.
Fiji, 1882.
Barbados, 1882.
Gibraltar, 1886.
Zululand, 1888.
British East Africa, 1890.
Leeward Islands, 1890.
Seychelles, 1890.
Oil Rivers Protectorate, 1892.
Niger Coast Protectorate, 1893.
Uganda, 1898.

The peculiarities of a few of the leading portraits may be noted.

GREAT BRITAIN: Only one portrait has ever secured a place upon any postal issue of the British Isles. It has always been the one idealised profile designed by Henry Corbould and engraved by Henry Heath for Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., the first printers of our English postage stamps, whose work has never been equalled upon our English stamps. The drawing of the head of the Queen was made from Wyon's city medal, and it was engraved in line on steel. The engine-turned background, and the sides of the stamp were first engraved mechanically, and a place cleared in the centre on which Heath engraved the head. The lettering on the top and bottom labels was

then added. In our current stamps we have practically the same profile in reduced size with the exception of the penny value in the ordinary size stamps, and all the high values from 5s. upwards.



Mauritius followed suit with a very crude local copy, all issues of which are among the great rarities. From 1860 till 1895 it was supplied with the De la Rue type of the same profile, but since 1895 it has issued stamps of the local arms pattern, which are now the current issue.



Victoria was the first of the Australian Colonies to issue a postal portrait of the Queen and it remains to this day the most unique of all the presentments of Her Majesty. It is a 3d. value with a half-length portrait, in a low-necked dress, with diadem and coif. In the right hand is a sceptre, and in the left a mound or orb. Next in interest comes the Queen enthroned, thus described in the London Philatelic Society's work on Oceania, "a full length portrait in regal robes and crown, with orb and sceptre, seated in the coronation chair, with footstool, which is placed on the uppermost of two steps. The background is formed of engine-turned lines, and is enframed by a kind of Gothic portal, consisting of pillars, supporting at the sides a flat-pointed arch, with floreate ornaments in the spandrels." Of the many other varying portraits in the Victorian Series the laureated head plays a prominent part. The laurel is a sign of some great victory won, and the Sovereign is not entitled to wear it till some great victory has marked his or her reign. In the case of Her late Majesty it celebrates the hard won victories of the Crimean campaign.

















The fashions of the time are represented in the dressing of the hair, most markedly so in the 9d., first issued in 1873, and which remains to-day the current type of that value. This stamp alone of the Victorian Stamps shows the full crown with arches and mound.

New South Wales portraits, though less varied, are full of interest. The full crown is represented on the elaborate circular 5s. stamp. The laureated series is one of the most interesting in the whole range of Australians. The portrait in State robes from our current coinage is reproduced on the 2d. and 2½d. values in the current series.

New Zealand selected for its stamps the well-known and very popular portrait of the Queen taken in 1838 and 1839. From 1854 till 1872 this splendid series remained unbroken. Then it was displaced with stamps of a most inferior design with the ordinary diademed profile of the then set De la Rue pattern. Later on the small crown of our Jubilee coinage was placed on the 2½d., and shared the public condemnation which led to the replacement of the Jubilee head by the beautifully-draped head of our present coins, which in its turn is feebly copied on the ½d. value of 1882.

South Australians call for no special remark. They are all of the diademed pattern, and vary but little. The early heads were beautifully engraved by Perkins, Bacon & Co. from Corbould's beautiful design.

Queensland also has introduced little variety in its portraits. It has in fact had but two, the popular 1838 full face portrait and bust in its early issues, which was most unwisely abandoned for one of the roughest engraved

heads perpetrated by any colony since the early Mauritius. The local engravers continue to play with the portrait with varying results, mostly in the direction of increased ugliness.



Tasmania also commenced with the full face portrait of 1838 but, like Queensland, abandoned its beautiful early designs for the poverty-stricken De la Rue type.



The pence issues of Ceylon all have the beautiful Corbould head and are amongst the finest specimens of the exquisite early engraving of Perkins, Bacon & Co. Later issues are of the monotonous De la Rue type.

India in its early issues kept rigidly to the ordinary diademed head, but of late it has given us a later portrait in State robes on the 3 pies value.



Turning to the Western Hemisphere, we get more variety again. Canada has given us the full face of 1838, the diademed profile and in its current series the head in State robes.

Newfoundland, more prolific in stamp designs than any other Colony, has a full face noble stamp in its 24c, a side face and bust with widow's cap of Her Majesty's early widowhood on the 3c. of 1873, and in a later Jubilee series the aged widow with cap.



Nova Scotia, however, takes the Philatelic palm for noble portraits. The 12½c. with its beautiful full face and crown has few, if any, equals in the whole range of the postal labels of our Colonies. It was the work of the American Bank Note Co., of New York.

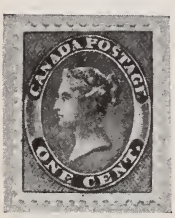


West Indians do not call for much comment. Corbould's head re-appears on the early stamps of St. Vincent, St. Lucia and Antigua. The











prettiest stamp, of course, is the early Bahamas 1d. value. It is a dainty specimen of the stamp designers and engravers' work, and marks the wide gulf which divides the most pleasing of the early stamps from the prevailing ugliness that dominates English Colonial stamp designs to-day.

Of other Colonies we must not forget to note the beautiful embossed head on the stamps of Gambia, which strangely survived the De la Rue reign of ugliness till a couple of years ago, when it was relegated to the limbo of all that is beautiful in Colonial stamp portraiture.

Strange to say, in the Falkland Islands and the Transvaal Queen's head series, both designed and engraved by Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co., the head faces the wrong way, the rule being in the coinage that each succeeding sovereign faces the opposite way to his immediate predecessor. Hence the Queen's portrait faces to the left. In the issues of the Falkland Islands and the Queen's head issue of the Transvaal they face to the right.

How far the appearance of the Queen's head upon the stamps of the Colonies can be taken as indications of loyalty will, to some folk, appear to be largely a matter of conjecture, the contention being that the Colonies have had little or nothing to say in the choice of designs. That, we imagine, can scarcely be true. No doubt the Colonies which depended upon Messrs. De la Rue for their supplies have been guided in their choice by what that firm could offer them, and by the price at which the goods could be turned out, for, of course, it was a question of supplying an article from which the smaller Colonies at all events sought

to make as much profit as possible. Still, we have had plenty of proof of late that the Colonies do take an interest in the designs of their stamps, and they have probably always exercised some choice, though it may not have been a dominating one as to design.



Messrs. De la Rue have run for many years a set design that served for any Colony by simply changing the name in a stock die. That must have resulted in considerably cheapening the production of stamps, and has probably done more to determine the monotonous sameness of our Colonial issues than any other cause.



But it will be noted that wherever a Colony has locally designed and printed its own stamps we get what may fairly be claimed to be a local representation of Colonial loyalty to the person of the Sovereign.



Victoria stands out most prominently. It has represented Her Majesty with an endeavour from the first to present a more or less striking portrait of the time. The portraits, it is true, are very crude, but they are none the less interesting on that account. It is unfortunate that the engravers seemed to recognise their limitations, and that they should have fallen back on the idealised head of the Queen. For if they had continued their endeavours to produce a faithful portrait of the Sovereign at different ages we might have had an intensely interesting series of Victorian stamps that would now be more talked of than any other stamp in the whole Colonial series.





The different stamp portraits of the young Spanish King are an instance of what may











be done, and interestingly done, in the portraiture of a young Sovereign, as he passed, during his sovereignty, from childhood to boyhood. Portrait engraving is not a new art. The cheap multiplication of such portraits is no doubt more or less modern.

One cannot review the portraits of Her Majesty on the thousands of stamps of her widespread Empire without being struck by the remarkable poverty of the work, the almost utter absence of competent designers and engravers. With the exception of the Corbould head and the beautiful diademed full face of 1838, there has not been a single worthy representation of Her Majesty upon any stamp of her Empire in all the years of her long and glorious reign.

In all those years Shoddy has held supreme sway in every Colony. Niggardliness in stamp designs and in stamp execution has from the first introduction of postage stamps effectually checked every attempt or desire for worthier designs.

Niggardliness is even more marked in our English stamps than in those of the Colonies. Some of our Colonies have attempted other portraits, but we at home are content to rub along from decade to decade with a design that is sixty years old. It is a disgrace to English art that this should be tolerated. What is the explanation? We have no hesitation in believing that it is due entirely to the niggardliness and incompetence of the Government Department entrusted with the production of our postage stamps.

Some contend that the necessarily small size of a postage stamp is an insurmountable barrier to any success in the direction of an

artistic portrait. The many exquisite portraits which Messrs. Waterlow have managed to work into their designs of stamps for Central and South American States, notably for Ecuador and Costa Rica, are sufficient evidence to the contrary. The 1d. Bahamas, to which reference has already been made, is another example of what may effectively be got into the limited space of an ordinary postage stamp.



In fact, the effectiveness or non-effectiveness of a design is a question of expense. The most beautiful of the grand old stamps that we still admire as works of art were gems engraved on steel and reproduced and printed from steel plates. The United States uses steel plates, but we cannot afford such luxuries. We have to be content with a far inferior process, for the sake, mostly, of cheapness.



It is to be hoped that public attention will be directed to the poverty of design which has marked the whole range of English postage stamps for many years past, and that it will be tolerated no longer.



For the picked specimens, from which the reproductions which illustrate this article are done, I am indebted to Mr. J. W. Jones, of 61, Cheapside, E.C., who courteously and promptly placed his splendid stock of unused Colonials at my disposal to pick where I pleased.



The Niger Territories.

By Edward J. Nankivell.

The Oil Rivers Protectorate.

OF all the British possessions in West Africa none have risen more rapidly into importance than the Niger Territories. Commencing first with extensions along the coast from Lagos to the Oil Rivers, they soon extended far into the interior along the course of the Niger, and opened up for us a continental possession.

Mr. C. P. Lucas, of the Colonial Office, in his "Historical Geography of the British Colonies," tells us that the Oil Rivers Protectorate, as it was then called, was constituted a "local jurisdiction" under the Africa Order in Council of 1889. "That is to say," he explains, "under the powers conferred by the Foreign Jurisdiction Acts, a consular jurisdiction, primarily for British subjects, was established in these districts, with a right of appeal to the Supreme Court of the Colony of Lagos."

The extension of British authority from Lagos to the Oil Rivers and the Delta of the Niger was the ultimate result of the crusade which this country maintained against the slave trade on the West Coast of Africa. "British interests," says Lucas, "followed close on the heels of philanthropy; native chiefs were bound over by treaties; treaties implied supervision by the stronger of the contracting parties; and in the end philanthropy and interest combined to bring in Sovereignty or Protectorate."

1892 and 1893. "Oil Rivers Protectorate" Provisionals.

To supply the first postal needs of the new Protectorate six of the then current stamps of Great Britain were overprinted "British Protectorate Oil Rivers" in three lines, the words "British Protectorate" being close together in two lines at the top of the stamp, and "Oil Rivers" at the bottom in one line. The stamps overprinted were ½d. vermilion, 1d. purple, 2d. green and carmine, 2½d. purple on blue, 5d. purple and blue, 1s. green. The numbers so overprinted were as follows:—

½d.	50,000	2½d.	72,500
1d.	50,000	5d.	36,000
2d.	42,000	1s.	11,000
Total	261,500		

This first provisional supply Sir Claude Macdonald, the Governor of the territory, took out with him, paying face value for them to Messrs. De la Rue, the Government printers.

On reaching the Colony these provisionals were distributed amongst the various centres of trade as follows:—

	Old Calabar.	Benin.	Bonny.	Brass.	Opobo.	Wari.
½d.	10,000	7,500	10,000	7,500	7,500	7,500
1d	10,000	7,500	10,000	7,500	7,500	7,500
2d.	8,000	6,500	8,000	6,500	6,500	6,500
2½d.	32,000	7,500	10,000	7,500	7,500	7,500
5d.	6 000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
1s.	2,000	1,500	2,000	1,500	1,500	1,500

A word or two about these postal centres, whose early postmarks are interesting, may not be out of place.

Old Calabar is situated on the Old Calabar river, and is described as prosperous but very hot and unhealthy, as the head-quarters of the British Consular Administration, and as commercially the most important point in the Protectorate.

Benin is the capital of the state of Benin, situated on the river Benin, a western mouth of the Niger.

Bonny is on the east bank of the Bonny river, one of the arms of the Niger, near its mouth, and is the centre of the trade in palm oil.

Brass is on the Brass river, another arm of the Niger. This town did at one time a roaring trade in slaves, but all that has been changed for a trade in other products of the country.

Opobo is a trading centre on the Opobo river in the Niger Delta; about 40 miles from Bonny.

Wari is situated on the Wari creek of the Forcades river. It is also only a small trading station.



PERF. 14.

½d., vermilion.
1d., purple.
2d., green and carmine.
2½d., purple and blue.
5d., purple and blue.
1s., green.

The Niger Coast Protectorate.

Between 1879 and 1884, writes Lucas, the National African Company made a succession of treaties with the various native states on the Lower Niger; and in the summer of 1884, urged on by German intervention at the Cameroons, the British Government endorsed the action of the Company, and extended British protection to the east along the coast-line of the Niger, Delta, and the Oil Rivers. In 1885 the British and German Governments, having agreed upon a demarcation of frontiers at the head of the Gulf of Guinea, the *London Gazette* of June 5th, 1885, published a formal proclamation of a Protectorate over the Niger districts: on the coast, from Lagos to the Rio del Rey; inland, over both banks of the Niger from its confluence with the Benue River to the sea, together with the territories watered by the

latter river up to a point named Ibi; and in the following year, 1886, the National African Company was granted a Charter by the Crown under the title of the Royal Niger Company, with administrative rights over the territories over which it had acquired rights by treaties and acts of cession. An amended Proclamation in the *London Gazette* of 18th October, 1887, extended the British Protectorate to "all territories in the basin of the Niger and its affluents, which are or may be for the time being subject to the Government of the National African Company, now called the Royal Niger Company."

1893. "Niger Coast Protectorate" Provisionals.

Before Sir Claude Macdonald left Enlgand to take over the duties of Governor of the new territory on the Niger, he ordered from Messrs. Waterlow a full series of stamps of a specially-prepared and approved design.

The stamps of the new series embraced a separate design for each of the six values, with the name "Oil Rivers Protectorate" incorporated in the design, but before the printing was commenced the name of the colony was changed. The *London Gazette* of 13th May, 1893, announced that the territory would in future be known as the Niger Coast Protectorate instead of "Oil Rivers Protectorate." Consequently the design of the stamps required to be re-drawn or altered in some way. Presumably to save time in re-drawing, the words "Oil Rivers" on every stamp was lightly lined over or cancelled with a graver, and the words "Niger Coast" were engraved in plain block letters in a straight line across the upper edge of each stamp. The old lettering, however, shows clearly under the cancelling lines in each case.

The numbers printed and sent out to the Niger of this issue were as follows:—

Value. Colour.	First Printing.	Second Printing.	Total.
½d., vermilion	8,000 ..	8,000 ..	16,000
1d., blue..	10,000 ..	10,000 ..	20,000
2d., green	5,000 ..	5,000 ..	10,000
2½d., carmine lake ..	15,000 ..	15,000 ..	30,000
5d., lilac	8,000 ..	8,000 ..	16,000
1s., black	5,000 ..	5,000 ..	10,000
Total	51,000 ..	51,000 ..	102,000

The two printings account for many of the interesting varieties of shade and paper and perf. in some of the stamps. Two distinct papers are to be found in the 1s. value, one a thick cream-toned paper and the other a thin white. The paper was wove, and the perforations varied considerably from 12½ to 15 with many combinations, showing that there were various perforations done by the same machine.

The first and second printings may be differentiated as follows:—

Value. First Printing.	Second Printing.
½d., brick red, ..	vermilion.
1d., dark blue	pale blue.
2d., dark green	bright green.
2½d., dark carmine lake ..	bright carmine lake.
5d., lilac	dark lilac.

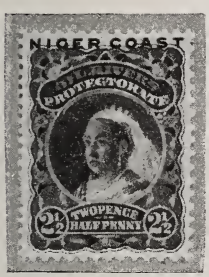
That is to say, the colours of the first printing were, with the exception of the 5d., all of a pronouncedly darker shade. I have not found any distinct shades of the 1s. value.

The sheets varied in size. The ½d., 1d., and 2d. were printed in sheets of 60, e.g., six rows of ten stamps; the 2½d. in sheets of 48, e.g., six rows of eight stamps; the 5d. and the 1s. in sheets of 30, e.g., five rows of six stamps.













PERF. 12½ TO 15 AND COMPOUNDS.

½d.,	vermilion,	in sheets of		60.
1d.,	blue	,,	,,	60.
2d.,	green	,,	,,	60.
2½d.,	carmine lake	,,	,,	48.
5d.,	lilac	,,	,,	30.
1s.,	black	,,	,,	30.

(To be continued).

Orange River Colony.

The thick V settings of the "V.R.I." surcharges.

By A. de Reuterskiold.

IT is now generally admitted that the printings of these stamps must be classed under 4 heads, viz. :—

I. Level stops.
II. Mixed stops.
III. All stops raised.
IV. Raised stops and thick **V**'s.

The first includes all the values ; the second all but the 2½d. ; the third I have not met with, and do not know on what values it occurs, and the fourth is found on all the values except the 2½d. and 4d. It is with these last that I wish to deal, and place on record a few notes that may help those who have unsevered panes of the higher values to draw up a complete list of all the printings and of the values belonging to each printing.

Having carefully studied a number of panes of the lower values, I hope to be able, by the recurrence of battered and broken letters, to give the exact sequence of at least some of the printings.

There are three distinct settings in which the positions of the thick **V** varieties differ.

First setting.

Thick **V**'s.	First row,	No. 5.
	Third ,,	No. 5.
	Fourth ,,	No. 5.
	Seventh ,,	No. 3.
	Eighth ,,	Nos. 3, 5 and 6.

The thick **V** in eighth row, No. 5, was a defective type, and was soon replaced by an ordinary V. This was certainly the first printing, as the only defects are :—

1. Top of R clipped.	Third row,	No. 4.
	Seventh ,,	No. 2.

This setting was used for the ½d. and 1d., and also, I think, for the 5s., of which, in all probability, there was only this one printing.

Second setting. In this setting the types in each horizontal line

were reversed, so that the thick **V**'s are now found in the following positions :—

First row, No. 2.
Third ,, No. 2.
Fourth ,, No. 2.
Seventh ,, No. 4.
Eighth ,, Nos. 1 and 4.

And 1. Top of R clipped. Third row, No. 3.
Seventh ,, No. 5.

In addition to these I find in this setting the following varieties :—

Printing a. ½d.

2. Tops of V and R clipped. First row, No. 5.
3. Foot of V twisted. Seventh ,, No. 6.
4. Level stop after V. Tenth ,, No. 6.
5. No stop after V Sixth ,, No. 1.

Printing b. ½d.

In addition to the five varieties already noted.

6. Top of I battered. Ninth row, Nos. 5 and 6.
7. Small ½ Tenth ,, No. 6.

Printing c. 1d.

In addition to 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

8. Top of R flattened. Third row, No. 1.
9. Right stroke of V broken. Tenth ,, No. 6.

Printing d. ½d.

This printing comprises all the above varieties except 5, which has been corrected, also 7 (small ½) has been moved to seventh row, No. 3.

Third setting.

Thick **V**'s. Second row, No. 6.
Fifth ,, No. 6.
Seventh ,, No. 1.
Eighth ,, No. 1.
Ninth ,, No. 5.
Tenth ,, No. 4.

Some of the broken letters have been replaced. I find :—

Var. 1. Seventh row, No. 4.
2. First ,, No. 2.
3. Seventh ,, No. 3.
4. Corrected.
5. Corrected.
6. Corrected.
7. Not seen ½d. in this setting.
8. Third row, No. 5.
9. First ,, No. 6.

Of this setting I have only seen the 1d. and 2d. In the 1d. pane I find the two following varieties :—

10. Stop level after I. Third row, No. 2.
11. No stop after I First ,, No. 5.

The stops after I on fifth row, No. 1, and ninth row, Nos. 1 and 3, are very faint and often nearly invisible, as also the stop after R on first row, No. 2, which on some panes seems entirely absent.

On the pane of 2d. these stop varieties have been corrected, but on my pane the I on seventh row, No. 1, is an inverted 1. Of course, it may be a broken I, but it is so clear and well defined that I incline to the opinion that it is an inverted 1.

There must be at least one more printing of the ½d. value, as this stamp is known with V omitted, but I do not know to which setting this belongs.

As to the other values, not having seen entire panes, I must leave it to others to state to which settings and printings each value belongs, but no doubt only the ½d. and 1d. values are found in numerous printings, and each of the other values only exists in one, or at most two, of the settings.

I hope that these few notes may, with the assistance of your readers, help to classify the printings of the different values of these most interesting stamps.

Some Interesting Stamps.

By W. Dorning Beckton.

St. Helena.

HITHERTO only two values—the ½d. and 4d.—have been known bearing the double surcharge, but a third one, viz., the one shilling deep yellow-green, wmk. Crown and C.C., perf. 12½, thick bar, has now to be added as well as the same stamp without the surcharge. Both these errors occur in a unique block belonging to my friend, Mr. Vernon Roberts. The block in question is one of twenty-eight stamps in seven horizontal rows of four. The first horizontal row of the block is normal. The second row bears all double surcharges, and in the bottom row the stamps are without any surcharge at all.

This block is of interest, not only on account of giving to St. Helena collectors two hitherto unknown errors, but also it affords a key to the problem as to how the surcharges were applied to this


ST HELENA
ONE SHILLING
SIX PENCE

particular value, and, there is no reason to doubt, to all the other values of this period.

Upon this question I find in an able article, which appeared in *The Philatelic Record*, Vol. XVI., that Mr. Ferrier-Kerr says, "Now as to the question of the varieties of surcharges appearing on the same sheet the explanation is this: as is generally known, the St. Helena plate consists of 240 impressions. In making the surcharges, the first row was set up, that is, twelve surcharges were made, each, as a matter of course, differing from one another in a greater or lesser degree. Casts were then taken of the row to the number of ten rows; this making 120 surcharges. In this way it will be seen that the first, thirteenth, twenty-fifth, etc., stamps were alike, and stamps 2, 14, 26, etc., and so on through the entire sheet. Then the whole plate of 120 surcharges was impressed twice on the sheet; thus in each vertical row of twenty stamps the overprint is the same. In this way the double surcharges (of very rare occurrence) are accounted for, the printers, through want of attention to the register, having surcharged the middle row twice over."

Mr. W. T. Willett the next year showed conclusively that half of the above information was wrong (*Monthly Journal*, Vol. V.). He says, "It is stated in Mr. Ferrier-Kerr's paper that the horizontal row of 12 surcharges was first set up, re-duplicated to the extent of ten vertical rows (half a sheet), and then impressed twice on the entire sheet. If this were so, every surcharge in the horizontal row might vary slightly, but every surcharge in the vertical row must be the same. But that this was not the case I am able to prove from blocks in my possession, showing two stamps, one above the other, varying slightly in the length of the surcharge. Furthermore, I am indebted to the courtesy of Mr. J. W. Wildsmith for the loan of an unsevered block of six 1d. stamps of this issue, in three vertical pairs, in which the surcharge on the top and middle pairs measures 19 mm., while that on the lower measures 17 mm."*

Such was the state of our information up to the discovery of the block of one shilling stamps I have mentioned. It is now quite clear that the sheets were surcharged in quarters and not in halves, viz., five vertical rows at a time and not ten, as stated by Mr. Ferrier-Kerr, and for this reason. The bottom row of the block I have described is without surcharge, and the fifth row above it appears with the double surcharge, the stamps in this row receiving the surcharges as the fifth row to commence with, and as the first row afterwards, thus leaving the tenth row unsurcharged. Is there anything to show that this unsurcharged row was the tenth? Yes, there is. It must be remembered that these stamps were printed in sheets of 240 in 20 rows of 12 in each row (instead of in four panes of 60 stamps each, as is the case with most other Colonials). The paper used by Messrs. De la Rue & Co. was, however, the same as they employed for the latter class of stamps, namely, the watermark Crown and C.C. was arranged in panes of 60 with a marginal border dividing the panes, and consequently the letters comprised in the words "Crown Colonies" (or, "Crown Agents" in the later issues), the watermark in the

*This block was purchased from Monsieur Moëns, and is now in the collection of Baron A. de Worms.

marginal borders, appears on the stamps themselves. Portions of these letters are usually found on the stamps of the tenth and eleventh horizontal rows. The stamps on the top or bottom rows of each sheet are generally without any watermark except a horizontal line, which is a portion of the frame surrounding the watermarks. Bearing the above in mind I examined this block for the watermark, and found that the row without surcharge showed the top of the capital letters forming Crown Colonies, thus putting it beyond doubt that it was originally the tenth row in the sheet, and *ipso facto* that the double surcharges constituted the fifth row in the sheet. In the light of this information I venture to assert that the surcharges of St. Helena were set up in five rows of twelve, and that the total number of possible minor varieties in each sheet is sixty.

I should now like to say a word about another unknown stamp in Mr. Vernon Roberts' collection. This is the one penny imperf., apparently 1863 issue, bar 14 mm. instead of 16 mm. He had another in which the bar was 14½ mm. It is well known that the bar in all the values in each issue is apt to vary, but 1 mm. from the normal is the most that has hitherto been known; in fact in this particular issue, the imperf. one, the normal variation rarely runs to a full millimetre, so that to find a full 2 millimetres was startling indeed. The stamp puzzled all of us for a long time, until by careful comparison I hazarded the opinion that it did not belong to the first issue at all, but was an imperf. specimen of the 1868 issue, and such we were all subsequently satisfied it was.

Consequently still a third variety must be added, viz., Issue wmk. Crown and CC. surcharge, 17 mm. bar 14 m. *Imperf.*

I haven't seen it stated anywhere that the first printing of the five shillings was yellow and the second printing orange, or that the lengths of the bar on the 2½d. value differ immensely; Mr. J. H. Abbott having shown me a horizontal pair in which the difference is a millimetre full.

The fourpenny, sepia, of 1890 were badly surcharged. Some of the stamps on a block I know show the bar at the top, and none under the surcharge on the *same* stamp; consequently the top row in the sheet when severed apparently has no bar at all, it is on the top of the stamps on the second row.

The threepence, watermark Crown and CC, has hitherto not been chronicled perf. 14. Mr. Ostara tells me that he has recently had one. It was in the same shade as the one perf. 14 × 12½, was unused, and in mint condition.

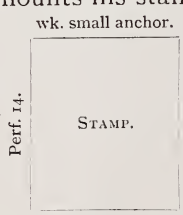
Notable Philatelists.

Mr. A. B. Creeke, Jr.

[*Joint Author with the late Mr. Hastings E. Wright of "A History of the Adhesive Stamps of the British Isles."*]

MR. A. B. CREEKE, Jr., is a solicitor. He was born at Burnley, Lancashire, on the 25th September, 1860. His Philatelic career dates from 1880, when he commenced stamp collecting in real earnest, so far as means would allow. In April, 1883, he had a general collection of some thousands, including many good stamps, but none of the great rarities. This collection he disposed of in 1897. He also had a good collection of English adhesives, including *unused* copies of the 10s. and £1 on *cross pâté* and on *anchor* papers, which he bought at the Post Office when they were in use. Very few collectors did this.

He mounts his stamps in small cardboard frames,



thus :— and places them between sheets of glass in oak frames, which are hinged together. The mounts are fastened to the glass at the back.

He read a paper on "Military Telegraph Stamps" before the London Philatelic Society in February, 1891 (the last meeting at which poor Tapling was present), describing a then practically unknown set of those stamps — i.e., those overprinted in Egypt with local equivalents of original values.

The *London Philatelist* was indebted to him in May, 1893, for an excellent paper on "English Plates never Put to Press," which secured place of honour in that month's number, and procured him a complimentary bound volume for that year! This contribution explained the reason why copies of stamps from unknown plates came to light now and then; and many of the varieties, whose existence was prophesied, have since been found.

Mr. Creeke met his friend Hastings E. Wright in 1893. They were introduced as being collectors in English.

Their great Philatelic effort was their unrivalled work on the "Adhesive Stamps of the British Isles." Mr. Creeke suggested it, and they offered it to the London Philatelic Society, who accepted it. They secured an introduction to Somerset House, and the Board of Inland Revenue gave them every facility for enquiries and searches, and directed the officials to assist them.



Mr A. B. Creeke, Jr.

They picked up some good things in the course of their wanderings at Somerset House and the G.P.O., *e.g.*, five unused copies (without "specimen") of the 1884 issue, perf. 12. But they missed some desirable things through the red-tape reluctance some officials have to part with stamps, even when unofficially acquired, *e.g.*, the 3s. telegraphs, unused, on large (1880) crown paper. To add to their chagrin the owner sold his collection for much less than they would have given for the one stamp.

The *magnum opus* was started in January, 1894, and published in August, 1899.

Poor Wright died suddenly after an attack of influenza in September, 1897, when the only MS. ready for press was that relating to the four line-engraved stamps, ½d., 1d., 1½d., and 2d., and the lowest value (6d.) of the embossed. Practically all their information was then obtained, and it only remained to put it into shape.

The study of the imprimatur sheets—of which a full list is in the appendix—checking the lettering for errors on every stamp took them over one year, and many more months were occupied in obtaining details as to the production of the various plates.

The diagrams showing the arrangement of the plates and the various papers (in all 26) occupied Mr. Creeke another year, and, with the exception of the letterpress marginal inscriptions and the rectangles representing stamps, were entirely his own work.

Then there were the Post Office archives to be searched, and the store-keeper's ledgers—which they unearthed back to 1840—to be examined. The paper-warrant books, extending over many years, gave most valuable information, enabling them to state in the majority of cases, where a particular stamp existed on two papers, how many were on one and how many were on the other. This took probably over a year, as calculations had to be made over long periods to enable some point to be solved, possibly represented by five or six figures: *e.g.*, the calculations as to the number of 5s. telegraph stamps printed on anchor paper—a very great rarity—took Mr. Creeke the whole of one Saturday afternoon.

Naturally, when his friend died—and his death was a Philatelic as well as a personal loss—Mr. Creeke had to finish the book as best he could, but, if criticisms are worth anything, the work has been a great success. Besides the minute details on almost everything connected with the English adhesives, which through official assistance they were able to get, there are many interesting points which have been elucidated and settled, *e.g.*:—

The first distributions of 1d. and 2d. in 1840.

The first printing of 1d. red.

The reason for the addition of "white lines" to the 2d. in 1841—not to distinguish it from the 1d., but to enable officials to distinguish those printed in a *new* ink from those printed in old.

The numbers and fate of the 1½d. lilac rose, printed (but never used) in 1860.

The full details of the re-issue, in 1862 and 1863, of the 10d. embossed, which had been withdrawn from use in August, 1855.

The fullest details of the printings of the 4d. surface-printed on small garter and medium garter papers, including a variety not

previously recognised, the 4d. *carmine* on *ordinary* white paper, 2,000 sheets only.

Many other interesting points were inquired into and cleared up by these industrious collaborators, who eventually flattered themselves that they had unearthed everything which the specialist in English could desire to know, and the verdict of their fellow collectors has been an unanimous and hearty "Well done."

Mr. Creeke still has his English, but he has done little to them of late, through lack of time and the ever-needful spare cash.

Amongst his more important discoveries in English we may mention the £1, brown-lilac, on orb paper, overprinted "I.R. Official," and the 6d., purple, large Inland Revenue (available for postage), perf. *14*, on *medium* anchor paper. We believe he also unearthed all the known (nine) *un*used copies of the 1d. Govt. Parcels with inverted overprint.

May the shadow of such an able, painstaking and cultured Philatelist never grow less. We English collectors have good cause to be proud of his Philatelic achievements, and it is to be hoped that we shall long remember with gratitude the years of ungrudging, gratuitous labour that he has given to the production of what, by common consent, must remain a Philatelic classic.

The I.P.U. Exhibition.

THE International Philatelic Union held a very interesting competitive exhibition of postage and other stamps at the rooms of the Philatelic Society, Effingham House, Arundel Street, Strand, on Saturday evening, 23rd February, 1901, attracting a large number of collectors and exhibitors. The grand prize was carried off by Mr. Vernon Roberts with a fine series of excessively rare stamps of the first Cape of Good Hope issue, among which were the 1d. and 4d. errors. Mr. H. R. Oldfield, President of the Society, sent (*hors concours*) some of the very rare old Cantonical Swiss issues, notably the 4c. Vaud stamps, including some of the remarkably clever forgeries which have been the subject of police prosecution during the last few days. Mr. M. H. Lombard's series of Gambia and French colonies stamps, including several rarities; whilst the two exhibits of Mr. L. L. R. Hausburg and Mr. R. Dalton included respectively the beautiful first issues of New South Wales, with the Sydney views, and Victoria issues. Mr. Warhurst sent some fine specimens of Transvaal stamps, including the rare error "Transvral" in a pair unused, in mint condition. Among other exhibits of general interest was that of the hon. secretary, Mr. T. H. Hinton, whose numerous exhibits included a frame of stamps, post-cards, and envelopes of the British Empire, 1840-97, with various postal portraits of the late Queen Victoria in central design V.R.I.—perhaps the most generally interesting of all the exhibits.

My Favourite Country.

GREAT BRITAIN.—By A. B. Creeke, Jr.

WHY do I collect English? For many reasons, which raise the adhesive stamps of Great Britain and Ireland high in the estimation of every *Philatelist*—not speculator, or collector-dealer, who accumulates in order to sell at a profit. In my opinion, a Philatelist is one who collects stamps from a love of the science, and for the pleasure of studying them, and who does not sell out his pet country because an unexpected slump sets in.

Now for a few of my reasons, which to some may appear good, but to others bad.

Our (I may say "our" as this is for an English Journal) stamps were the pioneers of all the thousands of varieties, necessary and unnecessary, which now exist to the terror of the general collector. None of the values have been created or altered for speculative ends, as in many other countries. Varieties have not been needlessly manufactured. There are no "reprints," the one penny, black, on large crown paper, not coming within that category; and no stamps have been demonetised, there being now some twenty distinct varieties of one penny stamps available for postal purposes, without counting those used by Government offices.

All the English stamps are well printed, from those of 1840, which were splendid specimens of engraving, down to the present time, a period of nearly sixty-one years; and that, despite the hideousness of some of the colours, selected evidently by some official who had no eye for beauty.

Then, there are very few of those "errors," which, in some countries, form a large proportion of the varieties issued, for, besides the mistakes in the corner-lettering of the early black one penny plates, when postage stamps were young, there are only five: two in *lettering*, the 1½d. line-engraved O.P.—P.C., and the 2½d. lilac-rose, L.H.—F.L.; two in *paper*, the 10d. on heraldic emblems paper, and the £1 on orb, and the latter of these was an official, not a printer's slip; and one in *overprint*, the 1d. Government Parcels, inverted.

The official stamps, which are difficult things to acquire at face-value, are, though somewhat numerous, absolutely necessary for the proper keeping of the Government accounts; and, moreover, are not supposed to leave official hands, though, somehow or other, copies do get into our albums.

Further, there is still, and will be for many years, I fancy, the fact that a complete collection of English is unknown, for there are yet some instances where copies from plates, "never put to press" but which have yielded five or six impressions at the time of approval, are still to be found; and the hope of coming across one of these *raræ aves* amongst, perhaps, thousands of copies of similar value, is only another of my many reasons for sticking to my native country's emissions and specialising therein to the best of my ability.

The Mutzenbecher Sale.



Baron von Mutzenbecher.

MESSRS. PUTTICK & SIMPSON'S sale of the season on the 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th of February last has been held, and in the opinion of one and all prices ranged very high, very much higher indeed than the average condition of the stamps would have led one to expect. The explanation probably lies in the fact that the sale was boomed for all it was worth. There was much mystery as to the collector who was selling, and the secret was well kept to the last, but we are enabled to give the readers of the *Philatelic Record* a portrait of the owner, and the following particulars of his Philatelic career :—

J. von Mutzenbecher, Legationsrath (Legation Consul), lived formerly at Leipsic, but in late years at Berlin. He was Consul for some country to Berlin, and was created a Baron.

He possessed a collection which was considered to be the first in Germany, being practically a complete general collection used and unused, and including many on the entire. The rarities were most complete, embracing all one is apt to look for except the two "Post Offices."

At the Leipsic Exhibition in 1897 six volumes were exhibited, and they contained, *inter alia*, Moldavia, 27p. (three), 81p. (one), 108p. (three), and several 54 paras; Tuscany, 3 lire (three); Cantonals in profusion; Spain, inverted head, perf. and imperf. on letter; five New Brunswick 1s.; four Nova Scotia 1s.; Peru, twelve medio peso yellow, two medio peso rose, one on the letter *se tenant* with the 1 peseta; Nevis, eight sheets including 6d. lithographed; United States, 15c., 24c., and 30c., with inverted centres; Cape of Good Hope, both errors; Hawaii, first issue; Mauritius, block of four of large fillet; Natal, many specimens of the first two issues, and the 3d. blue, third issue, star wmk.; British Guiana, 4 cents yellow and 8 cents green, single specimens and on letter, 1856 4 cents carmine, 4 cents blue; Great Britain, 8d. brown (two); one Brattleboro'; sheet of Providence St. Louis, 5 and 10 cents; New Brunswick Connell, used on the letter, etc. From this short sketch it will be seen the collection was a very important one; it was also so extensive that a secretary was employed in attending to it.

Baron von Mutzenbecher decided towards the end of 1899 to break up his collection, as he failed in getting the price he considered it was worth. In this direction an offer of £10,000 was refused as being too little, and ultimately the collection was handed over to a Berlin dealer to sell on commission. This dealer in the spring of the succeeding year paid a long visit to England, spending most of his time in London. Whether the venture of selling in this way will prove successful is very doubtful, as the collection is a very old one and many of the specimens do not come up to to-day's standard.

The attendance at the sale was very large on all four days. The amount of bids sent in is said to have been phenomenal. Mr. Hadlow held bids for close on £3,000, but secured less than £500 worth. A well-known American collector sent bids for over £400, but got only £80 as his share in the scramble and competition. Others more determined to get what they wanted gave practically unlimited bids, and all this despite a very carefully compiled catalogue in which "no gum" was a leading phrase.

We append the prices which the principal lots realised, taking our descriptions of the stamps from the catalogue :—

	£	s.	d.
Austria: Newspaper stamp, 1851-56, Head of Mercury, 6kr. yellow, good margins and fine	6	5	0
Ditto, 6kr. red, unused with part gum, very small mark on face, and extreme right hand top corner gone, but a nice copy of this great rarity	43	0	0
Ditto, 30kr. rose, good margins, fine and scarce	10	0	0
Bergedorf: 1861, 3sch, black on rose, unused with gum, slightly thinned in one place, otherwise very fine	9	0	0
Brunswick: 1853-6, 3sgr. black on rose, unused and fine with gum, very scarce	6	6	0
Bulgaria: 1884-85, 5 in black on 30 stotinki blue and brown, very fine and rare	7	0	0
France: 1872-75, the error, 15c. bistre on rose, with 10c., *se tenant*, unused and very fine but no gum	11	5	0
Great Britain; 1840, 1d. black, V.R., unused and very fine but no gum	7	15	0
1848, 10d. brown, octagonal, die 4, a pair, unused in mint state and very fine	9	0	0
1876, 8d. *brown*, unused and fine with gum	4	10	0
1878, 10s. grey, wmk. anchor, on white, very fine	2	0	0
Ditto, 10s. grey, and £1 purple-brown, wmk. cross, latter very fine	2	0	0
1880, 2s. red-brown, unused and very fine but no gum	4	12	6

	£	s.	d.
Hanover: 1850, 1ggr. black on blue, unused and very fine with part gum ..	4	15	0
Heligoland; 1875, perf. 14½, 2pf., a pair and 3 singles, used with a 20pf. of the rare shade on a 10pf. envelope, entire, very fine and scarce	12	7	6
Mecklenburgh Schwerin: 1864, rouletted, ¼sch. red, dotted ground, very fine and scarce	5	5	0
Modena: 1852, 1 lire black on white, used and very fine, on entire original, extremely scarce	16	0	0
Naples: 1860, ½ tornese blue, Arms, large margins, superb	14	0	0
Ditto, another ditto	12	0	0
1860, ½ tornese blue, Cross, large margins, superb	3	15	0
Oldenburg: 1852, $\frac{1}{15}$th black on rose, good margins, unused and fine but no gum	7	10	0
Ditto, $\frac{1}{10}$th black on yellow, unused and fine with part gum, but small tear at bottom	4	5	0
1859, 2gros. black on rose, enormous margins, unused in mint state, superb ..	8	10	0
Ditto, 3gros. black on yellow, large margins, unused in mint state, superb ..	6	6	0
Prussia: 1857, 2sgr. dark blue, unused in mint state, large margins, superb ..	14	10	0
Roumania: Moldavia, 1854, 27 paras black on rose, very fine	36	0	0
Ditto, 54 paras blue on green, enormous margins, superb	15	10	0
Ditto, 81 paras blue on blue, a fine copy of this exceedingly rare stamp ..	143	0	0
Ditto, 108 paras blue on pink, a little weak in lower right-hand corner (in margin only), but a fine copy	18	10	0
Saxony: 1850, 3pf. red, unused and fine but no gum	6	5	0
Ditto, another, used and very fine, on entire original	5	15	0
1851, ½ngr. black on pale blue, error, unused in mint state, and very fine. A great rarity	55	0	0
Servia: 1866, 2 para green on lilac-rose, error, unused in mint state, and very fine	6	10	0
Spain: Madrid, 1853, 3c. bronze, a fine copy on entire original, rare	12	10	0
1850, 6c. black, 12c. lilac, 5 reales red, 6 reales blue, and 10 reales green, all unused and fine but no gum and cut close	5	10	0
1851, 2 reales red, very fine	17	10	0
1852, 2 reales red, used with a block of five 6 reales blue, and a 12c. lilac, on piece of original, all very fine	14	0	0
1865, perf., 12 cuartos rose and blue, the rare error with inverted centre, a fine copy, on entire original	14	15	0
Sweden: 1872, 20 ore vermilion, the error "Tretio," unused and fine, extremely scarce	14	0	0
Switzerland: Geneva, 1843, 5 + 5c. yellow-green, on piece of original, superb	20	5	0
Winterthur, 1850, 2½ rappen, unused and very fine with part gum, scarce ..	8	15	0
Vaud, 1849, 4c. black and red, very fine, on entire original	18	0	0
Zurich, 1843, 4 rappen, with vertical lines, type 4, on entire original, superb	10	10	0
Ditto, another, with horizontal lines, type 3, has a very small tear at right, but a nice copy	6	0	0
Tuscany: 1851-52, 2 soldi, red on blue, very fine	5	10	0
Ditto, 60 crazie, red on blue, very fine	10	5	0
Ditto, 3 lire yellow, cut a little close at left and rather heavily cancelled, but a very fair copy of this extremely scarce stamp	42	0	0
Wurtemberg: 1851-52, 9kr. rose, unused in mint state, very fine and rare ..	21	0	0
1858-60, 9kr. carmine, unused in mint state and very fine	7	10	0
Ceylon: 1857-59, imperf., 4d. rose, the extreme lower left corner is repaired, in all other respects a superb copy, and with large margins all round ..	12	0	0
Ditto, 8d. brown, large margins on 3 sides, very lightly cancelled, a superb copy	19	0	0
India: 1854, ½a. red, error (9½ arches), unused and very fine	6	12	6
Service, 1866, 8a purple and green, fine but slightly creased, very scarce ..	7	0	0
Labuan: 1880, 6 in red on 16c. blue, fine and scarce	6	5	0

	£	s.	d.
Philippine Islands: 1869-74, surcharged "Habilitado por la Nacion," 1 real blue of 1854, slightly cut into at top, but unused and fine, a very rare stamp	9	0	0
Cape of Good Hope: 1861, 1d. blue, error, no margins, but otherwise a fine copy	42	10	0
1861, 4d. red, error, very slightly thinned in centre and no margins, but a very fair copy	31	10	0
Lagos: 1885-87, 10s. purple-brown	12	10	0
Mauritius: 1848, Post Paid, 1d. orange on white, very early impression, no margins but very fine	7	0	0
Ditto, 2d. blue on white, early impression, nice margins on 2 sides, fine ..	8	0	0
Natal: 1857-58, 1s. buff, 24 × 28 mm., fine, on small piece of original	8	5	0
Reunion: 1852, 15c. black on bluish, repaired at left, on entire original.. ..	17	10	0
Ditto, 30c. black on bluish, small margins, two small tears, on entire originals	22	10	0
Sierra Leone: 1861, imperf., 6d. violet, unused without gum, a fine copy, with very good margins all round	6	10	0
Transvaal: 1877, V.R. Transvaal in red, imperf., 3d. mauve, unused and very fine but no gum, very rare	8	10	0
Ditto, 6d. blue, the variety with wide spacing in surcharge, very fine.. ..	16	0	0
Ditto, 1s. green, nice copy but small tear	4	0	0
1879, Queen's Head, black surcharge, 1 penny on 6d. black, types 13, 15 and 16, latter with small defect, others fine	3	10	0
Ditto, red surcharge, 1 penny on 6d. black, types 11, 15 and 16, latter has minute tear, others fine	6	17	6
Canada: 1851, laid paper, 12d. black, good margins, minute tear at top, otherwise a very fine copy of this great rarity	57	0	0
1857, 6d. purple-brown, unused and very fine but no gum	9	10	0
New Brunswick: 1851, 1s. mauve, large margins, lightly cancelled, superb ..	17	0	0
1860-63, 5 cents brown, portrait of Postmaster Connell, no perfs. at left, *used*, but postmark is very faint, extremely rare	14	10	0
Newfoundland: 1857, 6½d. scarlet, small margins, unused and very fine but no gum	8	0	0
1860, 1s. orange, good margins all round, a minute tear at right in margin only, in all other respects a superb lightly cancelled copy	14	10	0
Nova Scotia: 1851-57, 1s. purple, unused and fine but slightly thinned in one small place	24	10	0
United States: Brattleboro, 1846, 5c. black on buff, has a small hole in centre which has been skilfully repaired, and is slightly thinned but a nice clean copy of this extremely rare stamp	40	0	0
St. Louis, 1847, 5c. black on bluish-grey, thin paper, cut into at left, otherwise very fine	12	0	0
Ditto, 10c. black on bluish-grey, thin paper, good margins and very fine ..	14	10	0
1869, 15c. brown and blue, error with inverted centre, small tear at top, otherwise fine	19	0	0
Ditto, 24c. green and purple, error with inverted centre, very fine	24	0	0
Ditto, 30c. carmine and blue, error with inverted flags, well centred but a little soiled and thinned, very rare	54	0	0
Barbados: 1873, 1d. on left half of 5s. rose, unused and fine but no gum, very scarce	13	0	0
St. Vincent: 1880, 5s. rose-red, unused, without gum but very fine and well-centred	11	0	0
1881, 4d. on 1s. vermilion, very fine and scarce	12	0	0
Turks Islands: 1873-79, wmk. star, 1s. lilac, no perf. at top, but a fine, lightly-cancelled and well-centred copy	13	10	0
Antioquia: 1868, 2½c. blue, fine but very slightly thinned at top	7	0	0
1868, 5c. green, superb..	8	10	0
1868, 10c. lilac, very fine and rare	11	0	0
Brazil: 1844, 600 reis black, superb	5	5	0

	£	s.	d.
British Guiana: 1850, 4c. yellow, pelure paper, cut round and mounted, fine and extremely rare	48	0	0
1850, 8c. green, cut round but very fine	17	0	0
1850, 12c. blue, cut square, very fine and on small piece of original	24	0	0
1856, 4c. magenta, very fine	16	15	0
1856, 4c. blue, a very fine bright copy, but with corners cut, on entire original, extremely rare	58	0	0
1862, Provisional, 4c. blue (No. 11.), roulettes on 3 sides, and very fine	13	13	0
1862, 4c. blue (No. 18), full roulettes and very fine	12	12	0
Buenos Ayres: 1858, Cuato Pesos scarlet, unused, initial at back shows slightly through but very fine	13	15	0
1858, Cinco Pesos orange, unused, very slightly thinned in one small place but very fine	13	15	0
Colombian Republic: 1863, 50c. red, error, very fine	16	15	0
Mexico: Guadalajara, 1867-68, a very fine and rare lot of all values, including 5 perforated	23	0	0
Hawaii: 1851, 5c. blue, outer line very slightly torn into at one place on left, and cancellation rather heavy, but a fine copy of this great rarity	72	0	0
1851, 13c. blue (1st type), slightly damaged and rather heavy red cancellation, but a nice copy, extremely rare	46	0	0
Queensland: 1863, 2d. blue, large margins and very fine	5	15	0
1868-74, wmk. Truncated star, 1s. olive-brown, unused in mint state, fine and very scarce	16	5	0
1868-74, 1s. red-violet, unused in mint state, fine and scarce	8	10	0
Western Australia: 1854-57, 2d. brown on red, roulettes on 3 sides, very fine	9	0	0
1879, 2d. mauve, error, on small piece of original, very fine and scarce	15	0	0



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 *Monthly Circular* chronicles the following changes in colour of the current series:—1d., from blue to carmine rose; 4d., from carmine to olive green; and the 6d., from sea-green to brown, the arms in the centre in dull violet.

Adhesives.

1d., carmine, arms in dull violet.
4d., olive-green, ,, ,,
6d., brown ,, ,,

Canada.—Since our last issue we have received the new 20c. chronicled by us from the *Metropolitan Philatelist* (p. 42), with a query as to size, and we find that it is now uniform in size with the lower values.

Cayman Islands.—Mr. J. W. Jones has sent us the two values of this new stamp-issuing Colony. They are of the usual De la Rue Colonial type.



Adhesives.

½d., green.
1d., carmine.

Great Britain.—Mr. W. S. Webb, in the *Philatelic Chronicle*, says he has seen the "Army official" overprint in "extremely *thin* type" on the penny, and surmises that this "very pronounced variety" may be either a past accident or the prototype of an impending change.

India. Faridkot.—The *Monthly Circular* chronicles the Indian 12 anna stamp overprinted in black for this State.

Adhesive.

12a., brown on red.

Bussahir.—We quote the following from the *Monthly Journal*:—

"Messrs. Alfred Smith & Son have kindly shown us a fresh printing of the ½a. *blue*, evidently from a new stone. The transfers are set more regularly than before, there is a single-line frame surrounding the block of twenty-four, and at foot is the inscription, '*Printed at the Bussahir Press by* M. K. B.' The initials are stated to be those of Maulavi Karam Bakhsh. We are told that these exist both imperf. and perf., and with the monogram in *red* (*rose* probably) and *violet* (or *mauve*). These do not form actual additions to our list, but we have also, from the same source, the 2a., in *orange-brown*, with *mauve* surcharge, pin-perf. We have previously seen this imperf only. We have also the 2a. *yellow*, new type, with monogram in pale *blue*.

"In the early description given the monogram was stated to consist of the letters 'R. N. S.', but all our copies showed a combination of two letters only. Within the last twelve months, however, we have met with specimens bearing a distinctly larger monogram, in which the letter 'N' can be plainly seen. We therefore reluctantly add a fresh heading to the lists:—

"*With large monogram* 'R. N. S.'

"*Types of* 1896. *Large perf.*

4a., violet (mauve).
12a., green (,,).

"*The same, imperf.*

2a., yellow (lake).
12a., green (,,).
1r., ultramarine (rose).

"*Types of* 1899-1900. *Pin-perf.*

½a., violet (mauve).
½a., blue (,,).
1a., dull olive (mauve).
2a., orange-yellow (rose).*

"*The same, imperf.*

½a., violet (mauve).
½a., blue (rose).
1a., dull olive (mauve).
2a., orange-yellow (rose).*

"With small monogram 'R. S.'
"Types of 1899-1900. Pin-perf.
2a., orange-yellow (blue).*
2a., orange-brown (mauve).

"The 2a. stamps marked * are of the type without the characters for *do* at the lower left or the hyphen before 'STATE.'"

New Zealand.—We have received from Messrs. Bright & Son the khaki 1½d. stamp, which we illustrate. It has been designed, engraved and printed locally. We have already two distinct shades, one bistre-brown and the other red-brown. The paper is thick, watermarked double-lined N Z and star, and roughly perforated 11.



Adhesive.
1½d., bistre-brown, red-brown.

To Mr. Bradbury we are indebted for our first copy of the Universal Penny Postage Stamp. The design is described in an Australian journal as follows:—"On the shore stands New Zealand, a tall and graceful female figure, clad in classic flowing robes, her hair streaming in the fresh breeze that is blowing over the Southern Seas, over which she is gazing. In the background, faintly outlined, is seen Mount Egmont's snowy, tapering peak. With her right hand, New Zealand points across the sea, on which a steamer is conveying her tidings of goodwill to all the nations of the earth. Her left hand, pointing earthwards, grasps a caduceus, Mercury's winged rod entwined by two serpents, the symbol of swift communication and commerce. Thus is indicated the despatch of her mails by land and sea. The globe behind her typifies the world-wide extent of her correspondence. In a ribbon above are the words, 'NEW ZEALAND,' in one below, 'UNIVERSAL POSTAGE.' The value, 'ONE PENNY,' appears in a broad band at the foot. The stamp is bordered by ornamental scrolls, while each top corner is occupied by a circle inclosing a six-pointed star."

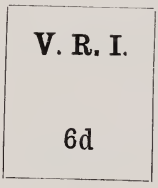


Adhesive.
1d., carmine, perf. 16; no wmk

Orange River Colony.—The *Monthly Circular* says 25 sheets of the carmine 6d. were surcharged with "V.R.I." Level Stops, and five sheets of "V·R·I·" Raised Stops. We are very dubious as to five sheets being all that were printed of the Raised Stops setting. We have heard of too many complete sheets and panes. Probably another small lot or so was received in time to receive the "Raised and Misplaced Stop" setting.

The *American Journal of Philately* makes an extraordinary addition to our recently published list. We quote:—"We are pleased to say that we are able to add an interesting item to the list which we published, and it appears that our discovery is an entirely new one. Among a recent shipment of Berne stamps, we received a block of three of the 6d. carmine rose, surcharged 'V.R.I.' with level stops. The upper stamp and the lower left hand stamp were of the normal type of this surcharge, whereas the right hand lower stamp showed the variety with thick '**V**,' as well as a square period after 'R.'"

Level stops: thick **V** and large square stop.

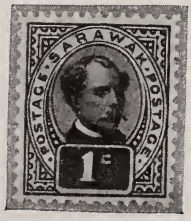


6d., carmine.

Queensland.—Mr. Hadlow has sent us the current ½d. on stout, unwatermarked paper.

Adhesive.
½d., green, *no wmk.*

Sarawak.—At last we have a 1c. value of the current type. There has been no 1c. since the provisional of 1891-2.



Adhesive.
1c., blue, value label deep red.

Southern Nigeria.—Messrs. Bright & Son inform us that the design of the new series for Southern Nigeria, late Niger Coast Protectorate, is quite new, the central portion being a representation of the head and bust of the Queen on solid ground printed in a separate colour. Exit Niger

Coast Protectorate. The values and colours are as follows:—

Adhesives.

½d., pale green, centre black
1d., carmine, ,, ,,
2d., red-brown, ,, ,,
4d., sage-green, ,, ,,
6d., violet, ,, ,,
1s., black, ,, olive-green.
2s. 6d., brown, ,, black.
5s., orange-yellow, ,, ,,
10s., violet and black on yellow.

Sudan.—We have received and now illustrate a set of stamps presumably of the Postage Due order, labelled "Sudan Postage Tax." Wmk. Crescent and Star. Perf. 14.



Adhesives.
Unpaid Letter Stamps

2 mil., black *centre*, brown *rame.*
4 ,, brown ,, green
10 ,, green ,, mauve
20 ,, blue ,, carmine

Transvaal.—A comma in error for a full stop has been discovered after the R in the "V.R.I." overprint.

Mr. W. H. Peckitt supplies the following information to the *Monthly Journal* in reference to the Lydenburg "V.R.I.'s":—

"On the arrival of the forces at the town of Lydenburg, and the overhauling of the stamps in the post office, it was found that the supply was a very small one, the largest numbers being those of the 1d., which amounted to 5,000; there were no 3d., and the other values were very few in number, there only being eighty of the 1s.

"Captain Labouchere, who had charge of the postal arrangements, ordered the stamps to be surcharged 'V.R.I', which was done by employing the type of a local paper, the type being set up to cover fifteen stamps at a time. There being no 3d. stamps available, which was a denomination particularly required, owing to its being the rate for postage and registration, Captain Labouchere asked permission of General Howard to surcharge half the number of 1d. stamps on hand with the new value of 3d. The permission was given, and accordingly 2,520 were so overprinted. These were mostly used up upon letters home, as special instructions were given that no quantity was to be sold to any one person, and Captain Labouchere does not think that by any chance more than about a dozen are in the possession of the same person, but believes most of them were used in the ordinary course of postage."

Foreign Countries.

Argentine.—We have received two new values of the current type, viz., 3 cents orange, and 15c. slate blue. This series is getting somewhat remarkable for the number of different values of the same colour. The 1c. and 10c differ very slightly in shades of green; the 5c. and 30c. in shades of rose; the 12c. and 50c. in shades of blue, and now we have the new value 3c. in precisely the same colour and shade, orange. Wmk. large sun and rays; perf. 11½.

Adhesives.

3 cents, orange.
15 cents, slate blue.

Crete.—It is stated that in consequence of Crete joining the Postal Union the high values of its stamps no longer require the *provisional* surcharge. Will someone explain definitely and authoritatively what this blessed surcharge means, of the many purposes for which it has been stated to be required?

Mr. J. W. Jones informs us that the 20l. rose has been changed to an orange colour.

Adhesive.

20l. orange

Chili.—There seems to be an outbreak of provisionals in this country. We have already chronicled the 5c. fiscal authorised for postal purposes, and now the *Monthly Journal* hears that the use of the 1c. fiscal has also been added to the postal list. We have received another provisional in the 30c. carmine, small head type, overprinted with a large "5." This provisional was issued to the tune of 1,750,000, under official decree, on 28th Dec., 1900.



Adhesives.
Provisionals.

1c., red fiscal.
5c., blue.
5c. on 30c., carmine.

Dominican Republic.—The *American Journal of Philately* has recently been shown two so-called errors of the current issue of this country, which was placed on sale in October. The first of these "errors"

consists in the inversion of the words "Atlantico" and "Mar Caribe," on the 5c. value, and the second, of the inscription "Cinco" instead of "Cincuenta" on the 50c. The Scott Stamp & Coin Co. has been shown these errors used and unused, but until it is proved that they were accidental it refuses to recognise them. As the stamps were lithographed from one die the so-called errors want a deal of explanation to prove that they are not "made to order." Of course no sane Philatelist will waste his money on them.

France. — According to the *Monthly Circular* the new stamps (except the 15c.) were first printed in two operations, the numerals of value being impressed from a separate plate. In these impressions the numerals have a mottled appearance instead of being quite solid, the shade often differs from the rest of the stamp, and if sheets or blocks are examined the position of the numerals varies in different specimens on the same sheet. The 10c. is now printed in one operation, and it is expected that the 20c , 25c., and 30c. will shortly follow suit.

According to a contemporary a special stamp is to be distributed to French soldiers to allow them to post two letters free every month, and in the meantime the ordinary 15 centimes stamp surcharged "F M" *(Française Militaire)* will be used.

COLONIES.—We have received four values of the uniform Colonial series changed in colours necessitated by the adoption of the Postal Union colours, viz., the 10c. from black on lilac to carmine and blue on rose, 15c. from blue to lilac and carmine, 25c. from black on rose to blue and carmine on bluish, 50c. from carmine on rose to lilac and carmine on pale blue. These changes run through the stamps of the following Colonies:—

Anjouan.	Indo-China.
Dahomey.	Ivory Coast.
French Congo.	Madagascar.
French Guiana.	Martinique.
French Guinea.	Mayotte.
French India.	New Caledonia.
French Oceania.	Reunion.
French Soudan.	St. Pierre and Miquelon.
Great Comoro.	Senegal.
Guadeloupe.	

Adhesives.

10c., carmine on rose, *name in blue.*
15c., lilac, ,, *carmine*
25c., blue on bluish, ,, ,,
50c., lilac on pale blue, ,, ,,

TCHAD. — The *Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste* states that a series for this new French colony will probably make its appearance within a short time. Owing to a decree of the President of the Republic, dated September 25th, a certain portion of the territory of French Congo is set apart under the name "Military Territory of the Countries and Protectorates of Tchad." The title is a little long, but our contemporary hopes that it will be modified.

This new territorial division, placed under the direction of the Commissary-General of French Congo, will include the following:—

1st—The basin of the river Kemo.

2nd—At the north, the basin of the river Chari and its confluence, with the exception of the concessions already granted, as well as the countries placed under the French dominion by virtue of the conventions of June 14th, 1898, and March 21st, 1899, including Baguirmi, Ouadi and Kanem

The stamps of French Congo will be used in the territory until further orders.

Germany. CHINA.—We have received the current German stamps overprinted "China," for use in the German post offices at Shanghai, Tientsin, Chefoo, Futchau and Peking.

GERMAN EMPIRE. — Some of current, Head of Germania, type seem to be undergoing the process of re-drawing, for on several of the values the letters of the word "Reichspost" are distinctly smaller. The perforations are also changing; the higher values are now perf. 14½ instead of 11½.

Greece. PROVISIONALS.—The *American Journal of Philately* chronicles a variety in the figure "O" on the recently issued 30l. provisionals. On looking over a sheet of these surcharges the publishers of the *A. J. P.* find that there are two varieties of this numeral, the one being broader than the other, the two varieties being about evenly assorted on each sheet of stamps. The wider numeral measures 3¼ mm. in width, and the narrower one 2¾ mm. The height of the two varieties is practically the same.

Der Philatelist, on the authority of Mr. Naumann, furnishes the following statistics in regard to the quantity issued of each of the recent surcharges:—

950,000	..	20l. on 25l.
180,000	..	30l. ,, 40l.
170,000	..	40l. ,, 2l.
170,000	..	50l. ,, 40l.
140,000	..	1dr. ,, 40l.
140,000	..	2dr. ,, 40l.

These quantities include all the different varieties of the respective values.

The surcharging of the Olympian series has commenced. We have received the following:—5l. on 1dr , 25l. on 40l., and 50l. on 2dr. For the last two we are indebted to Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.; all are of the "A.M." series.

Adhesives.

Surcharged on Olympian Games Issue A M.

5l. on 1dr., blue, sur. red.
25l. ,, 40l., purple, ,,
50l. ,, 2dr., bistre, ,,

An Athens correspondent informs the *Monthly Journal* that the "A.M." stamps are now allowed to be used for ordinary postage. He adds that of the varieties of 40 lepta surcharged 2 dr. and 5 dr. only a few sheets of each appeared to have been thus treated. They were not obtainable at the post office, and seemed to have all passed into the hands of one person.

The *M. J.* has been shown the 25l., *blue*, Type 2, imperf., with double surcharge 20l., and also with the surcharge upside down.

Paraguay.—The *Metropolitan Philatelist* adds a 20c. value to our last month's list of the new design and also a complete list of officials of similar design except that the words "Union Postal Universal" are replaced by the word Official. We repeat our illustration of the new design, and append the list completed to date:—



Adhesives

2 centavos, olive grey.
3 ,, brown.
5 ,, deep green.
8 ,, marone.
10 ,, carmine.
20 ,, deep blue

Official Stamps

1 centavo, dull blue.
2 centavos, rose-red.
4 ,, dark brown.
5 ,, dark green.
8 ,, orange-brown.
10 ,, carmine rose.
20 ,, dark blue.

Portugal.—The *Monthly Journal* says the current 500 reis stamp has appeared perf. 11½, like the rest of the series; and that all the values are now printed in large sheets of 150.

Adhesive.

500 r., black on *azure; perf.* 11½.

The *Monthly Journal* chronicles the following curious varieties:—"No. 256, the 10 reis, with "1893—PROVISORIO" surcharge, one copy with the date "1863," the figure "9" being inverted, and another with "1938" for 1893; also a strip of No. 287, the 5 reis of the current type, one stamp in which is entirely without the figure denoting the value, and a similar strip of No. 293, the 25 reis, *carmine*, of the same type, in which one stamp has no figures, and the others have the figures so misplaced as to come between the stamps."

MACAO. — Messrs. Bright & Son have shown us the following new values:—The name and figures are in *black* on all except the highest value, on which they are in *carmine*.

Adhesives.

5 avos, brown.
10 ,, dull blue.
15 ,, pale olive-green.
20 ,, brown on *straw*.
78 ,, black on *azure*.

PORTUGUESE INDIA — Also three new values for this Colony issued here, according to *Le Timbre Belge*.

Adhesives

12 tangas, blue on *rose; figures in* black.
1 rupee, black on *blue* ,, red.
2 rupees, violet on *yellow* ,, black.

TIMOR.—Also three new values for this Colony.

Adhesives.

10 avos, blue; *figures in* black.
20 ,, brown on *straw; figures in* black.
78 ,, black on *azure* ,, red.

Russia. FINLAND.—Messrs. Kirkpatrick & Pemberton send us the new Russian issue for Finland, which we illustrate. The values are in Finnish coinage, otherwise the design seems identical with the issue of Russia of 1883 for the 5 penni, 20 penni, and 1 mark; the 10 penni is similar to the 4 kopecs of 1889, and the 10 marks like the 3 r. 50 k. of 1884.









Adhesives

2 pen., orange, perf. 14½ × 15 & 14 × 15.
5 pen., green, ,, 14 × 15.
10 pen., carmine ,, ,,
20 pen., blue ,, ,,
1 mark, deep lilac and green, 14 × 15.
10 marks, black and grey, perf., 13½.

Roumania.—On the occasion of the inauguration of the new Post Office at Bucharest, a series of 10 commemorative

stamps is to be issued. These are at present in course of preparation at the manufactory of the Boulevard Brune, Paris. According to *Le C. de Timbres Poste* the design of the values from 1 to 50 bani represent a Roumanian postman, whilst the higher values of 1, 2 and 5 lei are of double the ordinary size, and show a portrait of the King above and a view of the new Post Office buildings below. The series is to be ready in about two months.

Servia.—The *Monthly Circular* says:—"The current 20 paras has been printed in rose and surcharged at foot, '10 HAPA,' in thick black letters."

Adhesive.

10 paras on 20 paras, black on rose.

Siam.—We quote the *Monthly Journal:* "We have at last obtained some information about the mysterious stamps with three-quarter face portrait to left, from a correspondent at Bangkok. He tells us that he obtained copies of the 1, 2, and 3 atts. of this type at a post office in one of the eastern provinces of Siam, and that they were current in that part of the country. According to a letter our correspondent received from an officer of the Postal Department, these were stamps that should not have been issued at all, as the design was not approved of, and we can only suppose that a supply of them was sent to some outlying district in error. The letter says:—

"'As regards the three sample stamps sent, I can only say that they must have been issued by mistake in one of the provinces. It was the distinct wish of His Majesty that these stamps should not at all be sold to the public, and I am consequently quite unable to inform you where you might get them. We have now only a few sheets of the 1, 2, and 3 atts. stamps left (of this *ugly* kind). The other sorts never were sent to us.'

"We gather that only three values exist, and that one of our contemporaries was in error in chronicling four others.

"The stamps of the rejected type seem to have been issued and used, so we suppose they should be listed."

Adhesives.

1 att., green	*rejected type.*
2 atts., „ and red	„ „
3 „ carmine and blue	„ „

Spain.—We now illustrate the new series chronicled by us last month (p. 44).



United States.—The editor of the *Weekly Philatelic Era*, U.S., has been making inquiries in official quarters as to the postal status of the United States country show rubbish, and has received the following gratifying reply:—

"SIR,—In reply to your letter of October 27th, you are informed that the Pan-American commemorative series of postage stamps will not be available for foreign correspondence, under Paragraph 1, Article 2, Universal Postal Convention of 1897, which reads:

"'Prepayment of postage on every description of article can be effected only by means of postage stamps valid in the country of origin for the correspondence of private individuals. It is not, however, permitted to make use in the international service of postage stamps issued for a special or particular purpose, such as postage stamps called commemorative of temporary validity.'"

GUAM.—According to a correspondent of the *Metropolitan Philatelist*, stamps surcharged for Guam are not likely to be so difficult to obtain as some folks imagine. He writes:—"I am informed by Third Assistant Madden that stamps will continue to be supplied to Guam and that they will be of the surcharged variety. That is, when Mr. Madden's attention was directed to the matter, he said he knew of no reason why stamps should not be supplied to Guam when the need arose, and that when requisition was made he presumed the supplies would be similar to the last ones sent." And we presume that in one time they will, like the other surcharged U.S. Colonials, be freely used for franking ordinary letters at home, as well as in the Colonies.

Uruguay.—We illustrate another value of the new series, 1c., herd of cattle.



The *American Journal of Philately* chronicles a 5c. provisional. Under a decree issued on November 28th, 1900, the 10c. Jubilee stamp of 1896, with a provisional surcharge, has been again surcharged in black, in three lines, "1900—5—centesimos."

Adhesives.

New design.

1 centesimo, green, perf. 15.

Provisional.

5c. on 1cc., carmine, black and red, black surcharge.

Philately in the Mags.

Norway: Numbers Printed.

Up to the present we have had little or no information as to the numbers printed of Norwegian stamps. Even Mr. A. H. Harrison's admirable articles in recent volumes of the *Philatelic Record* are silent on this point. Dr. Wilhelm Hiorth now supplies the deficiency in the *Nordisk Filatelistik Tidskript*, and gives the quantities printed as follows:—

I. Issue. 1854.

4 sk.,	blue	2,000,000

II. Issue. 1856-60.

2 sk.,	yellow (1857)	1,000,000
3 ,,	lilac (,,)	1,000,000
4 ,,	blue (1856)	6,000,000
4 ,,	,, (1860)	4,000,000
8 ,,	rose (1856)	2,000,000

III. Issue. 1863.

2 sk.,	yellow	500,000
3 ,,	lilac	250,000
4 ,,	blue	8,000,000
8 ,,	rose	1,000,000
24 ,,	brown	1,000,000

IV. Issue. 1867-8.

1 sk.,	grey-black (1867)	500,000
2 ,,	orange (,,)	1,000,000
3 ,,	lilac (,,)	300,000
4 ,,	blue (,,)	7,000,000
8 ,,	rose (,,)	1,000,000
1 ,,	grey-black (1868)	1,500,000
2 ,,	orange (,,)	2,000,000
3 ,,	lilac (,,)	600,000
4 ,,	blue (,,)	4,000,000
8 ,,	rose (,,)	1,000,000

V. Issue. 1871-5.

1 sk.,	green (1872)	2,000,000
1 ,,	,, (1875)	2,500,000
2 ,,	ultramarine (1872)	3,000,000
3 ,,	rose (1871)	16,000,000
3 ,,	,, (1872)	4,000,000
3 ,,	,, (1875)	10,000,000
4 ,,	violet (1872)	2,000,000
4 ,,	,, (1875)	1,500,000
6 ,,	reddish-brown (1875) ..	2,000,000
7 ,,	dark brown (1872)	2,000,000

It is to be hoped that Dr. Hiorth will persevere in his endeavours and supply also the numbers printed of the later issues, as only by knowing the exact numbers printed can we arrive at the real comparative rarity of any stamp.

Hong Kong: 2c., rose, C.A. Perf. 12.

The *American Journal of Philately* in January, 1898, noted a remarkable Hong Kong variety received from Dr. R. Benjamin. The specimen consisted of a 2c., rose, of the current type, watermarked Crown and C. A., printed on a thicker and rougher paper than usual, and perforated 12, with a peculiar rough and uneven perforation. At that time the *A.J.P.* asked whether any of its contemporaries could explain the existence of this curiosity, but the query appears to have entirely escaped attention.

The Scott Stamp & Coin Co.'s Belgian agent, Mr. J. K. Schuh, in assorting a lot of these stamps, discovered an exactly similar specimen, which Mr. Calman submitted for an opinion to Messrs. Bacon, Phillips and other experts.

"All were, of course, extremely puzzled at the sight of such a variety, and it was decided to send the stamp to Messrs. De la Rue & Co. for an opinion as to the reason for its existence. Messrs. De la Rue & Co., after a careful examination, declared the stamp absolutely genuine, and, in explanation of the peculiar variety, stated that a number of years ago their perforating machine broke down, and that at that time some of these Hong Kong stamps were in process of manufacture. In order not to delay the completion of the order, the hand needle perforating machine was employed, and the peculiar variety is undoubtedly a result of the temporary employment of this hand machine. We therefore have a new variety to add to those already chronicled for this country."

The United States' Stamp Printing Establishment.

Mr. C. J. Phillips (Stanley Gibbons, Ltd.) who is on tour through the United States, thus describes in the *Monthly Journal* a visit he paid to Uncle Sam's Stamp Printing Establishment. "On the ground floor there are a number of skilled engravers, who work from two to four weeks on the design of one stamp. Here I was shown the proofs of the stamps that will be issued in May next at Buffalo, and used during the Pan-American Exhibition. The designs of each value is to be printed in two colours, and each stamp will have as its central feature some device showing the method of transportation of letters, such as 'Locomotive,' 'Ocean Steamship,' 'Lake Steamship,' 'Automobile,' etc., etc. The stamps will be oblong in shape, but somewhat smaller than the Columbus set, and they will undoubtedly rank amongst the finest art work yet shown on any set of stamps.

"The next room was that in which the stamps were printed—all by hand labour, one man and two girls attending to each machine. Each printing-press has on it four plates consecutively numbered, which rotate horizontally. A girl feeds the paper to the machine; the man cleans each plate as it reaches him, and the other girl takes off the printed sheets as they come round to her.

"From twenty-four to thirty-six plates of 2 cents stamps are constantly in use, and it is found that plates using certain colours

wear out much more quickly than others, but on an average each plate will print off about 100,000 sheets.

"The 1c., 2c., and 10c. stamps are printed in sheets of 400; the other values in sheets of 200.

"In the next room the sheets of stamps are dried and then pressed under 10-ton presses.

"From here they go to the gumming room, which is an interesting, if rather evil-smelling one. The room is some 200 feet long, and is filled from end to end with a series of cases each 160 feet long. The sheet of stamps is fed to one end of the case by a girl, who places it on an endless fine mesh roll; it then passes under brushes, which gum the sheet at one stroke, and it is then slowly drawn the whole length of the case, which is filled with air at a high temperature. On reaching the extreme end of the case, the sheet is received by another girl, who passes her hand over each sheet to see if it is absolutely dry; if it is not she has control of an electric switch, and at once slows down the machine so that the sheets may be longer in the hot-air case.

"The next process is to press the stamps again to prepare them for the final process of perforating.

"In the perforating room there are a large number of machines, each attended by two girls and worked by electric power, which is switched on and off by a foot-press. The machines are all arranged in pairs; the first one gives the horizontal perforations and divides the sheets in two; and the second machine gives the vertical perforations and quarters the large sheets, forming in all values sheets of 100 stamps. In this room I noticed the large number of sheets that are spoilt by the perforating being through the stamps; in fact the waste and spoilage from start to finish reaches as high as 10 per cent. of the whole quantity produced, the greater part of the loss being in the perforation and gumming—a natural result of so much hand labour.

"The cost of the postage stamps is, on an average, about 2½d. per 1,000.

"In the course of passing from one department to another each sheet of paper is checked and counted in and out. A sheet of stamps is counted twenty times, a bank-note fifty-two times."

Forgeries of Mafekings.

The *Monthly Journal* thus explains the clever methods adopted by the Cape Town forgers in placing their frauds:—"In reference to the forgeries mentioned in previous numbers, Mr. Beeman tells us that he understands that the forgers disposed of them in Cape Town. Their plan was to get acquainted with persons who had come to Cape Town from Mafeking for a change after the siege, and to endeavour at first to buy surcharged stamps from them, offering very low prices. Failing to buy, they then offered to sell similar stamps at prices sufficiently tempting, and the buyers sent these to friends at Mafeking, by whom in in turn they were sent elsewhere, and they thus came to be believed in as having emanated from that celebrated town."

Some too credulous collectors will now understand how it is possible for a forgery to be received from the place of issue.

Cuba and Philippine 1855: Retouches.

In the *Weekly Philatelic Era* for December 15th, the Boston correspondent mentions that Mr. F. P. Brown has discovered a second re-engraving of the 2 4-8c. ultramarine Philippines of the 1882 issue. The *American Journal of Philately*, in commenting on this, says:—

"The article does not say, in so many words, that this second re-engraving is the same as that described in the Standard Catalogue for the 5c. de p. of the corresponding issue for Cuba, but such is the inference. This discovery seemed to us of sufficient interest to be looked up, and we accordingly examined our stock and, subsequently, the Cuban issue of the same date. We find that there is, as reported, a second retouch (this word describes the alteration more correctly than 're-engraving") of the Philippines stamp and also a corresponding retouch of the 5c. of Cuba. These two new varieties represent an intermediate state between the first and second retouches; strictly speaking, they are the second retouching, and that which has heretofore been called the second should now be placed as the third. We have not found any copy of the Philippines stamp which shows the third retouching.

"The various states of engraving may be described as follows:—

"Original state. The medallion is surrounded by a heavy line of colour of nearly even thickness, touching the horizontal line below the word 'Cuba' (or 'Filipinas,' as the case may be); the opening in the hair above the temple is narrow and pointed.

"First retouch. The line about the medallion is thin, except at the upper right, and does not touch the horizontal line above it; the opening in the hair is slightly wider and a trifle rounded; the lock of hair above the forehead is shaped like a broad 'V' and ends in a point; there is a faint white line below it, which is not found on the stamps in the original state.

"Second retouch. The opening is still wider and more rounded; the lock of hair does not extend as far down on the forehead, is very slightly rounded instead of being pointed, and the white line below it is thicker.

"Third retouch. The opening in the hair forms a semi-circle; the lock above the forehead is nearly straight, having only a slight wave, and the white line is much broader than before.

Notes and News.

Swiss Forgeries: Arrest and Prosecution.

At Bow-street, before Mr. de Rutzen, Henri Bauche, 34, a French commercial traveller, was charged on remand with obtaining £53 worth of foreign stamps from Mr. William Hadlow, stamp dealer, of the Strand, by means of false pretences.

Mr. Harry Wilson prosecuted; Mr. Caldicott defended.

On February 9th, the accused called on the prosecutor and obtained from him £53 worth of foreign stamps in exchange for some which, with the exception of about 30s. worth, were, it was alleged, forgeries. Mr. Wilson said that he should now prefer other charges against the accused, but should have to ask for a further remand, that the stamps might be examined by a committee of experts at the British Museum.

John William Jones, stamp dealer, of Cheapside, stated that the prisoner came to his offices on February 13th, and offered to exchange several stamps with him. The witness looked at them, and noticed, among others, a four cent. Vaud, genuine specimens of which were worth £25. He had no doubt that the one shown him by the accused was a forgery, and he suspected that several of the other stamps were not genuine. The prisoner agreed to call again the next day, but meanwhile the witness consulted several stamp dealers. Owing to what he was told, Detective-sergeant Haines was asked to come to his office, and was present when the prisoner arrived. Mr. Jones pointed out to the latter that several of his stamps had a "fishy" appearance. Sergeant Haines then took him into custody. Cross-examined, the witness said that he detected the forgery directly he saw the stamp, but the forgery was a dangerous one. Even an experienced man might take some time to find it out. That particular forgery had been on the market about a year.

David Field, stamp merchant, of the Royal Arcade, Old Bond-street, said that about February 5th, the prisoner visited his shop and bought 24s. worth of stamps. He showed the witness a quantity of very rare Swiss and other stamps, and said he wanted to exchange them for other specimens. They were left with the witness in order that he might obtain expert opinion upon them, and, this being done, he gave the accused £95 worth of stamps in exchange for those which he had brought. The expert whom the witness had consulted subsequently told him that forgeries were on the market to such an extent that he should like to look at the stamps again and show them to other experts. This was done, and it was then discovered that the stamps were not genuine.

Frederick Robert Ginn, stamp dealer, carrying on business in the Strand, deposed that he gave the prisoner £84 worth of stamps in exchange for a quantity of stamps, including two four cent. Vauds, one used and one unused. He was afterwards advised that they were all worthless.

Mr. M. P. Castle, vice-president of the London Philatelic Society, and a member of the committee of experts in connection with that Society, said he had made a study of foreign stamps and their forgeries for the past 30 years. On the sheets of stamps which the prisoner had disposed of to Mr. Ginn and Mr. Field were a few genuine common stamps of little value, but the rest were forgeries, including the four cent. Vaud unused, genuine specimens of which were worth £100. In his opinion the false issues were reproduced by photography; they were exceedingly well done.

Mr. de Rutzen committed the prisoner for trial.

Queensland Zig-zag Perfs.

It will be remembered that in 1898 Queensland experimented with serrated perfs. produced by means of raised rules. There were four varieties:—

1. Serrated in black.
2. Serrating uninked.
3. Serrated in black and perf. 12½.
4. Serrating uninked and perf. 12½.

The black or inked serrating was said to have been done to get the serrating to register properly. Several sample sheets were run through the press and so arranged that the frame did not perforate, but, with the judicious application of a little printer's ink, simply left a black impression.

It has been an open question whether those sample sheets were ever sold to the public and postally used. Mr. Hadlow, however, has just received a general lot of used Queenslands, in which he has found quite a number of ordinary used copies of each variety of the zig-zag perfs. A pair which he has sent us of the variety serrated in black is postmarked "No 26.98."

New South Wales, 1885, 1d.

Mr. W. W. Munn writes to us as follows:—"1885. Bluish wove fiscal paper. wmk. N.S.W. Stanley Gibbons & Co.'s No. 262, 1d., red, p. 11 × 12.—I have a strip of three of this stamp from the right hand lower corner, the third stamp of which is *without* any watermark, the line surrounding the wmk. only reaching to the second stamp

of sheet. This stamp, without watermark, would prove rather a puzzle if by itself."

Great Britain current 1d.

Mr. Henniker Heaton, M.P., writes *The Times* as follows:—

"Sir,—There is of necessity, an alteration to be made in our postage stamps. At the same time, there is a strong general desire that there should be a change in the colour of our penny stamps. The question is simply and clearly put by a lady correspondent, who says:—

"'I want you to ask Lord Londonderry to let us have the old scarlet penny stamp restored to us. Scarlet, of course, is the Royal colour, and much more appropriate for an "Imperial stamp" (which the popular and profitable penny stamp now is) than the present ugly washed-out mauve thing, which is, as far as I can make out, universally considered the ugliest of all our stamps.'"

"At the Washington Postal Union Congress in 1898, at which the English and all other Governments of the civilized countries of the world were represented, it was agreed 'that it would tend to universal convenience, if not to universal amity, if the postage stamps of equivalent denominations in the various nationalities were of the same colour.' Accordingly green was adopted for the halfpenny stamp and red for the penny stamp, but England only obeyed the resolution in regard to the halfpenny stamp.

"The Duke of Norfolk was in favour of issuing a red or deep scarlet Imperial penny stamp, and I believe that Sir George Murray was also anxious to carry out the idea. But it is alleged that the eminent firm of printers who supply the postage stamps for a consideration to the Post Office put a veto on it by stating the red stamp would cost an enormous sum to print. This objection was not taken by them to the green halfpenny stamp, and why should red cost more than green?

"If the difficulty arises through the expense of printing the stamp in fugitive colours, I hope the Postmaster-General will invite me to point out to him how the amount of the proposed additional expense may be saved."

We believe we are right in saying that experiments have been going on for some time with the view of falling in with the recommendation of the Postal Union Congress as to the colour of our 1d. stamp, but in view of the necessity of protecting this stamp from the cleaner the printers strongly urge a rigid adherence to the fugitive inks which practically render abortive any attempts to clean a used or cancelled stamp We imagine, however, that the printers will be very glad to hear from Mr. Heaton where they can get scarlet or red inks as cheaply as purple or green inks. In small quantities, the difference in the costs of the inks would be a small item, but when, as in the case of the 1d. stamp, the printers have to deal with millions, the difference of cost in inks must necessarily be a considerable item. Still, there is no denying the fact that the authorities can well afford to give us a better stamp than the present makeshift, and there is certainly no sufficient reason why this country should be almost the only one to refuse to fall into line.

A Puzzle in Colour.

Two of our contemporaries seem to be very much puzzled over the colour of the new 10c. of Uruguay. One puts a note of interrogation in place of the colour, and the other turns the difficulty into a prize competition If they refer to the list published by us last month (p. 45) they will find the official designation of the colour to be there stated as *violet*.

Exhibition at Sheffield.

The Sheffield Philatelic Society held a Conversazione and Exhibition of members' stamps on the 18th January, 1901, at the Cutlers' Hall, Sheffield. Long tables were arranged down the centre and at the sides of two long rooms. The exhibits, covered with glass, were laid flat on the tables, which were covered with green cloth This novel method of showing the stamps was pronounced a success from the examination point of view. The exhibits themselves were full of interest, and not a few were very neatly mounted. General collecting was strongly represented, but evidences of a tendency to specialism were not lacking.

Mr. F. R. Ginn's Purchases.

Mr. F. R. Ginn informs us that he has just purchased an important collection of some 20,000 varieties, which he is breaking up for sale.

Mr. Ginn was the purchaser of the United States, 30c., with flags reversed, at the Mutzenbecher sale. Looking at the soiled copy some shook their heads over the price, but the stamp was easily cleansed, and turned out to be a fine bright copy.

Herts Philatelic Society.

After the General Meeting of the Herts Philatelic Society at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, E.C., on Tuesday, February 5th, 1901, a general display of stamps on the part of members took place, and the innovation was so favourably received as to warrant a repetition at an early date. Mr Bradbury showed a very fine collection of Colonials and British. Mr. Calff, five sheets of varieties; Mr. Ehrenbach, a specialist collection of Danish West Indies; Mr. Reichenheim, one of Crete; Mr. Melville, one of Hayti; Mr. Sidebotham and Mr. Simpson, Colonials and Colonials and English respectively; and Mr. Wills, a fine sheet of errors and curiosities.

Many of the collections—which were mounted and displayed with great care and judgment — were worthy of Exhibition honours.

Irish Philatelic Club.

A largely attended meeting of Philatelists was held on Tuesday afternoon, February 12th, in the Royal Hibernian Hotel, Dawson Street, for the purpose of founding an Irish Philatelic Club.

Mr. William Lane Joynt, who has recently arranged the collection of stamps left to the Science and Art Museum, Kildare Street, by the late Duke of Leinster, presided, and explained to those present the many advantages which collectors would derive from a better acquaintance with each other as members of a central Club. Mr. Joynt mentioned that almost every large city in Great Britain boasted a Philatelic Club or Society—Birmingham having one numbering over 250 members. Since the death, some 15 years ago, of Mr. Gerrard, of Clare Street, no regular dealer in foreign stamps had opened business premises in Dublin, and no place of meeting existed where collectors could discuss the many interesting subjects connected with their hobby. Such a meeting-place was a matter of great importance, where a reference library of the standard works on Philately, and copies of all the current Philatelic magazines could be consulted, and where social gatherings could be held for the purposes of exchanging duplicates, or hearing short papers discussed.

The formation of the "Irish Philatelic Club" was proposed by Mr. T. A. Stodart, seconded by Mr. J. N Mostyn, and carried unanimously; and a committee consisting of Mrs. Beauchamp, and Messrs. W. Lane Joynt, T. A. Stodart, J. N. Mostyn, and W. G. Williams was appointed to make inquiries as to the acquisition of suitable premises, and to draft the necessary rules.

A large number of promises of support were received from collectors unable to be present at the meeting.

The Club will not be limited to residents in Dublin, but will be open to collectors in all parts of the world, and a special feature will be a large number of corresponding members in the Colonies and various foreign countries, whose duty it will be to send to the Club consignments of new issues, so that members will be able to acquire them at a trifle over the face value.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Canada has followed since June the example of the United States, and has issued small books containing twelve stamps of 2 cents for 25 cents. If it is considered necessary books containing twenty-four stamps will follow.

* * *

Single letters between Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Switzerland can weigh since the beginning of September 20 grammes instead of 15 grammes. This is a contravention of the rules laid down by the Universal Postal Congress.

* * *

Lately some of the early "millésimes" have appeared at various post offices in Paris. For instance, the 15c blue with millésime 2 (1892) is now quite common, whereas this same stamp was valued last year at 15 francs. Evidently the postal administration is clearing out all remainders before the new stamps are put into circulation. The 50 centimes carmine has also appeared in type I.

* * *

The death is announced of Mrs. Jane Ullock, who for fifteen years was postwoman (if I may be allowed this term) delivering letters between Patterdale and Hartsop, in the Lake District. She is said to have walked some 24,000 miles following her work. She was 76 years of age, and retired three years ago.

Notices.

Subscriptions:—The *Philatelic Record* will be sent, post free, to any address, at home or abroad, for 5s. 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 Dealer.

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

Advertisement Rates.—Net.

Space per insertion.	Single.	3 months.	6 months.	12 months.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Whole Page	3 0 0	2 16 6	2 12 6	2 0 0
Half Page	1 15 0	1 10 0	1 7 0	1 2 6
Quarter Page	1 0 0	0 18 0	0 15 0	0 12 6

Advertisements must be received not later than the 12th of the month for publication in the next issue.

All Foreign Orders for Advertisements must be *prepaid*.

THE

Philatelic Record

EDITED BY

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

Member of the Institute of Journalists.

APRIL, 1901.

Editorial Notes.

English Postage Stamps.

THROUGH the medium of a reply to a question in Parliament, we learn that the necessary steps are being taken for the issue of new English postage stamps; that it is not expected they will be ready for some months to come; that the designs for the proposed stamps will not be submitted to public criticism; that the Postmaster-General is not satisfied that any sufficient reason exists for altering the colour of the penny stamp from purple to the agreed Postal Union colour of red; and that the plan of issuing halfpenny, penny, and shilling stamps without figures to indicate their value, as in the case of other stamps, will probably be continued. That is to say, we must not expect designs that will bear public criticism, but must be content to jog along with such mediocrity as a closely-trimmed contract will give us, and we must be content to allow a mere printer's fad to interfere with our falling into line with other countries in the colour of our penny value.

It is a pity that some powerful newspaper does not take up this question of the designs for our English stamps, and by publicly exposing the fallacy which underlies our poverty-stricken series, arouse public interest to the insisting point. But unless something is done, and that quickly, the probabilities are that we shall have a series of monstrosities. The current stamps are saved from downright ugliness by the beautiful head designed by Wyon. There will be no head of the King by Wyon to save our future stamps.

The occasion should give rise to a series of postage stamps that should be a credit to the art of the country of issue. We are not so absolutely devoid of art as our postage labels would indicate. Our engravers turn out designs for stamps for other countries that are admittedly unsurpassed. If the public were made aware of this fact, and had some of the brilliant examples so well known to Philatelists placed side by side with our own mediocrities, we doubt if the authorities would then be permitted to accept the commonplace so readily as they do.

New Zealand's Universal Postage Stamp.

The inauguration of Universal Penny Postage by New Zealand was, on the 1st January last, made an occasion, as it deserved to be, of general congratulation to the Colony. The Postmaster-General, the Hon. J. G. Ward, was presented with a gold medallion souvenir, on which was engraved a facsimile of the Universal Penny Postage Stamp. Mr. Ward said the reform meant a direct loss to the revenue of £80,000, but he predicted that this loss would be made up within a few years by the consequent increase in correspondence.

There seems to have been a big rush for the new stamp, for we learn that the first issue of 100,000 was sold out within half an hour, and before the day was over, the stamps were being sold privately at 1s. each. On the following day, a further supply of 900,000 came to hand, and another million was due to arrive by another steamer very shortly. So that the number of London prints was two millions. Yet, even this number seems to have been quickly absorbed, for we are now receiving Colonial prints of the stamp. Indeed, it is no secret that the London prints are already surprisingly scarce in the English stamp market.

Question of Condition.

Our friend Mr. J. W. Scott, the veteran stamp dealer of New York, in a recent number of his journal, the *Metropolitan Philatelist*, makes some extraordinary remarks as to English collectors' preference for stamps in fine condition. He gathers from the fact that a Brattlebro with a hole in it sold for £40 at a recent English auction, that our collectors "have not carried condition to the extravagant lengths that characterize American Philatelists." To begin with, the stamp was, we believe, bought for an American collector. But, any way, it affords no ground whatever for the absurd inference that English collectors are not extremely particular as to condition. As a matter of fact there are no collections in the world that are maintained at such a high level, as to condition, as our great English collections. But there are collectors and collectors in every country, and it will probably be found that the great collectors of all countries insist absolutely upon fine condition.

Again Mr. Scott says, "there can be but one possible object in the ultra care in selecting stamps now so prevalent, and that is speculation," and then, donning the prophet's mantle, he warns American speculators that they have now so greatly overworked the idea, that there is a very strong probability that they will all be losers in the end; which means, that some day, the preference for fine copies will disappear and wealthy collectors will be content with indifferent copies. We know no one on this side of the water of Mr. Scott's way of thinking, nor is there any indication whatever of any such ludicrous weakening in the demand for fine copies. On the contrary, our dealers' experience is that copies that are below par are every year becoming less and less acceptable to the general body of collectors, and that specialists will not have them at any price.

In our opinion, the reason is not to be set down to speculation, but to the great increase, during the past decade, in the number of men of

great wealth who have taken up stamp collecting. Ten years ago the pursuit had not the fashionable following it has to-day. Specialism had not raised it to a serious study. To-day it is one of the most fashionable of all hobbies. It has drawn into its ranks all classes, from the Heir Apparent to the wealthy merchant. And these classes, with their educated taste, and their means for indulging that taste, and led by the dominating influence of the specialist, have raised the demand for fine stamps to its present pitch. Pristine condition, whether it be in a stamp, a coin, or a piece of china, is, and has always been, the acknowledged high-water mark of all popular collecting, and the demand for fine condition in stamps only marks a natural result of the unmistakable popularity of our hobby.

Australian Federal Outlook.

ACCORDING to *The Times* Sydney correspondent, the postal, telegraphic, and telephonic services of the States of the Australian Federation were transferred to the Commonwealth on the 1st March, 1901. We may, therefore, soon expect the long-talked-of Commonwealth series.

Meanwhile, Philatelic influences have been at work; one pulling one way and one another. An Australian Philatelic journal is said to have made the suggestion that the stocks of stamps on hand should be overprinted "A C," whereupon the Sydney Philatelic Society got up a deputation to the authorities deprecating any such interference with the current stamps.

We do not wish to concern ourselves with any local jealousies; but we hope, for the sake of Colonial honesty and stamp collecting in general, that no jobbery will be permitted with remainders.

Some Interesting Stamps.

By W. Dorning Beckton.

Forgeries: Needless Alarms.

WE have had forgeries from the time when collecting first became known. They were poor productions at first—crude, poor lithographs as a rule, such as very young collectors to-day would not be at all likely to be taken in with. Yet in those days, when stamps, even common ones, were difficult to be got, these forgeries found a ready sale. As time went by, knowledge increased, stamps appreciated in value considerably, and the forgery also considerably improved, until the days of Benjamin, when they had become dangerous.

The prosecution and conviction of Benjamin and others put a stop to them, at all events, for some time, and Philatelic confidence was restored.

Recently, collectors have had another fright in the recent Swiss forgeries, which are most dangerous ; in fact, I believe them to be the best of the kind ever placed upon the market, There is no reason to doubt, however, that the proceedings which are pending will have the same effect in saving collectors from the forger gang for some time, just as the Benjamin prosecution did.

Although at the time the Benjamin forgeries were dangerous, yet they are so well-known to-day that no serious collector would be in the least likely to be deceived by them, and I suppose the same will in course of time be true about the Swiss forgeries. I see, therefore, no reason why collectors should be unnecessarily alarmed; in fact, I don't suppose they are. The time has, I hope, passed when the forgery was the fearful ghost it used to be held up to be.

The forgeries to which I have referred were made to palm off on collectors. The one which I am now going to mention was made, however, for quite a different purpose.

Interesting Official French Forgery.

I have recently been shown by my friend, Mr. Grunewald, a block of four France, 1862, Issue, Empire. Perf. $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$, 20c. blue, as illustrated.



Forgery.



Genuine.

The stamps were in mint condition and I was much surprised to learn that the left-hand block were forgeries or imitations made in 1865 in the presence of the Emperor Napoleon III. to satisfy him that the stamps of France were not inimitable. Only 25 copies of this imitation were made and the plate was immediately destroyed, and none of the copies ever came out until recently, which probably accounts for nothing ever having been said about them before.

The Emperor is said to have been satisfied and well he might be. I have spent some hours making a careful comparison, the perforation, paper and gum are identical. This, however, may be accounted for by the same gum, paper and perforating machine being used as was

employed for the genuine stamps. In fact, such must have been the case. I presume it was only as to the design being capable of imitation that the Emperor was to be satisfied. Coming to the design, I have traced line for line and cannot myself give any reliable test. I am told, however, that a close examination of these imitations will show slight differences with the originals, notably in the beard, which is not so thick and the shading under the neck, which is slightly narrower. The colour is also of a slightly brighter blue. Bearing in mind the numerous shades of this stamp it seems to me that the test of shade can only be applied by the specialist of specialists.

Whether you call the stamps forgeries or imitations, or anything else, they are to my mind exceedingly interesting, and I hope will prove so to others.

France: Minor Varieties.

I have now the opportunity of describing two new minor varieties in the French stamps. The first occurs in the 20c. black of the first issue 1849.



20c.



1849. 40c. Retouch.

The variety consists in a peculiar hieroglyphic, resembling a small 9 inverted before the letter C in the lower label. It will be seen the stamp is used. It is the second in the strip of four illustrated. The pair of the 40c., also of 1849 issue, illustrated above, shows the variety large figure 4. This variety has long been known to collectors of French, but is not at all well-known generally.

In the pair illustrated, the stamp on the right shows the variety, both the figures 4 showing the retouch, making them larger than the normal figures in the left hand stamp. Only two stamps on the sheet were retouched, and, curiously, they are both in the bottom row of the sheet. As the same plate was used for the Paris issue of 1870, the same varieties are found on the stamps of this issue.

Before leaving the Paris issue of 1870, I may mention a curious variety in the 20c. stamps, due to one of the clichés being damaged, and producing a white space at the back of the C of FRANC in the upper label, breaking right through the back of that letter.

The next illustration shows my other new minor variety on the 25c. black on pink, the stamp which is just obsolete. The centre one in the bottom row has the tail of the letter R prolonged and cuts into the frame; the other stamps in the block are normal.



In the allegorical issue illustrated above, there are a number of interesting semi-imperf. varieties, due, of course, to the carelessness of the workman in perforating them, and want of proper control in issuing such imperfect sheets for use. Mr. Marconnet, in his excellent work, gives:—

1 cent, black on bluish, imp. on left of sheet.
25 ,, black on rose, imp. all round.
15 ,, blue, perf. on top, imp. on other three sides.
25 ,, black on rose, ,, ,, ,,
5 ,, green ,, ,, ,,
2 ,, brown, imp. on two sides.

Mr. Grunewald's collection contains in addition the following which have not yet been chronicled:—

40 cent, red, perf. at top, imp. on other three sides.
30 ,, brown, ,, ,, ,,
20 ,, red on green, imp. on top.
3 ,, grey, perf. at top, and double perf. on other three sides.
15 ,, blue (quadrillé), imp. on left side.

Notable Philatelists.

Dr. Emilio Diena.

DR. EMILIO DIENA, the eminent specialist in Italian States, was born in Modena on June 26th, 1860. He obtained the doctorship in law in Rome in 1868.

He has been a stamp collector since 1871, in which year he became a subscriber to M. Moens' *Le Timbre Poste*.

When at school, at the age of 15, he received from a fellow scholar as a gift a Naples ½ tornese blue army, and remembers that he exchanged the stamp with his elder brother, who was also a stamp collector, for an old Moens' album containing about 500 different stamps. Some days after, he was fortunate enough to secure from the same companion a Naples ½ tornese cross for one lira (tenpence).

In 1895, he decided to collect only the stamps of Italy and Italian States, and he is now specialising these stamps in unused condition, and used on original letters and postcards, attention being paid to dates of issue, changes of shades, etc. He has also a collection of Italian proofs and essays and another of Italian postmarks on original letters. It is needless to add that the study of postmarks is particularly interesting in a country like Italy.

For many years he was asked by friends and occasional correspondents to examine stamps in general and of Italian States in particular, including Italian postmarks.

In 1897, the late Italian Minister of Posts and Telegraphs decided to arrange the official stamp collection, and wisely entrusted the work to Dr. Diena. Unfortunately, on the death of the Minister in Rome, on Feb. 26th, 1898, for reasons of jealousy on the part of some officials, Dr. Diena's work was discontinued. In December, 1899, he was, however, appointed Librarian of the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs and Keeper of the Postal Museum. But no special room has yet been provided for the Museum.

Dr. Diena is deeply interested in Philatelic literature, and has gathered together a very fine Philatelic library, a portion of which was exhibited at Turin in 1898. It will be remembered that as early as 1887 he proposed the publication of an Index to Philatelic Literature (*vide Philatelic Record*, vol. ix., for Oct., 1887), a plan that he submitted to the Philatelic Society of London and the American Philatelic Association, but which did not, in his opinion, receive due consideration.

Together with his brother Charles he prepared in 1883 a Catalogue of the Municipal Fiscal Stamps of Italy, which was published by the Société Française de Timbrologie. In 1894 he published a monograph in the Italian language on the Stamps of Modena, which received a silver medal at the London Philatelic Exhibition of 1897. In the

same year he compiled a history of the Stamps of Romagna, which was reprinted in pamphlet form from *Le Timbre Poste*.

Dr. Diena's Philatelic eminence is attested by the fact that he has served on the juries of seven Philatelic Exhibitions, and we are proud to add that he has been a subscriber to the *Philatelic Record* from its start in 1879.

My Favourite Countries.

ITALIAN STATES.—By Dr. Emilio Diena.

THE stamps in which I specialise are those of Italy and Italian States, constituting in my opinion an eminently interesting group, both from a Philatelic and from an historical point of view.

I was formerly a general collector of postage stamps and entires, and I now find that it is good for collectors to start in that way; they acquire, as it enables them to, a comprehensive knowledge of Philately, which is afterwards of considerable assistance for the study of a particular country or of a group of countries.

As a general collector, however, Philately did not give me so intense a pleasure as it affords me as a specialist. But this is perhaps due, to some extent, to the particular group I selected, which has been for some time almost a *terra incognita*: and therefore offering the pleasure of many interesting discoveries.

A good friend of mine, the late Mr. Ernest Petri, who was, it will be remembered, not only a keen collector, but also a careful student of Italian stamps, in a paper read before the Manchester Philatelic Society in 1899 (*Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, vol. ix., p. 81), said:—

"In the wide field open to the Philatelist, no more interesting group of stamps could be selected for collection and study than the issues of Italian States, involving as they do, an intimate acquaintance with some of the most stirring and exciting events that led to the formation of the present Kingdom of Italy, besides affording considerable scope for Philatelic research and discovery.

"Why, then, are these stamps comparatively so unpopular, or rather, unfashionable, as compared, say, with a country like Roumania, or with remote and brand-new dependencies in southern and equatorial Africa?"

Yes, Italian stamps are still unfashionable in Great Britain, being, of course, imperfectly understood.



Dr. Emilio Diena.

In 1899, when I paid my first—and let me hope not the last—visit to London, I called on some of the leading stamp dealers, and I had a look at their stock of Italian stamps. But, with one or two exceptions, I was surprised to see that they were not well furnished not only with rare stamps but also with medium class in fine condition.

The principal reason they gave me for this state of things was that Italian stamps being extensively forged, it was a difficult task for them to distinguish the corn from the darnel, and that they had been frequently bamboozled by reprints with forged cancellations, *et simılia*.

But, in my opinion, the imperfect study of this group of stamps is the true reason for the ominous and lasting success of the forgers, not only in selling their products to some dealers, but also of disposing of them by auction, as proved by recent occurrences.

The task of acquiring a good knowledge of these stamps is not a particularly difficult one in England, where you can boast three or four extremely important collections of Italian stamps, which will afford a wide field for comparison. The best collection is, no doubt, in the British Museum, though lacking some rare *used* varieties. Second in importance, I put the collection formed by the present Vice-president of the Philatelic Society, London, extremely rich in fine *unused* specimens. England had two other eminent specialists in these stamps, whose collections were unfortunately dispersed—those formed by the late Mr. Gilbert Harrison and by Mr. Petri.

No doubt some other connoisseurs exist in England, but if we consider for a moment the Philatelic importance of the Italian stamps, a much wider appraisement of them there seems to me "devoutly to be wished."

Origin of Stamp Colours.

By M. W. Jones, F.C.S.

AT this time, when the question of stamp colours has aroused considerable interest and discussion amongst the followers of Philately, it may be interesting to many to set forth in plain, non-technical language a few facts relative to the origin of the various shades, and some points upon their manufacture.

The colours used in stamp printing are usually known as "fine," in comparison to the heavier or coarser varieties which are supplied for such purposes as paint-grinding, lime-washing, etc., and as such they form an interesting study. All portions of the earth's surface are called into requisition to supply the raw materials which are gathered from the three kingdoms—animal, vegetable, and mineral. The working-up of these various products to supply an article which shall give satisfaction to the user is an extensive trade, demanding great skill from the workers, and to those who are familiar with the coloured productions upon paper, even twenty years ago, it must be at once evident that the followers of the colour trade can claim to have advanced with the times as much as those of any other calling.

In a previous article it was shown that unavoidable difficulties, which arise in the working and manufacture of the various raw materials, are often responsible for varieties of shade—even in stamps of the same issue—and when it is taken into consideration that almost all of the raw materials used, as well as the finished colours into the composition of which they enter, are manufactured products liable to slight, but important, variations in themselves, it will be evident that the lot of the colour-maker, who is called upon to produce the same shade month after month, is no easy one.

When the colours are finished they are sold in the form of small lumps, or fine powder, to the printing-ink manufacturer, who grinds them up with suitable varnish in specially-constructed mills, which are usually fitted with steel rollers. This operation is conducted with great care and thoroughness, for any particle not intimately ground with the varnish would ultimately produce a serious blot or blur in the printed design. When the colour and varnish are so completely ground together that the product can be spread upon a glass plate as easily as butter, the ink is passed on to the printer or lithographer, whose operations are so well known as not to necessitate description here.

To deal first of all with *black* coloured products, we find that until recently the numerous colours of this class were almost exclusively obtained from the animal or vegetable kingdoms, and were produced by the calcination of bones and other animal matters, or wood; but in recent years this extensive series of shades has been largely supplanted by the finer and purer tones obtained by the burning of the otherwise useless residue which occurs as a final product in the distillation of

petroleum. It must be admitted that the latter class of shades have much to recommend them, as they are deeper in tone and have a softer nature, owing to their comparative freedom from mineral matter. By the addition of varying quantities of *Prussian blue* it is possible to produce the glossy *blue-black* tints, and by the addition of one or other of the *white* pigments, to be enumerated later, it is possible to dilute or weaken the *black* until it presents one or other of the attractive *grey* shades so often seen upon certain stamps.

White pigments are very largely used for purposes of shading, or reducing the orignal tint of any colour, and so producing a variety of shades. There are many articles used in this connection, chief of which may be mentioned *blanc fixe*, or precipitated barium sulphate; lead carbonate (white lead); zinc white (oxide); calcium carbonate (chalk), and various mixtures of two or more of these substances. All these are manufactured mineral substances, and come upon the market in various degrees of fineness and purity, but it is only the highest qualities that find their way into colours intended for high-class work. It will be at once evident that *white* pigments cannot be used for printing upon white paper, but it is surprising that some enterprising firm of stamp printers has not discovered the possibilities of printing a *white* design upon coloured or tinted papers, such as were used for the first issue of the stamps of Baden and Hanover.

The number of *red*-coloured bodies entering into the composition of printing-inks is legion, and they are derived from widely different sources. The animal kingdom contributes representatives in the beautiful *carmine* and *lake* shades which are found upon some of the older stamps. These two colours are obtained from the colouring principle of the cochineal insect *(Coccus cacti)*, which is cultivated largely in Mexico, and are remarkable for their purity and intensity; but as parcels of cochineal differ according to the exact locality of their origin, varying results are often obtained. In recent years these two colours have been largely driven out of the market by the more gaudy tints obtained from coal-tar, which is a matter of regret, as the latter colours lack much in point of fastness and general durability when compared with the original ones.

From the vegetable kingdom we have a larger number of representative *red* shades, which are derived from the various *red* dye-woods of commerce. Sapanwood, peachwood, and barwood, under suitable treatment, furnish us with an invaluable class of deep-toned *red* colours, and these, speaking generally, are of the *marone* or *claret* shades; and as colours of this class have much to recommend them in their softness, durability, and perfect covering properties, it is much to be regretted that, owing to the expensive materials necessarily employed in manufacturing the colouring principle of these dye-woods into an article suitable for the printing-ink maker, they are also frequently replaced by the coal-tar colours, which are often less durable.

The *red* shades obtained from the mineral kingdom have usually the great feature of fastness to recommend them, and such include the various shades of *red* and *orange* lead (as seen in the 7 cents U.S. 1875 and 1879 issues), and the pure tones of *vermilion* (or cinnabar), a striking example of which is to be found upon the recently superseded half-penny adhesive of this country. Chinese *vermilion* offers an

alternative, and somewhat less *yellow*, shade to the European-manufactured variety, but both possess the ideal qualifications of perfect stability and fastness under even worse than average conditions. Of recent years a class of colours known as *vermilionettes*, or imitation *vermilions*, have come upon the market with a great boom, and one and all may be described as "cheap and gaudy." Most of them consist of a basis of *red* or *orange* lead, coloured with *eosine*—perhaps the most fugitive of all the coal-tar colours, and as a typical shade of this class we may instance the 3 cents 1897 (Jubilee) issue of Canada.

The various oxides of iron, some of which are natural, others manufactured products, give to the colour-maker an extensive range of shades, varying from a *bright red* to *reddish browns*, and very good use is made of them. But here again different lots from the same source are not always of uniform shade, owing to difficulties in the manufacturing processes; and from a somewhat deficient "body" or surface-covering power, these shades are not the unqualified success that their general durability would indicate.

The great development of the coal-tar colour industry has placed a large number of *red* shades at the disposal of the paper printer, and, when the colour principal is combined with suitable mineral ingredients in the form known as a "lake," it is often admirably adapted for the production of bright and attractive shades upon paper, the only drawback being a lack of permanence when exposed to daylight. By judicious mixing we are enabled to produce every *red* shade known, extremes of which may be seen in the *magenta* 4 öre unpaid stamp of the 1889-93 issue of Norway and the *scarlet* 1 dollar of the United States commemorative issue of 1893.

Within the last few years extensive developments have taken place in the production of so-called "madder reds," which vary between *crimson* and *yellow* shades, and these have the undoubted merit of excellent permanency to recommend them. They are all manufactured from alizarine, a product obtained from the heavier oils of coal-tar. This dye-stuff has the feature of being identical in its chemical aspects with the colouring principle formerly obtained from the madder plant, which was, years ago, extensively cultivated around the shores of the Mediterranean for the sake of the colour it yielded, but has now given place to the cheaper and quite as effective artificial product.

Yellow and *orange* shades are easily produced as *lakes* from many of the coal-tar colours, but these products do not make much headway in the trade, as the various shades, from *pale lemon* to very *red-orange*, are manufactured from the much more durable *chrome yellows;* compounds obtained by treating a salt of lead with bichromate of potash or soda in suitable proportions. These shades have everything to recommend them from a printing standpoint, the only drawback to their use being a tendency to blacken or darken in tone when exposed to even slight traces of sulphur fumes, such as are found in the atmosphere of all large towns, or in any room in which coal-gas is consumed. Some of the fine finer *ochres* are occasionally used, but whilst this class of colour excels in durability, it is somewhat deficient in body.

Various *blue* shades, varying in tone from *green* to *red*, are obtained from *ultramarine*, which is a product of somewhat complicated

manufacture, produced in immense quantities. These shades find great favour in the trade owing to their durability and many excellent qualities. *Cobalt blue*, one of the finest of artist's colours, is but rarely found upon stamps, owing to its high price, but it certainly ranks as one of the most durable *blue* shades ever placed upon paper.

Prussian, *bronze*, *Milori*, and *Antwerp blues* are various shades of deep colour obtained by causing potassium ferrocyanide to combine with an iron salt. When well manufactured they are beautiful shades, and have everything to recommend them, being perfectly suitable for printing, and of great durability. Typical instances of these colours are found upon the 5 cents U.S. 1875 issue, and the 7 k. 1883 issue of Russia. By the addition of suitable proportions of one or other of the *white* bases already enumerated the shades can be modified or weakened at will, and in this manner it is easily possible to obtain the palest shades of *blue*.

There are also many *blue lakes* used in paper printing, all being derived from one or other of the coal-tar colours, and whilst such have usually much to recommend them in their brightness and suitably for printing, they are not as a rule very permanent.

Many and various *greens* are found upon stamps, and of these the better ones—judging from the standpoint of permanence—are obtained from the mineral kingdom, and are manufactured products. The beautiful *emerald-green* shade found upon some of the 5 öre stamps of Norway 1883 issues owes its origin to a compound between arsenic and copper, and ranks as one of the most brilliant and permanent colours known. Green oxide of chromium furnishes us with another beautiful and permanent shade, but a large range of tints known as *Brunswick greens* is obtained by mixing *Prussian blue* and *chrome yellow* in various proportions, and by so doing we obtain shades which range between extreme *blue* on the one hand and *yellow* on the other. These products are very largely used, and examples are to be found upon the stamps of France (1876, 5 c.), United States (1870, 3 cents), Bavaria (1876, 5 pf.), etc. In the case of each of the three stamps above mentioned, it is an easy matter to extract the *yellow* portion of the colour and leave the *blue*, or *vice versâ*.

In the case of *greens* we have also a large number of attractive-looking lakes produced from coal-tar colours, but they are usually much inferior in point of fastness to the mineral colours enumerated.

There are of course many subdivisions arising out of the main principles set forth in this article, but sufficient has been written to show that the colour trade has a very intimate connection with stamp colours; and although much has been said in recent discussion about members of the colour trade devoting their attention solely to that, and leaving the questions appertaining to stamp colours alone, it must be evident to any casual reader that people who devote their lives to the production of a class of articles to serve a definite purpose should know more about such productions than others who have only attained a certain amount of colour knowledge in other walks of life; and when the question of the proper names to be applied to stamp colours comes up for final settlement, not the least aid to that end will come from members of the colour trade.—*From "Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal."*



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.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the 1r. 50c. rose. It is of the same design as the 2r. 25c. which we chronicled in June last (Vol. 22, p. 150), the illustration of which we reproduce. Perf. 14.



Adhesive.
1r. 50c. rose.

Gold Coast. — Mr. Phillips (Stanley Gibbons, Ltd.) has seen an envelope, addressed to the City Auditor's Office, Boston, in 1876, franked with a 6d., *orange*, and one and a half 1d., *blue*, stamps, making up a 7½d. rate. The stamps are perf. 12½.

India. Bussahir.—The *Philatelic Journal of India* says, "The monogram on the ¼, 1, 2, 4, and 8 annas stamps is now being impressed in a greenish-blue ink. We have seen a sheet of the 2 annas with the monogram on the first two stamps impressed in magenta and on the other 48 in greenish-blue. There has been another transfer of the ½ anna stamp. The sheet contains 24 ultramarine stamps in horizontal rows of four, the whole sheet being enclosed in a single lined frame, with the words 'Printed at the Bussahir Press by M.K.B.' added at the foot in script letters. The monogram on the sheet is in rose. The paper is white wove."

New South Wales.—We have received the 1s. of the current series on chalky paper, double surcharge, perf. 12.

Adhesive
Chalky paper.
1s. brown, perf 12 ouble sur.

New Zealand.—The Universal Penny Postage Stamp, the London print of which we chronicled last month (p. 87), has already been printed in the Colony, for specimens of which we are indebted to Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. An Australian contemporary describes them as unwatermarked, and but for the margin paper we should find it difficult to say anything to the contrary, but we have the stamps with margin watermarked, and though we cannot make out the watermark on the stamps we presume they have the double-lined NZ and star. They are printed on a stout wove paper in a bright deep carmine which shows up the design more clearly than the delicate pale carmine of the London print. The perforation gauges 11 and is very roughly done, most of the sheets we have seen being very badly off centre.



Adhesive.
1d. deep carmine, *Colonial print.*

Turks Islands.—Mr. Beckitt writes us that Mr. H. S. Tomson has shown him type 3 in Gibbons' catalogue on the 1s. blue, hitherto unchronicled.

Victoria.—The necessity of keeping its postal and fiscal revenues separate has compelled this Colony to replace the current stamp duty series with one designed for postage only. For this purpose old plates have been used. Mr. Bradbury has kindly sent us copies of the new series, placed alongside previous issue from the old plates.

Halfpenny.—This is a re-issue in dark emerald green of the small label of 1873. The only change is in the colour—from red to the Postal Union green.

One Penny.—The plate of the 1d. of 1883 has been used for this value. The bust has been shortened to make room for the addition of a curved label with the word "Postage" underneath. The re-issue is printed in the Postal Union colour, red.

Twopence.—Type of 1881, unaltered, but printed in a more pronounced mauve, with a cream-tinted gum which may serve to distinguish unused copies, as the gum of the older print was a pure white. The lines of the engraving have apparently been deepened and strengthened throughout.

Twopence-Halfpenny.—This is the current design, with the "Stamp Duty" scroll in the left margin changed into "Postage."

Threepence.—Type of 1866, printed in orange-brown, with lines of engraving deepened and strengthened.

Fivepence.—Current stamp with the words "Stamp Duty" at the base of the bust changed into "Postage." Otherwise unaltered in colour or design.

Sixpence.—Type of 1865, printed in bright emerald green.

One Shilling.—Type of 1873, printed in orange on white paper, otherwise unchanged.

Two Shillings.—Type of 1881, printed in blue on rose paper, otherwise unchanged.

Five Shillings.—Type of 1868 with colours transposed, the lettering and crown being printed in blue, and the framework and centre in vermilion.

We learn that other stamps of the current series are being changed. Indeed, it will be noted that the 4d. and 1s 6d. are not included in the above list, and as the current stamps of these values bear the words "Stamp Duty," they will, of course, be changed. The old 9d. design of 1873, which still does duty, will, presumably, remain unchanged, as it is of a non-committal type.

Western Australia.—We illustrate a new design of the 2½d. value, which we have received from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. It is printed in blue as before but is watermarked Crown W. A., the crown being between the letters. Perf. 14.



Adhesive
2½d., blue, wmk. W. cr. A.

Foreign Countries.

Austria. HUNGARY.—The 1 filler value has been printed in violet and four new values added to the list.

Adhesives.

1 filler, violet.
20 „ brown.
35 „ red-lilac.
2 korona, blue.
5 „ claret.

Afghanistan.—Mr. D. P. Masson has shewn the *Philatelic Journal of India* a new Cabul stamp. "It is," says the *P.J.I.*, "of the two-abasi denomination, and in appearance it closely resembles the one-abasi stamp of 1893; but the date (in the upper right-hand corner) is 1316, instead of 1310, and the new denomination (in the lower left-hand corner) *do miskal do abasi* takes the place of *ek miskal ek abasi*. In the date '13' appears on the left of the long j-like letter, and '16' on its right, whereas in the one-abasi stamp the four figures '1310' appear on the right-hand side of this letter. The stamp appeared on letters received from Cabul in August and early September, and then suddenly stopped. Mr. Masson informs us that it is printed in black on the same thin coloured wove paper as those of the one-abasi stamp. So far it has appeared only on salmon-pink and purple-red papers."

Costa Rica.—After a rest of nine years this Republic has issued a new series which we will illustrate later on. They are the work of Messrs. Waterlow, and are of various designs, including several splendidly-executed portraits. The new value colour is the equivalent of a dollar.

Adhesives.

1 centimo, black and green.
2 centimos, „ vermilion.
5 „ „ pale blue.
10 „ „ yellow-brown.
20 „ „ lake.
50 „ blue and lilac.
1 colon, black and olive.
2 colones „ carmine.
5 „ „ brown
10 „ brown-red and pale green.

Crete.—Yet another explanation of the mysterious overprint on the current series: A correspondent tells the *Monthly Journal*

that he has obtained, from an official source, the following information as to the *provisional* surcharge upon the higher values of the current stamps, It appears that although the stamps have the values expressed in *lepta* and *drachmai*, the money in use hitherto has been *piastres*, of Turkey, which are worth 21 lepta each. The 25l. stamps and higher values were, however, sold at the rate of 25l. to the piastre, as a matter of convenience to the public, and it was therefore necessary to surcharge them to show that they were sold under their actual value. The correspondent adds that when the Greek currency has been introduced the surcharge will no longer be wanted. The numbers surcharged are stated to be :—

25 lepta	..	100,000.
50 ,,	..	25,000.
1 drach.	..	7,500.
2 ,,	..	5,000.
5 ,,	..	2,500.

The 20l. (type of 5l. illustrated), has been changed in colour from rose to orange.



Adhesive.
20l., orange

Denmark. Iceland. — The *Monthly Journal* has received two new stamps with the usual watermark, and perf. $14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$.

Adhesive.
25 aur, blue (centre) and yellow-brown.
Official Stamp.
4 aur, grey.

Germany.—We illustrate the high values of the German Colonial series chronicled by us in January (p. 18).



Italy. Eritrea.—It is again reported that the Italian Government intend making a special issue for this Colony. It is said that the stamps will probably be of a larger size than usual, and in two different types, one representing a lion, the other an elephant.

Spain. Fernando Po.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the first of a new set dated 1900. The design is unchanged. We take the colours from the *Monthly Journal*.

2 centavos,		mauve.
3	,,	bright pink.
4	,,	deep chocolate.
5	,,	bright blue.
6	,,	orange.
8	,,	bronze-green.
10	,,	lake.
15	,,	deep violet.
20	,,	brown.
40	,,	orange-brown.
60	,,	bright green.
80	,,	deep blue.
1 peso,		red-brown.
2 pesos,		orange-vermilion.

The high values are in *pesos*, not *pesetas*.

Turkey.—We have received full sets of the long-talked of new Turkish stamps from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. There are three sets; one for International postage, one for Internal, and a third for Unpaid letters. The Internal and Unpaid series are of the same design, which we illustrate. The International stamps we will illustrate next month. The design is somewhat similar to the others. The International and Internal stamps are printed on a very thin white wove paper. The Unpaids are printed in black on a magenta-coloured paper of ordinary substance. We append the values and colours. Perf. $13\frac{1}{2}$.

Adhesives.

For International Postage.

5 paras,		brown.
10	,,	green.
20	,,	magenta.
1 piastre,		blue.
2 piastres,		blue.
5	,,	yellow.
25	,,	green.
50	,,	lemon.

For Internal Postage.



5 paras,		purple.
20	,,	red.
1 piastre,		dark blue.
2 piastres,		orange.
5	,,	pale magenta.
25	,,	chocolate.
50	,,	pale brown.

For Unpaid Letters.

10 paras,	black	on	magenta paper.
20 ,,	,,	,,	,,
1 piastre,	,,	,,	,,
2 piastres,	,,	,,	,,

Uruguay. — We have received from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., and now illustrate, the 2c. and 7c., which complete the new designs announced in February (p. 45). Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. inform us that they have also received the 25c., 50c. and 1 peso of the designs of 1890 in new colours. We append the full list to date, with illustrations.

Adhesives.

NEW DESIGNS.

1c., green, Herd of cattle.
2c., vermilion, Genius of Agriculture.
5c., slate blue, Genius of Uruguay.
7c., brown, Fertility of the country.
10c., violet, Commerce controlling cattle industry.

TYPES OF 1890, IN NEW COLOURS.

25c., olive brown
50c., lake.
1 peso, green











Philately in the Mags.

Origin of Corrientes Stamps.

The *Monthly Journal* publishes from the pen of Signor J. Marco del Pont the following romantic history of the origin of the designing and engraving of the stamps of Corrientes :—

"The story of the very curious origin of the stamps of Corrientes appears to be almost, if not quite unknown to collectors, and although much has been written about them at different times, the manner in which they came into existence has never been related. They are very interesting stamps, especially to the citizens of the Argentine Republic, for they were the first that were issued in that country, and this is my reason for wishing to write a brief account of them.

"I should commence by stating that the issue of these stamps was really due to the very great want of small change in that country. The monetary system of the Argentine Republic at that period was rather to be termed confusion than system ; the national coinage might be said to be practically non-existent, for the minute quantities struck at La Rioja and Cordoba were hardly worth taking into account. The Province of Corrientes had its own paper money, of the value of 1 real and upwards, but it appears that in 1856 there were no notes in circulation of lower value than 1 dollar. For fractions of a dollar people were obliged to use silver pieces which dated from the times of the Spaniards, and even of these there was too small a supply for business purposes.

"The State Printing Establishment, where the notes were printed, was under the direction of Mr. Paul Emile Coni. It was this Mr. Coni who came to Buenos Ayres in 1862 and there founded the great printing business, which exists to the present day, and which has for many years been regarded as the leading house of its kind in the country, owing to the high character of all its work.

"Mr. Coni came to the conclusion that the most practical means for getting over the great inconvenience, which the want of small change caused at the Provincial Post Office, would be to issue postage stamps, and, being on very good terms with Mr. Jean Pujol, at that time Governor of the Province, he put this suggestion before him. Mr. Pujol was greatly taken with the idea, and gave Mr. Coni authority to carry it out immediately, with a view to the collection of the charges imposed under the law of February 18th, 1856.

"Mr. Coni undertook the work, but he soon discovered that the task was no easy one, as he knew of no engraver in Corrientes who could produce a plate or die for the stamps. Whilst he was in this difficulty he happened to speak of it one day in the hearing of the baker's boy who was bringing bread to his house, when to his great great surprise the lad told him that he was quite capable of doing the work for him, as he had been apprenticed to an engraver in Italy, his native country.

'Mr. Coni showed him a stamp of the French Republic, which the baker's boy undertook to copy. He gave him a copper plate, and ordered him to engrave upon it eight stamps, of the value of *one real* each, making *one dollar* for the eight ; the engraving to be in relief, for printing by typography.

"Several days later the engraver brought the result of his labours, but it was so unsuccessful that Mr. Coni dared not show it to the Governor ; he was the more ashamed of the production, as only a few days previously he had boasted of his "find." However, as there was nothing else to be done, he decided on submitting the stamp to Mr. Pujol, who, in spite of the roughness of the engraving, immediately accepted it, in his haste to issue postage stamps.

"Mr. Coni, to whom I am indebted for the above information, has unfortunately forgotten the name of his engraver."

"Johore" and "Johor."

Messrs. Beckton & Duerst are collaborating in a series of articles on "The Stamps of the Straits Settlements, surcharged for use in the native Protected States." The first article of the series appears in the February number of the *Monthly Journal*, and opens with Johor. As to the two spellings—"Johore" and "Johor"—they write :—

"There seems to be a delightful vagueness about the spelling of the name of this State and its capital. Some authorities say the State and the capital are called 'Johore,' others say it is 'Johor,' others again maintain the State is called 'Johor' and the capital 'Johore.' If the latter be the correct version, it offers a possible reason why some stamps were surcharged 'Johore' and others 'Johor.' The former might be intended for the capital and the latter for the rest of the State. One of the writers remembers receiving both surcharges at the same time from Pemberton, Wilson & Co. amongst a batch of new issues. At the time when these stamps first came from Singapore, the lots contained both surcharges (with and without final 'E'), and it was much debated which of the two

would become the scarce one. He, in common with another then well-known collector, Mr. G. Wyndham Binns, of Manchester, whose brother was a captain of a trading vessel in those parts, came to the conclusion that 'Johore' was the correct spelling, and therefore that 'Johor' was abnormal, consequently that the stamps with this surcharge would become in time the rarer variety. Subsequent events, however, have proved otherwise. One of the principal reasons for thinking 'Johore' to be the right spelling was the obliteration, in which the name was invariably spelled in that way.

"The fact that the stamps with a final 'E' were issued at intervals, over three or four years, concurrently with those without final 'E,' and that three out of four of the types with final 'E' are in distinctly similar letters to those current at the same time without final 'E' (although the settings up are quite different), seems to point to the two ways of spelling being known to the officials, and negatives any suggestion that the stamps with final 'E' were either errors in spelling or carelessness on the part of the printers.

"This same fact also sets aside the contention that 'Johore' might have been the official spelling up to a certain period, after which it was altered to 'Johor.'

"Taking these and other matters into consideration, the conclusion we have come to is, that the two ways of spelling were intentional and official, that they were in use at the same time, and were issued advisedly to serve some useful purpose, probably of a fiscal or financial character, the one series being used possibly for the capital and the other for the State."

Johor's First Stamp.

Messrs. Beckton & Duerst, after setting out in the *Monthly Journal* the evidence *pro* and *con*, as to the claims of the surcharge Crescent and Star to be regarded as the first stamp issued by the native State of Johor, reject the stamp. They rely mainly on a speech by Mr. Howard E. Bentley before the divan of Johor on November 16th, 1891, who stated that Johor was connected for the first time by a regular postal service with Singapore on June 16th, 1884. Therefore, the Crescent and Star catalogued as issued in 1878 must be condemned as an interloper of rather premature birth.

Bundi: 1894, Half-anna.

Our keenest sympathy is always enlisted for the earnest student of the native stamps of the native States of India. Major Evans is most courageously endeavouring in the *Monthly Journal* to clear up their many mysteries. Few of the natives are more forbidding than the stamps of Bundi. Their vagaries may be gathered from the following description which Major Evans gives of an entire sheet of the Half-anna which he has recently obtained:—

"The sheet is of thin *wove* paper, on which alone the stamps of this issue are known, and contains 294 stamps, arranged in two unequal panes. Each pane consists of fourteen horizontal rows, but one of them has *ten* stamps in a row and the other *eleven*. The two panes are side by side on the sheet, and one is placed one way up and the other the reverse way; so that the left-hand pane is the right way up, whichever way the sheet is looked at.

"The panes are not very regular in shape, the one containing 140 stamps measures 207 mm. in width at the top and 210 mm. at the bottom, 265 mm in height at the left and 270 mm. at the right. The other, containing 154 stamps, measures 217 mm. at top, 223 mm. at bottom, 277 mm. at left, and 270 mm. at right The stamps on the larger pane are thus narrower on the average than those on the smaller; the majority of the former are square, and some are even upright rectangular in shape, whilst all of the 140 are more or less oblong.

The name of the State (in the pane of 154) is at the top, and the value at the bottom, and the last two letters of the value are in two instances placed below the rest, there being insufficient space for it in the one line; these are No. 11 in the second row and No. 1 in the tenth row.

"On the other pane the ovals are more oblong. All the stamps in the top row of ten have the *value* at the top, and the *name* below, instead of in the position in which those inscriptions occur on every other stamp on the sheet."

In fact, to make a long story short, every blessed stamp in this blessed sheet is a distinct variety. Ye Gods! Here's a chance for plating!

Chili: 1901. Sur. "5" Decree.

The *Monthly Journal* publishes the following Decree authorising the 5c. provisional —large figure "5" surcharged on 30c.— chronicled and illustrated in our last number, p. 88:—

"Santiago, 12 Dec., 1900. In view of the note of the Director of the Treasury, stating that the stock is exhausted both of the 5c. postage stamps and of the Bill stamps of the same value, which were authorised for the franking of correspondence by Decree 3921 of 25 Oct. last, and in view also of the statement of the Director-General of Posts, I decree:—

"'That the Director-General of the Treasury be authorised to cancel by means of perforation 1,750,000 postage stamps of the value of 30c. The use of the stamps thus cancelled is authorised for postage, such stamps to be considered as of the value of 5c.'"

The *M. J.* says:—"It was recommended to the Director of the Treasury, in carrying out this Decree, that 'the perforation should

consist of a numeral "5," similar to those used by banks for expressing amounts on cheques, etc., and that care should be taken that the perforation of all the stamps should be exactly the same.' This system, however, was apparently not found to be practicable, for a further notice, dated 27th December, 1900, states:—

"'The Director of the Treasury has been authorised to surcharge by lithography 1,750,0.0 30c. postage stamps, in order to replace the 5c. stamps, which are exhausted.'"

Samoa: Ex-Postmaster Davis.

We are indebted to the *Montreal Philatelist* for the following sketch of Mr. J. Davis, late Postmaster of Samoa:—

"Mr. J. Davis, late Postmaster of Samoa, is in Auckland. Mr. Davis long enjoyed the distinction of being Postmaster, both under the King and the Treaty Powers. He was first appointed to the position in 1885, by the three Consuls, British, American and German, who were then governing the municipality of Apia. In 1886 he was appointed by Malietoa, the king, as Postmaster of the kingdom of Samoa, and continued in the office up to February 28, 1900. Mr. Davis has experienced several revolutions and civil wars, but his position was always maintained by the party in power, his latest appointment being from the young King Malietoa, who was put in the kingship by the Powers in 1898. Mr. Davis had the designing of his own stamps, and the dies have always been in the hands of the New Zealand Goverment, by whom they have always been printed. Among the most interesting of the stamp issues is that known as the 'Black Error,' when the head of Malietoa was printed in the New Zealand office, black, which was considered a reflection on His Majesty's complexion. Another most interesting issue is the Samoan stamp with the word 'provisional' printed across it diagonally. This issue is historical, as it was printed by the authority of the Chief Justice during the late Samoan war, and was the last to appear prior to Germany taking over the island. Mr. Davis is going down to Wellington to break the dies of his stamps, and so conclude not only his own connection with the postal business, but the final scene in a most interesting and unique official career. Mr. Davis, who has known Samoa for 27 years, and who has vested interests there, says that the British residents seem to be getting on very well under German rule. He speaks in the highest terms of the Governor, Dr. Solf, whom he declares to be one of the finest officials who has ever held power in the islands. He says, however, that a good number of Britishers are moving over to Pago Pago, which place, since it has been made the port of call for the San Francisco mail steamers, and the naval depôt for the United States Government, promises to grow into an important centre."

Cuba: 1855. "Y¼."

Mr. S. Chapman, in a letter published in the *Monthly Journal*, adds materially to the now overwhelming evidence in favour of the contention that Y, in the Cuban surcharge of Y¼ issued in 1855, was simply an abbreviation for "Interior." We quote his interesting letter *in extenso*:—

"1. The statement that 'Interior' is never written with 'Y' in Spanish is not correct. When the word appears in the midst of a sentence, where it would naturally commence with a small letter, it is true that, to the best of my recollection, it is always written 'interior.' But when the word is brought into prominence and commences a sentence, or is spelt wholly with capitals, I have frequently noted the use of the 'Y'; and if Mr. Gainsborg will search for the word thus placed he will doubtless find it sometimes with 'I' and sometimes with 'Y,' as well as other words commonly spelt with 'I.' The following examples may suffice:—

"*Old.*	'Yttem' and 'Ittem' 'Yglesia' for 'Iglesia'	29th Sept., 1602. In the conditions under which the Postmaster-General of Mexico was appointed by the King of Spain, etc., q.v.

Eagle Series of Stamps.

"1864 *and* 1865.	164,1864.	Surcharged 'I del Carmen,' postmarked 'YSLA del Carmen.'
	13 on 217,1864.	Postmarked 'YRAPUATO.'
	28,1865.	'YGUALA,' both surcharge and postmark.
"*Most recent.*	The postmarks of Minas and Puerto-Principe, 1898-99 (see *Monthly Journal*, plate facing page 124), read 'YSLA DE CUBA.' See also *Grosses' Handbuch*, p. 597, etc.	

"2. If Mr. Gainsborg will carefully read the decree of 15th November, 1855, he will see it speaks of 'el establecimiento del *correo interior*' (the word 'interior' here being in the midst of a sentence) 'en esta ciudad y sus *barrios extramuros*'

"And it goes on, 'Las cartas ó pliegos para el correo interior no están sugetos para su franqueo á la apreciación de su peso pues *con* UN SOLO TIMBRE *de á un cuarto de real* . . . es bastante para su libre circulación.'

"Now, with a copy of this document in front of one, and which, although worded so clearly, says nothing whatever about a charge for delivery, there is no longer any need for anyone to *theorise*, because the decree says as plainly as language can 'letters or packets for the interior post are not charged by weight, but a *single stamp* of a quarter of a real is sufficient for their free circulation.'

"Here there is nothing about *plus* ¼ *real*, as Mr. Gainsborg has it. He admits the possibility that the rate for letters within the city at that period might have been fixed at ¼ real, but contends that in that case 'U' or 'CORREO URBANO' should have been printed on the stamps Here, again, I refer to the decree which speaks of '*Correo interior*, en esta ciudad *y sus barrios extramuros*,' thereby clearly defining a ¼ real

rate, not only in the city, *but also in the suburbs* (extramuros = beyond the walls), and for this service 'Urbano' would have been distinctly wrong, whilst 'Interior' is the correct expression.

"Having shown that 'Y' and 'I' are frequently interchanged on the western side of the Atlantic (what may be done in Spain does not affect a local service in Cuba or Mexico), and that 'Interior' and not 'Urbano' is the correct word to use, it is not very incomprehensible that 'Y¼' should have been used in surcharging the stamps to meet the requirements of this new service, especially as 'I.¼' would have looked uncommonly like one and a quarter.

"With regard to the Chilian Society, I can only assume they had not seen the decree in question when adopting Mr. Gainsborg's theory. I have little doubt but that they will welcome further information on the subject."

Notes and News.

In Parliament.

BRITISH POST OFFICE AT SALONIKA.

In the House of Lords on 7th March, 1901, Lord Newton asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what steps were being taken to obtain from the Porte the recognition of the British Post Office established last year at Salonika; and whether he would undertake that the expenditure sanctioned for one year in connection with this Post Office should be renewed in the event of the Porte still refusing recognition at the expiration of that period.

The Marquis of Lansdowne: The subject which the noble lord has brought before your lordships has engaged the attention of the Foreign Office for some time past, and I do not know that our object differs very greatly from that which he has expressed. We came to the conclusion that it was desirable, in the interests of our considerable commercial community in Salonika, that there should be a British Post Office there, and it seemed to us only reasonable that privileges which had already been conceded in that port to other Powers—France and Austria—should not be denied to us. We thought our case was strengthened owing to the fact that lately another foreign Power —Germany—has been allowed to establish Post Offices at Beirut, Jerusalem, and Smyrna. The Porte objected to our proposal, and we did not think, under the circumstances, that the objection was founded upon sufficient grounds. But in view of that objection, as a provisional measure, we opened a Post Office in the buildings of the Consular Office at Salonika, and that Post Office has been open since May of last year. That arrangement was not only an inconvenient but a very expensive one. Owing to the fact that the mails have to be carried by messengers from Salonika to the frontier, the expense is about £700 a year. The noble lord asked us what steps we have taken in order to deal with this difficulty. I find that in October last a representation was made to the Turkish Ambassador. That representation was repeated in January of the present year, and at the same time representations were made at Constantinople through the British Ambassador at that place. I heard a few days ago, unofficially, it is true, but from a reliable source, that we might expect a reply to these representations in a few days. That reply has not yet reached us; but since the noble lord's notice appeared on the paper I have again mentioned the subject to the Turkish Ambassador, and pressed upon him the necessity of putting an end to the procrastination that has already taken place with regard to this subject. That is all the information I can give my noble friend at present. He also asks us whether we will undertake that the expenditure sanctioned for one year in connection with this Post Office shall be renewed in the event of the Porte declining to comply with our representations. I will ask my noble friend to excuse me from discussing the possible financial arrangements we might make in the hypothetical case of the Porte's continuing to turn a deaf ear to our representations. Those representations will still be urged, and until we learn the result of them I think it is better not to enter into the question of the financial arrangements that might be made in case the negotiations should fail.—*The Times*.

NEW POSTAGE STAMPS.

In the House of Commons on 11th March, 1901.

In answer to Mr. Henniker Heaton (Canterbury),

Mr. Austen Chamberlain said: The necessary steps are being taken for the issue of new postage stamps, but it is not expected that they will be ready for some months to come. The Postmaster-General would point out to the hon. member that, with the exception of the half-penny, penny, and shilling stamps, all the adhesive stamps now in use do bear figures clearly indicating their value, and the same plan will probably

be continued. In the case of the three stamps particularized, they are of so distinctive a character that it was not thought necessary to print on them the value in figures as well as in words, and the Postmaster-General is not aware of any inconvenience having resulted. He does not think it desirable to submit the designs of the proposed stamps to the public. The Postmaster-General is not satisfied that any sufficient reason exists for altering the colour of the penny stamp as suggested by the hon. member.

Stamp Frauds.

At Marlborough Street (Feb. 15th, 1901), James Bulmer, 20, described as a student of St. Mark's College, Chelsea, surrendered to his bail before Mr. Denman to answer the remanded charge of having stolen three stamp albums, worth about £15, belonging to Charles Daly, a stamp dealer, of Great Portland Street, W. Mr. Arthur Newton, solicitor, prosecuted; and Mr. Rowsell, barrister, was for the defence.

The evidence showed that Bulmer went to Mr. Daly's shop and induced Laura Wilkinson, who at the time was in charge of the premises, to part with the albums in order, as he said, that his uncle, Dr. Boxall, of Portland Place, might select some stamps for him and return those not purchased the same evening. The accused did not return, and the police were communicated with, the result being that he was arrested. Dr. Boxall knew nothing of him.

Mr Daly now deposed that the value of his stamps was about £50 in reality, the amount of £15 being put down in error. They had all been taken from the albums and put into another book he had seen in possession of the police. Three further charges were here preferred against the prisoner.

Mr. Newton said that the prisoner appeared to have carried on systematic frauds on stamp dealers all over the country, and was believed to have obtained stamps worth in the aggregate the sum of £400. Further evidence was then given in support of the charges. Mr. Newton subsequently informed the magistrate that in possession of the prisoner 6,000 or 7,000 stamps were found. He was instructed, after another remand was granted, to ask that the accused should be committed for trial.

Prisoner was sentenced to three months' imprisonment.

Finland Errors: A Warning.

Collectors and dealers are warned against buying so-called errors of the new issue of Finnish stamps which are being offered by printed circular. These consist of the 1 mark stamps with misplaced centre, also with centre missing; the 2 penni printed in green instead of orange; the 5 penni printed in orange instead of green; the 10 penni printed in blue instead of red; and the 20 penni stamp printed in red instead of blue. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have received information that these stamps are quite unofficial, and have been purposely made by the printers as a private speculation, without the knowledge or consent of the authorities, and are therefore entirely spurious.

Speculation in ½d. Bermudas.

The speculator has been busy with the "one-farthing" Bermuda surcharge. Here is a sample letter received by Messrs. Alfred Smith & Co.:—

HAMILTON BERMUDA
January 28 1901

Messrs. Alfred Smith & Son
Bath

Dear Sirs

Having purchased a large portion of the one shilling gray stamps surcharged ONE FARTHING I beg to offer you same at present market value viz 1/- one shilling each up to £20 twenty pounds worth above £20 10% discount, as all of these stamps were purchased immediately they were issued and out of the total quantity of £250 £235 worth were bought up by three dealers they will consequently be of great value to collectors, knowing you to be a large dealer I thought I would first correspond with you, because by having them in few hands you can demand a better price. Trusting I may be favoured with an order from you

I remain
Yours faithfully

. . . . . .

Should you not desire to purchase any will you give me the name of some good stamp paper to advertise in.

The first copies that arrived in this country are said to have been sold at 1s. each. Later on the price was dropped to 6d. But Messrs. Bright & Son sold their supplies at 1d. each, and they inform us that a second and identical supply of over 400,000 has gone out. Mr Speculator, who wanted to do a little fleecing, will probably burn his fingers—at all events, it is to be hoped he will. Forty-eight times face would have yielded him a nice little profit.

Mafeking Controversy.

The controversy on Mafekings shows no diminution of interest. On the contrary, it has acquired a peculiar interest consequent on the attitude recently taken up by the *Monthly Journal*. Our contemporary was the first to boom Mafekings, and, it is said, the booming resulted in roaring sales at 391, Strand, at prices that mounted up into the vicinity of the best endeavours of that charming locality.

Then the auctions followed suit, but as the supplies seemed inexhaustible prices drooped and drooped, till instead of the £100 a set which was predicted, sets were sold as low as £18.

Et puis, the *Monthly Journal* came out with a real surprise. The gallant Major thundered out, "Right about face! charge!" and went for them. Mafekings were torn

to shreds. They were denounced as being of "an entirely fancy nature," and "made to give a few people something to do, and to give others a chance of making money."

Et puis, arose the Champion Mafeking Specialist of Oxford City, who, in the pages of the *London Philatelist*, endeavours to make mincemeat of the Major and the Strand firm.

We do not propose to get in the way of these terrible pom-poms, and only mention the fray as a possible explanation of the blood-red rain recently noted on the Continent.

"The Philatelic Journal of India."

Philatelists at home will be very glad to hear that our friends in India have succeeded in persuading Mr. C. Stewart-Wilson, the talented editor of the *Philatelic Journal of India*, to withdraw his resignation, and to resume his editorial control of our excellent Indian contemporary. May it long flourish in his able hands!

Mr. Masson's "Kashmir."

The *Philatelic Journal of India* announces that early during the present year the Philatelic Society of India will publish Vol. II. of Mr. Masson's splendid book on Kashmir. It is, in fact, practically finished, and we are promised that it will be a worthy continuation of Vol. I.

New Price Lists.

Messrs. Whitfield King & Co have sent us their Annual Price List for 1901. It is very neatly got up in the same size as their Catalogue, and comprises a tempting array of new variety packets and many pages of cheap sets.

From Messrs. Cameron & Co., of Jersey, we have their March List of Sets of British Colonials.

Messrs. Kirkpatrick & Pemberton announce a "Popular British and Colonial Price List," to be ready in April.

Mr. Walter Morley sends us his Revised Price List of South African War Stamps, overprinted V.R.I.

Notices.

Subscriptions:—The *Philatelic Record* will be sent, post free, to any address, at home or abroad, for 5s. 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 Dealer.

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

Advertisement Rates.—Net.

Space per insertion.	Single.	3 months.	6 months.	12 months.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Whole Page	3 0 0	2 16 6	2 12 6	2 0 0
Half Page	1 15 0	1 10 0	1 7 0	1 2 6
Quarter Page	1 0 0	0 18 0	0 15 0	0 12 6

Advertisements must be received not later than the 12th of the month for publication in the next issue.

All Foreign Orders for Advertisements must be *prepaid*.

THE

Philatelic Record

EDITED BY

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

Member of the Institute of Journalists.

MAY, 1901.

Editorial Notes.

THERE is no question that a good Philatelic Club is badly needed in London. It is wanted, not merely as a meeting-place for Philatelists resident in and near London, but also as a rendezvous for provincial and foreign Philatelists during their visits to the Metropolis. It has been tried in a perfunctory manner and by the wrong people. To succeed it must, from the start, be backed by leading Philatelists.

Philatelic Club Wanted in London.

Mr. C. J. Phillips, fresh from New York, where he enjoyed the hospitality of the Collectors' Club, says in the *Monthly Journal*: "What is wanted is for a small private company to be formed. Let them lease a good house within a half-mile of Charing Cross. Let out to the London Stamp Societies various rooms, to be their own private property. Have one large room, formed perhaps by throwing the rooms of a whole floor together, for Auctions, Exhibitions, etc., etc., a good billiard room, and some arrangements for a grill-room if possible, and I will guarantee that, under the management of good business men, and with the backing of the various Societies and the trade, the thing could be made a fair commercial investment, and in time a real success."

If the adhesion of the London Stamp Societies, the Auctioneers, and the trade could be secured, much might be done. A successful London Philatelic Club would be a great help in numberless ways. Collectors and dealers from all parts of the world, year after year, pass and re-pass each other in the busy thoroughfares of the Metropolis with never a nod of recognition. They are well known to each other by reputation, but only by reputation. They have never had an opportunity of becoming *personally* acquainted, and so long as we have no common meeting-place they will continue, to the end of the chapter, to pass and re-pass each other as strangers in our streets.

All feel the need of a place of meeting, open to all, and if the right people could start it in the right way, and avoid the blighting curse of cliquism, we might make London the pleasantest of all Philatelic centres. With a low subscription for London members, an almost nominal subscription for country members, and generous regulations

for temporary membership for our foreign confreres, a large membership would be got together.

The prime object should be to get as comprehensive a membership as possible, and a large membership can only be secured by low subscriptions. High subscriptions will dwarf the enterprise and reduce the attendance to a clique. The rooms of the Philatelic Society of London are open all day ; there is a two guinea subscription ! and no one dreams of going thither in the hope of meeting a few congenial spirits. One solitary Philatelic hermit keeps watch and ward over a Philatelic wilderness, and so it will be in any Philatelic Club started with a high subscription, for only the few can afford to sprinkle subscriptions lavishly about in all directions. Besides, it is numbers that pay in the long run, and numbers, even apart from finance, will be most needed to make any Philatelic Club a real success.

Then again, Mr. Phillips' suggestion of drawing societies, auctioneers and the trade together in one building, each having its own particular cosy corner, is an admirable one. From out the depths of those cosy corners, all could forgather in a still cosier, arm-chaired, smoking-room, and there, in friendly converse, we should bridge over many a gulf that now divides too many Philatelic interests.

We have a further chapter to add to the endless Mafeking controversy.

Mafeking Controversy : "Box and Cox" Style.

Last month (p. 119) we referred to the attack made upon Mafeking stamps by Major Evans in the *Monthly Journal*, and Mr. Turner's *exposé* of the anomalous position of the *Monthly Journal* as having led the way in first booming them.

Mr. C. J. Phillips, as Managing Director of Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., the proprietors of the *Monthly Journal*, in its March number, now explains that Major Evans, as editor, has a "free hand to say exactly what he thought of any stamp, or issue of stamps." Those who know Major Evans best know perfectly well that he is far too independent as a Philatelic writer to agree to any arrangement which would in the slightest degree fetter that independence.

Still, it must be admitted that a "Box and Cox" arrangement, under which the Managing Director mounts the rostrum one month and booms certain stamps with all the energy of which he is capable, and after a few months of big sales at big prices the editor gets into the same forum and states the self-same stamps as worthless, is a bit confusing to the common garden variety of collector, who does not see so much behind the scenes as some of us. As a compromise in the interest of the Collector, we would suggest that in future the "slating" should come first and the booming should follow. Then the unfortunate collector would buy with his eyes open from the start.

It is only fair to add that Mr. Phillips still holds to his first opinion as to the value and genuineness of the stamps, and that he has largely increased his stock. Personally we do not believe there ever was the slightest necessity for the issues ; nevertheless, we recognise the fact that they did postal service, and that they will probably always hold a recognised place as Philatelic souvenirs of a notable historical event, in spite of all that can be said against them.

Neapolitan Provinces.

The Half Tornese and Two Grana Black Errors.

By Dr. Emilio Diena.

THE errors of color in the set of stamps of 1861 for the Neapolitan Provinces, although known to some specialists in Italian States for the last few years, have not been the subject of any reference in the Philatelic press.

Having had the good fortune to examine what I presume to be almost all the few known copies of these varieties, and to find some mention of them in the correspondence between the General Italian Post Office, then in Turin, and the former Postal Administration of the Neapolitan Provinces, I am now pleased to publish the result of my researches.



The errors, known so far, are the following :—

½ tornese, black (instead of green).
2 grana, black (instead of blue).

Both these stamps were sold as 1 grano, to which value the black or greyish-black impression was appropriate, and it is important to add that they have been certainly *used* as 1 grano stamps.

The postage for letters not exceeding the weight of 10 grammes, circulating in the Neapolitan Provinces, was 2 grana (about 8 centesimi, Italian currency). It is, therefore, evident that the specimens reproduced in the accompanying illustrations, kindly lent me by leading collectors, were used as 1 grano stamps. The first letter is addressed from Roccagloriosa (a small town in the Province of Salerno) to Naples, and the other from Potenza to Salerno.



All the copies of these errors I examined, some of which are in poor condition, bearing respectively the above-mentioned postmarks, *i.e.*, Roccagloriosa for the ½ tornese, and Potenza (this postmark was generally very fairly impressed in greyish ink) for the 2 grana. From this fact we infer that one or perhaps a few "Post Office sheets" were issued in the above-named towns, an important item for the unearthing of further copies.

I purposely say "Post Office sheets," because these stamps, although lithographed in sheets of 100, were delivered to the Controller

of Stamps in groups of 50, without marginal borders, each group containing ten horizontal rows of five stamps.

The first mention of these errors in the official correspondence is found in the following letter* :—

General Direction of Posts, Railways and Telegraphs.

Post Office Branch. (No. 1565.)

Enclosures: Six sheets of stamps.

Naples, *February 28th*, 1861.

Among the stamps received from you, 300 specimens were found in the colour of those of 1 grano, but bearing the value of ½ tornese.

In returning them, I beg you to have them duly exchanged with the same quantity of 1 grano labels, which please remit to this General Direction.

With kind regards,

The Director General,
(*Signed*) Bellelli.

To the General Post Office, Turin.

By an oversight, the six sheets were not enclosed in the above letter, but they were sent to Turin on the following day.

On March 9th a further supply, consisting of 190,000 stamps, was sent from Turin, to which 300 1 grano stamps were added, "to substitute those of ½ tornese sent in a colour not conform to that which has been determined."

In another supply sent to Naples on April 8th, 200 stamps were found "bearing the wrong inscription," as mentioned in the following letter :—

Departmental Postal Direction. (No. 5496.)

Enclosures: 200 stamps.

Naples, *April 11th*, 1861.

Per the s.s which left Genoa on the evening of the 8th instant, and which reached here this morning, I received the parcel containing the postage stamps, notice of which you sent me in your letter of the ——instant.

The regular receipt for the stamps found in the said parcel has been written, as usual, on the enclosed Form No. 46A, in which you will find, in the column reserved to special remarks, that, among the ordinary 1 grano stamps, we meet with two hundred specimens bearing a wrong inscription. They are returned to you herewith, in order to have them duly exchanged.

The Departmental Director,
(*Signed*) C. Vaccheri.

To the General Post Office, Turin.

* The first consignment was sent from Turin on February 9th, 1861. It included 15,000 ½ tornese, 10,000 1 grano, 60,000 2 grana, 50,000 5 grana, and 10,000 20 grana stamps. The second consignment was sent on 23rd of the same month. It included 40,000 ½ tornese, 30,000 1 grano, 55,000 2 grana, and 55,000 5 grana stamps.

In accordance with the preceding letter, 200 1 grano stamps were sent from Turin on April 16th, to replace those with a wrong inscription returned from Naples, but not even from this letter do we gather what the wrong inscription was. I am inclined to think that it was *due grana*. In fact the only specimen I have seen bearing a postmark the date of which could be determined was on the letter here reproduced, bearing on back the postmark of Salerno, July 17th, 1861, a date which will be found to be sufficiently near to the receipt of the irregular stamps at Naples, a portion of which would not have been detected either by the Controller of Stamps or the Post Office officials.

Again, in the supply sent to Naples on November 6th, 1861, a sheet of fifty ½ tornese black stamps was discovered among those of 1 grano. It was returned to Turin on the 12th of the same month, and not before January 16th, 1862, was it exchanged for ordinary 1 grano stamps. As the used specimens of these errors bear the dates of January 19th and April 20th, 1862, we can infer that they were included in a supply sent from Turin during the last months of 1861.

No doubt it will seem strange that such an oversight occurred more than once, and that some specimens with wrong inscription duly paid postage. But we must consider the period in which these mistakes took place.

The little and homely *atélier* of Mr. Matraire, where the Sardinian stamps were printed, had at the time an ever-increasing work to do. It had to supply postage and, later on, revenue stamps and other Government securities not only to the former little Sardinian States, but also to almost all the Provinces of the then freshly-constituted Italian Kingdom.

We know that the premises (in the Palazzo dei Santi Martiri), contiguous to the Post Office in which the printing and lithographic work was done, were very small, and that Mr. Matraire endeavoured for a long time to obtain larger premises. To this we have to add that both the staff and the printing and lithographic machines were inadequate. Not taking into consideration the various errors, misprints, etc., known in an unused condition which were found among what we call "Matraire remainders," I have noted as a matter of fact that many of the specimens of the Sardinian stamps with inverted head were used on letters of 1861, or in the first month of 1862. Moreover, the 10 and 20 grana exist in an absolutely identical shade, while the 5 grana varies from vermilion-red to pale rose and light mauve, thus proving that the work was performed with a great amount of inconsistency. To 1861 also belongs the Sardinian one centesimo black stamp, bearing the embossed figure 2, an error well known in used condition and also on original.

On the other hand, the Postal Service, in so defective and backward a state in those Provinces under the Bourbon Government, was then moving in an entirely new direction under a radical reorganisation.

But to return to our subject, we may venture a supposition as to the existence of the ½ tornese black stamps. As ½ tornese is equivalent to about 1 centesimo, I presume that it had been contemplated at first to print that value in black, as adopted for the 1 centesimo journal stamp of Sardinia (and Italy), issued on January 1st of the same year

(1861), a stamp having a "family likeness" to those under consideration. Thus, a limited printing of black ½ tornese stamps must have been prepared, which afterwards got mixed with the 1 grano sheets.

The two varieties are certainly very interesting, and are entitled to the recognition that we accord to our old friends the ½ neug, black on light blue, Saxony, of 1851; the 9 kr., green, Baden, of 1851; the ½ grano, blue, Sicily; the 2 pence, mauve, Western Australia, and other *rarae aves*.

An English Philatelic Congress.

By a Collector-Dealer.

OUR German friends make a pleasant business of their Annual Philatelic Congresses, and our English collectors and dealers who attend those gatherings vote them most enjoyable. There is such an agreeable and judicious mixture of business and pleasure that they could scarcely be other than enjoyable.

Now, it seems to me that we only want some genial, influential soul to promote such gatherings in this country to make them as pleasant and as profitable here as in Germany.

Let me map out an imaginary programme: suppose we give three days to the meeting. The mornings should be given up to the reading of papers upon Philatelic questions of the day and their discussion. The afternoons to auctions, buying, selling, exchanging and displays, or excursions. The evenings to dinners, garden parties, and conversaziones.

Rooms can be had on reasonable terms for such gatherings at any good hotel.

All that is wanted is for some genial and influential soul with a knack for management to take the matter up and get a few to guarantee expenses, which could be met by a small charge for tickets of membership.

It would do the pursuit and its devotees a power of good to meet and break down once a year the party walls that divide collectors from dealers.

And as for questions for discussion, they are as plentiful as could be desired. Wouldn't the question of collectors publishing a priced catalogue; the status and effect, and the conduct of auctions; the ranking of varieties; and many other questions, give rise to brisk debates?

I trust I have said enough to set the ball rolling for a Congress in the autumn. The first should be in London, and then turn about in other great Philatelic centres, such as Birmingham, Manchester, &c.

New South Wales: Recent Perfs.

By the Editor.

In collaboration with Louis E. Bradbury and A. R. Barrett.

A VERY interesting contribution to the classification and arrangement of recent and current perforations on the stamps of New South Wales is afforded in the following extract from the January number of the *Australian Journal of Philately*:—

"There are eight perforating machines in use. Each is furnished with a number of needles, or perforators. Five machines are triple cutters, viz.:—Perforate three sides at a time; and three are single cutters, perforating one line at a time. The first four are alike, and mostly used, but as the sizes of the stamps vary, while the three sides of these cutters are all alike and fixed, some values have to be perforated on the single cutters. Before being perforated, each sheet of 240 stamps has to be cut in two, the perforators only being wide enough to take twelve in a row. About eight or ten sheets can be perforated at once, a row being done at a time. With four men working, about five thousand sheets of 120 stamps, making a total of 600,000 stamps, can be put through in a day.

"The 3d., 5d., 5s., and 20s. postage values, as well as most of the duty and railway stamps, have to be perforated on the single cutters.

"We have been enabled to gauge the perforations of the eight machines, and the following information will, no doubt, be of special interest to the advanced Philatelist:—

"Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4, triple cutters, all gauge 11½, and have been 12 to 14 years in use.

"Nos. 5 and 7, single cutters, all gauge 12, and have been 12 to 14 years in use.

"No. 6, single cutter, gauge 11, and has been 15 years in use.

"No. 8, triple cutter, gauge 12, is an Adelaide machine, and has been in use since 1897. This is a good machine and works on a different principle to all the others, but it is seldom used, for the simple reason that unless all the stamps are printed at equal distances, and are of the same size, the perforations cut into the design.

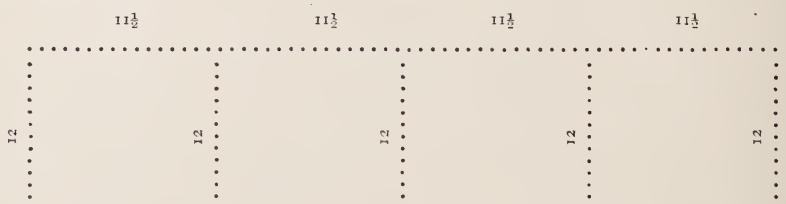
"When one set of needles, or perforators, is broken, another is made on the premises to fit into the same bed, and are presumably the same gauge. The authorities do not, however, worry themselves over a matter of this sort; so long as the stamps are properly turned out they are satisfied.

"We have also made the discovery that it is possible for a number of stamps, all of the same denomination, to be issued on the same day, some of which may have been perforated on each of the eight machines. This can, of course, only apply to those stamps which can be perforated on the triple cutters. There could, however, be simple

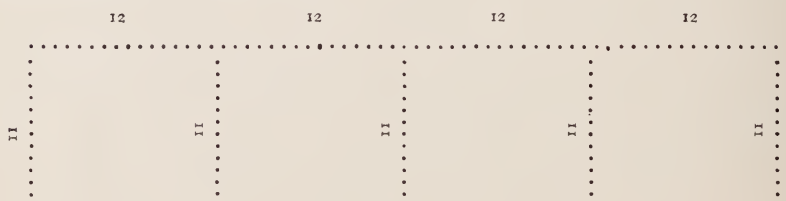
and compound perforations of machines numbers 5, 6, and 7, all in one day, of the 3d., 5d., 5s., 10s., and 20s. values. For instance, supposing a triple cutter breaks down, the man working that machine may go to any single cutter according to choice. Then again, if two men are perforating on the single cutters, the same denominations, one perforates horizontally and the other vertically, one of the two may go to another job, and the other goes on perforating vertically and horizontally on the same machine. Therefore, it is quite possible to have on the same day one value, some of which are perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$ all round, 12 all round, or $11\frac{1}{2}$ by 12, and *vice versâ*."

The gauge of Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 triple cutters is given as $11\frac{1}{2}$. But it is a curious fact that there is no current stamp of New South Wales perf $11\frac{1}{2}$ all round. Can our Australian contemporary explain?

With Mr. Bradbury we have carefully examined several blocks of various values, and have found ample evidence that there must be two triple cutters, one gauging 12 × $11\frac{1}{2}$, thus:



and the other 11 × 12, thus:



The teeth of the comb machines, or triple cutters, perforate the tops and bottoms of the stamps, therefore the sheets are perforated sideways, except the $2\frac{1}{2}$d., which, being an oblong rectangular stamp, has to be put in upright.

Our examination of perforations leads us also to the conclusion that there must be three single cutters, viz., 11, $11\frac{1}{2}$, and 12. Our Australian contemporary mentions the 11 and 12 single cutters only, but makes no mention of any $11\frac{1}{2}$ single cutter. We find several stamps, including the 5d. and 5s., perf. 11 × $11\frac{1}{2}$, or $11\frac{1}{2}$ × 11, which must be the work of single cutters.

These various gauges of perforation since 1883 have, as Mr. Castle remarks in the *London Philatelist*, "been very involved," but only because no one has attempted their proper separation and classification. When Mr. Castle goes on to say that they "have had but the slightest Philatelic interest," we apprehend that few will agree with him who have extended their interest in the stamps of this important Colony

from the older down to the later issues. Why the later perforations should be any less interesting than the earlier remains to be explained.

The *Australian Journal of Philately* has opened up the road to classification, and Mr. L. E. Bradbury has kindly supplied us with the following very carefully prepared tables of varieties of colours and perforations of the current designs. In the first, under each perforation, he has placed a cross opposite each stamp known in that particular perforation. Our readers may know of others, and if they keep the table by them they can fill up blanks, and we shall be glad of their help to complete our list.

VARIETIES OF COLOURS AND PERFORATIONS OF CURRENT DESIGNS OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

Type	Values and Colours.	Wmk.	Perforations.																				Chalk Paper.	
			10	11	12	12½ to 13	10 × 11	10 × 11½	10 × 12	*10 × 12½	11 × 10	11 × 11½	11 × 12	11½ × 10	11½ × 11	11½ × 12	12 × 10	12 × 11	12 × 11½	12½ × 10	11½ × 12	12 × 11½
1	½d., grey, slate	Cr. N S W	×	×	×				×				×						×			×
1	½d., green	,,			×								×						×			
2	1d., scarlet, Die I. ..	,,			×			×					×						×			×
2	1d., ,, Die II. ..	,,			×			×					×						×			×
3	2d., sky, deep, violet-blue	,,			×								×					×	×			
3	2d., ultramarine ..	,,			×								×					×	×			
4	2½d., purple, Die I. ..	,,		×	×								×			×		×	×			
4	2½d., ,, Die II. ..	,,			×								×			×						
4	2½d., navy, purple-blue..	,,			×											×						
5	3d., green	,,		×	×	×		×		×		×		×			×	×	×	×		×
6	4d., brown	,,		×	×	×							×									
7	5d., green	,,		×	×	×		×				×	×									
8	6d., carmine	,,			×	×							×									
8	6d., emerald-green ..	,,			×	×							×									
8	6d., orange	,,			×	×							×									
9	7½d., brown and black..	,,		×	×				×													
10	8d., mauve	,,		×	×																	
11	9d., red-brown and black	,,		×	×	×								×				×	×			
12	10d., lavender	,,			×								×									
13	1s., chocolate	,,			×																	
14	12½d., red and black ..	,,			×								×						×			
15	5s., violet, red-violet ..	5/- N S W		×	×	×			×				×									
16	10s., carmine and violet	,,		×	×	×													×			
17	20s., ultramarine ..	20/- N S W		×	×								×		×							

† The Perforations of this machine vary from 12½ to 13. * Top and bottom perf. 10, left side 11, right side 12.

We also set out, with Mr. Bradbury's help, the various perforations in catalogue form to further simplify and facilitate the work of classification and arrangement.

Type. *Perf.* 10.

1 ½d., grey
5 3d., green
7 5d., ,,
9 7½d., brown
11 9d. on 10d., red-brown
14 12½d., red
15 5s., violet
16 10s., carmine and violet
17 20s., ultra.

Perf. 11.

1 ½d.,, grey
4 2½d., purple. Die I.
5 3d., green
6 4d., brown
7 5d., green
9 7½d., brown
11 9d. on 10d., red-brown
11 9d. on 10d., red-brown double surcharge
12 10d., lavender
14 12½d., red
15 5s., violet
16 10s., carmine and violet
17 20s., ultra.

Perf. 12.

1 ½d., grey
1 ½d., slate
1 ½d., green
2 1d., scarlet. Die I.
2 1d., ,, Die II.
3 2d., sky-blue
3 2d., deep blue
3 2d., violet-blue
3 2d., ultra.
4 2½d., purple. Die I.
4 2½d., ,, Die II.
4 2½d., navy blue
4 2½d., purple blue
6 4d., brown
7 5d., green
8 6d., carmine
8 6d., emerald-green
8 6d., orange
9 7½d., brown
10 8d., mauve
11 9d. on 10d., red-brown
12 10d., lavender
13 1s., chocolate
14 12½d., red
15 5s., violet
16 10s., carmine and violet
17 20s., ultra.

Perf. 12½ to 13.

5 3d., green
11 9d. on 10d., red-brown
15 5s., violet

Type. *Perf.* 10 × 11.

5 3d., green
7 5d., ,,

Perf. 10 × 11½.

15 5s., violet

Perf. 10 × 12.

1 ½d., grey
5 3d., green
9 7½d., brown

Perf. 10 × 11½.

5 3d., green

Perf. 11 × 10.

11 9d. on 10d., red-brown
17 20s., ultra.

Perf. 11 × 11½.

2 1d., scarlet. Die I.
2 1d., ,, Die II.
5 3d., green
7 5d., ,,
12 10d., lavender
15 5s., violet

Perf. 11 × 12.

1 ½d., grey
1 ½d., slate
1 ½d., green
2 1d , scarlet. Die I.
2 1d., ,, Die II.
3 2d, deep blue
3 2d., violet-blue
3 2d., ultra.
6 4d., brown
7 5d., green
8 6d , carmine
8 6d., emerald-green
8 6d., orange
9 7½d., brown
10 8d., mauve
11 9d. on 10d., red-brown
12 10d., lavender
13 1s., chocolate
14 12½d., red and black
17 20s., ultra.

Perf. 11½ × 10.

5 3d., green

Perf. 11½ × 11.

4 2½d., purple. Die II.
17 20s., ultra.

Type. *Perf.* 11½ × 12.

4 2½d., purple. Die I.
4 2½d., ,, Die II.
4 2½d., navy blue

Perf. 12 × 10.

5 3d., green

Perf. 12 × 11.

3 2d , deep blue
3 2d , violet-blue
3 2d., ultra.
4 2½d., purple. Die I.
4 2½d., ,, Die II.
5 3d., green
7 5d., ,,
11 9d. on 10d., red-brown
15 5s., violet
16 10s., carmine and violet

Perf. 12 × 11½.

1 ½d., slate
1 ½d., green
2 1d., scarlet. Die I.
2 1d., ,, Die II.
3 2d., sky-blue
3 2d., deep blue
3 2d., violet-blue
3 2d., ultra.
5 3d., green
6 4d., brown
7 5d , green
8 6d., carmine
8 6d , emerald-green
8 6d., orange
10 8d., mauve
12 10d., lavender
13 1s., chocolate

Perf. 12½ × 10.

5 3d., green

Chalk paper.

Perf. 11½ × 12.

4 2½d., navy blue
4 2½d., purple-blue

Chalk paper.

Perf. 12 × 11½.

1 ½d., green
2 1d., scarlet. Die II.
3 2d., ultra.
6 4d., brown
8 6d., emerald green
8 6d., orange
10 8d., mauve
11 9d. on 10d., red-brown
11 9d. on 10d., red-brown double surcharge
13 1s., chocolate

New South Wales Perforations.



Type 1.



Type 2.



Type 3.



Type 4.



Type 5.



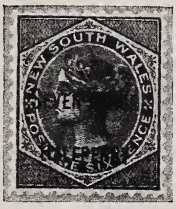
Type 7.



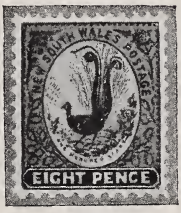
Type 6.



Type 8.



Type 9.



Type 10.



Type 11.



Type 12.



Type 13.



Type 14.



Type 15.



Type 16.



Type 17.

There is no denying the fact that current New South Wales Stamps do thus afford ample scope for the use of the perforation gauge, but so long as various gauges and their compounds are catalogued, written up, and priced in all their profusion and their rarity in the older issues, and in other Colonies, collectors of recent New South Wales will probably see no reason why later varieties should be ignored, and some no doubt will contend that the classification of these various perforations do not go the length of some so-called die varieties and retouches which require the aid of a powerful microscope and an even more powerful imagination for their recognition.

We should be sorry to advocate any unnecessary multiplication of minor varieties as we believe the day will come when Philatelists will be compelled to agree upon a line being drawn somewhere, and until that line is drawn we must follow precedents, and we know of no precedent which justifies the full classification of the perforations and roulettes of early issues but which at the same time would ignore similar varieties of recent perforations.

Orange River Colony: "V.R.I."

A Paper read before the Sydney Philatelic Club by the President,
Colonel W. D. C. Williams, P.M.O.

ON the 13th March, 1900, Lord Roberts with his army entered and occupied Bloemfontein.

The Post Office and Treasury were at once taken possession of by the Intelligence Department of the Army, and arrangements made for all the then current Orange Free State stamps, both at the Post Office and in the Treasury, to be at once surcharged "V.R.I." with the figure of value.

This work was carried out by Mr. Curling, a general printer in a large way of business at Bloemfontein. The machine used was an American press, called the "Pearl"—only capable, however, of printing a pane of 60 stamps (one quarter of the whole sheet) at each stroke. The greatest care was taken to prevent errors. Prior to any sheet being surcharged, several impressions were taken off on blank paper, the results carefully scrutinised, and all errors that did occur can be fairly put down to the slipping of type during the process of printing. On 19th March, six days after the occupation, the ½d., 1d., 2½d., and 1s. values came out, and were sold at the Post Office.

On 21st March the 4d., 6d. carmine, and 5s. appeared. On 24th March the 6d. carmine were all disposed of. There were only 30 sheets in all of 240 stamps per sheet available for surcharge—but there were at least three distinct printings of this value during their brief existence of three days.

The 6d. blue was issued on the same date that saw the end of the 6d. carmine, viz.: the 24th March.

On 30th March the 2d. value came to hand.

On 2nd April the 3d. value was on sale—this completed the series.

The actual number of stamps which were available for surcharge on the entry of the British troops was given to me by the officials at Bloemfontein on 26th March, 1900, and in regard to many values, was considerably less than those quoted below, which are taken from the latest official return on 2nd June; but this can be accounted for, as a number of stamps came in from outside post offices as they fell into the hands of the British—these numbers were not very great, as it was the Boer habit to destroy stamps prior to evacuating a town. The return given me on 2nd June, which I believe has already been published, as to the number of sheets available (240 stamps per sheet) is as under:—

½d.	1d.	2d.	2½d.	3d.	4d.
5,770	13,100	5,130	80	4,270	310

6d. red.	6d. blue.	1s.	5s.
30	2,800	1,830	970

With the exception of the 2½d., no value had all its sheets surcharged in one printing, and the 2½d. has also another peculiarity, in that it is the only value, as far as I know, in which there is marked difference as to the depth of spacing between the "V.R.I." and the figure of value—wide at the top of the pane, and gradually narrowing down until the two almost touch at the bottom of the pane. The quarter sheet exhibited shows this very clearly. The sheets of the various values were surcharged in separate printings according to postal requirements, the printer receiving a certain number of sheets of different values one day, and other values later on. It was generally accepted when I was in Bloemfontein that the printings, which showed marked distinctions, were carried out in the following order :—

1st printing.	Stops level with bottom of letters.
2nd ,,	Stops mixed, some high, some low.
3rd ,,	Stops higher up and smaller.
4th ,,	Stops low down, but much heavier than first printing.

The above list differs somewhat from that given in Bright's last catalogue under the head of "Types." Is not the term "Print" more correct than that of "Type" in these cases? I am writing, however, to Mr. Curling at Bloemfontein to ask if he can definitely state in which order the various printings appeared.

Now a few words about the rare "Brown penny," V.R.I. surcharge, and the yellow 1s. similarly dealt with. When the British took over the postal arrangements, the National Bank of South Africa at Bloemfontein had a number of O.F.S. stamps on hand, and asked permission to have them surcharged "V.R.I." by payment to the Imperial authorities.

This was granted and the work carried out by the official printer. Amongst the stamps were a few brown pennies and yellow shillings of the previous issue, and these went along to the printer with the others. "Black and White" of 4th August, 1900, stated that there were only eight stamps of the 1d. value and 20 of the 1s. This is under the mark, for I have the authority of the printer to state that he surcharged over 50 of the 1d. value and 100 of the yellow 1s.

As soon as the Intelligence Department discovered that an obsolete issue had been surcharged in error, every endeavour was made to get in all the copies that had left the printer, and with marked success, although some did pass through the post in the ordinary way—specimens of which I have seen. I am indebted to Major O'Meara, R.E., Chief of the Intelligence Department at Bloemfontein, for the specimens I am able to exhibit to the Society this evening.

All stamps printed for the National Bank were surcharged on both sides—and many have pin-holes through them, showing where certain small blocks of stamps were affixed to the frame. This double printing is one great guide against fraudulent copies.

Before concluding, a few words *re* "Commando Stamps" (as to whose postal value there seems some doubt) may be of interest.

I take it that the Commando Stamp is a genuine postage stamp, and not one issued merely for "the private speculation of a chemist,"

as stated by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons. Their history is this. In the very early days of the war all letters from Boer Commandos were sent unstamped, but franked by the Boer Commandant. As the Boer forces increased this became somewhat of a task and the Commandants and Mr. Hochapfel, a chemist in Bloemfontein, who had gone out on commando with the Boers as principal of their Field Post, was directed to produce a stamp which would answer the purpose—hence the Commando Stamp. The entire envelopes shown with dates of 26th October and 31st October, 1899—some 5½ months prior to British occupation—rather dispel the speculative theory.—From the *Australian Philatelist.*

Austria: First Newspaper Stamps.

By Jules Bouvèz, in the "American Journal of Philately."

OF all the postage stamps of Europe which were employed for the pre-payment of newspapers, those first issued by the Empire of Austria are unquestionably the rarest. The reason for this, as well as the method for their employment, is a question which has frequently been asked by Philatelists. In order to answer it, it will suffice if we give a history of the stamps, their introduction, and use.

All the decrees relating to the internal postal service of Austria, with the exception of Hungary and Transylvania, were based on the postal law which went into effect on July 1st, 1838 (rescript of November 5th, 1837). In Hungary and in the adjacent provinces the new postal law did not go into effect until 1851, and, with a few exceptions, the law referred to was based in its main articles on the rescript mentioned. By this law the transportation of packets was relieved of the special restrictions which separated it entirely from the ordinary postal service. At the same time, other important restrictions were added to the regulations in use up to that time. It was thus that the Postal Administration determined exactly the objects of correspondence over which it exercised a monopoly.

As far as the journals and newspapers were concerned, they were subject to this monopoly when they were transported in packages or in cases. In this case the shipment had to be addressed to one and the same addressee, and was not permitted to contain objects of

different kinds addressed to various parties. The transportation of newspapers formed a special branch of the postal service. Subscriptions to journals appearing in the Austrian Hungarian monarchy, with the exception of certain official papers, were taken directly from the publishers. Post offices and persons that had not obtained explicit authority were not permitted to solicit or take subscriptions for periodical publications. The post offices accepted subscriptions to foreign journals only, and in addition only a certain limited number of offices were authorized to order directly from the publishers.

In order to facilitate the service as much as possible, without increasing the staff, an order of the Minister of Commerce, dated September 12th, 1850, decreed the issue of a special postage stamp, without indication of value, and which was intended exclusively for the use of publishers of native journals.

This stamp (of the value of 0.6kr.) was to be used only for journals published in and directed to the interior of the Kingdom. At first, it was typographed in blue on thin white wove paper at the Imperial printing office in Vienna. As indicated in the catalogues, it was not perforated, and measured 19½ mm. on each side. It represented the head of Mercury turned to the left in a square, double-lined, surrounded by the inscription "K. k. Zeitungs Post Stempel." It must be remarked that this stamp was sold exclusively to publishers of journals, who bought it, at the place of issue, at the price of 1 florin 5 kreuzers per hundred and later on for 1 florin.

Each copy of a newspaper, no matter what its size, had to bear a stamp of this character. Periodical publications which appeared as pamphlets once per week, per fortnight, or per month, were also compelled to bear one of these stamps for each half-ounce of weight.

The publishers of journals delivered to the post offices of the Kingdom other publications, packed in such a manner that all the copies destined for distribution by the same bureau were in one packing, bearing the address of the bureau and, on another part of the wrapper, the number of copies contained in the package, each one of these copies bearing one of the special stamps in question. The Austrian Administration of Posts soon realized the necessity of using a single stamp for a packet, in order to facilitate still further the work of the postal bureaus as well as that of the publishers. For this reason the Minister of Commerce decreed, by an order issued December 3rd, 1850 (that is to say, scarcely three months after his first order), the creation of two new stamps of the same type as the preceding, one being in yellow and the other in rose. The first represented the value of ten blue stamps and was to be attached to packages containing ten copies of a newspaper; the second, of the value of fifty blue stamps, was to be used for packages containing fifty copies.

The two new values, placed on sale on December 15th, 1850, were, like their predecessor, typographed on thin white wove paper.

About six months later (July 1st, 1851) a second printing of the three values was made, but a thick white paper was used and this printing resulted in the stamps of the second type.

Finally, the third printing was made on February 15th, 1851, on yellowish coated paper, but in this printing the quantity of rose stamps was extremely small, as this value was retained in use only until

October 10th, 1852. After that date, the stamp was sold and used for the same purpose as the blue stamp of the value of 0.6kr., which until then had been employed only for the prepayment of single numbers.

This measure was determined upon as the statistics showed only a small number of packets containing fifty copies, the publishers, with rare exceptions, sending the newspapers to the post offices in packages weighing less than fifteen ounces and containing not more than twenty to twenty-five copies.

Four years later, on March 21st, 1856, at the time of another printing of the blue stamp on thick coated paper, the stamp in yellow was replaced by a red stamp of the value of ten blue stamps. Finally, this red stamp was withdrawn from sale on November 1st, 1858, as a result of an order of the Minister of Commerce, dated October 14th, 1858. After the last date, there remained for use on journals in the territory of Austria Hungary, including the Kingdom of Lombardy Venice, a single stamp, representing the tax on one newspaper.

The period of employment in the Kingdom of Austria Hungary of the three first stamps for newspapers, which are generally known as "Mercurys," may therefore be classed as follows:—

1. Blue stamp, value of 0.6kr., from September 12th, 1850, to November 1st, 1858.
2. Yellow stamp, value of 6kr., from December 3rd, 1850, to March 21st, 1856.
3. Rose stamp, value of 30kr., from December 3rd, 1850, to October 10th, 1852.
4. Red stamp, value 6kr., from March 21st, 1856, to November 1st, 1858.

No exact figures are obtainable as to the quantities used of each of the different values. However, according to Mr. G. B. Kinsman, a philatelist, who has closely studied these stamps, it is not believed that more than 150 sheets of 240 stamps, that is to say, 36,000, of the rose stamps were printed of which only two-thirds were used. The number of stamps printed in red, which were in use from 1856 to 1858, is also estimated at 100 sheets, or 24,000.

The great rarity of these stamps, which is in part due to the small quantities issued, may also be explained by the manner in which they were used under the existing regulations.

We must, in fact, bear in mind that not only were these stamps sold to editors of newspapers, but besides that, with the exception of the blue stamp, they were applied only on packages addressed to the post offices, where the stamps quite naturally disappeared at the same time that the wrapper was removed from the parcels in which the copies were wrapped.

It could therefore only happen by accident that any of these stamps reached the hands of the public, and to these facts may be attributed their excessive rarity. As is well known, the rarest of all is the 6kr. red stamp which ranks among one of the greatest rarities known to stamp collectors.

These arguments will not apply to the blue stamp, as during the eight years in which it remained in use, this particular one was regularly received by a number of subscribers whose newspapers were sent under separate wrapper, instead of being included in the larger packages.

German Post Office Statistics.

By Geo. B. Duerst.

THE official figures for the year 1899 have just been published, and show that in many instances the growth of the work of the German Post Office has been marvellous. The number of all kinds of mail matter during the year has risen by 364,000,000 compared with the previous year; the total now amounting to 4,400 millions. The amount of the declared value of mail matter and the money orders reached the incredible figure of £1,225,000,000, or an increase of £7,000,000. The revenue derived from the post office in 1899 is £2,075,000, or an increase of £185,000 compared with 1898.

The number of officials employed at the end of 1899 was 181,702, or an increase of 7,722. The number of women employed rose from 4,665 to 6,105. The various mail coach services still existing have suffered a further decrease, as was expected; only 1,466,374 persons, against 1,579,966 in the preceding year, made use of this rather antiquated mode of travelling.

Amongst the 4,400 millions of mail matter 1,460 millions consisted of letters, or, in round figures, one third. The increase against 1898 is 93 millions. Larger, however, is the increase in the number of postcards sent, namely, 104 millions, thus increasing the total number of postcards forwarded to 736 millions. 1,100 millions of newspapers were handled, or an increase of 86 millions. $15\frac{3}{4}$ millions of letters were posted (not prepaid), entailing a tremendous amount of work on the officials. Letters with declared value totalled up to £530,000,000, and parcels to £260,000,000.

The number of letters, &c., that could not be delivered again increased. For every million 279 could not be delivered in 1897, 367 in 1898, and 401 in 1899. The total number was 1,038,180, or an increase of 167,162 for the year. In $15\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. the addressees refused acceptance, in $17\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. they could not be delivered on account of death or emigration. Letter cards do not seem to have taken the fancy of the Germans, as only $4\frac{1}{5}$ millions were sold in 1899 against $8\frac{1}{10}$ millions in 1898, a reduction of practically 50 per cent. Illustrated postcards are undoubtedly answerable for the huge increase in the number of 5 pfening stamps sold, as their number increased by 1,000 millions over 1898.

The financial result is very gratifying, for the net revenue has risen from £770,000 in 1879 to £2,075,000 in 1899.



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.

Fiji.—Mr. L. E. Bradbury has shown us the current 6d. rose perf. 11 × 12.

Adhesive.

6d. rose, perf. 11 × 12.

New South Wales. *Correction.*—Last month (p. 111) we listed the 1s. of the current series on chalky paper double surcharge. The value should have been 9d. on 10d. red-brown, and the perforation should have been 12 × 11½. We have also to add an unexpected chalk paper variety sent us by Mr. L. E. Bradbury, viz., the 6d. emerald green, perf. 12 × 11½.

Adhesive.

On Chalk Paper.

6d. emerald green, perf. 12 × 11½.
9d. on 10d. red-brown. „ *double surr.*

New Zealand.—According to the *Australian Philatelist* the 4d. of the 1882 type has appeared on the new paper, watermarked double lined N.Z. and Star, perf. 11.

Adhesive

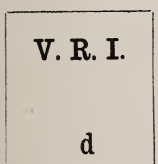
Type of 1882.

4d. green, wmk. double line N Z and Star, perf. 11.

A New Zealand correspondent of the *London Philatelist* gives the dates of issue of the recently chronicled 1½d., popularly known as the Khâki stamp as the 7th December, 1900, and of the 1d. Universal Penny Postage stamp as 1st January, 1901.

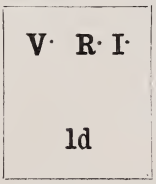
Orange River Colony.—We are indebted to Mr. J. W. Jones for the following information.

Level Stops: Figure of Value omitted.



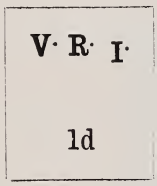
Mr. Jones has shown us a complete sheet of four panes of the 6d. blue which enables us to give the position of this variety. It is the 5th stamp in the 7th row of the two left hand panes. It is not repeated in the right hand panes.

Raised Stops: Thick **V.** Wider spacing between "V" and "R" of "V·R·I."



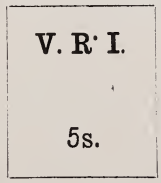
1d. purple.

Raised Stops: Thick **V.** Wider spacing between "R" and "I," and "I" dropped of "V·R· I."



1d. purple.

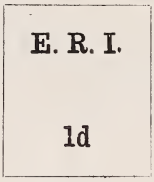
Misplaced Stop. Inverted "stop."



This is quite a new departure, and is humorously, but quite correctly, described as an inverted stop. It is explained thus: The piece of metal on which a stop is cast, is of the same height as that of a letter, thus [.]. This piece of type has been inverted, consequently the stop, instead of being level with the bottoms of the letters, is level with the tops of the letters.

Transvaal.—Mr. J. W. Jones sends us the 1d. of the last issue of the South African Republic overprinted with the initials of our new King, "E.R.I." The type of the surcharge is the same as in the V.R.I. overprints; in fact, the "V" has merely been lifted out and an "E" substituted. The

Transvaal has thus the honour of issuing the first stamp of King Edward VII.



Adhesive
"E.R.I." Series.
1d. carmine, value in green.

Victoria.—To the new series of old stamps in new colours with modifications chronicled by us last month (p. 112) we have to add a 4d. value of the design of 1881 printed in bistre. We are indebted to Mr. L. E. Bradbury for a copy. The complete list up to date stands as follows:—

Adhesives.

½d., green, ... type of 1873.
1d., rose, ... ,, 1883.
2d., mauve, ... ,, 1881.
2½d., blue, ... ,, 1887.
("Postage" added.)
3d., orange-brown, .. ,, 1866.
4d., bistre, ... ,, 1881.
5d., chocolate, ... ,, 1887.
("Postage" added.)
6d., bright green, .. ,, 1865.
1s., dull orange, .. ,, 1873.
2s., blue on pink paper, ,, 1881.
5s., blue and vermilion, ,, 1868.
(Colours reversed.)

Foreign Countries.

Argentine Republic.—The 12c. and 30c. of the current type have been changed in colours, the 12c. from pale blue to olive green and the 30 cent. from rose to vermilion.

Adhesive.
Change of colours.
12c., olive green.
30c., vermilion.

Chili.—The *Monthly Journal* hears that "five sheets of the 30c. received the overprint (large "5") upside down, and were saved from destruction by an enthusiastic Philatelist.



Adhesive.
5c. on 30c.

China.—A correspondent at Shanghai sends the *Monthly Journal* a list of varieties which do not appear to have been chronicled:—

No. 27 in *pale orange* (or *yellow*) as well as *deep orange;* the same shades, no doubt, as 38 and 39.
,, 31, 10c. on 9c., with double surcharge.
,, ,, variety, figure "1" with broken foot.
,, 34, variety, *imperforate.*
,, 44, with the Chinese character for "3" in the surcharge different in shape from the normal type.
,, 66, with "s" of "cents" inverted.

He has also heard of No. 26 with the central Chinese characters of the surcharge missing; and the $5 on 3c., Revenue stamp with the surcharge inverted. This stamp, however, the *M. J.* believes, was never used for postage.

Colombia.—*Der Philatelist* gives a long list of stamps of recent issues surcharged with a circular device, which is stated to be a species of control mark.

With black *surcharge.*
1c., red on *yellow* (1892).
2c., blue-green (,,).
5c., black on *buff* (,,).
10c., brown on *rose* (,,).
20c., ,, *azure* (,,).
5c., ,, *buff* (1895).
1c., red on *yellow* (1898).
5c., brown on *buff* (,,).

With green *surcharge.*
1c., red on *yellow* (1892).
10c., brown on *rose* (,,).
5c., ,, *buff* (1895).
5c., ,, ,, (1898).

With violet *surcharge.*
2c., blue-green (1892).
10c., brown on *rose* (,,).
5c., ,, *buff* (1895).
5c., ,, ,, (1898).

With deep red *surcharge.*
10c., brown on *rose* (1892).
5c., ,, *buff* (1895).
5c., ,, ,, (1898).

With deep blue *surcharge.*
5c., brown on *buff* (1895).

Ecuador.—The *American Journal of Philately* reports that the colours of the frames of the current types have been changed, the centres remaining in *black.*

Adhesives.
1 c., black and scarlet.
2 c., ,, green.
5 c., ,, grey-lilac.
10 c., ,, dull blue.

French Colonies.—We quote following information from the *Monthly Journal*:—

"The latter colony (Soudan Français) has ceased to exist as a separate province, and the new labels bearing its name have therefore no possible legal currency at all.

Those of the Congo are in very little better position, and probably will never be on sale in that colony, but the type of 1892 has not actually been superseded, as the hideous labels of last year have never been put in use there, and are not to be. In fact, all the so-called stamps we have just referred to have never been officially sold anywhere except in Paris. *La Revue Ph. Française* fully confirms what we have stated, and expresses regret that the new varieties of the 1892 type (said to have been printed in *error* for these colonies) were not destroyed as soon as the error was discovered. The stock printed was at once disposed of (in Paris), and no more will be printed; that is to say, these things will never be *issued*."

Mexico.—Mr. J. W. Jones tells us that he has received the 50c. of the current series overprinted "official" in the same type as the rest of the current official series.

Adhesive.

Official.

50c., black and lilac.

Peru.—We quote the following from the *Monthly Journal*:—"We have received specimens of three stamps issued here for the avowed purpose of welcoming in the New Century, any excuse being apparently good enough for an attempt at fleecing Philatelists. The design is the same in all, with the exception of the portrait in the centre, which varies with the value. Above the portrait is the legend, 'CONMEMORATIVA DEL SIGLIO XX.'; on a scroll at the top of the stamp, 'CORREOS DEL PERU-FRANQUEO'; at foot, 'ENERO 1°. DE 1901'; value in figures in each corner and below the centre, and in words at each side. There is no mention of the Postal Union, so we presume that these labels accept the position of *locals*. The centre is in *black* and the rest in colour, and the 'AMERICAN BANK NOTE CO., N.Y.' has its imprint below each stamp."

Adhesives.

1 c., black and green; perf. 12.
2 c. ,, red ,,
5 c. ,, lilac ,,

These appear to be lithographed.

Portugal.—Mr. Ehrenbach informs the *London Philatelist* that the 500 reis is now perforated 11½, like the other values of the current set.

Adhesive.

500 reis, black on azure; perf. 11½.

Mr. Ehrenbach has also seen the 5 r. and 25 r. of the current set without numerals of value *se tenant* with normal specimens. These specimens were sold over the counter at the post office in Oporto in the usual course, and are apparently therefore genuine errors.

Adhesives.

5 reis, *value omitted.*
25 ,, ,,

Philately in the Mags.

Ceylon: Pence Issues.

SIX PENCE IMPERF. "BLEUTÉ."—Mr. E. D. Bacon contributes to the *London Philatelist* an important article on the Pence Issues of Ceylon. Some time ago Baron Percy de Worms read a paper at a meeting of the London Philatelic Society in which among other things he drew attention to an imperforate pair of Six Pence on *bleuté* paper, postmarked "London, January 28, 1858," thus considerably ante-dating the date (May 14th, 1858) of the first supply recorded in the London Philatelic Society's work on India and Ceylon. Consequently Mr. Bacon set to work to investigate the matter and he now tells us that he has discovered that "the first supply of the Six Pence value was inadvertently omitted "from the list originally supplied to him by the printers "Their books show that the plate used for this value was completed on July 12th, 1855, and that 250 sheets, of 240 stamps each, *i.e.*, 60,000, Six Pence violet stamps were despatched to the colony on the 26th of the same month, so that this particular value was in use some eighteen months before it was followed by the first supply of One Penny and Two Pence stamps on March 16th, 1857. These Six Pence stamps, as Baron P. de Worms' pair proves, were those on *bleuté* paper, and we may conclude that the issue of this value took place as early as September, 1855."

THE TWO TYPES OF THE FIRST ISSUE.—In going through some old letters at Messrs. Perkins, Bacon and Co.'s, Mr. Bacon has come across one that gives the reason for their using two distinct types for the Ceylon stamps. The letter, which is dated "August 6th, 1858," passed between their firm and the Agent-General for the Crown Colonies, and the following extract is that to which he refers:—

"Agreeably to your instructions we beg herewith to hand you an estimate for

postage stamps and envelopes for the Government of Ceylon.

"As the requisition is for five denominations of adhesive stamps, making eleven in all, and for eight denominations of envelopes, making ten in all, it will be impossible to print them all in colours distinct from each other; we therefore propose to prepare two forms of stamps, although alike in the space they occupy, by which means six varieties of colour will be sufficient for the whole, so that where the colours are alike the form of stamp will be different."

Perforation of Star Watermark Stamps.—Mr. Bacon has also been looking into the question of the early perforations, and he says there can be no doubt that, as in the case of nearly every other Colony, the stamps perforated with clean cut holes came before those with the so-called rough perforation. Continuing, he says: "In checking the list of stamps sent to Ceylon I have been able to establish the date on which the first perforated sheets were sent to the Colony. This was November 17th, 1860, and all the values forwarded on that day and the stamps of every subsequent consignment are stated to have been perforated. I have also found an entry in Messrs. Perkins, Bacon and Co.'s books to the effect that on September 25th, 1863, they perforated 100 sheets of 240 stamps each, *i.e.*, 24,000 Ten Pence stamps. These formed part of the imperforate stock the Agents-General for the Colony took over on June 25th, 1862, and, as the list of consignments shows, these 24,000 were forwarded to the island in four equal parcels of 6,000 each, on September 29th, 1863, January 2nd, April 1st, and June 18th, 1864. The lot forwarded on September 29th, 1863, was the first supply of Ten Pence stamps that was sent out after the addition of perforation had been determined upon for Ceylon stamps, so that this value was not issued in a perforated state until some three years after the other values were in use. And this necessitates a correction in the statement I made in my 'Preliminary Notes' in the Society's work, that the Ten Pence stamps sent out on September 29th, 1863, were the first lot perforated 12½ by Messrs. De la Rue and Co. This, as I have just shown, could not have been the case; and the stamps with the 12½ perforation did not leave England until August 16th, 1864, when 14,400 were sent to the Colony. These were followed by subsequent lots, which give a total of 59,040 with this variety of perforation. The date of issue of the Ten Pence, with star watermark, perforated 12½, must therefore be altered from 'End of 1863' to September (?), 1864. Baron Percy de Worms says that the existence of this variety with the compound perforation 12½×14 is very doubtful, a statement with which I entirely agree. I never remember having seen or heard of a specimen, and I am now quite unable to trace in what way the variety came to be inserted in the Society's work."

Numbers of the Imperforate Series.—The date of the introduction of perforation being now known, Mr. Bacon is able to ascertain, from the list of the consignments sent to Ceylon, the total number of each value that went out imperforate, as well as the quantities of the various perforated stamps. The numbers of the imperforate values he works out as follows:

3,242,800	.. .. ..	1d.
534,400	.. .. ..	2d.
7,400	.. .. ..	4d.
90,800	.. .. ..	5d.
60,000	.. .. ..	6d. *bleuté*.
120,080	.. .. ..	6d.
6,200	.. .. ..	8d.
9,800	.. .. ..	9d.
15,500	.. .. ..	10d.
51,100	.. .. ..	1s.
5,000	.. .. ..	1s. 9d.
5,720	.. .. ..	2s.

Theft of Stamps in France.

Mons. Maury, in the *Collectionneur de Timbres Poste* recounts how the police made him a domiciliary visit and most carefully inspected his stock, not as intending buyers but as—let us say—forgery detectors.

It is well-known that some two years ago a large portion of the official collection, formed by the stamps sent out by the Universal Postal Union, had been stolen, and that in spite of all endeavours to trace the thief or thieves, none were recovered, not even the slightest clue could be found. Amongst the stamps were no great rarities, yet the theft was considerable on account of the quantity. The curious part of the theft was, that the stamps were all carefully removed from the sheets in which they had been pasted; the thieves had therefore ample time!!!

A few months later a new discovery was made. This time French and French Colonial stamps had disappeared from the printing works on the Boulevard Brune. It was of course impossible to steal them during the process of manufacture, as the check is too rigid, but the thieves had access to the room where the so-called "waste" sheets are kept. These are also carefully checked and provided with a special cancellation; they are then kept apart until they are burned in the presence of a special committee.

Such stamps have been sold by a Parisian dealer for about ten months. Specially 5 fcs. Tunis, obliterated by penmarks or with a handstamp, were sold in this manner. An enquiry was instituted, but apparently without result, as the dealer continued to sell them. The postal administration of Tunis complained that stamps of the value of 5 fcs. did not sell any more, and as this value was principally sold to collectors (!) it was quite clear that they must have found a place where such stamps could be obtained. Even then nothing was done.

A new theft was, however, lately discovered in the office of the second chief of the postal administration. It was found that a drawer had been forced with a chisel and that foreign stamps had disappeared. They were duplicates of the official collection, and came from the Universal Postal Union. Now the measure was full to overflowing, and Mons. Mougeot demanded a strict enquiry, which was entrusted to Mons. Leyder.

Mons. Cochefert, Chief of the Police, himself a Philatelist, undertook the case. He received from a dealer who had bought some of these stamps, the description of the young man, who was no other than the son of a postal official. The father was a member of the Committee for the stamps manufactured on the Boulevard Brune, and it was easy for him to select what he liked from the rejected stamps. He was arrested, as well as another member of the Committee.

So far so good, but the easy success stimulated the police to such an extent, that it was decided to pay domiciliary visits to various stamp dealers.

On Monday, January 21st, Mons. Maury was informed that the police had entered his place in the Boulevard Montmartre. After some trouble, he, the owner, was admitted. Mons. Cochefert and about ten policemen were on the premises, and he was told that his place of business was for the time in the hands of the law.

Several customers being there at the moment could only leave after giving their names and addresses. On the next day all the stock was looked through to see whether any of the stolen foreign stamps or any rejected stamps could be found. Nothing was found for a long time, but at last the expert found two stamps amongst the Zanzibars, which he called doubtful. Happily Mons. Maury could prove that he had received these and similar stamps direct from Zanzibar by the production of an envelope still bearing such stamps. The expert was disgusted! The reason of his decision that they must have come from rejected sheets was, that the surcharge was not centred well! As if such things or bad perforations did not occur often enough!!

Mons. Cochefert congratulated Mons. Maury upon the production of the envelope, as otherwise, he said, he would have had a lot of trouble; "but then no doubt," he added, "you would have been able to prove your innocence in another way" (!)

When Mons. Maury complained about the trouble and disturbance he was put to, the chief of the police coolly answered, that this domiciliary visit would prove a very good advertisement to Mons. Maury and that he, a learned Philatelist himself, supported by experts, had not found a single forged stamp in all his stock.

France is unfortunately not the only country where such peculations happen.

Foreign Post Offices in the Orient.

A very interesting article on these post offices is given by Mons. Maury in the March number of his paper as follows:—

Austria-Hungary possesses the following post offices:—Adrianople, Beyrout, Canea, Candia, Caifa, Cavalla, Chios, Dardanelles, Dedeagh, Durazzo, Gallipoli, Jaffa, Janina, Jerusalem, Inéboli, Keresun, Lagos, Mytilene, Prevesa, Retimo, Rhodes, Salonica, Samsoun, Santi Ouarouta, Smyrna, Trebizond, Valona, Vathy and Constantinople (Galata—Pera—Stamboul).

Formerly also at Sofia, Philippople, Burgas, Varna, Rustschuk and Tirnoova.

This service began in 1867 and distributes all letters from Austria-Hungary, Switzerland, Italy, Bulgaria, Montenegro, Bosnia, Roumania, and partly of Servia and Malta.

France is second in importance Through the French offices the following letters, &c., are distributed: those from France and Colonies, Spain, Portugal, Greece, South America, China and Japan.

Germany possesses the following post offices: Constantinople (Pera—Galata—Stamboul), Smyrna, Salonica, Beyrout, Jaffa and Jerusalem. This service began in 1880 and handles the correspondence from the following countries: Germany and Colonies, Belgium, Holland, Sweden and Norway, Denmark and sometimes the North American mail.

England also established her service in 1880 and has post offices in Constantinople (Galata—Stamboul), Smyrna, Salonica and Beyrout.

The correspondence distributed from this office is from England and Colonies, Central America, Central and South Africa.

Russia established her offices as early as 1864 at the following places: Beyrout, Chios, Constantinople (Moum—Honé), Dardanelles, Inéboli, Jaffa, Mount Athos, Mytilene, Mersina, Ordou, Keresun, Rizeh, Salonica, Samsoun, Smyrna, Sinope, Trebizond, Tripoli (Barbary), and Teheran (Persia).

Of late years this service is quite small, and only letters arriving from Russia and Persia are dealt with

Italy founded her first post offices in the Orient in 1873, but has actually only those in Canea and Tripoli as distributing centres. Those at Constantinople, Smyrna and Beyrout were suppressed in 1883.

Roumania tried in the beginning of 1896 to open a post office in Constantinople, but permission was refused. Special surcharged Roumanian stamps were, however, sold on board the two mail steamers for the franking of single letters to Roumania. Officially, this office has never been recognised.

It is said that the Ottoman postal service loses annually about £8,000 through these foreign offices.

Barbados Remainders: a Strange Story.

Here is a strange story quoted by the *Monthly Journal* "from a Barbados paper."

"Stamp collectors (in Barbados) were wild two weeks ago when they learnt that thousands of valuable old stamps had been thrown away on the reef as rubbish. It appears that the records of the Official Assignee's Office, in the shape of bankrupts' ledgers, day books, account books, etc., had accumulated during the last fifty years to such an extent that they were some ten years ago removed to a room in the Court House. This room had also got filled up, and a short time back the Official Assignee decided to have the old ledgers carted away to the reef and buried. But, besides the old books, there was a vast mass of correspondence from England and various West India Islands relative to bankrupts, and numbers of old and valuable stamps remained on the envelopes, as in those days the stamp-collecting craze had not yet arisen. It is one of the peculiar ironies of fate that, when we have so many persons in our midst smitten with the Philatelic mania, and when such heavy catalogue prices are offered for old West India stamps, a mine of unexplored stamp wealth should have remained hidden away in this musty old lumber-room. But the manner in which they were brought to light was even more peculiar. The order to throw away the ledgers was taken to mean clearing away everything in the room. Deep trenches were dug on the reef and some twenty cart loads of old ledgers and correspondence deposited therein. The matter would have possibly been forgotten but for the fact that a few street arabs picked up some of the envelopes that had blown away, and finding stamps on them determined to search for others. Dozens of these grubbing arabs were soon at work, and they unearthed thousands of stamps. But the methods of the Philatelist and the street arab are very different and the latter's treatment spoiled hundreds of splendid specimens. When, moreover, a block of five or six was found on one envelope, a scrimmage usually ensued and the victor often only secured a useless fragment. But, even with all this, a few well-known purchasers have secured hundreds of stamps at prices which should leave them a very handsome margin of profit."

The *Monthly Journal* has since been informed by a correspondent recently in Barbados, that when the Government heard of this matter, they had the lot of ledgers, correspondence, etc., dug up and burnt.

Australian Commonwealth Stamps.

There seems to be much uncertainty as to the Australian Commonwealth series of postage stamps, for which we are all waiting in "animated expectancy," but, if some authorities, recently to the fore, are to be credited, "it may be for years" that the anxious speculator will have to wait.

Mr. Basset Hull, in the *Monthly Journal*, writes:—"Personally, I do not think there will be any undue haste in the issue of the uniform Federal stamps. There are many matters of detail to be considered, and there is no urgent reason for an immediate uniform issue; in fact, speaking at a picnic given by the Construction Branch of the Electric Telegraph Department, on 9th February, Mr. Drake said that the general scheme for the unification of the postal systems of the six States could not be effected until Parliament had been consulted and had passed an Act for the purpose. There were, he said, difficulties to be overcome, but these were not sufficient to justify any great delay.

"If the 'unification' referred to by Mr. Drake includes *inter alia* the issue of a uniform series of postage stamps, some time will elapse before its appearance. The Federal Parliament will not meet before the middle of May, and the first month or so will be fully occupied in considering the Federal tariff—a most vexed question, for the Free trade and Protection parties are already strongly defined so far as candidates go, and it will probably be well on into July before the Postal Bill comes on for consideration. Venturing again on prophecy, I fix the date of issue of the uniform stamps at not earlier than 1st September next."

Hyderabad (Deccan).

Major Evans, in his history of "Some of the Native States of India," deals in the March number of the *Monthly Journal* with Hyderabad He points out in favour of the issues of this important State of India that the ordinary stamps are quite common *used*, that for many years there have been no changes in the designs of the adhesives, and that they have varied comparatively little in colour, considering the period during which they have been in use. The lower values, of which numerous printings must have taken place, as might be expected, yield a number of shades, but very few shades are to be found in the higher values.

"On the other hand, it must be acknowledged that there was a time when the authorities of the State were anxious to increase the revenue by illegitimate means, and offered to supply adhesives and envelopes in any colours and on any papers that might be desired; very large numbers of reprints of the first stamps have been put on the market, and the *official* surcharges seem to have been applied to stamps, for sale to collectors, years after such surcharged stamps had ceased to be used in the Government offices. Fancy impressions of the adhesives are not very common, the offer of these curiosities having been received with no enthusiasm.

"All the designs bear dates, presumably those at which the stamps were issued, or at which they were ordered to be manufactured. Thus the oblong 1 anna stamp is dated 1283 (May, 1866, to April, 1867), and the ½ anna and 2 annas of the so-called 'skeleton' type are dated 1286 (April 13th, 1869, to April 2nd, 1870). The latter date, however, also appears on the current types, which were not issued till 1871, but this is to be accounted for by the fact that the design of the third issue is simply a copy of that of the second, finely engraved and with a background added. But the first stamp was only heard of in England in January, 1870, when a specimen was shown at a meeting of the London Philatelic Society; the ½ a. came over about a year later, being described in *The Philatelist* in March, 1871, while the 2 a. of the same type was not seen till a few months afterwards, together with some of the values of the still current set.

"The *Stamp Collector's Magazine* for October, 1871, contains the following statement:—

"'One of our correspondents writes us that a friend of his, an Indian judge, acquainted with Arabic, has informed him that the first stamp—the oblong sea-green—was issued on the 1st September, 1869, was of the value of 1 anna, and bears an inscription in Arabic, consisting of the year 1283 of the Hegira, and *Swikar Arzoofera*—"Government of the Nizam."'

"This is not, of course, absolutely conclusive, because we do not know where the Indian judge got his information; but it seems a very probable date for the issue of a stamp which was first seen by collectors at home in the following January, and the existence of 'Deccan' stamps having become known then, it may be assumed that the ½ a. and 2 a. 'skeleton' type were not issued till later—possibly at about the beginning of 1871."

France: Printings of Current Series.

The *London Philatelist* publishes the following note, read at a recent meeting of the London Philatelic Society by Mr. F. Reichenheim, on the two printings of the 10c. and 20c. stamps of the new issue of France (December, 1900):—

"It has already been reported in the *London Philatelist* (January, 1901, p. 18) that there exist two distinct printings of 'some' values of the new issue of the French stamps (December, 1900).

"Those values are the 10c. and 20c.

"The first issue was obtained by two impressions, the figures of value, '10' and '20' respectively, being printed separately into the design; the second impression, the present one, is produced by one print only.

"In the first print of the 10c. the figure '10' is printed in a much darker shade than the design, and is quite visible on the back of the stamp, whereas in the second print the colours of figures and design are the same, and no mark of the figures appears on the back of the stamp.

"In the first print of the 20c. the figure '20' is also printed in a little darker shade than the design, and the top curve and bottom dash of the figure '2' touch the inner left perpendicular line of the square. In the second print the figure '20' is well centred and printed in exactly the same shade as the design."

Mexico 1872 Issue.

Mr. R. Frentzel informs the *London Philatelist* that this issue comprises two distinct types, instead of one only, as has hitherto been generally accepted; these are distinguishable by the shading of the ornamental part outside the ovals in the upper and lower frame holding the inscription "Correos" at top and "Mexico" at bottom.

The values 6 and 25 centavos are shaded by vertical lines.

The values 12, 50, and 100 centavos are shaded by horizontal lines.

Mr. Frentzel presented specimens of these stamps at the meeting of the Philatelic Society on March 1st, showing the differences to which he refers.

German China Provisional.

In January last (p. 12) we quoted *in extenso* a paper by Mr. Franz Reichenheim on German China Provisionals. We now quote some further information from the same pen from the *London Philatelist*:—

"Through the kindness of the Postmaster of the German Post Office in Futchau (China), I am able to give a few more details concerning the issue of the Futchau Provisional **5 pf** surcharged on 10 pf. German China stamp of 1897. Two issues exist: the first one was made between the 5th and 10th July, 1900, and the second one during a few days in the middle of November of the same year. Both issues have been produced by the same single hand-stamp, cut in wood, and made locally for the purpose, and the surcharge was affixed to each single stamp by the Post Office officials themselves when stamps of **5 pf.** value were required by the public during those two periods. Therefore no different types can exist, but probably through bad stamping some stamps appear with the surcharge '**5 p**' only. Altogether there have been forty to fifty sheets of one hundred stamps each surcharged.

"These details differ in some points from publications made elsewhere, but I think one can rely upon my information, considering the person I received it from."

Our congratulations are due to Mr. Reichenheim for the thoroughness with which he hunts up information from the most reliable sources. We know few collectors more painstaking than he is in this direction.

A Stamp Cleaner Convicted.

Eight months ago the *Metropolitan Philatelist* published a notice of the arrest of Angel N. Trujillo, doing business in Nassau Street, New York, as the Universal Stamp Co., charged with cleaning cancelled revenue stamps and selling them to brokers to be used over again. The case recently came up for trial, and occupied the greater part of two days. The charge was fully proved and the prisoner convicted on all four counts of the indictment. In accordance with the practice of the U.S. court all prisoners are sentenced together at the end of the term. The *M. P.* thinks he will probably get two years.

Hawaiian Remainders Burnt.

The *Philadelphia Record* (U.S.) gives the following account of the destruction of Hawaiian Remainders :—

"The Postal Department of the late Republic of Hawaii and all that appertains thereto, so far as the United States Government is concerned, officially, is a closed incident. The last vestige of unfinished business was cleared up at 10 o'clock this morning, when all the stamps on hand at the time the United States Government assumed control of the Hawaiian Islands were destroyed. Their face value was $58,000, and it is said that more than this in cash had been offered for them by stamp dealers in New York.

"When the Hawaiian Islands were officially annexed, postmasters in the islands were instructed to invoice all postage stamps on hand and submit a report. When the record had been made up, stamps of the United States were sent to the postmasters, and the entire holdings of Hawaiian stamps were forwarded to the Postmaster-General at Washington.

"They came in two large boxes and have for several months been occupying storage room in the redemption division. The stamps were in sheets of fifty, 250 sheets in a package, the greater part of the invoice being yet in the original package as sent to Honolulu by the American Bank Note Company of New York. January 14 was the date fixed when redemption would cease. Previous to this time Hawaiian stamps in the hands of private parties were redeemed by the Post Office Department with current United States stamps.

"To George D. Scott, who has been chief of the redemption division for nearly 30 years, and his assistants, the burning of $58,000 worth of stamps was but an incident. Burnings of this sort are of weekly occurrence."

Commonwealth Postage Stamp: No Surcharging.

Nothing definite is known as yet as to the anticipated Australian Commonwealth postage stamps. According to the February number of the *Australian Philatelist*, Mr. Drake, the new Postmaster-General of the Commonwealth, informed a deputation of the Sydney Philatelic Club which waited upon him, that he did not intend to make any immediate alteration in the State stamps, and he had no intention whatever of having them surcharged with the letters "A.C." as suggested by the Postal Conference. And he added the comforting assurance that nothing in the way of issuing or selling stamps for the purpose of raising revenue otherwise than through the legitimate channels would be permitted.

Australian Philatelic Journals.

Australia now boasts of two excellent Philatelic journals the *Australian Philatelist*, in its seventh volume, and the *Australian Journal of Philately*, started in September last. Strange to say, both hail from Sydney. Presumably, the latter aspirant owes its existence to trade rivalry. The older journal was formerly edited by Mr. Basset Hull. The new-comer is edited by Mr. James H. Smyth, and is published by Messrs. Smyth & Nicolle. Its superior get-up can scarcely fail to put the older journal upon its mettle.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Luxemburg has followed the example set by the United States, and sells stamps obliterated in advance, to be used for printed matter. The values are 1, 2, 5, and 10 centimes, and not less than 200 of each are sold. The obliteration consists of an oblong containing the word "Luxembourg-Ville" at the top and "1901" at the bottom, in straight lines. Stamps thus obliterated, but not used during the year, can be exchanged during the month of January for those bearing the number 1902. Such stamps can only be obtained in the town of Luxemburg.

* * *

Of the Servian 2 pare stamp black of 1872, I. type, there seem to exist two printings, which can be distinguished by the paper and the execution. The newly-discovered printing is on soft, thinnish paper, and the colour is deep black; it is therefore similar to the second type, but minus the broken T and the spot in the hair.

* * *

The new Finnish stamps and cards are printed in Helsingors. They have no watermark.

* * *

The sales of German Colonial stamps on the day of opening of the German Colonial Stamp Shop at Berlin amounted to £1,000.

* * *

It is said that Belgium is preparing a new issue of stamps.

Notes and News.

Speculation in ½d. Bermudas.

In our last number (p. 119) we gave a few particulars of the speculation in ½d. Bermudas, and stated that a further large supply of the same surcharge had gone out. But certain persons who had probably bought largely endeavoured to spread the report that the second supply differed. We are now in a position to state that consignments of the second supply have been received in this country and that the surcharge is identically the same. Messrs. Bright & Son are selling their consignment of the second supply at 1d. each, as before.

Sarawak Provisionals.

At a recent meeting of the Manchester Philatelic Society, Mr. Abbott and Mr. Beckton gave a display of Sarawaks, the exhibit of the former including the 2 c. on 3 c., the second issue imperf., several stamps watermarked I and L N T, and all the errors and varieties of surcharge. Mr. Beckton showed amongst other things the 2 c. on 3 c. on piece of original with London postmark July 29th, 1876, although in Collin and Calman's catalogue it is said not to have been issued until August of that year.

Birmingham Society: Sales.

For buying and selling the Birmingham Society has probably no equal. It is blessed with an energetic secretary, and to an energetic society all things are possible. Mr. Johnson reports that the sales for the monthly packets (which have averaged over £2,000 a month for the whole year) have been heavier than for a long time past. Australians and South Africans are to the fore, but every country seems to have had its share of patronage, and the general collector is in evidence once again.

Specialisation in Albums.

We are slowly but surely drifting towards the day when there will be separate and special albums for special groups and countries. The process has been in operation for years. First the catalogues recognised the necessity of dividing British Colonials from Foreign Countries. Then the Foreign Countries section was arranged in groups of Countries and their Colonies. Then we had the same division in albums, and now the division is drifting into groups and out of the British Colonial Album we have a separate "British Africa Album," recently published by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd. This new album is on the well-known Imperial album plan, with catalogue on one page and on the opposite page numbered spaces for the stamps. To give it permanence, blank pages are provided at the end of each colony.

Why not special albums for each of the great Colonies on the same lines? A Canadian album would surely be popular. So, too, would separate albums for the Australian Colonies.

An American Tapling.

According to the *Metropolitan Philatelist*, "A wealthy gentleman, who has practically secured all the stamps obtainable without trespassing too much on his leisure, has about concluded to donate his collection to some museum or other public institution where they will be properly taken care of, added to from time to time, and kept so that they can be readily accessible to the public."

Our contemporary adds, "The average man would think that there would be no difficulty in making a present worth forty thousand dollars on these terms, but results have proved otherwise. The trustees of the most suitable institutions for displaying a collection of this character do not look upon a forty thousand dollar gift as of much importance, especially when conditions are attached to it, and they are not interested in stamps anyway. Moreover, if such a gift is to be taken care of, a suitable person has to be employed for that purpose, and he has to be paid a salary, and funds must be set aside large enough to command an equal annual interest."

In order to secure this gift for the American public, the proprietor of the *M.P.* generously offers to subscribe one hundred dollars towards a maintenance fund.

"Vaal River Colony."

The Scott Stamp & Coin Co. in their new catalogue have put the stamps of the Transvaal under the title of "Vaal River Colony." Where they got the title from the Lord only knows. Having made a nice little muddle of the business one would think they would take the earliest opportunity of putting matters right, but instead of that they continue their self-chosen title, and now use it in their new issues chronicled in the *American Journal of Philately*, and even the *Metropolitan Philatelist* follows suit.

Correspondence.

French Perforations.

DEAR SIR,—In reference to Mr. W. Dorning Beckton's remarks in your April number on variations in the perforations of French stamps, may I mention a 15c. blue used French, allegorical design, that I possess. It is imperforated at the bottom. This alone would suggest that it is mentioned by Mr. Marconnet in the description:—"15c. blue, perf. on top, imperf. on other three sides." But my specimen is so cut that a portion of the stamp below it in the sheet is clearly shown. There must also be stamps with no perforation on the top. My specimen is on quadrillé paper, and is post-marked October, 1899.—Yours

Northampton, A. ADCOCK.
12th April, 1901.

Proposed Philatelic Club.

DEAR SIR,—Mr. C J Phillips, in the *Monthly Journal*, throws out the suggestion of a Philatelic Club for London, and it is in the hope that the matter will be taken up in real earnest that I write to enlist the help of the *Philatelic Record*. A Philatelic Club, on a modest scale, would, I feel sure, be a real success, *if properly managed*. And I want to suggest as a way to the desired end, that a few leading collectors preferably men of the first rank in the premier society, should call a general meeting at the rooms of the London Philatelic Society to discuss the matter and arrive at a desirable start. Everything depends upon a proper start. And a start under the wing of the premier society would go far to ensure success. Let the Club begin in an unpretentious style, and develope, as means accrue, carefully and judiciously, and all will go smoothly, and we shall have what we have sadly wanted for years—a common meeting-ground for all interested in stamp collecting. At present we are far too much divided up into trade societies, collectors' societies and other close coteries, each having no recognisable connection with the other. If we could have some club in which there would be no dividing lines we should all be better friends than we are.—Yours, &c.,

AN OLD COLLECTOR.

Notices.

Subscriptions:—The *Philatelic Record* will be sent, post free, to any address, at home or abroad, for 5s. 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 Dealer.

Editorial Communications and all inquiries concerning **Advertisements** must be addressed to MR. EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, 28, Birdhurst Rise, Croydon, England.

Advertisement Rates.—Net.

Space per insertion.	Single.	3 months.	6 months.	12 months.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Whole Page.....	3 0 0	2 16 6	2 12 6	2 0 0
Half Page.....	1 15 0	1 10 0	1 7 0	1 2 6
Quarter Page.....	1 0 0	0 18 0	0 15 0	0 12 6

Advertisements must be received not later than the 12th of the month for publication in the next issue.

All Foreign Orders for Advertisements must be *prepaid*.

THE

Philatelic Record

EDITED BY

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

Member of the Institute of Journalists.

JUNE, 1901.

Editorial Notes.

A GREAT deal of attention has, during the past few weeks, been directed to the existence of foreign post offices in Turkey. It seems from the ordinary point of view an extraordinary thing that any sovereign country should permit any other country to interfere with matters which concern its internal administration.

Foreign Post Offices in Turkey.

But the great Powers do not feel inclined to trust the mail matter of their respective countries, to or from the Ottoman Empire to the care of the Turkish authorities. Consequently they stipulate for the establishment and maintenance of post offices under their own control and management for the collection and distribution of their own letters. And the Sultan has to submit to what is nothing more nor less than an indignity.

Whenever there is a recrudescence of the spirit of revolt against the maladministration of the Porte, the foreign mails are at once naturally suspected as a source of contamination used by the rebelliously inclined. Hence, when the progressive spirits of the Young Turkey party recently showed signs of restlessness the authorities of the Porte seized the foreign mails with the idea of intercepting rebellious communications, and so frustrating the party of revolt.

This naturally led to strong protests and joint action by the representatives of the foreign powers and to questions in Parliament. The following question and answer in the House of Commons on the 17th May, 1901, will be specially interesting to Philatelists :—

Mr. Gibson Bowles (King's Lynn) asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he was aware of any treaty or any other international document giving either to Great Britain or to any other foreign nation the right of maintaining its own post office in Turkey: if not, by virtue of what authority was the British post office maintained there; did the maintenance of foreign post offices in Turkey deprive the Turkish Government of any portion of the postal revenues which would otherwise accrue to it; was he aware that the mails consigned to these foreign post offices and distributed by them often conveyed packets of watches and other valuable articles, which thus evaded the Turkish Customs duties; and did His Majesty's Government propose themselves to continue to maintain in Turkey a system of foreign post offices which lent itself to an evasion of duties and a diminution of a portion of the securities pledged to foreign bondholders.

Viscount Cranborne: In pursuance of the provisions of the treaty of 1783 the Russian Mails have been distributed by a special Russian Post office in the Consulate-General for many years. French, British and German post offices were subsequently established on the ground that those countries are entitled under their treaties with the Porte to the same privileges as are enjoyed by others. These arrangements, therefore, are of long standing and have been necessitated by the absence of any security that the Turkish Government can efficiently replace the foreign post offices. No doubt the Turkish revenue suffers to some extent in consequence; but it is quite understood that articles which would otherwise be liable to Turkish Custom dues are not transmissible by letter post through our post office in Constantinople, and articles sent by parcel post are delivered through the Turkish Custom House. In accordance with what I have said above, His Majesty's Government are not prepared to admit that any portion of the securities pledged to the bondholders are infringed. With regard to the continued maintenance of the foreign post office, I have nothing to add to my answers of the 9th and 13th inst., in which the attitude of His Majesty's Government was fully explained.

On the 18th May Tewfik Pasha informed the Ambassadors that the Sultan regretted the Postal incident, and had ordered that no obstacles should be raised to the foreign post offices.

Small Sheets in Stamp Books.

According to a Laffan telegram from New York, the United States Post Office plan of selling stamps in small books, in which the stamps are kept separate by leaves of oiled paper, is a great success. It is added that the U.S. State Department has now been informed that Austria will adopt the same plan, and it is understood that Great Britain, Germany and other countries are in favour of doing so. The small sheets of these books should be very attractive to specialists who are fond of large blocks and panes. Many countries would increase their revenue from a sale of small sheets. For the small sheets of Gambia and Labuan there must have been a good sale, and now-a-days, when large blocks of stamps are much more popular with wealthy collectors, small sheets would certainly secure a large sale.

Besieged Stamps for the Credulous.

A great deal of ominous noise is being made over what is termed "Schweizer Renecke Siege Stamps," said to have been issued there when that place was invested by a Boer force. A plausible document, signed "Chamier, Col.," has been duly and discriminately circulated to authenticate the issue. This document states *a la Mafeking* that letters were sent by native runners. The stamps were overprinted with a dating stamp and the word "Besieged." The gallant Colonel tells us that these overprints were applied to Cape and Transvaal stamps. One of the Cape stamps, he says, was of an old pattern, which he is unable to describe, for, he naively adds, he is not a stamp collector. He does not tell us how many who were stamp collectors helped in the issue, but he thinks forgery would be difficult as he kept the dating stamp and his staff officer the india-rubber one, and he is able to assure us that only a few hundred of each variety were issued, and that the only genuine dates would be August and September, 1900. It is all so innocent! Major Evans tells us that the specimens shown him were stuck into an account book, and then postmarked to order.

Fading of Stamp Colours.

Mr. M. W. Jones has been experimenting in the exposure of stamp colours to sunlight. His tests seem to have been of a very thorough character. The *Monthly Journal* for April publishes the tests and results in detail, and we have on another page quoted the generalisation of those results. They are important and ominous from more than one point of view. They tell us plainly that the growing popularity of aniline colours is a disturbing item, for those colours are the first to depreciate, But the tests are most important from the exhibition point of view, for they bring home to us the fact that a serious proportion of our treasures are very sensitive to light.

In the last London Exhibition, held at the excellent Rooms of the Painters in Water Colours in Piccadilly, it is no secret that several stamps suffered severely, and not a few were absolutely spoiled. And yet the Rooms selected were specially suitable for exhibitions, the only light being from the roof.

English Stamps Demonetised.

We publish in this number, on another page, a notice from the *London Gazette* which demonetises certain English stamps. This action of the authorities comes as a surprise on Philatelists. It does not, of course, affect in the slightest degree the Philatelic value of any one of the stamps referred to, but it raises the question how far demonetisation, once begun, may extend. Purchasers, for instance, of high value English stamps have always comforted themselves with the reflection that, at worst, they will be always worth face value, for no English stamp has ever been demonetised. Now, all that is changed, and collectors who lay in pairs and blocks of the £5 stamp may have doubts and fears, though, we imagine, they need not give way to any great alarm. Still, there is no denying the fact that this act of demonetisation, which seems to be utterly needless and absurd, provides food for reflection. What may happen when we get the King's stamps? Will there be a general demonetisation of Queen's Heads?

Transvaal Sheets.

By Edward J. Nankivell.

BY the kindness of Mr. C. J. Phillips (Stanley Gibbons, Ltd.) and Mr. D. Field, I am enabled to advance by another stage our information as to the make-up of the sheets of the First Republic Type, overprinted "V.R.—Transvaal" and "*V.R.*—Transvaal."

Up to this time we have been unable to say whether the 1d. red on blue and 6d. blue on green were printed in two panes or only one pane at a time. As neither of these stamps is known with the italic V.R. peculiar to the second pane, we have naturally believed these values must, therefore, have been printed in single panes from the Roman V.R. setting. If this conjecture were true it would materially affect the value of the popular rarity of "Transvral" for "Transvaal" in the 1d. red on blue. For if printed in single panes or sheets of 40 there would be 329 of the Errors, but if printed in sheets of 80 of two panes of 40 each there would be only half that number. But a curious element in the calculation is the fact that the number printed of the 1d. red on blue, viz., 13,160, will divide by 40 and give 329 sheets, but it will not divide by 80 into complete sheets.

On the other hand the absence of the Italic *V.R.* from the 1d. red on blue and 6d. blue on green, the presence of the badly-broken V of V.R. in each value, and in these values only, and the fact that both were printed within a short period of each other, the 6d. on Nov. 27th, 1877, and the 1d. on Dec. 6th, 1877, all favour the theory that the 1d. red on blue and the 6d. blue on green were probably printed from the same setting, in sheets of 80 in two horizontal panes of 40 stamps.

For the present I must regretfully leave the problem of the make-up of the sheets of the 1d. red on blue, with the "Transvral" Error, for future solution. Perchance, some fortunate collector, whén his star is in the ascendant, will some day pick up a complete sheet with full margins and thus settle the question. I pray the good fortune may be mine, but "I hae ma doots."

Now for the evidence that we have to go on with. Mr. Phillips, in his hunt for fine unused early Transvaals, for which he has a watchful eye, recently was fortunate in securing a strip of the 6d. blue on green. Unsevered from this strip was a portion of a stamp, tête bêche, from the adjoining pane, thus proving that the 6d. blue on green was printed in sheets of two panes. Further, the presence of the tête bêche stamp, or rather of a portion of it, on the strip established the fact that the strip must be the fourth horizontal row of the second pane. In the Italic setting the third, fourth and fifth rows were all of the Italic setting. The portion of the stamp referred to has a Roman

V.R., and therefore proves that both panes were of the Roman setting. Hence the 6d. blue on green, must have been printed in sheets of two panes of 40 stamps all with Roman V.R.

To Mr. Field I am indebted for a photograph of a complete pane of the 6d. blue on blue, which he recently acquired and has since sold for a good round sum of three substantial figures. This pane is evidently the left-hand pane of a sheet of 80 in two horizontal panes of 40. The first stamp in the fourth row is the tête bêche variety. The first row and the first five stamps of the second row have the Roman V.R. The remainder of the pane is made up of Italic *V.R.* This valuable pane is an important piece of evidence, for it not only tells us how the types of V.R. were arranged, but also settles the position of the tête bêche stamp. Hitherto we could not say whether the tête bêche stamp was on the right or left-hand pane. Now we know it is on the left-hand pane and that it is of Italic type of *V.R.* Forgers were unaware of this, for they made their rare tête bêche pairs with Roman V.R.'s

We may now bring our information up to date in diagram form.

Setting I. 1d., red on orange, and 6d., blue on blue.

The 1d. red on orange and 6d. blue on blue were printed from the same setting, *i.e.*, in two horizontal panes of 40 stamps in five rows of eight stamps. In each case the left-hand pane was composed of mixed types, the first row and five stamps of the second row being of the Roman V.R. type and the remainder of the pane of the Italic *V.R.* type, as follows :—

V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal
V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal
V. R. Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal
V. R. Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal
V. R. Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal

1d., red on orange.
6d., blue on blue.

Setting II. 3d., mauve on buff.

In the 3d., mauve on buff, the setting of the two types is different. Our diagram is from a complete horizontal pane, with margins, sold at an auction by Messrs. Ventom, Bull & Cooper in 1894. The first three rows are of the Roman V.R. type, and the fourth and fifth rows in the Italic *V.R.* type.

It is somewhat curious that the setting of the 3d. value should alone vary from the others in the arrangement of the two types of "V.R." The fact that it has only two rows of the Italic "*V.R.*" type out of a sheet of 80 accounts for the greater scarcity of the Italic surcharge in this stamp. It will be seen that it must be five times as scarce as the Roman V.R. The catalogues recognise it as being only twice as scarce. In the subsequent printing of the 3d. value, in mauve on green, the scarcity is reversed, the Roman V.R. being by far the rarer variety.

There were, however, two separate printings of the 3d., mauve on buff; one of 21,960 stamps on 24th October, 1877, and the other of 74,480 on 15th April, 1878. It is of course possible that the two printings may include the two settings of Roman V.R. and Italic *V.R.* I can only give the setting of the one pane I have seen, and hope that some day further evidence will be forthcoming.

I need hardly say that I shall be glad of any help that will throw any additional light on the settings of this 3d. value. The official records are of course silent on such details. Hence we get no help from Mr. Tamsen. But in Transvaals the most unexpected bits of evidence have cropped up from time to time, and even this point may yet be cleared up.

V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal
V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal
V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal
V. R. Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal
V. R. Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal	*V. R.* Transvaal

3d., mauve on buff.

Setting III. 6d., blue on green.

The 6d., blue on green, is as I have proved, all in the Roman V.R. type. It is true I have only seen one stamp of the second pane as evidence of this statement, but, as pointed out, its position in the pane with a Roman V.R., taken in conjunction with the confirmatory evidence that the 6d., blue on green, is not known in the Italic type, we may safely assume that the 6d., blue on green, was printed in sheets of 80 in two horizontal panes of 40 stamps, all in Roman V.R. type:—

V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal
V. R Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal
V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal
V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal
V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal	V. R. Transvaal

6d., blue on green.

Thus, little by little, we are piecing together and completing the history of the early stamps of the Transvaal. Many interesting points still await further inquiry. In connection with this very series we may enumerate a few. For example, there were probably two settings of the 1d. red on orange. As proof of this fact we may instance the misplaced, or raised, "R" in the "V.R.," which is not to be found in any panes in my own collection or any other collection that I have seen. There were two separate printings of the 1d. red on orange, *i.e.*, 18 January, 1878, 48,160; and 15 April, 1878, 40,000; and the make-up probably differed. Again, we have not yet been able to settle the position of the Error on the sheet. To these we may add the printing of the same overprint on the 3d. mauve on green. Of that value I remember having seen a complete sheet on the stall of Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. in the Exhibition held by the Philatelic Society of London in Baker Street, London, 1890. That sheet was made up of ten rows of eight stamps, but though I was an Exhibitor of Transvaals at that Exhibition, I was not deep enough in their study to realize the importance of taking a note of that setting.

St. Helena Varieties.

By Ed. H. Selby.

IN the article on some stamps of St. Helena, which appeared in the March number of the *P. R.*, certain interesting varieties were chronicled and a great deal of most valuable information was given as to the surcharging of the values, but there are still some further varieties which I think have not been previously noted, and of which the following particulars will shew that there is scope for research in the stamps of this interesting little island.

The fourpence watermark Crown and CC and perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 14$ exists, with the bar measuring $14\frac{3}{4}$ mm, and also with the bar $13\frac{3}{4}$ mm, while the length of the value surcharge is the same in both instances, namely $16\frac{1}{2}$ mm. Another most interesting variety is that of the one penny watermark Crown and CC, perforated 14. This stamp has been bisected vertically, and the half-stamp used as a halfpenny. The copy I have is the right half and is on a piece of printed wrapper, but unfortunately there is no dated postmark to indicate the date on which it was used, but it is cancelled with the ordinary rayed obliteration.

The third variety I should like to mention is the Twopence, watermark Crown and CA, perforated 14 vertically, but imperforated horizontally.

The one penny imperf., with the bar 14 mm, which Mr. Beckton draws attention to, is I think undoubtedly the 1868 issue, as the value surcharge is different to the 1863 issue, but this variety I found used some years ago and have since obtained an unused copy. I have also seen this particular stamp surcharged "specimen," together with other "specimen" varieties imperf.

The five shilling exists in two distinct shades, the first printing being, as Mr. Beckton states, yellow, and the length of the bars of the $2\frac{1}{2}$d. watermark Crown and CA, differ a full millimetre, as I have found these measuring $14\frac{1}{4}$ mm. and $13\frac{1}{4}$ mm. se tenant.

The double surcharge on the fourpence, watermark Crown and CC, perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$, appears almost identical to the double surcharge on the shilling, illustrated in the article referred to, and if the process of surcharging was similar to that adopted for the shilling, it is therefore just possible that this particular stamp may exist without the surcharge, but up to the present time, I believe, this has not been discovered.

English Stamps Demonetised.

THE following notice demonetising certain early issues of English postage stamps was published in the *London Gazette* of the 19th April, 1901. This is the first occasion upon which any English stamps have been demonetised.

Stamp Duties.

The Commissioners of Inland Revenue, in pursuance of section twenty-two of the Stamp Duties Management Act, 1891, as amended by section ten of the Revenue Act, 1898, hereby give notice that the use of the dies from which the covers and envelopes used for denoting duties of postage at the rates of one penny and two pence, and commonly called or known as the Mulready Covers and Envelopes, have heretofore been printed, and also of the dies referred to in the schedule hereunder written from which adhesive stamps have heretofore been printed for denoting certain duties of postage and of Inland Revenue, has been discontinued, and that on and after the first day of June, one thousand nine hundred and one, those dies will not be lawful dies for denoting the payment of any duty, and that the duties of postage and of Inland Revenue for which those dies have hitherto been available may and shall, on and after that day, be expressed and denoted only by the dies provided in lieu thereof, which are now in general use for denoting the said duties by adhesive stamps, as is in the first part of the said schedule mentioned.—Dated this 19th day of April, 1901.

By order of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue,
H. F. BARTLETT, Assistant-Secretary.

The SCHEDULE above referred to..

FIRST PART.

Dies for denoting Duties of Postage as follows, of which some have, since the passing of the Acts 44 and 45 Vict., c. 12, and 45 and 46 Vict., c. 72, been available, for denoting also Duties of Inland Revenue.

Duty.	Dies Discontinued.
1. The duty of one penny.	All dies in use previously to those used for the stamps now in general use for denoting this duty, which stamps are printed with the words "Postage and Inland Revenue" thereon, and were first issued on the 13th day of December, 1891.
2. The duties of one halfpenny, of one penny halfpenny, of two pence, of two pence halfpenny, of threepence, of four pence, of five pence, of six pence, of nine pence, and of one shilling.	All dies in use previously to those used for the stamps now in general use for denoting these duties, which stamps are printed with the words "Postage and Revenue" thereon, and were first issued on the 1st day of January, 1887.
3. The duty of tenpence.	All dies in use previously to those used for the stamps now in general use for denoting this duty, which stamps are printed with the words "Postage and Revenue" thereon, and were first issued on the 22nd day of February, 1890.

Duty.	Dies Discontinued.
4. The duties of five shillings, of ten shillings, and of one pound.	All dies in use previously to those used for the stamps now in general use for denoting these duties, which stamps were first issued on the 1st day of April, 1884.
5 The duties payable in respect of the transmission of telegrams.	All dies appropriated by words on the face of them to duties payable in respect of the transmission of telegrams.

SECOND PART.

Dies for denoting Duties of Inland Revenue as follows, of which some have, since the passing of the Acts 44 and 45 Vict., c. 12, and 45 and 46 Vict., c. 72, been available for denoting also Duties of Postage.

Duty.	Dies Discontinued.
1. The duty of one penny.	All dies appropriated by words on the face of them to the duties payable on (1) Receipts, (2) Drafts or Orders for the payment of money to bearer or to order on demand, and also all dies in use previously to the 13th December, 1881, having the words "Inland Revenue" thereon.
2. The duties of twopence, of three pence, of six pence, of nine pence, of one shilling, of one shilling and sixpence, of two shillings, and of two shillings and six pence.	All dies in use previously to the 1st day of January, 1887, having the words "Inland Revenue" thereon.

New Zealand: Current Issue.

Shades in the Colonial Printings from the Waterlow Plates.

AS every one anticipated, the Colonial printings from the Waterlow plates of the picture series of the current issue of New Zealand stamps are yielding some very interesting shades. In the ½d. value there are many shades from pale green to very deep green. In the 1d. there are several shades, but not so marked. The 2d. gives only a few very distinct shades. The 3d. and 4d. less, but the 5d. yields several very marked shade varieties from a pale washed-out brown to a deep red brown. The 6d. has been locally printed in green and in rose. In the green a yellow-green is a very scarce stamp. The dark green gives very few if any marked shades. The rose varies from very pale to a more defined colour. The 8d. and 9d. have few shades, but the 1s. yields a rich range of most pronounced shades, some of which will, no doubt, be scarce: one might say the variation is almost one of colour, for the 1s. varies from a bright vermilion to a deep brownish-red. There are several most distinct shades. The 2s. and 5s. vary little, probably because there have been few separate printings.

Fortunately, as yet, there are no varieties of perforation as all, so far, have been uniformly perforated 11.

Varieties Worth Noting.

Germany: 1880. 50 pf.

THE *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung* chronicles the following discovery:—On the plates used for printing the 50 pfennig value of the 1880 issue there exists a second type, of which, so far, no mention has been made. This variety, as our illustration shows, has not got the little angle in the central ornamentation on the right-hand side.



Original. Type II. Original. Type I. Forgery 1882.

How this variety came to be on the plate is unknown, but it is presumed that by accident a faulty cliché was used. Only a few specimens are so far known, and it is not quite clear in how many printings this type can be found, nor its place on the sheet. Mr. Kost has found two specimens, greyish-green in colour and obliterated 1884. Mr. Müller has a specimen, grey in colour and obliterated 18.2.86. Miss Wernz has one, dark greyish-green in colour and obliterated 28.1.88, and Mr. Stoll one, greyish-green in colour and obliterated 10.10.87. On an entire sheet of this value in the dark olive shade, which we possess, this variety, or second type, does not exist.

The stamp which we reproduce on the right-hand side is the 1882 forgery, of which about 140,000 have been sold and used to the detriment of the German postal revenue. They were made and sold by a lithographer named Riechers, of Barmen. As a forgery it is magnificent, the colour and entire execution are so exact that it is not surprising copies passed the post office in such quantities.

Here again we have an instance of a clear variety escaping general notice for many years. One does not expect these minor varieties to occur in the improved methods of production now employed, and yet, every now and again, we have evidence like this German variety to suggest to us that we should examine even our modern issues more closely than we do.

Philippine Islands.

Varieties of the 2 4-8c. of 1880-82 and 8c. on 2 4-8c.

By Donald A. King, in "Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News."

THE surcharged stamps of this United States possession is a field that has been partially neglected, and one that will repay careful study, as the catalogues are by no means complete, not merely in minor varieties but in the different types of surcharge.

That this should be so is not strange, as, until the last few years there was no interest taken in these commissions and no demand for them, but now that they have become a speciality of the collectors of the United States, it is time that they should be correctly arranged and the different types of surcharge illustrated.

In common with many collectors, I take considerable interest in Philippine Island stamps, and of late have had an opportunity to examine large quantities of some of the surcharged varieties, and was surprised to find several distinct types and varieties not given in the Standard Catalogues, and of these stamps the ones giving a title to this paper seemed the most prolific.

After a careful examination of upward of a thousand specimens of this surcharged stamp, I discovered five distinct varieties of surcharge, and was much surprised to find that the second re-engraving had also been in use.

The Scott Co.'s catalogue, with which we are best acquainted, gives of this value: No. 57, 2 4-8c., ultramarine; No. 58, 2 4-8c., ultramarine, 1st re-engraving (1883).

Stanley Gibbons does the same, adding a subvariety in deep ultramarine. To these lists should be added: 2 4-8c., deep blue, 2nd re-engraving.

Of the surcharge of 8c. on 2 4-8c., the catalogues are satisfied with merely listing it without stating whether it is on the first type or the re-engraved one, and do not state whether more than one type of surcharge exists or not.

The surcharge does not exist on the first issue of the 2 4-8c.; at least there was not one specimen in the large number I examined, and I think that the 2 4-8c., Scott's No. 57, may be dismissed as never having been surcharged. This narrows the stamp proper to the 2 4-8c. first and second re-engraving. The illustrations of the two engravings are somewhat more distinct in Stanley Gibbons' catalogue than in Scott's, the latter omitting one of the tests to distinguish the two prints, *i.e.*, the hair over the forehead in the second re-engraving is much closer to the frame than in the first.

The types of surcharge are as follows:

Type 1, first re-engraving—

Outside measurement of oval, 20x17 m.
Inside measurement of oval, 13x10 m.
Oval band measures, 3 m. wide.
Distance from "L" of postal to "O" of Habilitado is 2 1-2 m.
Full stop after "L" of Gral and after "T" of Cent.
Ornament on each side is a small cross made of four fleur-de-lis shaped points.
In all types the correct shape of these side ornaments can only be seen in lightly surcharged specimens, as the ink used has a tendency to blur.

Type 2, first re-engraving—

Outside measurement of oval, 20x17 m.
Inside measurement of oval, 13x10 m.
Oval band measures 3 m. wide.
Distance from "L" of Postal to "O" of Habilitado is 4 m.
Full stop after "L" of Gral and after "T" of Cent—but the latter stop is about one-half m. above the line, not on it as in Type 1.
Ornament on each side is a small diamond.
This type can be easily distinguished from any other by the distance between the upper and the lower parts of the surcharge.

Type 1, second re-engraving—

Outside measurement of oval, 20x17 m.
Inside measurement of oval, 13x10 m.
Oval band measures 3 m. wide.
Distance from "L" of Postal to "O" of Habilitado is 2 1-2 m.
Full stop after "L" of Gral and after "T" of Cent.
Ornament on each side is a small cross made of fleur-de-lis shaped points. The above variety is the same surcharged as Type 1 of the first re-engraving.

Type 2, second re-engraving—

Outside measurement of oval, 20x18 m.
Inside measurement of oval, 13x10 m.
Oval band measures 4 m. wide.
Distance from "L" of Postal to "O" of Habilitado is 3 m.
No stops after Gral or Cent.
Ornament on each side a small diamond, but thicker than in other varieties.

Type 3, second re-engraving—

Outside measurement of oval, 21x18 m.
Inside measurement of oval, 13x10 m.
Oval band measures 4 m. wide.
Distance from "L" of Postal to "O" of Habilitado is 2 m.
No stops after Gral or Cent.
Ornament on each side a small diamond.

The respective rarity of these stamps is about as follows:

Type 1 of the first and second re-engraving is the commonest; Type 2 of the second re-engraving is about the next common, though not at all easy to find; the other three varieties are decidedly rare and seldom met with. Of the lot I examined there are about of Type 2 second engraving, and Type 3 of the second engraving in the same number.

The unsurcharged stamp with the second re-engraving is scarce. The overprinting on these stamps was apparently done singly and with a rubber stamp, so that the surcharge is found in many positions, and imperfect impressions are numerous.

In some the "8," probably from having been broken, is a perfect figure "3."

That more varieties of this surcharged may be found is quite possible, as it was the Postal Union rate and in use for some time, so that the quantities used must have been large, and I would be glad to see any further additions added to their Reference List.

REFERENCE LIST.

Philippines, 1880-2.

2 4-8 cent, dark blue, second re-engraving.

1881-88.

8 cent. surcharged on 2-48c. ultramarine—first re-engraving.
Type 1, 8c. on 2 4-8c. ultramarine.
Type 2, 8c. on 2 4-8c., dark blue.

Second Re-engraving.

Type 1, 8c. on 2 4-8c., dark blue.
Type 2, 8c. on 2 4-8 c., ultramarine.

Surcharge.

Type 3, 8c. on 2 4-8 c., ultramarine.



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.

Gibraltar. Morocco Agencies.—The *Monthly Journal* finds that in each sheet of the stamps with the London overprint, there is one stamp which shows an abnormal "M" in "Morocco." We have been shown the variety. The capital is more condensed, and has a distincly long and thickened serif on the top of the left stroke.

Griqualand.—Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., have found a copy of the 4d. Cape of Good Hope variety without outer line, with italic "*G*" inverted.

Hong Kong.—The *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung* chronicles the 5c. changed to yellow, and the 30c. to brown. The *Philatelic Journal of India* has seen the 4c. with colour changed to rose.

Adhesives.

4c., rose.
5c., yellow.
30c., brown.

Patiala.—Mr. Crosse sends the *Philatelic Journal of India* a copy of the 1 anna *curved* "Service" stamp with red curved surcharge reversed. The *P.J.I.* adds, "The stamp appears to have been used last year, so other copies may probably still be found. There would be 240 in all, for a sheet must have been fed into the press upside-down. In the Jhind curved reversed surcharges, it will be remembered that the error occurred once in a sheet.

India. China Expeditionary Force.—The *Philatelic Journal of India* says none of the new coloured stamps have been surcharged "G.E.F.," nor is it likely that any ever will.

Faridkot.—According to the *Philatelic Journal of India*, the native Post Office put up its shutters on the 31st March. It is the first of the Convention States to give in. The *P.J.I.* adds the State is retaining the stock in hand, and it promises to publish a statement of these remainders.

Gwalior.—The *Monthly Journal* chronicles the following varieties of surcharge:—

With small "A," or rather with a letter with a broken top, as on the other values.

3 pies, carmine.

With small "G."

3 pies, ½, 1, 2 annas.

With small "R."

3 pies, 2 annas.

Both the "G" and the "R" are distinctly different from the other letters; they probably exist on other values also.

With a block before the "G."

1 a., 2 a.

With the "A" above the level of the other letters.

2 annas.

All are in the now obsolete colours, and have the longer Hindi surcharge.

The *Philatelic Journal of India* has received a used copy of the 1 rupee, carmine and green, Gwalior (ordinary), with the vernacular word measuring 16 mm.

Kishengar.—The *Philatelic Journal of India* regrets to have to chronicle more Kishengar stamps. A 2 annas in dull orange it reports to be a rough lithographic imitation of the Sirmoor "head" design. A light purple-brown 4 annas resembles the design of the ¼ anna of Kishengar itself. Both are on thin wove paper. The *P.J.I.* copies are pin perf., but our contemporary has no doubt they can also be had imperf. The *P.J.I.* says the other values appear to have settled down to regular colours, as follows:—

Adhesives.

½ anna, carmine.
½ anna, blue.
30 annas, brown.

Malta.—The *Monthly Journal* has been shown a specimen of the ½d., *buff*, wmk. Crown and CC, perf. 14, postmarked Ja. 11, 62, showing that the date of issue is at least a year earlier than that given in the Catalogue.

Mauritius.—We have received a 4c. of the arms type, purple on yellow paper with value in carmine. Wmk. Cr. CA, perf. 14.

Adhesive.

4c., purple on yellow paper, value in carmine.

New Zealand. — Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. inform us that the whole of the Queen's head issue was re-called from all offices in the Colony on 31st December last, and have been destroyed.

Orange River Colony.—In our Classified Reference List of V.R.I. Issues in our last December number we chronicled the smaller fractional figures in the ½d. value in the "Raised Stops" setting only. Messrs. Bright & Son have sent us a specimen in the first or "Level Stops" setting, and the *Monthly Journal* lists several other varieties as follows :—

Adhesives.

½d., 1st printing, level stops, small "½."
½d., 2nd „ raised „ „
½d., 2nd „ „ „ "R.I." only.
½d., 2nd or 3rd printing, mixed stops, with "R.I." only.
3d., pair from right lower corner of sheet, the corner stamp without any surcharge (first printing).
6d., *carmine*, with thick "V."
5s., first printing, with stop after "R" inverted, thus "V.R·I."
5s., third printing, with mixed stops.

Southern Nigeria.—We now illustrate the series of stamps issued for this new division of the Niger Territories. A full list of the series will be found in our March number (p. 88).



Straits Settlements. Federated Malay States.—We illustrate the stamps of the new type. They are watermarked Crown and C.A., and perf. 14. The stamps being oblong in shape the wmk. is placed sideways.



Adhesives.

1c., green,	centre	black.
3c., brown,	„	„
4c., carmine,	„	„
5c., carmine on *yellow*,	„	green.
8c., blue,	„	black.
10c., purple,	„	„
20c., grey-black,	„	lilac.
50c., orange,	„	black.

South Australia. — *Ewen's Weekly* chronicles the following high values perf. 11½ :—

Adhesives

£2, Venetian red.
50s., dull pink.
£3, sage-green.
£4, lemon.
£10, bronze.
£15, silver.
£20, mauve.

The copies of the £10, £15, and £20 stamps were surcharged "SPECIMEN."

Tonga.—The *Monthly Journal* announces that the ½d. stamp of 1896, formed from the 1½d. on 2d. instead of from the 7½d. on 2d., which was omitted from the catalogue as doubtful, will now be restored. Mr. Phillips has seen an undoubtedly genuine used pair.

Transvaal.—The following is a complete list up to date of inverted V.R.I. surcharges which have been seen :—

Adhesives.

Surcharge V.R.I. inverted.
½d., green.
1d., carmine and green.
2d., dark brown.
2½d., blue.
6d., mauve.
1s., ochre.

Foreign Countries.

Austria.—The *Monthly Journal* chronicles the 1 piaster on 25 heller perf. 10½.

Bulgaria.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a provisional 5 on 3 stot, and we have also seen a 10st. on 50st. The overprint consists of a bold figure with a heavy bar across the original value. Perf. 13.

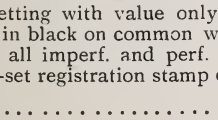
Adhesive.

"5" black on 3st., brown.
"10" „ „ 50st., green.

France. Congo.—*L'Echo* has the following curious notice :—"Forty-four sheets of the 2 centimes French Congo, panther type, were printed by error in red, which is the colour of the 10c. The mistake was discovered, and the forty-four sheets were ordered to be sent to headquarters in order to be destroyed. They left the printing office, but never arrived at their destination! That they have not disappeared is proved by the fact that some specimens

have already been offered for sale. It seems to us that the French Post Office will have to start a detective office."

Colombia.—Messrs. Bright & Son have shown us several values of a type-set provisional issued at Tumaco to supply the place of the ordinary issue of which the supply has been cut off by the revolution in progress. There are several values, all of the same setting with value only changed, all printed in black on common white wove paper, and all imperf. and perf. There is also a type-set registration stamp of 10c.



Adhesives.

1c., black.
2c., ,,
2½c., ,,
5c., ,,
10c., ,,
20c., ,,
50c., ,,
$1, ,,
$5, ,,
$10, ,,

Greece.—Already there are said to be 40 varieties of the recently-issued provisionals.

ΑΕΠΤΑ instead of ΛΕΠΤΑ.—This error exists several times on the sheet, some having the numeral 0 in figure of value in the surcharge wide and some narrow.

ΤΕΠΤΑ instead of ΛΕΠΤΑ.—We have seen all the errors on the 30 on 40 purple, 40 on 2 bistre, 50 on 40 flesh—all the old type of head.

In the Olympian Games Series we note a small "M" in "AM" in the 1dr. on 5dr. green.

The *Monthly Journal* publishes the following list of abnormal varieties:—

Type 1, *no figures on back.*
With "ΑΕΠΤΑ" *for* "ΛΕΠΤΑ."
30l. on 40l., purple on *cream; imperf.*
30l. on 40l., ,, ,, *perf.* 11½.
40l. on 2l., stone ,, *imperf.*

Type 2. *Athens print.*
Surcharge inverted.
20l. on 25l., deep blue; *imperf.*
20l. on 25l., dull blue ,,
20l. on 25l., pale blue ,,
20l. on 25l., dull blue; *perf.* 11½.
20l. on 25l., pale blue ,, ,,

With double surcharge.
20l. on 25l., dull blue; *imperf.*
20l. on 25l., pale blue ,,
20l. on 25l., deep blue; *perf.* 11½.
20l. on 25l., pale blue ,, ,,

With "20" *at top and* "ΑΕΠΤΑ" *at foot.*
20l. on 25l., dull blue; *imperf.*
20l. on 25l., ,, *perf.* 11½.

With "AM," *etc., double*
5l. on 1dr., blue; *Olympic issue.*

Germany. EMPIRE.—A correspondent, writing from Tientsin on February 16th, informs the *Monthly Journal* "that the new stamps with the overprint 'China,' impressed at Berlin, had not reached that place at that date, but that unsurcharged stamps had been sent out there and had been overprinted on the spot with a rubber handstamp. He sends us a copy of the 3 pf. thus treated, the surcharge being similar in type to that previously employed, and struck diagonally, but much less clear and black; he states that the 50 pf. was overprinted in November last, and the stock of that value was exhausted, but that the 3, 5, 10, 20, 30, and 80 pfennig were still on hand. The unsurcharged stamps were being used at the German Post Office at Pekin."

BAVARIA.—The *Monthly Journal* says the latest supply of the current stamps differ slightly from those previously received. In the lower values the principal difference is in the whiteness of the paper, the earlier stamps appearing to be on a *toned* paper, the colour of which may be due in part to the gum, which is now perfectly colourless. Some of the shades are new also.

Adhesives.

On quite white paper. Wmk. close horizontal wavy lines.

2pf., grey.
3pf., deep brown.
5pf., deep green.
10pf., carmine.
20pf., bright blue.
50pf., deep marone.

Wmk. close vertical wavy lines.

1 mark, pale mauve.

The *Monthly Journal* adds, "The higher values are still on slightly *toned* paper, as before and the 3 and 5 marks have the watermark vertical, not as implied in the Catalogue. The larger stamps are no doubt usually printed that way of the paper."

Persia.—The *Philatelic Journal of India* says, "The Persians are at it again. They have surcharged the 1 shaki, grey; 2 shakis, brown; 3 shakis, lilac; 5 shakis, yellow; and 12 shakis, rose, of 1898, with a rubber stamp bearing the Persian arms (lion and sun), and the words in Persian 'Ajudan Maksus.' The surcharge is so applied that half comes on one stamp and half on its horizontal neighbour.

"But this is not all. Our readers will remember the 1899 provisionals with a set of little meaningless rubber stamp surcharges. The 1 shaki, grey; 4 shakis, brick-red; 5 shakis, yellow; 12 shakis, rose, of this provisional issue now turn up with this 'Ajudan Maksus' surcharged once on every block of four.

"Finally, the 8 shakis of 1894 has been adorned with a rubber stamp surcharge in three lines. The first two are '5' in English and Persian numerals, and the

third is 'sh.' for 'shaki' in Persian. All surcharges are in violet aniline ink.

Adhesives.

1898 issue, overprinted in violet, with Persian arms and "Ajudan Maksus" in Persian.

1 shaki, grey.
2 shakis, brown.
3 shakis, lilac,
5 shakis, yellow.
12 shakis, rose.

1899 Provisionals with same overprint.

1 shaki, grey.
4 shakis, brick-red.
5 shakis, yellow.
12 shakis, rose.

1894 issue, overprinted 5sh. in violet.
5sh., in violet on 8 shakis, brown.

Siam.—A correspondent of the *Monthly Journal* at Bangkok says there are several varieties of the surcharges of 1895-9, as in the earlier issues. He gives us the following list :—

1 att on 12 atts, *four varieties.*
1 ,, 12 ,, *error* "Atts."
3 atts on 12 ,, *two varieties.*
4 ,, 12 ,, ,, ,,
4 ,, 12 ,, "Atts" *without stop.*
4 ,, 12 ,, *double surcharge.*
2 ,, 64 ,, *three varieties, differing from those of* 1894.
2 ,, 64 ,, *error* "Att."

Turkey.—In April (p. 113) we chronicled new series, one for International postage, one for Internal postage, and another for Unpaid letters. We then illustrated the design of the Internal postage stamp and Unpaids. We now illustrate the International postage stamp.



United States.—We have received the so-called Pan-American issue made to advertise a local show at Buffalo. It is with great reluctance that we illustrate the series, but as the stamps are being used for international postage we suppose there is no choice. It is surprising that the Postal Department of a great State should prostitute its authority in such a manner. Apparently, however, we may expect further experiments.

Adhesives.

1c., green .. .. centre black.
2c., carmine .. ,, ,,
4c., brown .. ,, ,,
5c., blue .. .. ,, ,,
8c., purple-brown ,, ,,
10c., sepia .. .. ,, ,,













The designs are intended to be representative of the following scenes :—

1 cent, East Lake Navigation
2 cents, The East Express.
4 cents, The Automobile or Motor Car.
5 cents, The Bridge at Niagara Falls.
8 cents, The Canal Locks at Sault de Ste Marie.
10 cents, East Ocean Navigation.

Philately in the Mags.

Buenos Ayres: Ship Type.

M. Abel Fontaine contributes to the *Revue Philatélique Française* some information about the first issue of Buenos Ayres, which may be of interest to our readers. The stamps are of the well-known Ship type, called *Barquitos* in Spanish

Official reprints of the *Barquitos* do not exist, but several private ones, made from clichés stolen from the Postal Administration, do. Only one reprint was made with the consent of the chief of the postal service. This reprint consists of four stamps: "IN P^{s}," blue and brown, 2 and 3 pesos; those which he has seen are printed on thin cardboard, but it is said that the other values exist also printed on paper.

Several of the plates, though existing, cannot be used for printing on account of bars which run across them. The plate of the 10 pesos has disappeared—it was stolen.

Each plate contained 48 stamps in six rows of eight.

Whether tête-bêche stamps existed in the originals it is very difficult to say, the writer is, however, inclined to doubt them. At the exhibition in Buenos Ayres in 1882, entire sheets of all the plates were shown. In the 3 pesos value, one or two stamps were missing. The writer saw them there, but did not notice any tête-bêches, but adds that the stamps were placed in a dark corner, which may have been the cause of his not seeing the varieties. With this reserve he candidly affirms that tête-bêches do not exist.

In the reprints they do exist, however; he possesses the IN P^{s}, blue, T^{o} P^{s}, 2 and 3 pesos. He then gives the following extract from the *Annonce Timbrologique* of May, 1893, having regard to the destruction of the dies and plates of the *Barquitos* issue as follows:—

"State of Buenos Ayres, 1858. One plate of wood containing 36 metal dies representing the *Barquitos* stamp of 2 pesos; one plate of wood containing 36 metal dies representing the *Barquitos* stamp of 1 peso; one plate of wood containing 20 metal dies representing the *Barquitos* stamp of 3 pesos; and one plate of wood containing 2 metal dies representing the *Barquitos* stamp of 1 peso."

The above is taken from an Act authorizing the destruction of the dies and printing plates used for the manufacture of Argentine stamps published in March, 1893.

Fading of Stamp Colours.

Mr. M. W. Jones, in a paper read before the Manchester Society and published in the April Number of the *Monthly Journal*, gives the results of some interesting experiments he has made to test the effect of exposure of stamp colours to strong sunlight. Fifty-one stamps were exposed to sunlight on the inner wall of a small greenhouse for six weeks from June 7th to July 19th. He arrives at the conclusion that a fair number of stamps in a general collection will suffer serious deterioration if exposed to direct sunlight even for a few days. Out of the 51 stamps, 21 were found to be printed in practically permanent colours, another 10 suffered but slightly, but the colours of 20 stamps faded to a very serious extent.

Summing up the results he says:—"To generalise the results without going into scientific details, it will be found that they follow very materially the course that would be expected even by the non-scientist, for those colours produced from coal tar are the worst, followed in order by cochineal and vegetable extracts, the other end of the scale containing the mineral productions, either natural or manufactured. It is thus shown conclusively that printers have at their disposal a large range of practically permanent mineral colours, and it seems hard upon the Philatelist that his collections must suffer when exposed to light, simply in order to gratify a taste for an excessive brightness upon mint specimens, when the various coal tar lakes could be replaced by mineral colours which, if somewhat lacking in point of brilliancy, certainly possess the greater merit of durability.

"One of the most striking group results in these tests is the more than average durability of the colours found upon the current stamps of this country. It will also be noticed that most of them are printed with one or other of the shades obtained from cochineal, and this fact is curious when we realise that such lakes are usually considered by colour-printing firms as too high in price and old-fashioned for these days, since similar and brighter shades can readily be produced, even in permanent colours, by the judicious admixture of two or more ingredients. But the reason of this adherence to an old-time colour is, without doubt, to be found in the desire of the Government to prevent the cleaning of old stamps, and that this is very effectually prevented by the use of cochineal lakes, anyone can prove for himself by pouring a few drops of ammonia or soda solution over them.

"In conclusion, it must be admitted that whilst the stamps selected for these experiments were chosen solely because they represent typical colours now in use for

stamp and other forms of paper printing, there are many of the earlier adhesives which would furnish results equally interesting; but as such are not usually found in large numbers amongst an average set of duplicates, it is to be feared that exact knowledge of their behaviour under similar treatment must remain largely a matter of conjecture, although as practically all classes of colouring matters have been experimented upon, the seeker after knowledge can draw a large number of conclusions by inference from the results given."

Ceylon: Pence Issues.

Last month we quoted (p. 142) from Mr. Bacon's article in the *London Philatelist* the numbers printed of the Imperforate Star Series. Baron Percy de Worms now adds, in the same journal, the numbers printed of the perforated stamps of the same series, as follows:—

1d.	1,209,160
2d.	93,360
4d.	20,400
5d.	100,800
6d.	74,400
8d.	5,760
9d.	43,200
10d. (p. 15) ..	24,000
10d. (p. 12½) ..	59,040
1s.	127,200
2s.	8,880

Uruguay: 1856-1889 Types.

Mr. Griebert has sent the *London Philatelist* four different types of the 1-real Diligencia, and Mr. Castle classifies them by the difference in spacing on the left hand side of the bottom label between the outer edge and the beginning of the inscription of value:—

Type I. ..	16 mm.
,, II. ..	18 ,,
,, III. ..	20 ,,
,, IV. ..	22 ,,

A Mafeking "Error."

Mr. J. R. F. Turner has discovered and secured at a nominal figure a curious "error" in the well-known Baden-Powell portrait stamp. In the ordinary stamp the head looks to the left; in the error the head looks to the right. As the portrait is a photograph the error wants explanation. The collectors in Mafeking soon discovered the error and began a hunt for copies, and an advt. in the *Mafeking Mail* opened Mr. Turner's eyes. He preserved a discreet silence but kept his eyes open, and one day discovered the coveted treasure in a mixed lot in a London auction. No one else spotted the rarity and the lot fell to Mr. Turner's bid for £2 10s., and now he has dubbed it the "King of Mafekings."

Portuguese Guinea.

Mr. Ernest Heginbotham, B.A., contributes to the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* some interesting notes on Portuguese Indies, from which we quote:—

"Putting aside the rare early 'Portuguese Indies,' the 'Guineas' with *small surcharge* and certain Madeiras and Azores (none of which I collect), it is perhaps not well-known how *very difficult* it is to acquire certain values of the 'Crown' issues from 1869 to 1885 in a USED state, quite regardless of whether they be perf. 12½ or perf. 13½.

"Take for example the following:—

Macao ..	Crown, 25, lilac, perf.	12½ or 13½.
	Crown, 50, blue,	do.
Mozambique	Crown, 20, rose,	do.
	Crown, 25, lilac,	do.
P. Indies ..	Crown, 40, yellow,	do.
P. Guinea ..	Crown, 40, blue,	do.
Timor ..	Crown, 50, green, perf.	12½.

"The 20, rose, Mozambique, named above, is a specially scarce stamp in a postally-used state.

"Some time back, being short of only a few stamps (according to the issues and perfs. I collect—I don't go in for all) and not being able to pick them up from dealers or other sources, I wrote to a well-known firm asking them if they could procure me them, and referring to a few of these wants. They very kindly sent me the enclosed information, which you will see proves very clearly (as the information came direct from Portugal to the firm in question, and can, I feel sure, be fully relied upon) that the stamps alluded to can be expunged from any catalogue, at any rate so far as being priced in a *postally used* condition is concerned. I am sure the firm in question will not in the slightest object to my giving you the information, as it was sent to me by them after they had received it from Portugal.

"The stamps I allude to are *Portuguese Guinea, large surcharge*, Gibbons' Nos. 12, 13, 13a, 23 and 24. And as Bright also prices or names them, I give the Nos. in their respective catalogues, taking these two books as being from this country, and, say, that of Paul Kohl, of Chemnitz, as representing the Continent. Here, then, is the triple list:—

Gibbons'.

No. 12 ..	10, yellow	perf. 12½ ..	no price
,, 23 ..	do.	,, 13½ ..	,,
,, 13 ..	20, deep bistre	,, 12½ ..	1s. 6d.
,, 13a ..	20, pale bistre	,, 12½ ..	1s. 6d
,, 24 ..	do.	,, 13½ ..	no price.

Bright's.

No. 12 ..	10, yellow	perf. 12½ ..	no price.
,, 22 ..	do.	,, 13½ ..	,,
,, 13 ..	20, bistre	,, 12½ ..	2s.
,, 23 ..	do.	,, 13½ ..	no price.

Kohl's.

No. 11 ..	10, yellow	perf. 12½ ..	12s. 6d.
,, 11b ..	do.	,, 13½ ..	no price.
,, 12 ..	20, olive	,, 12½ ..	4s.
,, 12b ..	do.	,, 13½ ..	1s. 6d.

Porto Rico: 1881-2 Printings.

Mr. Donald A. King in a recent number of *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* states that he has found two distinct printings of the Porto Rico 1881-2 issues. He says a close examination of any quantity of the 1881 issue will show that there are considerable differences in the appearances of these stamps, and as a matter of fact there are two distinct issues, or rather printings of

this set, differing very much in the shades of colour and style of perforation, and, in one value at least, the 2 mils, the paper has a somewhat bleuté tint.

As a rule the first printings are in a much deeper colour than that of the second, and are evidently printed with more care, as the design is quite distinct.

The perforation is a very ragged one and usually with the paper left in the needle holes. In the second printing the perforation is clean cut and the waste paper always removed. They both gauge about the same measurement —14—. The sets cannot always be classified by the perforation alone, as occasional specimens are met of the second printing with the rough perforation of the first, and vice versa. It is probable that two perforating machines were in use at the same time.

The marginal numbers on the sheets also show that those in deep colour were the first prints, they being numbered in the hundreds whilst the others run into the thousands.

Some values of each are very scarce—the 4 mils. dark green and the 8 mils. Prussian blue of the first printing, and the 1 mil. mauve and the 2 mils. pale rose on bleuté of the second. The following reference list is not complete, as I lack the necessary specimens in mint condition, and used copies I do not list from.

REFERENCE LIST.

PORTO RICO, 1881.

Value.	*Colour, 1st Printing.*
½ mil.	deep lake.
1 mil.	violet.
2 mil.	deep rose pink.
4 mil.	deep green.
6 mil.	brown-lilac.
8 mil.	Prussian blue.
1 cent.	green.
2 cent.	deep rose.
3 cent.	black-brown.
5 cent.	blue.
8 cent.	(?)
10 cent.	deep slate.
20 cent.	(?)
Value.	*Colour, 2nd Printing.*
½ mil.	pale lake.
1 mil.	mauve.
2 mil.	pink.
4 mil.	emerald pale green.
6 mil.	pale lilac.
8 mil.	ultramarine blue.
1 cent.	grey green.
2 cent.	rose.
3 cent.	brown.
5 cent.	grey blue, pale blue.
8 cent.	chocolate.
10 cent.	slate.
20 cent.	olive-bistre.

The 1881 issue differs only in design from that of 1882 by having the date omitted and the name of the colony made larger and more widely spaced.

In this set are to be found some interesting varieties with pin perforations. This perforation does not in any way resemble the rough perforation of the preceding issue, but is a true pin-perforation; the needles of the machine have simply punctured the paper, removing nothing, but leaving a small ridge around each puncture, such as may be made by anyone pressing a pin through several sheets of paper. When the stamps are separated a rough jagged edge is left, one of which it is practically impossible to measure the perforations.

Of this variety of perforation I have seen only the following values:—1-2 mil. pale rose, 1 cent. green, 2 cents. rose, and 8 cents. brown.

India: Numbers Printed.

The *Philatelic Journal of India* gives the following numbers printed of recent issues:—

¼ a., surcharged on ½ a.	7,920,000
¼ a., carmine	6,000,000
¼ a., grey	5,710,000
¼ a., carmine, "On H.M.S."	6,000,000

Other stamps in new colours:—

(a) ORDINARY.

½ a., pale green	82,163,520
1 a., carmine	14,668,560
2 a., violet	8,259,120
2½ a., blue	3,140,400

(b) SERVICE.

½ a., pale green	13,836,480
1 a., carmine	26,538,240
2 a., violet	2,190,720

These printings should be sufficient to go around without being unduly scarce or high-priced for a few decades.

Cucuta Provisionals.

Our friends in America have been booming what are termed Cucuta Provisionals; but a correspondent of the *Monthly Journal* casts doubt on the issue. We quote from the *M.J.*:—

"Mr. A. Torres, of Honda, writes to us expressing some doubts as to the character of the Cucuta labels, of which we have chronicled a good number of varieties from time to time. He declares that the famous Revolutionary General, Andrez B. Fernandez, is quite unknown out there, and that he believes his stamps are entirely speculative and unnecessary. We have before us a set of these labels, which our publishers obtained from a Philatelist who fully believes in them, and as the values are expressed in diverse manners and in various type we give a list:—

1 centavo, black on *blue-green* (*a*).
2 ctvos. ,, ,, (*a*).
5 cvos. ,, *pink*.
5 ctvos. ,, *white* (*a*).
10 cvos. ,, *pink*.
10 ctvos. ,, ,, (*b*).
20 ctvos. ,, *yellow* (*a*).

"Those marked (*a*) are surcharged 'Andres B. Fernández' in *blue-green*, and the one marked (*b*) has the same surcharge in *black*; the overprint is hardly visible on the 1c. and 2c. All these are imperforate at top and bottom, and perf. 12 at sides; they are cancelled with a circular mark, in *violet*, inscribed 'CORREO DEL COMERCIO—CUCUTA,' without any date.

"The 5c. and 10c. lettered 'cvos.' are inscribed 'Gobierno Provisorio' at top, the others have 'Gobierno Provisional.'"

Notes and News.

Commemorative Australians.

The *Australian Philatelist* hears that a stamp to commemorate the Duke of York's visit to Australia is already in the course of preparation, and that the design is simply that of the current half-penny green N.S.W. with the Queen's head removed and the Duke of York's substituted. We trust H.R.H., as a keen self-respecting Philatelist and President of the premier Philatelic Society of London, will do all in his power to discountenance such Philatelic speculation.

A British Guiana Variety.

Georgetown, British Guiana, is a go-ahead town. Any way, it has an "Amateur Philatelic Club." The Director of that Institution is evidently a man of many gifts. He informs us by circular that he is an organist, teacher, and Philatelist, that he buys, sells, and exchanges stamps, gives "free tuition in music or other studies," supplies "money-making secrets to the needy," and, tell it not in Gath! publish it not in the streets of Askelon! he also supplies "original puzzles, jokes, &c., free to Editors of Magazines!"

A Would-be Forger.

The following charming order was, according to the *Revue Philatélique* sent to a colour-printer and die-sinker at Rouen. We take all the more pleasure in publishing this highly-interesting correspondence, as it gives us the opportunity of making known the name and address of the party in question.

Anghel Antonescu, 42, Cales Mosilor, Bucarest (Roumanie).

"BUCAREST, 15.iv.1901.

"DEAR SIR,—Having seen your advertisement in the *Echo* that you are a maker of clichés for postage stamps and undertake colour-printing, I take the liberty to ask you whether you can make forged postage stamps, because I could give you an order for all the Roumanian stamps of 1858-1866, excepting the 30 parale of 1862 and the 20 parale of 1865. I want 500 of each value, *i.e.*, of 11 sorts, 5,500 stamps in all. In replying whether you can execute this order kindly state your price.

"Awaiting your answer,—I remain, Yours very truly, ANGHEL ANTONESCU."

Bergedorf: First Issue—Official Find.

On the 1st January, 1901, all the documents bearing on the dual ownership of Bergedorf by Hamburg and Lübeck and lying in the archives at Lübeck were transferred to Hamburg. It was discovered, while sorting the various papers, that the documents relating to the introduction of postage stamps in Bergedorf contained a block of 12 stamps each of the so-called first issue:—

½ schilling black on lilac; and
3 „ „ lake.

A Philatelist knowing the full value of this discovery, offered the official dealing with the transference a considerable amount of money—it is said £10—if he would let him have one stamp of each value. Happily, the official resisted the temptation, and the two blocks are now in the State archives at Hamburg, where it is hoped they will be well guarded. Unfortunately, there is no report as to the exact wording of the document, especially as to the fact, whether these two stamps printed on lilac and lake paper were ever issued. It is, however, evident they were officially prepared.

The Duke of Cornwall's Collection.

The *London Philatelist* announces that the Duke of Cornwall, on his Australian tour, when in Malta, honoured Baron Testaferrata Abela not only by appointing him C.M.G. (an honour which his late father also possessed), but by accepting from him a most valuable collection of stamps which the Baron had collected for some forty years.

We congratulate H.R.H. upon his good fortune and hope it will be a rich addition to his collection.

Auction Prices.

* *Signifies unused.*

HADLOW, April 19th, 1901.

	£	s.	d.
Great Britain, 1840, 1d. black V.R.*	7	10	0
Natal, surcharged, "Postage" on 1d. rose (Gibbons No. 86), inverted surcharge ..	0	19	0
South Australia:—			
1st issue, imperf., 2d. blood-red*	4	0	0
perf. 10, 6d. dark blue*	2	2	0
perf. X roulette, 4d. purple	2	10	0
3d. in red on 4d. blue..	1	0	0
Rouletted 2/- carmine*	1	10	0
Departments, "C.S." in blue on 4d. roulett.	1	6	0
do. "C.S." in black on 4d. p. x roulett.	1	6	0
do. "D.R." in red on 2d. 1st type roulett.	1	10	0
do. "D.R." in red on 6d. blue roulett.	1	2	0
do. "P.S." in black on 9d., p. 11 × 12½	1	18	0
do. "W." on 2d., rouletted, printed both sides ..	1	10	0
Tasmania, 1870-1, 4d. blue, wmk. 4	1	5	0
Victoria, 5/- blue on yellow	2	2	0

Plumridge, April 23rd and 24th.

	£	s.	d.
Gt. Britain, wmk. Maltese Cross, £1 brown-lilac,* part gum	10	0	0
New South Wales, 1890, Map, perf. 11, 5/- purple*	1	2	0
Queensland, imperf. 6d. green	1	7	0
St. Helena, wmk. C.C., perf. 14 × 12½, 6d. milky-blue*	0	18	0
St. Vincent, 1890, 2½d. in black on 4d. lake-brown, a block of 4, showing the variety without fraction bar*	3	7	6
Sandwich Islands, 1853, imperf., 13c. dull red*	1	5	0
Switzerland, 1850, Winterthur, 2½rp. black and red	1	14	0
Trinidad, 1859-61, imperf., 6d. green, cut into	1	1	0
Virgin Islands, 1887, 4d. brown-red, a sheet of 24*	2	6	0
Do. 1887, 6d. violet, a similar sheet	3	5	0
Do. 1887, 1/- brown, a similar sheet	5	7	6
Western Australia, 1st issue, 2d. brown-black on red, impression both sides	1	10	0

Ventom, Bull & Cooper, April 25th and 26th.

	£	s.	d.
Antioquia, 1st issue, 2½c. blue*	6	10	0
Belgium, 1850, wmk. in frame, 40c. carmine*	2	6	0
British Guiana, 1852, 4c black on deep blue	5	10	0
Buenos Ayres, 1st issue, 3 pesos, green*	3	5	0
Ceylon, no wmk., 5d. rich brown	1	5	0
Gt. Britain, the V.R., with trial obliteration, cut into	6	0	0
Do. 2½d., plate 2, error of lettering L.H.F.L...	2	12	0
Do. £5 orange	1	16	0
Do. "Govt. Parcels" 1d. lilac, with inverted surcharge,* marked on face	4	15	0
Do. another specimen, used, with 2 1½d. stamps	3	15	0
India, Service Stamp, 1866, 2as., purple with black surcharge*	2	16	0
Naples, ½ tornese blue "Cross," on wrapper	2	17	6
Nova Scotia, 1d. red-brown*	1	6	0
Do. 1s. violet	6	10	0
St. Vincent, wmk. Star, perf. 11 × 12½, 1s. rose-red*	6	15	0
Sweden, 1872, the error Tretio instead of Tjugo, öre vermilion*	7	10	0
Switzerland, Zurich, 4 rappen black, horizontal lines, type 1	7	10	0
Do. do. 6 rappen black, horizontal lines, a pair*, types 3 and 4, torn	7	10	0
Do. do. 6 rappen black, horizontal lines, type 5	1	4	0
Do. another copy, with vertical lines, type 1	1	6	0
Trinidad, Lithographed, 1d. blue on bluish cartridge paper	3	12	6
United States, 1868, with grille, 90c. blue*	4	0	0
Uruguay, 240c. vermilion	4	15	0
Victoria, 5s. blue on yellow*	7	10	0

May 9th and 10th.

	£	s.	d.
France, 1870, Bordeaux litho, 20c. blue, Type I.*	3	3	0
Zurich, 6 rappen, black, 5 types with vertical lines, and 5 types with horizontal lines	13	10	0
Ceylon: 1883-4, 24c. purple brown, imperf.*	12	0	0

Mafeking Besieged.

	£	s.	d.
A fine set of 19 (without 1/- on 6d. B.B.), including 2 shades of the Bicycle stamp; the 6d. on 3d. Cape and Large Head B.P. are cut one side, all but one are used on pieces	9	0	0
1d. on ½d. vermilion, an unused mint pair	1	2	0
3d. on 1d. Cape, an unused pair with gum	0	16	0
3d. on 1d. Cape, an unused block of 4, mint	1	18	0
6d. on 2d. Bech. Pro. in sans serif type, 1d. Bicycle (2), 3d. small B.P., and another, all used on pieces	1	7	0
6d. on 3d. Bechuanaland Protectorate, brown on yellow, the words "Mafeking 6d. Besieged" being twice printed, used on small piece, very fine and extremely rare	4	0	0
6d. on 3d. Cape, used on small piece, and very fine	1	10	0
1/- on 4d. Cape, used on small piece, and very fine	0	15	0
1d. on ½d. Cape (1st type), a block of 6 used on entire, and addressed to Lady Sarah Wilson, The Convent, Mafeking	1	12	0

Puttick & Simpson, April 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th.

	£	s.	d.
Alsace Lorraine, 1870, points of net downwards, 5c. green*	3	3	0
Buenos Ayres, 1858, Cinco Pesos, orange	12	0	0
Great Britain, 1876-1883, 5/- rose, plate 2*	1	14	0
Do. £5 orange	1	15	0
Hanover, 1859-63, 10 gros. green, a block of 4	8	5	0
Do. do. a single*	3	3	0
Do. do. another copy used	2	12	6
Heligoland, 1873, ½sch., the error with colours reversed, a block of six	11	5	0
Lagos, 1885-87, C.A., 2/6 grey	3	3	0
Lubeck, 1859, 2sch. brown, the error "Zwei en halb"	4	15	0
Spain, 1851, 2 reales, red, a pair	31	0	0
Do. 1865, 12c. rose and blue, with inverted centre	7	17	6

Correspondence.

Proposed Philatelic Club.

Sir,—The letter of an old collector in last month's *Record*, anent a Philatelic Club, strikes the right vein from a theorist's point of view, but what collectors have to ask themselves is, can the scheme be made a practical one, bearing in mind financial considerations. I believe it cannot. I believe the minimum subscription would have to be two guineas, and that is not the scheme launched in last month's *Record*. A subscription of 5/- is altogether impracticable. It is all very easy saying there are ten, twenty, or thirty thousand collectors in Great Britain. Supposing there are. Fifty per cent. won't spend 5/- a year in buying stamps for their collections, let alone subscribing to a club to which they would not be in the least likely to go.

Another thirty per cent., while spending small sums in the purchase of stamps, are not of a sufficiently liberal turn of mind to

afford a few shillings to subscribe to a Philatelic journal (where they do get some return for their money), let alone to pay a subscription to a club. We have twenty per cent. left who take more or less of an intelligent or enlightened view of stamp collecting. Those who believe in Philatelic re-unions, I submit, already belong to the Philatelic Societies in England. Do the total of such members resident in Great Britain exceed one thousand? I think not. You would not get all these to join; perhaps on a nominal subscription you might get 60 per cent., and you might get, say, 300 more, or a thousand in all. But a Club could not be made to pay its way upon one thousand crowns. There are other very serious questions to be considered. To make it a success, means would have to be devised to make the dealer and collector-dealer sit at the same table, the aristocratic collector pal with the collector in the street, the old-fashioned steady-going collector enjoy a smoke with the man who every time you meet him racks his brains how to make sixpence out of you on a stamp, and so on. No; a Philatelic Club is but another Utopian dream!—Yours obediently,

AN OLD SUBSCRIBER.

DEAR SIR,—*Re* formation of a Philatelic Club for London. Permit me to say I think this an excellent idea, and if it should eventually be firmly established, and other societies or clubs can spring from it for the provinces, still better, as I think a Provincial Philatelic Club would be also very convenient, and it is questionable if Manchester be not the best place for its location. Further, I think there should be some recognised "Expert Committee" in the provinces, to whom any doubtful stamps can be submitted, as how few young collectors can pay the fees charged for expertising, and surely the provinces are well worthy of such a Committee, formed by Philatelists residing northern, and so far as I know, Manchester, with all its Philatelists, has no official expert in Philately; simply Philatelists who may willingly give an opinion when asked, but entirely a personal affair. I shall be pleased to support any such projects, and hope next season they will be thoroughly taken up. I am sure there are Philatelists around Manchester who would willingly expertise stamps upon which they may consider themselves capable to so do, and for a mere nominal sum, as long as postages were paid, and thus save sending to London. Of course in cases of doubt London could still be the "Chief Committee," and be referred to, and doubtless, latter would not in any way object to be relieved of as much provincial work as possible. If clubs were started, would it not later on also be possible to have sleeping facilities, with, of course, kitchen arrangements for breakfasts, &c.? Philatelists have been too long in their shell, and they should now "come forth" and thoroughly establish themselves, and fraternize at suitable times and places, as the study of Philately has now reached a stage to thoroughly warrant it.—Apologising for length of letter, faithfully yours,

J. ERNEST HEGINBOTTOM, B.A.

Rochdale, 7th May, 1901.

Foreign Post Offices in the Orient.

DEAR SIR,—Referring to the article, "Foreign Post Offices in the Orient," on p. 143 in your May number (quoted from Mons. Maury) I notice it is stated that the German service in the Levant "began in 1880," whereas the first German Post Office was opened in Galata (Constantinople) on the 1st of March, 1870, and one in Stamboul (Constantinople) in 1875. They, however, used the stamps of the North German Confederation and German Empire until the 25th January, 1884, when they issued a special set.

It is further stated in the same article that "England established her service in 1880," whereas English stamps exist with the Constantinople postmark as early as the 1855 issue, *vide* Stanley Gibbons' *Monthly Journal*, March 31st, 1900, p. 214.—Yours faithfully,

FRANZ REICHENHEIM.

THE

Philatelic Record

EDITED BY

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

Member of the Institute of Journalists.

JULY, 1901.

Editorial Notes.

INFORMATION is gradually leaking out as to the forthcoming stamps with King Edward VII.'s portrait. The portrait has been chosen by the King himself. It is a profile by Fuchs, an Austrian sculptor, resident in London. There has been an attempt in Parliament to secure the work of designing the portrait and stamps for an English artist with a reference to the Royal Academy. But this little agitation has been brushed aside by the announcement that the King has himself chosen the portrait, and for the rest of the design we must wait and be thankful if Messrs. De la Rue give us something that will pass muster.

King Edward VII. Postage Stamps.

If the public looks forward to any surprise in the shape of a series of postage stamps that will be a credit to the new Sovereign, the new century, and the British nation, it is likely, we imagine, to be disappointed. Nevertheless, the public has to be reckoned with. It howled the Jubilee pimple crown coinage out of existence, and if it has made up its mind to have a creditable series of postage stamps, even Messrs. De la Rue will have to give way. The sublime patience that has accepted, more or less meekly, the postal shoddy of the past forty years may yet be exhausted.

Meanwhile, rumours and guesses are the order of the day. Some day the King's portrait will be a fixed and central portion of the design, after the style of the recently-issued stamps of Southern Nigeria, and, if so, we venture to prophesy that most of the stamps will be bi-coloured for the purpose of working in Messrs. De la Rue's pet patent idea of their fugitive colours being the one great and only safeguard against fraudulent cleaning and re-use.

At last, we learn on good authority, we are to have a red penny stamp, but if it is to resemble any of the colour trials shown at the Philatelic Society of London by H.R.H. the Duke of Cornwall some months ago, it will not be beautiful to look upon.

English Stamps Demonetised.

Last month (p. 157) we published an official notice from the *London Gazette* demonetising certain early issues of English stamps. It now seems that the authorities, not having consulted Philatelists, made some curious mistakes. In the first part of the Schedule, Section 1 demonetises Die I. of the present 1d. issued July to December, 1881. The stamp issued in December, 1881, was Die II. Section 2 omits the 8d. and 2s., withdrawn from circulation on the 6th July, 1880, and demonetises the 6d. "I.R.Official" (or the old 6d., grey, plate 18, on "large 1880 crown" paper), of which there are said to be some hundreds of sheets at Somerset House. Will these be rehabilitated, or destroyed, or sold as remainders? In the second part of the Schedule, Section 2 demonetises the 1s. 6d., which never was used on paper lettered "Inland Revenue." As a matter of fact, there are no dies with "Inland Revenue" on them. Impressions were struck on paper on which the words "Inland Revenue" had previously been printed. Evidently these impressions are meant.

Minor Varieties Galore.

The tendency, which we have noted more than once, to multiply minor varieties still grows apace. Some peculiarly-constituted collectors literally revel in them, and the obliging dealer naturally delights to discover them for his insatiable customers. It is simply wonderful what varieties *can* be discovered, in a dim light, by an obliging dealer and a thirsty collector. It is an established and well-known psychological fact that no imagination can equal the combined product of a stamp dealer and a stamp collector concentrated in a dim, uncertain light upon a minor variety.

Personally, we do not favour the tendency to multiply minor varieties, and to elevate them into catalogue rank. It unnecessarily frightens away collectors and makes the specialisation of even a simple country an unbearable burden. The so-called "discoveries" of the tyro mostly tend in the direction of the unnecessary multiplication of minor varieties.

There will yet have to be a drastic remedy in the shape of a "close time" for discoverers of microscopical die varieties, retouches, &c. There must be a violent reaction some day. Patience will assuredly call a halt in the enumeration of stops, large and small, square and round, level, raised and inverted. And when that reaction sets in it is to be hoped there will be no more murder and suicide than are absolutely necessary.

The New Postage Stamps.

By M. W. Jones, F.C.S.

IN many quarters speculation is rife as to the nature and design of the promised issue of postage stamps. Not only Philatelists, or stamp collectors, but the general public as a body are largely interested, for the average person, with but a limited foreign correspondence, has long been aware that Great Britain has fallen sadly into the rear in the production of attractive postal labels. Unless circumstances alter, the chances are that the coming issue will not show any improvement upon the present one.

This state of affairs is all the more surprising when we learn that most of the beautiful designs seen upon the stamps of every second-rate State or Republic are produced by certain London firms; and whilst Great Britain can challenge the world in stamp designing and printing, and gives the best of her work to foreigners, her own types are but mediocre, and show considerable falling off, both in design and execution, when compared with early issues. It is at once evident that if we are to save the new issue from this taunt, public opinion must be speedily aroused.

The present condition of matters may be ascertained from an answer recently given in the House of Commons in reply to a question raised by Mr. Henniker Heaton, in which Mr. Austen Chamberlain stated that, whilst the necessary steps are being taken for the issue of new postage stamps, it is not expected that they will be ready for some months to come. Further, it was stated that the Postmaster-General does not think it desirable to submit the designs of the proposed stamps to the public, as he is not satisfied that sufficient reason exists for altering the colour of the penny adhesive, as suggested by the hon. member.

In this reply we have plenty of matter for reflection. The designs are not to be submitted to public criticism, but the users must take what the Department sees fit to give them, and, presumably, be thankful. The colour of the penny adhesive is, we may assume, to remain as it is—a nondescript and ancient shade—which is a sad reflection upon the colour industry of this country. But an even more important point lies hidden under the surface of this statement, for Great Britain, the most important member of the Postal Union, does not see fit to alter the colour of the penny stamp, and so fall into line with an arrangement made a few years ago at the Berne Conference, whereby the representatives of the various countries comprising the Union decided to print stamps of certain values in distinctive colours, and so produce uniformity. Whilst other countries turn out stamps of the equivalent of one penny value in red, Great Britain, carrying its splendid isolation to the extreme, declines to fall

in with a proposal adopted in council, and is content to print its commonest stamp with a shade that is no credit to anyone concerned in its production. The only merit of the present colour being that it is a Cochineal Lake, which runs when exposed to the action of alkalis, and so resists the efforts of would-be postmark removers.

To criticise the design upon the current stamps, we find that the head of Queen Victoria is practically the same as that which appeared upon the first postal adhesive issued—the one penny, black, of 1840. The profile on this stamp was designed by Henry Heath, for Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Petch, the printers, and the drawings were made from Wyon's medal, after which the design was engraved in line on steel. Thus, in the earliest days of stamp printing, we had a design of which we could feel proud, even to-day; but subsequent issues have gradually departed from that high standard, and since 1887 the British public has used a series of stamps which show less skill in design and more crude colouring than any of their predecessors, and have only one redeeming feature in the old familiar profile to recommend them. Unless the Postal Department can be induced to undertake a drastic reform, we may well ask in fear and trembling, What will the new stamps be like? To-day we have no Wyon to design what will always appear as a gem, however crude the setting. But we have only to turn to one or other of the City stamp-producing firms to find work of high artistic merit. Who shall say that if these firms were invited to compete for the new designs, that we should not have a set far excelling in artistic merit and colouring any of those now produced for the numerous Crown Colonies and South American Republics? But, unless public opinion is speedily aroused upon these questions, we may take it as a foregone conclusion that the proposed issue will leave much to be desired in design, colouring and workmanship.

It is too late now to ask why our stamps have been tied down to one design of Queen Victoria's profile, when Canada, New South Wales, Newfoundland, British East Africa, and even the Niger Coast Protectorate, kept us up-to-date, and showed our late Sovereign as she was in recent years. But such instances show clearly that our Postal Department has been sadly out-of-date, and if the statement of Mr. Austen Chamberlain be correct in detail, it seems that we must be content with a poor production lest any change be for the worse.

It is not only in the matter of design that our stamps are deficient, they are lacking in the very rudiments of artistic colouring, and no designer, however skilful in his calling, can do himself justice if he is to be tied down to the ill-sorted and old-fashioned shades, which now appear upon our postal adhesives.

On examining the colours of the present series of stamps, and comparing them with those of almost any foreign country, we are instantly struck with the prevailing dulness of tone which they present. This is largely due to the use of varying shades of Cochineal Lakes, which, however excellent they may have been fifteen years ago, now appear dull and worthless when compared with more recent developments, in which brightness and depth of colour are supreme. As showing the extent to which these Cochineal Lakes have taken the fancy of the Postal Authorities, we find that the whole of the penny

adhesive is so coloured with a particularly hideous shade. Also that the purple portions of the three-halfpence, twopence-halfpenny, ninepence and tenpence, the brown of the threepenny, and the lilac of the fivepenny value, all owe their origin to modifications of colour produced from the Cochineal insect, and thus, out of thirteen stamps ranging in value between one halfpenny and one shilling, eight of them are wholly or partially coloured with out-of-date productions, which are fugitive and unsatisfactory when compared with recent developments.

Of the remaining stamps, upon which Cochineal does not appear, we find the halfpenny specimen is coloured with Brunswick Green—an admixture of Prussian Blue and Chrome Yellow, so unstable in character that any tyro in the use of chemicals can alter the shade at will, and produce pure blue specimens for the mystification of the uninitiated. Greens of similar composition but different in shade are found upon the stamps of the twopence, fourpence, and the recently superseded fourpence-halfpenny values, whilst the background of the sixpenny specimen is a coal-tar colour, so fugitive in character that a short exposure to sunlight causes marked depreciation.

The recently superseded halfpenny stamp, printed as it was with Vermilion, was a type of colour to be aimed at. Brilliant in shade, durable as regards atmospheric effects, and resisting the action of ordinary chemicals, this colour might well be adopted for the new penny adhesive, thereby bringing the shade up to the requirements of the Postal Union.

Within the last few years great advances have been made in the production of Madder Lakes, which furnish a beautiful range of shades between a brilliant scarlet and a deep maroon. These colours, produced from the coal-tar product Alizarine, are remarkably durable as regards atmospheric action, and, comprising as they do great depth of colour with extraordinary brilliance, would prove very useful adjuncts in the embellishment of our stamps.

Other shades of red are obtained from the manufactured products Red and Orange Lead, and, as these are practically permanent and very brilliant, there is no reason for stamp printers to despair, should they desire to produce an attractive shade of red on any stamp. The numerous natural and manufactured products classed as Oxides of Iron furnish the printing ink manufacturer with a useful and permanent series of shades varying between a bright red and reddish-brown, and if permanence be desired, these shades might be utilised to a far greater extent than is the case at present.

For yellow shades, varying in tone between Primrose and Orange, the Chrome Yellows of commerce have much to recommend them, being bright, durable, and of excellent covering power, the only drawback to their use being a tendency to darken in an atmosphere containing small quantities of sulphur fumes.

Ultramarine, a manufactured product of satisfactory durability, gives a brilliant range of blue shades, varying between green and red, but Bronze Blue, with its peculiar lustre, is a colour that certainly ought to be included in the new series of stamps, and as it is produced in large quantities in this country, and is well-known to printing-ink makers, there should not be any difficulty about the matter. Certain

it is that when this colour appears upon any stamp, as upon the current 7 kopecs value of Russia, the effect is always pleasing.

Greens are not satisfactory, for although many beautiful and brilliant shades are obtained from coal-tar colours in the form of Lakes, they are usually inferior in point of durability to mineral productions. As an instance of the latter type, Emerald Green, with its brilliant gloss, is particularly noteworthy, but as this colour contains arsenic, it would be better to eliminate it from the list in face of the recent national scare.

In recent years, the manufacture of metallic bronze powders has been carried to a high state of perfection, and here alone the printing-ink manufacturer has at hand a series of absolutely permanent colours whose appearance upon any stamps is decidedly attractive, as anyone acquainted with certain of the adhesives of Switzerland will readily acknowledge.

Thus it has been shown that the printing-ink maker has at his disposal an extensive and valuable range of permanent colours, and that he is keenly alive to all the most recent developments in the colour trade is clearly shown by a glance through his pattern books, in which all those herein described can be found. Therefore, as the colour maker and printing-ink manufacturer daily produce and utilise these beautiful shades, there can be no excuse for the preference shown by our Postal department for the unworthy colours which have so long appeared upon our stamps. And if public opinion could only be aroused to insist that the new issue should contain typical representations of the combined arts of the engraver and colour maker, the result would be such that we should feel prouder of the stamps of every-day life than we are at present.

Queensland Serrated Perfs.

By the Editor.

AS considerable attention is being directed just now to the curious Queensland variety known as "serrated perfs.," consequent upon the so-called discovery of a fifth variety, to wit, serrated in black and perf. 12½, it may be well to give a *resumé* of the history of these serrated perfs. up to date, and then classify the varieties.

We may say at the start that the "discovery" of to-day was included, as will be seen, in the first list of varieties published in 1899. Its acceptance as a "discovery" by leading dealers shows how little dealers read the leading Philatelic journals.

The first mention of the serrated perf. experiment appeared in the *Australian Philatelist* of January, 1899, p. 65. We quote *in extenso* :—

"A correspondent writes :—'The postage stamps of Queensland are perforated by what is known as a comb machine. This punches out a horizontal row of holes, with a return off it, the depth of a single stamp, ten times repeated, so as to complete the perforation of a single row of stamps at one operation. It follows that, as the stamps are printed in twelve rows of ten stamps each, the one who works the machine has to make twelve operations in order to perforate one sheet of stamps. Not long since, the Government printer endeavoured to save much of this time by the adoption of a different style of perforation. A quantity of steel rules, with one edge shaped into short zig-zag lines, was procured and tested as to its perforating capabilities on cheque and other butt books. These tests proving satisfactory, a frame was made with the rule the same size as a sheet of postage stamps, by which the workman was enabled to perforate a sheet of stamps at one operation instead of twelve. The perforation which is, I believe, known as *percé en scie*, makes two slanting cuts in the paper, similar to the letters AA, but without the cross bar, and the end of each cut barely touching that next to it, either at top or bottom. Between the 7th November and 10th December, 1898, 5,000 sheets of one penny stamps were perforated with this frame, when instructions were received from the Postal Authorities to discontinue its use. Its economy was demonstrated, but not its utility. Defects occurred in the manipulation of the frame, which, had time been allowed, would doubtless have been remedied. It is now but a Philatelic memory, the facts of which are perhaps worthy of record.'"

Later it was found that the experiment had resulted in several interesting varieties. We quote again from the *Australian Philatelist*, February, 1899, p. 75 :—

"An esteemed correspondent has sent us the following notes on the recent trial perforation :—'The zig-zag perforation was a fiasco, principally on account of it being necessary to perforate *before* gumming. The gum then fastened up the holes made by the steel rule. It was impossible to perforate after gumming, and about 3,000 out of the 5,000 sheets printed and issued to the General Post Office were returned to the Government Printing Office, to be perforated in the ordinary way by the comb machine. There are thus four varieties of this latest perforation, viz. :—

"'1. Serrated.
2. Serrated in black.
3. Serrated and perf. 12½.
4. Serrated in black and perf. 12½.

"'The explanation given for the existence of the serrated in black variety is that the machinists (this work being done on an ordinary printing machine), in order to get the perforation to register properly, ran several sample sheets through the press and so arranged it that the frame did not perforate, but, with the judicious application of a little printer's ink, simply left a black impression. Where this impression encroached on the coloured design of the stamp, the register was

altered, until at last all the lines of the perforating frame fell between the rows of stamps, then the sampling was discontinued, and perforating proceeded merrily.'

"Our correspondent sends us specimens of varieties 1, 2, and 3. No. 2 shows the line of inked perforation running through the bottom of the stamp, while a similar line without ink falls on the dividing space between the stamps."

Although our contemporary calls it four varieties it is evident that it had evidence of five varieties, for its closing remarks give the combination of inked and uninked serration, and as the uninked serration was to be and no doubt was the serration of the bulk, it should have classed five varieties. Gibbons' catalogues in his last edition of the British Empire part only four varieties, viz.:—

175. (*a*) Zig-zag roulette in black.
176. (*b*) Zig-zag roulette, plain.
177. (*c*) Zig-zag roulette, black and plain.
178. (*d*) Zig-zag roulette, plain and perf. 13.

This list omits the fourth variety of the *Australian Philatelist's* correspondent, viz., Rouletted in black and perf. 13. This variety is now being announced and accepted as a "discovery." It will, therefore, be noted that it is not a "discovery." Albeit, we can understand that it must be a rarity, for we are told that only a few sheets were printed with serration inked for the purpose of getting the register of the frame correct. And we know that some of those inked sheets were subsequently serrated uninked; therefore, very few inked sheets could remain to be subsequently perforated 13, unless the printer used up an inconceivably large number of sheets in getting the register of the frame correct.

The order of the varieties seems to have been:—

1. Serration in black.
2. Serration in black and plain.
3. Serration plain.
4. Serration in black and perf. 13.
5. Serration plain and perf. 13.

But we would suggest, for catalogue and arrangement purposes, that the classification would be simpler and clearer thus:—

1. Serration inked.
2. Serration inked and uninked.
3. Serration inked and perf. 13.
4. Serration uninked.
5. Serration uninked and perf. 13.



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.

Barbados.—Mr. J. E. Heginbotham has sent us for inspection a new variety in the surcharge "1d" on half of 5s. In the "discovery" the figure "**1**" has a curved and sloping serif instead of straight. It distinctly varies from the varieties enumerated in the Barbados Handbook by Messrs. Bacon & Napier.

British Central Africa.—The 4d. and 6d. values have undergone a change of colours. In the current series the central portion of the design was in black. This is apparently to be changed to purple, which introduces Messrs. De la Rue's fugitive colour, which they claim to be a safeguard against fraudulent cleaning and re-use. The framework of the design is also changed in colour. The 4d., which was printed in carmine and black, is now in olive-green and purple, and the 6d. is changed from sea-green and black to brown and purple.

A curious error has been discovered in the "One Penny" on 3s. The error consists in the misplacement of the letter "e" in Penny, thus "Pnney." This provisional was issued in 1898, but this error has only just been made public.

Adhesives.

4d., olive-green. centre purple.
6d., brown, centre purple.

Error in Provisional of 1898.

"One Pnney" on 3s., black and green.

British Guiana. — According to the *Monthly Circular* the 48c. which was said to have been changed in colour has not yet been issued.

Cayman Islands.—Some wicked people having stated that the recently-issued ½d. and 1d. values for these islands were used for local postage only, Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. offer evidence of general postal use in the shape of registered letters from Grand Cayman, prepaid exclusively with Cayman Island stamps. But it would be interesting to know why separate stamps have been issued at all for Islands which are for administrative purposes part and parcel of Jamaica.

India. Hyderabad.—Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., have obtained fresh supplies of some of the current stamps, and among them the 1a. in *dull black*, which would probably show as a deep *black* if the plate had been properly inked, and the 2a. in *deep yellow-green* shade, more like that of some of the earlier printings.

Kishengarh. — The *Monthly Journal* chronicles two high value stamps.

Adhesives.

2 rupees, red-brown.
5 „ mauve.

A correspondent in India tells the *M.J.* that he has been informed "that the extraordinary colours of some of the Kishengarh stamps were quite unauthorised by the State, and were printed off specially for a Philatelist; but that now the Rajah has given orders that no change whatever is to be made in the colours without his special sanction." The *M.J.* wonders which are the official colours.

Travancore.—The *Monthly Journal* has received specimens of a new value, ¾ chuckram, of similar design to the others, but not quite the same. The sheets are in six horizontal rows of fourteen, with a frame of a single line. Watermark and perf. as in 1889, etc.

Adhesive.

¾ch., black.

Transvaal. PIETERSBURG.—Some few weeks since Pietersburg, the last place where the Boers had a settled Government, fell into British hands, and the telegrams inform us that they had there a postal system and a crude coinage, and they still held and administered the northern portion of the Transvaal.

For the postal system they printed and used a type-series of stamps, full particulars of which are given in an addenda to Gibbons' catalogue, just published.

In sending a list of these stamps to the Scott Stamp and Coin Co., Mr. E. Tamsen writes:—

"The Boer Government issued only one set of stamps throughout the whole war, and now, the English troops having cleared them out of their last towns, they have no longer any printing materials or paper. The Comptroller of the State Printing Office at Pietersburg, who watched the printing of the Government paper currency, had also to superintend the printing of stamps and then to initial every one of them. He received no salary and, in fact, had received none for nine months, and so you can fancy he blessed the stamp business. It is his fault that these stamps did not appear in February, 1901, as was ordered. The 1p. came out first in March and the others in the first days of April, the total issue being valued at about £500, less about one-third destroyed. Before the arrival of troops the blocks were broken up, and since then the printing office has been burnt, with the type and all other paraphernalia, so that no reprints can be made I am collecting official notices and am interviewing officials and the public of Pietersburg, who are all here now, and I expect to be able to publish an interesting article on the last stamps issued by the Boers.

The stamps were printed in four rows of six stamps each, then cut in half and issued in sheets of twelve. The first two rows (twelve stamps) have "POSTZEGEL" and "1901," both in large type; the third row has "POSTZEGEL" large and "1901" small, and the fourth and last row has "POSTZEGEL" and "1901" both in small type. We thus have three types and I have sent you the correct proportions. Types 2 and 3 are fifty per cent. scarcer than Type 1. There is a special sale here of Type 2,—why, I fail to see. I prefer Type 3, as being a more distinct variety from Type 1. The officers are buying largely and everybody seems to be a collector. The idea was to perforate all, but the printer never got so far, having to wait too long for the Comptroller; thus all values exist imperforate and perforated on three sides. Any stamp not initialed is a proof and of no postal value, except three sheets of ½d. green, which stuck to initialed sheets and were issued by mistake.

"The issue consists approximately of the following quantities;—

½p.	..	..	4,000
1p.	..	..	15,000
2p.	..	..	4,000
4p.	..	..	1,000
6p	..	..	1,000
1sh.	..	..	1,000

but not all were issued, a part having been burnt.

"There are a number of errors, such as letter 'B' for 'R,' 'J' for 'L,' no stop between 'AFR.' and 'REP.'"

1901. April.

Adhesives.

1. Large "P" in "Postzegel" and large date.

Imperf.

½d., black on green paper.
1d., ,, rose paper.
2d., ,, orange paper.
4d., ,, blue paper.
6d., ,, green paper.
1s., ,, yellow paper.

Perf. 11½.

½d., black on green paper.
1d., ,, rose paper.
2d., ,, orange paper.
4d., ,, blue paper.
6d., ,, green paper.
1s., ,, yellow paper.

2. Large "P" in "Postzegel" and small date.

Imperf.

½d., black on green paper.
1d., ,, rose paper.
2d., ,, orange paper.
4d., ,, blue paper.
6d., ,, green paper.
1s., ,, yellow paper.

Perf. 11½.

½d., black on green paper.
1d., ,, rose paper.
2d., ,, orange paper.
4d., ,, blue paper.
6d., ,, green paper.
1s., ,, yellow paper.

3. Small "P" in "Postzegel" and small date.

Imperf.

½d, black on green paper.
1d., ,, rose paper.
2d., ,, orange paper.
4d., ,, blue paper.
6d., ,, green paper.
1s., ,, yellow paper.

Perf. 11½.

½d., black on green paper.
1d., ,, rose paper.
2d., ,, orange paper.
4d, ,, blue paper.
6d., ,, green paper.
1s., ,, yellow paper.

ERROR: Comptroller's initials omitted. These sheets were issued in error, three sheets having stuck together.

1. Large "P" in "Postzegel" and large date.

Perf. 11½.

½d., black on green paper.
1d., ,, rose paper.
2d., ,, orange paper.

2. Large "P" in "Postzegel" and small date.

Perf. 11½.

½d., black on green paper.
1d., ,, rose paper.
2d., ,, orange paper.

3. Small "P" in "Postzegel" and small date.

Perf. 11½.

½d., black on green paper.
1d., ,, rose paper.
2d., ,, orange paper.

Foreign Countries.

Afghanistan.—The *Monthly Journal* has received the 1 abasi of Gibbons' Type 44 on a deep *scarlet* tissue paper, quite unlike any of the numerous varieties previously noted.

Adhesive.

1 abasi, black on scarlet.

Austria.—The *Monthly Journal* chronicles the 20 heller, perf. 10½, compound with 12½, 13, and the 4 kronen, perf. 10½ simple.

Bosnia.—The *Monthly Journal* has been shown the 10h., pale red, perf. 10½.

Bolivia.—A new series is announced as follows:—

Adhesives.

1 c., green; Camacho.
5 c., red; Campero.
10 c., blue; Ballivian.
20 c., violet; Santa-Cruz.
2 bol., brown; *Arms of the State.*

Chili.—Some time ago we quoted our contemporary's chronicle of a change in the current 10c. from violet to yellow. A correspondent in Valparaiso now informs us that no such change has taken place. The Provisional large figure "5" on 30c. seems to be the current 5c. stamp. This provisional is said to exist with the figure "5" inverted, but we have not yet seen a copy.

China.—The *Monthly Journal* has recently had an opportunity of examining a very fine collection of the stamps of this country, and has found the following varieties that are not in the Catalogue:—

Nos. 23, 25, 26, 66, with double surcharge.
Nos. 34, and the same with error "cen," imperf. horizontally.
A variety which would be 34*a*, the 3c., *orange*, with large figure surcharge.
No. 65 with imperfect impression of the surcharge, reading "me" for "one."
And the $5 on 3c. Revenue stamp, postmarked and on the original envelope, but accompanied by sufficient other stamps to pay the postage!

France.—Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., have found in their stock the following values of the current series: 10c., 20c., 25c., and 30c., with the numerals added by a second printing, and the 10c. and 15c. with the numerals inserted in the plate.

Greece.—We quote the following from a correspondent, published in the *Metropolitan Philatelist* (*U.S.*):—

"I was privileged to see here in Athens, by the courtesy of an official of the Porte, accepted essays of the new Greek stamps which are now in press and will appear in four weeks. They are especially pretty, and possess real artistic merit. The series will consist of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 40, 60 lep. and 1, 2, 3, 4 drachmas, in the same small size as the present series of Greek stamps, and a 5 drachmas of double size printed in (color) gold. They resemble the Olympian issue, each stamp being of a different illustration, the whole being typical Greek. Simultaneously will appear a set of dues of similar denomination ending with the two drachmas and a separate stamp for parcel post of the denomination of 25 centimes, or as it says (translated) "I am 25 lepton," meaning it is 25 centimes gold standard."

Germany. China.—The *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung* says that six of the values of the current "Germania" design were overprinted "China" provisionally at Tientsin in January. The surcharge differs very little from the ordinary surcharge, but is printed diagonally upwards from left to right instead of horizontally.

Adhesive.

Local surcharge, diagonally in black.

3 pf., brown.
5 pf., green.
10 pf., carmine.
20 pf., ultramarine.
30 pf., black and red on flesh.
80 pf., black and carmine on rose.

Liberia.—According to *Ewen's Weekly*, the 4c. and 5dols. of the 1892 issue have been found with centres inverted.

Adhesives.

1892.

Centres inverted.

4c., green, centre black.
5dols., carmine, centre black.

Monaco.—The *Monthly Circular* says the 15c. and 25c. have been changed in colour.

Adhesives.

New colours.

15 centimes, grey.
25 centimes, blue.

Spain. Fernando Poo.—The *Monthly Circular* chronicles a new series of adhesives dated 1901, with values in *centimos* and *pesetas*.

Adhesives.

1 c., black.
2 c., red-brown.
3 c., dark violet.
4 c., violet.
5 c., vermilion.
10 c., lilac-brown.
25 c., blue.
50 c., claret.
75 c., brown.
1 p., blue-green.
2 p., rosy brown.
3 p., olive-green.
4 p., red.
5 p., green.
10 p., orange.

Philately in the Mags.

Grenada: 1d. and 6d. of 1861-1883.

Mr. J. Wray-Mercier, who has made a special study of the early stamps of Grenada, has contributed to the *London Philatelist* a most interesting article on the 1d. and 6d. values of 1861-1883, from which we make the following abridgement :—

Issue I. 1861-1864.—*Greyish-white wove paper. Yellow gum. No watermark. Perforation* 14-15½, *compound.*

1861. 1d., blue-green.
6d., pinkish rose.
1862. 1d., light green.
Varieties—Imperf.

These stamps are printed on a rather hard paper, and the perforation is of the character usually termed blind. The lower value appears in two colours, probably separate emissions.

Both values are found imperforate—the penny in the same colour as the sixpenny—but are generally allowed, I believe, to be proofs.

Issues II. 1864-1873.—*Watermark Small six-rayed Star. White wove paper. Yellow gum. Compound perforated* 14-15½.

1864.	1d., green (shades);	watermark	upright.
	6d., rose.	,,	,,
1866.	6d., orange-red	,,	,,
186 (?).	6d., rose-red	,,	sideways.
	[1d., deep green ?]		
1872.	6d., vermilion	,,	upright.

Varieties—Imperf.; double perf.

Notes.—From quite the early days of Philately the "shades," as they have been called, of this sixpenny, have been well known and distinguished—these differences or changes in colour being so well marked as to have occasioned special mention in the current Philatelic journals. It will be noticed in the above reference list that I have divided the sixpenny stamps into four sub-groups. This I consider most essential to a correct description, for each sub-group bears certain distinctive features characteristic to itself.

(*a*) *Sixpence, rose.*—The colour varies slightly in depth. The variation in the thickness of the paper is thoroughly marked in this variety—the thickness varying from cartridge to almost pelure. There is little doubt that the sixpence upon water-marked paper was first issued in this colour, which is almost identical with that of the higher value of the preceding issue.

(*b*) *Sixpence, orange-red.*—In shade this stamp may vary from a light to a brownish red. The paper does not show such a marked variation in thickness as the previous stamp, the thinner kind being generally the rule.

(*c*) *Sixpence, rose-red.*—The shade is a peculiar one, and appears upon a paper which is always thinnish, allowing the watermark to be easily discoverable.

(*d*) *Sixpence, vermilion.*—This stamp is printed upon a soft paper, which causes the perforations of the separated stamps to appear very rough.

One Penny, green.—On giving attention to the lower value, there are no such glaring differences in colour as appear in the sixpence, for the various shades blend one into the other, ranging from quite yellow-green to full blue-green. However, there is a point that should be mentioned in connection with this penny compound perforated stamp. It may appear with the watermark sideways, and curiously enough, it then appears to have a very deep green colour and to be printed upon roughish thin paper.

Issue III. 1873.—*Thickish white paper. Yellowish gum. Watermark Small Star sideways. Perforated 15 (simple).*

1873. 1d., deep green.

Notes.—The main characteristics of this issue are the deep green shade, the sideway position of watermark, and the very clean appearance of the perforations. It is unquestionable, from dated obliterations, that this stamp was in use during the year 1873 and part of 1874; whether it first appeared a little earlier, possibly 1872, I cannot say. It is a stamp of some little rarity unused.

Issue IV. 1873-4.—*Usually soft thin paper. Brownish gum. Watermark Large Star. Perforated* 15 (*simple*).

1873-75. 1d., blue green.
6d., vermilion.

Notes.—The watermark of the penny is always sideways, of the sixpenny upright. The gum has a crackly appearance. Their colours vary very little.

Issue V. 1875.—*Rough thinnish paper. Brownish gum. Watermark Large Star. Perforated* (14) *simple.*

1875-79. 1d., yellow-green.
Variety—Bisected and used for ½d.

Notes.—The watermark is always upright and very discernible. The general appearance of the perforations, gum, and paper of this stamp are very similar to the 1s., violet, issued by this colony in 1875; I have them used together upon piece of original. This 1s. stamp is found with the A15 and postmarks dated 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879; the penny stamp is met with cancelled in precisely the same manner.

Issue VI. 1875.—*Thick yellowish paper. Yellowish to white gum. Watermark Small Star sideways. Perforated 15 (simple).*

1875-83. 6d., deep orange-vermilion.

Notes.—The watermark is usually rather difficult to see, the paper being coarse and thick; it is always sideways in position. This stamp, which is of a much deeper shade, would seem to have displaced the sixpenny Large Star, for it will be found extensively postmarked with all dates between 1878 and 1882. Its colour corresponds well with that quoted in a notice which appeared in the *Philatelist* of 1875: "The sixpenny is now of a rich deep orange."

Issue VII. 1879.—*Whitish paper. Whitish gum. Watermark Small Star sideways. Perf. 15 (simple).*

1879. 1d., grass-green.

Notes.—This stamp is not for a moment to be confused with that of 1873 (issue 3); the characteristic grass-green shade and coarseness of perforation at once serve to distinguish it. It appears to be perforated in a roughish manner, on account, I think, of the softness of the paper; the paper is usually thickish, but shows the watermark distinctly. Dated postmarks clearly locate its employment during the year 1879.

Issue VIII. 1880.—*Thinnish white paper. White gum. Watermark Small Star upright. Perf. 15 (simple).*

1880-81. 1d., washy bluish-green.

Notes.—At the risk of lengthening my reference list, it is impossible to include this stamp, showing the above characteristics, with any of the preceding ones. The stamp, which is a common one, is of a somewhat peculiar washed-out shade, and is printed on very soft white paper. The watermark is upright. It never appears with any dated postmark other than 1880-81. The perforations are more easily measured than those of the preceding issue.

Issue IX. 1881.—*Paper oily and thin. Whitish gum. Watermark Small Star sideways. Perforated 14 (simple).*

1881-83. 1d., green.

Notes.—The perforation, strictly speaking, is nearer 14½. The watermark, which is always sideways, is very easily seen from the thinness of the paper, which sometimes almost approaches pelure.

South-West Africa: 25pf.

Mr. Sellschopp continues his interesting chatty notes during his European tour to our San Francisco contemporary, *Filatelic Facts and Fallacies*, gives a curious history of the 25pf. South-West Africa. There were two issues of the surcharge on the German Empire issue of 1897; one in 1897 surcharged "Deutsch Sudwestafrika" in two lines, the second in 1898, same surcharge but with a hyphen between "Sudwest" and "Afrika" and a capital A to "Afrika," thus "Sudwest-Afrika." Of the 1897 issue Mr. Reichenheim, in a paper read before the Philatelic Society of London in the winter of 1900, stated that the 25pf. and 50pf. values were surcharged and sent to the International Postal Union at Berne, but never issued; but all values with the 25pf. and 50pf. were included in the 1898 issue. Writing of a meeting which he attended in Hamburg, Mr. Sellschopp says:—

"The main talk was about the Deutsch Sudwest Afrika, old type, 25pf. orange. It appears that as there was naturally very little call for a stamp of this denomination, the local postmaster in the colony had not ordered it from Berlin, and the colony was entirely without this stamp. In order to create an absolutely unnecessary variety, and in order further to make himself important, the purchasing agent for a large German society orders from the authorities 800 of these stamps which had no existence, at the same notifying the Berlin authorities of the fact, so that from Berlin the necessary number of this new stamp could be sent to Africa. It seems that this peculiar method was the usual one with all the more distant and less important colonies, like Mariannen, Karolinen, Marshall Islands, etc. At the post offices of these colonies comparatively few stamps were kept on hand, and orders of any large size were only filled, if at about the same time such order, by request of the ordering party, had been sent out from Berlin.

"Well, the 25pf. stamps reached South-west Africa to the number of 1000, with the same mail the letter to Mr. O., the purchasing agent, arrived; but either the party addressed did not call at once at the office, or the letter was not promptly attended to in some other way. Somebody else got wind of the 1000 25pf. stamps, and promptly bought the whole lot. A very large proportion of these rarities reached Germany on registered letters addressed to one post office employé in Hamburg, and indirectly found their way into collectors' hands, naturally at pretty stiff figures, from about 6 to 10 or 12 marks each. Mr. O., the creator of this stamp, of course was furious, and finds that it relieves his feelings by airing his disappointment in the German Philatelic press, accusing various good people in various ways because they got the stamps that he ordered, and made the profit that he or his society had hoped for.

"Well, the affair was interesting. In the meantime I am told that quite a large lot of the precious 25pf. stamps afterwards left Berlin for the colony, and that soon the stamp will cease to be such a great rarity."

Presumably Mr. Sellschopp refers to the first, or 1897, issue surcharged "Sudwesafrika" in one word.

Notes and News.

Queensland: Serrated perfs.

In March last (p. 94) we repeated a list of the serrated perfs. of Queensland. It will be remembered that in 1898 Queensland experimented with zig-zag perforations produced by means of raised rules. First, black impressions were taken of the raised rules, then plain, uninked, impressions for use. But the method was a failure, and most of the sheets were subsequently put through the perforating machine. Our list of the varieties was copied from a well-informed Australian contemporary. But instead of four varieties there should be five, as our list does not include No 176 in Gibbons' Catalogue. We have seen and verified all five varieties, which now stand as follows :—

1. Serrated in black.
2. Serration uninked.
3. Serrations in black and uninked.
4. Serrated in black and perf. 12½.
5. Serrations uninked and perf. 12½.

Our Philatelic Humorist.

Major Evans rarely loses an opportunity of being humorous, and we must not complain if, now and then, it is at our expense. It will, anyway, add further variety to the "Box and Cox" programme of our excellent contemporary the *Monthly Journal*.

Mr. W. Dorning Beckton, one of the Directors of the Philatelic Record Co., recently wrote to his friend the Editor of the *Philatelic Journal of India* on behalf of the *Record*. This letter must have been set up for insertion in our excellent Indian contemporary by the festive native "comp.," who played tricks with the Gwaliors, and he unfortunately added a comma on his own account, thus : "I suppose you know the *Philatelic Record*, now *Le Timbre Poste*, is dead."

Omit the "native" comma after *Poste* and the sentence is all right. But that comma has served its purpose. It has provided a gay and gallant officer on very active service with needful "copy." It has helped to "pad out," not the officer, but the *Monthly Journal*. It is wonderful what dire straits we poor hard-up Philatelic Editors are put to sometimes. In fact, we dare not lift the curtain in this matter too often.

Another word, and a serious one this time. Is it only a coincidence, and nothing more, that when anything can be said, however trivial, that may by any chance help to discredit a rival journal, the name of the journal in question is then given in full, but when anything has to be placed to the credit of a rival journal its name is systematically dwarfed to almost meanlessness initials in the pages of the *Monthly Journal ?*

South Pole Postcards.

To the commemorative postage stamp Philatelists have a rooted and rational objection, but the commemorative postcard is on quite a different footing. Its pictorial possibilities are eminently suited for souvenir and commemorative purposes, and it is consequently becoming very fashionable, especially among lady collectors.

The specially fitted steamship "Discovery" will shortly start on her voyage with the Expedition to the South Pole, and Mr. E. Wrench, the Pictorial Postcard publisher, of 20, Haymarket, London, S.W., informs us that by the kindness of Captain Scott, the commander, he has arranged to publish a set of four beautiful Collotype Picture Postcards, to be posted to subscribers as follows :—

Card No. 1.—Bearing a View of the s.s. "Discovery"; a Portrait of Captain Scott, and his Autograph, specially written for the "Links of Empire" Postcards. To be posted from London the day of Departure of the Expedition.

Card No. 2.—A Map of the Route proposed to be taken by the s.s. "Discovery"; to be posted from a Port of Call abroad.

Card No. 3.—An appropriate design dealing with the departure of the Expedition in search of the South Pole. To be posted from the s.s. "Discovery" at the last Port of Call, probably in New Zealand, before proceeding to the unknown regions.

Card No. 4.—Will be taken aboard the s.s. "Discovery" during her wanderings among the icebergs of the Antarctic Seas, and will be posted at a foreign Port of Call on the return of the Expedition.

Cards 2, 3, and 4 will bear Colonial stamps and postmarks. By the further kindness of Captain Scott it has been arranged that every card shall be postmarked with the stamp of the s.s. "Discovery," so that any cards sold without this postmark are not genuine "Links of Empire" postcards.

Baden-Powell's Stamp Portraits.

The *London Philatelist* gives currency to the following "yarn," the accuracy of which it wisely refrains from guaranteeing :—

"There has been some surprise in non-official circles that General Baden-Powell has received only a 'C.B.' It was well known at Court, however, that the hero of Mafeking was deemed to have offended etiquette by the issue of the stamps bearing his portrait. The late Queen Victoria was particularly annoyed at this unwitting trespass on a sovereign's rights, and I am told that she indirectly conveyed her displeasure. Anyway the story goes at the Cape, that the reason why General Baden-Powell did not apply for leave of absence, as did other officers who had been besieged, was that he thought it undesirable to encourage a

demonstration of enthusiasm. 'B.P.' was raised two steps in rank immediately after the relief, and he will be remembered when the time comes for special grants by Parliament for distinguished services. Moreover he has found work for which he is eminently fitted, in organising the force named after him."

Philatelic Libraries.

At last interest seems to be actually growing in the formation of Philatelic libraries. There are a few well-known Philatelic libraries in this country, and we are glad to hear that a celebrated American library has been secured by a leading English collector.

Amongst the best known English Philatelic libraries are those of Mr. E. D. Bacon, Mr. Smith (Alfred Smith & Co.), Mr. M. P. Castle, Mr. C. J. Phillips (Stanley Gibbons, Ltd.), the Birmingham Philatelic Society, the Philatelic Society of London, and one or two editorial libraries.

"An Uncatalogued Transvaal Variety."

The "attention" of the Editor of the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* "has recently been called" to a curious variety, being a wider spacing of the cancelling bars on the "Halve Penny" on ½, "1 Penny" on 6d., and "2½ Pence" on 1s. of 1893.

"This variety of the Transvaal stamps," the editor assures us, "has been entirely overlooked by all specialists."

This is very amusing. As a matter of fact the variation was noted at the time, is well known to specialists, and probably to most leading dealers, but in view of the satisfying number of other and more marked minor varieties, it has never been considered worth cataloguing. The same variation is to be found in previous surcharges. Personally we do not think it worth listing as a variety, but now that so much more "attention is being directed" to the Transvaal, this and numbers of other little differences which specialists have noted, but have never considered of catalogue rank, will no doubt be only trotted out as "discoveries" and sent the rounds as being "entirely overlooked by all specialists," and they will afford the quiet amusement of watching the reception of the "discoveries."

Magnifiers.

A good strong magnifying glass that can be carried in the waistcoat pocket is a desideratum to a stamp collector. It is an important instrument for the detection of forgeries, for the ready detection of minor varieties, and for the identification of plate Nos., &c. The best we have tried is a very powerful lens in a small compass, sent us by Messrs. Hamilton, Smith & Co., which they sell at 17s. 6d. They also send a cheaper lens with a plain field, which sells at 12s. 6d. A very neat ivory gauge divided into quarter milimetres, from the same firm, is indispensable for measuring surcharges, &c. The price of the gauge is 3s. 6d.

Auction Sales.

The auctions are over for the season, and we give a few of the leading prices of interesting stamps at recent sales. Already dates are being filled up for next season, and there are promises of really grand stamps being included.

* *Signifies unused.*

PUTTICK & SIMPSON, April 30th and May 1st, 2nd, 7th and 8th.

	£	s.	d.
Ceylon, 1857-59, imperf., wmk. Star, 4d. rose	11	5	0
Do. do. 9d. lilac-brown ..	2	14	0
Do. do. 1/-lilac*, but no gum	16	5	0
Lagos, 1885-87, wmk. C.A., 2/6 grey* ..	3	15	0
Do. 5/- blue*	6	2	6
Mauritius, 1848, Post Paid, 1d. orange, medium, early impression ..	6	0	0
Do. do. 1d. orange on bluish, medium impression*	6	7	6
Do. do. 2d. blue, worn impression..	4	4	0
Do. another very worn impression, the error "Penoe" ..	5	0	0
Do. 1859, Small Fillet, 2d. blue, worn impression*	5	5	0
Do. do. Large Fillet, 2d. dark blue, no margins	9	10	0
Do. do. Greek Border, 1d. red*, no gum	5	5	0
Transvaal, 1877, V.R. Transvaal in red, 6d. blue, thinned	4	0	0
Do. do. 1/- green	4	5	0
British Columbia, 1861. imperf., 2½d. brown-rose*	16	0	0
Do. 1867-69, perf. 14, 10c. lake and blue* ..	3	10	0
Do. do. 1 dollar, green* ..	6	15	0
Do. do. perf. 12½, 50c. violet and red*	1	10	0
Canada, 1852-57, 7½d. green, no gum ..	5	5	0
New Brunswick, 1851, 6d. yellow	11	15	0
Do. do. 1/- mauve, pinholed and thinned ..	10	10	0
Newfoundland, 1857, 2d. scarlet	3	5	0
Do. 1860, 1/- orange	10	0	0
Montserrat, 1884, wmk. C.A., 4d. blue* ..	6	0	0
St. Vincent, 1871-77, 1/- vermilion*	4	12	6
Do. 1880, wmk. Star, 5/- rose-red*..	10	15	0
Do. 1881, Provl., 4d. on 1/- vermilion	8	15	0
Tobago, 1882-84, wmk. C.A., 6d. bistre* ..	5	10	0
Argentine, 1891, 20 pesos, green	3	17	0
Bolivia, 1867, nine stars, 500c. black*, no gum	3	15	0
Do. 1871, eleven stars, do. do.	1	14	0
British Guiana, 1850, 8c. green, cut round ..	17	0	0
Do. do. 12c. blue, cut square..	3	10	0
Do. 1852, 4c. blue..	5	5	0
Do. 1856, 4c. magenta, defective	4	0	0
British Honduras, 1885-87, 6d. yellow* ..	2	2	0
Do. 1888, 3 cents on 3d. brown	11	0	0
Buenos Ayres, 1858, Tres Pesos, green ..	4	15	0
Do. do. Cinco Pesos, orange, slightly thinned ..	10	0	0
Colombian Republic, 1862, 20c. red	3	10	0
Dominican Republic, 1862, 1 real, black on green*, no gum	4	5	0
Peru, 1858, Medio Peso, rose-red, error ..	8	15	0
Ceylon, 1857-59, 8d. brown, used together with a 1d. blue	15	0	0
Do. do. 9d. lilac-brown	4	12	0
Do. do. 2/- blue	3	5	0
Do. 1863-67, 2d. emerald-green*.. ..	1	2	0
Gt. Britain, 1847-54, octagonal 1/- green, Die 2*	4	4	0
Do. 1854-57, wmk. Small Crown, perf. 14, 2d. blue, a vertical pair*	8	8	0
Do. 1860, 1½d. lilac-rose*	1	6	0
Do. 1883-87, £1 purple-brown, wmk. Crowns, a vertical pair* ..	5	17	6
Uganda, 1895, 40 cowries, black, defective..	1	12	0
Do. do. 60 cowries, black	4	12	6

VENTOM, BULL & COOPER, May 9th and 10th.

British Central Africa, first issue, £5 sage-green*	6	10	0
Do. 1895, £10 vermilion*..	11	0	0
Do. do another copy used	1	6	0

	£	s.	d.
British Central Africa, 1897, £1 black and blue*	2	10	0
British East Africa, Provl. Ms. surcharge 1a., A.B. on 4a. brown	2	10	0
Do. do. on Company's stamps, 5a. black on grey-blue* ..	3	3	0
Do. do. 2 rupees	2	10	0
British South Africa, first issue, £1 deep blue*	1	18	0
Do. do. £2 rose-red*	3	17	6
Do. Provisionals, 1891, ½d. on 6d., 2d. on 6d., 4d. on 6d., and 8d. on 1/-, the set*..	6	0	0
Do. Provl. used at Buluwayo, 1d. on 4/-	2	8	0
Orange Free State, 1877, "4" inverted on 6d. carmine, Gibbons' Type "d" damaged	2	10	0

Wm. Hadlow, May 16th.

Antigua, wmk C.C., 2½ red-brown	1	6	0
British East Africa, first issue, set*	5	0	0
Ceylon, wmk. C.A., 16c. lilac	1	6	0
Labuan, Provl., Six Cents on 16c. grey, vertical surcharge ..	1	1	0
Do. do. Two Cents on 40c., inverted surcharge.. ..	2	0	0
Do. do. Six Cents on 16c. grey, inverted surcharge* ..	1	2	0

Plumridge & Co., June 4th and 5th.

Ceylon, wmk. C.C., perf. 12½, 2d. emerald-green*	1	2	0
Do. do. 5d. purple-brown* ..	2	15	0
Gold Coast, 1889, "One Penny" on 6d. orange, a horizontal strip of 3*	1	10	0
Gt. Britain, 1840, 2d. deep blue, without lines, stuck on entire original, but without cancellation*	4	5	0
Do. imperf., 2d. blue (with lines), a block of 9, creased*	4	10	0
Do. octagonal, 10d. brown, cut square, cut into*	1	5	0
Do. wmk. Spray, 2/- brown, heavy postmark	1	8	0
Gt. Britain, £5 orange, telegraphically used	1	4	0
Do. do. another postally used	1	7	0
Do. "I.R. Official" on 5/- rose* ..	2	15	0
Do. do. on 10/- blue* ..	2	15	0
Niger Coast, Provisional, ½d. in violet on 2d. (S.G. No. 12*) ..	1	12	0
Do. do. ½d. in green on 2½d. (S.G. No. 13), a horizontal pair* ..	3	7	6
Do. do. ½d. in carmine on 2½d. (S.G. No. 15*)	2	0	0
Do. do. ½d. in vermilion on 2½d. (S.G. No. 18*)	1	5	0
Do. do. One Shilling in violet on 2d. (S.G. No. 28*)	1	18	0
Do. do. One Shilling in vermilion on 1/- (S.G. No. 29), a horizontal pair*	5	0	0
Orange River Colony, surcharged V.R.I., 6d. carmine, with raised stops*	1	2	0
Transvaal, 1877, imperf., 1/- green, with inverted surcharge, defective	1	10	0
Do. 1878, 4d. sage-green, block of 9*	4	10	0

Ventom, Bull & Cooper, May 30th and 31st.

British East Africa on Company, 5 annas*..	4	4	0
Do. do. do. 5 rupees*..	2	15	0
Do. do. do. 2½ in red on 4½ annas..	1	0	0
Finland, 1883, 5 marks green and rose, a horizontal pair*	2	0	0
Do. do. 10 marks brown and rose, a horizontal pair*	4	15	0
India, 1st issue, 4as. red and blue, a block of 8*, creased and pinholed	12	0	0
Orange Free State, 1d. purple, error, letter "I" omitted*	2	8	0
Transvaal, surcharged "V.R. Transvaal," 6d. blue on rose, a horizontal pair..	2	12	0
Do. Queen's Head, 2/- blue*	1	8	0
Zanzibar, on Indian, 6a. bistre, a pair, one with error, "Zanibar"*	2	2	0

Correspondence.

The "Transvral" Error.

Sir,—In your interesting notes on Transvaal sheets you remark that "the make-up of the sheets of the 1d. red on blue with the error" must be left for future solution. Except minute differences of setting, a missing stop or odd letters, I believe there were no real varieties beyond the error, as I had several dozens of them in 1878, though nothing like a whole sheet at a time. The position of the error "r" for "a" is clearly on the left side of the sheet, as the pair recently acquired by Mr. Field *had* the margin on that side of the stamp though cut off, part of which is still in my old album. Mr. Emil Tamsen too (in *Monthly Journal* for March, 1894) says:—"I have seen only one specimen in a block of six which appears to be the left-hand top corner of the sheet." Presumably that block was kept intact to show the error in middle of three rows of two stamps. The corner pair, I still have, with the narrow margins on top and left. Mr. Tamsen says, there were 163 sheets of 80, the printing on December 6th, 1877, being of 13,040 penny stamps, not of 13,160 as given by you. In other printings there are several cases of the small "v" being from a different fount of type, but these have not been specially chronicled, though as interesting as the missing stops, &c.—Your obedient servant,

B. W. Warhurst.

Chelsea, *10th June*, 1901.

Porto Rico: Forgeries.

Dear Sir,—As you are no doubt aware, a dangerous forgery of the "Habilitado para 1898 y 1899" Porto Rico surcharge was recently placed on the American market, and a number of United States dealers and collectors were victimized. It is probable that an attempt may be made to play the same trick in this country. At any rate, we have received a consignment of 2,000 stamps from a Mr. Francisco Ramis, of Cáguas (Porto Rico) for which he asks "tres libras esterlinas." The bulk of the lot is made up of the two counterfeits, of which we enclose specimens.—Yours faithfully,

Alfred Smith & Son.

London, *3rd June*, 1901.

THE

Philatelic Record

EDITED BY

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

Member of the Institute of Journalists.

AUGUST, 1901.

Editorial Notes.

THE stamp thief, who has recently been much in evidence, is a new terror of a kind to be reckoned with in more ways than one. So long as he confined himself to the dealers' counter he was a being to be sympathetically anathematised by the collector, but since, at the Paris Exhibition, and later still at the Buffalo Exhibition, he has taken a fancy to valuable exhibits, he is a real, tangible terror. Hitherto, when collectors have held exhibitions, they have, as a precaution against a very improbable contingency, employed night and day watchmen to guard the exhibits. Now, the improbable contingency has become a very possible contingency, and it remains to be seen how far the dread of loss will affect the exhibitor on the one hand and the promoters and custodians of exhibitions on the other hand. It is to be hoped exhibitors will not be frightened into holding aloof, and that the promoters of exhibitions will not be timorous in facing the risks. For, after all, the stamp thief must be a more than usually daring individual, for he runs so much risk of detection, both in securing and in disposing of his unearned increment, that it is hard to understand how the game can be worth the candle.

The Stamp Thief: A New Terror.

IT is matter for surprise in these days of bi-coloured stamps that we do not hear of more "errors" than we do. In all the millions upon millions of stamps printed by Waterlow in two colours, and therefore requiring two separate printings, we have never heard of more than two inverted centres. Several of our current English stamps require two printings, but what collector has ever feasted his longing eyes upon an inverted printing of an English stamp? Not one. Accidents may have happened within the De la Rue fortress, but no stamp collector has ever confessed to a hearsay knowledge thereof. Not one.

Inverted Centres.

And yet we see that some peculiarly constituted curiosities in America are hinting that the few inverted centres which have escaped from Uncle Sam's Government printing office are due to some official robbery. For our part we decline to credit such an absurdity. The

number of people who, in a large Government printing establishment, would have to be party to the jobbery, places such a charge beyond the range of possibility. It is said that two hundred and fifty millions of those Pan-American bi-coloured stamps have been printed, and out of those two hundred and fifty millions the lynx-eyed armies of collectors and dealers have found three or four misprints. Would to God the ordinary printer were as blameless, then would the weary editor have hope in the great hereafter.

Cook Islands.

Some Philatelists have been assuming the annexation of Cook Islands by the Governor of New Zealand to have been an annexation by that Colony. It is true that it is proposed by the Colonial Government that the Islands should eventually be annexed to New Zealand, but the annexation which has taken place so far is only an incorporation, by request of the islanders, in the British Empire. A Protectorate was declared over the islands in 1888, and Lord Ranfurly, Governor of New Zealand, on the 10th October, 1900, visited the group, and, having satisfied himself that the high chiefs and people desired it, he formally proclaimed them henceforth part of the British Empire. Mr. Sedden, according to recent telegraphic information, has just sent a despatch to Mr. Chamberlain advocating the incorporation of the Cook and other Pacific Islands with New Zealand.

It is, therefore, early days to assume, as some have done, that Cook Islands stamps are all obsolete. They are presumably still in issue, and will remain so until our Colonial Secretary decides aye or nay in the matter of the New Zealand petition.

Exhibition at the Hague.

Mr. A. C. W. Roodenburg informs us in a letter written on July 8th that all the space in the Exhibition is taken up and no more exhibits can be accepted. The admission to the opening ceremony will be, we understand, by invitation cards only, and the Hon. Secretary will be happy to send such an invitation to any well-known English collector who is contemplating attending the Exhibition. His address is—A. C. W. Roodenburg, 23, I. P. Coenstrass, The Hague, Holland. There are 20 classes, 15 for collectors and five for dealers. There are seven special classes for Holland and Colonies, unused and used, and for postmarks, proofs and essays of the same countries.

The Month's New Issues.

For a month or two we have had quite a decided lull in the production of new issues. But at last the cry is "they come." And they come in battalions. From Greece we have a liberal set of somewhat pretty designs running into fourteen values; Nyassa sends us dromedaries and African scenery galore in a series of thirteen stamps, and from Italy we have the stamps with the long-promised portrait of the new King. Paraguay has started lithographing supplies of its recently-issued engraved series. But the stamp of stamps, the first of the great flood, our own King's Head, is still to come.

Philatelic Societies' Work.

By Cornelius Wrinkle.

IN a few weeks, Summer though it be, the Secretaries of the various Philatelic Societies will be mapping out programmes and preparing for the work of the coming Winter season. And the one care that will weigh heavily on all earnest officials will be how to attract to the regular meetings a larger and more appreciative number of their fellow members. It is admitted that the meetings are, from some cause or another, not what they should be. The attendance, in proportion to the membership, is markedly small. There is no denying this fact. What is the cause of the apparent and lamentable diminution of interest in the meetings of many, if not all, of our leading Philatelic Societies? And is there no remedy? If there be, what is it?

If we take the meetings of the Philatelic Society of London we note that, with little variation, the same members attend from meeting to meeting. That is to say, out of a membership of over 260 only about sixteen attend pretty regularly. It is true that only a minority of the members are resident in and around London, but even so, the attendance is notably small. That being so, one is inclined to ask why on earth so many members continue to pay their two guineas a year? This conundrum I do not feel competent to answer.

For many years the premier Society has lived from hand to mouth in the matter of its programme. Its members have had but a few days' notice of the business forthcoming and therefore have been afforded little or no opportunity of looking up and previously studying the issues of the country set down for discussion or display.

But in the old days and the days when Tapling was a living force in the Society, these things were managed differently. Then, each session was devoted to a chosen group and to the definite work of preparing a descriptive and comprehensive Reference List of that group. Every member was expected to bring his collection of the issues set down for study, and woe betide the unfortunate who failed to produce his album. No sooner was the formal reading of the minutes of the last meeting completed than Tapling, as chairman, would glance up and down the table and having satisfied himself that every member present had his stamps open before him, would ask the Secretary to proceed with the work of the evening. Open in front of the chairman, or in the keeping of some privileged neighbour, was the never-absent volume of the Tapling collection. There was a rule in the statutes in those days making it compulsory for each member to bring his stamps to the meeting under a penalty of one shilling for each omission to do so. Gradually specialism crept in, and though on its first introduction it did not mean the sacrifice of general collecting, it eventually tended more and more in that direction, till

one evening the chairman, who had quietly noted a laxity in the production of the required albums, suddenly put the penalty in force, and Mr. Douglas Garth, who had then recently taken over the secretaryship, was directed to collect the shillings. Several of us had to pay up, yours truly among the number. Tapling counted the shillings on the plate and directed the Secretary to add them to the funds of the Society. We all enjoyed the joke immensely, even the unfortunates who contributed the shillings. But it was the last stand ever made against the disintegrating forces of specialism, for the statute soon became a dead letter. The number of members interested in the chosen group decreased, even in the case of favourite countries. Preferences there had always been, but when the Secretary was faced with what was in effect a Philatelic boycott of the countries under consideration the situation became, to say the least, a somewhat puzzling one.

From that day to this we have been struggling against this boycott set up by the Specialist, and so far, it must be admitted, with but little success. There have been excellent papers and brilliant displays, but the critical concentration of a full meeting upon a single issue is a thing of the past. In the days when it was in force, what thorough work was done! The splendid monographs on Oceania, on the British Colonies of North America, on the West Indies, on India and Ceylon were all produced in the Tapling days when every member attending put his shoulder to the wheel and did his level best to ensure the completion of a work that should add to the name and fame of the premier Society.

Still, though we have to confess to divided interests, must we confess also that there is no way out of the difficulty, no hope of reviving the old ideas of co-operative Philatelic labour, no working together as members of the one Society, shoulder to shoulder, in the compilation of monographs that shall add to the reputation and the stability of our Philatelic Societies.

Personally, I do not believe in the policy of abandoning all hope of working together. In my humble opinion the worst evening's work the Philatelic Society of London ever did was to accept the advice of Mr. Castle to abandon, at least for a time, the Reference List meetings of the Society. I admit that those meetings had gone from bad to worse till the attendance was reduced to a bare quorum. But if the plain truth must be told it will have to be admitted that the falling off of interest was due more to the frequent absence of the required draft Reference List than to any other cause. And in this connection a change from an overworked Secretary to a Specialist would probably save the situation.

Therefore, I throw out the suggestion for the consideration of the powers that be, not only in the Philatelic Society of London, but in all Societies—(1) that at the commencement of every season some one country or group be chosen for special study; (2) that a Specialist thereof be appointed to act as Compiler and Editor of the Reference List; (3) that at least one meeting in each month be set apart for Reference List work; (4) that so much of the Reference List as can be completed be published monthly, quarterly, or at the end of each season, as may be decided by the Council of the Society.

In this way each of the leading Societies might do something towards gathering together, examining, rejecting, and systematising and ultimately publishing comprehensive and authoritative Reference Lists for the use of their fellow Philatelists, and so contribute materially year by year to the popularity and permanence of our hobby.

Displays are all very well in their way, but they are apt, in these specialist days, to be somewhat overpowering. They are, at best, Exhibitions in which the exhibits are kept moving, with practically no time for critical examination. The educative value of such evenings must be somewhat doubtful, even to fellow specialists of the same country. Displays in reality come more correctly under the head of entertainments than under the head of Philatelic study. It is only by going slowly and critically through Reference Lists, issue by issue, in conjunction with several specialised collections, that real Philatelic work can be done and profitable Philatelic study be afforded to the members of a Society.

Furthermore, the selection of a particular country or group would probably result in many if not most of the attending members taking it up for the sake of joining in its study with their fellow members, and thus there would be a broadening and deepening of Philatelic knowledge. There is also much to be said for useful work to be done in the direction of an authoritative examination into the claims of questionable varieties. In fact, from every point of view, systematic work with a given Philatelic object should be a welcome change from the purposeless waste of time and effort now so prevalent.

St. Pierre and Miquelon.

The 1885-86 Surcharges.

By Donald A. King.

DURING the last half of the 1880-90 decade the epidemic of surcharging that was overtaking the French Colonies caught St. Pierre amongst the first, the only colonies preceding her in date of surcharging being New Caledonia and Guadeloupe.

Whether the surcharging was necessary or not is to a certain extent a moot question; in some colonies it was, but later, as the authorities saw that it was a source of revenue, and used it for a pecuniary purpose, it became more and more unnecessary and speculative, and it was not until the demand for these varieties wore itself out that the supply ceased.

The origin for this surcharging would be most interesting to know; it first started in New Caledonia on the 1st of June, 1881.

That is now twenty years ago, and, considering the distance and difficulty of access, the slowness and infrequency of communication at that time, it is only reasonable to suppose that New Caledonia's first surcharges were really necessary, but St. Pierre cannot have this excuse, as it was only ten days from France, and had a fortnightly service, so that supplies could have been ordered and received in a month's time.

Until 1885 the stamps used in St. Pierre were of the usual type used in the French Colonies, and were only to be distinguished by their cancellation or postmark. Then the era of surcharges arrived. That this was necessary at the beginning I have no doubt, as the earlier varieties were all used for postage. During the greater part of 1885, the bulk of the mail matter landed at Halifax was prepaid with the surcharged issue, and this in the ordinary course of business, not as it is nowadays, when provisional issues are used more for the purpose of holding them for speculation than for postage. At that time stamps were not so universally saved, so that these provisionals, except in some odd cases, were disposed of in the waste basket, and thence too often to the fire. Dealers had not begun to order supplies, and thus the early surcharges disappeared and are now rare.

The stamps used for surcharging are of two types, the French issue of 1876, imperforate, for use in the Colonies, and the distinctive Colonial issue of 1881. The first one issued was the 5c. on 2c. of the Colonial type on the 6th of January, 1885, and was probably to use for New Year's cards for the French mail, then leaving.

The quantity was very limited—only 300—and it is the rarest of the provisional issue. There are several varieties, as:—

Inverted surcharge.
"S. P. M." alone inverted.
"5" on face, "S. P. M." on back.
"S. P." of "S. P. M." printed over "M."

On the 7th of March, in order to supply the demand for stamps to use on the outgoing mail, the stock of 25c. stamps being practically exhausted, the imperforate 1 franc of the 1876 issue was overprinted "25 S P M" in two distinct types of surcharge.

1. With a heavy black type for the figures, and ordinary capital letters for "S P M."

2. With a larger and shaded type for figures, and thick black letters for "S P M." There are several varieties in these surcharges, as:—

Type 1—
- Inverted surcharge.
- Surcharge vertical, reading up.
- Surcharge vertical, reading down.
- Surcharge "S. P. M." above "25."
- Surcharge "25" vertical reading up, and "S. P. M." inverted.

Type 2—
- Surcharge inverted.
- Surcharge vertical, reading up
- Surcharge vertical, reading down.

Of this surcharge of 25c. on 1 franc there were 3,600 issued.

On the 26th of March another value appeared, 5c. on 4c. of the current French colonial type, the overprint was a large figure "5" and black letters "S P M"; only one variety exists with surcharge inverted.

A type of this surcharge was at one time catalogued with the serif of the figure "5" ending in a point instead of in a ball; this was a forgery, and was supposed to have been made on the Island. Of the 5c. on 4c. there were 900 issued.

On the 27th of July three more values were issued, all surcharged on the 40c. imperforate stamp of France, 05, 10 and 15c. The figures of the surcharge are small, with a horizontal line between them and the letters "S P M," which are in Old English type.

The only varieties of type are in the 10 and 15c., where may be found 10c. with inverted letter "M."

Ten and 15c., with letter "M" 2 mm. distant from the letter "P."

The numbers issued were: 5c., 6,500; 10c., 20,000; and 15c., 20,000.

Later in the year a new supply of the 5c. was issued, surcharged on the 35c., 75c. and 1 franc of the imperforate type, and 20c. of the perforated French colonial stamps. There are no varieties of surcharge in this issue, except those due to broken type or defective impressions.

The surcharge is divided by a horizontal line, as in the preceding, but the figures of value are larger, and the letters "S P M" are ordinary shaded capitals.

The quantities issued are 5 on 35c., 1,500; on 75c., 1,800; on 1 franc, 13,500; and on the 20c. perforated, 13,500.

On the 22nd of June, 1886, an issue of a totally different character was made, it consisted of small squares of white wove paper, having printed on them the letters "P D" and the figures of value 5, 10 or 15c. At the time of issue they were said to be very limited in quantity, and that so few as 100 of each were issued, but this is probably an error.

They were not sold to the public, and the method of use was for the person mailing a letter to hand it to the Post Office with the postage in cash; the postal clerk placed it in another envelope that had one of these stamps affixed to it, and it was then cancelled in the ordinary manner. I do not think the stamps were ever sent outside the Colony; all the covers I have ever seen were used for local or town use.

Of this series of surcharge the earlier varieties were all necessary, but those of the latter part of the year were probably made more for collectors than for actual use, and for a few years after their issue several of the values could be bought at the Post Office at face value.

An examination of the quantities issued and the catalogue price is not uninteresting, the 5c. on 2c. and 25c. on 1 franc having been used for bona fide postage, and thus, not having been preserved generally, are rare; the 5c. on 4c., only 900 of which were issued, is priced at one-fifth the value of the 25c. on 1 franc, of which there were 3,600.

This is due to the smaller value having been bought for speculation, as dealers had by that time commenced to purchase.

The 5c. on 35 and on 75c. should be much rarer than their price would imply, and, in fact, the 5c. on 75c. is a very scarce stamp, cheaply priced, seldom seen and rarely for sale.

Basing prices on quantities issued, other discrepancies exist that it is difficult to explain, as it is reasonable to assume that the stamps issued after July were more for sale to the Philatelic world than for actual postal use.

My authority for quantities issued is official, the figures having been supplied by the then Postmaster-General, Mons. Denouee, and are to be relied upon, though he may have made an error in the quantity of the 5c. on 35c., which is a fairly common stamp, which would not be the case if only 1,500 were issued. The figures may possibly be an error for 15,000, as all his other figures are apparently correct.

REFERENCE LIST.

January 6th, 1885—

5c. on 2c., French Colonies.

Varieties:

a. Inverted surcharge.
b. "S. P. M." inverted.
c. "5" on face, "S. P. M." on back.
d. "S. P." printed over "M."

March 7th, 1885—

25c. on 1 franc, imperforate.

Two types of surcharge:

Type 1.—Varieties—

a. Inverted surcharge.
b. Vertical surcharge, reading up.
c. Vertical surcharge, reading down.
d. Vertical surcharge, reading up, and "S. P. M." inverted
e. "S. P. M." above "25."

Type 2.—Varieties—

a. Inverted surcharge.
b. Vertical surcharge, reading up.
c. Vertical surcharge, reading down.

March 26th, 1885—

5c. on 4c., French Colonies.

Variety :

Inverted surcharge.

July 27th, 1885—

05, 10 and 15c. and 40c., imperforate.

Varieties :

a. 10c. with inverted letter "M."
b. 10c. with letter "M" distant 2 mm. from letter "P."
c. 15c. with letter "M" distant 2 mm. from letter "P."

? 05c. on 35c., imperforate.
05c. on 75c., imperforate.
05c. on fr. 1, imperforate.
05c. on 20c., French colonies, perforated.

June 22nd, 1886—

Small square piece of white wove paper, printed :

PD PD PD
——— ——— ——— Imperforate.
5 10 15

—From "Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News."

Transvaal Sheets.

A Correction.

In the article on Transvaal Sheets in our June number there are a couple of slips that need correction. On page 153, 7th line from the top, read *right*-hand pane for *left*-hand pane, and again in the 15th line from the top read *right*-hand pane instead of *left*-hand pane. —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.

Bechuanaland Protectorate. — The *Philatelic Journal of India* has received a "specimen" copy of the current (green) English ½d. stamp, surcharged exactly like the vermilion one, for use in Bechuanaland Protectorate.

Adhesive.

½d., green.

Great Britain. — *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* is informed that 6d. army official stamps have been issued.

Also that the current 1s., green and carmine, was overprinted "Govt. Parcels," and issued on 21st May, 1901.

Adhesives.

6d., purple on rose paper, sur. "Army Official."
1s., green and carmine, sur. "Govt. Parcels."

India. Sirmoor.—The *Philatelic Journal of India* says it will be good news to all Philatelists that this State is also shortly "coming in," *i e.*, its post will be amalgamated with the Imperial Post on the 1st November next.

Travancore.—The publishers of the *Monthly Journal* have received a fresh supply of stamps from this State. The Editor says: "All the values appear now to be in sheets formed of six horizontal rows of fourteen, and all except the 1 ch. have a frame line to the sheet. The ½ ch. is in a fresh shade of *mauve*, but not one to be catalogued; the new ¾ ch. varies from *black* to *grey-black*, according to the amount of ink on the plate; the 1 ch. is in a *violet-blue* shade which is quite new to us; the 2 ch. in *rose*, as before; and the 4 ch. in a bright *yellow-green*."

Adhesives.

1 ch., violet-blue.
4 ch., yellow-green.

Orange River Colony.—Mr. Walter Morley draws our attention to the fact that the square stop variety after the R of V.R.I. in the level stops printing has also a comma after the I. We had noticed it before, but scarcely considered it worth noting, for it is a comma with the tail partially cut off and used as a full stop, but it may be useful to note it as a further characteristic of the square stop variety in case the wily forger gets to work by and bye.

Sarawak. — The *Monthly Journal* has received the 1c., of the current issue, the blue portion of which is in quite a different shade from that which has already been chronicled. It is now in a *bright* blue, without the *slaty* tinge of the earlier variety.

Adhesive.

1c., bright blue, label in carmine.

Transvaal.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. inform us that they have received the last current South African Republic ½d., green, surcharged "E.R.I."

Adhesive.

½d., green, S.A.R., sur. "E.R.I."

Victoria. — This Colony is, from a Philatelic point of view, very peculiar and somewhat eccentric. Some time ago it re-issued several old designs, professedly on the ground that the fiscal and postal revenues had to be kept separately. Therefore, the designs with the words "Stamp Duty" were put out of use or the words removed. The current 1d. was displaced by a re-engraving of the design of 1883.

But by the last mail we have received from Messrs. Smythe & Nicolle, of Sydney, the 1887, or last current 1d. rose red of the old English 1d. stamp type printed in an olive green. Why this departure from the accepted and adopted Postal Union colours? Perchance it may be a printing for fiscal purposes only. But Messrs. Smythe & Nicolle, writing on the 18th June, 1901, inform us that this stamp, as well as all those having on them the words "Stamp Duty," are available for postal use until the 30th June, after which date, according to the decision of the Federal Postmaster-General, they will be available for revenue purposes only. Wmk. V and Crown. Perf. 12½.

Adhesive.

1d., olive green, type of 1887.

Foreign Countries.

Austria. Bosnia.—We have received from Stanley Gibbons, Ltd , a 5k. of the new type, which we illustrate. Of this high value type there have now been issued 1k , 2k., and 5k. Perf. 12½.



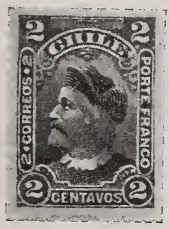
Adhesives

1k., carmine.
2k., ultramarine.
5k., myrtle green.

Bavaria.—We recently chronicled the re-engraving of some values of the current series. It is now stated that all the stamps of the series have been re-engraved.

Chili.—The *Monthly Circular* states that the 1c., 2c., and 5c. have been retouched. The lines of the background above the cap of Columbus have been deepened, so that the shading under the label bearing the word "Chili" has almost disappeared.

From Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., we have received a 30c. value of the current design.



Adhesive.

30c., orange.

Greece.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us, just as we are going to press, a full set of the new Grecian stamps. The same figure forms the central design of all. This central design is a figure of Hermes, with his petasus, or winged cap, his wings on his heels and his caduces, or serpent-entwined and winged wand, denoting his office as herald. The particular form of the messenger of the Gods portrayed on the stamps is that of the statue of Mercury, by Giovanni da Bologna. The lepton values are of the ordinary size, and the drachmas of the long rectangular shape. As the designs are mixed in the lower values we have numbered our illustrations by types. The stamps are on stoutish wove paper, and are said to be the work of Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. The colouring of the series is rich, distinct and effective. The 2 dr. in bronze, 3 dr. in silver, and 5 dr. in gold are somewhat blurred. Wmk. "E.T." and crown. Perf. 14.



Type I.



Type II.



Type III.

Adhesives.

1	lepton, brown.	Type I.
2	lepta, grey black.	,,
3	,, orange.	,,
5	,, grass green.	Type II.
10	,, lake.	,,
20	,, mauve.	Type I.
25	,, ultra marine.	Type II.
30	,, violet.	Type I.
40	,, dark brown.	,,
50	,, red brown.	,,
1	drachma, black.	Type III.
2	drachmae, bronze.	,,
3	,, silver.	,,
5	,, gold.	,,

Holland. Curaçao.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the 2½ gulden of the current Holland type, surcharged "1.50." diagonally in each top corner, and "Curaçao" in sans serif block type at the foot of the stamp.

Adhesive.

1g., 50c. on 2½g., lilac.

Italy.—The long-talked-of new series was issued on the 1st of July last. The values put into circulation up to the 6th of July were 1c, 2c., 5c., 10c., 20c. and 25c. The other values to complete the series, as well as the usual stationery, are expected to follow shortly. The three lower values of 1c., 2c. and 5c., are of the arms type, and the 10c., 20c. and 25c. of the portrait type. Every stamp differs in detail. We have illustrated only one of the portrait type, but though the others are of similar design, they differ more or less in the scroll-work around the portrait. The designs strike one as being pretentious, but disappointing. The inscriptions are such as one might expect from a class of art students in an ordinary school of design, utterly lacking in originality and mediocre in design and execution. Wmk. crown. Perf. 14.

Foreign Post Offices.—We hear from our Italian Correspondent that the new 25 c. has been issued overprinted "La Canea, 1 Piastre 1" and "Bengasi, 1 Piastre 1," for use respectively in these two Italian Post Offices abroad.



Adhesives.

New Designs.

1c., brown.
2c., chestnut.
5c., pale green.
10c., maroon.
20c., orange.
25c., Antwerp blue.

Foreign Post Offices.

La Canea.

1 pi. on 25c. Antwerp blue of 1901.

Bengasi.

1 pi. on 25c. Antwerp blue of 1901.

Monaco.—It has been stated that fiscal stamps of 5 and 10 centimes were recently allowed to frank letters owing to the dearth of postage stamps of those values, but Messrs. Alfred Smith & Co. have been informed that this is not true. The *Monthly Circular* thinks "the story arose from an American dealer, who was staying at Monaco, putting fiscal stamps on envelopes together with a sufficient supply of postage stamps to frank the letters. The fiscals were obliterated like the rest, but of course they had no postal value."

Norway. — The 10 öre postage due stamp has been changed in colour from rose to claret.

Paraguay.—Some colour changes seem to be taking place in the current series of the new design as illustrated. We have received the 2c changed from grey-black to carmine and the 5c. from dark green to purple-brown. As the 2c. is now in the colour of the 10c. we presume we may expect further changes.

The 1c. is said to have been issued in green, which would be the Postal Union colour, but we have this value in the "official" series in blue. Has anyone seen the 1c. of the ordinary series in blue, or is this 1c. green the first issue?

Major Evans says these latest varieties are printed by a different firm, and, he thinks, by a different process to that employed for the earlier colours "The 2c., *dull grey*, is printed by the 'COMPANJA SUD-AMERICANA DE BILLETES DE BANCO, BUENOS AIRES,' and apparently from a steel plate; a 2c., *carmine-red*, which we have now received, is printed by the 'TALLERES NACIONALES DE H. KRAUS,' of Asuncion, and seems to us to be lithographed. The 5c., *brown*, and 40c., *blue*, which have also recently arrived, are printed by the same process, and no doubt by the same firm." The *Monthly Circular* says the latest printings are lithographed in Asuncion by the firm of H. Kraus. The design and perforation are the same, but there is that lack of sharpness that distinguishes even the best litho work from steel plate printing.



Adhesives.
Changes of colour.

1c., green.
2c., carmine.
5c., purple-brown.

Portugal. Nyassa.—Messrs. Bright & Son send us a most gorgeous set of new designs for this Portuguese Colony, which we illustrate. There are thirteen values in all. The 2½r. to 50r., inclusive, all of the giraffe type, and the 75r. to 300r. inclusive

of the dromedary type. All are printed in two colours, the frame being in every case a grey-black. The perforation is about 15, but is best described as irregular. The effectiveness of the design and the irregularity of the perforation point to the work being that of Messrs. Waterlow.





Adhesives.

2½r.,	centre	red-brown,	frame	grey-black.
5r.,	,,	violet	,,	,,
10r.,	,,	myrtle green	,,	,,
15r.,	,,	chestnut	,,	,,
20r.,	,,	scarlet	,,	,,
25r.,	,,	orange	,,	,,
50r.,	,,	slate-blue	,,	,,
75r.,	,,	lake	,,	,,
80r.,	,,	purple	,,	,,
100r.,	,,	brown	,,	,,
150r.,	,,	orange-brown	,,	,,
200r.,	,,	blue-green	,,	,,
300r.,	,,	grass-green	,,	,,

Servia.—We have received from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. the new high value stamps of which there have been issued so far only a 3 dinar and 5 dinar; but as the 1 dinar of the ordinary King Alexander type has been demonetised we presume there will be a 1 dinar in this new and slightly enlarged size type. Perf. 11½.



Adhesives.

3 dinar, pink.
5 dinar, violet.

Shanghai.—In the collection of the stamps of China already alluded to under that head, Messrs. Stanley Gibbons also found the following:—

No. 37, with a dot after the figure "1."
"1 CAND.", in *grey-black*, on 3 cand., orange-yellow (No. 38).
The 40 c., brown (No. 99), surcharged with Type 13 in *black* instead of *blue*.
Similar surcharge in a frame (as on No. 118), on 40 c., but in *red* and *inverted*.
And of the *Postage Due* stamps, the 2 c., brown, wmkd., perf. 12, with the surcharge *vertical*, reading upwards.

Siam.—The *London Philatelist* chronicles the following varieties in the surcharges of 1895-9.

Adhesives.

1	att on	12	atts,	*four varieties.*
1	,,	12	,,	*error* 'Atts.'
3	atts on	12	,,	*two varieties.*
4	,,	12	,,	,, ,,
4	,,	12	,,	'Atts' *without stop.*
4	,,	12	,,	*double surcharge.*
2	,,	64	,,	*three varieties, differing from those of* 1894.
2	,	64	,,	*error* 'Att.'

Switzerland.—Mr. G. A. Anderson sends to *The Philatelic Journal of India* an interesting list of varieties of perforation of the current stamps, 20c. to 3fr., as follows:—

Perf. 11½ to 12—20c., 25c., *green*, 40c., 50c., *green*, 1fr., 3fr.
,, 11½ to 12×11—20c., 25c., *green*, 25c., *blue*, 30c., 40c., 50c., *blue*, 50c., *green*, 1fr.
,, 11½ × 12 or 12 × 11½—25c., *blue*, 50c., *blue*, 50c., *green*, 3fr.
,, 12 (distinct) × 11—20c., 25c., *green*, 25c., *blue*, 30c., 4 c., 50c., *blue*, 1fr.
,, 12 × 12½—50c., grey-green (a single copy).
,, 9½—20c., 25c., *green*, 40c., 50c., *blue*, 1fr.

Commenting on this list, Major Evans, in the *Monthly Journal*, writes:—"Assuming that the list has been compiled mainly from the examination of single stamps rather than entire sheets or long strips, we should infer that the irregular machine which produces the 11½ to 12 perforation is responsible also for the distinct 11½ and 12, possibly one at one end of the row and one at the other. The distinct 11 must be done with another machine, used only on sheets that have already been passed through the former machine for the horizontal perforations, as Mr. Anderson only finds the 11 gauge running vertically. The single specimen perf. 12 × 12½ seems to prove the occasional use of quite another set of needles. Mr. Anderson does not state whether all his stamps appear to be perforated with single-line machines, or whether any of them show the signs of 'comb' perforation."

United States.—The 1c., 2c. and 4c. of the Pan American series, illustrated by us in June (p. 166), have been found with centres inverted.

Adhesives.
Centres inverted.

1c., green and black.
2c., carmine and black.
4c., red-brown and black.

Philately in the Mags.

Stamps of Corrientes.

Dr. Emilio Diena sends the *Monthly Journal* a translation of two official documents concerning the withdrawal of the stamps of Corrientes in 1880, as follows:—

"To the Public and the Trade.

"Corrientes, *September 11th*, 1880.

"The General Inspector of Posts, fully authorised by the Postmaster-General, and after communication with the Most Excellent the National Controller, has decided to abolish after to-day's date the provincial postage stamps of the value of 3 centavos fuertes, prohibiting in consequence the use of them for defraying the postage of any kind of correspondence.

"Postage will be paid hereafter only by means of the stamps and other postal stationery issued by the Government, and according to the present postal tariff, approved by the Honourable National Congress, and notice is given that whoever infringes the said law and tariff will be prosecuted, in accordance with the national post office law.

"Having advertised for public tender within a month's limit for the Postal Service, which forms a complete network of communications within the Province, it is hereby notified that the provincial posts now in existence will continue to perform their service (but with national postage) until the proposal submitted to the Government shall be approved.

"*Signed:* A. Mz. Alvarez De Arenales,
"*General Inspector of Posts.*"

"To the General Director of Posts and Telegraphs, Mr. Olegario Ojeda.

"Buenos Aires, *December 16th*, 1880.

"My last journey to Corrientes was ordered by you with the purpose of putting up, for the second time, for competition the new Postal Service and of nationalising it. The competition took place in due course, and the proposals were recently sent to you by the Administrator of Corrientes.

"My mission was to establish the nationalisation of the Postal Service in the said Province, not only in view of the national service (considering that from September 11th last I abolished the provincial postage stamps, and I ordered the first calling for tenders, under the authority I received from the Director-General, D. Miguel Cané, in compliance with the decree of the National Government, dated August 27th last), but also to come to an agreement with the Government of the said Province as to the sum to be contributed by the National Treasury as a subvention for the Postal Service in the said Province.

"It was with this view that I asked you in my letter (No. 223) of October 30th ult. for instructions on the principal questions, you having told me verbally before I left that you could not give me definite instructions until the Most Excellent National Government had decided these questions. It seems, however, that the matter has not yet been settled, because when I was in Corrientes no orders nor instructions reached me.

"The want of these communications, and the fact that the Government of the Province of Corrientes had not kept its accounts up to date, but a year in arrear (*i.e.* to March, 1879), prevented my having a basis on which to start a plan to be presented in an unofficial way and *ad referendum* to the Government of Corrientes. The only book I saw was for the financial year ending March 31st, 1878, and I gathered from it that the Provincial Postal Service produced in the said year the sum of 900 pesos fuertes and a small fraction, and in 1879 (to March) the sum of 1,400 pesos fuertes and a small fraction.

"I could learn nothing about expenses, subventions, etc., which I could only guess at.

"Seeing that it was impossible to learn anything from the account books of the Controller of Corrientes, I asked and obtained an account of the estimates of the revenue and expenditure for the years 1879 and 1880, which I attach to the present communication as further explanation.

"If we consider that the Provincial Post with its 3 centavos stamps produced for the financial year 1878-9 (to March) the sum of 1,400 pesos fuertes gold, it is quite clear that, taking as a basis the account of the correspondence, at 8 centavos fuertes it will produce not less than 4,000 pesos fuertes a year. And considering also that the Governmental and other official correspondence has been entitled to free circulation, I think it will be very easy to obtain a revenue of 1,000 pesos fuertes a year for the postage on judicial and other correspondence, and as much for the same services of the Province not carried free by law, or a grand total of some 6,000 pesos fuertes a year.

* * * *

"You will kindly decide what you think best on the questions I hereby submit.

"*Signed:* A. Mz. Alvarez De Arenales."

"General Post Office, *February 22nd, 1881.*

"The report which the General Inspector, M. Arenales, submits is hereby approved, etc.

Signed: Olegario Ojeda,
"*Postmaster-General.*"

National Stamp Collections.

People are beginning to realise the interest which centres in a National Postage Stamp Collection, and more than one Government is assisting, if not actually undertaking, the formation of an official collection. The latest news in this direction comes from Australia. We quote from the *Australian Journal of Philately*:—

"The thanks of the community are due to Mr. R. T. Baker, F.L.S., curator of the Sydney Technological Museum, for deciding to add a "Stamp" Section to those already under his care.

"Having considered the desirability of action, Mr. Baker wrote to the Postal authorities of all the States, including New Zealand, requesting the favour of a donation of stamps. In due course he received the usual sheets of stamps sent by the various bodies, those of New South Wales, Queensland, and South Australia being mostly marked reprint or specimen. Those of Victoria and Tasmania were lightly postmarked, while New Zealand sent originals unused.

"However, Mr. Baker is well satisfied for the present; he has made a beginning, and hopes for good results.

"It is intended to have the stamps properly classified and dated, and no doubt by and bye the public (more especially Philatelists) will derive considerable benefit from this new departure."

The need of national collections of postage stamps will win its way in its own good time, even in our own conservative land. Some day, when the task will not be so simple as it is to-day, we shall set to work in the matter.

Dominican Republic "Errors."

We quote the following from the *Monthly Journal*, and trust the next catalogue will not include this rubbish, for this exposure should be enough to exclude it:

"We have seen the so-called *error* of the 5 c. of the current issue, with the words "ATLANTICO" and "MAR CARIBE" transposed. It is an *error* that can only have been made on purpose, presumably by the use of a transfer from a die that was not approved. The map is identical with that on the other values, but is set lower down in the frame, having only seven lines of shading at foot, including one which touches the lower point of the island, instead of nine; and the wrongly placed words must have been inserted after the rest of the map was completed. In the 2 c. a still more extraordinary *error* occurs, in which the map is drawn the wrong way, with Hayti at the right instead of the left, but it is not an inverted transfer, all the names on the map being the right way up in the stamp; it is a different drawing of the map altogether, looked at from the north instead of from the south We have seen a horizontal pair of this variety.

The ¼ c. and ½ c. of the Columbus issue are, we are told, the result of another *error*, which apparently was equally intentional. Those values were not originally included in that series, but when the person who was having the stamps made in Europe saw that the ¼ c. and ½ c. were given in the list for the issue of last year, he wrote to ask if he should order Columbians of the same values. The Dominican Government is said to have cabled "No," but some official (in San Domingo or Europe?) translated this into "Yes"; consequently the stamps were ordered, and were made from the dies of other values, as there was no time to make fresh designs. Only 5,000 of each are stated to have been printed; they were sent out in October last, and were only in use (on sale?) for one day, having all been purchased by a friend of our informant.

The whole series was withdrawn from sale on November 1st, 1900, and the remainders are in the hands of the Columbus Memorial Society, which hopes to sell them for a large sum and to erect a Columbus Museum with the proceeds! The numbers issued are given us as follows:—

1 c.	250,000
2 c.	200,000
5 c.	200,000
10 c.	150,000
20 c.	25,000
50 c.	25,000
$1.00	25,000
$2.00	25,000

Orcha State Stamps.

The *Philatelic Journal of India* supplies another chapter in the history of the Orcha stamps. It says:—

"We have now some more definite news about the Orcha stamps. It seems that they were a private speculation on the part of a European jeweller, who hit upon the idea when on a trade tour in the Orcha State. He stipulated that he alone was to have the sale of them. He is dead now, and the State considers that this incident has loosened the bonds of the contract and it is now, we believe, prepared to supply Philatelists (if they care to buy!)"

This resurrection of the bogies will be welcome news to those who bought the rubbish when first it came out, but at best, it had better be left for—stamp flats.

China Expeditionary Stamps.

The *Philatelic Journal of India* states that up to the 29th May, 1901, the following additional supplies of C.E.F. stamps had been made:—

¼ anna	24,000
2 annas	2,400
4 ,,	2,400
8 ,,	2,400

making the total supplies up to date:—

¼ anna	196,460
½ ,,	205,440
1 ,,	115,280
2 annas	22,040
3 ,,	14,880
4 ,,	19,200
8 ,,	16,080
12 ,,	12,366
1 rupee	16,440

Our contemporary also includes 19,200 of a 3½ annas We have omitted this as we presume it is a clerical error.

British Guianas Withdrawn.

The *Monthly Journal* publishes the following extract from *The Official Gazette* of Wednesday, May 1st, 1901.

Post Office Notice.

POSTAGE STAMPS TO BE WITHDRAWN FROM CIRCULATION.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,
Georgetown, 25th April, 1901.

NOTICE is hereby given for general information that the following postage stamps and postage envelopes, now in use, will be withdrawn from circulation from the 1st of July next, viz.:—

POSTAGE STAMPS.

3 cents
4 cents
6 cents
8 cents
10 cents
20 cents
40 cents
72 cents

Provisional Issue—Mauve with value in Black.

POSTAGE ENVELOPES

5 cents, Embossed Stamps, thin paper (White).

F. W. COLLIER,
No. 257. Postmaster-General.

N. Z. Waterlow Perforations.

We very much doubt if it is worth while separately cataloguing the varieties of perforations found on the Waterlow printings until we know how many of those perforations are the result of separate machines. However, meanwhile we quote from our excellent contemporary, the *Australian Philatelist*, the following list of perforations to be found in the Waterlow printings of the New Zealand picture series compiled by Mr. A. P. Bate. Even this list is by no means complete:—

½d. purple, simple, 14, 14½, 15, 15½, 16, compound, 13½ × 14, 14 × 13½, 14½ × 15, 15 × 16, 15½ × 16, 16 × 15½.
1d. brown and blue, simple, 14, 14½, 15, 15½, 16, compound, 13½ × 14, 14 × 15, 14½ × 15, 15 × 12, 15 × 13, 15 × 13½, 15 × 14, 15 × 14½, 15 × 15½, 15 × 16, 15½ × 16, 16 × 15½.
2d. lake, simple, 13½, 14, 14½, 15, 15½, 16. compound, 12½ × 13, 13½ × 13, 13½ × 14, 14 × 13, 14½ × 15, 15 × 14½, 15½ × 16, 16 × 15½, 14 × 13 × 12 or 12½.
2½d. blue (error) Wakitipu, simple, 15.
2½d. blue, Wakitipu, simple, 14½, 15, 15½. compound, 13½ × 12½, 13½ × 14, 14 × 13½, 14½ × 15.
3d. yellow brown, simple, 14, 14½, 15, 15½. compound, 15½ × 16.
4d. rose, simple, 14, 14½, 15. compound, 12½ × 14, 13 × 14, 13½ × 14, 14 × 12½ 14 × 13½, 15 × 14½.
5d. brown, simple, 14, 14½, 15, 15½, 16. compound, 14 × 12½, 14 × 13½, 15 × 14½, 15½ × 16, 16 × 15½.
6d. green, simple, 13, 14, 14½, 15, 15½, 16. compound, 13 × 14, 13½ × 14, 14 × 13, 15 × 14¼ 15½ × 16.
8d. dark blue, simple, 14½, 15, 16. compound, 15 × 14½.
9d. purple, simple, 14, 15, 16. compound, 13½ × 14, 14 × 13½, 14 × 15½, 14½ × 15, 15 × 14½.
1/- vermilion, simple, 14½ × 15. compound, 14½ × 15, 15 × 14½.
2/- grey-green, simple, 14½, 15. compound, 14½ × 15, 15 × 14½.
5/- vermilion, simple, 14½, 15. compound, 14½ × 15, 15 × 14½.

In the 1d. "Universal" Postage stamp of the London printing the following perforation varieties are known:—

Simple, 14, 15, 16.
Compound, 12½ × 14, 13½ × 14, 14½ × 13½, 15½ × 16, 16 × 15½.
Irregular, 13½ top and sides, 14 bottom.
14 top and sides, 12 bottom.
16 top, 15½ bottom and sides.
14 top and right side, 13½ bottom and left side.
16 top and left side, 15½ bottom and right side.

Servia, Provisional 10p. on 20p. rose.

The *Philatelic Monthly and World* (U.S.) gives the following explanation of the Provisional 10 para on 20 para rose of Servia:—"The 10 para postage stamp of Servia issued on the eve of the new century is the outcome of the peculiar error on the part of the official printing office of the Servian Government. The value of 10 para has been getting scarce, and an order for 10,000 sheets has been given. The printer placed the plate into the press as he received it and supplied the rose printing ink as he had been told to do. After the required number of sheets had been printed, gummed and perforated, one of the officials found out to his surprise that the plate had not been changed since the last printing, and contained the figure 20 in the oval spaces to either side of the word 'para.' Here was a genuine error, the 20 para printed in the colour of the 10 para. But the need for the smaller denomination was urgent; the stock of the 20 para ample; in the dilemma it was decided to surcharge the error with the value it was originally intended for in black. A new error is, therefore, in the market, but it will never be scarce."

U.S. Inverted Centres.

Commenting on Mr. Luff's recent articles on the stamps of the United States, the *Monthly Circular* takes up the question of inverted centres. It says:—

"The question of the origin of the 'inverted centre' errors of the 15, 24 and 30 cents is discussed at length (says our contemporary), and the conclusion arrived at is that they were due to misprinting, and not to one or more inverted designs on each plate, as the late Mr. Tiffany supposed.

"'It is well known that a man in New York, named Anthony, an agent of the Government for the sale of Revenue stamps, and who also sold the then current postage stamps, had an entire sheet of the 15 cents stamp with inverted medallion. One copy was purchased of him and went into the Rasmus collection. *The rest of the sheet was returned to the post office and exchanged for perfect copies.* There is also the celebrated block of four of the 24 cents in the collection of Mr. William Thorne.'

"On the other hand, there is nothing to show that any inverted designs existed on the plates themselves, though 'Mr. J. W. Scott states that at the time attention was first called to the 15 cents with inverted medallion he examined his stock and found half a dozen used copies. Believing it to be an error in the plate, he tried to buy at the New York post office sheets containing it, but could only get half sheets, which were without it. He then sent money to all offices throughout the country which he thought might have this value, asking always for full sheets. In some instances his money was returned because the office could only supply half sheets, and on other occasions the half sheets were sent. In no case did he secure an entire sheet, and the half sheets supplied to him were always the same half, and without the error.'

"We should have had more faith in this statement were it not that Mr. Scott proceeded to do what Mr. Luff ingenuously calls drawing the following '*conclusion*' from that theory. Writing in the *American Journal of Philately* (1870), he said:—

"'We are now enabled to inform our readers, and friends of the Press, of a little circumstance that has been kept pretty well concealed; but perhaps these few lines may open the eyes of the people who pay the taxes. After a few hundred sheets of the

15 and 24 cents stamps of the 1869 issue had been delivered, it was discovered that a few of the stamps on each sheet had the picture inverted in the frames. The Government refused to receive them, and only half sheets of these values were issued.'

"We fail to see any connection between the statement and the 'conclusion.' Either Mr. Luff has done Mr. Scott the injustice of leaving out the chain of reasoning, or the latter gentleman's 'information' was the offspring of a too lively imagination.

"Of the 90 cents with inverted medallion Mr. Luff says 'no copy is known to exist, and it is now believed to be a creation of the fancy of a western collector-dealer. Wishing to give *éclat* to an auction, he inserted in the catalogue of the sale this and certain similar and equally mythical varieties of the higher values of the State Department stamps. As no collector in the United States was able to get a view of them, unlimited bids did not secure them at the sale, and it could never be learned to whom they were sold, it has been concluded that they are only a *tour de fantaisie*.' "

Australian Presentation to the Duke of Cornwall.

The *Australasian Journal of Philately* gives the particulars of a presentation to the Duke of Cornwall of an address and some choice Australian stamps from Australian Philatelists under the auspices of the Sydney Philatelic Club.

The presentation of the Address of Welcome to the Duke of York, patron of the Sydney Philatelic Club, was made by the members selected for the purpose,—Mr. S. H. Lambton (President), Mr. Van Weenen (Vice-President), Mr. Bassett Hull (Hon. Secretary), and Mr. R. Maney Lake—on Wednesday, 29th May, at Government House.

The Hon. Secretary had previously received a letter from the Private Secretary, suggesting that the Souvenir proposed to be given to His Royal Highness might be presented at the same time as the Address. Arrangements were therefore made to combine the Address and Souvenir in the form of an album. This was specially made for the purpose, a number of sunk-mount leaves being bound in marone morocco, simply but chastely ornamented. The first page contained the Address, engrossed in old English characters, and embellished in colours. The following is the text:

"To His Royal Highness, George Frederick Ernest Albert, Duke of Cornwall, Duke of York, Earl of Inverness, and Baron Killarney, Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, &c.

May it please your Royal Highness—

We, the Members of the Sydney Philatelic Club, approach your Royal Highness with the assurance of our loyalty and devotion to the Throne and person of His Most Gracious Majesty, King Edward VII., and offer you our most cordial and affectionate welcome.

We respectfully express our appreciation of the high honour you have been graciously pleased to confer upon our Club by becoming its Patron, and we recognize that your Presidency of the Philatelic Society of London, the Premier Society of the world, and the personal interest taken by Your Royal Highness in the objects of our Club, greatly enhance the honour thus conferred upon it.

We ask your acceptance of the accompanying selection of the stamps of this, the Mother State of Australia, and trust that they may find a position amongst your Philatelic treasures.

On behalf of the Officers and Members of the Sydney Philatelic Club.

S. H. LAMBTON,
President.
E. D. E. VAN WEENEN,
Vice-President.
A. F. BASSETT HULL,
Hon. Secretary.
R. MANEY LAKE."

Following the Address came the names of the 36 members contributing stamps to the Souvenir, arranged alphabetically. Then came ten pages of the stamps of New South Wales, mounted in the order of issue. Amongst them may be mentioned:

Views, 1d. Plate II, pair and single on blue wove paper; 2d Plate II, on yellowish wove; 3d. on blue wove. Laureates 1d. on blue wove, unused, 2d. stars, 2d. Plate II, no wmk., 2d. Plate II, wmk. 2, reconstructed plate of 50 types and a pair; 6d. coarse background; 8d. deep orange. Large Square, 5d. wmk. 5, unused; 6d. sage-green, imperf., pair used; 1s. rose, perf., unused. Diadems, 3d. pair, imperf. wmk. 3, 3d. wmk. 10, block of 4 unused, 3d. wmk., N. S. W. and Crown, pair, imperf., unused, and block of 4, imperf. vertically, both unused. De la Rue series, 9d. double surcharge, unused, and an unused pair without any surcharge (10d. red-brown). Centennial, 1s. pair, imperf., unused, 5s. wmk., 5s. (old paper) unused. There were also blocks of the Record Reign Series, of the first dies, unused, the Hospital Stamps, 6d. green, block of 4 unused; the first post card, both types of "To" unused, several official and private envelopes on coloured paper, all unused and entire.

The presentation was made at the same time as the addresses from other public bodies. The President handed the album to the Duke, who placed it in a chair at his side. The addresses were all taken as read, and a general reply was read by His Royal Highness. The members of the deputation were permitted to remain and witness the investiture of Sir Frederick Darley, G.C.M.G., and Sir James Graham,

K.B., an imposing and deeply interesting ceremony.

The same afternoon the Hon. Secretary received the following gratifying acknowledgment of the Souvenir:

Commonwealth of Australia,
Governor-General,
29th May, 1901.

Dear Sir,—

His Royal Highness the Duke of Cornwall and York desires me to tell you how extremely grateful he is for the beautiful and valuable collection of New South Wales stamps contained in the Address which was presented to H.R.H. this morning by the Sydney Philatelic Club, which Club he is so proud to be associated with as Patron.

I am, Sir,
Yours very faithfully,
B. GODFREY-FAUSSETT,
Commander, R.N., A.D.C.

To A. F. Bassett Hull, Esq.,
Hon. Secretary Sydney Philatelic Club.

Reprints of French Colonials.

According to the *Echo de la Timbrologie*, a new reprint of the allegorical figure type of France and Colonies has been made. The colours vary little from the originals, but the paper is thicker. It is curious that some of them, which were only known to exist in the second type (V before B), have been printed in the first type (V before L).

The following is the list:—

Type I.—
- 3c., yellow; grey.
- 5c., blueish-green (with large 5 as the yellowish-green).
- 25c., ultramarine, sky blue, yellow, black on very light red, black on rose (the 2 is different from the originals).
- 50c., very bright rose.

Type II.—
- 1c., blue-green.
- 2c., ,,
- 4c., ,,
- 10c., blue-green.
- 15c., steel grey.
- 20c., red-brown.
- 30c., light brown.
- 40c., pale lemon-yellow.
- 75c., pale rose, violet on yellow.
- 1fr., light olive.
- 5frs., violet.

With surcharge Cavalle, Dédéagh, Port-Lagos, Vathy:

Type I.—
- 5c., dark green.
- 10c., black on lilac.
- 50c., rose.

Type II.—
- 15c., blue.
- 1fr., olive.

French Levant:

Type I.—
- 25c., yellow, black on rose.
- 50c., rose.

Type II.—
- 75c., rose.
- 1fr., olive.
- 5frs., violet.

China, Madagascar (surcharged "Poste Française"), and Zanzibar (with and without Zanzibar).

Type I.—
- 5c., dark green.
- 10c., black on lilac.
- 25c., black on rose.
- 50c., rose

Type II.—
- 15c., blue.
- 20c., red on green.
- 30c., brown.
- 40c., orange.
- 75c., violet on yellow.
- 1fr., olive.
- 5frs., violet.

Morocco:

Type I.—
- 5c., dark green.
- 10c., black on lilac.
- 25c., black on rose.
- 50c., rose.

Type II.—
- 20c., red on green.
- 1fr., olive.

All unpaid letter stamps of France, including the 60c., brown.

All Morocco and Zanzibar, with surcharge "centimos" and "annas."

Notes and News.

A Japanese Stamp Auction.

The Japs manage their stamp auctions somewhat differently to ours. Here is a description of their *modus operandi* from the July number of *Morley's Philatelic Journal*:—

"I followed Takahashi upstairs to a room outside of which were some dozen pairs of Japanese shoes. 'My friend' soon slipped his sandals off while I unshod myself as soon as possible according to Japanese custom. In the room were the owners of the shoes we saw outside. They were all seated, or rather squatted, on the floor in a ring round the room. All rose and greeted us politely, while Takahashi, I presume, explained in his native tongue who I was. We both took places in the ring and Takahashi passed me what in England would be called a lacquered ash tray. On the convex side of these trays was written the bidder's name, while the concave side was reserved for the amount the owner wished to bid for any lot as it was put up. One of the company had been elected president, and he did all the important work. He called upon the man whose lot was to be put up next,

The lot might be a single stamp or 50,000—whatever it was, it was placed in the centre of the circle or passed round. Each bidder wrote the amount he was willing to bid on his tray, which was then placed concave side down so that none could see another's bid. The trays, being all the same size, were collected and given in a neat pile to the president. He soon found the highest bid, announced the amount and name of the bidder. The plates were then redistributed, and all was ready for the next lot.

"When a man had secured a lot by a very small margin only, he was congratulated and probably stood drinks, not a very expensive entertainment this, as the beverage was either tea or beer in tea cups. On the contrary, if an unfortunate found a lot knocked down to him and was told by the president that the next highest bid was far below his, he was chaffed most thoroughly by all present for his want of knowledge of the market value.

Under the influence of beer and tea all the company got very happy, and apparently good prices ruled that day. Takahashi was very busy buying, for the most part rubbish. But that was his business. Towards the end a dealer came in who spoke English well. I asked him if they knew the English method of holding auctions. He replied that they did and had tried it, but it was unsuccessful because in their excitement of bidding one against another they paid so much for their lots that they were not only unable to realize any subsequent profit but instead often suffered a loss!"

Gibbons' New Catalogue.

Mr. C. J. Phillips in the June number of the *Monthly Journal* promises a new edition of Gibbons' Catalogue, Part I., *i.e.*, the British Empire portion, in the autumn of this year. As a foretaste of what may be expected he says: "Many prices have had to be altered, the death of the Queen having caused an abnormal demand for 'Queen's Heads,'" and he naively adds, "In many cases we have had to replace stock that has been sold out, at *present catalogue prices and over*.

Sierra Leone Inverted.

The provisional "Half-penny" of 1894 on the 3 half-pence, lilac, which has hitherto remained unpriced in all the leading catalogues, is priced 40s. in Gibbons' special bargains list in the June number of the *Monthly Journal*. The usual surcharge is chronicled on both CC and CA wmk. paper, but the inverted surcharge is on the CA wmk.

Philatelic Literature.

It is a pleasure to note the increasing interest which is being taken in Philatelic literature. But we read with fear and trembling the proposal set forth in an editorial in the June number of *Stamps*. "By co-operation with our American cousins," writes the gay and festive one, "it is surely possible that a series of 25 to 30 vols. condensed from all the valuable works on stamps should be produced for a reasonable subscription—say, 2,000 at £5 for the set, or a dollar each book for 2,000 more copies—allowing a fair honorarium for selected compilers." Jerusalem! Our sincerest sympathies go forth to the proposed compilers. May a merciful Providence protect us and our dearly beloved English confrères from such a task. It would never pay, *mon confrère*, never! The best of it would need such liberal annotation that the task would be simply gigantic.

A Colour Test.

Let those who find time hanging heavily on their hands take the various chronicles of new issues and note how each names the colours of the new issues of Greece and Nyassa chronicled this month. We anticipate there will be food for reflection and amusement. Probably the points of divergence will be greater than the points of agreement. We propose next month giving a list of the colours as set out by the leading journals, in the hope that it will emphasise the necessity of an authoritatively issued and accepted colour chart.

Penny Postage in British Ships at Sea.

The following official notice has been issued:—All persons on board British ships on the high seas are entitled to send their letters prepaid by means of British stamps. Such letters should be handed to the master, or to any officer he may appoint to receive them, and should be prepaid at the following rates:—1d. the ½oz., if addressed to the United Kingdom or to any British colony or possession (except the Commonwealth of Australia, Rhodesia, and the Bechuanaland Protectorate); 2½d. the ½oz., if addressed to a foreign country or to one of the three British possessions mentioned above. The officers dealing with the letters should tie them in a bundle, distinctly labelled "Posted on board the British ship —— on the high seas"; and on arrival at a foreign or colonial port this bundle should not be posted in the ordinary way, but should be handed over the counter of a post office, if possible, the head office. Letters written in foreign or colonial waters should be prepaid by means of local stamps at local rates, and should be posted in the ordinary manner.

Fire at Bright & Son's.

We regret to learn that a fire broke out on the premises of Messrs. Bright & Son, 164, Strand, W.C., on Sunday morning, 30th June last. The fire was first discovered by a policeman. There was at the time no one on the premises. The fire seems to have broken out in a shaving saloon on the ground floor and quickly extended into the

upper floors. The premises consist of five floors, with three rooms on each floor. All the back rooms were gutted from top to bottom, and the front rooms were damaged by water. Fortunately, the most valuable portion of the stock was kept in the safe in the front ground floor room, which suffered from water only. The fire destroyed all the stock of albums, and a large wholesale stock of medium stamps.

The premises will probably have to be entirely rebuilt.

U.S. Stamp Trade Amalgamation.

We quote the following official announcement from *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*:—

"AMERICAN COLLECTORS COMPANY.

"Incorporated under the laws of the State of New Jersey.
"November, 1897.
"Paid up Capital, $450,000.

"Board of Directors—A. W. Batchelder, Henry L. Calman, Geo. C. Capen, E. M. Carpenter, Edward H. Fallows, Alex. Holland, Webster Knight, Joseph S. Rich, Sam R. Simmons, Jr., A. C. Wall.

"Officers — George Crawford Capen, president; Alex. Holland, vice-president; Sam R. Simmons, Jr., secretary; Joseph S. Rich, treasurer; attorney, Edward H. Fallows; registrar of stock, New York Security & Trust Co.

"This company is the sole owner of the entire stock-in-trade and business of the Scott Stamp & Coin Company, New York, and the New England Stamp Company of Boston, Mass."

Auction Sales.

PLUMRIDGE & CO., June 18th and 19th.

* Unused.	£	s.	d.
Bahamas, 4d., dull rose, variety of perforation,* mint	2	10	0
Fiji, Times Express, 1s., on quadrillé paper	2	8	0
Great Britain, 20s., brown-lilac, Maltese Cross,* mint	20	0	0
Ditto, "Inland Revenue," in green on 1s., embossed (S.G. No. 429), vertical *tête-bêche* pair, full gum*	7	0	0
Grenada, 1d. on 1½d., orange (S.G., No. 35), with surcharge *inverted*,* mint	3	0	0
Heligoland, ¾ sch., *used*	2	15	0
India, ½ anna, red*	6	0	0
Monaco, 1st issue, 5fr.,* mint	1	16	0
New Brunswick, 6d., yellow	2	0	0
Ditto, 1s., mauve	12	0	0
Newfoundland, 1s., orange, no margins	4	12	6
New South Wales, 1855, 1s., imperf., block of eight	3	0	0
New Zealand, 1855, 1s., green, blue paper, very fine	3	15	0
Niger Coast, 1s., in violet, on 2d. (S.G. No. 28), a mint* copy with vertical surcharge	4	4	0
Ditto, 10s., in vermilion, on 5d., with diagonal surcharge	14	0	0
Sandwich Islands, 1853, 13c., thin paper	3	0	0
South Australia, 1s., brown, imperf.	3	15	0
Ditto, 1867-70, perf. 11½ all round, 2d., vermilion (S.G. No. 44)	9	5	0
Ditto, 4d., purple perf. and roulette	2	10	0
Ditto, 1870, 2s., printed both sides	3	10	0
Transvaal, 1870, fine roulettes, 1s., dark green*	2	8	0
Ditto, 1874, perf. 12½, 1d., red,* mint	2	0	0
Ditto, wide roulettes, pelure paper, 1d., red*	3	0	0
Ditto, wide roulettes, pelure paper, 6d., dark blue*	2	0	0
Ditto, fine roulettes, 6d., ultramarine	1	10	0
Ditto, 1877, surcharged "V.R. TRANSVAAL," roulettes wide at side and fine at bottom, 1d., red, mint*	2	10	0
Ditto, fine roulettes, 1s., green, fine	1	17	6
Ditto, 1874, 1s., green, the variety without stop after "R" and surcharge inverted.	4	0	0
Ditto, ditto, fine roulettes, 6d., blue on rose (S.G. No. 81)	1	10	0
Ditto, surcharged "V.R. TRANSVAAL," imperf., 6d., blue on blue*	1	3	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, 6d., indigo*	1	6	0
Ditto, ditto, 3d., lilac on buff, a vertical pair in mint state, rouletted vertically and imperf. horizontally	7	5	0
Ditto, fine roulettes, 6d., blue on green, mint*	2	0	0
Ditto, slanting "*V.R.*" wide roulettes, 3d., lilac on buff, slightly defective	3	10	0
Ditto, 1879, small V.R., fine roulettes, 3d., blue on blue	5	0	0
Trinidad, no wmk., rough perf., 4d., brown-lilac, horizontal pair*	2	8	0
Victoria registered stamp, *rouletted*	5	0	0

Collections—625, £10 15s, od.; 1,072, £27 916, £15; and 3,244, £36.

PUTTICK & SIMPSON, June 11th and 12th.

	£	s.	d.
Great Britain, 1d., deep black, block of six,* mint	6	0	0
Ditto, 6d., octagonal,* mint	2	5	0
Ditto, 10d., ditto, Die IV.,* ditto	3	3	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, Die II.*	2	0	0
Ditto, 2d., blue, perf 16, block of six,* mint	9	9	0
Ditto, 1½d., lilac-rose, vertical strip of three	3	7	6
Oldenburg, 1859, ⅓ gro., green,* no gum	3	10	0
Tuscany, 3 lire, slightly cut into at left	34	0	0
Ceylon, 8d., brown, imperf., used with a 1s. and 1d., on piece	12	12	0
Ditto, 1s. 9d. green	2	6	0
Phillppine Islands, 1863, 1r., violet,* no gum	2	2	0
Straits Settlements, 1883, 2 cents on 12c., blue	1	10	0
Cape, Woodblock, 4d., dark blue	4	0	0
Ditto, C.C., "One Half-penny" on 3d., claret	1	17	0
Orange River Colony, 1d., violet, the error "V.R." used with a 2½d., blue, and two others, on entire original	2	18	0
Ditto, 2d., blue, a fine block of eleven, one being the variety 2½ no bar,* mint	5	15	0
Ditto, 6d., carmine, first printing, a fine block of four,* mint	4	2	6
Ditto, a pair, ditto	2	0	0
Ditto, another, ditto	2	2	0
Transvaal, 6d., blue on blue, with inverted surcharge	11	0	0
Canada, 7½, green,* no gum	3	2	6
New Brunswick, 1s., small tear	6	7	6
St. Vincent, "ONE PENNY" on 6d., yellow-green*	3	3	0
Ditto, 4d. on 1s.	9	10	0
Trinidad, perf. 14, MS. surcharge, 1d., in black, on 6d., green, a pair and a bisected copy used together as 2½d., on small piece of original	5	15	0
Ditto, 1896, 5s. and 10s.,* mint	3	3	0
Virgin Islands, perf. 15, 6d., rose,* no gum.	2	12	6
Ditto, 1s., single-lined border,* mint	2	0	0
British Guiana, 1853, 4c., strip of three	2	12	6
Queensland, 1d., carmine, imperf.,* no gum	3	3	0
Victoria, 1852, 2d., grey-lilac, litho,* part gum	3	0	0

THE

Philatelic Record

EDITED BY

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

Member of the Institute of Journalists

SEPTEMBER, 1901.

Editorial Notes.

WE are still patiently waiting for those Australian Commonwealth stamps, but they are yet to come, and so far as we can judge we shall have to wait many months more yet.

Australian Stamps.

The following questions were put to the Postmaster-General and answered in the Senate in July last. For the sake of greater clearness we give question and answer together :—

Question 1.—Can he indicate when Federal Postage Stamps will be issued ? Ans.—Not at present. Federal Postage Stamps will probably not be issued until after the expiration of the book-keeping period prescribed by Sections 89 and 93 of the Commonwealth Constitution Act.

Question 2.—Does he deem it desirable that postage stamps in use in the Commonwealth should bear some indication that Australia is federated ? Ans.—It is not considered desirable to overprint the postage stamps of the several States, but when the issue of any new stamps is authorised, such an indication will be considered.

Meanwhile, Victoria is taking full advantage of the interregnum, and is playing all sorts of pranks with its postage stamps. It seems determined to provide a full supply of varieties to reward the patience of those who are daily waiting for the new Commonwealth issue, and if it fills its coffers at the same time and by the same means, who shall say it nay ? Could Victoria be expected to run straight in the matter of postal issues ? We trow not, judging by recent events.

Are our Stamp Auctions Genuine ?

STAMP collectors, after reading Mr. C. J. Phillips's exposure of the manipulation of Stamp Auctions, which we quote in our "Notes and News," will have their confidence somewhat shaken in these popular sales. It is to be hoped that things are not so bad as they seem, or at least as seen through Mr. Phillips's glasses. Now and then, we believe, auctioneers have found a difficulty in making up a sale, and then,

naturally, "the trade" would be welcome to come to the rescue. But when the supply is plentiful then surely no auctioneer in his senses would jockey lots for dealers to the exclusion of stamps entrusted to him for genuine sale.

Anyway, so far as the coming season is concerned, we hear of one firm of auctioneers who have already enough genuine stuff to practically fill up their sales for the present year. At the worst, the confession and exposure are not without their compensations from the collectors' point of view; for if the auctioneers have had to fall back on "the ring" it follows that collectors have not been anxious to sell. For some seasons prices have been against the collector, but as prices are now tending upwards, collectors will probably be more ready to sell in the coming season, and the obliging dealer will not be required to help at the business.

The serious part of the matter, however, is the ugly inference that collectors in attending these sales run the risk of being hoodwinked and manipulated by "a ring" of "the trade."

Forged Bolivia.

"We have only recently found out that we have been selling forgeries of the Bolivian stamps of 1894, surcharged 'EF. 1899.'" So say Messrs. Stanley Gibbons in the *Monthly Journal* for July. And they forthwith offer to refund the money paid for these forgeries.

And as to the history of these forgeries: They had them from "our friend Mr. E. Gainsborg, of Paris, who had them from a party in Bolivia, whom he believed to be quite reliable," and whose name should, we suggest, have been given *pro bono publico*.

The original disseminator of forgeries cannot be too boldly placarded. If we would only put heads together, and in every case hunt up and expose the original source, we should do much to protect all concerned in the uprooting of Philatelic weeds, and the punishment of Philatelic rogues.

The Scott Stamp and Coin. Co.

The business of the Scott Stamp and Coin Co. has been purchased by the American Collectors Company, and together with the business of the new England Stamp Co. will form one strong corporation. The capital of the new concern is $450,000. The purchasing syndicate now offers $180,000 Preferred Stock and $36,000 Common Stock for subscription on the following terms; "One share of Preferred Stock of a par value of $100.00 for $85.00, each share of Preferred Stock carrying with it a bonus of twenty shares of the Common Stock, of a par value of $1.00 per share. Subscriptions must be accompanied by a payment of $10.00 for each share of Preferred Stock, and payments of the balance may be made at the convenience of the purchaser at any time before January 1st, 1902." Mr. Henry Calman, who has for fifteen years been the moving spirit of the Scott Stamp Co., takes a material interest in the new company.

"The American Journal of Philately."

THE *American Journal of Philately*, with its volumes stretching away back into the early days of Philately, passes, with the Scott Stamp and Coin Co. business, to the American Collectors Company, who announce their intention to develop it. They "intend to maintain its high standard in relation to scientific articles, but purpose also to introduce material of such a nature as will make it widely popular, and therefore valuable to all classes of collectors. The new editor will be our genial friend Mr. John N. Luff, one of the most painstaking and learned Philatelists on the other side of the pond.

The Scott Catalogue and Prices.

THE moving spirit of the new Collectors Company which acquires the Scott Catalogues is Mr. Crawford Capen. In reference to the future of the Catalogue, he says: "The general impression that exists as to standard catalogue prices is that they are for fair average specimens of a stamp whether used or unused. Therefore it has been possible to say 'this stamp or this lot of stamps catalogues $50.00, we will sell at half catalogue, $25.00.' We purpose to meet this state of affairs and change it, by making the Catalogue price in future the value of a perfect specimen, or as perfect as can be found, of the stamp that is priced. This rule will, of course, be subject to some exceptions, as in the case of fine early prints or varieties."

Personally we do not believe any stop can be put to the sale of medium stamps at half catalogue. And we repeat that whatever the catalogue price may be, the small dealer, with few expenses, will, for the sake of small profits and quick returns, as often sell at half catalogue as before.

Niger Territories.

By Edward J. Nankivell.

The Niger Coast Protectorate.

(*Continued from p.* 69.)

1893-4. Local Provisionals overprinted on issue of 1892-3.

OF all the stamps of these territories none have caused so much discussion as the Local Provisionals of 1893-4. We have all looked askance at them, and not a few of us have condemned them root and branch. They have been classed as being of dubious reputation. All kinds of excuses have been offered for their appearance, and perhaps the most unfortunate was one that attributed their necessity to the difficulty of keeping in such a hot and humid climate a sufficient quantity of stamps to meet demands. As a matter of fact, the provisionals owed their issue to the non-arrival of stamps ordered from England. It is now maintained that the stamps have been most undeservedly maligned, that they were rendered necessary by the force of circumstances over which the local authorities had no sort of control, and that they did their best to provide a necessary issue, that the many colours of the surcharges are solely due to experiments as to what colour would show up the surcharge most clearly, and that those experiments were necessarily restricted to the materials available in a colony far removed from all sources of supply. Certain it is that despite all the condemnation that has been meted out to them, the market has from the first taken an entirely opposite view, and, as a consequence, the prices of all the varieties have been on the up grade from the first, and are still rising. Possibly it is one of those examples that will crop up, now and again, of a genuine issue asserting itself in the market, despite all attempts to lower its character.

I am indebted to an omnivorous collector, who has made a special study of these provisionals, and who has taken great pains to ascertain the facts, for the following information of their production :—

1893. September 3rd. Provisional ½d.

To meet a shortage of halfpenny stamps four sheets of the first provisional issue of 1d. English overprinted "British Protectorate Oil Rivers" were surcharged diagonally "½d.," in red, with a diagonal bar extending from the left lower corner to the right upper corner as a bisecting line (Gibbons type 2). The sheets were made up of ten rows of 12=120 stamps. These were overprinted in horizontal rows of twelve at a time from a small printer's outfit. The first row was done in violet. But this colour was considered unsuitable because it did not show up clearly. The balance was, thereupon, printed off

in red. I am informed that one stamp has been seen with the diagonal line running from right to left.

Surcharged in red.
½d. on half of 1d., purple.

1893. December 27th. Provisional "Half Penny."

To provide a further supply of halfpenny stamps to meet the demand pending the arrival of the new issue, two sheets of 120 each of the 2½d. blue of the first provisional issue were given to the printer to experiment upon to see what type and ink would be most suitable. The printer experimented with these two sheets and impressed samples of all his stock types and inks promiscuously on each sheet, so that types and inks were jumbled together on the same sheet. The types used were block type (Gibbons type 4), italic type (Gibbons type 5), sans serif type (Gibbons type 6) and italic capitals type (Gibbons type 7). Samples of the block type were printed in green, pale blue, black, vermilion, carmine and dark blue. Eventually orders were given for completed whole sheets (120 stamps to the sheet) to be made of four colours in the block type, viz.: carmine, vermilion, green and dark blue. The pale blue and black being discarded, those colours were confined to the two trial sheets.

Samples of the italic type were made in vermilion, blue, green, violet and carmine. The violet, blue and carmine were discarded, and sheets were made of vermilion and green only, of which two sheets were made in green and three sheets in vermilion. The carmine, blue and violet were confined to the trial sheets.

Of the sans serif type the trial sheets shewed samples in green, vermilion, blue and violet, but one sheet only of each was made in green, vermilion and blue.

On one of the trial sheets the italic capitals type was made in vermilion, but this colour was discarded for green, and a sheet was accordingly printed in green.

The violet colour appears to have been discarded because of its resemblance to the original colour of the 2½d. stamp, but the violet colour was utilised for surcharging the 2d. green in italic, sans serif and block types of which four sheets — one sheet — of each were printed.

On the whole sheets no errors or oddities occur, all the stamps being regularly placed and printed, except on the vermilion types, of which three sheets of block and italic types were made, and in these were found several inverted and sideway printings.

On the "Half Penny" in violet on 2d. green, several of the italic and block type surcharges were found inverted and sideways.

In the "One Shilling" on 2d. the first sheet was made up of violet and vermilion, with eight stamps in black. A sheet of each was made in violet and vermilion. On the trial sheet several copies were found inverted and sideways.

New South Wales: Recent Perfs.

By the Editor.

IN May last (p. 127) we gave a table of recent perforations of the stamps of New South Wales, and quoted some information from the *Australian Journal of Philately* concerning the perforations then in use, which in some particulars did not seem to us to agree with the actual perforations found on the stamps. We now have the courteous reply of our Australian contemporary in its July number just received, as follows:—

"We have to compliment the Editor of the *Philatelic Record* and his friends on the able and exhaustive manner in which they dealt with 'New South Wales: Recent Perfs.'—covering six pages—in the May number of that journal.

"The article was based on one which appeared in the January issue of our paper, viz.: 'How Stamps are Printed,' and we have to apologise for an error which crept into the latter, and which gave our friends abroad some trouble.

"In gauging the perforations of the triple cutters, Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4, we worked them out right enough, but wrote from memory, hence the discrepancy. Our attention having been directed to the matter, we again referred to the pulls of the perforations which we had been permitted to take, and found that we had pencilled the horizontal perfs. of the first four triple cutters $11\frac{1}{2}$, and the vertical perfs. 12, but we overlooked the latter altogether. With this correction the sentence of the paragraph on this subject should read: 'Therefore, it is quite possible to have on the same day one value, some of which are perforated 11 all round, 12 all round, 11 × 12, or $11\frac{1}{2}$ × 12, and *vice versâ*.' There is no perforating machine gauging either 10 or $11\frac{1}{2}$ on the premises."

Then our contemporary goes on to say that its object in going into the question of perforations was to show that at the present day the perforation is no criterion as to the date of issue, and it takes sides with the *London Philatelist* against the *Philatelic Record* and contends that latter day perforations, because of their multiplicity, cannot be of much Philatelic interest. The logic is a bit curious. "In the early days of Philately, when perforating machines were first brought into use," we are told, "apparently one or two were considered sufficient to meet the requirements of the case, and a change in perforation generally indicated a different period." We do not quite follow the argument. We are not wedded to finnicking varieties of perforation, but we fail to see why an addition of a few more perforating machines makes all the difference, and as to periods, it may, we presume, be taken that the machines now in use will some day be set down as marking this peculiar period or age.

Our contemporary further refers to the elaborate list of the London-printed New Zealand pictorials, and "of the many perforating machines in use by Messrs. De la Rue." The New Zealand pictorials were printed, not by Messrs. De la Rue, but by Messrs. Waterlow.

Still, we fail to grasp the logic which would cling with child-like tenacity to the multiplicity of the older perforations, as evidenced in the South Australian Handbook, but would sweep aside the crowd of recent perforations because of their multiplicity.

Why not be honest and admit that we are getting tired of multitudinous varieties of perforation, that we sigh for relief therefrom, and that we would gladly take refuge in the simple and all-comprehensive differentiation of imperf., rouletted, and perf. But, alas, there be many stumblingblocks to such a solution of a troublesome question. There be some perfs. that have emptied many a well-filled pocket, and there be many more similar perfs. stored up for similar use for a gay and gladsome future.

But this perforation business will force itself to the front in its own good time, and some day we shall have to decide something. If in the meantime the manufacturers of perforating machines would meet in solemn conclave and decide that in future all machines for perforating stamps shall be of a cast-iron, undeviating gauge of 14, then we should all be happy ever after, and we should turn back and industriously gather up the multiplicities that have been, but are to be no more.

The Post Office in 1900-1901.

THE 47th annual report of the Postmaster-General on the Post Office has been issued as a Blue-book. The report contains a full account of the transactions of the Post Office for the year ended March 31st, 1901.

It is estimated that the number of postal packets delivered in the United Kingdom during the year was 3,723,817,000, an increase of 3·8 per cent. over the previous year, and an average of 90·8 packets to each person in the population. The letters numbered 2,323,600,000. The letters have increased by 23 per cent. since 1896-97, the year previous to the Jubilee reduction of postage; and a large part of the increase has been in the rural districts. The letters delivered in London last year show an increase of 5 per cent. on the previous year. The remarkable increase in the number of circulars and book packets is largely due to the general election. The growth of parcel post business has been exceptional. Parcels have increased 27 per cent. since the reduction of postage in 1897. Of the total number delivered in 1900-1901, 69,612,956 were rail-borne, while 11,403,916 did not pass over the railway. The total number of express services was 804,447, as compared with 720,381 in 1899-1900, an increase of 11·7 per cent. In London 818,959 articles were delivered by express messengers, including 307,051 letters sent out for delivery in advance of the postman. Since the Post Office express service was established ten years ago, the number of services has risen from 64,000 to 530,000 in London, and from 108,000 to 804,000 in the United Kingdom. During the year there has been a considerable extension of the use made of the arrangement under which single letters can be despatched by any train selected by the sender, and can be met and delivered by special messenger at the place of destination. It has been decided to grant an extension of the licence to work the call box system and of the authority to deliver letters, which were granted to the District Messenger and Theatre Ticket Company in 1891 for a period of 12 years—that is, up to April 14th, 1903. The new licence of the company will be granted for a further period of 19 years, ending March 31st, 1922, and the principal conditions will be as follows:—(1) The payment of a percentage on the company's gross receipts (excluding theatre ticket business) in lieu of the existing royalties for call boxes and letter carrying, with a *minimum* payment of £500 per annum; (2) the company to be allowed to give a return signal from their office to the subscriber's call box; (3) the number of letters which may be carried by one messenger at one time to be raised from six to ten.

More than 382,000 postal packets addressed to South Africa were returned to this country as undeliverable; and nearly 25,000 letters sent from the South African Field Force to addresses in this country could not be delivered, and had to be sent back. The large increase

in the number of undelivered post-cards, book packets, and circulars is due in great measure to the general election. There has been a further very large increase—more than 12 per cent.—in the number of articles found loose in the post, which were more than twice as numerous as four years ago. The coin, which had escaped from packets, alone amounted to £902, or £122 more than in previous year. No fewer than 345,690 packets were posted unaddressed. These contained £251 in cash and bank notes, and £7,203 in bills, cheques, postal orders, stamps, &c. The total value of property found in undelivered letters, which had to be opened in the returned letter office, was £681,335.

As to South Africa the report states that the Army Post Office is still in operation. The staff now consists of seven officers and about 540 men. The weekly mail for the Army Post Office contains on an average 204,000 letters and 115,300 packets of printed matter; and it is estimated that during the year ended March 31st, 1901, 11,551,300 letters were sent to the troops and 9,250,000 were received from them. During the same period the parcels sent out to the forces in South Africa by post amounted to 534,245, the largest number despatched on one occasion—namely, on December 1st, 1900—being 19,672. About 8,745 such parcels are now sent each week.

As to the magnitude and difficulties of the work of the Army Post Office, the report quotes the following paragraph from Earl Roberts's despatch of April 16th last:—

"The magnitude of the task set the military postal service may be appreciated when it is realized that the Army mails from England have exceeded in bulk the whole of the mails arriving for the inhabitants of Cape Colony and Natal, and contained each week little short of 750,000 letters, newspapers, and parcels for the troops. No little credit is therefore due to the department under Major Treble in the first few months, and for the greater part of the time under Lieut.-Colonel J. Greer, Director of Military Postal Services, for the way in which it has endeavoured to cope with the vast quantity of correspondence, bearing in mind the incessant manner in which the troops have been moved about the country, the transport difficulties which had to be encountered, the want of postal experience in the bulk of the *personnel* of the corps, and the inadequacy of the establishments laid down for the several organizations."

German China: Provisional 5pf.

Additional Notes relating to the Second Issue of Tsingtau.

(Translated from the *Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal* by the *American Journal of Philately*.)

IN Nos. 1 and 2 of the current volume of the *Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal*, we treated exhaustively the surcharges made last year in Tsingtau and Futschau, after a shortage in the supply of the 5 pfennig stamps, and we have treated this subject so extensively that we feel certain that nothing can be added to our exposition.

Collectors have been thoroughly informed in regard to the first issue of Tsingtau, of which 46,000 appeared, and which remained in use from May 9th until about the end of July, although, of course, specimens of this and later issues may be found with later cancellations, as they remained available for postage.

Of the far rarer second issue of Tsingtau, with the surcharge "5Pf.," of which the earliest cancellation is July 21st, 1900, and which was limited to 4,000 specimens, only a few had been seen hitherto, and it had been almost impossible to make any list of the varieties of types. However, we have now had an opportunity to inspect an entire sheet and several parts of sheets, and we find that our earlier attribution of the types was approximately correct. What little we have to change in our original classification has been discovered from an exhaustive examination of the material that we had in hand, and of that kindly submitted to us by other collectors.

As was the case in the first issue of Tsingtau, the printing of the second issue was, owing to a shortage in material, arranged for fifty stamps, the upper half of the sheet being surcharged first and then the lower half. It has been a general puzzle, while the same form was used to surcharge the two halves, why the types did not exactly agree, in so far as Nos. 91, 92 and 93 on the sheet do not correspond with Nos. 41, 42 and 43. After the printing of the first portion, certain letters in the spaces referred to became damaged, and it was necessary to replace these damaged letters, resulting in the substitution of "5fP" for "5Pf" in one of the spaces. It cannot, as yet, be determined whether this substitution was made before the upper half of the entire lot of sheets had been surcharged, or whether it occurred while this printing was in process, and therefore it is not impossible that upper half sheets may be found containing the same error.

There are three principal varieties, two double surcharges, and a number of mixed types and minor varieties, the careful listing of which is necessary on account of the forgeries which have already made their appearance.

SHEET A.

2	2	6	2a	2	2	2	2b	2	2
2	2	2	2	6	2	2	2	7	2
1	1	4	1	1	4	1	1	1b	1a
1	1	1	1	1	5	1	1	1a	1
8	3	3	3	3	3	3a	3a	3	3
2	2	6	2a	2	2	2	2b	2	2
2	2	2	2	6a	2	2	2	7	2
1	1	4	1	1	4	1	1	1b	1a
1	1	1	1	1	5	1	1	1a	1
9	9a	10	3	3	3	3a	3a	3	3

Type 1. Corresponds exactly with the first type of the first Tsingtau issue: "5" ending in a period; the bottom strokes of the "P" and "f," as well as the upper horizontal stroke of the "f," form right angles with the vertical lines; the period is oval. The height of the surcharge is $3\frac{1}{4}$mm.

Type 1a. Has a small round period as in type 3, instead of an oval one.

Type 1b. Has an "f" broken at top.

Type 2. Is exactly like type 2 of the first issue of Tsingtau; the "5" ends at the bottom in a small hook, as does the "f" at the top; the horizontal lines of the "P" and "f" do not form right angles with the vertical lines; the period is thick and round. The height of the surcharge is $3\frac{1}{4}$mm.

Type 2a. Has the oval period of type 1.

Type 2b. Like type 2, except that the "f" ends at top in a period and not in a hook; in other respects the "f" is as in type 2.

Type 3. Is in much smaller antique letters than the third type of the first issue of Tsingtau; the height of the surcharge is only $2\frac{3}{4}$mm. The very small "5" ends at the bottom in a period, the numeral is considerably shaded as well as the "P" and "f," and the period is round and very small.

Type 3a. Like type 3, except for an oval period instead of the small round one of type 1.

Type 4. Like type 1, with the "f" of type 2.

Type 5. Like type 1, with "P" of type 2.

Type 6. Like type 2, with the "P" of type 1.

Type 6a. Like type 6, except that the "f," as in type 2b, ends in a period instead of a hook.

Type 7. Like type 2, with the "f" of type 1.

Type 8. Like type 3, with the "f" of type 1.

Type 9. Has the small "5" and the small round period of type 3, and the "p" and "f" of type 1.

Type 9a. Exactly like type 9, except that the period is placed considerably higher up.

Type 10. Has the "5" and period of type 3, the "P" of type 2, and the "f" of type 1. The surcharge reads "5fP," instead of "5pf."

As the figure 5 of the third type was so indistinct, and very often almost disappeared in the word "China," it was considered necessary to place an additional surcharge, by means of a hand stamp, on the fifth and tenth rows of each sheet, the height of this surcharge being $4\frac{1}{5}$mm. This second "5" is frequently found directly over the original value "10," and also exists almost directly over the "5" of the first surcharge. A sheet with this second surcharge shows the following arrangement of types:—

SHEET B.

2	2	6	2a	2	2	2	2b	2	2
2	2	2	2	6	2	2	2	7	2
1	1	4	1	1	4	1	1	1b	1a
1	1	1	1	1	5	1	1	1a	1
12	11	11	11	11	11	11a	11a	11	11
2	2	6	2a	2	2	2	2b	2	2
2	2	2	2	6a	2	2	2	7	2
1	1	4	1	1	4	1	1	1b	1a
1	1	1	1	1	5	1	1	1a	1
13	13a	14	11	11	11	11a	11a	11	11

Type 11. Like type 3, with additional surcharge "5."

Type 11a. Like type 3a, ,, ,, ,, ,,

Type 12. Like type 8, ,, ,, ,, ,,

Type 13. Like type 9, ,, ,, ,, ,,

Type 13a. Like type 9a, ,, ,, ,, ,,

Type 14. Like type 10, ,, ,, ,, ,,

The thirty-first stamp on the sheet: Type 15, like type 1, with the additional surcharge "5". This double surcharge may be explained by the fact that, in surcharging the fifth row of stamps, the second surcharged "5" was by error placed on the first stamp of the fourth row.

It was soon seen that this second surcharge "5" was also lacking in clearness, and thereafter the remaining sheets had the fifth and tenth rows surcharged with a larger hand stamp, "5Pf." The height of this surcharge is barely $4\frac{1}{2}$mm. Single specimens have been shown us which bear a double impression on this additional surcharge.

SHEET C.

2	2	6	2a	2	2	2	2b	2	2
2	2	2	2	6	2	2	2	7	2
1	1	4	1	1	4	1	1	1b	1a
1	1	1	1	1	5	1	1	1a	1
17	16	16	16	16	16	16a	16a	16	16
2	2	6	2a	2	2	2	2b	2	2
2	2	2	2	6a	2	2	2	7	2
1	1	4	1	1	4	1	1	1b	1a
1	1	1	1	1	5	1	1	1a	1
18	18a	19	16	16	16	16a	16a	16	16

Type 16. Like type 3, with additional surcharge "5Pf".

Type 16a. Like type 3a ,, ,, ,, ,,

Type 17. Like type 8 ,, ,, ,, ,,

Type 18. Like type 9 ,, ,, ,, ,,

Type 18a. Like type 9a ,, ,, ,, ,,

Type 19. Like type 10 ,, ,, ,, ,,

In addition to this enormous lot of varieties, there was at least another sheet which bore a double surcharge on every stamp and a triple surcharge on the fifth and tenth rows, and the existence of this sheet may be explained by the fact that, when the printing was first begun, the original surcharge "5Pf" was printed too low down and touched the lower line of perforation, whereupon the surcharge was again applied somewhat higher up. We have seen specimens which evidently were the forty-first and ninety-second stamps on the sheet, which would prove that not only an upper but also a lower half of a sheet was supplied with this double surcharge. Strictly speaking, this is only a trial sheet, but as it evidently was placed in circulation it must be taken into account.

SHEET D.

21	21	24	21a	21	21	21	21b	21	21
21	21	21	21	24	21	21	21	25	21
20	20	22	20	20	22	20	20	20b	20a
20	20	20	20	20	23	20	20	20a	20
27	26	26	26	26	26	26a	26a	26	26
21	21	24	21a	21	21	21	21b	21	21
21	21	21	21	24a	21	21	21	25	21
20	20	22	20	20	22	20	20	20b	20a
20	20	20	20	20	23	20	20	20a	20
28	28a	29	26	26	26	26a	26a	26	26

Type 20. Double surcharge in type 1.
Type 20a. ,, ,, ,, ,, 1a.
Type 20b. ,, ,, ,, ,, 1b.
Type 21. ,, ,, ,, ,, 2.
Type 21a. ,, ,, ,, ,, 2a.
Type 21b. ,, ,, ,, ,, 2b.
Type 22. ,, ,, ,, ,, 4.
Type 23. ,, ,, ,, ,, 5.
Type 24. ,, ,, ,, ,, 6.
Type 24a. ,, ,, ,, ,, 6a.
Type 25. ,, ,, ,, ,, 7.

Type 26.	Double surcharge with additional surcharge "5Pf."	in type 16.
Type 26a.		,, ,, 16a.
Type 27.		,, ,, 17.
Type 28.		,, ,, 18.
Type 28a.		,, ,, 18a.
Type 29.		,, ,, 19.

Although sufficient material seems to have been dished up for the collector of types, we have still another surprise in store for him.

The first issue of Tsingtau may also be found with the additional surcharge "5Pf", and the explanation of this curiosity is quite simple. When the manufacture of the second provisional surcharge was found necessary, a sheet of the first surcharges was submitted to the printing office as a sample, and it appears that this sheet was also supplied with the additional surcharge "5Pf" and finally issued to the public. It must be remembered that the stamps of the first printing were surcharged "Pfg", whereas those of the second printing were surcharged "Pf."

SHEET E.

Pfg.	1a	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pf.	2	2	6	2a	2	2	2	2b	2	2
Pfg.	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	1
Pf.	2	2	2	2	6	2	2	2	7	2
Pfg.	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Pf.	1	1	4	1	1	4	1	1	1b	1a
Pfg.	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Pf.	1	1	1	1	1	5	1	1	1a	1
Pfg.	5	5	2	3a	3	3	3b	3	3	3c
Pf	8	3	3	3	3	3	3a	3a	3	3
Pfg.	1a	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pf.	2	2	6	2a	2	2	2	2b	2	2
Pfg.	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	1
Pf.	2	2	2	2	6a	2	2	2	7	2
Pfg.	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Pf.	1	1	4	1	1	4	1	1	1b	1a
Pfg.	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Pf.	1	1	1	1	1	5	1	1	1a	1
Pfg.	5	5	2	3a	3	3	3b	3	3	3c
Pf.	9	9a	10	3	3	3	3a	3a	3	3



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

GEO. FRED. H. GIBSON, *Kersal, Manchester.*

The British Empire.

Canada.—The following from *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* is curious:—

"Mr. H. A. Chapman has sent me a specimen of a re-engraved 1 c. Canada numeral, in which the differences from the first issue demand recognition. The re-engraved type is shorter and wider than the one preceding it. I note also that the 2 c. is said to exist in the same condition."

Can this be true; or is it only another case of a slight difference caused by the shrinkage after wetting the sheets for printing purposes?

India. KISHENGARH.—The *Monthly Journal* is informed that the regular colours for the stamps of this State are as follows:—

Adhesives

¼ anna, carmine.
½ anna, blue.
1 anna, lilac.
2 anna, dull orange.
4 anna, brown.

Jamaica.—The *American Journal of Philately* says the one penny Jubilee stamp, with a view of Llandovery Falls, is to be re-issued in two colours, the frame being in red and the centre in black. It would be interesting to know what honest excuse can be advanced for the re-issue of this stamp in any colour.

Tonga.—"We have been shown some curious varieties of the provisional ½d. stamps of 1896, which we have no doubt came from waste sheets, but which it may be well to describe; they were obtained by their present owner from the late Postmaster, Mr. Campbell.

"The surcharge shown in Type 13 seems to have been done in three parts; 'VAEUA OE BENI' was printed with type, '*Half-*' was first written with a typewriter over the whole or greater part of the sheet, and '*Penny-*' was then added by the same process. It is evident that the printed portion may read either up or down, and that the space between '*Half*' and '*Penny*' may vary considerably.

"Thus we find the following:—

"1. 'VAEUA OE BENI' reading upwards.

"½d. on 1½d. Space varying from comparatively wide to no space at all, the words touching.

"Error, with extra letter '*P*' below the '*P*' of '*Penny.*'

"Pair, with '*Penny*' on left-hand stamp very close to right-hand side, so that the hyphen after it falls on the right-hand stamp, and is covered by the '*P*' on that stamp.

"½d. on 7½d. Vertical pair, showing very different spacing.

"2. 'VAEUA OE BENI' reading downwards.

"½d. on 1½d. Block of four, showing various spacing.

"½d. on 7½d. Strip of three, with '*Hafl,*' only, one of them with a comma as well as a hyphen after the word.

"Block of 18 (three horizontal rows of six) all surcharged '*Hafl-*' and '*Penny*'; the top row has '*Hafl*' corrected by typewriting '*lf*' upon the '*fl.*' The second stamp has a comma after 'Penny.' The spacing and relative positions of the words vary greatly.

"The owner of the above tells us that he has also part of a sheet of the ½d. on 4d., *lake*, of 1894, showing various defects of impression, such as 'HAL -PENNY,' 'HA -PENNY,' 'H PENNY,' 'I PENNY,' and ' PENNY' for 'HALF-PENNY,' and 'SU CHARGE' or 'SUR HARGE" for 'SURCHARGE.'"—*The Monthly Journal.*

Transvaal.—We quote the following additional information from the *Monthly Journal* concerning the Pietersburg provisionals issued by the Boers:—

"The Pietersburg products seem likely to provide a very long list in course of time;

let us take them as they come. Our publishers have seen a 1s. of Type *c*, with 'AER.' at the left instead of 'AFR.'; and a correspondent has shown us a horizontal pair of 4d., which we fancy must be proofs, as they are on white wove paper, with large margins above and below, and seemed to have formed part of a single horizontal row printed on this paper. They were part of the booty taken at the capture of Pietersburg, but curiously enough were not, like the rest, 'a prey of divers colours.' The right-hand stamp of the pair only is signed by the controller, and the same copy has a high space in the left upper corner, giving the appearance of figures '41.'

"A correspondent kindly sends us the following details as to these stamps, which he obtained from Lieut. J. J. Howe, Intelligence Officer of Kitchener's Fighting Scouts.

"'After Lord Roberts' entry into Pretoria, a certain Barend J. Vorster (a notorious member of the First Volksraad, late S.A.R.) proclaimed a New Republic, with Pietersburg as the Capital and taking in the whole of the Northern Transvaal, electing himself President. Everything went on all right until General Botha heard of this, when he immediately put a stop to the new Government. Vorster has since surrendered to our troops.'

"Our correspondent adds that the stamps were printed at the printing works of the Dutch newspaper *De Wachter*, Pietersburg, the premises of which were blown up by Plumer's column in April last."

So that these provisionals are not, after all, quite so good as they were at first represented to be; at best they are little better than an independent issue by a local commander who was not entitled to assume the reins of Government or do such things without reference to higher authority.

Victoria.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us some further changes in the current series. In April last (p. 112) we chronicled the issue of a new series made up mostly of modifications of obsolete plates. These changes, we were then informed, were rendered necessary by the order to keep the fiscal and postal revenues separately. Hence the then current series of stamps, labelled "stamp duty," was replaced by old plates which had no such label, or by the substitution of the word "postage" for "stamp duty." The old plates brought into use of the ½d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 6d, 1s., 2s. and 5s. had no lettering for "stamp duty" or "postage," and, as a consequence, it is said they have also been used for fiscal purposes, for which they are not intended to be available. Hence the word "postage" is to be inscribed on each of these values. W. K. & Co. send us the ½d., 3d., 6d., 1s. and 2s., with the word "postage" added to the design. In the little ½d. label it is inserted in a straight line at the bottom of the stamp between the two corner labels of value; in the 3d., 6d. and 2s., it is added in a curve under the bust; in the 4d., it is added in the framework on each side; and in the 1s., it is very faintly engraved in the solid background of the medallion at each side. We presume the 2d. and 5s. will also have the word "postage" added, though it is difficult to see where room is to be found for the word on the 5s.

Messrs. W. K. & Co. also send us the current 1½d. stamp with the word "postage" added in a straight label under the bust, the bust being shortened to make room for it.

Adhesives.

Current series with Postage added.

½d., emerald green, design of 1873.
1½d., brown on yellow paper, design of 1878.
3d., orange-brown, design of 1866.
4d., bistre, design of 1881.
6d., emerald green, design of 1865.
1s., orange, design of 1873.
2s., blue on rose paper, design of 1881.

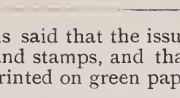
Foreign Countries.

Bolivia.—The *Monthly Journal* has seen the 5c. of the type of 1899 in *red*, and states that the colour is practically the same as that of the 2c.

Chili.—A Santiago correspondent informs the *Monthly Journal* that the whole of the stock of the 30c. stamps of Type 14 has been exhausted. "Out of 2,000,000 that were printed, 1,750,000 were converted into 5c., and the greater part of the remaining 250,000 were employed, we gather, upon the dockets of Registered Letters, or for some purpose of that kind, and were attached to official forms which are afterwards destroyed. Thus, comparatively few of this value were used in the ordinary way, and came into the hands of the general public."

Colombia. Rio Hacha.—Mr. W. F. Gregory has shown the *American Journal of Philately* a number of provisional stamps issued in Rio Hacha. "The stamps are type-set in sheets of sixteen, four rows of four stamps each. There are numerous minor differences, principally in the position of the pieces of the border. The first stamp of the first row has a border of entirely different style from the other stamps in the sheet. The same setting was used for both values, the numerals only being changed. Each stamp is signed in black ink 'J. R. Pichon' or 'Julio R.

Pichon.' It is said that the issue consisted of five thousand stamps, and that only two sheets were printed on green paper."



Adhesives.

Provisional issue.
Imperforate.
5c., black on white.
5c., ,, yellow.
10c., ,, white.
10c., ,, gray-blue.
10c., ,, gray-green.

TUMACO.—In June (p. 164) we chronicled a series of type-set provisionals. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. now inform us that they have just received a letter from a correspondent at Tumaco, from which it appears that the postal agent, or postmaster, who issued the provisional stamps was dismissed from office on the 4th May, and the stock of stamps he then had on hand was delivered up to the Prefect to be destroyed. His dismissal appears to have been due to his having speculated in the provisional stamps for his own personal gain. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. add, "as there are still no stamps to be obtained in Tumaco, letters have to be franked by the Postmaster, who simply writes in the corner of the envelope 'Pago' and the amount, with his signature beneath, and the dated postmark over all, while the Prefect, who apparently acts as a Censor, writes on the back of the envelope 'Pase, el Prefecto,' and his signature. The letter we received is thus franked, and came through without any extra charge."

Japan.—The *Monthly Journal* is informed by a correspondent at Tokio that the Japanese stamps, surcharged for use in Corea, ceased to be employed there from April 1st.

United States. PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.—*Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* says:—

"Civil government is about to be intrcduced in the Philippines. The latest reports are that it will go into effect July 4th. According to precedents established by Porto Rico and Hawaii this should obviate the necessity for any further surcharged stamps, but it will be different in the case of the Philippines, which will continue to use the surcharge until, by an act of Congress, they are made a portion of the United States.

"Thus far we have not been overburdened by varieties for these island possessions, and the 50c. as the highest denomination has been all that was needed. Collectors had thought and hoped that the end of surcharged varieties had come, but once more we are to be disappointed. The latest requisition calls for a supply of entirely new denominations, including all dollar values. The order is now on file at the Bureau and will be filled as soon as possible. Here is a list of everything called for:—

"1,000,000	.. ..	1c.
1,000,000	.. ..	2c.
500,000	.. ..	4c.
250,000	.. ..	6c.
250,000	.. ..	8c.
1,000	.. ..	$1.
1,000	.. ..	$2.
500	.. ..	$5.
100,000	.. ..	2c., Postage due.
50,000	.. ..	3c. ,, ,,
30,000	.. ..	2c. books at 25c.
10 000	.. ..	2c. ,, 49c.
10,000	.. ..	2c. ,, 97c."

Uruguay.—The 20c. of the ship type of the current series has undergone another change of colour, and is now issued in black and blue. The changes which this stamp has undergone are as follows:—

1895, black and green.
1897, ,, lilac.
1901, ,, blue.

Adhesives.

Ship type of 1895.
20c., black and lilac.

Philately in the Mags.

Portugal: Early Issue Varieties.

Mr. Castle publishes in the July No. of the *London Philatelist* a very interesting and instructive paper, which he read some time since before the London Philatelic Society, on little known varieties in certain embossed early issues of Portugal. The following abridgment will be of interest to those of our readers who have not seen the origiual paper :—

Issue I. Dona Maria. July 1st, 1853.

Four values bearing the well-known effigy of the Queen. The 5 reis was intended for newspaper franking, the 25 and 50 for ordinary postage of one and two ounces, and the 100 for postage and registration within the kingdom and adjacent islands. The preparation of the dies was entrusted to M. Francisco Borja Freire, who placed his initials on the stamps at the base of the bust. The sheets consisted apparently of ninety-six stamps divided, as I am inclined to believe, into four panes of twenty-four each in six horizontal rows of four stamps. The paper employed was machine-made wove, varying in texture, notably in the case of the 25 reis, which was used in very large numbers, and the issue may be divided, as are my stamps, into thick and thin paper. I have, however, never found the 50 reis on other than the thick paper. My own experience is that the thin papers are very much rarer than the others, especially as regards the 5 reis.

Although the Queen Maria died four months after the introduction of these stamps in July, 1853, their printing and issue were continued until May, 1855, being used simultaneously after February, 1855, with the next Dom Pedro issue.

Stamps Delivered to the Post during the years 1853-54 and 1854-55.

	Value.			
	5 Reis.	25 Reis.	50 Reis.	100 Reis.
1853	721,895	2,381,736	176,741	49,325
1854	1,829,400	3,210,793	2,657	38,828
1855	966,000	1,732,800	—	16,636
	3,517,295	7,325,329	179,398	104,789
Burnt, Dec., 1853	1,895	8,136	341	125
Issued	3,515,400	7,317,193	179,057	104,664

The question of variation of the dies employed will be found throughout the Portuguese issues to be replete with "points"—and frequently novel ones—but in the case of the Dona Maria stamp there is only one variety that calls for comment, the so-called Die II. of the 5 reis.

Points of difference between the two dies :—

The pendant curl. Die I. This curls outwards, away from the neck, and points directly towards the right centre of the pearl frame.

Die II. The curl is cut where it projected beyond the contour of the back of the head. Owing to excessive ink on the neck on the thin paper stamps, it *apparently* sometimes still protrudes to a certain extent.

The ornamentations, i.e. the two lines above most nearly approaching "CORREIO" to left and right and, below, pointing to centre of "5" on left and to upper part of "S" on right.

Die I. These four lines, which are almost vertical, are short and are broken in the centre at almost an angle of 45.

Die II. These ornamentation lines are considerably longer, thinner, and are straightened so as to appear practically curved instead of angled.

SYNOPSIS.

Issue I. July 1st, 1853.

Thick Paper.

5 reis, red-brown; Die I.
5 ,, brown.
25 ,, pale milky blue.
25 , turquoise blue.
25 ,, blue.
25 ,, greenish blue.
25 ,, dark blue.
50 ,, yellow-green.
50 ,, dark green.
100 ,, lilac.
100 ,, dark lilac; slight shades of all.

Thin Paper.

5 reis, red-brown; Die I.
5 ,, ,, Die II.
25 ,, blue.
25 ,, dark blue.
100 ,, lilac.

Issue II. February 1st, 1855. Dom Pedro V.

This issue, which, as first printed, is generally known as the "straight hair," consists, like that preceding, of four values—5, 25, 50, and 100 reis—and was also engraved by M. Borja Freire, and manufactured at the mint in Lisbon. The gum is uniformly of a rather yellowish tint, but the paper varies, as in the precedent issue, though perhaps not quite so markedly, notably in the 50 and 100 reis. The 5 reis is of course well known to exist in types, of which five have long been accepted.

The differences in these five types are well known, and need no description here; but I may say that, *as in all subsequent cases,*

I have never found two die varieties *se tenant*. It would therefore seem that in all cases no frame was set up that did not consist of reduplications of the same matrix.

Turning to the 25 reis, the two varieties have become now generally known, but the differences are pointed out as being due to the pearls or size of the lettering only. These two stamps are, in effect, made from entirely different dies, head and all. On close examination, frame, network, pearls, lettering, size, and position of the head (noting relative propinquity to the pearls), will all be found to be entirely different, and it is clear that these two were created as entirely separate dies. I cannot say as yet which came first, or whether they were in simultaneous use. The variety with the larger lettering, which I call Die I., is found on thick and thin paper, while Die II. (in my experience) occurs only on the latter, and I have the former stamp used in conjunction with a Dona Maria—100 reis.

SYNOPSIS.

ISSUE II. FEBRUARY 1ST, 1855. DOM PEDRO V.

Thin Paper.

5 reis, dark reddish brown; five types.
25 ,, blue; Type I.
25 ,, dark blue; Type I.
25 ,, ,, Type II.
50 ,, yellow-green shades.
50 ,, blue-green ,,
100 ,, lilac ,,

Thick Paper.

5 reis, dark reddish brown; Types ?
25 ,, blue; Type I.
50 ,, yellow-green shades.
100 ,, lilac.

U.S. Continental Bank Note Co., Grill.

Mr. John N. Luff, in the *American Journal of Philately* has the following interesting note on the use of the "Grill" by the Continental Bank Note Co.:

"For many years it has been held by Philatelists that, of all the companies having contracts for the manufacture of our postage stamps, the National Bank Note Co. was the only one to use the grill. It will be remembered that this process was patented by Charles F. Steel, and that he transferred the right to use it to the National Bank Note Co. in 1868 (see *American Journal of Philately* for 1898, pages 58 and 59). That Company applied the grill to the stamps of the issues of 1867, 1869 and 1870. Toward the end of their contract the process was abandoned and most Philatelists have supposed that it was never again brought into use. Mr. Tiffany mentions the two and five cents of the 1875 issue as having been chronicled with the grill, but he calls this an error.

"Some years ago I obtained information which caused me to believe that the Continental Bank Note Co. had made use of the grill. At my solicitation, a friend obtained access to the records of the Company and secured the evidence that the patent had been used to a limited extent. This was confirmed by the statements of the Treasurer of the Company, the Superintendent of the stamp department, the patentee of the process, and the man who made the machinery. Having learned all this, we began a quiet search for copies of the stamps and eventually found eight denominations. These were the 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 12 and 15 cents of the 1873 issue and the 2 cents of the 1875 issue. All were in used condition. We did not find more than two copies of any value and only one of most of them. Here the matter seemed to come to an end.

"In the *Journal* for 1898, page 181, I referred briefly to the subject and described the grill as follows. "The grill is small and very clearly impressed. It measures $7\frac{1}{4} \times 9\frac{1}{2}$mm., or 10 × 12 rows of points. The grills are placed 14mm. apart horizontally and 18mm. vertically. The bosses, instead of being perfect pyramids, as on previous grills, are not brought up to a point, but have the top truncated. Thus the impressions have the appearance of a group of tiny rectangles instead of crosses." The measurements between the grills were obtained from a proof impression, on a piece of white paper the size of a sheet of two hundred stamps, which is in the possession of a collector in this city. The finding of this impression was one of the first things which attracted attention to these grills.

"A small number of these grilled stamps have recently been found in the possession of a gentleman who obtained them from the Post Office Department at Washington. At the same time a few additional facts about the stamps have been learned.

"In June, 1876, a stamp cleaning case was tried in the courts. It was attended by the usual flurry among officials and a revival of the discussion of preventatives of such frauds. The Continental Bank Note Co., who then held the contract for the manufacture of postage stamps, suggested putting the grill into use once more. They were instructed to prepare 1,000 copies of each value then current. As they had not the requisite machinery for making the grill roller, they entrusted that work to Campbell & Watt, a firm of machinists of New York City. To this we may attribute the small differences between this grill and those of the National Bank Note Co. The order was duly executed and perhaps slightly exceeded, since it included the 2, 7, 12 and 24 cents of the 1873 series, which had ceased to be issued to the public. The grilled stamps were forwarded to Washington and put into circulation; but the Continental Bank Note Co. did not receive any further orders to apply the patent.

"Since these grilled stamps were prepared on proper authorization and duly issued and used, there cannot be any question that they constitute a legitimate issue and are worthy of a place in any collection of United States stamps."

Italy: New Issue Decree.

The *Monthly Journal* publishes the following translation of the Decree under which these stamps have been issued:—

"No. 255.

"Victor Emmanuel III., by the Grace of God and by the will of the Nation King of Italy.

"In accordance with the single Clause of the Postal Act, confirmed by Royal Decree of December 24th, 1899, No. 201; and the Regulations for the execution of the said Clause, confirmed by our Decree of February 10th, 1901, No. 120;

"Having considered the propriety of providing for the printing of the new types of postal values;

"On the advice of our Minister, the Secretary of State for Posts and Telegraphs,

"We have ordered and do order as follows:—

"Art. 1. From the 1st July, 1901, there shall be put in circulation the following values of Postage Stamps, of the dimensions 23 mm. in height and 19 mm. in width.

"(*a*) Of 1 centesimo, colour deep brown, bearing the inscription 'Poste Italiane. Cent. 1'; upon a background of fancy ornaments is placed the Crowned Eagle of Savoy, having on its breast the Cross of Savoy.

"(*b*) Of 2 centesimi, colour red-brown, bearing the inscription 'Poste Italiane. Cent. 2.' A narrow border of a tree-trunk pattern forms a frame to the stamp; in the middle is the heraldic Eagle of Savoy, bearing on its breast a shield with the Cross of Savoy.

"(*c*) Of 5 centesimi, colour pale green, with the inscription 'Poste Italiane. Cent. 5.' A border of small floral ornaments frames the stamp; the heraldic Eagle of Savoy, bearing the shield on its breast, is placed in the centre of a tresse formed of Savoy knots.

"(*d*) Of 10 centesimi, colour rose-geranium, bearing the inscription 'Poste Italiane. Cent. 10'; and with our Sovereign Effigy in the centre, surrounded by a frame of ornaments.

"(*e*) Of 20 centesimi, colour chrome-yellow. . ." (as for the 10 c.).

"(*f*) Of 25 centesimi, colour blue . . . .

"Art. 2. From the day mentioned above, the stamps will be available for the franking of correspondence from and to the Italian Post Offices outside the Kingdom, and for international correspondence.

"For correspondence coming from the Colony of Eritrea the current types will remain in use, until other provision shall be made by a Royal Decree.

"For corespondence despatched from the Italian Post Offices and Canea and Bengasi, the 25 c. stamps described above will be used, with the overprints 'La Canea— 1 piastra 1,' or 'Bengasi—1 piastra 1.'

"Art. 3. The current types of the values mentioned above will remain in circulation" (available for use) "up to June 30th, 1902.

"On the expiration of that period, the usage of those stamps must cease, but persons who may have them in their possession will be able to have them exchanged at all Italian Post Offices from July 1st, 1902, up to June 30th, 1903. After that date the stamps now current will cease to have any legal value.

"Art. 4. Authority is given to the Posts and Telegraphs Department, in accordance with our Decree of February 10th, 1901, No. 120, to decide whether, after June 30th, 1903, the stamps now in use shall be offered for sale for collectors, and to fix the price at which they may be so offered.

"Art. 5. By subsequent Decrees provision shall be made for the issue of Post Cards and other postal values of new designs.

"We order that this Decree, &c.

"Given at Rome, the 6th June, 1901.

"VICTOR EMMANUEL

"(Signed) T. GALIMBERTI."

Orange Free State Stamps.

The *Monthly Journal* publishes the following official notice which is interesting as giving the date at which the Orange Free State stamps, unsurcharged V.R.I., ceased to be available for postage.

"No. 2.

"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.

"A. FALCK,
"Administrator.

"General Post Office,
"Bloemfontein, March 22nd, 1900."



Notes and News.

Gibbons versus Auctions.

Mr. C. J. Phillips has more than once had a suspiciously jealous fling at our stamp auctions. It will be remembered that a few years ago he stumbled into the Philatelic confesssional and owned up to being one of a ring that deliberately manipulated prices. In the July number of the *Monthly Journal* he lets a few more cats out of the bag. Says he :—

"I think I am right in saying that seven auction sales out of ten contain proportion of stamps the property of the trade—the *quasi-trade*—or of speculators. These people (we have been amongst them ourselves, and therefore know what we write about) will not, naturally, let their stuff go too cheap, and buy in, or cause to be bought in, their own lots.

"The figures are continually getting into the Press, and, except to the few who are 'in the know,' are accepted by the great body of stamp collectors as some guide to the actual market value of the stamps in question, while as often as not they are nothing of the sort.

"The case mentioned in the preceding paragraph is one I have now in mind. Here we find a stamp *stated* to have been sold for £50, of which the value is some ten times that figure—in fact, not long ago my firm paid £950 for two of these stamps, and those not in perfect condition.

"Within the past two seasons we have seen stamps belonging to a well-known speculator put up at auction at least three times, and, we believe, bought in each time. This the owner has a perfect right to do, but is it right that time after time these stamps should be quoted as having been sold at certain prices when they have not been sold at all?"

Mr. Phillips suggests that the remedy for this sort of thing lies with the auctioneers, and that they could put an end to it by raising their commission on lots bought in from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d.

What the Duke of Cornwall Collects.

Mr. Basset Hull tells us in the *Monthly Journal* that the Duke of Cornwall, during his recent visit to Sydney, talked stamps with him for half an hour, "during which time," says Mr. Basset Hull, "I learnt that he is a specialist in Great Britain and British Colonies, a collector of both adhesives, postal stationery, which he only takes mint ; that reprints and revenues possess no interest for him; and that he had commenced plating, but his views and Laureates were far from complete."

Mr. Basset Hull adds, "The Duke will take home with him some very nice additions to his collections, Mr. Drake, the Federal Postmaster-General, having made up a complete series in triplicate of all current Australians and the obtainable obsolete ones, from the lowest to the highest values. The face value will not fall far short of £1,000."

South African Exhibition.

The Philatelic Society of London has decided to hold an Exhibition of the South African stamps. The Exhibition will be held in the Society's rooms at Effingham House, on Saturday, the 16th of November, between the hours of eleven and six.

The stamps to be exhibited will be those of the South African Colonies and Republics affected by the present war, and will include the following :—

Natal.
Cape Colony.
" " (Mafeking).
Orange Free State.
Orange River Colony.
Transvaal.
British Bechuanaland.
Griqualand.
New Republic.
British South Africa.
Zululand.
Swazieland.
Stellaland.

Cards for mounting the stamps will be supplied on application free of charge, and Hon. Secretaries of other Societies can also be furnished with same if so desired. Application should be made to the Hon. Secretary of the Exhibition Committee, H. R. Oldfield, 13, Walbrook, E.C.

Coming Season Auctions.

We have received already from Messrs. Puttick & Simpson a very handsomely got up catalogue of "A Magnificent Collection," "the property of a well-known Collector." There are four large quarto full-page plates of rarities of the first water, including all the Moldavias in very fine condition, the double Geneva unused, 3 lira Tuscany unused and used, 12d. Canada, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, and Nova Scotia rarities galore, Turks Islands ½d. on 1d. red, two reconstructed plates, unused, British Guiana, 1850, 4c., 8c., 12c.; 1852, 1c., unused; 1856, 4c., &c., &c. This sale will be held on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th of October, 1901.

Mekeel's Weekly.

Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News has shifted its quarters from St. Louis into the upper regions, *i.e.*, into the twenty-third floor of Park Row Building, New York. And even on the twenty-third floor it is several floors from the top, for the building is the tallest range of offices in the world.

Hamilton Smith & Co.'s Albums.

We are informed that Messrs. Hamilton-Smith & Co. have carried off the first prize (silver medal) for their Interchangeable Albums at the recent Philatelic Exhibition at The Hague. A more gorgeously beautiful lot of albums than we were recently shown by this firm we have never seen—crocodile and other rich leather covers got up with silk lining and gold tooling fit for a palace; in fact, just such an album as one would desire for housing the finest copies of the "Post Office" Mauritius, and other rarities of three and four figures rank, and yet by no means extravagant in price.

Stamp Advertisers.

American dealers make a feature of their stamp advertisements. But English stamp dealers seem to have no advertising ideas whatever. Anything more lacking in originality it would be difficult to find than the average English stamp dealer's advertisement. He is saturated with the conviction that the stamp trade is peculiar in that it does not pay to advertise, as in other trades. "If you have a good stock, take scrupulous care never to advertise the fact. Let collectors find it out for themselves," is the *summum bonum*, the alpha and omega, of their creed.

But Messrs. Hamilton-Smith & Co. have startled us with the following gems in the advertisement line. These gems of the skill of Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., of stamp fame, they had printed in sheets and perforated for advertisement purposes.







It will be seen that the series give us exquisite little views of the Houses of Parliament, where the stamps are authorised, Somerset House, the source of issue, and the General Post Office, the source of sale to the public.

Valedictory.

As I can no longer spare the time for editing the "Philatelic Record," I must, after the publication of this number, pass the work on to other hands.

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.

CROYDON, *August*, 1901.

THE

Philatelic Record.

OCTOBER, 1901.

Editorial Notes.

LIKE every other pursuit, Philately depends for its success in no small degree upon recruits, and how to attract them must always be a matter of moment to its more serious votaries. Means of various kinds have been employed with more or less satisfactory results, but we do not think it will be gainsaid that during the past few months there have been more additions to the Philatelic ranks than in any corresponding period of recent years. Should it be asked what is the cause of this great increase, in nine out of ten cases the answer will be that it is due to the V.R.I. surcharges on the stamps of the Orange Free State and to the Mafekings. We do not believe that surcharged stamps are regarded with any favour by collectors, but these particular ones have undoubtedly become popular, more on account of their *raison d'être* than because of any interest which they themselves possess.

Recruiting.

The influence of the war, however, as a help to Philately is practically over: at all events, its culminating point will be reached in the display of the stamps of the countries affected, to be held in the rooms of the London Society in November next, after which recourse must again be had to the usual channels of supply. The most important of these we have always held to be that of Exhibitions, which are much more beneficial in this way than is generally supposed. They serve to stimulate interest, they cause broader and more enlightened views to be taken by those privileged to attend them, they create new friendships and cement old ones, and by so doing contribute to what has ever been one of the charms of Philately.

It is, therefore, a matter of considerable regret that several of the leading collectors in Germany are of opinion that Exhibitions are of no use, and are held solely for the benefit of the dealers. This line of argument we have never been able to follow, for whilst it cannot be denied that the trade profit by Exhibitions, still this is owing to the increased interest aroused by them, followed, as a matter of course, by an increased demand, and is surely another proof of the advantages which follow in their train. Why then our German friends should hesitate to imitate the example of other countries and organise an International Philatelic Exhibition is quite beyond our ken.

Postal Union Penny.

In the British Guiana 2c. purple and black on rose-red paper, chronicled this month, we have probably the forerunner not only of our forthcoming King's Head 1d., but also of most, if not all, the 1d. and 2c. Colonials printed by Messrs. De la Rue & Co. This firm, as we have stated before, has an unshakeable faith in its fugitive colours as the great and only protection against cleaning and re-use. Hence it is an article of faith with it that the 1d., which is so much used for fiscal purposes, shall be printed in this fugitive purple ink. To conform, at last, to the Postal Union colours, the rose-red paper on which our current 6d. stamp is printed has been selected to give the label the required red colour. Hence we may probably anticipate an early change throughout the Colonies to this latest combination of purple and black on rose-red paper for 1d. and 2c. denominations.

Looking Forward.

The King's Head stamps are still to come, and all the problems that are connected therewith still await solution. But, behind the scenes, the problems are being discussed and solutions suggested. If we may trust Dame Rumour the King's Head is not likely to have a monopoly. The latest fashion in favour of local scenery is growing stronger and stronger and promises to insist upon at least a share in the new issues with the King's Head. So strong is this demand, if we are to believe Dame Rumour, that the present probabilities are in the direction of a compromise which shall include King's Head, Queen's Head, and local scenery issues, all in one series.

The Colonial is naturally flattered by the preference which stamp collectors show for representations of local scenery, and he is not likely, if he can help it, to forego the more substantial revenue which results from an issue of varied designs. In fact, the revenue-crippling and monotonous stereotyped De la Rue design for all Colonies is as dead as a door nail. Every new Colonial series evidences the fact that we have seen the last of it.

A Post Office Concession.

The earlier issues of the post-cards of this country bear on their face, as is generally known, the inscription, "The address only to be written on this side," and although in recent years a modification has been been introduced by the omission of the word "only," it is still frequently supposed that an infringement of the original regulation renders the card liable to letter rate. This, however, like many other illusions, has recently been dispelled by a communication from the St. Martin's-le-Grand officials to a London firm, stating that there is no objection to correspondence being commenced on the address side so long as nothing is written "which either by tending to prevent the easy and quick reading of the address, or by inconvenient proximity to the postage stamps, or in any other way, is likely to embarrass the officers

of the Department in dealing with any packet, including post cards." Personally we think that the provision on the reverse side is ample, but some of our lady friends, who are generally credited with considerable affection for the use of post cards, and are often, but of course most unjustly, accused of filling all the available space with airy nothings, and then finding that the primary object of their communication can only be attained by the use of a P.S., will doubtless greatly appreciate this latest postal concession.

Le Roi est mort. Vive le Roi!

THERE seems to have been of late a serious mortality amongst Philatelic editors. We hear with great regret that an appeal is being made for a successor to Mr. C. Stewart Wilson, who is compelled by ill-health to sever his connection with the *Philatelic Journal of India*; the proprietor of *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* is in want of a Sub-Editor; whilst to come much nearer home, the last page of our September issue contained a few words of farewell from Mr. Nankivell as the editor of this Journal, though not, we trust, as a contributor to its columns. We heartily wish all our contemporaries a rapid solution of their difficulties: in our own case they have been settled by handing over the responsibility of the publication of the *Philatelic Record* month by month to Mr. General Staff. For him we ask the consideration and indulgence always extended to a novice, and if in the future any of our readers should be tempted to scoff at his efforts, and to sigh for the literary excellence to which they have been accustomed in the past, we can only recall to their minds the well-known story of the notice which it was found necessary to display in a prominent position during a concert at an Australian mining settlement, "Please do not shoot the pianist, he is doing his best!"

Luxemburg.

By Jos. Schock,

President of "L'Union des Timbrophiles."

THE adhesion of the Grand-Duchy of Luxemburg to the Austro-German Postal Convention, on the 1st January, 1852, led to the introduction of stamps for the franking of all correspondence forwarded by the post. (This was specially prescribed by Art. 18 and 20 of the Convention). This measure was all the more justified, as the three neighbouring States, France, Belgium and Germany, had already benefited by the introduction of stamps, in which Great Britain was the pioneer. The Government of the Grand-Duchy had in March, 1851, already sent M. Michel, of Luxemburg, to Brussels to study the manufacture of postage stamps at the Belgian printing works. A similar mission was entrusted in September of the same year to M. Barth-Wahl, engraver, of Luxemburg.

The result was that M. Barth-Wahl, in March, 1852, furnished the original dies, the reproductive rollers and the plates, at a total cost of Fcs. 6800 (£270). M. Michel also supplied on the 20th July, 1852, three presses for the printing of the postage stamps at a cost of Fcs. 2125 (£85). The printing establishment was arranged by M. Barth, who received Fcs. 943.25. The manufacture of the paper necessary for the printing of the stamps was entrusted to M. Schmit-Bruck, of Luxemburg. M. Denny, Keeper of the Records, was instructed to supervise and check the material brought from Brussels.

A contract for printing was made with M. Barth, according to the terms of which the Government paid 25 centimes per sheet of 200 black stamps, and 30 centimes per sheet of 200 rose stamps.

The first delivery of stamps took place on the 10th September, 1852. The same day the following decree was published in the Official Gazette:—

"DECREE CONCERNING STAMPS TO FRANK LETTERS.

"Luxemburg, 10th September, 1852.

"The public are hereby notified that the collectors of taxes and the distributors of the mails will sell postage stamps, which are to be used for the franking of letters.

"To use this means to frank a letter it is necessary to affix on the address-side of the letter one or more stamps of 10 centimes or of one silbergroschen, according to the destination and the weight of the letter.

"If an inland letter is not wholly franked, that is to say, if not enough postage has been affixed, the difference is to be paid by the addressee, if he accepts the letter.

" Foreign letters, which are not sufficiently franked, are subject to the rates established by the postal conventions, and are considered as not franked at all.

" Stamps can be obtained in all receiving and despatching offices during the hours such offices are open. Letter carriers can only sell them when on their rounds. Private persons can buy one or more stamps, suiting their convenience. Nothing beyond face value has to be paid for the stamps.

" The officials and employees of the post-offices will supply all information demanded as regards the employment of the stamps and their application.

" Letters franked with stamps are to be put into letter-boxes without any other formality.

" The stamps must be affixed with the greatest care, so that they cannot come off either in the letter-box or in the mail-bags. Loose stamps have no value whatever, unless the employees of the Post succeed in finding the letters for which they were intended.

" The Governor-General of Finances,

" N. METZ."

This decree was supplemented by the following circular :—

" Circular

" Treating of the use of postage stamps.

" Luxemburg, 11th September, 1852.

" Postage stamps will be put into circulation from the 15th of this month to frank all letters emanating from the Grand-Duchy. The following table gives the necessary details to ensure their due use :—

Destination of the letters.	Weight of a single letter.	Distances.	To pay.	Number & kind of stamps to be used.
For the interior..	10 grammes	In the Grand-Duchy ..	10c.	1 stamp of 10c.
For the States in the Austro-German Convention	$16\frac{2}{3}$,,	Up to 10 miles	$12\frac{1}{2}$c.	1 ,, $12\frac{1}{2}$c.
	,, ,,	Up to 20 miles	25c.	2 stamps of $12\frac{1}{2}$c.
	,, ,,	Beyond 20 miles	$37\frac{1}{2}$c.	3 ,, $12\frac{1}{2}$c.
For Belgium ..	10 ,,	For Belgium, Luxemburg..	20c.	2 ,, 10c.
,, ,, ..	,, ,,	For other countries ..	30c.	3 ,, 10c.
For France ..	$7\frac{1}{2}$,,	Not exceeding 30 kilometres	25c.	2 ,, $12\frac{1}{2}$c.
,, ,, ..	,, ,,	For the rest of France and Algeria.	40c.	4 ,, 10c.
For Holland ..	15 ,,	For the entire Kingdom ..	40c.	4 ,, 10c.

" (*Signed*) ULRICH."



W

I.

Issue of 1852-1859.

Profile of William III., King of Holland and Grand Duke of Luxemburg, to the left in an oval, on a groundwork of fine horizontal and vertical lines. The inscriptions are :—At the top the word

"POSTES" and at the bottom the value in white letters; in the upper angles the value in figures in ornaments. The stamps are engraved in taille-douce and are printed in colour on white paper with watermark W. Imperforate.

10 centimes, black, greyish black.

The following quantities were delivered to the postal administration :—

10th September, 1852	122,400
4th June, 1853	211,800
5th December, 1854	92,000
23rd February, 1855	63,600
16th April, 1855	136,600
29th October, 1855	140,400
12th March, 1856	155,400
4th November, 1856	200,000
13th December, 1856	200,000
22nd December, 1857	400,000
25th September, 1858	400,000
Total ..	2,122,200 stamps.

Here I must say, that the colour of the stamps of the first three deliveries is very dark black, the engraving of the crossed lines and the ornaments surrounding the centre oval, as well as the lines of shading on the neck, are very plain. In the deliveries subsequent to 1855 the colour is less bright and the cross lines and the ornaments not so plain, giving them a greyish-black appearance.

It is also worthy of note that one can, if fortune favours, find amongst the greyish-black stamps specimens without the watermark. About a dozen years ago, when these stamps were still to be had in quantities, I found two such specimens in a lot of several hundred. The existence of this variety is to be explained in the following manner: During the printing process certain sheets of paper were placed badly in the printing press, and in such a manner that the last vertical row of stamps was printed on the margin, which does not contain the watermark. This explanation is confirmed by the fact that the watermark in many stamps is not well centred, upon some it exists only partially and upon others is quite on one side of the stamp. Sometimes the paper has a greyish or a yellowish shade, and specimens can be met with on vertically laid paper.

* 1 Silbergroschen, reddish-orange, brick-red, flesh-colour, red-brown, red carmine, rose, dark and light.

Deliveries as follows :—

10th September, 1852	70,000
4th June, 1853	87,400
5th December, 1854	98,800
16th April, 1855	37,600
29th October, 1855	63,000
4th November, 1856	120,000
22nd December, 1857	120,000
25th September, 1858	120,000
Total	716,800 stamps.

It would be difficult to indicate with certainty the dates of issue for the various shades of this value. It is, however, certain that the

* The 1 silbergroschen was equal to 12½ centimes.

stamps of the first delivery were reddish-orange, and that those delivered on the 25th of September, 1858, were rose. The latter were nearly all sold at the post-office at Luxemburg.

The stamps bearing the portrait of the Grand Duke were superseded on the 17th of September, 1859, by a new set having the coat-of-arms of the Grand-Duchy. The printing establishment (including the presses and the steel engraved plates) was sold by the administration to M. Felix-Coster, photographer at Diekirch, on the 20th of January, 1863, for Fcs 480 (£19), but the four steel plates were first defaced.

The following proofs exist:—

On thick yellowish paper.

10 centimes, black.

1 silbergroschen.

On ordinary white paper.

10 centimes, black.

The 10 centimes, black, is known also with watermark inverted.

Forgeries of these two values are to be found, but are not dangerous.

(To be continued).

Notable Philatelists.



Anton M. van Hoek.

The Hague Exhibition.

By W. Dorning Beckton.

WHATEVER misgivings our Philatelic friends in Holland may have had as to the wisdom of attempting a big Exhibition, the result has proved an unqualified success. I believe when the Exhibition was first mooted there was no intention of holding more than a local one. However, Mr. van Hoek went in for having a big Exhibition, and in time worked up sufficient enthusiasm amongst his co-members and convinced them that such an Exhibition was capable of being managed by and successfully held in Holland. The experience gained by personal long visits to the Manchester and Paris Exhibitions served Mr. van Hoek in good stead, and although declining an official position on the Committee, nevertheless he has worked untiringly since its inception, and the credit of the success must in the first place be accorded to him.

To the President, Mr. van Kinschot, and the Secretary, Mr. Roodenburg, the thanks of those interested in the Exhibition are also due, the latter making an excellent type of Secretary, always there when wanted and always apologetic as necessity arose.

The Exhibition, open from August 10th to 19th, was held in the Zoo, at the Hague.

In the centre of the grounds stands a good solid building, quite isolated from all the others. This building consists of one very large room, out of which smaller ones lead.

It was in this large room that the Exhibition was held. In height it extended to the dome, which formed the centre of the building and there were galleries on two sides which, during the Exhibition, were closed to the public.

The lighting of the room left nothing to be desired, no direct rays of the sun upon the stamps being possible, wherewithal there was plenty of light except, perhaps, at the extreme end of the last frames abutting on the galleries.

The stamps were arranged on two tiers running down the centre of the room and some dozen shorter tiers on each side running from the long ones towards the sides of the building. These shorter tiers would be about 20 feet long, from which the enormous size of the room may be gauged; especially when I add that the corridors between the tiers were much wider than I have ever seen at a Philatelic Exhibition before.

A special word of praise is due to the Committee for the excellent order maintained in the mounting of the exhibits: they followed one another *almost* in strict rotation, according to the catalogue, and consequently there was no difficulty in finding any particular exhibit, a great contrast to what was experienced at Paris last year.

Each tier resembled a double open flat desk having a straight back, or, to be more accurate, resembled a long table divided down the centre by upright frames.

The stamps were mounted on the flat part of the table and in the upright frames running down the centre and dividing the table in two.

The objection to this style of mounting an exhibition I have before pointed out—the room occupied by the stamps on the flat prevents a minute examination of those in the upright frames.

It is, however, inaccurate to speak of frames in connection with this Exhibition—there were none. The sheets were laid on the tables and covered with panes of glass held in position by a beading. A similar arrangement was carried out in the mounting of those occupying an horizontal position. The panes of glass had been cut in special sizes and the sizes of the cards fixed so that the ends of the glass panes and the cards came together. In practice, however, the Committee discovered their error. Due either to miscalculation, or to exhibitors, using different sizes of cards, one often found two panes of glass meeting in the centre of the sheets of stamps, and in some instances the edges of the glass would come right over the stamps. For this reason, *if for no other*, it was freely admitted that this new system of mounting a great Exhibition was a failure. It is well and good for a society display for an evening; in fact, I have several times seen it so used, but it is no use for anything larger.

The opening ceremony took place at 3 o'clock on Friday, August 10th, when, after appropriate speeches, the doors were opened by the President, Mr. C. Ph. L. van Kinschot, and the invited guests followed in his steps to the strains of "Wien Nederlandschbloed" (the National Anthem of Holland); "God save the King"; "Yankee Doodle"; and "The Marsellaise."

Little time was afforded the first day of making more than a most cursory glance at the exhibits, due to the closing of the doors each afternoon at 5 o'clock, although the gardens were kept open until 10 o'clock, due to the great desire of the Committee to safeguard the exhibits in every possible way, and in this connection, I may add, one member at least of the Committee slept on the premises each night.

The first seven classes (8 divisions) were appropriated to the stamps, proofs, and stationery of Holland, one class (2 divisions) was allowed to the rest of Europe, one class to Asia, Africa, and Australia, and one class (2 divisions) to America. Class XI. was English Colonies, French Colonies, Portuguese Colonies, and Spanish Colonies. Then followed the usual classes for Rarities, including one confined to 50 stamps under 20 gulden; to collections in albums, etc.

There were in addition special divisions in several of the classes for non-specialised collections, as in Manchester in 1899. Specialised collections of any one country shown by a dealer were in a class to themselves, and the exhibits of Rarities by dealers were similarly treated. Personally, I object to this severing of exhibits of collectors and dealers. I can appreciate the reason calling for such an arrangement in regard to Rarities, in which a dealer can show the pick of his

stock-in-trade for the moment, but I really cannot see the *raison d'être* in the case of a country. I maintain a dealer cannot be successful in showing a specialised collection of one country from his stock-in-trade; to be successful he must become a collector of that one country. Of course he may purchase a collection already made and show it, but a collector can do this equally well, and I therefore do not see why dealers should not be allowed to compete in the ordinary classes with collectors.

I do not propose to describe the exhibits at length except with a few notable exceptions; but from what follows it will be seen that the Exhibition was a notable one and may well be classed with the big Exhibitions which, up to now, have been held on the Continent. It was in no sense a one-man Exhibition, and will ever be remembered for the superb collection of the stamps of France shown for the first time by Count Paul Durrieu, of Paris. This collection was truly great and is worthy of rank amongst the classical collections, with H. J. White's Great Britain, Baron de Worms' Ceylon, Mirabaud's Swiss, and the late Gilbert Harrison's Afghans.

The other notable exhibits were Mr. Moser's Postmaster stamps and U.S. locals, Mr. van Kinschot's Holland, including proofs (very strong) and entires. Mr. Schafer's Holland, Mr. Hupfeld's German States, Mr. Griebert's Uruguay, and the collection of Schleswig-Holstein, shown by Mr. Kosack, by whom it was purchased some time ago from Dr. Ahlmann. Great interest centred in one other exhibit, a very fine one in the rarity class, belonging to Mr. Mann. Several of the stamps were recognized as having come out of the once celebrated collection of Europeans of Mr. M. P. Castle. By-the-way, in this connection the answer to the conundrum appearing a little while ago in one of our contemporaries, if capable of any explanation at all, formed a riddle as difficult of solution as the conundrum itself.

An excellent programme of dinners, trips up the canals, etc., was gone through during the week, and altogether everything possible was done to make every visitor feel at home and enjoy his visit to The Hague. I desire to take this opportunity of expressing my personal thanks to the Committee for the very hearty welcome accorded to myself and the other English Philatelists who attended the Exhibition.

The Judges were Baron A. de Reuterskiöld, Messrs. L. A. Beausar, H. F. W. Becking, J. Bernichon, J. E. Bohlmeyer, Dr. Diena, W. Dorning Beckton, Anton. M. van Hoek, Th. Lemaire, J. Reclaire, D. E. Schreuders, E. Stock and Dr. Vedel. Of these, M. Bernichon was unable to be present owing to the serious illness of his wife, which all deplored. Herr Stock and Dr. Vedel were absent from causes unknown to me; and as to myself, although making a special visit to Holland with my friend, Mr. Abbott, to see the Exhibition, I was most reluctantly compelled, through other engagements, to leave before the voting amongst the Judges upon the exhibits took place.

Gold Medal presented by Her Majesty the Queen of Holland for the best exhibit of the stamps, proofs and stationery of Holland and Colonies was awarded to Mr. C. Ph. L. van Kinschot.

Grand Prix of the Exhibition, Count Durrieu, for his exhibit of France.

Class I.—Division A.

Holland and Colonies, unused.

H. H. J. Schäfer (Gold Medal).—The competition in this class, the most important in the Exhibition, was very keen, there being very little to choose between this exhibit and that of Mr. van Kinschot. Each collection was framed on the same lines, viz., blocks of four, strips of three, and single specimens of each variety. Mr. van Kinschot confined his strips to three in each instance, whereas Mr. Schäfer, in some instances, showed four or five in a strip, presumably not caring to detach the extra stamps. The first and second issues were shown complete by Mr. Schäfer in this way, but coming to the third issue one found this method of display abandoned for single specimens, a few pairs, and a large block of the 5c. and 10c. The fourth and subsequent issues again reverted to blocks of four, strips and singles. In the third issue, perf. 10½, the 15 cents and 20 cents were noticeable, and in the Unpaid 1½ cents, blue, Type IV., perf. 11½, the last two stamps, as well as a block of four of the first issue, 15c., being missing in Mr. van Kinschot's exhibit. The ultramarine Unpaids included the 2½, 5, 12½ct. in Type II.

Dutch Indies, Curaçao and Surinam were shown in the same manner as the Mother country, and included the unpaid Surinam 10c., violet, Type II., and Curaçao 25c., green, Type II.

Mr. Schäfer also showed the different values on bluish paper in single specimens apart from the ones on white. The fault with this exhibit lay in the mounting—it was altogether too crowded. Perhaps the next exhibit, which occupied twice the space, erred on the other side (although the latter did not occupy nearly so much space as at Paris last year) ; something between the two would be about right.

Jhr. C. Ph. L. van Kinschot (Silver-Gilt Medal).—Except the 15 cents of the first issue in a block of four, and the 15 cents of the second issue in a strip of three, and the third issue, every value was shown in blocks of four, strips of three, and singles. When I say singles, I mean one as a rule of each value, consequently no attempt was made to show shades. This observation applies to the last exhibit equally with the present. I do not myself see the utility of the strips of three, and it would in my opinion have materially strengthened the collection had they been discarded in favour of a nice row of single specimens showing selected shades. The strip mania, however, is carried to such lengths by Mr. van Kinschot that, in addition to other strips in the Unpaids, he shows strips of three of each value of the same type. In this instance they have perforce to be vertical strips, which, to me, have always been an abomination, and in one instance I noticed (I believe in this exhibit) that a used strip had to be brought into requisition to complete the series. Having said so much by way of criticism, let me congratulate Mr. van Kinschot upon the display he made, and the method of mounting the third issue. The types of the values of the different perforations

were well represented, and included that *rara avis*, the 15 cents, perf. 10½. The following table shows his exhibit of this issue :—

Type I.	Type II.
Perf. 10½ × 10, 15,	5, 10.
,, 12½ × 12, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 50.	5, 10, 20, 25, 50.
,, 13½, 15.	5, 10, 15.
,, 14.	5, 10, 20.
,, 13½ × 14.	5, 10.
,, 13 × 14.	5,

The blocks, both in Holland, Curaçao, and Surinam, included some on bleuté, but although annotated, no attempt was made to show the values complete on bluish and white papers.

J. A. Wreesman (Silver Medal).—This exhibit, although good, was not so strong as either of the other two, but the mounting appeared to me to be nearer what should be aimed at. The Unpaids were strong, including a large number of entire sheets.

Class I.—Division B.

The same used.

Jhr. C. Ph. L. van Kinschot (Silver-Gilt Medal).—Practically complete in blocks of four, strips and singles. In the third issue the 15c., perf. 10½, in both types, and a block of twelve of the 50, showing Types I. and II. Dutch Indies, 1864, 10c., strip of ten and a block of twelve ; 1892, 2g., 50c., block of sixteen. An entire envelope was also shown, under date 1846, having a label resembling in appearance the unpaid labels of Bavaria, and bearing the inscription Land Mail. Another envelope was also shown having one of these labels, in which there were two l's to Mail—an error of the first water. Surinam and Curaçao were also very complete.

H. H. J. Schäfer (Silver Medal).—Framed upon the same lines as his unused and very complete. This exhibit lost a lot of ground through overcrowding, a fault noticeable in his unused to which I have alluded. In unused stamps, however, the judges will root out the rarities *if they are there*, but the same inducement is not present in countries where the used are as a rule exceedingly common. Again, the specimens did not appear to have been as carefully selected, especially as regards the postmarks, as those in the other exhibit, and overcrowding used stamps always emphasizes the postmarks. If anything they require a little more elbow room in mounting than unused do. Great taste can be shown in used as well as in unused. Mr. Schäfer showed the Dutch Indies 1846 unpaid label above described, but not the error. However, it was not the lack of this that decided the matter in the mind of most of the jury.

Class II.

F. Frause (Bronze Medal).—An exhibit of Holland unused and used containing many blocks and shades. All the perforations were intelligently displayed, and the whole formed a nice exhibit which could not be entered in Class I., owing to the used and unused being shown together.

Class III.

P. W. H. Provó Kluit, Silver Medal, for an exhibit of *Holland, Dutch Indies, Curaçao, and Surinam.*

Aug. Hoevels, First Bronze Medal for a similar exhibit.

A. C. W. Roodenburg, Second Bronze Medal for the same countries.

Miss R. Kerlen and Mr. Von Normann also exhibited.

Class IV.—Division A.

Postmarks of Holland.

G. F. Leliman, Silver-Gilt Medal.
B. Halberstadt, Bronze Medal.
Jhr. C. Ph. L. van Kinschot, Bronze Medal.
H. H. J. Schäfer, Bronze Medal.

The first two exhibits appealed to the judges, in a position to express an opinion, one from the historical point of view, and the other from the geographical one. The first exhibit was a wonderful one of its kind, and made one think of "love's labour lost."

Class V.

Dutch Colonial Postmarks.

Jhr. C. Ph. L. van Kinschot, Silver Medal.
Von Normann, Bronze Medal.

Class VI.

Stationery of Holland and Colonies.

Jhr. C. Ph. L. van Kinschot, Silver-Gilt Medal.
H. H. J. Schäfer, Silver Medal.

Class VII.

Stamps of Holland and Colonies shown on entires.

Jhr. C. Ph. L. van Kinschot, Silver-Gilt.
J. A. Wreesman, Silver.
A. Beijen, Bronze.
Mr. Schäfer was a fourth exhibitor.

To sum up this section of the Exhibition, I heartily congratulate Mr. van Kinschot on securing the medal which to the Dutch collectors was of necessity the most coveted trophy of all, namely, the one presented by H.R.H. the Queen of Holland for the best collection of her country's stamps, proofs and stationery. Mr. Schäfer is also entitled to congratulation in having run Mr. van Kinschot so very close, and it ought to incite him to further endeavours in the future. Although strengthened and much improved in mounting since it was shown in Paris last year, yet the collection—and Mr. Schäfer's as well—leaves something to be desired. I have in a general way in the descriptions of them noticed a few of their flaws to my mind, and I am sure they will not take my criticism unkindly. It is because both exhibits attained to a high standard of excellence that I have been at the pains to write a short critique upon them from an English collector's standpoint.

Class VIII.—Division A.

* Count Durrieu (Gold).—The collection of France before referred to, containing blocks of four throughout and numerous single specimens, displaying a fine range of shades indispersed with large blocks and entire sheets. The whole of the stamps were unused in mint condition, and the exhibit included a very fine series of proofs, *e.g.*, showing how the 5 francs of the Empire were made; also the 10 francs and 25 francs ditto, the latter two having the value omitted. It was owing to the Fall of Paris that these latter stamps were never proceeded with. The examples shown were imperf. and printed in a dirty grey, resembling in character the 5 francs but different in tone and shade. The design was identical, however. To come to the regular issues we find 1849, a block of four of each value on the first page, followed by 10 cent. vi. iv.; 15 cent. iv. ii. 6; 20 cent. black, entire pane of 150, etc.; 20 cent. blue, an entire original sheet showing positions of tête-bêche; the same stamp surcharged in red, pair and single; 25 cent. vi. iv. iv. singles, including two specially dark blue without line under value; 40 cent. iv. iv. iv. iv. iv. strip of 20 forming double row from the bottom of the sheet with full margins and not showing the variety, which was shown however in an unused pair; 1 franc vermilion iv. ii. 6; deep red 7, lake iv. iv. iv. ii. 10; Presidency 10 cent. bistre iii. ii. 9; 25 cent. iv. iv. ii. ii. and singles, one very dark. Empire imperf., in addition to pairs and singles, there were the following number of blocks of four: 5 cent., seven, 10 cent., two, 20 five, and 1 of six in very dark shade, green paper, block of four, etc.; blue paper, one of four and 2 singles; 1 franc, two and block of six, one of the blocks of four being in a very deep shade. Perforated, in addition to singles, blocks of four as follows: 5 cent. two, 10 cent. three, 20 cent. three, 40 cent. three, 80 cent. three and one of ten. Bordeaux, 20 cent. first type pair, and five singles showing bright blue, muddy blue, and deep blue; a very fine range of shades. The other values of the Bordeaux were shown in a similar lavish manner, followed by the Paris issues and allegorical design first type only, including block of four of the 25 cent., 40 cents., etc.; strip of three of the 25 cent. ultramarine showing the two types, this was one of the few used things in the exhibit; it is, however, I believe, unique in a strip, some four pairs being known. It was, however, in the entire sheets and tête-bêche varieties that the exhibit shone so prominently. All the tête-bêche were shown with one exception, to wit, the 1 franc vermilion, the only example of which at present known came out of the sheet found a few years ago, and this example was sold at the time to Monsieur La Rénotiére. The tête-bêche varieties in almost every instance were shown in such a manner that the position these varieties occupied in the sheets could be located. This branch of the subject will form a short article in a future number, as it would make the description too long in the present instance. Suffice it to say of the tête-bêche varieties, that the 1849 issue 20 cent. black was shown in a pair, two blocks of nine and a block of thirty; 20 cent. blue in

* In the description of this Exhibit, Roman numerals represent a block, *e.g.*, iv. means a block of four, and Arabic characters, single specimens.

an entire sheet (3 tête-bêche) ; 25 cent. blue, two pairs (used) ; 1 franc lake, strip of five ; 10 cent. pair ; Empire imperf. 20 cent., block of four ; 1 franc, block of 6 original, block of four query, and block of four reprint ; 80 cent. pair, block of four carmine and pink shades ; perf. 20 cent., block of six, pair ; 80 cent., block of four (light), pair (deep) ; laureated 4 cent. grey ; 1870 10 cent., strip of three and two pairs ; 20 cents. seven pairs varying much in shade, and two entire panes in which the inside of the stamps had been cut out simply leaving the tête-bêche varieties and sufficient other stamps to show up these varieties ; 10 cent. bistre on pink, seven pairs and block of four. The entire sheets included, in addition to those already named, the 10 cent. bistre on rose, 1870 issue, showing the error 15 cent. and a pane of the 4 cent. grey laureated without the tête-bêche, etc.

The Rothschild Series were shown in ⅓ panes, *i.e.*, blocks of fifty. There was a proof pane of the 15c. green, 1849 issue, no tête-bêche, and a pair and strip of three ditto, both tête-bêche. In the Bordeaux series the following plate numbers were shown :— 1c. plates, 1, 7, 9, 14, 15 ; 2 cent. plates, 1 and 3 (panes in each case) ; 4c. plate, 7, and a pair without plate numbered.

Plate proofs in black of the Bordeaux series. In each case they consisted of 15 clichés in 3 rows of five, and an examination of the entire sheets of this issue shows that is the way in which the plates or stones were made up, the block of 15 being produced, ten times in double vertical rows.

The plate proofs of the 20 centimes were particularly interesting, inasmuch as with their assistance Types 2 and 3 can be reconstructed in blocks of fifteen, and were shown reconstructed by Count Durrieu. A few curios on entires were shown, such as the 10c. bistre laureated with the Emperor's head cut out and used during the Commune, quarter of the 80 cent. of the same issue used for 20 cent., and an envelope posted in the Seine during the siege of Paris, but not picked up until 12 years after, when it was found in the river, in one of the tubes made use of during the siege for getting letters out of Paris, and then delivered by the post office. The 20 cent. laureated, pale blue, imperf. used on part entire is worthy of note. The mounting of the exhibit left nothing to be desired, being well and neatly written up, the *toute ensemble* was charming indeed. The hearty good wishes of all will be extended to this eminent French Philatelist upon his well-earned success, the Grand Prix of the Exhibition.

Joseph Hupfeld.—This exhibit consisted of the whole of the old German States, and contained such rarities as Saxony ½ neu. gr. error, Oldenburg first issue in blocks unused, Bavaria first issue in sheets. Bremen ditto, etc. ; it was described by me at length when shown in Paris last year (see *Phil. Journal of India*, vol. iv., page 354). The whole of the collection, which is a very large one, consisting of over 30,000 stamps, was not shown owing to Mr. Hupfeld falling ill whilst engaged in preparing it for this Exhibition. A representative lot was sent, however, of each State.

George P. Grignard (Silver), *France*.—A nice collection containing many very desirable things in superb condition, such as the first issue complete in blocks of four, 1870, 10 + 15, se-tenant, 1876,

25, blue Type 1, all unused, etc. This exhibit was remarkable for the series of the 1876 issue millesimes which, with some three exceptions, are absolutely complete and a very pretty and interesting display they made.

D. M. DE HEER (Bronze), *Spain*.—A single specimen collection, for the most part of the rarities used and unused, including the 2 reales of 1851, 1852, and 1853, Madrid 3 cents, and large blocks of 1851, 6 cents, black; 1852, 12 cents, lilac; 1853, 12 cents, purple, etc., but wanting the inverted heads and the re-touches or die varieties of the later issues. As forming part of a general collection, Mr. de Heer, I understand, is a general collector (he was showing almost everything) and not a specialist, it was a very creditable exhibit and one with which he has reason to be proud.

COUNT DURRIEU, *Spain*.—Needless to say, this exhibit, although a fine one of unused single specimens containing the common rarities, was nothing approaching his other exhibit in this class. It will, however, form a good foundation to start upon when the Count determines to specialise Spanish.

J. ENGEL, *German States*, principally used.

AUG. HOEVELS, *German States*, principally used.

Class VIII.—Division B.

FR. THEODOR GUNTHER (Silver-Gilt), *Greece*.

V. HARO (Silver), *Belgium*.—A very pretty exhibit indeed, containing numerous shades, all unused, and in pairs and blocks.

COUNT D'ASSCHE (Silver), *Greece*.

A. MARKL (Silver), *Greece*.

Mrs. BRIDSON (Bronze), *Portugal*.—An exhibit which has been materially strengthened since it was shown in Manchester in 1899, and is becoming a nice one of this country; a really good one to take up, there being plenty to learn even yet in the first three issues.

For there to be three exhibits of Greece in this class, and all successful, speaks something for the coming popularity of this country. One by Count d'Assche, described in the catalogue as being arranged after my classification; another by Mr. Th. Gunther, described as after Mr. Glasewald; and a third by Mr. A. Markl, presumably after his own classification. Unfortunately, that of Count d'Assche was missing at the beginning of the Exhibition, having gone wrong in the customs, but it luckily turned up in time for the judging.

Class VIII.—Division C.

For non-specialised collections of three European countries.

A. M. DE HEER (Silver-Gilt), *Finland, France, Switzerland*.

J. ENGEL (Silver), *Great Britain, France, Spain*.

Miss BERENBAK (Bronze), *Great Britain, Germany, Spain*.

A. G. RINDERS (Bronze), *Belgium, Denmark, Norway*.

AUG. HOEVELS, *Great Britain, Naples, Switzerland*.

Miss BERENBAK, *Denmark, Norway and Sweden*.

Class IX.—Division A.

S. J. Van den Bergh (Silver), *Japan*.—A small collection of single specimens, unused and used, the plate numbers were included, the 6sen. being good used, but no attempt was made at showing plates of any of the values.

Hawai.—No first issue, but a nice lot of 35 of the numeral issues.

Victoria, 1851.—A representative lot; 1852, twopence, made-up plate of the engraved, and two made-up plates (different stages) of the lithographed. Altogether a nicely-balanced exhibit.

Aug. Fortin (Silver), *Ceylon*.—Amongst the imperf. were the 4d., 8d., 9d., 2s. used, 1s. 9d. and 2s. unused, and blocks of four of the series watermarked Crown and C.C., unused.

Cape of Good Hope.—The triangles only were shown, including six red wood blocks and a pair, seven blue and a pair, and one error, the one penny blue.

This exhibit was mounted in two large frames, one devoted to Ceylon and the other to Capes. The stamps were mounted all ways for effect, and smacked altogether too much of an advertisement to be pleasing from a Philatelic point of view.

Mrs. Bridson, *New Zealand, British India, Gambia*.

Jos. Hupfeld, *Cape of Good Hope*.—Only three wood blocks and no errors, but containing some blocks of the engraved series.

Class IX.—Division B.

For Non-Specialised Exhibits.

P. Jorissen Pczn (Silver), *Egypt, Gambia, Madeira*.

P. Goffin van der Star (Bronze), *British Bechuanaland, B. Central Africa, B. East Africa*.

Miss Berenbak, *Congo, Egypt, Tunis*.

D. M. de Heer, *Azores, Madeira, South African Republic*.

Aug. Hoevels, *Egypt, Macao, Persia*.

Class X.—Division A.

William Moser (Gold), *Buenos Ayres*.—This was Mr. Ehrenbach's collection, purchased by Mr. Moser immediately after the Exhibition at Paris last year. The present owner has added a few things here and there: for example, an entire sheet of the reprints of the one peso blue ship, printed by permission of the Director of Posts, Dr. Arato, before the plates were destroyed. Only three sheets are said to have been printed. As the plate was rearranged since the original printing took place, the same interest does not attach to this reprint as would otherwise have done had the clichés been in their original position.

William Moser, *United States*.—In my humble judgment this was Mr. Moser's best and certainly most interesting exhibit. The Postmaster stamps and locals were the best ever seen in an exhibition, and, having regard to the manner in which they were shown, hard to

beat. For the most part on entires and showing the cancellation falling on the stamps and envelope as well, which is very difficult in these stamps. They included Annapolis, Baltimore, Milbury, New Haven, City Despatch Post, New York, 3 cents white cancelled free or paid (indistinct), and with U.S. in cancellation on the envelope. Ditto 2 cents red on letter, U.S. City Despatch Post, pink and green stamps on paper coloured through and all on glazed paper. Adams with 46 and with 39 points, one a discovery of the Exhibitor; Providence, 5 cents (four); St. Louis, 5 cents, Type I. unused, Type II. used, 10 cents, Type III. used; the Bloods, Wells Fargo, etc., etc. The New York series were intelligently arranged, showing those signed by the Postmaster himself (one unused, rare), by his brother-in-law, A. C. Monson, varieties, all initials joined and large loop to C; all initials joined without loop; A C joined and M separate; and by his sister-in-law, Marciano Monson, all separate and a period between each initial. The series included a pair used in Boston on entire and franking the letter, one of the stamps showing the shading lines of the coat running into the stock, hitherto only known on the reprints. Another prominent variety was one showing a line through Post Office. It has always been said that these stamps were made and printed ready for use in sixteen days, and as frequently averred that such a proceeding was utterly impossible. Mr. Moser showed for the first time how this had been done, by means of his complete collection of the proofs and "stage" proofs of this issue. One of these showed that the die of the old banknote stamp was utilised for the head of Washington which appears on the stamps, and thus having the most difficult part of the engraving done nothing more than the ornamental scrolls and inscription had to be added, and this could and was easily done within the time named. The Government issues included three or four premier gravures, 3 cents pink grilled all over, large grille showing points up and down, and oval pointed grille, probably essays. The used included 24 cents and 90 cents grille, 1870.

S. J. VAN DEN BERGH (Silver), *Mexico, including* 136 *Guadalayaras.*—This exhibit contained a number of good things, but was marred by some forged, and, to my mind, several very doubtful postmarks. This is a difficult country, so few knowing much about it, and still less having been written in recent years. What was written fifteen years ago is no use to-day in a country having a past like Mexico. It may well be, therefore, that opinion in Holland and in this country differs on the postmark question; now that the attention of Mr. van den Bergh is drawn to this matter, I know he is an enthusiastic enough collector to further study it.

JOS. HUPFELD (Bronze), *United States.*—A single specimen collection, used or unused; the Department of State were shown unused, and Justice used. Evidently part of a general collection of the exhibitor and not specialised at all.

D. M. DE HEER (2nd Bronze), *Uruguay.*—There were many blocks of fours of the middle to later issues. The early issues in single specimens complete, omitting the varieties which were not attempted.

S. J. VAN DEN BERGH, *United States of Colombia.*

Division B.

D. M. de Heer (Silver), *Peru.*—The Pacific Steam Navigation Co., real blue, used, was noticeable.

S. J. van den Bergh (Silver), *Peru.*—This exhibit was judged equal with the last, the only tie in the exhibition. It included ½ peso yellow, five single, and three pairs, medio peso rose and seven half stamps of later issues on entires. 1873. 2 cents tête-bêche.

Mrs. Bridson, *Canada.*

Division C.

Non-specialised Collections.

D. M. de Heer (Silver gilt), *Argentine, U.S.C., U.S.A.*

Aug. Hoevels (Silver), *Argentine, Mexico, U.S.A.*

Class XI.

D. M. de Heer, *English Colonies.*—This was altogether too much of an order asking anyone to exhibit. It was owing to the reason that this class was not more broken up that no exhibits were sent from the North of England. I believe all the Colonies were shown, single specimens chiefly used, Mr. de Heer is commencing to pick up the unused, having now veered round in his opinion as to the relative interest of Colonials unused and used. Many desirable stamps, such as the North American Shillings, Cape wood blocks, India ½ anna red, Newfoundland 6½d. vermilion, Ceylon imperfs., etc., were shown. Without in any way detracting from the exhibit, in fact, it was very pleasing to find Colonials so appreciated, at the same time, for a large Exhibition, it was disappointing. Although this exhibit was a good all round one, so many being shown, yet not one of the Colonies, taken singly, was anything approaching what would be considered here as up to standard. I urge Mr. de Heer, now he has got a good general collection of the whole, and especially as he is commencing on the unused, to confine his attention to a small group, and to complete such group upon specialist lines.

Count Durrieu (Silver), *French Colonies.*—The specialist imprint was felt here. The scarce surcharges of Zanzibar being shown in partially reconstructed sheets, a well nigh impossible task. One could not help admiring his pluck in attempting it.

Leon Noel (Bronze) *French Colonies.*

Class XII.—Division A.

W. W. Mann (Gold Medal).—An easy first. Some extremely fine stamps, and in superb condition, were shown, the most noticeable unused being Great Britain, 1854, 2d., blue, perf. 16; 1847, 1s. pair; 1855, 4d., on blue paper, large and middle garter, 10s. and £1 anchor. Saxony, ½ ngr. blue, block of four. Brunswick, 1852, 1, 2, and 3 s.g. (superb). Wurtemberg, first issue, 6 kr., 9 kr., 1859, 9 kr., 1858, 9kr. Used. Mauritius, 2d. with gum, early state. Tuscany, 3 lire. Mauritius, 2d., irregular block of four, on entire in early state of plate, extremely fine and probably very early impression. Spain, 25 mills., inverted head; 1854, 1 real light blue, North American shillings, etc.

S. J. VAN DEN BERG (Silver Medal).—Unused; Ceylon 4d., imperf. Austria, red Mercury. Great Britain, 5s. anchor. Wurtemburg, the various 9 kr. 1875, 2 marks, 1879, 2 marks. Used; the double Geneva; Zurich, 4 rap. Winterthur, Antioquia, 1st issue, 2½ and 5 cents. Finland, 10 pen., error, etc.

D. M. DE HEER (Bronze).—Swaziland, ten shillings, U.S., 2, 5, 10, and 20 dollars State unused. Tuscany, 3 lire, used, 60 cr. Mecklenberg-Schwerin, dotted ground, etc.

Division B.

The exhibits in this class were restricted to stamps not exceeding 50 gulden each.

A. C. W. ROODENBURG.—(Silver-Gilt).

A. W. POLMAN.—(Silver).

W. W. MANN.—(Bronze).

Class XIII. was for stamps used on entire: R. POLMAN (Silver). Class XIV., for collections in albums, the competition was very weak, only six exhibitors and an equal number of medals. Class XVI., rarities shown by dealers. Here again there was no competition, the exhibit of Mr. Bernichon being *hors concours*. Mr. J. L. VAN DIETEN was awarded the gold medal for his exhibit; it did not include any of the great rarities. Class XVII., for dealers' exhibits of a single country. The following awards were made :—

Gold	RUDOLF FRIEDL ...	*Austria.*
Silver-Gilt	KARL SCHAUFF ...	*Thurn and Taxis.*
1st Silver	HUGO GRIEBERT ...	*Uruguay.*
2nd Silver	P. KOSACK	*Schleswig-Holstein.*
Bronze	J. L. VAN DIETEN ...	*Virgin Islands.*

Class XIX., for Permanent Albums, Silver Medals were awarded to G. HAMILTON-SMITH & Co. and to PAUL KOHL, and Bronze Medal to G. F. LUCKE for accessories. It is especially gratifying to record the success of an English firm in this class, their album meeting with words of praise from many prominent continental Philatelists, and deservedly so, too.

I noticed several good exhibits of Proofs and Essays, and a good display of Forgeries by the Rotterdam Society.

The Medals—I saw the gold, silver and bronze ones—were handsome, and slightly larger than the best which have been given in recent years; in fact, nothing has been spared by members of the Committee in making the Exhibition the success which it has proved.



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

G. Fred. H. Gibson, *1, Clarence Street, Manchester.*

The British Empire.

Bahamas.—The *London Philatelist* reports the discovery of the 1s. of 1863-75, watermark C.C., perforated 12½ at top and bottom and 14 at sides.

Adhesive.

1s., green of 1863-75, wmk. C.C., perf. 12½ × 14.

Bechuanaland Protectorate. — Having chronicled in our August issue the existence of the current ½d. green surcharged for use here, the following extract from a letter dated early in that month from the Postmaster of Mafeking is of interest: "The ½d. green . . . . are not on issue. I am unable to procure any on requisition."

British Guiana.—The colours of the current design are being changed. We have just received the 1c., changed from bright green to a grey green, and the 2c. from lilac and carmine to purple and black on rose-red paper. The 2c. lilac and carmine (which we do not seem to have chronicled) was a change announced only in June last, from lilac and orange.

Adhesives.

Wk. Crown C.A., perf. 14.

1c., grey-green.
2c., purple and black on rose-red paper.

British New Guinea.—We have been shown by Mr. Peckitt a new set of seven stamps issued for this colony on the 1st July, and one of which we illustrate below. The south-eastern portion of the island of New Guinea was annexed with some adjacent islands in 1888, but the postal arrangements have hitherto been looked after by Queensland.

The colours of the new set are good and the central design is rather a striking one, though perhaps in shape and general appearance rather reminiscent of a denomination in one of the recent sets in North Borneo; they, however, make a pleasing addition to the other tourist-encouraging sets from this portion of the globe. The stamps are the production of Messrs. De la Rue, are perforated 14, and are watermarked with the design familiar to us in the stamps of the Sudan and Zanzibar; the design in each case is identical save for the necessary alteration in value denoted.



Adhesives.

½d., yellow-green, centre	black.
1d., lake	do.
2d., purple	do.
2½d., bright blue	do.
4d. dark brown	do.
6d, myrtle-green	do.
1s., orange	do.

British South Africa.—We find that we have failed to chronicle four additions to the 1898-9 set which have recently appeared. The 5s. is of the usual size, but the other values, though of the same design, are much larger.

Adhesives.

5s., ochre.
£1, lilac.
£5, deep blue.
£10, violet blue.

Ceylon.—We have seen the 1r. 50c. chronicled as having received the "on service" surcharge, but the *Indian Philatelist* states authoritatively that this is not the case, nor is there any intention of surcharging a higher denomination than the 75c.

Labuan.—The thoughtful administration have provided us with nine new varieties here, having followed suit to Borneo by surcharging the current set from 2c. to 24c. with the words "Postage Due" vertically in the type shown below Let us hope this is not the forerunner of a so-called permanent set for the same purpose.



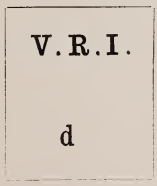
Adhesives.

2c., green and black, surcharged in black.
3c., ochre ,, ,, ,,
4c., carmine ,, ,, ,,
5c., pale blue ,, ,, ,,
6c., brown lake ,, ,, ,,
8c., rose red ,, ,, ,,
12c., vermilion ,, ,, ,,
18c., olive bistre ,, ,, ,,
24c., grey lilac ,, ,, ,,

Mauritius.—We have now received the one cent. of the current type printed in slate, also the bi-coloured 15c., which, though chronicled a considerable time, has only just made its appearance.

Adhesive.
Wmk. Crown C C A., perf. 14.
1 cent, slate.

Orange River Colony.—We have been shown a most interesting error in the ½d. of the printing with level stops, the figure of value is missing, while the "d" is placed very much to the left, as will be seen below. It is, we believe, a variety that has been hitherto unknown, and must have occurred very early, as panes and portions of panes that we have seen showing other uncorrected errors did not include this.



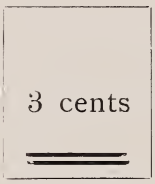
Adhesive.
½d., orange, surcharged in black, error ½ missing.

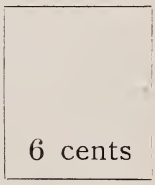
Sarawak.—In addition to the 1c. the colour of the 4c. carmine has undergone some alteration, as it now appears in a very rich deep shade.

Selangor.—The 5c. lilac and ochre has been overprinted "one cent" and bar above in black.

Adhesive.
1c. on 5c., lilac and ochre.

Seychelles.—After, shall we say, a decent interval this colony has had another surcharging attack. We have received from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. three varieties, two surcharges of 3 cents and one of 6 cents. The overprint in each case is what is technically termed "lower case," *i.e.*, small letters without capitals, as will be seen from the reproductions appended. In the 6c. the bars are dispensed with, the surcharge running across the original value.





Adhesives.

3 cents in black on 16c. chestnut and blue.
3 cents ,, on 36c. brown and carmine.
6 cents ,, on 8c. brown purple & ultramarine

South Australia.—The current 2s. reaches us now in quite a dull shade contrasting with the brilliant carmine recently in use.

Tasmania.—The £1 stamp purely as a postal issue is now obsolete. The Postmaster, writing under date 25th July, says: "The £1 stamps bear the word "Revenue" printed in black letters across them, but they were used (presumably postally) in this manner for a short time in November, 1900."

We doubt if the stamp has been procurable since the latter date in an unsurcharged condition.

Transvaal.—We had written a paragraph with regard to the rumours which were current to the effect that the ½d. E.R.I. was obsolete, and that a ½d. provisional had made its appearance when Mr. Peckitt showed us the newcomer, which we illustrate below. The surcharge is in black on the 2d. brown and green. We have examined the sheet and do not find any errors or varieties, though the surcharge is slightly defective, especially in the first half of the

fourth row. We have not yet seen the 2d. surcharged E.R.I. alone.



Adhesive.

½d. in black on 2d. brown and green.

Victoria.—In addition to the values referred to in our last as having had the word "Postage" added, we have now seen the 5s., which we hope to illustrate in our next, as the insertion of this word has necessitated a re-arrangement of the circular inscription round the head.

Adhesive.

Current series with postage added,
5s., blue and vermilion.

Zanzibar. — *Der Philatelist* chronicles two alterations of colour in the current series, the 1 and 4½ annas having been altered.

Adhesives.

1 anna, carmine-red.
4½ annas, blue-black and red.

Foreign Countries.

Argentine Republic. — We have the 12c. and 30c. stamps of the current artistic series in new colours, perforation and watermark as usual.

Adhesives.

12c., sage green.
30c., carmine vermilion.

Denmark. Danish West Indies.— The *Metropolitan Philatelist* reports the 10c. stamp with the new perforation.

Adhesive.

10c., brown and grey blue, perforated, 13 × 12½.

France.—The *A. J. P.* has seen a new set for the French offices in Canton, made by surcharging the current issue of Indo-China with "Canton" and two Chinese characters.

Adhesives.

1c., black on lilac-blue,	surcharged in red.
2c., brown on buff	,,
4c., claret on lavender	,,
5c., yellow-green	,,
10c., black on lavender	,,
15c., blue	,,
20c., red on green	,,
25c., black on rose	,,
30c., brown on bistre	,,
40c., red on straw	,,
50c., carmine on rose	,,
75c., deep violet on orange	,,
1fr., bronze-green on straw	,,
5fr., red lilac on lavender	,,

For the offices at Pekin the current 25 centimes has been surcharged "Chine 16 cents." in two lines in vermilion; three other values are also rumoured.

Adhesive.

25c., black on rose, surcharged "Chine 16 cents." in vermilion.

Guatemala.—We have two more surcharges for this unhappy country, as usual the values being one and two cents. We give an illustration of both varieties of surcharge, from which it will be seen the year is also as usual included, we suppose to obviate the possibility of duplicating the issue next year. Our correspondent in Guatemala city writes: "There will be no surcharges after the fresh supply of lower values of stamps," but he omits the obviously important information as to when this happy event will take place.



Adhesives.

1c. in black on 20c. green, 1887-95.
2c. in black on 20c. green.

Portugal. Mozambique. — The new two high values have been issued for this colony.

Adhesives

500 reis, black and red, on blue.
700 ,, red lilac, black on straw.

Philately in the Mags.

De la Rue Sheets.

Mr. R. R. Thiele in the course of a paper appearing in *The Adhesive* writes:—

"The stamps of the Orange Free State, which have always been printed by De la Rue & Co., of London, show the usual sheet arrangement of the firm: sheets of 120, consisting of 2 panes of 60, in 10 rows of 6 each."

This is news indeed, we always thought the stamps were printed in sheets of 240 in four panes of 60. Apparently, however, all the sheets in the writer's collection must, according to Mr. Thiele, be either forgeries or errors. It is also news to be told that the *usual* sheet arrangement of Messrs. De la Rue & Co. is two panes of 60 each. The other arrangement, viz., four panes of 60 must, we presume, be the exception which proves the rule. The exceptions are, however, much the more plentiful.

A Russian Forger.

The *Coll de T-P* announces that a Russian has been arrested at Paris, who had ordered from a printer in the Rue Lafayette two millions of Russian stamps. The printer had already obtained the necessary paper, but at the last moment the business seemed to him to be rather shady, and he went to M. Maury to make some enquiries. He was told that the samples left with him were the current Russian stamps of 7 and 10 kop. The police were communicated with and the stranger arrested when he paid his next visit to the printer.

New French Obliterating Dies.

The new French obliterating dies, according to the *Journal des Débats*, will show the hour of the day by the figures 1 to 24, and the minutes by the figures 5 to 55. The minutes will be separated from the hours by a comma. Hours alone (without minutes) will be denoted by a star after the figure.

Post Office, but no Stamps.

Postal matters in the Dominican Republic seem to be in a delightful state. A Berlin collector, upon his arrival at Puerto Plata went to the post office to buy some stamps to frank his correspondence. The officials were very sorry, but they could not sell him any stamps as they did not possess any, because the whole stock had been seized by the United States for some debt. All the stamps were in the possession of the United States Custom House officers, who sold them to the public. Our friend treated this as a joke at first, but soon found it to be quite correct. As the Custom House closes every day at 3 p m., no stamps can be obtained by the public after that hour until next morning. Provisional stamps have been issued by States heretofore upon a much weaker plea than this. It is to be hoped that this Republic at last sees the error of its ways. 'Tis never too late to mend!

New South Wales Varieties of O.S., letters 8½mm. apart.

Mr. Luff, writing to the *L.P*, says:—"I have in my collection as follows:

Issue of 1871-1883.
1d., perf. 10, 11 × 12.
2d. ,, 11 × 12.
3d. ,, 10.
10d. ,, 10.
1sh. ,, 12.

Centennial Issue.
6d., perf. 11 × 12.
8d. ,, 11 × 12.

1885 (*Fiscal paper*).
1d., perf. 10.

1891.
12½d., perf. 11 × 12.

1891-1892.
½d., perf. 11 × 12.

"I also have a number of stamps with this surcharge in which the letter 'o' is placed sideways. It would appear that with a round letter one could not tell whether it is in a vertical position or sideways, but this letter 'o' is not perfectly round, it is slightly flattened, and the variety is not difficult to detect. Of this variety I have the following:—

1871-1883.
1d., perf. 11 × 12.
3d. ,, 10.
5d. ,, 10.
6d. ,, 10, 10 × 12.
8d. ,, 10, 10 × 12.
5sh. ,, 10.

1885 (*Fiscal paper*).
1d., perf. 10.

1891.
7½d., perf. 10.

"There are also a number of broken letters which occur regularly in these sheets, but I hardly think they are of sufficient interest to make a list of them; in fact, I have not paid very much attention to them, simply noting that they existed.

"It appears to me that the variety in spacing of the 'o' sideways and the broken letters all occur in a forme which was used for surcharging all the issues from 1871 to 1892, and that we might expect to find these

varieties on all the stamps and all the perforations which were surcharged during this period."

Loss to the Canadian Revenue.

According to Canadian journals the Government has just put an end to a most curious misuse. It seems that citizens of the United States, when in Canada, have been in the habit of franking their correspondence with stamps of their own country, and that the Canadian Post Office has forwarded such letters without surcharging them as unpaid. How such a proceeding could have been passed by the authorities is very difficult to explain. It seems monstrous and the wonder is not that it has been stopped, but that it was ever allowed to pass unchallenged.

Doubtful Varieties, Very!

It seems that the advertisements on the backs of New Zealand stamps occur in different colours. A reader, for instance, submits copies of the 1d. rose, one of which has the advertisement in red and the other has it in green. It is doubtful whether these should count as varieties in our competition.—*E.W.S.N.*

We are not concerned with the competition, but we are concerned that these varieties should be collected at all. They must be, however, otherwise no competition would be possible. The sooner such juvenile collectors learn that such is not Philately the better. Postmark collecting although a mad enough mania is infinitely preferable to this.

Philatelic Literature.

The Editor of *Stamps* returns to this subject again in the August number. Replying to the short note which appeared in the *Record* he writes: "Journalists of the 'ideal' type, it is said, rarely know anything of the practical side of their suggestions, especially when a question of cost comes in. We are supposed to be only amateurs, but figures and calculations have been our playthings now for half-a-century. . . . We have an idea that 2,000 subscriptions at £5 being guaranteed 4,000 sets of 25 handy volumes can be supplied for £12,000 (half being neatly bound) leaving a good margin for payment of brains even if £5,000 only is received for the remaining half of issue."

The simplicity of this paragraph is charming. Perhaps *Stamps* will tell us next month who is to be paid first, the printer, publisher or author? It occurs to us that whoever waits for the £5,000 being realised will have to exercise the patience of Job.

Notes and News.

American Association Convention.

The 16th Annual Convention of the American Philatelic Association was held at Buffalo from August 20th to 22nd, under the Presidency of Mr. George L. Toppan, who, in the course of his opening address, said :—

Doubtless the most important event of the year has been the death of Queen Victoria. It is a well-known fact that postage stamps were first generally adopted in England in the year 1840 and, since that time, the great majority of all of the stamps of the British Empire have portrayed the features of Her gracious and well-beloved Majesty. It may, then, well be said that her death closes the "Victorian Era" so far as Philately is concerned.

As a natural consequence, the accession of Edward VII. to the throne will cause a wholesale change in the stamps of the British Empire and, I think that I may be permitted to add, a wholesale exchange of change from the pockets of the many collectors of these fascinating stamps to those of the dealers.

I have seen it stated somewhere that the features of the late Queen were reproduced, in some form or other, upon no less than nine hundred and forty-four postage stamps. I presume that this is exclusive of stamped envelopes and wrappers, and I think that I am perfectly safe in stating that this number exceeds the sum total of the portraits of all of the other crowned heads, presidents, notable personages, etc., as depicted upon the stamps of the world.

The Weekly Philatelic Era contains a long report of the proceedings of the Congress, from which we gather the membership this year is 532 as against 565 last year. The Superintendent of Sales reported, "My department is now in fine working order and I trust the report for next year will be the banner one." We notice the members of the Chiago branch wore badges fully two inches in diameter. Are we to understand from the Superintendent that next year each member will be expected to carry a banner? What a high old time they will have! Whether or no, everyone seems to have enjoyed the Congress, and the attendance was satisfactory.

Huddersfield Bequest.

Mr. J. C. North writes us that he has been informed by a member of the Huddersfield Corporation that the late Mr. Robert Holliday has bequeathed his collection of postage stamps, together with 40 preference shares in Read, Holliday & Sons, Ltd., to the Corporation "upon trust to deposit the said collection in the Huddersfield Free Library and Art Gallery, and to preserve, augment, and repair such collection out of the income to accrue from the said shares," and the testator directs that the said collection shall be called the Holliday Collection. In case the Corporation decline to accept the bequest the collection is to be given to his nephew, Lionel Holliday, and the 40 preference shares are to fall into the residue.

Mr. Holliday was a Huddersfield gentleman, and a director of the firm mentioned. He died in April last at Bexhill-on-Sea, and was only 45.

We understand the gift has been accepted by the Corporation, and we are promised a short description of the collection.

Manchester Philatelic Society.

The Hon. Sec. has sent us a copy of the syllabus for the coming session.

We observe two evenings are devoted to short papers, instead of one as heretofore, a sign of their popularity. From their introduction some three or four years ago by this Society, the idea of these short papers has been one which seemed to offer an opportunity for making society meetings more attractive to the ordinary members.

It seems to have worked very well in Manchester, and we venture once more to commend it to others.

Syllabus. Session 1901-1902.

1901.		
Oct.	11.	Opening Meeting. Conversazione and Display of Stamps.
,,	25.	Papers.—Five Minutes with Interesting Stamps. G. F. H. Gibson, W. Grunewald, J. C. North.
Nov.	8.	Display with Notes. British Bechuanaland. J. H. Abbott.
,,	22.	Paper.—Early School Albums. Nathan Heywood.
Dec.	6.	Display with Notes. Queensland. W. W. Munn.
,,	20.	Display with Notes. Gold Coast and Lagos. F. J. Beazley.
1902.		
Jan.	10.	Paper.—History and Development of the Post Office. G. B. Duerst.
,,	24.	Display with Notes. India. J. C. North.
,,	29.	(*Wednesday*). Annual Dinner, 6.45 p m.
Feb.	14.	Display with Notes. Denmark. W. D. Beckton.
,,	28.	Papers.—Five Minutes with Interesting Stamps. C. H. Coote, W. W. Munn, E. T. Roberts.
Mar.	14.	Display with Notes. Samoa. J. H. Abbott.
Apr.	4.	Paper.—The Tête-bêche Varieties of France. W. D. Beckton.
,,	18.	Display with Notes. Unpaid Stamps of Holland and Colonies. A. H. Harrison.

The Castle Collection.

For the information of those who, for the last few months, have been burning to know who was the purchaser of the "Castle Collection," we make the announcement. It was Mr. W. W. Mann.

Greece Surcharges.

Mr. Mertzanoff, of Athens, whose collection of used Greece runs into many thousands of specimens, has been paying a visit to England. He informs us that all the errors in the recent surcharges on the Greece stamps were intentionally made to effect a quicker sale, and that the imperf. horizontally or vertically of these surcharges were specially manufactured in consequence of an order received for a quantity coupled with a requisition for such varieties from a continental dealer. A few extra sheets with such vagaries of perforation were made at the same time just to prevent the wily dealer securing a corner. Verily the ways of some dealers are past all understanding!

Sale of an Important Collection.

Mr. W. T. Willett has sold his collection of Great Britain, Nevis and St. Helena to Messrs. Stanley Gibbons & Co., Ltd. The English are exceptionally fine, the specimens being in such good condition. The octagonals and the 4d. Bleuté are especially choice. The collection, however, requires no description; it is well known, having been awarded medals in London, 1897; Manchester, 1899. We trust Mr. Willett when he tires of his new hobby will return to his old love. This is generally what happens, at all events in Philately.

A Correction.

From the letter of Mr. Buckley in this number it would appear that the correspondent upon whose authority the change in colour of the Norway imperf. 10 öre was chronicled in the August number was misled.

Can any of our readers throw some light upon the other matter dealt with by Mr. Buckley?

Weight of Government Correspondence

The Post Office keeps a record of the weight of all letters sent through the post by each Government office. For the year ending March the Inland Revenue heads the list with a total weight in England and Wales of twenty-one million ounces. The War Office comes next with nearly six millions, and the Admiralty follows with over four millions. The Privy Council Office has also a record of four millions, largely owing to the work of the Educational Office. The Foreign Office has only half a million, and the Colonial Office, even in its busiest year, turned out just about the same weight. The total official correspondence carried by the Post Office during the last year weighed seventy-six million ounces.

Herts Philatelic Society.

Here is the attractive syllabus of this Society for the coming session. The names attached are quite a sufficient indication that the members will be afforded an opportunity of seeing the cream of the several countries shown, and hearing the last word which can be said upon them.

PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS FOR 1901-2.

1901.
Oct. 1. Notes on Australian Stamps, illustrated by Specimens. M. P. CASTLE, J.P.
Nov. 5. Display and Paper, "'Mafeking Besieged' Stamps." J. R. F. TURNER.
„ 12. Special Meeting. Display, "Ceylon and Straits Settlements." W. B. AVERY.
Dec. 3. Paper and Display, "Stamps of the German Empire." FRANZ REICHENHEIM.

1902.
Jan. 7. Display, with Notes, "India." L. L. R. HAUSBURG.
Feb. 4. Display and Paper, "Lagos." RUDOLPH MEYER.
Display and Paper, "Mexican Locals." RUDOLPH FRENTZEL.
Mar. 4. Display and Paper, "Argentine" (second part). T. W. HALL.
Apr. 1. Display, "Gambia." VERNON ROBERTS.
May 6. Annual Dinner. Display, "West African Colonies." BARON A. DE WORMS.
„ 20. Annual Meeting. Election of Officers; Receipt of Reports; Revision of Rules; General Business.

Another Use for the Philatelic Telephone.

Mr. J. W. Jones, the genial genius of Cheapside, has been entirely cleared out of his panes of ½d. and 1d. "V.R.I.'s" and a few other unconsidered trifles, but in a manner in which he does not at all relish.

It appears that on August 14th someone purporting to be a window cleaner, and producing the usual credentials of a window cleaning firm, obtained admission to Mr. Jones' offices. How the window cleaner did the work expected of him we are not told, but he appears to have been particularly busy in achieving what he evidently went with the express purpose of doing, taking away a quantity of stamps. From the thief's partiality to entire sheets and panes, it is evident he is a believer in this form of collecting. There is unquestionably a great future before it; but fortunately for Mr. Jones, and equally unfortunately for the thief, the immediate disposal of such goods leads to speedy detection.

The telephone once more was worked for all it was worth. "Put me on to 3204 Gerrard" . . . . . "Now I want 5596 Avenue," and so on until the news was all over Philatelic London in ten minutes and the disposal of the stamps in the most remunerative channels rendered impossible, and the detection of the thief made sure should he be guilty of the indiscretion of offering them.

This he did and was arrested, and in due course pleaded "Guilty" and received a sentence of two months' hard labour. A satisfactory ending, albeit a lenient sentence for a cunning robbery of this kind.

In Liquidation.

HARRY HILCKES & COMPANY, LIMITED.

Wound up under a Compulsory Order.

The Official Receiver in Bankruptcy and Liquidator is applying in the usual way to the Board of Trade for his release upon the closing of this liquidation. His accounts disclose: receipts, £1,632 15s. 11d. (estimated to produce £2,493 4s. 4d. by the Company's statement). Payments: Board of Trade fees, £240 11s. 8d.; Law Costs, £33 1s. 4d.; Auctioneer's and Valuer's charges, £160 2s. 8d.; Costs of Petition, £173 10s. 11d.; other charges, £64 17s. 6d.; Preferential Creditors, £14 8s. 9d.; Debenture Holders (on account of £1,000 due) £945 13s. 1d.; Unsecured Creditors, nil.; Shareholders, nil.

THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER'S COMMENTS.

1.—In the Official Receiver's observations, issued on November 9th, 1899, reference was made to the fact that the Statement of Affairs which had been lodged by Mr. Hilckes imperfectly disclosed the position of the Company, and it was found on realisation that in several instances the value of the assets had been greatly overestimated by Mr. Hilckes.

2.—An enquiry took place as to the amount of debentures which had been issued by the Company, and by an order of the Court the following claims were admitted to rank, viz.:—J. J. Lane, £200; W. B. Kirkpatrick, £300; J. E. Heginbottom, £250, and C. K. Fleischmann, £250. The assets realised have not been sufficient to fully discharge these claims, and there is no prospect therefore of any dividend being paid to the creditors, or a return of capital being made to the shareholders.

3.—Creditors and Contributories can obtain any further information by enquiry at the Department of the Official Receivers, 33, Carey Street, Lincoln's Inn, London, W.C.

Esperanto.

Our readers will recognise in the heading the name given by Dr. L. Samenhof to the language composed by him. The object of course was for the language to be a universal one. In recent years little has been heard of it, although we learn from *E.W.S.N.* that a paper is still published in Esperanto and circulated amongst subscribers in whose ranks is the Editor of the Philatelic Journal quoted. Our contemporary has devoted a good deal of space lately with a short treatise and a prize competition in Esperanto which is entertaining reading—much better padding for a summer number than many journals give their readers! We do not gather, however, that any immediate change is contemplated in the language of the main part of the Journal in question. English for present-day purposes seems to commend itself in preference to Esperanto, at all events we are insular enough to be of this opinion.

Forthcoming Auctions.

The hammer will soon be busy again. The prospective arrangements of the leading auctioneers appear in our advertisement columns this month. From such announcements and from what we hear there is every indication of the coming session being a notable one.

The Provinces are being catered for. After a rest of twelve months Mr. Ostara announces a revival of his auctions, the first taking place on September 25th.

Correspondence.

Gibbons versus Auctions.

To the Editor of the "Philatelic Record."

DEAR SIR,—As you comment in the last number of the *Philatelic Record* on some obviously biassed remarks by Mr. C. J. Philips, written under "Notes and News" in the July number of that gentleman's trade organ, we trust that in fairness to ourselves and other stamp auctioneering firms you will permit us to place before your readers the other side of the question.

In the first place the genial manager of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons & Company, Limited, attempts to prove his case by stating that in a recent sale a stamp worth £500 was knocked down for £50, the variety really being a forgery. He does not mention, however, that the auctioneers in question are probably unknown to 99 collectors out of every 100, and that another of the lots in the same catalogue consisted of one dozen ½d. Bermuda stamps unused!

To compare this particular firm with the leading stamp auctioneers is analagous to classing Messrs. Stanley Gibbons with a scrap iron dealer who places in his shop window sheets of stamps for sale priced at a fraction of a penny each. We should be exceedingly sorry to trespass unduly on your valuable space, and will therefore briefly make the following statements:—

1. As the majority of vendors in stamp auctions require cash advances, it is usual

for the auctioneers to stipulate that the property shall be sold without reserve.

2. The unsold charge of 1s. 6d. does not represent the actual cost in working expenses incurred for each lot catalogued; it therefore follows that the auctioneers to protect themselves against actual loss cannot accept unreasonable reserves. If a higher charge were made it *would* then pay the auctioneers to permit their clients to place high limits on their property as a profit would then be shewn on unsold lots.

3. We find on looking into the matter that about 96 % of the lots in our catalogues are actually sold, leaving the very reasonable average proportion of 4 % to be bought in.

4. At the present time we estimate the value of the stamps in hand for sale by auction to be £3,500 of which only about £350 belong to the "trade."

5. Dealers are generally well acquainted with the run of auction prices, and as a rule only offer surplus stock, hence it is against their interests to buy lots in. On the other hand many collectors who have bought their stamps at high prices wish to place a heavy reserve on nearly every lot.

6. Auctions by causing the difference between buying and selling price to amount to about 10 % only, have done much to foster and extend the hobby of Philately.

7. There are still a few (very few, however) narrow-minded dealers who are bitterly opposed to stamp auctions, on the ground that collectors can buy cheaper and sell dearer than through them. It must be remembered, however, that buying at auction involves time, and if a stamp that a dealer will sell at 20s. can be obtained for only 15s. at auction, the difference of 5s. represents not a saving but a loss to busy people whose money-earning capacity is large. Hence dealers will always have a ready sale for their goods, and buyers will be prepared to make large outlays, fully confident that their stamps can be quickly liquidated at best market competitive prices, if necessary, at auction.

8. Our catalogue descriptions as to the condition of stamps are absolutely guaranteed, hence we do not see how they can be misleading.

With compliments and apologies.—Yours obediently, PLUMRIDGE & Co.

September 10th, 1901.

Iceland 4 sk. P. 14 × 13½.

To the Editor of the "Philatelic Record."

DEAR SIR,—I read in several Philatelic papers last month something about a claret coloured 10 ore. unpaid, but smiled as I remembered the fact that I have sometimes bought sheets of this value having a brown gum which has soaked right into the paper, making the stamps appear more brown than red. I am convinced that this is all the scare is about. For I went to the Post Office to make sure and had a rout through their stock, but found nothing new.

Have any of your readers ever seen Iceland 4 sk. green, P 14 × 13½, and better or otherwise centred than the enclosed copy?

I am anxious to know because every copy I have ever seen, used or unused, was in the same state, making me fancy that only one sheet (of 4 panes?) was printed. I believe it to be the rarest stamp in Scandinavia except Norway 1856 4 sk. imperf.

This latter stamp interests me, because each of the four copies which have ever passed through my hands has been cancelled in a different town, showing pretty conclusively that they are not escaped from the waste paper basket at the printing house.—Yours truly,

Kristiania, HUBERT BUCKLEY.
21st Aug., 1901.

This is the stamp referred to by Mr. Buckley.



THE

Philatelic Record.

NOVEMBER, 1901.

Editorial Notes.

WE commented in our last number upon the removal of a restriction placed, or supposed to be placed, upon the use of postcards, and have this month to record a further postal concession. Letters written on board British ships on the high seas may now be sent to the United Kingdom or any British colony or possession (except Australia, the Bechuanaland Protectorate, and Rhodesia), at the rate of 1d. per ½oz., or to the three possessions mentioned above, or to foreign countries, at the rate of 2½d. per ½oz. The correspondence must be handed to a certain officer appointed to receive it, and dealt with by him on arrival at a colonial or foreign port in a specified manner.

Another Postal Concession.

As the authorities at St. Martin's-le-Grand seem at present so generously disposed, we may hear that in a weak moment they have become champions of the International Postage Stamp, for which there is so loud an outcry in some quarters, though for our own part we trust that day is far distant. The necessity for a stamp of this nature, in order to secure a reply from foreign countries, must have almost disappeared now that postal rates have been, and are still being, reduced in all parts of the world, and that its advocates recognize such to be the case is suggested by the fact that they have more or less abandoned this, their original argument, and are now urging its utility for the purpose of conveniently remitting small sums of money. But here again we fail to see the matter from their point of view, and are of opinion that an International Postal Order would best supply what is undoubtedly a real need, and as a postal official standard rate of exchange now exists one of the main difficulties would be removed. We venture, therefore, to suggest to the Union Postale Universelle this innovation as being a boon which would meet with public approval, and form a worthy inauguration of the new century.

SOME years ago collectors got up a revolt against the number of unnecessary postage stamps, or rather worthless labels, which were issued for the purpose of milking their pockets for the benefit of Governments that were "hard up." Some wiseacres laughed at the movement, some sneered, and, be it confessed, few could be got to stake half-a-crown per annum in its support, and eventually it fizzled out of existence.

The S.S.S.S. Revolt.

The "I told you so's" chuckled immensely, and the too enthusiastic promoters of the revolt hung their heads in disappointment. But a

few held to their guns, and even asserted that the revolt, unsuccessful as it seemed to be, was really sufficient as a warning that collectors were not to be milked indefinitely. A great many countries took the hint, and modified their milking plans in the "unnecessary" issue direction. They were wise. Some countries, however, were foolish enough to believe the sneerers at the movement, and they went on milking, or rather endeavouring to milk. What is the result? Let Portugal speak, for she was the chief sinner. She is said to have at last confessed that her milking arrangements have been so far ruined that she has accumulated a stock of unsold rubbish to the extent of a quarter of a million sterling, which she proposes shortly to auction at Lisbon.

Some sneerers even advised their dupes to buy the rubbish condemned by the S. S. S. S. The poor fools who followed their advice will grin on the wrong side now when they see sets of Portuguese Colonies offered at something approaching waste paper rate.

Philately and Politics.

The Report of the Philatelic Congress, held in Paris from August 28th to September 9th, 1900, which has recently been published, affords a considerable amount of interesting and instructive reading. The subjects under discussion were of the most varied character, ranging from a proposal for the amalgamation of all the French Philatelic Societies to the Collection of Fiscals, and must have employed much time and thought, although it is whispered that a member of the Congress, who attended all its meetings, cannot find words to express his amazement at seeing in print the amount of work accomplished. Once more the question arises, why, when such gatherings are of no uncommon occurrence on the Continent, nothing of the kind is ever attempted here, where Philatelic interest and ability exist in no less degree?

Preceding this Report is an account of the inception and preliminary arrangements of the Exposition Philatélique Internationale, one portion being entirely devoted to expressions of surprise and regret at the small encouragement received from Great Britain, the almost uniform indifference, and even hostility, of its Philatelic press, the withdrawal of much promised support, and especially the defection at the last moment of its two members of the Jury. Ample recognition is given at the same time to those "broad-minded and tolerant" collectors, through whose assistance "the English section, although reduced, was nevertheless most noticeable and noticed, being worthily representative of the great renown of British Philately." Our French friends surely cannot have forgotten the strained political relations existing between the two countries for some months before their Exhibition, to say nothing of the insults heaped not only upon this nation, but upon our Queen, by a section of the Parisian press, which were to a large extent the cause of the general lack of enthusiasm on this side of the Channel. Still, we cannot help sympathising with them, believing as we do that Philately and Politics are as far asunder as the poles, an opinion generally, although, as we have found within

the last few days, not universally held. Amongst the replies to a circular-letter sent to several Dutch collectors inviting subscriptions to the *Record* is the following from a well-known gentleman, whose name, for obvious reasons, we suppress :—

"Sir,—

"I received yours postcard and beg to inform you, being Pro-Boers, I never shall subscribe to any English enterprise, and surely not before that horrible war will have ceased.

"Yours truly,

"——."

We rejoice, however, to know that this is only an isolated instance, and that the bonds which unite Philatelists of all classes and all countries in one great fellowship are not likely to be broken by any unfriendly action on the part of our brethren in Holland.

Verum putes haud ægre, quod valde expetas.

ATTENTION has been drawn in these columns more than once to the extremes some specialists at times go in their collections, and the wonderful variety discoveries—mostly of the order microscopic—made by them from time to time. One of the objections against these so-called discoveries is that they have so often been proved to be the outcome of a too vivid imagination brought to work upon perhaps an imperfectly printed specimen. Budding specialists are a very troublesome class in this way. A little knowledge is a dangerous thing, and nowhere is it more exemplified than in the budding specialist. His discoveries are prodigious. He has been with us since collections upon "advanced lines" first began. In his early days he was always discovering impossible plate numbers on the British stamps. How often have we heard of the discovery of Plate 69 we should not like to say. Latterly he has been busy in all directions: it is almost hopeless to keep pace with him, especially in the minor journals, who receive his contributions with open arms. Some of the varieties chronicled in this class of journals are at times so astounding that we are charitable enough to believe they are often inserted through ignorance. Such are the thoughts which occurred to us after a perusal of a number of small papers chiefly hailing from the United States, whose proprietors desire to be placed upon our exchange list, a request, we fear, we cannot see our way to accede to.

There are times, however, when wonderful discoveries get into the leading Philatelic Press. It is then that they become all the more dangerous, for, if not corrected at once, they get copied out of one journal into another, and in time cause no end of trouble. A curious instance of this has recently occurred in an article upon the perforations of the current Swiss stamps appearing in an esteemed contemporary. The discoveries in this case were not of the microscopic order, however, but if proved to have been true varieties would have constituted important additions to every collection of Swiss stamps. In another part of this number our readers will find a reprint of a reply to the article in question from Baron A. de Reuterskiöld, which speaks for itself. This eminent Philatelist has done a good service in having at once demolished these *discoveries*, and consigned them to that oblivion out of which it would have been better had they never emerged.

Luxemburg.

By Jos. Schock,

President of "L'Union des Timbrophiles."

(Continued from Page 239.)

THE stamps were issued on the 10th of September, 1852, although the decree authorizing their use in the Grand-Duchy was not published in the official Gazette until the 30th of November following. The text is as follows :—

"Law of November 30, 1852. No. 841.

"Introduction of postage stamps to frank letters.

"We, William III., by the grace of God King of Holland, Prince of Orange-Nassau, Grand-Duke of Luxemburg, &c., &c., &c.,

"In accord with the Chamber of Deputies,

"Have decreed and do decree :—

"Art. 1.—Postage stamps for the franking of letters will be issued by the postal administration of the Grand-Duchy. Their values will be 10 and 12½ centimes.

"Art. 2.—Postage stamps come under the same law and penalties as apply to forged notes, etc.

"Art. 3.—The date of commencement of the present law will be fixed by Royal Grand-Ducal decree. The same decree will regulate the administering of the law.

"We desire and command the present law to be inscribed in the Official Statutes of the Grand-Duchy of Luxemburg to be observed and performed by all whom it may concern.

"Walferdange, 30th November, 1852."

About two years later, after the promulgation of this law, a new decree appeared, treating of the tariff rates for letters, and was published on the 12th of June, 1855. The following are the principal items :—

"Art. 2.—Letters intended only for the interior of the Grand-Duchy are taxed uniformly without taking note of the distance between the receiving and despatching offices, and are subject to the following tariff :—

"For each letter up to 10 grammes	...	10 centimes	
,, ,, from 10-20 ,,	...	20	,,
,, ,, ,, 20-30 ,,	...	30	,,
"And so on for each 10 grammes	...	10	,, more.

"Art. 3.—For registered letters a fixed tax of 10 centimes has to be paid in addition to the above postages.

"Art. 4.—Patterns pay 10 centimes for each 30 grammes.

"Art. 5.—Money Orders :—

"For a sum not exceeding 10 francs ... 10 centimes
,, ,, from 10-20 francs ... ... 20 ,,
,, ,, ,, 20-30 ,, ... 30 ,,
"And so on for each 10 francs ... ... 10 ,, more.

"In addition there is a fixed charge of 10 centimes per Order. If a letter accompanies the Order, the same is subject to the ordinary letter rates.

"Art. 8.—The prepayment of the postage is obligatory upon letters, patterns, money orders, and registered letters received and delivered within the Grand-Duchy.

"Letters and other articles found in the boxes not franked will be sent to the Dead Letter Office and destroyed if not applied for within three months. Should letters be not sufficiently prepaid by stamps, according to the tariff, the difference has to be paid by the receiver.

"Art. 11.—The internal postages for journals, gazettes, periodical works, books, music, catalogues, printed, engraved, lithographed or manuscript matter received and delivered within the Grand-Duchy will be charged 2 centimes per sheet or part of a sheet, whatever may be their size."

II.

Issue 1859-1864.

The above law of the 12th of June, 1855, modified the tariff very considerably and necessitated the issue of new values. Besides, the decree of the 30th November, 1852, introducing postage stamps, did not deal with stamps when used a second time. The following law was therefore published on the 2nd December, 1858 :—

"We, William III., by the grace of God, &c., &c.,

"Our Council of State, with the assent of the Assembly of the States,

"Have decreed and do decree :—

"Art. 1.—In addition to the stamps of 10 centimes and 12½ centimes or one silbergroschen, created by the law of the 30th of November, 1852, the Government are empowered to issue other stamps for the franking of heavier letters, for foreign letters, and for all other objects which are handed to the post for conveyance.

"Art. 2.—Whoever, knowingly, makes use of a postage stamp, having been used before, for the franking of a letter, is punishable by a fine of 50 to 1000 francs. In case of a second offence, the punishment will be imprisonment from five days to one month, and the fine will be doubled.

"The same punishment will be meted out to those trying to sell such stamps.

"Art. 463 of the penal code is applicable in the various instances provided for by the present law."

As we have seen the cost of the plates, rollers, and matrices necessary for the manufacture of the stamps of 10 centimes and of

one silbergroschen amounted to the, relatively speaking, enormous sum of Frs. 6800 (£272). The Government, therefore, before making new stamps, tried to obtain the materials necessary at a lower price. Finally, it was decided to employ the typographic process, and to use clichés multiplied by electrotype. The demands of the engravers in Luxemburg being considered too high, a contract was made with the house of Dresler, of Frankfurt o/M, for the necessary clichés. This firm furnished 241 clichés of 10 centimes, 122 of 12½ centimes, 127 of 25 centimes, 122 of 30 centimes, 120 of 37½ centimes, and 128 of 40 centimes, a total of 860 clichés, at a cost of Frs. 1073.30 (nearly £43).

The proofs submitted by the home printers were considered too defective, and the printing of the new stamps was therefore given to a foreign firm named Naumann, also of Frankfurt o/M. The first delivery of stamps printed by this firm took place on the 17th of September, 1859, exactly seven years and seven days after the very first delivery of postage stamps to the postal administration of Luxemburg.

Before the new stamps were put into circulation, the Governor-General of Finance, on the 29th September, 1859, inserted the following notice in the *Journal de Luxembourg* :—

"NOTICE.—POST OFFICE.—POSTAGE STAMPS.

"In pursuance of the law of the 2nd of December, 1858, the Administration of the Post will sell from this day for the franking of letters, postage stamps of 30 centimes in addition to those of 10 centimes and of one silbergroschen authorized by the law of the 30th of November, 1852.

"The postage stamps of 30 centimes are printed in lilac. They bear the coat-of-arms of the Grand-Duchy, above are the words *Grand-Duché de Luxembourg* abbreviated, below the value expressed in centimes.

"As soon as the present stock of the postage stamps of 10 centimes and of 12½ centimes (1 silbergroschen), bearing the portrait of the King Grand-Duke be exhausted new stamps of these two values will be issued bearing the same design as the 30 centimes. They will be printed in blue for the 10 centimes and in rose for the 12½ centimes.

"The old stamps are not demonetised and can be used with the new ones for the franking of letters.

"The Government will also manufacture postage stamps of 25, 37½ (3 silbergroschen) and of 40 centimes; their issue will be notified to the public in due course.

"The Governor-General of Finances,

"(*Signed*) ULVELING."

As described in the above official notice, the design of the stamps of the 1859 issue consists of the coat-of-arms of the Grand-Duchy in an oval on a background of crossed lines. Round the upper part of this oval there is the inscription: G. D. DE LUXEMBOURG. The upper angles are filled in with fancy ornaments. In each of the lower angles there is a circle containing the value in figures, between which

there is a band containing the word : "centimes." Printed in colours on white paper without watermarks. Imperforate.



Of this issue the following quantities were delivered to the postal administration :—

A.—Stamps of 10 centimes, blue, dark and light.

17th September, 1859 ..	.. ..	404,400
12th January, 1861	.. .. ..	1,015,900
27th June, 1863	.. .. ..	1,003,000
Total	.. .. ..	2,423,300 Stamps.

On all stamps of this value the word centimes is badly printed, in fact



it reads ceniimes, as the illustration shows.

B.—Stamps of 12½ centimes, rose, light and dark.

21st September, 1859 ..	.. ..	101,800
22nd September, 1862 ..	.. ..	208,700
Total	.. .. ..	310,500 Stamps.

M. Moëns, in his large catalogue, says that stamps exist of this value with seven scallops under NTIM of the word centimes. I do not possess this variety, but I have in my collection two specimens, one having three, the other five scallops under the word centimes, which is badly printed. Herewith is the illustration of the lower portion



of the second specimen enlarged, *i.e.*, the one with five scallops.

C.—Stamps of 30 centimes, lilac red, light and dark, and violet.

21st September, 1859 ..	.. ..	101,700
20th June, 1864 ..	.. .. ..	101,000
Total	.. .. ..	202,700 Stamps.

(To be continued).



Mr. C. Stewart-Wilson.

Notable Philatelists.

Mr. C. Stewart-Wilson.

THE most important Philatelic Society out of these Isles in the British Empire is unquestionably the Philatelic Society of India. Commencing its existence in January, 1897, with just fifty members, it now includes all the leading Philatelists in India, and many at home, who have deemed it an honour to have their names inscribed on the membership roll.

Such energy and capacity for hard work has been displayed by the Society that, during the four years of its existence, two Exhibitions have been held, five handbooks published, and a monthly journal circulated among the members since the start. This is certainly a record, and far outpaces anything ever done before by any Philatelic Society. This record is all the more remarkable when we recall the high standard aimed at in everything the Society undertakes: the exhibitions were certainly equal to the continental ones; four out of the five handbooks published by the Society are to-day the standard works on the stamps covered by them; and lastly, the organ of the Society—the *Philatelic Journal of India*—is always read with pleasure by fellow Philatelists at home.

Anyone having the most elementary knowledge of the working of a successful Society knows very well that, in addition to possessing a band of enthusiastic members, there must also be two or three who are always ready at the most inconvenient times to carry through the work. They must work quite unselfishly, not courting praise, and not heeding the kicks which come much more surely as a rule than the praise.

The Philatelic Society of India has indeed been fortunate in these things, but trebly so in its President. Mr. C. Stewart-Wilson was elected the first President, and has occupied that position ever since with credit to his great abilities and the greatest benefit possible to the Society.

Mr. Stewart-Wilson commenced collecting at school and succeeded in getting together a fair collection, which, alas, was swapped for some books of Ruskin he coveted at the time. Who knows but what this exchange laid the foundation for the excellent literary style of our friend's writings which have afforded so much pleasure to his fellow members?

He then had a pause of eighteen years or so, and it was not till the summer of 1894 that the find of some fine Portuguese Indies and Western Australians started him off once more. He soon found a general collection hopeless, and attempted the British Empire only. This soon got narrowed down still further to India and the colonies of Ceylon, Hong Kong, and Straits Settlements. He did very well in all these, but then developed the fever of specialism more and more, so

had to become more and more exclusive. It cost him many a pang to part with some of his countries, but they had to go, and now he collects only Ceylon out of all his old friends, and has added Holland and Colonies and Japan with a microscopic commencement at Sweden. Mr. Stewart-Wilson adds: "I am heretical enough to be very keen on India and Ceylon Telegraph stamps, and I made a specialised collection of the stamps of the Indian States that use our Indian stamps surcharged in order to be able to write on them."

In addition to being President of the Society since its commencement he has edited the *Philatelic Journal of India* since May, 1898, and has written two of the handbooks already referred to. As Postmaster General of the Punjaub his duties often entail very long journeys: the last time we heard he was then starting upon a railway run through the Punjaub, Kashmere, the Frontier, China, in all 3,500 miles, and this is by no means unusual. No wonder, therefore, that he requires a rest, and is coming to Europe for twelve months' leave, which ought soon to put him on his feet again. He says: "I propose to take leave from November or December and arrive in England about April or May, after a leisurely tour in Italy and South France." We hope Mr. Stewart-Wilson will benefit by and thoroughly enjoy his tour, although we fancy he will experience some difficulty in picking up many bargains in his new countries. We do wish him luck, philatelically, however, as he so thoroughly deserves it.

An Interesting French Essay.

By W. Grunewald.*

SPECIALISTS of French stamps are on the look out now-a-days for everything partaking of the nature of a stamp. I will, therefore, not say them nay if, in their albums, they devote considerable space to essays and designs of stamps, postal curiosities, and even include some forgeries of the stamps of France and her colonies which have been used postally. It is evident, however, that only the most advanced collectors can hope to collect these on a par with *the* classical collection of French stamps, and it is also evident that in some



of these designs and essays, which often constitute a beautiful engraving, the majority can only take a passive interest, scarcely being able to obtain them owing to their cost. French essays, whether coupled with possession or not, must always appeal to the serious minded student, in that they indicate to some extent the etymology of the French stamps. In my humble opinion, every specialist should undertake this second collection, which I will call a side one, and I am not the only one who thinks so.

* My thanks are due to M. Lemaire for permission to use the article which appeared in his paper, and for the illustration.—W. G.

Allow me to speak now of an essay containing the head of the Prince Imperial. I do not pretend to offer to the readers of the *Philatelic Record* a new discovery. The essay is known, but only to a few privileged persons who have been able to examine it, or to those, very few in number, who have the good fortune to possess it. But the existence of this essay is, I think, unknown to the great majority of small and medium collectors, and they are many. This essay of the Prince Imperial is, however, one of those which is not to be had by everyone. Very few specimens are known, and these have found ready purchasers. I don't think I am far wrong in saying that its value, commercially, cannot be put at less than one hundred and fifty francs.

The design is in the form of a medallion. It was engraved on steel by Joubert in 1869, and only a few copies—in black, on thin white china paper—were printed. Only one copy was printed in blue. The diameter of the medallion is slightly over 46 millimetres. The sides of the stamps are indicated by a rectangular white frame (22 millimetres vertically and 18 millimetres horizontally) framing the face of the young Prince. As the reader will see from the reproduction given above, this essay is very plain, without the slightest attempt at decoration, the head alone standing out on the black background. The head itself, a profile to the left, is very small, being only 13 millimetres long by 10 millimetres wide. The perfection and finish of the engraving are such that all the details of the face are clearly seen without the help of a glass.

According to the custom prevailing in the engraving of medals, the Prince Imperial is only represented in this medallion to the base of the neck, and this, being very long, gives the little head a graceful appearance. The stamp makes the Prince look very young; indeed, he was only 13 years of age at the time the engraving was made. A large space was reserved by the engraver above and below the head—probably intended for the inscriptions.

That it was a very true likeness of the Prince can be proved by comparison with photographs of the same period. The likeness is still more striking when compared with a commemorative medal engraved by Barre in the same year, 1869, peculiarly in the hair and oval face of the Prince.

If it had not been for the events of 1870, which hastened the downfall of the Empire, it is probable we should possess in our collections a stamp bearing the portrait of the heir to Napoleon III.

Under what conditions was the medallion engraved? On what occasion was it created?

In the present state of affairs, the matter is open to many suppositions. Personally, I think there can be little doubt this medallion was engraved for the purpose of issuing a stamp bearing the head of the heir to the throne, and that the picture is not the work of an artist's fancy.

In the latter case, the engraver would have made a larger medallion and head and not confined himself to a rectangle the size of a postage stamp, within a millimetre or two of the size of the stamps of the Empire.

Decrees.

Italy.

No. 442.

Referring to the text of the postal laws approved by the Royal Decree of the 24th December, 1899, No. 501.

Referring to the regulation for the fulfilment of the said text approved by our Decree of the 10th February, 1901, No. 120.

Referring to our Decree of the 6th June, 1901, No. 255, by which the expediency of creating new types of stamps was recognised, the issuing of some of them was ordered, and the issuing of other values was referred to subsequent decrees.

On the proposition of our Minister, the Secretary of State for Postes and Telegraphs,

We have decreed and do decree as follows :—

Art. I. From the 1st of October, 1901, the following stamps, printed on labels measuring 23 millimetres by 19, perforated and having amongst various ornaments our sovereign head and the inscription "Poste Italiane" as well as the declaration of value, will be placed in circulation in the interior of the kingdom.

A. 40 centimes, dark brown.
B. 45 ,, dark olive green.
C. 50 ,, aniline purple.
D. 1 lira, dark brown, with ornaments pine apple green.
E. 5 lire, Berlin azure, ,, brick-red.

Art. II. The same stamps will also be available for letters to and from Italian post offices outside the kingdom and for international correspondence.

For letters coming from the Erythrea Colony the current types will remain in use until otherwise provided for by our subsequent Royal decrees.

Art. III. The postage stamps of the current type of 40, 45, and 60 centimes, and 1 and 5 lire will remain in circulation until the 30th September, 1902. After this date, the use of them on letters will have to cease, but any one having such stamps will be able to exchange them at all the Italian post offices from the 1st of October, 1902, to the 30th of September, 1903, after which date they will cease to have legal value.

Art. IV. In compliance with Article 139 of the regulation approved by our Decree of the 10th of February, 1901, No. 120, it is reserved to the Administration of Postes and Telegraphs to decide if and at what price the now current postage stamps can be sold for collections after the 30th September, 1903.

We order, &c.,

Given at Racconigi the 12th September, 1901,

VICTOR EMMANUEL.
T. GALIMBECTI.

Witness: The Keeper of the Seal.

(*Signed*) COCCO-ORTU.

New Postal Tariff in Mexico.

Letters up to 15 grammes ($\frac{1}{2}$ ounce) in the same town	2 centavos.	
Postcards in the same town	1 centavo.	
Letters up to 15 grammes ($\frac{1}{2}$ ounce) in the country	5 centavos.	
Postcards in the country	2 ,,	
Registered inlaid newspapers and periodical journals, books for schools, works appearing in parts	2 centavos	per 500 grammes.
Commercial papers, documents, manuscripts	1 centavo ,,	100 ,,
Patterns without values up to 300 grammes	1 ,, ,,	100 ,,
Postal parcels up to 5 kilos	12 centavos	per 500 ,,
Registration	10 ,,	
Advice of receipt	5 ,,	

Money Orders up to 100 pesos:—

Up to 10 pesos,	10 centavos.	50—60 pesos ...	35 centavos.
10—20 ,,	15 ,,	60—70 ,, ...	40 ,,
20—30 ,,	20 ,,	70—80 ,, ...	45 ,,
30—40 ,,	25 ,,	80—100 ,, ...	50 ,,
40—50 ,,	30 ,,		

Postal parcels to Germany and France up to 5 kilos ...	30	,,
,, ,, Great Britain, 1 kilo	24	,,
,, ,, ,, ,, 2 kilos	60	,,
,, ,, ,, ,, 5 ,, ...	84	,,

1000 grammes=1 kilo=$2\frac{1}{5}$ lbs.

Stanley Gibbons' Priced Catalogue.

Part I.—British Empire, 1902.

IT has been said that the most difficult duty for a man to perform is to respond to the toast of his own health, but whoever was the author of this adage certainly never contemplated having to write a review of the above work, or he would have safeguarded himself by an important proviso. At first sight it looks such a simple matter for the critic of a book containing some 300 pages of closely printed matter dealing with stamps to say proudly to himself that, in spite of all the time and attention given to the compilation of this neat and handy work, he, with the knowledge he possesses, will be able to pulverise it, as a critic is always expected to do with anything which he takes in hand. But when he has studied it for some hours, and finds that his notes after all amount to little or nothing, it begins to dawn upon him that he is rather a fool for his pains, and he then, as a last resource, calls to mind what has been written about previous editions of the catalogue, and especially the sarcastic remarks as to the illustrations, and the nasty insinuations with reference to the prices. These, however, do not help him very much, because, in the case of the former, he cannot deny that they are quite good enough for the purpose, and no one can reasonably expect illustrations such as those employed for the monographs of the London Society, in a trade catalogue published at 2s., whilst, except for such general notes as that Australians as a group have advanced from 25% to 33%, and that there is also a considerable rise in many common stamps used, he will find it wisest to leave the prices to speak for themselves, remembering that, after all, doctors—or rather collectors—have been known to disagree on this all-absorbing subject.

The Introduction, which by-the-way now appears for the first time in Portuguese in addition to the other languages, treats of the one prominent alteration, viz., the inclusion of the Transvaal and Orange River Colony. The Mafekings are listed under Cape of Good Hope, whilst the Provisionals made by the Boers in the Northern Transvaal are headed Pietersburg, and come before the V.R.I., although much later in point of date: this is no doubt only in order that all the issues of the Second Republic may appear together. They are separately numbered and amount to no fewer than 115, very few being priced, and are hardly likely to increase the popularity of the Transvaal as a country for specialists. Lydenburg and Rustenburg are catalogued, but Schweizer Renecke very properly dismissed with a few explanatory words. In the Orange River Colony some errors are omitted, *e.g.*, 1896, 2½d. on 3d., variety with curved foot to large numeral **2**, and V.R.I. 1d., with inverted figure 1 for I, which has been in the possession of the writer for at least six months. The

latter, however, appears in the list at the end of the *Monthly Journal* for October. In Fiji, the 5d. on 6d., 1891, perf. 10 × 12½ is missing, but in Zululand the recent 1s. and £5 fiscals, used for postage, are noted, as well as the 3s., which, like them, is an addition. The mistaken note made last time as to the varieties of the Straits Settlements without stop, which occur once on a pane, existing only as forgeries, is deleted, and the stamps are reinstated, as are also the 25c. on 2d. and 2½d., with broken N, of Gibraltar, which for some strange reason were omitted, although the same stamps with small 1 were duly recorded. The information contained in the article upon Bangkok, published last month, and upon the Natal ½d. on 1d. of February, 1877, is included, which shews the care bestowed upon the book, and the efforts made to bring it as far as possible up-to-date.

The collector who now-a-days knows his Gibbons well, and can read his stamps readily by it, cannot fail to make a Philatelist, for there is, in the opinion of the writer, no better groundwork in existence.

The Status of South African War Provisionals.

THE publication of Part I. of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons' catalogue, containing the countries affected by the war, once more raises the question as to how far certain provisionals are worthy of collection. The particular stamps in our mind are Mafekings, Pietersburg, Lydenburg, Rustenburg, Schweizer Renecke, Wolmaranstad, and O.V.S. commando stamps, all of which are dealt with in the catalogue, but are treated in very different ways. For instance, the Pietersburg stamps are most elaborately chronicled to the extent of 115 varieties, whereas the commando stamps are dismissed with a note setting out that they are really the private speculation of a chemist in the Orange Free State, who had them made, sent to the front, and attached to letters; hence they are seen duly postmarked on genuine correspondence. As, however, all such letters were post free, the stamp was superfluous, had no franking power, and is of no Philatelic interest.

Of the above-named war issues, the best case made out so far is the one championed by Mr. Emil Tamsen in last month's *Monthly Journal* for the Pietersburg issue of 1901. He relates that when the Government of the South African Republic evacuated Pretoria at the beginning of June, 1900, they forgot to take with them a supply of

postage stamps,—(what a pity they did not forget the gold instead of the stamps)—and then points out that at the time the Boers had practically half of the country still in their possession (the poorest and most thinly-populated half it is true), but containing then about double the usual number of inhabitants, a hundred miles of railway, four hundred miles of telegraph lines, and fifty-one post offices. In October, 1900, the communication *viâ* Delagoa Bay was cut off, so that after that date the post office could only deal, we presume, with local letters. The service, however, we are told, was continued in spite of the officials having received no pay since the previous May; but it was not until January, 1901, that it was considered necessary to issue stamps, and, as a matter of fact, this was not done until April 3rd. On April 9th, Pietersburg was captured by General Plumer, the whole of the postal communications which remained to the Boers in northern districts broken up, and the stamps consequently came to an end. Upon these facts, supported by the decrees quoted by Mr. Tamsen, it is perfectly clear that the stamps were issued upon the authority of the remnant of the Boer Republic, and for use in the restricted area at the time in their hands. In other words they were Locals for the Northern Transvaal, and it is, we submit, a misnomer to call them Pietersburg, which was simply the place where they were printed.

The other stamps mentioned rest upon an entirely different foundation. The Mafekings, we fear, are the source of the whole trouble, coming out first and commanding such ridiculous prices, that others followed, as well they might. They have gained their place in our albums not because they were strictly entitled to it, but owing to entirely different considerations, with which we are quite in sympathy. But had the others been issued at the same time, we do not think that even our admiration for gallant little Mafeking would have won the day. There is no reason, however, why this kind of thing should continue, and the Lydenburgs, Rustenburgs, Schweizer Renecke, etc., ought, for the benefit of Philately, all to go to the wall.

We shall be criticised, perhaps, because we do not differentiate between Lydenburgs and Rustenburgs, and then between these and the others. It is not that we are unaware of the so-called distinctions, but that, in this particular case, we do not attach the importance placed in some quarters upon them, and because one lot have been more cleverly manœuvred than another, why we should allow our common sense to be warped thereby passes comprehension.

We hear now that some of the Cape stamps have come over to this country (all unused so far), surcharged "Kuruman Besieged Postage 1900—1901," and with additional value, The gallant Major, in chronicling them, pithily points out that the siege appears to have extended over part of two years (part, indeed of two centuries), but he has not seen any used copies; still, they appear to have quite as much legitimate Philatelic interest as some of the other South African war products. A more convincing proof that Mafeking is responsible for all this could hardly be possible, the surcharge being so obviously an imitation. What a thousand pities that the Mafekings are not copyright, as we could then have proclaimed all the others the pirates which they veritably are!



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

G. Fred. H. Gibson, *1, Clarence Street, Manchester.*

The British Empire.

Bahamas.—This colony has now been provided with a pictorial stamp, showing "The Queen's Staircase," a gem of local scenery. We are indebted to Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. for the new arrival. As will be seen, it is of a larger size than the others of the current series, measuring 25 × 30 mm.



Adhesive.
Wmk. Crown and C.C. perforated 14.
1d., red, black centre.

British Guiana.—Though chronicled as far back as our February number, the 48c., grey and brown lilac, has only just been placed on sale.

British North Borneo.—Quite unexpectedly, at least as far as we are concerned, the current series has appeared bearing the welcome surcharge "British Protectorate." There is little reason to be jubilant at the advent of a new set for a country already so overburdened with issues, but for the fact that a really permanent emission can now be looked for with a reasonable amount of certainty, and the wearisome sequence of surcharges, errors, &c., &c., finally ended. The surcharge is applied in two lines, and varies in colour and also in the space between the words; indeed, in those we have seen, the variation is as much as 6½mm., the widest being 13½mm. apart, while the narrowest is only 7mm.

We have to thank Mr. Peckitt for the first sight of this set, the initial value of which we illustrate below. We notice the 24c. appears in a decided red, not in the lake shade hitherto in use.



Adhesives.

1c., brown ochre and black, surcharged in carmine.		
2c., green and black,	,,	,,
3c., dull violet and green,	,,	black.
4c., carmine and black,	,,	blue.
5c., orange-red and black,	,,	green.
6c., brown ochre and black,	,,	carmine.
8c , dull purple and black,	,,	blue.
12c., dull blue and black,	,,	red.
18c., green and black,	,,	red.
24c., red and blue,	,,	black.

British South Africa.—The *Monthly Journal* has seen the current 1d., imperf. between.

Adhesive.

1d., rose, variety, imperf. vertically.

Victoria.—We now illustrate the 5s. of the new type as chronicled in our last.



Jamaica.—The current penny has now arrived in its altered condition. The necessity of this change is certainly very doubtful, and, while we consider it an improvement so far as general appearance is concerned, we doubt if the variation was dictated by purely æsthetic considerations; the red penny was certainly getting very stale.



Adhesive.

1d., red, greenish-black centre. Perf. 14. Wmk. Crown and C.C.

Queensland.—The *Australian Journal of Philately* mentions having just received the current 1d., perforated 12 × 9½.

New Zealand.—The current 6d. has reached us doubly printed, the second impression being very clear.

Adhesive.

6d., carmine rose, perf. 11. Variety, doubly printed.

South Australia. — A correspondent has informed the *Australian Journal of Philately* that the 1s. and 2s. stamps were issued on new paper, watermarked Crown and S.A. wide, and perforated 11-12½ large holes, on 30th August last.

Adhesives.

1s., dull brown, wmk. Crown and S.A. wide.
2s., carmine, „ „ „

Trinidad.—Three changes in colour are chronicled here by the *D. B.-L.*, the 1d. coming in what will soon be the familiar black on red, which Messrs. De La Rue are apparently apportioning to this denomination in their Colonial gallery.

Adhesives.

Wmk. Crown and C. A. perf. 14.
½d., dull green, on white.
1d., purple and black on rose-red paper.
1s., black on yellow, value in blue.

Foreign Countries.

Brazil.—We do not seem to have chronicled three unpaid letter stamps of the current type, the 20 reis is perf. 13, while the 10 and 50 are 11 to 11½.

Adhesives.

10c., dark blue.
20c., pale yellow-green.
50c., „ „ „

China.—We have seen the current 4c., imperf. vertically.

Adhesive.

4c., yellow-brown, variety, imperforate vertically.

Colombian Republic. CARTAGENA.—We have received two provisional stamps for this province, which we illustrate below. They are productions of the commonest description, the paper being very poor and the pin perforation entirely useless for the purpose for which it is intended. Both values are overprinted horizontally in violet with a double lined oblong frame containing the letter "S" in script characters repeated fifteen times, the surcharge covering five stamps, though in some cases side copies entirely miss it. We also have the current 10c., brown on rose, hand stamped R Cartagena, in blue as below. This is applied reading downwards diagonally, though it is also found in a horizontal position, while the type being large and the word long each stamp shows one surcharge and portion of another.





R

CARTAGENA.

Adhesives.

1c. black on white, pin perforated, overprinted in violet.
2c. „ rose „ „ „
10c. brown on rose, surcharged diagonally or horizontally R Cartagena.

Corea.—We have three high values additional to the current set, the denominations are 50 cheun and 1 and 2 "Wn."; what the actual word thus abbreviated is

we do not know, but it is an equivalent for the yen or silver dollar current in Corea. They are roughly perforated about 11, and are on soft white paper. The 50c. is dull green on a pink background, except as regards the centre tablets and ornaments, which are plain; the 1 Wn. has a dull blue centre, the remainder of the stamp being grey on dull rose, the value, ornament at top, and tablets being plain; the 2 Wn. is rather less elaborate, having a green centre, the remainder of the stamp being in mauve.







Adhesives.

50 cheun, green and pink.
1 Wn., dull blue-grey and dull rose.
2 ,, mauve and green.

Crete.—We hear of a 5 drachma unpaid letter stamp, but prefer not to chronicle it yet, awaiting advices from our correspondent in Canea, more especially as the recently-issued set in yellow bistre, which were also supposed to be for this purpose, prove only fiscals. We find we have not yet chronicled the 50 lepta, in ultramarine; we have only hitherto seen it unsurcharged, it is of the same design as the current 1 lepton.

Adhesive.

50 lepta, ultramarine.

Ecuador.—The *Monthly Journal* chronicles a change in the colour of the 5 sucres. It now appears in lilac and black.

Adhesive.

5 sucres, lilac and black.

France. China.—The *Monthly Journal* specifies the three surcharges for Pekin that exist, as well as that chronicled in our last; they consist of a 2, 4 and 6 cents., all on the current 25c. It also mentions that the 15c. surcharged "Canton" is to be found in the new grey-lilac shade, as well as in the blue already listed. Le C. de T. P. states that the current French unpaid letter stamps have been surcharged "Chine" as specified below.

Adhesives.

2 cents. in vermilion on 25c., black on rose (for Pekin.)
4 ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,
6 ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,
15 centimes, grey-lilac surcharged in red with "Canton" and two Chinese characters (for Canton.)

Unpaid Letter Stamps.

5 centimes, pale blue, surcharged "Chine" in carmine
10 ,, pale brown ,, ,, ,,
15 ,, pale green ,, ,, ,,
30 ,, rose ,, ,, in black
50 ,, lilac ,, ,, ,,

Greece.—We have been shown by Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. the 1 drachma of the new issue, imperforate vertically.

Adhesive.

1 drachma, black variety, imperf. vertically.

Holland.—The 3c. of the current set now appears in pale green.

Adhesive.

3 cents, pale green.

Italy.—As will be seen by the official decree which we give on another page, five more new stamps are announced for the 1st of October, but our correspondent, writing on the 8th, mentions that they had not then made their appearance.

Levant. French Post Offices.—Mr. North has kindly shown us the current 1 piastre on 25c., black on rose, with the surcharge inverted.

Adhesive.

1 piastre on 25c., black on rose. Surcharge inverted.

Monaco.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the 15c. of the current type in pale brown on buff paper.

Adhesive.

15 centimes, pale brown, on buff paper.

Peru.—The *Weekly Philatelic Era* reports the 10c. of the current set surcharged for official use in the usual manner.

Adhesive.

10c., grey black, surcharged "Gobierno."

Philippines.—It is some time since it was stated that the designs for a permanent set had been passed, but as the current 1, 2 and 5 dollars United States have been surcharged for use here, we suppose the new series will not be issued just yet.

Adhesives.

1 dollar, black, surcharged in black.
2 dollars, blue, ,, ,,
5 ,, green ,, ,,

Servia.—We have now received from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. the 5 paras of the new type. The design is identical with that illustrated in August, but the size is the same as that of the lower values in the last issue; the paper is plain white wove, and the perforation is 11½.

Adhesive.

5 paras, pale green.

Philately in the Mags.

The Line-Engraved 2 sen. Adhesive Stamps of Japan (1871-75).

In concluding an article on these stamps in the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, Mr. O. Firth says :—

"It may be noted that many of these stamps were used up by the authorities after their supercession by new issues as 'unpaid' stamps, being crossed (mostly, it would seem while unsevered), by *red* ink-marks, their use for this purpose being well exemplified by a cover posted in Tokio for Shanghai, the stamp used being a 2 sen., purple, of the surface-printed series, the native character postmark and part of the 'Tokio Japan, 3 Nov.' circular mark being covered by a 6 sen., with syllabic character 20, to indicate the amount due, which is also indicated by a circle with 'DUE' in the upper part, '6' being added below in pencil. The red cross-lines do not extend beyond the margin of the stamp, which points to the correctness of the idea expressed above.

"Of course, the 2 sen. used thus, is more likely to be found only on 'home' postal packets. In the case of this value, as of others, mint copies are to be met with, bearing a dot of Indian ink; this seems to correspond with the cross-bars familiar to most collectors as defacing (and deforming) many of the earlier Spanish issues."

The Perforations in the Current Swiss Stamps.

Baron A. de Reuterskiöld, in the *Philatelic Journal of India*, writes :—

"I was much astonished on reading in your May number Mr. Anderson's article on the perforations of the current Swiss stamps, as I have always considered these most constant.

"I have, therefore, now measured several hundred specimens of each value, and am more astonished than ever at Mr. Anderson's conclusions, as I do not even find slight variations that might occur from the displacement of a needle.

"The Swiss stamps are not perforated either with a single line or a comb machine, but with one that perforates the whole sheet at a time.

"The two current designs are not printed by the same firm, and the lower values, 2 to 15c., are, and have always been, perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$.

"As to the higher values, 20c. to 3 fr., they were perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$ H by 12 V up to 1891, and from that date $11\frac{1}{2}$ H by 11 V. The two varieties are easily distinguishable at a glance, the older one has 13 holes down the side of the stamp, and the current one only 12 holes.

"The earlier printing of the 3 fr. is still in use, and I have not yet been able to get this value with the later perf.

"I have never found any stamp with the H perf. anything but a true $11\frac{1}{2}$, and the V perfs. are certainly also true 12 and 11. I cannot, therefore, understand at all the variety noted 12 × $12\frac{1}{2}$ or that 12 × 11.

"Exclusive of the set of 5 values perf. $9\frac{1}{2}$ which was only a trial perf. which was not approved of, the following is a list of the existing varieties that I have found.

1882—1891.
Perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$ H by 12 V.

20c., orange-yellow, red-orange.
25c., yellow-green, grass-green, blue-green.
40c., grey.
50c., light blue, dark blue.
1 fr., marone, red-brown.
3 fr., bistre-brown.

1891—1901.
Perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$ H by 11 V.

20c., dark orange.
25c., yellow-green, blue-green.
25c., dark blue.
30c., reddish brown, yellowish brown.
40c., grey.
50c., dark blue.
50c., green.
1 fr., marone.

"Of course there are shades, but in this list I have noted only the distinct varieties of colour."

Pan-Americans.

We extract the following from the *Metropolitan Philatelist* concerning the Pan-American series :—

"Last week the Bureau commenced work upon the second requisition of the Pan-American stamps. It is said at the Bureau that while this is an entirely new order, and unexpected at the outset, there will be no distinguishing points between the stamps of the first and second requisitions, whatsoever. The same plates will be used as far as possible, until they wear out, and then new plates will be made. It is not likely that anywhere near so many borders will be required as in the printing of the first order, as those heretofore used are in good condition and will give good service on many millions of stamps The centres wear out more quickly and there will likely be fifteen or so new plates for each of the one and two cents. values. This is on the basis that the entire second requisition is completed, which is very doubtful. While the demand holds up surprisingly well for the Pan-Americans, it is not probable that with the closing of the Exposition, only about six

weeks distant, that the full order will ever be required, as all on hand November 1st will be destroyed. On this point Mr. Madden, Third Assistant Postmaster-General, is very emphatic. There will be no postponement; that greedy furnace in the basement of the Post Office Department will get every stamp not sold on the 31st of October. The Bureau will go right along printing until probably about the middle of October, and it is not thought that more than half the last requisition will be completed by that time unless there should develope a sudden and unexpected demand for the Pan-American series."

Personally, we have not the slightest sympathy with this issue, which, had it emanated from a South American Republic, would have been universally condemned as speculative. The only redeeming feature we have so far been able to discover in them is the absence of any high values. It is perfectly obvious from the care which is taken to state that all remainders will be destroyed on November 1st that the issue is being worked on the lines usually adopted with speculative stamps. By the bye, we fancy we heard a similar promise about the Columbian set, which somehow missed fire. History has a curious knack of repeating itself. All the same we don't expect this will happen on this occasion; you see there are no 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 dollar stamps to be got rid of this time!

Portuguese Colonial Remainders.

Mr. J. Godhino in the *Philatelic Journal of India*, writes:—

"Portuguese papers recently received report that a large quantity of the postage stamps of the colonies are shortly to be disposed of by public auction at Lisbon. Their total face value is 1,400 *contos*, or nearly a quarter of a million sterling.

"What an enormous quantity of remainders there must be, when one bears in mind that the highest denomination until recently for the colonies was 200 *reis*, or 8*d*.

"This accumulation has been caused by issues of new types being periodically brought out in supercession of those in use. The quantities printed have been far in excess of the postal requirements of the several colonies. The centenary celebration stamps interfered with the regular and gradual exhaustion of the regular series in use, and partly contributed to the increase of the remainders. The public were not allowed to use the stamps in their possession. For instance, in Goa, a peremptory mandate of the Governor-General ordered the return to the Treasury of all the postage stamps forced out of circulation, the new ones being given in exchange. The result is the gigantic pile that is now to fall under the auctioneer's hammer.

"Over ten years ago, on the introduction of the stamps bearing in relief the effigy of D. Luis, all the stamps of the *Serviço Postal* series and of the Crown series (surcharged and unsurcharged) were, by order of the Minister, returned to Portugal and sold by public auction.

"These stamps could at all events claim the fact of *postal naturalization*, in the colony, to recommend themselves to the favour of Philatelists. The bulk of the stuff now being sold, however, has never left the Lisbon mint.

"Portugal, unlike Great Britain, auctions the so-called remainders of her overseas possessions, and pockets the proceeds herself!"

The New British Stamps.

Everything dealing with the forthcoming new stamps is of interest, especially when it bears the suspicion of having been inspired. We quote from *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*:—

"The printing of the new King's Head British stamps has now commenced. Will they be issued before the Coronation? We should not be surprised to see some of the values as early as Christmas.

"It is naturally impossible to estimate to a few thousand stamps the exact demand between now and any fixed date in the future, and a liberal rather than a meagre provision must be made. Consequently if the stamps all appear on a fixed date, it almost certainly means that large remainders of the old issue will be rendered useless, and large remainders mean a large loss, as stamps are expensive things to produce. In order to avoid this, the Post Office may decide to issue current stocks till exhausted and so by degrees make the change to "King's Head's."

"Be this as it may, printing from the new plates of the ½d. value is already authorised, the imprimatur sheet having been registered at Somerset House on September 26th. A correspondent sends us the following interesting note on the subject:—

"The first stamp (½d.) of our King's head series for use in Great Britain has been printed and the imprimatur sheet duly recorded and filed. The colour is a somewhat sagey green; the design, head *looking to left* in upright oval with curved label above and rectangular label below. The sheet is similar in size to the current issue, consisting 2 panes of 120 each, with space between panes filled in as at present; control letter A. For those who wish to keep a record, the writer is in a position to state that the imprimatur sheet was dated 26th Sept., 1901. The expression upon H.M.'s countenance is unlike that of any known portrait and is by no means complimentary, being strongly suggestive of supercilious contempt, a trait which our King does not possess. In view of this latter feature it seems doubtful whether the new issue will be received with much satisfaction."

Notes and News.

Priced Auction Catalogues.

In sending out the catalogues of their second sale of the season, Messrs. Plumridge & Co. have enclosed a list of prices realised at their previons sale, upon which is a notice that these will be sent in future to subscribers post free for 7s. 6d. for the season. As a guide to current auction prices, they add, these lists will be found invaluable, while, at the same time, they will enable collectors to send bids with a greater certainty of securing what they seek.

Messrs. Ventom, Bull & Cooper and Messrs. Puttick & Simpson also issue similar priced lists after their sales, and we only wish all our subscribers took them, as it would then save us the worry of deciding how far to go in chronicling the stamps sold by auction. We cannot help thinking that it would in the end be much to the advantage of the auctioneers to send out their lists free of charge as Messrs. Plumridge & Co. have done on this particular occasion.

A Vendre.

The fine collection of Holland and Colonies belonging to Mr. Van Kinschott is in the market. To anyone wanting the stamps of this country an exceptional opportunity presents itself.

Forthcoming Publications.

We understand a handbook on Grenada is in preparation and may be expected at the beginning of the year. Part II. of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons' Catalogue is announced for early in December.

The "Philatelic Journal of India."

We are delighted to hear that a successor, for next year at all events, to Mr. C. Stewart-Wilson has been obtained for the *Philatelic Journal of India*, otherwise this excellent paper would have stood a very good chance of dropping out. Mr. E. W. Wetherell is to sit in the editorial chair, and we wish him every success.

Mr Stewart-Wilson hopes to leave India in November for twelve months' rest.

The Holliday Collection.

Mr. J. C. North informs us that through the kindness of Mr. Thorp, the Secretary, and Mr. Mosley, the Curator, he has had the opportunity of looking through the Holliday collection. The stamps are contaiued in 18 vols. of Stanley Gibbons' Albums, with interchangeable leaves and sunk mounts Evidently Mr. Holliday had very little Philatelic knowledge, or, if he had, did not make use of it in the arrangement of his stamps, as they are simply mounted (on hinges) in rows across the pages, without regard to issue, shades, or perforations, the duplicates also being mounted on the same leaves. Many of the stamps are damaged specimens, and there are also a number of forgeries. Still, there are a few fairly good stamps in the collection, and it is certainly a groundwork upon which a good collection may be formed. Among the better class of stamps are:— Baden: 5 good used copies of 18kr., green. Wurtemburg: 18kr., silk thread, very fine used copy; 70kr., lilac, unused. Switzerland: 5c., Geneva. Modena: Large B.G., used, very fine. British Guiana, 1862, Provisional Stamps: 1c., rose; 2c., yellow; 4c, blue. There is a note in pencil above these three stamps:—"Had these 34 years, 1897, R.H." They are imperf. large margins and look to Mr. North very doubtful. Canada: Very fine used copies of 6d. imperf., brown-black, and 10d., blue. New Brunswick: Fine copy, used, of 3d., red. Nova Scotia: 8½ cents, used, fine. Newfoundland: vermilion, 2d. and 6d, used, and several of 1862 issue, lake, used. Nevis: Engraved 6d. and 1s., used, fine copies. New South Wales, Sydney views: Two 2d. and two 1d., with clouds, fine copies; also a poor copy of 3d., used, without clouds.

Mr. North suggests to the Library and Art Gallery Committee that they invite local Philatelists to form a Committee, with a view to arranging the collection on a scientific basis, and that power be given to this Committee to exchange all duplicates, or dispose of them to the advantage of the collection. He feels sure that if there are any advanced Philatelists in Huddersfield and district they would be pleased to do this, although it would entail an enormous amount of time and patience.

Celebrated Collections of France.

Count Durrieu's collection of France, as shown in the Hague, included all the fine things out of M. Haro's collection as exhibited in Paris last year. Count Durrieu purchased the latter collection a little while ago, a fact hitherto not known, besides which the Count has been a quiet, but assiduous collector for a long time. We deem it advisable that such a fact should be made public, in that some collectors are apt to jump at wrong conclusions as to the rarity of certain stamps when they continually see them described as being shown at different Exhibitions by different collectors, whereas the truth of the matter often is, as in this case that the stamps are the same ones, but a change of ownership, of which little or nothing is known, has occurred.

Price List of Africans.

We have received from the South African Stamp Company a copy of their retail price list. It is issued in a handy form, and only stamps which are on hand for sale are included. The present list is confined to Africans, in the obtaining of which this firm must surely have peculiar advantages, having branches at Cape Town, Johannesburg and Bloemfontein.

Birmingham Philatelic Society.

This Society has a busy session in front of it. Here is the Programme. We propose to refer at greater length to this Society and its work in the next number.

Oct. 17. Stamps of "Great Britain and Colonies." Sale and Exchange. Display of "Society's Forgery Collection."
Nov. 5. Display of "Great Britain and African Colonies," by Mr. W. B. Avery.
Nov. 21. Discussion "Great Britain," Line Engraved Stamps, by Mr. R. Hollick and others; followed by Display of New Issues by Members, and Exchange.
Dec. 5. Auction.
Jan. 9, 1902. Discussion "Great Britain"—Embossed Stamps; Paper "Tonga," by Mr. T. W. Peck.
Jan. 14, 15, 16, 17. Exhibition.
Feb. 6. Lantern Display, by Mr. J. A. Margoschis.
Feb. 27 and 28. Auction
Mar. 6. Display "Great Britain," by Mr. J. Steele Higgins.
Mar. 20. Discussion "De la Rue Plate Nos., 2½d. to 1/-." Mr. G. Johnson.
Mar. 20. Display "Ceylon," by Mr. W. S. Vaughton.
Apr. 10. Discussion "Great Britain, High Values and Recent Issues," by Mr. C. A. Stephenson; Display "Cyprus, Gibraltar, Malta," by Mr. W. Pimm.
May 1. Resumé of Great Britain.

French Stamps.

The Post Offices in France during the last nine months or so have been selling stamps of the old and new type promiscuously. The object of this was to dispose of all the old type in stock and to obviate any remainders. The Post Office, in their desire to make a clean sweep of the old type, turned out the whole of the old stock which had accumulated at the Head Offices and also at the Hotel de la Monnai. The result has been that several old Millesimes have become tolerably common as compared with the past. The stamps of the old type, however, are now all sold except the 5 francs, and these have been withdrawn, so that for the future only the new issue can be bought.

Sale of an Important Collection.

Baron A. de Reuterskiöld has sold his collection of Philippines. It was awarded a Bronze Medal, London, 1897, and an Extra Silver, Manchester, 1899. The collection is one of the strongest of this country known, and, being in the hands of the trade a fine opportunity is offered of acquiring a really good thing. Our American cousins are affecting "the Colonial spirit," so we do not anticipate much delay before one of them "comes along" to the Strand. This "Colony," Philatelically speaking, is about the best they possess.

The Tiffany Library.

The celebrated Philatelic library of the late Mr. T. K. Tiffany was sold some months ago. It enjoyed the reputation of being the finest in the States, although since they have lost it, our friends across the pond are swearing the one belonging to Mr. Deats is better. The purchaser was the Earl of Crawford, K.T. In addition to being an earnest Philatelist, curiously enough his lordship is a bibliographist of renown. His library at one time was one of the best in England. The combination of the two hobbies, in the purchaser, is a happy augury for the future of the library in question. We venture to assert it will not be long before it is universally admitted to be *hors ligne*.

Correspondence.

Philatelic Literature.

To the Editor of the "Philatelic Record."

SIR,—Relative to the reprints of Philatelic Literary Gems, there is an enquiry this month in the *Record* as to "Who is to be paid first, the printer, publisher, or author?" which will be answered when an Association or a publishing firm is found willing to act on the suggestion.

Whoever acts on the suggestion takes the responsibility of paying for what is ordered, but it is assumed that work would not be carried beyond the careful planning of the scheme without a guarantee of 2,000 subscribers for the series, with an arrangement that the remaining copies proposed should not be printed, if the probability of their sale seemed at all doubtful; in which case the cost could be kept at about £8,000, and the saintly job would not be emulated.—Your obedient servant,

THE EDITOR OF "STAMPS."

[We understood the critical note to refer to our correspondent's figures, which seemed to us also as rather large. To get 2,000 subscribers at £5 each would require more than a little doing, and where the next £5,000 was to come from we must confess we didn't ourselves quite see. A material reduction in the numbers would, we understand, considerably increase the proportionate cost, and to such an extent as to make the figures originally given of little value as a guide.—ED.]

THE

Philatelic Record.

DECEMBER, 1901.

Editorial Notes.

THE Transvaal exhibits at the recent South African Exhibition, at the London Philatelic Society's Rooms, raised the question of mere "gem" collecting. Those exhibits were almost entirely made up of what may be termed "gems." The Earl of Crawford's exhibit of Transvaals was indeed purposely and obviously confined to rarities, but Mr. Duveen's collection was quite as obviously inclusive of all issues; yet it was impossible to examine it and avoid the conviction that the ordinary issues were regarded as being of little or no importance compared with the rarities. Of the great rarities there was a splendid show, but the general issues were sadly neglected, both as to condition and range of shades.

On Gem Collecting.

Does this mean that our wealthy collectors run after the rarities to the neglect of the ordinary issues? Do they take up the stand that the normal issues are at the beck and call of the common herd, and that the priceless rarities can be the possession of the wealthy only. If so, then we imagine very few of us will be inclined to include such collectors in the ranks of Philately, for they can be, in no sense of the term, Philatelists, as that term is generally understood amongst us.

In other forms of collecting, such as china, books, coins, engravings, etc., the fashion of collecting the gems only obtains to a very considerable extent, especially amongst wealthy collectors. But it is to be hoped that the truest and best interests of Philately will not be jeopardised by any such discrimination. It must be the earnest prayer of every true Philatelist that a kind providence may protect our delightful hobby from the depredations of the rarity collector.

The grand display of Mr. Vernon Roberts' specialised collection of Cape of Good Hope also laid itself open to objection, but not for the same reason, as amongst the triangular issues the commoner ones were present in equal profusion to the rarities. The objection to the exhibit lay in the fact that the triangles were over-specialised to the detriment of the rectangles.

Much more to our mind as truly Philatelic displays, although by no means complete, were those of British Bechuanaland and Orange Free State, shown by the Earl of Crawford. In both instances the gems were not out of proportion to the ordinary issues, and the whole exhibits displayed considerable knowledge and acumen.

The monied man who knows little or nothing about a country may, with the aid of a shrewd dealer, make a collection of so-called

"gems," but it is only the true Philatelist who can marshall the issues of a country in such a comprehensive manner as to be entitled to Philatelic recognition and distinction.

Catalogue Rank.

Some day, in the sweet by and by, we shall have to face the difficult question of catalogue rank. We are drifting from year to year into a multitude of complexities of minor varieties, and when these have choked the pages of our recognised catalogues to repletion, there will, there must be, a reaction. Our industrious dealers will some day have to admit, reluctantly or otherwise, that they cannot go on for ever stuffing the helpless Philatelic fowl with their special food of unlimited minor varieties. The "poor critter" will give out some day.

Scan them if you will: compound perfs., ringing the changes from top to bottom, and from side to side; stops, large and small; stops that are a cross between a comma and a period; stops that are elevated, and stops that are depressed; letters that have been battered and bent in the war of rough usage; shakes and shivers of impressions that, under a powerful microscope, with the aid of a still more powerful imagination, shew some sort of a faint shadow of a double impression; engravers' cleaning of the lines of the die when printing fresh supplies, called by the high-plane, scientific Philatelist, "retouches"; and so on, without end.

How long is all this sort of thing to go on? Till the poor Philatelic fowl will stand no more. Just so, and what then? By that time it will be gorged, and no amount of tender solicitation will coax it back into healthy Philatelic life.

Is it wise to let things drift? Some of our friends assert that the inevitable remedy must be an authoritative catalogue issued with the imprimatur of the premier Society. It may be. Meanwhile, we feel powerless to do more than let the question ripen by discussion for judicious treatment. And let us admit that we too have sinned with the sinners. Our pages have been open to the high-plane specialist. Nevertheless, we may candidly ask ourselves and our fellow Philatelists, collectors as well as dealers, are we not pushing these things to an undesirable extent?

The Journal.

The attention of our readers is called to a notice appearing on the front page of the cover with reference to the future dates of publication. For the past two or three years the *Philatelic Record*, unlike other journals of a similar kind, has made, or should have made, its appearance a few days before the commencement of the month of which it bears the date. This may at the time seem a matter of little or no importance, but its disadvantage appears when reference is made to the files of various magazines for information about some new issue, or such an event, for instance, as the Exhibition just held by the London Philatelic Society. The account of this appears in the December number of the *Philatelic Record*, but in the November issue of the *London Philatelist*, the *Monthly Journal*, &c., and the date of publication being sometimes overlooked, an impression is created that this journal is by no means up-to-date with

its news. In order to obviate any such danger, and also to fall into line with other Philatelic publications, the *Record* will, after January next, be published on the 25th of the month to which it belongs—the next number, however, appearing on January 10th, so as to avoid the interval of eight weeks which would of necessity occur were it delayed until the 25th inst.

With the object of making the Magazine more of a Subscription Journal than heretofore, it will from the commencement of 1902 be published by the Philatelic Record Company, Ltd. Copies for which the late publishers have already been paid will of course be duly delivered, but new subscriptions should be sent to the Secretary of the Company, Mr. G. F. H. Gibson, 1, Clarence Street, Manchester.

Luxemburg.

By Jos. Schock,

President of "L'Union des Timbrophiles."

(Continued from Page 269.)

In the notice published on the 29th of September, 1859, the Government had informed the public that it proposed to issue postage stamps of 25, 37½ and 40 centimes. A few weeks afterwards, on the 20th of October, 1859, the Governor-General of Finance announced the issue of these three new values as follows :—

"Notice.—Post Office.—Postage Stamps.

"In the *Journal de Luxembourg* of the 29th of September last, I announced that the postal administration would sell in future, for the franking of letters, postage stamps of the value of *thirty* centimes, printed in lilac, and bearing the coat-of-arms of the Grand-Duchy.

"At the same time I announced that the postage stamps of 10 centimes and of one silbergroschen, with the portrait of the King Grand-Duke, when sold out, would be replaced by stamps of the same design as the 30 centimes, those of 10 centimes to be in blue and those of 12½ (one silbergroschen) in rose.

"To day I have to announce that the public can also obtain from the postal administration stamps of the value of 25 (2 silbergroschen), of 37½ (3 silbergroschen), and of 40 centimes. These stamps are of the same design as the 30 centimes and the new 10 and 12½ centimes.

"The only difference consists in the figure of value and in the colour of the impression, which is brown for the 25 centimes, green for the 37½ centimes, and yellow-orange for the 40 centimes."

These stamps are therefore of the same type as the 10, 12½ and 30 centimes issued a few weeks ago, and were also printed at Frankfurt o/M, by Naumann.

The following quantities were delivered to the postal administration:—

D.—Stamps of 25 centimes, brown, light and dark.

8th October, 1859..	102,600 Stamps.

E.—Stamps of 37½ centimes, green.

12th October, 1859	204,300 Stamps.

In this value a variety exists, in which the word centimes is spelt centi*n*es. Of this variety there are two specimens per sheet of 100 stamps, therefore in all 4,086 stamps.

M. Moëns, in his large catalogue, chronicles a variety with seven scallops under the word centimes similar to the 12½ centimes value.

F.—Stamps of 40 centimes, yellow orange, yellow and orange red.

8th October, 1856	103,000
22nd February, 1862	208,500
Total	311,500 Stamps.

All the stamps of these two issues were printed in sheets of 100 stamps in ten rows of ten. The spaces between the stamps are 1½—2 mm. vertically and 2 mm. horizontally. This small space between the stamps explains the difficulty of obtaining specimens having good margins all round; in fact, for each specimen with good margins on all sides there must be four with practically no margin on one side.

Issues of 1865-1874.

All the stamps issued from 1865-1874 are of the same type as those from 1859-1864. To facilitate the separating of the stamps the spaces between them were now pierced or rouletted, at first in white lines for the stamps used for printed matter 1, 2, and 4 centimes, and in coloured lines for the other values. After 1867 the stamps of 1 centime were also rouletted in coloured lines. The printing was again done by Naumann, of Frankfurt o/M.





A.—Rouletted in white lines.

Stamps of 1 centime, red-brown, pale and dark.

30th October, 1865	305,300 Stamps.

This stamp exists also imperforate, but it can be due only to an oversight. Most likely one or more sheets were overlooked in rouletting. It is said a few sheets were sold before they could be rouletted, but this is very hard to believe and cannot be proved.

Stamps of 2 centimes, black.

13th September, 1867	200,000	
29th December, 1869	503,000	
Total	703,000	Stamps.

I have a pair of this issue in my collection, which is imperforate between. In another pair the roulette goes right through the stamps.

Stamps of 4 centimes, ochre-yellow and yellow.

13th September, 1867	200,000	Stamps.

Stamps of 4 centimes, green, dark and light.

3rd July, 1871	300,000	Stamps.

B.—Rouletted in coloured lines.

Stamps of 1 centime, yellow-brown, yellow-orange, and yellow.

13th September, 1867	400,000	
29th December, 1869	1,102,500	
Total	1,502,500	Stamps.

Stamps of 1 centime, red-brown, dark and pale.

7th October, 1872	3,001,500	Stamps.

Stamps of 10 centimes, lilac, dark and pale.

30th October, 1865	1,499,900	Stamps.

Stamps of 10 centimes, reddish violet, dark and pale.

30th June, 1868	2,002,600	Stamps.

Stamps of 10 centimes, bluish violet, dark and pale.

3rd July, 1871	2,999,700	Stamps.

Stamps of 12½ centimes, carmine, dark and pale.

26th June, 1865	110,000	
29th November, 1866	299,900	
30th June, 1868	500,500	
3rd July, 1871	600,100	
24th April, 1873	1,501,100	
Total	3,011,600	Stamps.

Stamps of 20 centimes, brown, dark and pale, and bistre.

13th September, 1867	200,000	
29th December, 1869	201,000	
Total	401,000	Stamps.

(To be continued).

Notable Philatelists.

Jonkheer C. Ph. L. van Kinschot.

TO specialists in the stamps of Holland and Colonies the above name will be quite familiar, while our readers will recognise the winner of the Queen of Holland's Medal at the recent Exhibition.

A collector for the last twenty-five years, at the start as a general collector, commencing in 1876 with the 20 reis, olive, 1866 Portugal, remembered owing to the embossed head being loose, Mr. van Kinschot, by degrees, became more and more drawn to Holland and Colonies, and at the present time collects nothing else.

His collection is framed upon the following lines:—

Proofs and Essays of all stamps and cards.

"Specimen" stamps.

Stamps unused, single copies showing all types and perforations.

,, ,, in blocks of four and strips of three.

,, used, single copies showing all types and perforations.

,, ,, in blocks of four and strips of three.

Entire sheets if they show more than one type, *e.g.*, the unpaids, envelopes, cards, letter cards, unused and used.

Postal forms.

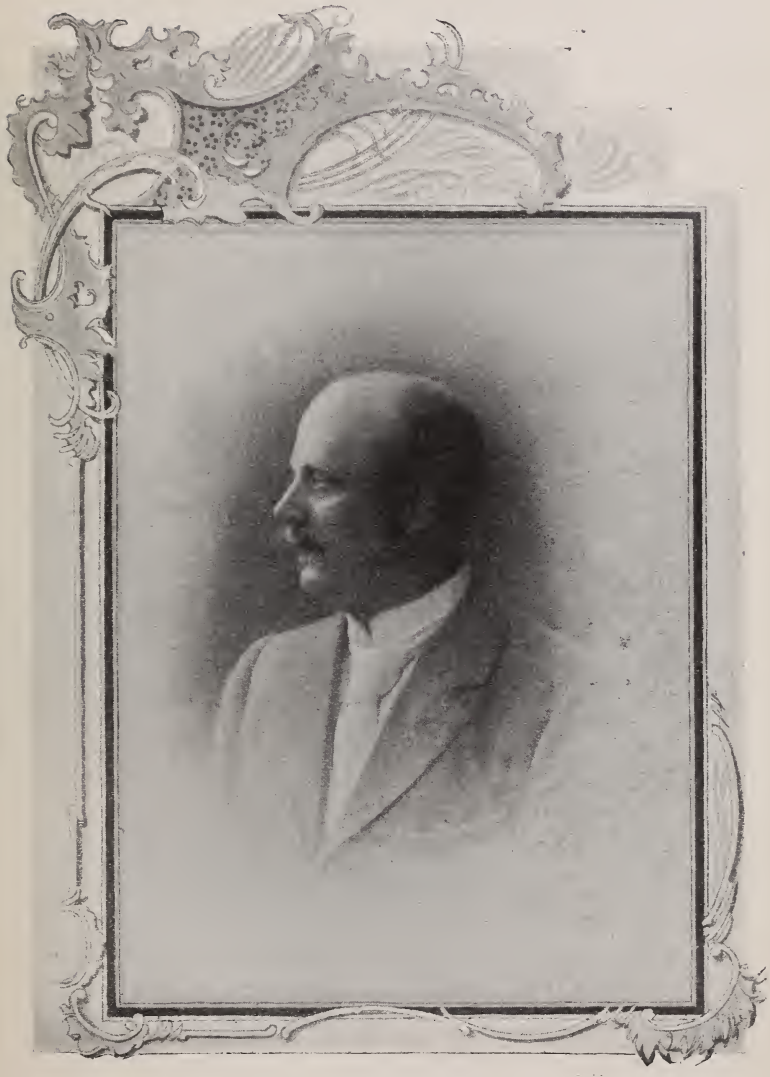
Obliterations in the most extensive way, that is to say:—

(i.) Obliterations used or still in use of *each* Post Office in Holland and Colonies. (Town obliterations.)

(ii.) Each distinctive obliteration, *e.g.*, FRANCO, etc., on as many different stamps of Holland and Colonies as possible. So perfect is this portion of the collection that it forms in itself almost a complete collection of Holland and Colonies, omitting perforations.

Having regard to the critical remarks contained in the October number upon this collector's *penchant* for strips of three, it is interesting to see what he himself says on the subject.

"I have no special reason for collecting strips of three, except that they are not so easy to get as blocks of four. Blocks of four and strips of three of common stamps (early issues) are not always easy to find, for instance, it took me years to get unused a block of four 20c., 1872, and a strip of three 10c., 1872. Again, there are many stamps which are not high priced, but which it is very difficult to get in blocks. One may perhaps only see them once in five years. These difficulties induced me to get them. True, a block of four is enough to show the perforations, and I should highly appreciate a collection—



Jonkheer C. Ph. L. van Kinschot.

not so extensive as mine—but consisting wholly of blocks of four of each value, each type, and each perforation. The 1867 issue *must* be collected in as large blocks as possible, as there are sheets with two (perhaps more) varieties on the same sheet. We don't know how these varieties are placed, and this is what we must find out. Sheets with varieties should always be collected entire, that is why I collect the unpaid stamps in this way, an entire sheet of one value in each different setting. These stamps are quite a study to me, they have taught me so much; in fact, they are a guide to many collectors of Holland and Colonies. To collect entire sheets where the stamps are all the same is useless, a single specimen or a block of four at the most is enough.

"Shades? There is a beginning and no end. It is better not to collect them; besides, they are nearly all to be found in the perforations. If anyone likes to see them they can see them there in my collection."

Mr. van Kinschot finds much difficulty now-a-days in obtaining anything fresh for his collection; in fact, he says it is terribly hard to get Holland unused, especially some types of the Unpaids in the different perforations. "If you examine your Stanley Gibbons, Kohl, etc., there are not many stamps, but try and get them together in an extensive way with types and perforations, and you will see it is not easy, you will have to struggle to get them—if you do get them—it is just that which proves whether you are a collector or not."

Mr. van Kinschot was the author of "Proofs and Essays of Holland," published as a supplement to the "Timbres des Pays Bas" of M. Moëns. His collection of these stamps is reputed to be the best known. Dealing with the literature on his favourite country, Mr. van Kinschot frankly admits it is behind the times, the information contained in the work published by the Dutch Society being altogether out of date, it requires extensive revision on account both of sins of commission and sins of omission. The following two examples are given, one of each class:—

Holland, 1869, 1½c., Perf. 11½. Bogus.

Holland, 1867, 15c., Perf. 10½ (all the 1867 are in two types); but of this more anon. There is a new edition coming.

"Proofs and Essays I have always found very interesting and I learn much from them. There are many questions (questions brulantes) in Holland and Colonies which are unravelled by their study. Obliterations, too, are useful, but in quite a different way.

"The first exhibition in which I took part was held at The Hague in 1896. I showed the next year in London, then at Utrecht in 1898, in Paris in 1900, and, lastly, at The Hague last August. Altogether I have been awarded 19 Medals and one Diploma, and one Medal for my Philatelic Library, but the one which I value above all is the 'Medaille d'honneur' awarded to me at The Hague Exhibition for the best collection of Holland and Colonies."

Crete.

The Issues of 1900-1.

By Guy Semple.

THOUGH the stamps coming under above heading can hardly be called scarce, with perhaps two or three exceptions, still, owing to the various surcharges, not only has there been considerable doubt hitherto as to the existence of certain surcharged and unsurcharged varieties, but in the case of the unpaid letter stamps a whole series has incorrectly been allotted to that purpose.

It may, therefore, not be unnecessary to give a few particulars of the different varieties that have been and are issued for postal and for unpaid letter service.

When the regular postal service was inaugurated in March, 1900, nine stamps of the following denominations were put on sale:—1 lepton, 5, 10, 20, 25, 50 lepta, and 1, 2, and 5 drachma, the last five were surcharged in red "ΠΡΟΣΩΡΙΝΟΝ," or "Provisional." The necessity for this overprint has been explained before in these columns (p. 113).



The number issued of the three higher values was not a large one and they were soon used up. They were then replaced by another supply, this time bearing the surcharge in black, also effected in London as in the case of the red. These in their turn were absorbed in a few months, when the Cretan Government caused the same surcharge to be applied locally, instead of making a further requisition to London for its wants.

I do not find any difference in the measurement of these two varieties, but the Cretan overprint is quite distinct; as instead of being in the deep and even black of the first lot, the colour is irregular, sometimes appearing almost to be grey.

Without surcharge there are now in use of the higher values 25, 50 lepta, 1, 2, 5 drachma; while surcharged in black there are the 25 lepta (London print), and the 1, 2, 5 drachma (local print). The 50 lepta ultramarine has not been surcharged.

I have seen no errors or varieties in either sets, and do not think any exist with the exception of the 1 drachma lilac and red with

overprint at the top of the stamp and inverted. These were discovered early, confiscated, and burnt, but not before some thirty or forty copies had got into circulation.

Besides the above-mentioned there are nine varieties of postage due stamps, 1 lepton, 5, 10, 20, 40, 50 lepta, 1 and 2 drachma, and the 1 drachma surcharged " I ΔΡΑΧΜΗ " in black to distinguish it from the 1 lepton, the colour and design being identical.



To recapitulate, therefore, there are to date the following varieties of stamps for postal purposes:—

Unsurcharged.	Surcharged in red.	Surcharged in black. (*a*) London print. (*b*) Local print.
1 lepton, red-brown		
5 lepta, green		
10 ,, scarlet		
20 ,, rose		
20 ,, orange		
25 ,, blue	25 lepta	25 lepta (*a*)
50 ,, lilac	50 ,,	50 ,, (*a*)
50 ,, ultramarine		
1 drachma, violet	1 drachma	1 drachma (*a* & *b*)
2 ,, brown	2 ,,	2 ,, ,,
5 ,, green-black	5 ,,	5 ,, ,,

Variety—1 drachma, red surcharge, inverted at the top of the stamp.

An Interesting Discovery.

By G. B. Duerst.

M. MAURY has added one more item to our knowledge of the French stamps by the discovery that the name of the *engraver of the Bordeaux issue appears on the stamps themselves. That his name, or at least his initial, did exist on the design had been suspected for a long time, as nearly all the French stamps are adorned in this manner; but the exact position had not been discovered, at least it had not been published.

To M. Maury, therefore, belongs the honour of the discovery. Of course, since the publication, several collectors have come forward to say that they have known it for years. If so, they should have made it public, not that there is the slightest profit to be derived from it; if there had been, an excuse for the non-publication might be found, but all the same, such an excuse is not one which appeals to me. In this case I fail to see any reason why such an interesting discovery if made before should have been kept secret.

To show where to look for the name "Yon" of the engraver, an enlarged illustration is given, which requires no further explanation.



Every collector will now be enabled to test the matter for himself. The name can be best seen on the 5 and 40 centimes stamps. On the 30 centimes stamps the name is not on the leaf, but on one of the berries of the grape. On the 20 and 80 centimes it has not been found yet. The first type of the 20 centimes cannot of course contain the name "Yon," being by another *engraver.

M. Maury concludes a long article by saying: "Believe us, the name does exist on the stamps. It can be seen on about 1 per cent. Even on well and clearly-printed specimens it is only to be found in very few instances, the majority of them are quite innocent of it. To look for it will make you grey, impair your eyesight, and might lead to language not fit to print. Be warned in good time. If you don't you will wish afterwards you had been!"

* This word is evidently used by Mr. Duerst in a figurative sense in this article, as the stamps themselves were lithographed.—Ed.

Reviews.

History of Railway Letter Stamps.

By H. L'Estrange Ewen.

WE have received from Mr. L'Estrange Ewen a copy of his recently published "History of Railway Letter Stamps," consisting of a very handsome volume running into 430 pages, beautifully printed on good paper, and profusely illustrated.

The first thing which surprised us on opening the parcel, and seeing the book and its title, was the enormous thickness of the volume. In our ignorance we little dreamed that over 400 pages could be devoted to this subject, and the more we read the more we marvel at the care and thoughtful labour which has been expended upon it, and which we are heartily pleased to see. The work in question makes it abundantly evident that the stamps can be studied and arranged according to the most advanced ideas of Philatelic specialism, for not only are different papers and perforations collected, but plating occurs: *i.e.* sheets are reconstructed and distinctions drawn between the first, second, third and fourth transfers in the case of some Companies. In fact there seems to be opened out to anyone interested in this kind of thing an entirely fresh field, equal in extent to that afforded by the early issues of New South Wales, if lacking the unique interest and charm which attaches to those grand old stamps.

Few of the younger collectors can afford to plate Sydneys now-a-days, but some of the older ones amongst us look back with pleasure upon the delights of the dark ages of the late seventies and early eighties when we were doing our little best to reconstruct these, as well as the Laureateds. Those days are past; Sydneys can no longer be bought at half-a-crown or five shillings each, or Laureateds for a few shillings a score; and above all, the work has been done so often that its charm is lost; but apart from the pleasure, the hard work had another excellent feature, for it was the Philatelic making of many an expert of to-day. and this is why we urge any young collector, who has an inclination towards Railway stamps, to study them upon the lines laid down in the book under notice. Never mind whether they are postage stamps, strictly speaking or not—personally we do not think they are—but all the same they are akin to them, and may be the means of turning a collector into a Philatelist. They are for the most part cheap, and cause the student to grapple with delicate differences when he has to plate them, or to distinguish between various transfers, so that with much less expense than would otherwise be the case, he will acquire the trained eye which is indispensable to every true expert.

The stamps are arranged under the headings of the different Railway Companies, 106 in number, which are given in alphabetical

order, the English and Welsh Lines in one group, the Scotch in another, and the Irish in a third. Under each heading appears a brief historical and geographical account of the undertaking, followed in nearly every case by full particulars of the printer, number of stamps issued, qualities of paper used, and minute details of the variations to be found on every stamp in each transfer. Mr. Ewen's book seems to lend the greatest possible support to the already important claims which the collectors of Railway Letter Stamps are making that this subject should be recognised as a genuine branch of Philately.

Whitfield King's Catalogue.

The third edition has been received, as we were going to press, of the Universal Standard Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of the World, published by Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., the old-established firm, of Ipswich. We think our shorter heading is the better one, as in it our readers will recognise a new edition of a catalogue with which they are already familiar.

The object in view when the first edition was published was to furnish general collectors with a standard catalogue of the stamps of the world in a form which could be readily understood. All varieties of perforation, of type, and minor varieties of every description, were eliminated, leaving only what may aptly be described as primary varieties, such as every general collector and every beginner would at once see he must collect. The main feature of the catalogue is its simplicity, the chief aim in compiling being the adoption of such a system of arrangement as would enable a collector, even the veriest beginner, to find the description and price of any desired stamp with the greatest ease. This has been carried out in a most satisfactory way in the present edition, while improvements have been made in the classification of a number of countries, including Ceylon, Great Britain, Malta, Mauritius, United States, etc.

All the Morocco locals, and Chinese locals, except Shanghai, as well as the Great Barrier Island Pigeon Post stamps, have been omitted, it being the intention of the publishers to confine the catalogue in future to Government issues only.

Upon turning over the leaves and scanning the pages of certain countries we must confess to heaving a sigh of relief, and a feeling of contentment gradually came over us in noting the utter absence of minor varieties of any kind. The pages carried our minds back to the days of Messrs. Alfred Smith & Co.'s catalogue, times when differences in perforation were not recognised, and indeed known only to very few; days when the presence or absence of stops were never dreamed of. Then, a dealer would sell you a stamp, simply looking at the face to see what value it was, not caring whether it was perforated or imperforated, and caring still less whether it was $12\frac{1}{2}$ or 14, let alone compound or double compound. Those happy days we fear are gone past recall, and the appearance of a catalogue, like the one in question, springs up like an oasis in a desert. Yet it is none the less refreshing

for all that, at least we found it especially so after the perusal of another work written in the highest flights of modern Philately.

To the beginner we cannot too heartily commend the book as a guide, to the advanced Philatelist of modern ideas we commend it equally, heartily hoping he will turn to it when he has a bad attack of double compound perforations, inverted stops and double watermarks, one appearing on the face and a different one on the back of the stamp.

To say the book is perfect would be absurd, the ground it covers is too great to reasonably expect it. Having regard to the scheme of the book, it is one which it is most difficult to criticise, especially as to omissions, all of which may have been intentional. The first country we turned to was Greece, and from the catalogue it would appear the first Athens printed 1 lep. and 2 lep. were issued in 1878, which is, of course, ridiculous, and at the same time an unfortunate impression to engrave upon the mind of a student. There are some stamps omitted altogether from the list which are as distinct as others included. We also note that the Paris printed 10 lep. without figures on the back is included and priced used, a condition in which the first specimen has yet to be found. This is only an instance of the absurdity of pricing any stamps not for sale at the time of going to press. There are other glaring examples of mistakes of prices in the catalogue, especially in the older stamps, and mistakes which form a hindrance to beginners rather than an assistance, which the publishers desire. In Roumania, the 5 bani, error, rose, of 1879, would have been much better omitted, as it is not accepted now as an issued stamp, and all the unused ones about make it dangerous to put £6 down as its value. In France the 10c. Unpaid Lithograph is omitted. In Cape of Good Hope, we think the two errors in the 3d. on 4d. blue might well have been included. In British Guiana the 1862 provisionals are listed, and an illustration given; a note should have followed mentioning the fact that the borders surrounding these stamps vary in a marked degree. Attention to these and other instances would all tend to improve the work and make it a still more valuable book of reference for the general collector. The published price, 1s. 3d., is really nominal for a book of this description, which is extensively illustrated throughout, and in regard to current and recent issues, the speciality of Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. will be found a most useful guide to prices.



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

G. Fred. H. Gibson, *1, Clarence Street, Manchester.*

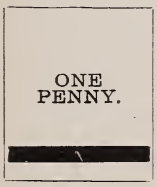
The British Empire.

British Central Africa.—The *Monthly Journal* chronicles a newly-discovered error in the cheque stamp provisionals of 1898. It consists of the imperforate variety with the embossed centre inverted.

Adhesive.

1d., red and blue, imperf. *Variety*, centre inverted.

Gold Coast.—The current 2½d. and 6d. have been surcharged "One Penny," in two lines, with a bar over original value. The type is very similar to that employed for the provisional of 1889. We have not been able to examine complete sheets for varieties, &c., though we have noticed a specimen of the 1d. on 6d. in which the N of ONE is from a different fount, being smaller and thinner. In addition to this, Mr. Ostara advises us that he has seen a very curious pane, in which eight stamps were innocent of any surcharge, two had slight traces of the overprint, while the remaining fifty were normal.



Adhesives.

1d. on 2½d., lilac and blue.
1d. on 6d., lilac and mauve.

Newfoundland.—Appropriately on the very day of the home-coming of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall the new 4c. of the Royal series made its first appearance on this side, and it is not by any means the least pleasing of the set, the design being bold while the colour is a rich shade of purple.



Adhesive.

Perf. 12, no wmk. 4c., purple.

Las Bela.—We have a hideous label for this State; it is printed in black on bright orange paper, and is pin perforated 11½.



Adhesive.

1 anna, black on orange.

Seychelles.—In addition to the varieties listed in October, we now have the 10 cents surcharged 3 cents in a similar manner.

Adhesive.

3 cents in black on 10c., ultramarine and bistre.

Foreign Countries.

Bulgaria.—We have been shown the new set by Mr. Peckitt. They bear in the centre a portrait of Prince Ferdinand, the frame and lettering being in white on a coloured ground, while the numerals at top are printed in the same colour as that of the portrait. As will be seen below, they are of slightly a larger size than usual.



Adhesives.

Perforated 12½, no wmk.

1 st., black and purple.
2 ,, blue and slate green.
3 ,, black and orange.
5 ,, brown and green.
10 ,, brown and rose.
15 ,, black and lake.
25 ,, black and blue.
30 ,, black and brown.
50 ,, brown and deep blue.
1 leva, deep green and red.
2 ,, black and red.
3 ,, lake-brown and grey.

Chile.—As the contract with the American Bank Note Company called for the delivery of the new stamps by September last, it is possible they may now be in circulation. The quantities to be furnished were as follows :—

Postage Adhesives.

1c. green	5,000,000
2c. rose	6,000,000
5c. blue	10,000,000
10c. red, black centre ..	1,000,000
30c. violet ,, ...	2,000,000
50c. orange ,, ...	100,000

Telegraphs.

2c. ?	2,000,000
5c. ?	2,000,000
10c. ?	2,000,000
20c. ?	2,000,000

Post Cards.

1 centavos	500,000
2 centavos	1,000,000

Envelope.

5 centavos	6,000,000

The design is the work of Herminio Ernesto Arias.—*Ewen's Weekly*.

Colombia.—No further war provisionals yet to hand, but the *Monthly Journal* lists a 50c. of the same design as the 10c. of 1898-9.

Adhesive.

No wmk., perf. 13½.
50c., blue on lilac.

Corea. — The full word mysteriously abbreviated to "Wn." in the two higher values listed in November, is, we find, "Woon," hardly long enough, one would think, to render further cryptic in this manner.

Costa Rica.—We see by the *Monthly Journal* that the current set up to the 20c. has been overprinted "Oficial," horizontally in black.

Adhesives.

1c., black and green,	surcharged in black.
2c., black and vermilion	,, ,,
5c., black and pale blue	,, ,,
10c., black and ochre	,, ,,
20c., black and claret	,, ,,

Crete.—Though of course it is possible the 5dr. unpaid letter stamp referred to in our last may exist as an essay or proof later to be issued as a stamp of this denomination, our correspondent at Canea informs us that nothing is known of it there for the present.

Curacoa.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the 20c. unpaid letter stamp, now issued in the current type, with the word "cent" in the circle below the value. There are yet the 30, 40 and 50c. to be issued.

Adhesive.

20 cents, black and green.

Dominican Republic.—The *I. B. J.* chronicles a new set. The stamps are printed in two colours, and are perf. 14; they are of rather a similar design to the 1885-91 set, but we hope to give an illustration in our next issue.

½c., rose,	arms in lilac.
1c., olive-green	,,
2c., green	,,
5c., red-brown	,,
10c., orange	,,
20c., violet	,,
50c., black	,,
1 peso, brown	,,

Le Timbrophile Belge also lists a set of postage due stamps, but gives no particulars of design, &c.

Adhesives.

2 centavos,	black.
4 ,,	,,
5 ,,	,,
10 ,,	,,

Djibouti.—Three new types of stamps for this Colony are illustrated in *Les Archives des Collectioneurs;* whether the whole of the current set is to be altered, or whether these designs are for higher values only is not stated. It is to be hoped the latter is the case, for we can only say with regard to their appearance that, for general hideousness, they run the recent Congo set very close.

France. St. Pierre and Miquelon.—We have the current 10c. rose surcharged "Colis Postaux" in tall thin type in one line.

Adhesive.

10c., rose and blue, surcharged in black.

The following Colonies have been provided with the 10, 15, 25, and 50 centimes in new colours:

French Soudan.	Ivory Coast.
Mayotte.	Martinique.
Guadeloupe.	Reunion.
French Congo.	French Guiana.
Dahomey.	St. Pierre & Miquelon.
French Guinea.	Senegal.

Adhesives.

10c., rose on grey.
15c., pearl grey.
25c., blue on bluish.
50c., brown on blue.

Holland.—The current 5 cents is now coming over in a new shade.

Adhesive.

5c., rose-red.

Hungary.—The 6 filler of the current type now appears in a new colour, watermark and perforation as before.

Adhesive.

6 filler, olive yellow and black.

Nicaragua.—The contract between the Postmaster-General of this country (Nicaragua) and Senor Asenjo, whereby a new series of postage stamps was to be issued yearly and the remainder of the old issue postmarked and placed on sale through a prominent New York dealer, has been cancelled by the Nicaraguan officials, who paid the New York parties for the privilege of withdrawing from the contract. There will be no new issue for 1901 and the present set will remain in use until changed for postal reasons.—*Metropolitan Philatelist.*

Italy.—The five stamps completing the new set are now to hand; the 40, 45, and 50c. are of practically the same design as the 10c., illustrated in August, but the 1 lira and the 5 lire have the inscription "Poste Italiane" at the top of the stamp, and the value beneath the head; while following the precedent set in the previous issue they are printed in two colours. Watermark crown, perforated 14.



Adhesives.

40c., dark brown.
45c., dull green.
50c., purple.
1 lira, brown and blue green.
5 lire, blue and pale rose.

Roumania.—*Ewen's Weekly* reports the 15 bani of the current type, printed in grey on white paper, with the usual pink gum, perforated 11½, and without watermark.

Adhesive.

15 bani, grey.

Servia. — We have been shown by Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. the 1 dinar of 1896, red on blue, surcharged 15 para in black.

Adhesive.

15 para in black on dinar red on blue.

Exhibition of the Stamps of the South African Colonies.

By W. Dorning Beckton.

A PRIVATE Exhibition of the Stamps of the above Colonies, illustrative of the war in South Africa, was held in the Rooms of the Philatelic Society, London, on Saturday, November 16th, 1901.

The admission, for which no charge was made, was by ticket obtainable from any member of the Society. A large number of members and friends availed themselves of the opportunity offered and passed through the rooms during the day, but with the exception of about one hour in the afternoon, they were never inconveniently crowded. This was due to the miserable weather prevailing—cold, and a London fog, having their effects even upon Philatelic attendances. Taking all into consideration, it was eminently satisfactory.

The arrangements were in the hands of a sub-committee, Mr. H. R. Oldfield acting as Hon. Sec. The machine-like precision with which everything dovetailed together, the stamps sent in just fitting the frames at disposal, and the whole of the available space being filled to a nicety, displayed for the second time what a really excellent organiser Mr. Oldfield is.

The space at the disposal of the Exhibition Committee was limited, and therefore, at the outset, it was recognised that every member of the Society could not participate in the display. Invitations to exhibit were consequently sent to certain members of the Society who were reputed to be the possessors of collections of merit of the several Colonies to be shown.

The response to this invitation was of the most flattering kind, and the display made one to be held in remembrance by those privileged to see it. It was a matter of universal regret that Mr. Avery, who had promised to exhibit Natal, was unable to do so owing to the serious illness of his wife, otherwise the arrangements were carried out to the letter.

As affording an idea of the completeness of the several exhibits, I may mention that they were insured for £20,000. Being a Lancastrian myself, I may perhaps be pardoned in pointing out that nine of the seventeen exhibits hailed from my county, a fact of which one had every reason to feel proud.

The space at my disposal is limited, so I pass at once to a short description of each exhibit.

British Bechuanaland.

The Earl of Crawford, K.T.—A well-balanced collection of singles, pairs, and blocks of four, unused, and single specimens, used. I noticed the ½d. surcharged in red and black; with B omitted, the ½d.

and 1d. The 1887 issue included the £1 and £5, unused; 1888, 2d., *green* surcharge; British Bechuanaland in green on ½d., Cape, double surcharge, one inverted; double, one sideways; British Protectorate in green on ½d., double surcharge; small Protectorate ½d., inverted surcharge; two blocks of four, and pair, unused, and single, used; large Protectorate block of four, two pairs. In 1888 issue, unappropriated dies with additional surcharge of value; pair of the 1d., showing variety 1 and d spaced. End of 1891 issue, error R omitted on 2d., used.

British South Africa.

Mr. Eliot Levy showed his well-known collection of these stamps, which is built upon the lines of a single and pair of each, unused, and one to three specimens, used. The first issue, on thin wove paper, complete, including unused and used specimens of the £1, £2, £5 and £10; March, 1891, Provisionals; and 1896, 1d. on 3, and 1d. on 4s., both unused and used. The later issues were all shown as indicated above.

Mr. C. E. Fagan showed 4d., blue, with the word Company omitted from the surcharge.

Cape Colony.

Mr. Vernon Roberts' Capes should not require any description in this Journal, because, having been displayed at two exhibitions within the last three years, that work ought to have been done for these pages before. However, we all do not do what we always should do, and in respect of descriptions of exhibitions this Journal has hitherto been lamentably weak.

The triangles are superb, containing (all unused) the following:—1d., bleuté, nice range; 4d., pair (? bleuté); three singles, one being really the right thing; 6d., six singles, showing more or less traces of blueing. On white paper; the brown-red pennies, several, but all showing more or less traces of blueing. The other shades of red, blocks of 24, 12, 8, 8, and pairs, one pair rouletted; 4d., two blocks of 8; 6d., slate-lilac, 13 singles and a pair (cleaned ?), this is a very rare stamp in a pair; 6d., lilac, block of four and two pairs, superb, and seven singles; 1s., dark green, block of four, five pairs and five singles; yellow-green, nine singles. Woodblocks, 1d., block of four, mint, superb, single, very fine, and three others; 4d., full blue; 4d., pale blue, pair, fine, four singles, one superb, two very fine. De la Rue prints: numerous pairs and blocks of all values, including a block of 32 of each value, and an additional block of the like number of the 6d. and 1s., emerald green, in lighter shades.

When you find the unused triangles in greater profusion than you feel able to chronicle, it is little use attempting to describe the used, which are in equal profusion. The most prominent were two specimens of the 4d. and 6d., rouletted, and in the woodblocks, 1d., a block of four, five pairs and 51 singles; 4d., deep blue to blue, 28 singles; blue to pale blue, 9 pairs and 61 singles; also an envelope bearing two 4d., and another cut in half, addressed to Victoria—although not shown as a provisional, it is quite possible this half made up the tenpenny rate to Victoria, in which case the envelope would be unique. The errors of the woodblocks contained 1d., blue, a pair (1d. and 4d.,

se-tenant), and three singles; 4d., red, two; 4d., pale blue, right-hand corner retouched, four singles and a pair showing this interesting variety, and a dark blue so-called variety PENCK, due, in my opinion, to too heavy printing. As illustrating the strength of the triangles, considerably over a thousand were shown, fully half being unused. Coming after such gigantic strength, the rectangulars were disappointing, the errors on the 4d., the halfpenny on the 3d., C.C., and the 5s., C.A., only being shown, used. It was in consequence of Mr. Vernon Roberts being so disappointed with the display of this Colony at the London Exhibition of 1897 that he determined to collect them, with a view to exhibiting them in a manner worthy of these grand stamps, bearing in mind the source of interest they are to non-collectors, and in view also of the many Philatelists who have in the first instance been attracted by them. I am only re-echoing the general verdict when I add that, in regard to the particular stamps Mr. Roberts had in his mind at the time, he has succeeded beyond even what he dared to hope for at first. To make the collection perfect, I should take away from the triangles, leaving only the superb copies—it is abundantly strong enough to do this—and add to the rectangles. The collection cannot be touched to-day by any other collector of this Colony, but to do this would make it unbeatable.

Mafeking.

Mr. A. H. Stamford had some very rare varieties, including the large Baden-Powell, reversed head; 1d. on ½d., British Protectorate, block of four inverted surcharge; 1s. on 4d., British Protectorate, block of four, lower pair double surcharge; strip of three double surcharge, one inverted; strip of three, treble surcharge; 3d. on 1d, double surcharge; 6d. on 3d., British Protectorate.

Mr. H. R. Oldfield displayed a collection in which the most noticeable were unused Cape stamps, surcharged ÷ 1d. on ½d. (1st type) strip of three; 3d. on 1d., pair; 1s. on 4d. British Bechuanaland stamps, surcharged ÷ 1d. on ½d., strip of three; 3d. on 1d., pair; 6d. on 2d.; ditto, sans serif type ÷ 3d. on 1d., 6d. on 2d. 1s. on 6d.

Two shades of the bicycles, one very dark and a complete sheet, and a small B.-P. head. Amongst the used were two entire envelopes, franked with several different values, one of the envelopes having quite a romance attaching to it.

The Earl of Crawford's exhibit included a large number in blocks of four, unused, and the following rarities:—1s. on 4d., Cape; 1d. on ½d., Cape, second type (a strip of 3); 6d. on 3d., British Protectorate; 1s. on 6d., British Bechuanaland; 1s. on 4d., British Bechuanaland. A number of small B.-P.'s, and Bicycles, with an entire sheet of the latter in a light shade. Large B.-P. head, a nice range of four shades. In the used I noticed British Protectorate 1d. on ½d., inverted surcharge; 1s. on 4d., British Bechuanaland, block of four; 6d. on 3d., British Bechuanaland, and two similar blocks unused.

Griqualand.

Mr. W. Dorning Beckton displayed a number of stamps, principally unused, containing large blocks as follows:—G. W., in red, on 4d. (17); large G, in red, on ½ (109), this was a double pane from the

bottom of the sheet from which several stamps had been removed; also the part pane illustrated in the Society's Work, and by means of the other block the positions of the missing types can now be allotted; large G, in black, on 1d., entire pane and large blocks all of the later setting; large G, in red, on 6d., blocks of five and three and several pairs; on 1s., blocks of 26 and four; 5s. block of 13, and three singles; the large G, in black, on 4d., a block of 32, with margins, from the top right-hand pane; and in the 6d. a specimen which bore apparently traces of the surcharge in red in addition. The small antique surcharges on 1d., a large block of 44; and the various inverted and double surcharges on the ½d., 1d., and 4d.; the 4d., with the outer line, used. The small G all the values unused in pairs and strips of each, except the 5s., of which only one was shown in this state; various double, inverted, and treble surcharges, used.

Mr. R. B. Yardley shewed large G, in black, of the third setting, on the 1d., a double pane, the left-hand one being perfect, but the right-hand one had several stamps missing from the top right. In this condition the exhibit was, however, of the greatest value, as happily by its means, and the block of the 4d. above referred to, the types on this setting up can now be all located. Mr. Yardley is to be heartily congratulated on the possession of such an interesting double pane.

Natal.

Mr. T. W. Hall's stamps were all mounted in his inimitable style, the model of neatness. The first issues, rather weak, including, however, superb 1d. rose, large margins, fine colour, and deeply embossed; a nice strip of three 1d. blues, and a very fine 6d., green, with large margins; interesting pages of reprints, and perforated fiscals on surface coloured paper, the latter including a pair of 3d., tête bêche.

The earlier unsurcharged stamps included an unused block of four, of the 1d., rose red, no wmk., perf. 14; some nice shades of the Crown C.C., 1d. of 1864, and five unused copies of various shades of the 1s. Crown C.C., of 1867. Amongst the 1869 surcharges:—*Tall capitals*, three unused singles, and a pair of 1d., and a beautiful unused 3d., with rough perforation. Postage 12¾ millimetres:—All unused except the 1s., which was used; the best stamps of this issue were a pair of 1d., and a 3d., perf. 14. The 13¾ and 15½ millimetres postage were weak, although I noticed the 1d., 3d., and 6d. of the 14½ to 15½ millimetres, with an uncatalogued variety showing the letters S and T of postage from another fount. The postage with stop were shown, with the surcharge both at the bottom and at the top of the stamps; the latter variety including two nice unused 1s. The later stamps and surcharges were shown both used and unused, witn the exception of the 1s., green, of 1870, surcharge in black, which was used as usual. All the 5s., including the two rare maroons, were shown, unused, and both the 1d. and 6d. of 1895, with postage inverted. The collection was stronger in the later surcharges and varieties. Of the 1877-9 issues the 1d. on 6d. rose was shown, with inverted and double surcharges; the ½d. on 1d., yellow, double surcharge, inverted, and also without bar—the latter must evidently have come from the top row of the sheet, on which the surcharge having been struck rather

low down the bar missed the stamp altogether; both the ½d. on 1d., and 1d. on 6d. were shown without the o of postage. All the errors of the 2½d. on 4d., brown, of 1891, including the error "Penge Half-penn," and both the double and inverted surcharges. There was also a pair of the 3d., imperf., wmk. Star, proofs.

Orange River Colony.

I.—The stamps issued prior to the British Occupation.

These stamps, which have hitherto been known as those of the Orange Free State, were well shown by the Earl of Crawford, and bore ample evidence of the painstaking Philatelist in the manner in which they had been written up. But this observation applies equally to each of the exhibits of his Lordship, the writing in every instance being in pencil and done personally.

The unsurcharged varieties were all shown shaded in blocks of four, unused. The following are unused, unless otherwise stated. In the 4 on 6d. four different types, and in the used I noticed three different types, with inverted surcharge; 1d. on 5s., small surcharge, pair ditto, large type, small blocks, and pair showing minor varieties; 3d. on 4, three blocks of four, and four pairs, also variety "d" *dropped* in a block of four, and two singles of the scarce type; several doubles, used, included one very distinct; 1d. on 3d., an interesting lot inclusive of four with margin on the left, the second stamp being "d" spaced; and specimens of the double surcharge, which was shown in the 1d. on 4, in a pair and singles, one of the latter having the second surcharge in the margin. In these later stamps the well-known varieties "d" dropped and Roman numeral 1 were included. The 2 on 3d. curly tail, in a strip, and in the 2½ and 3d. a pair from the left hand lower pane showing 2 similar to type B (wide head) in the 2 on 3d. The various provisional ½d. of 1896 in all known varieties, including inverted, and an especially interesting pane, double surcharge, one in words and the other in numerals.

II.—The stamps used after the British Occupation.

These are of course the popularly-known V.R.I.'s. The only intelligible way to collect them is in entire panes: you cannot hope to be complete otherwise. That completeness can be attained in them, as far as is possible in Philately, Mr. C. J. Daun demonstrated with the portion of his collection displayed, consisting of some 44 entire panes and a few rare varieties in pairs and blocks. In these stamps Mr. Daun occupies a unique position, and it would be difficult to equal his collection, as he has a few things, for example, the 5s. mixed stops in a block of eight, and pairs showing the stop varieties, which are simply unobtainable. He mounts his stamps making three primary printings: first, with all stops level; second, mixed stops; third, all stops raised—a system which from the start has always appealed to me.

First printing ½d. pane, showing varieties as follows:—

No stop after I	Position	3	in row	1.
Square stop	,,	3	,,	7.
Value omitted	,,	5	,,	7.
No stop after V	,,	3	,,	10.

Another pane similar in all respects, but the fifth stamp in row 7 corrected.

Another pane, varieties :—

Small ½	Position	3	in row 1.
Square stop	,,	3	,, 7.
No stop after V	,,	3	,, 10.

Another pane, varieties :—

No stop after I	Corrected	3	in row 1.
Small ½	Position	1	,, 5.
do.	,,	1	,, 8.
Square stop	,,	3	,, 7.
No stop	,,	3	,, 10.

1d., 2d., 2½d., 3d., 4d., 6d., carmine, entire panes, the latter having the variety value omitted ; double panes of the 6d., blue, showing above variety ; and 1s., brown, showing spaced surcharges, and a pane of the 5s. In the blocks and pairs of this printing were 5s., top left-hand corner, block of six, the second on the second row being variety inverted stop, and three pairs showing variety no stop ; 3d., corner pair, showing right stamp unsurcharged. Vertical strip of three 1s., the centre one having value omitted, and a ditto, ditto, with stop spaced. The second printing included the 6d., carmine, in a pane, besides the rare varieties of the 5s. already mentioned; a block of three 2½d., a pair of the 6d., carmine, one with thick **V**, which surely belongs to the third printing, and the ½ without V. The third printing in panes were numerous, including five ½d., eleven 1d., showing small I, fifth in row 1. Another pane, 1d. spaced (fifth in tenth), and another spaced V. R. All the other values were in complete panes and half sheets, making altogether a most complete and interesting exhibit.

Mr. G. Fred. H. Gibson displayed a few things on ten sheets out of his extensive collection of these stamps, the most noticeable in the first printing being ½d., figure of value omitted in a pair ; 1d., I omitted in a pair ; 2½d., half a pane, showing no stop ; 6d., double pane, showing value omitted ; 1s., pair, showing value omitted, being variety with spaced stop ; 5s., no stop, and with square stop ; 1s., with value spaced. Second printing : 6d., carmine, block of twelve, showing mixed stops; 4d., pane. Third printing : some of the more interesting panes of the ½d., 1d., and 2d., latter with inverted 1 for I, and a pair of 5s., being an extraordinary variety, a clean break through the 5s.

Mr. Mortimer Mempes, the 1d., brown, and 1s., yellow (pair), both surcharged V.R.I., and the following varieties of the 1d., pair with "I" omitted, with "d" omitted, with "d" slanting, no stop after "R," with V.R.I. omitted (all the four latter unused and used) ; 3d., V.R.I. omitted ; 6d., ditto ; 6d., blue, with value omitted, and blocks and pairs with misplaced surcharge, some having the value over V.R I. The pair of the 1d., with surcharge inverted, did not appear to me as satisfactory. I thought they were trials : the surcharge was very faint.

Swazieland, Stellaland, and New Republic.

A number of interesting varieties were included in a fine exhibit of these Colonies by the Earl of Crawford. In Swazieland, ½d., black surcharge inverted (2); red ditto, pair, one stamp double surcharge; black surcharge, 1d., inverted (2); 2d., inverted (used). Swazielan, unused and used, and a pair, badly surcharged, reading zieland; 1s., inverted (2); 5s., inverted (2); also error, "d" omitted, with margin showing it to be the first stamp in the bottom row of the left-hand pane; 10s. (2). Stellaland: Varieties imperf, vertically in pairs contained the 3d. and 4d., and the 1s., a single apparently imperf. The Twee on 4d. on the entire, used in conjunction with Cape 6d., the latter only being cancelled. New Republic: A representative lot, in which the dated specimens were noticeable.

Transvaal.

The Transvaal exhibits were, it must be confessed, somewhat disappointing from a purely Philatelic point of view. A worthy collection of the country, though all its interesting gradations would have filled the room. For such a display there was of course no space. But the exhibits, going to the other extreme, were narrowed down to a few frames. The Earl of Crawford confined his exhibit to leading rarities, but Mr. Duveen included all issues. His rarities were a grand show, but the ordinary issues were not well represented, either in shades or in condition.

Taking the Earl of Crawford's stamps, I noted fine specimens of the varieties with surcharge omitted, including 6d. blue on rose, mint; an uncatalogued double surcharge of the 1d. red, all caps, a recent discovery; some grand tête-bêche pairs of early and surcharged issues; the 6d., red, surcharge all caps., wide roulette, a fine dark shade; two used blocks of four of the pelure 1d., all caps; the "Transvral" error, unused; and a splendid show of the "1 penny" on 6d., Queen's head, comprising a complete made up sheet of the black surcharge, and a partly made up sheet of the red surcharge, the latter wanting 23 out of 60 stamps to complete.

Mr. Duveen's was a much more ambitious show, and as an exhibit of rarities it was one of the finest things in the whole Exhibition. To mention a few of the best—I noted, in the all caps. series of the first British occupation, in red surcharges, the 3d., unused; also wider apart variety; double surcharge, once in black and once in red; surcharge on back; and wide roulette. The 6d. included an unused copy, and one fine roulette; but the gem of the lot was in the 1s., a strip of three in mint condition, the centre stamp being the wider apart variety. This gem was included in the Dennett sale in 1894, when it was bought by Mr. Pearce for £5. In the Pearce sale in 1898 it was secured by Mr. Duveen for £19. It is now worth considerably more. In the black surcharge of the same series there were of the inverteds, 1d., copies unused and used; 6d., used; 1s., used, in a pair, tête bêche. Of the wider apart variety the 1d., in a strip of three, 6d. and 1s., but the rarity of this variety was a 6d. wider apart, and inverted. This stamp was bought from a Buhl & Co. stock book (after being missed by a well-known Transvaal specialist) for £2 10s., it was sold by Mr. Garth, with most of his collection to Mr. Pearce,

and at the Pearce sale it fetched £9 15s. It is, I believe, the only known copy, The coarse and hard surface papers of the first Republic were well represented, but the hard surface series included a more than doubtfully placed 1s. The "Transvral" error was shown used, fine roulette, and unused, imperf. Surcharges omitted were shown in fine copies, and in the small "V.R." there was a 1d. red on orange, small "T," fine roulette, a great variety; also a new minor variety showing slightly wider spacing between the "V" and "R."

Zululand.

Mr. J. H. Abbott.—Singles, pairs, and blocks of four, unused, the following are worthy of notice: ½d., control letters D and K on Natal ½ block of four, no period; pair without period; pair with and without period; vertical strip of three, the bottom two stamps double surcharged, one surcharge being at the top and the other at the bottom of the stamps; another vertical strip of three, the bottom stamp being double surcharged, one on the top of the other. The fiscals, used postally, included the 1s. and £5. The last issue contained the £1, unused, and £5, used.

Philately in the Mags.

Surinam. Unpaid Letter Stamps: Composition of the Sheets.

Through the kindness of Mr. William Brown, of Salisbury, we have been able to inspect a full sheet of the 40 cents unpaid stamp of Surinam (1st type without the word "cent"). We are not aware of its composition having been published before, and it should determine the comparative value of each of the four varieties. The sheet contains 100 stamps in 10 horizontal rows. The figures represent the four varieties:—

3	3	3	1	3	3	3	3	3	3
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	1	2	3
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	1
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	3	3
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
3	3	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3
3	3	3	3	3	4	3	3	3	3

It will be seen that there are

28	stamps of variety	I.
1	stamp ,,	II.
68	stamps ,,	III.
3	,, ,,	IV.

Apparently Messrs. Stanley Gibbons' pricing of Variety III. at 3s. 6d., and Variety I. at 20s., is a little erratic. This stamp was evidently printed from the lower part of the plate prepared for the Dutch 5, 10, and 25 cents unpaid stamps of 1886.—*Philatelic Journal of India.*

Recent Varieties of N.S.W.

From what has of late come personally, and otherwise, under our notice in respect of the postal issues sent out from the New South Wales Government Printing Office, we may be excused for quoting Bret Harte, with a humble apology for the substitution of two words, and say: "The ways of that Printing Office are peculiar." Either there is a lack of supervision over what emanates from the sanctum sanctorum in the building —which we are loath to believe—or there is amongst the employes a genius whose wily ways would command him the respect of Bertram, that Prince of conjurors. For until the veil is lifted, we fail to find a cause for the appearance this year of so many irregularities in the authorised postal issues —those at present in use, and one or two that have been superseded. In our July issue we published a list of the perforations in use at the N.S.W. Government Printing Office, also the following in the present issues, and the 6d. green (superseded by the 6d. orange): "The ½d., 1d. and 3d. have appeared perforated horizontally only and the 1d. imperforate on ordinary paper. On surfaced paper the 1d. is known imperforate and partly perforated; and on 'chalky' paper the ½d., 1d., 6d. green, 6d. orange, and 1s. are known in an imperforate state." In our last number we wrote the following on the 6d. green, "chalky" paper. "If the stamp they (*The Philatetic Record*)

chronicle really is on 'chalky' paper, it would seem as if some one was getting private supplies printed at the Government Printing Office, as the chalky paper was not issued until at least a year after the 6d. green had become obsolete." Since then some more of these irregularities have come to light. A few days ago we were shown one of the present 1d. postcards, showing only half of the design of the stamp —a vertical half—and one of our correspondents writes that he had recently obtained a sheet of the present 1d. postage stamps in an imperforate condition. The number of partially perforated or defectively printed sheets of stamps that are issued to the General Post Office is simply disgraceful. Our publisher has purchased imperforated or partially perforated sheets of stamps over the counter, and a business firm in Sydney received as a remittance an imperforate sheet of stamps from the country. For this the Post Office is, of course, not to blame, they have to take what is sent to them, but as every sheet of stamps before being issued from the Government Printing Office is supposed to be checked by some half-dozen officials, they must be either blind or incapable to pass the defective sheets, which are making their appearance, we might say, almost daily. Partially printed postcards, and letter cards also, are to be found; in fact, as a curiosity, we had a 1½d. letter card sent to us, which had been bought at the G.P.O., and it had no less than *five* series of perforations, the card being almost cut to pieces We have also seen the illustrated cards that were issued some little time ago, with the words 'Christmas Greeting' inverted." We have stated already enough to show that it is time the authorities instituted a drastic enquiry into these irregularities, and at the same time the slovenly printing and perforating of some of the issues should also receive some attention from headquarters. As regards the latter question, there is no doubt that Victoria turns out the postal issues in a much better condition than is done in this State.—*The Australian Philatelist.*

Spain 1865, 4 cuartos, Imperforate. Stamp or Essay?

This stamp has been for years one of those that have puzzled collectors, and although many of them have decided not to consider it a postage stamp, yet most catalogues still contain it at an average price of 50 fcs. (Senf even 80m.). In order to account for such a high price it is stated that imperforate this stamp was only in use during one week. But, unfortunately, the supporters of this idea do not seem to be aware of the fact that four cuartos at that time was the ordinary postage for inland letters in Spain, just like our penny stamp, and that therefore during one week thousands must have been used, and more of them would be found used than of the 19 cuartos value Yet this is not so, there are many more 19 cuartos stamps than 4 cuartos imperforate!

Essays of this value exist imperforate in nearly every conceivable colour: in orange, chestnut, black, carmine, and green. It is consequently only natural to presume that they exist also in blue, especially as this was the colour chosen for the stamp.

That a few exist obliterated is not a conclusive proof of its being issued in the imperforate state, and until better e idence is forthcoming, collectors would be well advised to consider this stamp as an essay, the va'ue of which would be about one shilling.—*The Eco.*

[The question raised by our contemporary is one of interest, and for that reason we reproduce it. At the same time we do not follow the argument, that of necessity there would have been an extensive use of this stamp in a week, when the stock of the last issue was available. It was possibly only sent to a few offices, and withdrawn before being put into circulation at many of them. In any event it would not be an essay, as the design was certainly accepted and issued perforated. It would be a colour proof.—Ed.]

Swiss Jubilee Stamp, 25c., Re-engraved.

"En conséquence, le 25c. regravé est, à l'état neuf, un timbre préparé et non émis, à l'état oblitéré, une curiosité." This, the conclusion of an article on this stamp, caused a writer in the *Schweizer Briefmarken Zeitung* to ascertain whether it should be considered as an official issue or not.

Of the re-engraved 25c. only one printing of 4,200 specimens was made. As is well known, they were not sent to any post office, as sufficient stamps were everywhere in stock. If the matter had ended here, and the postal administration had sold them after the 31st December, 1900, they would of course have been "prepared, but not issued." But during the second half of December the Senators and some high officials received a sheet of 50 stamps each of these re-engraved stamps as a memento, but the postal administration did not inform the recipients that the stamps should not be used for franking purposes. The consequence was that some of the recipients, being of a saving disposition, franked their foreign correspondence with them The Post Office forwarded all letters franked with such stamps. It is even questionable whether the officials could very well have refused to do so, even had they noticed any difference. To a Philatelist the difference is very marked, but it would not be so to a Postal official. Altogether 4,200 were printed, about 800 distributed, and of these about 200 were used.

Notes and News.

The Servian Postal Service.

It is hard to believe that the Servian Postal Service, at the beginning of the twentieth century, is in such a disgraceful state that all the foreign Consuls residing at Belgrade find it necessary to have their letters addressed to agents at the Hungarian frontier town of Zimony. We are assured, however, by a correspondent that this is a fact, and if their letters were not so addressed, half of them would be stolen, and the other half generally delayed in delivery.

The Manchester Philatelic Society.

The opening meeting of the Eleventh Session was held at the Grand Hotel on Friday evening, October 11th, and took the form of a Conversazione, with a Display of Stamps by some of the members as under :—

1. Orange Free State. J. H. Abbott.
2. Soudan. J. H. Abbott.
3. Newfoundland, Indian Native States, Suez Canal, France, Japan (entire sheets). J. H. Abbott.
4. S. Lucia. F. J. Beazley.
5. S. Vincent. F. J. Beazley.
6. Sicily. W. D. Beckton.
7. Spain. John Cooper.
8. British Empire, illustrating types of head o Queen Victoria. C. H. Coote.
9. Roumania. C. H. Coote.
10. Orange River Colony, V.R.I. G. F. H. Gibson.
11. France (Bordeaux Issue). W. Grunewald.
12. Holland (First Issue). A. H. Harrison.
13. Niger Coast (entire sheets). R. F. V. Harrison.
14. Canada. Nathan Heywood.
15. Confederate States. Nathan Heywood.
16. New Zealand. W. W. Munn.
17. Queensland. W. W. Munn.
18. South Australia. W. W. Munn.
19. Great Britain. J. C. North.
20. Envelopes used during the South African War. D. Ostara.
21. Sarawak. Evan T. Roberts.
22. The First Stamps of King Edward. Evan T. Roberts.
23. Gambia. Vernon Roberts.
24. British African Colonies and West Indies (entire sheets). Vernon Roberts.

A number of ladies were present, and during the evening a selection of music was given by the Doric Quartette Party.

The High Values in Russia.

A correspondent writes to the *Echo* as follows :—Unfranked letters can be sent in Russia as in all other countries, and double the postage is payable by the receiver. Russia has no unpaid letter stamps, and the cash is paid to the postman upon his demand. This cash is handed in by the postman at the Post Office ; the sums are there entered in a special book, added up each day, and the total amount affixed in stamps. To make the labour as easy as possible stamps of the highest value are usually used. Every six months these books are sent to headquarters, where all the stamps are cut in two. The correspondent adds: "I could weep every time I see these nice 1, $3\frac{1}{2}$, and 7 rouble stamps destroyed, and the quantity of them, it breaks my heart!"

Tristan D'Acunha.

The war in South Africa has had a curious indirect result. It has interrupted the postal communication with the remote island of Tristan D'Acunha For many years it has been the custom to send a British man-of-war once a year to visit the island, and to take the correspondence gathered at the Cape Post Office for its few inhabitants. The exigencies of the war appear to have prevented the usual call during 1899.

Forged Zanzibars.

An esteemed Indian correspondent writes us that there are a large quantity of forged Zanzibar surcharges, including the errors, on sale in Bombay.

Congo Mailbags.

The empty mailbags not having been returned from the Congo for some time back, it was found on inquiry that the sacks were regularly being stolen by the natives for presentation to their wives, who used them as petticoats. We refrain from making the pun which this paragraph so obviously suggests.

Retirement of Dr. Vedel.

Dr. Vedel, we are informed, has sold his stock and is retiring from business. Happy man!

From Germany to the United States.

The greater number of the fine collections which are coming upon the market at present through the London Auctioneers belong to German collectors. An exceptional opportunity presents itself to Philatelists of acquiring some really "good goods." It is a long time since so many rarities were offered by auction, and we are told extensive purchases are being made on the account of American collectors. Stamps follow money, and this perhaps is the reason why London is the finest centre in the world.

Plate 70.

A curious outcome of one of our Editorials last month has just reached us, as we are going to press, from the United States. Our correspondent refers to the Editorial, and in high glee sends his discovery, viz , a used specimen of the one penny plate 70,

"said to be worth £50." We are sorry to disappoint our friend: it is not plate 70, but a very clever fake. Plate 76 has probably been operated upon. The strongest glass we used failed to show any traces of tampering, but in a good light we detected the extraneous colouring matter immediately surrounding the o. Fortunately the tint used was not exactly the same red as the rest of the stamps. We can quite believe our friend when he says it has been passed as right by many collectors. He has still a remedy by way of appeal to the highest tribunal, the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Society of London, and their fees are not so high as those usually payable in the House of Lords.

MISCELLANEOUS.

M. Mougeot is credited with the intention of commencing a Postal Museum at Paris in the Rue Grenelle, 107.

* * *

We are informed that the Federal Council of Switzerland is not at all satisfied with the designs submitted for the proposed new issue. New designs are asked for, but only from certain artists.

* * *

To commemorate the life-work of the late President McKinley, the U.S. Post Office Department has decided to issue a new postcard bearing his portrait.

Correspondence.

Iceland 4sk., P. 14 × 13½.

To the Editor of the "Philatelic Record."

DEAR SIR,—In reply to Mr. Buckley's enquiry, I may state that I have a used copy of Iceland 4sk., green, perf. 14, which is fairly well centred. The margins are slightly wider at the top and the left side. It is so lightly cancelled that I cannot decipher the name of the post town.

I enclose a rough reproduction of the stamp, done by gas-light. Mr. Buckley has seen the original, but, no doubt, the point which he raises had not occurred to him then.—Yours truly,

Wellingore Vicarage, W. N. USHER.
Oct. 21, 1901.

[From the photo kindly sent by the Rev. W. N. Usher, we should describe his stamp as well centred for *Iceland*. It is certainly not from the same sheet, judging by the perforations, as the one belonging to Mr. Buckley, illustrated in the October number. —ED.]

Dutch Indies.

To the Editor of the "Philatelic Record."

I should like to put a question to you and to all collectors of Dutch Indies. You know the 10c., 1865, perforated. I have this stamp unsurcharged in *blue*. (Colour chart, New York, 1884, 3rd class, section A, No. 2.)

This may be a colour proof, but I have the same stamp undoub edly genuine, with genuine surcharge SPECIMEN. How is this?

Only those stamps which have been or are to be put into use are surcharged SPECIMEN and sent to Bern. In that event the 10c. blue, 1865, perf., would not be a colour proof, but a real stamp unknown up to this date. Who knows anything about these 10c. blue? Has anyone ever seen the blue stamp used?—Yours very truly,

VAN KINSCHOT.

Austrian-Italy.

To the Editor of the "Philatelic Record."

DEAR SIR,—I have a block of 100 stamps, Austrian-Italy, 1863 issue, 5 soldi, rose, arranged in ten rows of 10. It is, I should say, an entire sheet, or perhaps an entire pane, but being denuded of margin on all four sides I cannot be sure.

In Westoby's "Stamps of Europe," dealing with this stamp, I find on page 37 "The paper was similar [to the preceding issue, that is, unwatermarked], but about 1865 the words FRANCO-MARKEN appeared in watermark on the sheets."

Now the watermark on my stamps is quite different; it appears on certain stamps in the fifth and sixth rows, *i.e.*, in the middle of my block, and consists of the letters BRIE in large double lined Roman capitals. It looks to me as if the entire word were BRIEFMARKEN, and that the sheet originally consisted of 200 stamps in two panes of 100 each, side by side, with a margin between them equal to the width of two or three stamps.

I may add that the perforation is 9½; consequently, according to the work above quoted, and also to Mr Bacon's "Handbook on Reprints," mine must be originals.

I shall be obliged if some of your readers will enlighten me.—Yours faithfully,

Heaton Mersey, JAMES H. ABBOTT.
Nov. 10, 1901.