

SAPPHIRE

THE

# Stamp-Collector's Magazine.

## ILLUSTRATED.

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# The Stamp-Collector's Magazine.

## OUR NEW YEAR'S GREETING.

After having appeared in the same garb for ten years, we have to day put on a new dress. Our new dress, it is true, is of the same *cut* as the old one, but we modestly venture to think it a little more attractive than the latter. Thirty odd years after the introduction of cheap postage, the outline of its benefits, which Mulready sketched, may appropriately be filled in, for the promise it contained has been abundantly realised. We trust our readers will think that the filling in—rather an ambitious task by the way—has not been unsuccessfully accomplished. For our part we have to thank the engraver for giving us a better conception of the spirit of the design than we previously had.

In the subordinate parts of the frontispiece due regard has been had to philatelical appositeness. We need hardly refer to the stamps from which our engraver has copied the portraits that adorn the corner squares; our readers will, we are persuaded, easily recognise them without our aid. Perhaps, however, it may not be amiss to mention that the Etruscan border is copied from that on the Italian newspaper stamps.

By giving a more ornamental character to the wrapper, we have sought to signalise, in some slight degree, an event which, to *us* at any rate, is not without its importance, namely, the entry of the Magazine on its second decade; and the printer, to aid us in giving additional *éclat* to the present number, has "set it up" from entirely new type, which alone will in future be used.

From our ever-indulgent readers we solicit the continuance of that kind and most necessary support which they have hitherto granted, assuring them at the same time that they may rely on the united efforts of editor, printer, and publishers, to render *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* emphatically the best of its kind—the fullest and most trustworthy source of information, and the most acceptable medium of communication. Need we, on the other hand, remind our friends how welcome their contributions would at all times be—how happy we should be to profit by, and make public, the outgrowth of knowledge which should result from that process of marking, learning, and inwardly digesting, which we feel convinced is going on in their minds?

From our contemporaries we believe we can count upon a kindly word of encouragement, which we, on our side, cordially reciprocate, having firm faith in the advantage of a common understanding for the common good.

Finally, we trust that the popularity of Philately—a pursuit which in its beneficial results can hardly be surpassed—will continue to increase, and to all our readers we wish A Happy New Year.

## PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. XXIV.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

### EUROPE.

### France.

The last imperial stamp—the one centime—appeared in the month of May, 1870. On the 15th of July following war was virtually declared between France and Germany. In the course of August the Germans took possession of Alsace and Lorraine, and the stamps issued primarily for the service of those provinces form the earliest philatelic souvenirs of the great contest. On the 19th September Paris was completely invested. A month later the engraved Republican stamps (perforated reprints of the 1849 series) made their appearance in the besieged capital. In the same month Gambetta and his co-delegates established themselves at Tours, and in December they removed to Bordeaux, where was issued the *lithographed* series of republican stamps. After the conclusion of peace, other values of the 1849 type (engraved) were emitted by the head office at Paris.




For the sake of convenience let us examine the Bordeaux series first. Its emission was necessitated by the almost entire exhaustion of the stock of imperial stamps (fifteen millions in all), which M. Vandal, the last postmaster-general of the empire, had caused to be distributed among the provincial offices immediately after the outbreak of the war. The matter was one of extreme urgence. The dies of the 1849 type were shut up in Paris, and nothing remained but to issue some make-shift design in the most expeditious manner possible. To engrave a matrix would have been a work of months, and lithography was the only process which could be relied on for the prompt production of the much needed supplies. No doubt, to the pressure of time may also be ascribed the resolution simply to copy the existing designs,




—there was really no time for the preparation and submission of drawings of new types, and the immediate adoption of the old ones was a safe course.

The order to prepare the series was given by the postmaster-general *in partibus*, M. Steenackers; and the director of the Bordeaux mint only ten days after the matter was first proposed to him was able to announce that everything was ready; in that short time he had set up an *atelier* capable of turning out 1,200,000 stamps per day, or, in other words, 8,000 sheets of 150 stamps, of all colours and prices. That the work should have been somewhat roughly done is not, under the circumstances, surprising, and it will be admitted that some of the values are by no means without merit as lithographic productions. Considerable variations are noticeable in the colours of nearly every value, and they are due only to accident; but as the almost natural accompaniments of a hasty emission, they illustrate, in a subordinate manner, the circumstances under which the series was prepared, and are, therefore, worthy of a certain amount of attention, even from beginners. I would not pretend to lay down any rule as to the number of shades to be collected, but would merely recommend that those which show the greatest divergence be taken in preference.

The series is composed of the following values:—

LARGE FIGURES IN ANGLES.

1 centime, olive-green.
2 ,, red-brown.
4 ,, grey.

COPY OF THE 1849 TYPE.

5 centimes, chrome-green.
10 ,, yellow-ochre, cinnamon, bistre.
20 ,, blue, light to dark, ultramarine.
30 ,, chocolate.
40 ,, light orange to vermilion.
80 ,, rose, carmine.

Each value being separately drawn, it follows that there are as many types as there are values, and the 20 c., having been drawn again and again, exists in not less than three types. The first type I incline to think was issued alone before the others; the second and third—or, adopting the results of Dr. Magnus's analysis, the second, third, and fourth—I believe to have been issued simultaneously. My argument is, that the 20 c.,

being the value the most needed, was the first printed, a supply of the very defective first type being despatched to such post-offices as were quite out of stamps, pending the completion of the more carefully drawn second and third types.*

The first type is easily recognisable; in fact, it is impossible to confound it with even the roughly printed copies of the subsequent types. The impression is exceedingly coarse and blurred, and the space between the ring which surrounds the profile and the marginal border at the top of the stamp measures *nearly one-sixteenth of an inch*, whilst, in the other types there is scarcely any space at all. The colour is a thick Prussian blue. This type was certainly in use for only a very short time, and specimens are at present by no means easily to be had.

As to the other types, I will not venture on giving any detailed description of my own. "A Parisian Collector" gives, as the most perceptible difference between his second and third types, that the latter has four Etruscan frets in the border of the left upper side, and the former four Etruscan frets, *and* the commencement of a fifth. Dr. Magnus gives a second, third, and fourth type; but which is the second and which the third I must confess myself, after several hours' examination of scores of specimens, unable to determine. The differences between the two are so fine, and, therefore, very difficult accurately to describe; whilst, on the other hand, owing to the imperfection and irregularity of the printing, the stamps vary so much among themselves that the eye gets distracted and deceived—at any rate, mine did. Moreover, Dr. Magnus himself hardly claims more for his third type than that it is the result of a retouching of the second; we may, therefore, consider them as forming together only one in reality. His fourth type is distinguished from the preceding by the manifest increase in the height and thickness of the lettering. It appears to answer to "A Parisian Collector's" second type; and his classification, though I cannot entirely reconcile it with Dr. Magnus's, seems to be the best, unless, indeed, we register them roughly as second type, small letters; third type, large letters.

Perhaps in even discussing these differences I am taking my readers somewhat out of their depth, but it seems to me that whilst beginners may safely postpone the study of varieties of perforation, paper, &c., a knowledge of the types, in other words the *designs* of stamps, is indispensable. It does not follow thence that the acquisition of closely similar types, such as those just referred to, is necessary; and with regard to them in particular I think that a specimen of the first type, and one of either of the others, would amply suffice for all illustrative purposes.

Looking at the design in its entirety, its comparative roughness is in itself sufficient to distinguish it at a glance from the engraved type of 1849, and not the veriest tyro need fall into error on this point. The two series are, it is true, both unperforated, but here the resemblance ends. With regard to perforation, it may be well to state, that although the lithographed stamps were officially issued unperforated, the postmasters of some of the provincial offices caused the supplies which they received to be line-pierced, or rouletted, by handworked apparatus in their possession. I believe that not a few private firms also rouletted their stamps for convenience' sake; but these chance perforations, though specimens exemplifying them may be worth preserving as curiosities, if one happens to come across them, certainly do not constitute legitimate varieties.

The series as a whole forms an interesting commentary on the fortunes of France during the war. Its currency ceased shortly after the conclusion of peace, and during the greater part of the time that it was in circulation it could only be employed in two-thirds of France, the remaining third being occupied by the enemy. In consequence of the hostile occupation the postal service became unsettled, and the lithographed stamps franked letters by many an unaccustomed route.

Turning now to the Parisian reissue of the 1849 type: the three values emitted during the siege were the 10 c. bistre, 20 c. blue,

* This is also the opinion of "A Parisian Collector." See *The Philatelical Journal*, p. 46.

and 40 c. orange. The first two made their appearance on the 11th October, 1870, and the 40 c. in the middle of the following December. Their emission, we are informed, was resolved on to satisfy the clamourous reclamations of the pent-up republicans, who were dissatisfied at the maintenance in circulation of the imperial stamps; probably, though many issues have sprung from political change, this is the only one that owes its existence to a popular manifestation against the political significance of a preceding type.

Following these three stamps came, on the 1st September, 1871, two others, also reissues of the 1849 type, namely, the 15 c. bistre and 25 c. blue. These latter were the results of a law voted a few weeks previously, by which, in order to render the post-office more profitable, the postal rates were raised; and, together with the 40 c. of 1870, they are still in use, though probably, should practical counsels prevail in the French parliament, the old rates will ere long be reinstated.

The five reissued stamps—10 c., 15 c., 20 c., 25 c., and 40 c.,—although their designs are necessarily identical with the originals of the 1849 type, since they are printed from the same dies, are easily recognisable from the fact that they are perforated, whilst the 1849 stamps were not. Besides this there are certain differences in the colour, as also in the tint and texture of the paper, which are easily perceptible on comparing originals and reprints together. No essential difference distinguishes the stamps used during the siege from those issued afterwards, but many people preserve intact the covers of letters sent out of the capital by balloon post, and prepaid by stamps. In this context it may be as well to mention that the reissue of the 1849 type under the circumstances above mentioned did not lead to the suppression of the imperial stamps; they continued in use both during and long after the siege.

Recently a new series has commenced to make its appearance, of which the low values (2 c., 4 c., 5 c.), following the lead of the Bordeaux lithographs, have the engraved profile of the republic, as on the old stamps, set in the frame of the imperial 2 c. and 4 c.; whilst the higher denominations (30 c. and 80 c.) resemble the original 1849 type, but have the figures of value in the lower margin enlarged, complaint having been made that in the old design these figures were not sufficiently clear. To these stamps it is not necessary to make more detailed reference, as every reader must be well acquainted with them.

## NOTES FOR COLLECTORS.—IV.

BY A PARISIAN COLLECTOR.

## Austria.

(*Continued from Vol. X., page* 174.)

FOURTH GENERAL SERIES.

On the 1st July, 1863, the series with the profile of the Emperor in an oval was superseded by one bearing the double-headed eagle of Austria, and the colours of the various values were rendered more in harmony with those which had then lately been adopted almost generally throughout Germany. A series of envelopes was also issued of similar design to the stamps.




There are two distinct issues of stamps in this series; one—perforated 14, like the preceding series—was in use for little more than a year, when it gave place to the other, perforated $9\frac{1}{2}$. The entire series is on ordinary white wove paper.

Of the envelopes there are three well-defined issues, all of the ordinary size:—

1st. A series on ordinary plain white wove paper, surfaced, with flaps similar in shape to those of the series of 1861.

2nd. A series on similar paper, with flaps similar in shape to those of the reprints of the series for 1861.

3rd. A series on white wove paper, with flaps similar in shape to those last mentioned, with letters in watermark of the same size as those found in the reprints of the series for 1861.

*Classification.*

I.—General series of stamps.

1. Earlier issue, perforated 14.
2 kreuzer, Naples yellow (shades).

3 kreuzer, sea-green.
5 ,, rose (shades).
10 ,, Prussian blue (shades).
15 ,, light reddish brown.

2. Later issue, perforated 9½.

2 kreuzer, Naples yellow to orange-yellow.
3 ,, sea-green, yellow-green (shades).
5 ,, pale and dark rose.
10 ,, Prussian blue and light ditto.
15 ,, reddish brown and light ditto.

II.—Journal stamp, imperforate.




[1 kreuzer], dull lilac, grey lilac (shades).

III.—Envelopes.

1. Envelopes with flaps similar to series of 1861.
3 kreuzer, yellow-green (shades).
5 ,, rose and deep ditto.
10 ,, Prussian blue and light ditto.
15 ,, light umber-brown, reddish brown.
25 ,, violet (shades).

2. Envelopes with flaps similar in shape to those of the reprints of the series for 1861.
3 kreuzer, green, yellow-green (shades).
5 ,, rose (shades).
10 ,, Prussian blue.
15 ,, umber-brown (shades).
25 ,, violet (shades).

3. Envelopes with flaps similar to the last, but with letters of BRIEF COUVERTS in watermark, as in the reprints of the series for 1861.
3 kreuzer, light green.
5 ,, rose (shades).
10 ,, Prussian blue.
15 ,, light umber-brown.
25 ,, violet.

FIFTH GENERAL SERIES.

This series, issued on the 1st of June, 1867, at Pesth, on the coronation of the Emperor







as King of Hungary, is now in use, and already offers some varieties in shades. In some late impressions of the 5 kr., 10 kr., and 15 kr., the ground is no longer plain, but chequered, similarly to the later impressions of the 30 centimes French, laureated head of the Emperor.* The series is perforated 9½, and is printed on ordinary wove paper. The gum is thin. The values are the same as in the preceding series, with the addition of two higher values—25 kr. and 50 kr.

For the journal stamp of this series the original design of a head of Mercury was reverted to; but the messenger of the gods seems to have grown very grim in the short space of nine years, and to have exchanged his winged helmet for something very like an iron pot.



A series of envelopes was also issued at the same time. This series is in two sizes, both of the same width, but the one (A) measures 5⅞ inches long, while the other (B) measures 6$\frac{1}{16}$ inches long.

Of the size A there are two varieties, depending, as in the preceding series, on the shape of the side flaps; but in both varieties of shape we find letters, part of the words BRIEF-COUVERTS, in watermark. In the variety with flaps similar in shape to the first variety of the former series, the whole of the values are found; it is probable also that the whole exist of the same shape as varieties 2 and 3, though we have only met with the 3 kr. and 5 kr.

In the size B the paper is not the same as that employed for the manufacture of size A, except in some copies of the 10 kr. and 15 kr. The letters of the watermark, BRIEF-COUVERTS, are farther apart, and shorter and

* In the last number of this magazine, Mr. Overy Taylor, in his paper on the stamps of France (p. 190), states that he thinks it an error to class this difference in the grounds of the 30 c. as a variety. He believes that the lined ground always existed, and that it has become visible from some change in the mode of impression, or from a deterioration of the die. In the last number of *Le Timbre-Poste*, a 4 c. of the same issue is mentioned as having been found with a ground of vertical lines. Mr. Taylor is such a careful philatelist, that when we differ from him we do so with the greatest diffidence, but we think that the cause can scarcely be traced to the deterioration of the die. The wear of the die would scarcely bring out points which were obscure when it was in its first freshness. That the change is due to some alteration in the mode of impression is not improbable, though we think it is equally within the bounds of probability that it results from an alteration of the die, made for the purpose of better retaining the colour, and perhaps economising it also; but in either case it seems to us to mark a point in the stamp's history, and, if so, is worthy of collection as a variety.

broader, than in the paper of size A. and most frequently run across the face of the envelopes, instead of being on the flap.

*Classification.*

I.—General series of stamps, perf. $9\frac{1}{2}$.

1. Plain ground.

2 kreuzer, bright yellow to orange-yellow.
3 ,, dull yellowish green (shades).
5 ,, dull rose, madder-carmine (shades).
10 ,, Prussian blue to light ditto.
15 ,, umber-brown (shades).
25 ,, dull violet (shades), violet, brown-violet.
50 ,, flesh colour and salmon.

2. Chequered ground.

2 kreuzer ?
3 ,, red-madder.
10 ,, Prussian blue.
15 ,, light umber-brown.

II.—Journal stamp, imperforate.

[1 kreuzer] dull lilac, dark ditto, bright ditto.

III.—Envelopes.

1. Size A. Paper with watermark similar to that employed for the reprints of the series for 1861.

(*a*). Envelopes with flap similar in shape to those of series for 1861.

3 kreuzer, green (shades).
5 ,, carmine, madder-carmine (shades).
10 ,, Prussian blue (shades).
15 ,, umber-brown (shades).
25 ,, dull violet (shades).

(*b*). Envelopes with flaps similar in shape to those of the reprints of series for 1861.

3 kreuzer, light green.
5 ,, madder-carmine (shades).
Other values ?

2. Size B.

(*a*). Paper same as for size A.

10 kreuzer, bright Prussian blue.
15 ,, umber-brown (shades).

(*b*). Paper with letters of watermark farther apart.

3 kreuzer, green (shades) yellow-green (shades).
5 ,, madder-carmine, and light dull ditto.
10 ,, Prussian blue, bright ditto.
15 ,, yellow-brown.
25 ,, dark violet.

In the year 1870 some of the remainder of the stock of envelopes of 1863 were utilized by affixing to them a stamp of 5 kreuzer of the existing series. These can offer no interest to collectors, as the adhesive stamps, after being affixed, received no further stamp or mark, like that employed by the North German Postal Confederation, but were probably affixed by the postal authorities; and, as Dr. Magnus well observes, this could be done on the envelopes of any series by the *premier venu*.

## OUR FIRST DECADE.

BY FENTONIA.

Being one of those who have taken in this magazine continuously from its commencement to the present time—whose name, when only an infant collector, appeared in its first volume, and who has been an occasional contributor to its pages ever since—I claim to be somewhat of a veteran in the service of philately, and therefore feel an especial pleasure in congratulating the editor and proprietors of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* in particular, and philatelists in general, on its completing the first decade of its annual issue, having doubled the number of its pages, and infinitely more than doubled its readers, during that period.

Of the many changes that have been effected in the method of arranging and describing postage stamps, various opinions have inevitably been formed; but allowing the widest possible margin for grumblers, cavillers, innovators, *et hoc genus omne*, our decade has, nevertheless, been undeniably a continued course of progress and improvement, amounting to almost moral certainty, in all philatelic matters.

Perhaps no branch of philately has met with more determined opposition from thoughtful and sensible collectors than the minuter subjects of study, such as watermarks and varieties of paper and perforation. Continental collectors admitted, and were guided by, these distinctions long before more matter-of-fact Britons were convinced of their utility. I believe I was the first to dub the contending parties with the title of the French and English schools of philately, which distinctive appellations have ever since been appropriated to them. I very much doubt whether there still remains even one tough old Tory of the genuine old English school who has not, by force of argument or his own common sense, become, as it were, more or less, a Liberal-Conservative, although he may not have given his unqualified adhesion to the minuter requirements of the French school.

One of the most original and, to my mind, most illogical efforts of the French school was the plan propounded not very long since

by the eminent Dr. Magnus, to adopt the heraldic words "sinister" and "dexter" in describing a postage stamp. I have not his ingenious article on the subject at hand, nor would there be space in the present number to discuss his crotchet fully; but it is too important (as indeed are all his suggestions) to be passed over in silence. To maintain my position I must revert to the origin of heraldry. I need not go back as far as Morgan does in his *Sphere of Gentry*, who states that Joseph's coat of many colours was the first heraldic coat (it strikes me a patchwork quilt of ancient date would be of equal authority); but from the twelfth to the fifteenth centuries, when the laws of heraldry were pretty well established, will amply suffice for my purpose. The helmeted warriors of those days *bore* on their metal shields (hence to this day called *bearings*) certain grotesque or strongly-marked devices, which, in course of time, represented certain families, indicating who they were—if gentry,—or whom they served—if tenantry or serfs,—in the day of battle. Of course, to him who *bore* the shield, that which we now in heraldry call the "sinister" was on his left hand, and that which we now call the "dexter" was on his right hand. And who so great a right as him who bore it to call it "dexter" and "sinister," as it appeared to him, instead of the reverse, as it would appear to whoever looked at it on approaching him? But does this theory apply to a postage stamp, even if it bears an heraldic device? Certainly not. Whoever saw a living being strutting behind a postage stamp?—unless, indeed, it be the possibly traditional savage, who appropriated a lot of English stamps, and stuck them all over his unclothed body. I maintain, therefore, that Dr. Magnus's proposition is untenable; it has never been accepted in England, and, as far as I know, has gained little favour on the Continent.

Since the commencement of our decade a number of claimants have cropped up, such as fiscals, private stamps, and last, though not least, telegraph stamps. "What ought we to collect?" and "What is a postage stamp?" are still moot points. In my opinion fiscals are inadmissible, because they free no letter. Private labels are equally so, inasmuch as a certain amount of postage has to be paid to make them valid [?]. Telegraph stamps can, however, take a more decided position, and make some claim to our notice. They do free an unwritten letter through the post-office; and yet not altogether unwritten either, for the sender writes down what he has to say, and the recipient gets the message written. I think, therefore, telegraph stamps are, in some degree, legitimate postage stamps, and, consequently, may be collected by the most exclusive and fastidious; though, being still the juveniles of our acquaintance, we do not yet take quite kindly to them.

In conclusion, humility demands we should confess that stamp-collecting started in life without a name. Presently *Timbrology* was introduced; then *Timbrophily*. In process of time the two were united; both died a natural death, and left a hopeful offspring under the more classical name of PHILATELY, to whom every sincere collector must earnestly wish a long and prosperous life.

## NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

We cannot better commence this the first chronicle of a New Year, than by a notice of a set of stamps which enters on circulation to-day in a very out-of-the-way part of the world; we refer to the emission for

Iceland.—Hitherto, as we imagine, the Danish stamps have done duty there, but the postal service of the island being carried on quite independently of that of the mother-country, it is not surprising that it should be endowed with a series of stamps for its own special use. We cannot help regretting that no distinctive device has been chosen for them; in point of fact they have nothing Icelandish or outlandish about them. They are simply the Danish stamps, with the necessary change of inscription, accompanied by certain alterations in the details. Still, we fear the day is far distant when postal departments will submit the designs for



stamps which they purpose issuing to a board of philatelists; so we must rest satisfied with the fact that a new series, interesting from the remoteness of its place of service, has appeared, and content ourselves with chronicling its values, which are as follows:—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2 | skilling | blue. |
| 4 | ,, | rose. |
| 8 | ,, | brown. |
| 16 | ,, | yellow. |

Besides these, there are two official stamps, which differ from the preceding in colour and inscription only; their values are:—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 4 | skilling | green. |
| 8 | ,, | mauve. |

On comparison with the Danish stamp, it will be observed that the new arrivals have the figure of value larger, and that the framework is of a different pattern.













Chili.—The Chilian envelopes are at length a *fait accompli;* and to our Brighton contemporary we are indebted for engravings of the four higher values, which, together with that of the lowest, we here reproduce. These are all stamps emphatically of the first order, of which mere wood-cuts can give but a very inadequate idea at best. The designs are highly finished, the cameo heads being most effective, and the colours at once bright, delicate, and well chosen. That they are De La Rue's production is evidenced by the family resemblance they bear to the Cingalese envelopes, although the combinations of shape are new. If they have a fault, it is that the values are not sufficiently visible, being in sunken letters of the same size as the inscription by which they are preceded. The bust of Columbus is maintained in its place of honour, in preference to that of any modern celebrity; and now that the profile is admitted to be that of the great discoverer, we may award a meed of praise to the only American country which has held him in remembrance.




The colours of this elegant series, let us repeat for reference, are as follows.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2 | (dos) centavos | brown. |
| 5 | (cinco) ,, | purple. |
| 10 | (diez) ,, | blue. |
| 15 | (quince) ,, | pink. |
| 20 | (veinte) ,, | bronze-green. |

Supplies of the two lowest values have, we learn, arrived at Valparaiso, but are not yet on sale.

Of the post card we have no further intelligence, but assume that it is now in circulation.

Russian Locals.—These form a regular item in our monthly bill of fare. The latest arrivals hail from

*Weissiegonsk* (or Wissegonsk), Tver Government. Their origin is evidenced by the queer emblem in the upper section of the shield—a crown on stool—which is the same as that on the Tver stamps. As to the thing represented in the lower section, we can but support a contemporary's suggestion that it is intended for a lobster! We have gone all round it without getting any better notion of its significance, and, after all, it may be that Weissiegonsk is as famous for its crustaceous



as Belozersk for its finny staple. The design is lithographed on white wove paper in the following colours:—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ½ | kop. | red-brown. |
| 1 | ,, | green. |
| 2 | ,, | blue. |
| 5 | ,, | carmine-rose. |

These stamps are unperforated. There are sixty stamps to each sheet of the ½ kop., 2 kop., and 5 kop., and twenty-eight of the 1 kop. The date of emission is unknown; but the ½ kop. is the only Russian local of that value, and as low-value stamps are generally among the last issued, we argue that the above series has only just made its appearance.

*Aleksandrowsk* (Ekaterinoslav), *Aleksandria* (Cherson).—The stamp described last month as belonging to the former, is now found to have been issued, in reality, for the latter district.

*Rjeff.*—The type represented last month is stated to be, as we had supposed it, an official seal, used to close letters, packets, &c., much in the same way as the Egyptian officials are employed.

Ecuador.—The annexed engravings are those of three new types said to have been issued for this country, but of which the authenticity appears very doubtful. The one real was described a short time since in the *Gazette des Timbres*, accompanied by an almost undecipherable engraving. The half real and one peso arrived only a month ago. It will be noticed that the two latter are in the main










points identical in design, whilst the 1 real is of a type apart, copied in its general arrangements from that of the Costa Rican stamps. Now, it strikes us as very odd that such a distinction should exist in respect of the one real. It frequently happens that the highest value of a series is of a different design from the rest, but it is very rare for two consecutive inferior values to be of separate types (unless they are members of a series of which no two stamps are alike in design); and it is still rarer for the highest and lowest values to share between them a type which is not that of the intermediate denominations. Perhaps, on the other hand, this very lack of plausibility in the distribution of the designs is an argument in favour of the genuineness of the stamps: time will show. Meanwhile, we place on record the doubts with which they inspire both ourselves and our contemporaries, and close our notice of them by a list of their colours:—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ½ real | blue | on white paper, perf. 11. |
| 1 ,, | orange | |
| 1 peso | carmine-rose | |

France.—We mentioned last month that M. Wolowski was about to reproduce his proposition with regard to the issue of post cards for France, and are glad to be able to announce that his amendment has been accepted by the finance minister. It reads as follows: "The department shall be allowed to manufacture *postal cards*, destined to pass through the post unenclosed. They shall be put on sale at the price of *ten* centimes for those posted and distributed within the circumspection of one and the same office, as also for those posted in Paris for Paris, within the fortification; and at the price of *fifteen* centimes for those circulating in France and Algeria, between one office and another." The boon is not an extravagant one; in England we should not think much of the privilege of sending a post card through the post for three-halfpence; but the peculiar circumstances of our neighbours, and their indisposition to accept radical reforms, must be taken into account in passing judgment on the modest proposal of the most enlightened French advocate of postal progress.

At the moment of going to press we learn that the above amendment passed the French National Assembly on the 19th ult., but not until after a lengthy discussion on its merits, in which M. Wolowski and the postmaster-

general, in its favour, and a M. Cailloux, against its adoption, took part. The first portion of the amendment—that which relates to post cards—was only adopted after two successive divisions *par assis et levé*, the first proving indecisive.

Japan.—This country promises to be a prolific source of new issues. The annexed type, first described by the Belgian journal, was issued at Hiogo in September, and supersedes the blue one tenpo. The inscriptions in Roman letters, top and bottom, conclusively settle the question of the orthography of the denomination of value, which must henceforth be written *sen*. The sign (—) on either side indicates the value; the hieroglyphics lower down are the same as those on the first series; not so the central inscription, which remains to be deciphered. The branches which frame it in are the emblems of the Mikado,—chrysanthemum and "paulownia,"—and above is the sun; the imperial dragons have disappeared. There are forty stamps in a sheet, and each one having been separately engraved, there are as many varieties as stamps. The impression is in blue, on yellowish white wove paper; perforated 10 and 11, the perforating needles having been placed at irregular distances. Two shades are already distinguished, viz., blue and dark blue.




Great Britain.—It would seem that the impressed stamp on post cards has been condemned, and that an embossed oval stamp has been adopted as its successor. Our publishers have received from a correspondent a specimen of this novelty, and the annexed engraving represents it correctly. It consists of a cameo head of the Queen on a solid disk, inscribed HALFPENNY in an arch above, and POSTAGE in a curve below, the profile; a narrow white rim completes the design, which is, as usual, embossed in the right upper corner. The card we have seen was a plain white one, used by a private firm, and the stamp was impressed in a pink of the same shade as that of the penny envelope. We should imagine the embossed stamp would be found inconvenient, as it would trench considerably on the space on the other side, reserved for the communication.




Since writing the foregoing, we learn that this embossed design is reserved for cards specially stamped at Somerset House, in execution of private orders, and will not supersede the existing design for cards sold over the post-office counter. By the creation of a special type for private post cards, the number issued, and consequently the extent to which the concession is appreciated by the public, can easily be ascertained.

Dutch West Indian Possessions.—The forthcoming emission for these colonies turns out to be composed of two series, instead of one. The values are the same in each, as are also the leading features of the design, but the colours differ. Taking them in detail, let us first notice the issue for

*Dutch Guiana* (or Surinam).—The design consists of the profile of king to left, in pearled circle; name—SURINAME—above, but in *white* letters, on coloured ground; value below, on a straight label, intersected immediately under the portrait by a small shield, bearing the Dutch arms; rosettes in the angles; values:—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| $2\frac{1}{2}$ | cents | carmine. |
| 3 | ,, | green. |
| 5 | ,, | violet. |
| 10 | ,, | grey. |
| 25 | ,, | blue. |
| 50 | ,, | orange. |

It will not be forgotten that Dutch Guiana was the reputed home of one of the rarest of known essays—the 5 c., figured on p. 119 of Dr. Gray's catalogue, 5th edition—whose history has never yet been ascertained.

*Curacoa.*—Design: profile of king to left in pearled circle; name—CURACAO—above in curved label, following the circle; below, a curved label, inscribed CENT on either side, and intersected in the centre by an oval, bearing the figure of value on a lined ground; angles of the inner frame truncated, and filled with a small ornament; ground of dots outside the circle; values:—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2½ | cent | green. |
| 3 | ,, | grey. |
| 5 | ,, | carmine. |
| 10 | ,, | blue. |
| 25 | ,, | orange. |
| 50 | ,, | violet. |

From the foregoing it will be seen that, whilst preserving a certain general resemblance to the home stamps, the colonial emissions possess well-marked peculiarities of their own.

GUATEMALA.—We are now in a position to give a correct engraving of the new type, which bears out, in its principal features, the description we gave last month from an obliterated copy. Some of the emblems are by no means clear, and especially that which surmounts the scroll.




Mr. Pemberton, in the last number of his journal, expresses grave doubts of the authenticity of this type, reminding us that it has the same number of perforations (12) as the Guatemala swindle 5 c. brown (ship in bay), and he argues that the simultaneous appearance of these two new values, and the three Ecuador varieties referred to in another column, is in itself suspicious. Bearing in mind that we have had nothing new from the Boston gang for a long time past, we are inclined to share his doubts, and place these Guatemalas in the list of "suspects," until such time as conclusive evidence shall be forthcoming of their real worth.

CASHMERE.—Our Birmingham contemporary chronicles the following new colours of the rectangular series:—

| | |
|---|---|
| 6 pies | ultramarine. |
| 1 anna | brownish yellow. |
| 1 ,, | rich yellow. |
| 2 ,, | lemon. |

These varieties were received from the city of Travancore, and Mr. Pemberton inclines to the belief that the different cities print their own stamps, and are not very particular as to shade or impression. The colours of the 1 anna and 2 annas are perfectly distinct from any ever received in England.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS. — The promised thirty cents has made its appearance, and turns out to be modelled very closely on the English sixpenny brown, though the narrowness of the inscribed frame seems to us to detract somewhat from the general effect. We give the engraving without having seen the original, of which we ignore the colour, an important particular which *The Philatelist* does not give.




BELGIUM.—Reply-paid cards are to be issued this New Year's Day. The first half of the card has the word CARTE-CORRESPONDANCE at the top, below it the Belgian arms, and beneath that again the inscription REPONSE PAYEE ANTWOORD BETAALD; in the right upper corner, the 5 c. stamp. The second half, instead of "réponse payée," is inscribed REPONSE ANTWOORD; in all other respects it is a copy of its companion.

The Belgian *Moniteur* of the 27th ult., contains a decree ordering the creation of envelopes for that country, to be sold to the public at the price of one centime beyond the value of the stamp. This is followed by a notice from the minister that envelopes of the value of 10 centimes will be issued on the 1st of May next.

SPAIN.—In confirmation of a brief notice given in our November number we are able to state, on the authority of the *Revista de Correos*, that the following changes are to take place on this first of January. The existing 5 c. green (figure of value), 6 c. bright blue, 10 c. dull lilac, and 12 c. lilac are withdrawn; the 6 c. and 12 c. values are definitely suppressed; a new 5 c. stamp is issued with bust of king, colour rose; and the 10 c. is reissued in the colour of the abandoned 6 c. bright blue.

BRITISH HONDURAS.—The accuracy of the report of the issue of a threepenny stamp is proved by the arrival of the stamp itself. It is very handsome; of precisely the same design as the four previously issued values; but the buckle of the encircling garter is more to the left than even in the sixpenny. It is printed a delicate fawn-brown, approaching closely to that of the Western Australian threepence; perf. 14, and watermarked CC. and crown.

EGYPT.—The same authority notices that the recently received supplies of the current series are more clearly printed, except the 2 piastres, which is on a thinner paper, of an apparently greasy nature, giving worse impressions than ever.

FRENCH COLONIES.—To the number of *unperforated* French republic stamps, doing duty *pro tem.* in the colonies, must be added the current 5 c., 15 c., and 25 c., which were issued on 1st October last.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—The values of the two expected stamps are said to be $\frac{1}{4}$ centavo and 1 centavo; and the colours are, respectively, lilac and green.

TASMANIA.—A five-shilling stamp of the new type has just made its appearance, with oblique watermark—TAS; colour, bright red-violet, verging on magenta.

## ON THE VARIETIES OF TYPE OF THE EARLY SWISS FEDERAL STAMPS.

BY A PARISIAN COLLECTOR.

A GREAT deal has been written about the cantonal stamps of Switzerland, and abundant *formulæ* have been given for testing the genuineness of the Geneva, Basle, and Zurich stamps, while but comparatively little attention has been bestowed on the early issues of the Federal stamps. The discovery of a very suspicious-looking copy of the 15 cents Rayon III. in my own collection induced me to make an investigation into these early issues, with a view of ascertaining how many types there really were, so that by looking one of them in the face I might be able to detect if he were of the true blood; or whether, in addition to the white cross on his escutcheon, he had also a bar sinister across it.

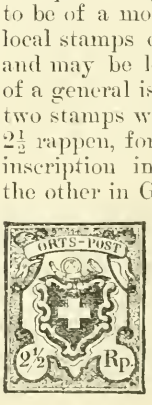
The results of this investigation, which was at the best incomplete, were communicated to *Le Timbre-Poste* in November, 1871. The *hiatus* then left has been since supplied in a communication from M. Schulze, which appeared in that journal for October last, giving authentic details obtained from the printer of the stamps in question. From this communication, and from two articles which appeared also in *Le Timbre-Poste*, in the year 1868, I am enabled to string together some reliable information, the truth of which my readers can verify for themselves, as I have done.

Before examining the question of types, it may be well to offer a few observations on the probable dates of issue of these early stamps. The use of postage stamps in some of the Swiss cantons dates from the year 1843—a very early epoch in the history of postage stamps—but the intricacies of the monetary system in Switzerland prior to 1850 were an obstacle to the use of stamps for prepaying postage beyond the limits of the canton in which they were employed, or beyond its limits and that of any neighbouring one having a similar currency.

The Geneva double stamp came into use most probably in the early part of 1844, as a specimen is mentioned as bearing the postmark of the 10th March, 1844, and, with the larger stamp of 5 centimes, continued in use up to the close of 1849. We here find, for the first time, postmarked specimens of two stamps of the values of 4 and 5 centimes, with a white cross as the principal feature.




These stamps have been usually called the "Vaud" stamps, but though all authorities agree as to their having been used at Lausanne, yet it seems perfectly clear that their use was not confined to the canton of Vaud, but extended also to Geneva; for the obliterating marks then in use in Geneva are found on these stamps. They seem, from their design, to be of a more generic character than the local stamps of Geneva, Basle, and Zurich, and may be looked upon as the forerunners of a general issue of stamps. In April, 1850, two stamps were issued, both of the value of $2\frac{1}{2}$ rappen, for local postage, one having the inscription in French—POSTE LOCALE—and the other in German—ORTS-POST. From this period no copies of the 4 centimes (Vaud) are to be met with, and it is probable, therefore, that it was superseded by the $2\frac{1}{2}$ rappen. Its short existence is doubtless the reason of its being much less commonly met with than



its companion stamp of 5 centimes, which continued longer in use.

In October, 1850, two other stamps were issued for two circuits: 5 rappen, black on blue paper, for the first circuit—Rayon I.; and 10 rap., black on yellow, for the second circuit—Rayon II. The 5 centimes (Vaud) appears also to have been employed contemporaneously with these stamps, as also another stamp of the value of 5 centimes, called the Neufchatel stamp. This latter was probably issued about the month of August, 1851, and continued to be employed till about the close of that year. The two stamps of 2½ rappen—POSTE LOCALE and ORTS-POST—were suppressed at the end of 1851; and two other stamps were issued, of 15 rappen and 15 centimes, for a third Rayon—Rayon III. The 5 rappen, Rayon I., had also ceased to be printed in black on blue paper, and was then printed in blue on white, and the colour of the paper of the 10 rappen was made deeper in tone. On the 1st January, 1852, the entire series in use consisted of:—







| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Rayon I. | 5 rappen | blue on white. |
| ,, II. | 10 ,, | black on orange. |
| ,, III. | 15 ,, | red on white. |
| ,, ,, | 15 centimes | red on white. |

These stamps remained in use till October, 1854.

With regard to the two stamps, 4 and 5 centimes (Vaud), there seems to be only one type for the two values, the sole difference between the two stamps consisting in the figure of value. Throughout the 4 centimes I have never detected any variation in the shape of the figure; but in the 5 centimes there are at least two, if not more, types of the figure of value, and the letter c of CTS. does not seem to be invariably the same. Doubtless, while the 5 centimes was in use, several transfers were made of the body of the engraving. Of the 5 centimes (Neufchatel) M. Regnard states that there are as many varieties as stamps on the plate. For want of a sufficient number of specimens, I have not been able to ascertain whether his statement is correct; but so far as my observations have gone I have not detected any varieties.

It does not appear from M. Schulze's communication where or by whom the above stamps had been printed; but the 2½ rappen POSTE LOCALE and ORTS-POST, the 5 rappen Rayon I., the 10 rappen Rayon II., and the two stamps of Rayon III., were the work of M. Durheim, a lithographic printer at Berne. The whole of these stamps, with the exception of the two for Rayon III., were engraved on stone in five rows, eight in each row, thus making 40 types, all differing from each other in some of the minuter details. Four transfers were then taken from the engraving, so as to form a sheet of 160 stamps. Very shortly after the appearance of the 2½ rappen stamps, a black line was added round the cross; and this addition was afterwards made to the 5 rappen stamps black on blue paper, but as this was only effected shortly before they ceased to be printed on blue paper, specimens of this latter value with the black line are rather scarce.

This line round the cross was never applied to the stamps of 10 rappen, and was effaced from the engraving of the 5 rappen previously to the stamps being printed in blue on white paper, though imperfectly in some cases, as specimens are found in which slight traces of the line still appear.

The 15 rappen Rayon III. stamps were engraved on stone in two rows of five each, ten in all, each stamp differing from the others in some minute details, and transfers were taken from this engraving. The letters *Rp.* were then effaced and replaced by the letters *Cts.*, so that the same varieties in the design are found in the centime series as in the rappen series. A careful examination of specimens of the centime series will also show that the lettering is not uniform in each variety, the size and form of the letter *C* is especially noticeable, evidently showing that the engraving was subsequently retouched.

The supply of 15 rappen doubtless becoming exhausted, a second engraving was made also of ten stamps. This is readily

distinguishable from the first by the size of the figures, as well as by the details of the groundwork, &c.

The annual consumption of these stamps having in the year 1854 reached six millions,




the Federal government decided on the issue of a new series, and on the removal of the manufacture of them to the mint. On the first of October, 1854, the new series appeared, consisting of five values, 5, 10, 15, 20, and 40 centimes, rappen, or centesimi—the three languages being all employed in the new design. The whole of the finished and unfinished sheets in the hands of M. Durheim were handed over by him to the postal administration, as well as the original engravings. These latter were defaced by the administration, and the remaining stock of the old stamps was burnt.

## PROPOSED FRENCH OFFICIAL STAMPS.

A COMMITTEE was appointed last summer by the French National Assembly, to examine the working of the French postal service, and its report, which teems with interesting matter, was duly published in the *Journal Officiel*. For the present, however, we must content ourselves with extracting the proposals of the committee with reference to the emission of French official stamps. These proposals are most probably still under consideration.

After suggesting the propriety of making the prepayment of general correspondence obligatory, "there is another reform," says the report, which in principle is unquestionably just, profitable to the Treasury, sought after since the time of Louis XV., and which, from our point of view, it appears not impossible to realise—we speak of the revision of the restriction of the franking privilege, and of the measures to be taken to diminish the abuses of it, already lessened, it is true, but still great.

Assuredly the law was a just one, and politically useful, which decided under every *régime* that officials called on to correspond between themselves on matters of public interest, might do so gratis. But, little by little, as always happens, by the side of justifiable exemptions others grew up which were not so. For instance, is it not going beyond the limits, to authorise private persons to write entirely without cost to certain functionaries, and to the ministers? Still, if that were all, we might bear with the evil. But it exists elsewhere, and in greater degree—it exists, above all, in that dishonesty which diverts to a large extent the postal franchise from its legitimate employment.

But too often letters referring to matters of only private interest reach the addressees post free in consequence of their bearing a frank-mark to which they have no right. On other occasions, the person possessing the franking privilege receives post free, under a double envelope, a letter intended for some one of his acquaintance, and transmits it to him. Again, it is not only the possessors of the privilege who misuse it: their subordinates very frequently arrogate to themselves, in turn, the profit of an illegal practice; in fact, in many public offices it is the fixed custom to substitute a handstamp for the signature which alone in the first instance conferred exemption; and it will be easily understood that this handstamp, more or less clandestinely employed, protects from payment a great many letters on which the Treasury ought to receive the postage.

Does this prove that the postal administration is powerless against such culpable practices? In theory, no; in reality, yes. The postal agent who suspects a violation of the law, certainly has it in his power to cause a verification to be made according to the prescribed rules. Some few have tried it, but it must be admitted their zeal has not been successful. It must not be forgotten that the possessors of the franking privilege are all personages endowed with a certain authority, and that an investigation into the circumstances of its employment being an implication against their good faith, even when it only touches on the proceedings of their subordinates, gives birth, as is but natural, to ill-humour and rancour. Thus it happens that at present, and for a long time

past, a certain tolerance has passed into a custom.

These abuses are not incurable. It is even permissible to hope two energetic remedies would speedily reduce them. The first thing to do would be to revise and cut down the long list of existing exemptions, settled in 1844, and largely added to since in practice; and some members of the committee are of opinion that it would be desirable to lay down the principle that the *receipt* of free letters should alone be permitted. The second measure to be taken against fraud would be to change, so as to render verification possible, the mode of franking. Perhaps it would be advisable not to allow any unpaid official letters to pass the post, but to insist on prepayment, and reimburse the functionaries possessing the "franchise" afterwards; this is what the English do.* Perhaps it would be still better to renounce the system of signatures and handstamps, and issue special postage stamps, differing from the others both in form and colour, which each minister would distribute to his immediate subordinates, who, in turn, would then hand them over to such of the inferior employés as might possess the right to use them.

Each one would receive in proportion to the average of his requirements. There would be no lack of elements for establishing this average. For instance, there is not a prefecture where an estimate could not be made of the usual number of letters per annum which the mayor of each commune sends to the prefect, and of the replies which are forwarded to them. There is not a court of justice of which the *procureur général* could not reckon up the number of letters exchanged between it and the other courts of the district. These, and other corresponding reports, prepared in each administration, would serve as a basis for the distribution of the stamps among those entitled to use them. If there were not enough, an increase should not be refused, but as the insufficiency would have to be proved, an investigation perhaps provoked, and a formal request made, one might hope that the possessors of the privilege would not only abstain from abusing it themselves, but would endeavour to prevent fraud from being carried on around them.

The Spaniards have finished by adopting the preceding system, and appear as satisfied with it as the English are with their combination. We find ourselves, then, authorised to say that a committee of experienced men, guided by the trials already made on the other side of the channel and the Pyrenees, elucidating and applying the ideas above emitted, could not fail to find a satisfactory solution of the difficult problem which has hitherto defied every effort.

* [Our neighbours are in error; our public functionaries do *not* prepay their correspondence; but its weight and the postage which would have been paid thereon are estimated, and the post-office takes credit for the amount in its annual report.— Ed.]

## NEW GRANADA "BOGUS" STAMPS.

Messrs. Stanley Gibbons and Co. have forwarded to us some specimens of Colombian stamps lately received by them from Mr. Engelhardt Fohl. As we have seen specimens similar to some of these in the hands of a dealer, at prices for which genuine copies ought to be bought, we would give a word of caution to our readers to beware of these imitations. One of these stamps is a sobreporte 25 centavos, 1870; but this is so badly executed as not to be likely to deceive. Would that as much could be said about the rest of the batch; they are carefully got up and gummed. The greater part of the specimens are obliterated with an oval mark, within which parts of the word "Bogota" are to be seen; and they have remnants of paper on the backs, as if they had been torn from a letter.

The first lot consists of the 5 c., 10 c., 20 c., and 50 c. of the 1864 type. The colours of the imitations differ considerably from those of the genuine, especially in the 5 c. and 20 c., the first of which is far too yellow, and the latter too vermilion. A great difference is also perceptible in the figures of value; but we think the most ready mode of detecting them is to observe the bottom of the shield. In the genuine copies this is only a line, but in the forged ones it is a small ship. It should be remarked that all the stamps are from the same stone, the figures of value

being changed to adapt them to the different values.

The next lot consists of the 1865 series. The peso is given in two colours—carmine and vermilion. These stamps may be distinguished from the genuine by the shading of the left upper corner. In the forgeries this shading radiates from the oval, while in the genuine ones it is oblique. All these stamps are also from the same stone, with the figures of value altered to adapt it to the other values.

The next are two nondescript stamps, of 20 and 50 centavos, of the type of the 10 centavos of 1867. An engraving of the 10 centavos has therefore been made and adapted to these fanciful stamps by changing the figure of value.

The last is the 10 pesos of 1867, by no means badly executed. Unfortunately—or rather, we ought to say, fortunately—the forgers have made two errors in the inscription, which reads CORREOS NUES E U. DE. COLUMBIA, instead of CORREOS NLES. E. U. DE COLOMBIA. There are also three stars too many.

## DANGEROUS FORGERIES.

THERE are plenty of common counterfeits of the stamps of Romagna, which can only deceive the utterest tyros, but a new set of forgeries has just made its appearance which are calculated to mislead the most experienced philatelist. It is true that there is hardly a single detail in which they do not differ from the genuine stamps, but the difference in every instance but one is so slight as to be practically imperceptible, except on close comparison with the true type, and is consequently impossible to describe with sufficient accuracy to render detection certain. Happily there *is* one item in which the imitation is manifestly imperfect, and it will permit of instant recognition of the counterfeits without reference to the genuine stamps. We allude to the position of the ornament in the right upper corner. In the genuine this ornament is *square with the corner*, and therefore in a straight line with the word BOLLO; whilst in the forgery it has quite slipped out of place and slopes considerably to the right, almost touching the letter P of POSTALE; furthermore, if a line be drawn along the bottom of the word BOLLO, quite a third of the entire ornament will be found to lie below it.

If placed by the side of genuine stamps, the thickness of the lettering in the forgeries (except in the word *Romagne*) will be perceived, and likewise the difference in the colour of the paper, which accords neither with that of the originals nor that of the reprints, which latter are all from the one sole genuine die.

These forgeries are all postmarked with an imitation of the correct obliteration; but here again there is a considerable difference, the space between the bars of the forged portmark being nearly double as large as between those of the genuine.

The vendors of these counterfeits reside at Messina, whence they addressed a supply to our publishers, to whom the thanks of philatelists are due for the steps they have immediately taken to secure the exposure of imitations which, had they passed unnoticed, would have done great harm.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### THE PROPOSED PHILATELICAL CONGRESS.

*To the Editor of* "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—Will you permit me to ask a few questions about the "congress," to be held at Paris, of which you speak in your number for December? As I shall in all probability be in Paris in August or September, I should very much like to attend the meeting you propose, but only as one who desires to learn, as I am not a great collector, and my experience of philatelical matters is very limited. But I suppose that the congress you propose would be public, or at least that one would obtain admission on the payment of a certain entrance fee. As you ask persons likely to attend to write you, I do so now, and propose that the meeting should be held in some public room, where *everyone* should be admitted, collectors and outsiders, on payment of a certain sum. The Parisians being rather curious, I fancy many people would attend, and so not only any expenses incurred by the hiring of the room might be covered, but perhaps also a small sum made, which might be devoted to any plan for the encouragement of stamp-collecting. I suppose that before hiring rooms, a certain sum would have to be made sure of, and propose, therefore, prepayment by stamp-collectors who intend being present, or a guarantee on their part.

Trusting that I have not taken up too much of your valuable space,

I remain,
Yours truly,
B. C. DEL C.

*Torquay.*

## OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

*The Philatelical Journal.*—We deeply regret that this is the last occasion on which we shall have the pleasure of noticing this journal as a monthly publication. Too much credit cannot be given to the accomplished editor for his energy in completing the first and only volume by the issue of the two concluding numbers now before us, of which the preparation has been superintended from a sick bed. Philately itself acquires new dignity from the devotedness of such faithful servants as Mr. Pemberton, and our readers will share our own pleasure on learning that *The Philatelical Journal* is to be continued, in the words of its editor, as "a high-class quarterly." Such a magazine, in which exhaustive monographs may be published without such interruptions as are almost necessarily incidental to their appearance in a monthly journal, will, we doubt not, prove of great utility; and we trust that long ere the promised first number appears, its editor's health, sorely tried by a most painful and protracted illness, may be completely re-established.

Turning now to the issues for November and December, we find them, like their predecessors, full of readable matter. The double number for November contains no less than sixteen articles, among which may be specially signalized for their interest the concluding portion of the "Parisian Collector's" paper on "The Turkish Stamps," the list of "Bogus Novelties," and "Roadside Ramblings," by *Quelqu'un*. Who the "Somebody" is by whom the last-named paper was written it is not for us to say; but those who are not in the secret may form a shrewd guess as to the authorship from its style.

Glancing through the pages of this number, we come upon an observation which students of obsolete series would do well to bear in mind.

> It is an understood axiom in studying used stamps, that a single obliteration of a certain date cannot fix the currency of a stamp of uncertain date, since a long obsolete stamp may, by [one of] a thousand accidents, be used years after it has ceased to have a postal existence.

Under the heading "Russian Locals," the editor inserts, and comments on, the letter of a sceptical correspondent, who pretends that the Helsingfors stamp and Russian locals are not postals. The assertions of this correspondent illustrate the truth of the saying that a "little knowledge is a dangerous thing." The rural or secondary posts, the existence of which the head of the foreign department of the Russian post-office is stated to have denied, are referred to in the report recently published in the government organ, *The Official Messenger*. However, we will resist the temptation of going farther into the subject, Mr. Overy Taylor being, as we understand, engaged in preparing a complete history of the Russian local stamps, which we trust to have the pleasure of publishing shortly.

The December number is made up of the usual "Cream;" "Our Black List," in which Messrs. Sidney Simpson & Co., of unenviable notoriety, and other minor forgery-sellers, are shown up; "Novelties;" "The Stamped Envelopes of the United States," an analytical article, of value to philatelists who collect those envelopes in all their varieties of size and paper; "Remarks on *The Philatelical Journal*, No. 8," a series of acute commentaries; "Reviews;" and "Bogus Novelties." The review of the tenth volume of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* is a most kind and gratifying one, evidently prompted by feelings of warm and hearty sympathy, and we shall always hold it in pleasant remembrance.

*La Gazette des Timbres.*—The last two numbers of this journal have each made their appearance some considerable time after their nominal date of publication. Engravers and *clicheurs* are blamed for their delay; but, speaking with some experience in this matter, we believe that all such difficulties could be overcome by the exercise of the necessary amount of *will;* with the determination would come the ability to be punctual, and the *Gazette* would gain by regularity as much as it must now lose by its unbusiness-like lack of it.

The chief interest of the two numbers lies in the editor's paper on the Japanese stamps, to which we have already incidentally referred, and of which, when complete, we intend giving an abstract. In the "Minor Gazette"

the best method to be adopted for mounting stamps and envelopes is discussed.

*The Philatelist.*—Of this excellent publication we have three numbers to notice. That for November is somewhat below the usual standard, but the December emission is distinguished by the illustrations of the types of the new Chilian envelopes and the 30 c. Straits Settlements; whilst the January number is equally noteworthy for the engravings of the New Zealand stamps. In the latter appears a fresh instalment of "The Spud Papers," but this time from Mr. Pemberton's pen.

*Le Timbre Poste.*—The November number contains the translation of a letter from the director of the local post of Louga, addressed to a philatelist who had thought it possible, by sending him a rouble bank-note, to obtain a supply of the Louga stamps. The reply is a sample of obtuse officialism, and well exemplifies the truth of the saying, attributed to the first Napoleon, "Scratch a Russian, and you find the Tartar beneath." Some interesting details respecting the Romagnese stamps are given in the December impression. On the 2nd July, 1859, a certain Professor Gherardi de Lugo was requested to prepare a design for the projected series; and as he failed to comply with the request, the Turin post-office was applied to for a type, but ultimately the design known to collectors was adopted by the "Government Assembly" of Romagna, and the supply printed at Bologna. The emission of the series was notified by a decree signed by the governor-general, and dated Bologna, 30th August, 1859; its suppression was decreed by the governor of the Emilian provinces on the 12th January, 1860.

In the current instalment of the article on "Stamped Envelopes" Dr. Magnus refers, *inter alia*, to M. Bronne's visit to England, in 1841, as envoy of the Belgian post-office, and his report on the comparative advantages of adhesive stamps and stamped envelopes. M. Bronne decided in favour of the latter, and gave in a design for an envelope, of which *Le Timbre Poste* publishes an illustration.

The January number treats of the mythical 10 c. Prince Edward Island, of which it now appears M. Moens received his three specimens from Mr. Goldner. M. Moens inclines to think they are genuine embryos; time will prove.

## PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. XXV.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

### EUROPE.

### France.

*Stamps issued by the German authorities.*

In the last paper an incidental reference was made to the stamps commonly known as forming the "Alsace and Lorraine" series, which we have now to consider in detail. The name they have received is essentially inaccurate, but it embodies the general belief entertained at the time of their emission, that their circulation would not extend beyond the ancient Elsass and Lothringen, of which it was the assumed intention of the Germans to take possession. In other words, the administration of the postal service in those provinces was looked upon as a mere preliminary—as in the case of the Schleswig-Holstein emissions—to the formal annexation. Not even those who foresaw the probability of the occupation of the heart of the country by the invaders had any idea that the German postal *employés* would follow the army and re-establish the every-day service wherever that army obtained a firm hold. Such, however, was the case. The currency of the "Alsace and Lorraine" stamps, originally limited to the vicinity of Strasbourg, spread with the unheard-of progress of the German arms, northwards as far as Abbeville, and westward almost to Le Mans. At the termination of the war their circulation was once more restricted to the two border provinces, wherein they lost all claim to be considered as French stamps, and became in reality a provisional German series.

Some collectors may question the propriety of classing these stamps with the French, but on this point the opinion of the leading French authority—Dr. Magnus—may well be considered conclusive. In almost the last number of the extinct *Timbrophile*, after adverting to the difficulty of coming to a decision, he expresses the opinion that, although

not a French emission, they should still find place in an article treating of the stamps *in use in France* in 1870-71. They cannot, in fact, with any propriety be classed apart, for, as shown above, they were employed not *only* in Alsace and Lorraine, but in several other provinces; nor can they be placed with the German stamps, for they were not, except at the last, used in Germany, and it is certainly a safer course to chronicle the stamps according to the place of their currency than according to the nationality of the issuing authorities.

The emission of the Franco-German stamps took place about the end of August, 1870, when five values made their appearance, 1 c., 2 c., 4 c., 10 c., and 20 c. In January of the following year two more values were issued, the 5 c. and 25 c., which completed the series. The design offers but slight ground for comment. Whether from motives of delicacy towards the invaded, as has been suggested, or, as is more probable, from mere considerations of utility, the inscription is limited to the word POSTES, and nothing appears on the face of the stamps to indicate the circumstances which led to their emission. These stamps were made for use, and not for ornament; and like many another series, hailing from the banks of the Rhine, they give proof of the true German love of things practical. For most collectors one specimen of each value will suffice, but those who care for varieties will be careful to obtain examples of an *erreur d'impression*, which occurred in respect of all, or nearly all, the values, and consists, to put it concisely, in the ground-pattern being upside down. In copies which present the design in its normal state, the concave side of the curves is uppermost, in the errors the reverse is the case; but the occurrence of these varieties proves simply that the printer took hold of the sheet, on which the *burelage* had been impressed in advance, by the bottom, instead of the top, when he put it under the press to receive the imprint of the frame and inscription of the stamps.




It has been stated that a sub-type exists, with the lettering closer together. This is by no means improbable, but I have had no means of verifying the statement. I have compared together stamps showing the *burelage* right side up, with others with reversed *burelage*, and find the inscriptions differ only to such a slight and almost inappreciable extent as may be explained by the clearness or the thickness, as the case may be, of the impression.

In colour some of the stamps vary considerably; thus the 2 c., with ordinary ground, is of a dark chocolate-brown, whilst those with reversed *burelage* are of a light red-brown, approaching to burnt sienna. The 10 c. also exists in at least two distinct shades, and minor variations may be noticed in the others. No doubt the total quantity of stamps used was very large; the accidental appearance of colour varieties is therefore by no means surprising.

*Post Cards.*—These were issued in the beginning of the year 1871. They bore no impressed stamp. They contain, however, a place for an adhesive, and bear the needful inscriptions. I have never come across any of these cards myself, and have reason to suppose that their circulation must have been extremely limited.

*Tax on Letters.*—Just after the armistice was concluded, by virtue of which (among other things) the Germans were to hold the department of the Somme until after the payment of the first half milliard of the indemnity, a charge of 20 centimes each was made by the German officials on all letters posted within that department. This charge they had received orders (as the French journals put it) from "a very high quarter" to impose, and it was collected at the receiving post-office. All letters from towns in the Somme bore, besides the French 20 c. adhesive, the handstamped inscription TAXE ALLEMANDE, followed by a large figure 2, signifying two *décimes*. This tax, or "requisition," remained in force for about six weeks; why it was withdrawn I do not now remember. The imposition of such a charge was a high-handed proceeding on the part of the Germans, especially after the conclusion of peace; but it must be said that if their management of the French post-offices was signal-

ised by some arbitrary acts, it was also made the opportunity for beneficial innovations, which, unfortunately, the French have been unable to maintain in force; as, for instance, when letters were carried by the Germans between Amiens and any occupied town at *ten* centimes, instead of twenty.

UNPAID LETTER STAMPS.

The *chiffre-taxe* stamps are applied by the postal officials to unpaid letters, and indicate the amount of postage which the postman is entitled to claim on delivering the letter. In 1859 two stamps, both of the value of 10 centimes, were issued; the first was lithographed, and was in fact a provisional; the second was typographed. The first was in use but for a very short time, and is, consequently, rare; the second remained in use until 1863, when it was superseded by the 15 c. The latter continued in circulation until 1871, when the three current values made their appearance. All these stamps are of one and the same type; the two 10 c. and the 15 c. are printed in black. The current set reads as follows:




| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 25 centimes | | black. |
| 40 | ,, | blue. |
| 60 | ,, | yellow-ochre. |

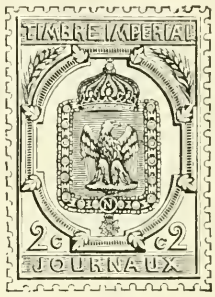
Besides these there is mention made in *Le Timbre-Poste* of May, 1871, of a *lithographed* 15 c. black, supposed to be of Bordeaux origin, but, as far as I am aware, no further information respecting it has been obtained.

Of the foregoing values a line-pierced issue of the engraved 15 c. took place, of which specimens are rather scarce, and the current 25 c. is also found so perforated.

The existing 25 c. represents the charge for unpaid letters posted and delivered in one and the same district. The other two current values are for general correspondence, but they are hardly ever used, either because the number of unpaid letters is very small, or because the postal *employés* prefer marking the postage in ink, as they have been accustomed to do.

JOURNAL STAMPS.

The stamps of which the design is here figured were issued about April, 1869, and are now obsolete. They were nominally of the value 2 c., and were printed in three colours—violet, blue, and red. The violet stamps are not fairly collectable, since they represent only the tax or duty on the journals to which they were affixed. The blues and the reds represented the tax *plus the postage*, and are therefore admissible. Their real values were as follows:—




*For Provincial Journals:—*

2 c. blue—tax 2 c. + postage within the department 2 c. = 4 centimes.
2 c. red—tax 2 c. + postage to any part of the country 4 c. = 6 centimes.

The issue of a similar series for the Parisian journals was also contemplated in the same colours, but of the value of 5 c., which in the case of the violet represented the duty only, while the blues and the reds represented the tax *plus* the postage. These latter stamps were, however, never issued.

The stamps had to be stuck on the newspaper sheets before the latter were printed on, so that they might be obliterated by the print. To that intent it was ordered that they should be placed at the right upper angle of the first page. No limit, it may be useful to observe, was put on the period within which the newspapers thus prepaid might go through the post.

The collection of unobliterated specimens must now be very difficult, and used copies are for the most part obliterated by the print in an unsightly manner; yet these difficulties do not constitute any reason for our rejecting the stamps, of which the higher values unquestionably possess a postal character.

POST CARDS.

The emission of official post cards having taken place only a few days prior to the writing of these lines, any description of them would be out of place, as they will no

doubt be fully treated of in another portion of the present number.

ESSAYS.

Several essays have been at different times submitted to the postal administration, but they offer but slight interest, especially to beginners. The best known are the envelope essay, of which an engraving is annexed, and a companion essay issued at the same time, of a similar type but rather larger, and showing at the top the imperial crown only. They were prepared in 1866, and were the production of a certain M. Renard. It is possible that they were really offered to the government; it is *certain* that so large was the number printed that a Parisian philatelic journal was able to give a specimen with every copy, and a Parisian dealer was in a position to quote them at 50 centimes each, in no matter what colour.




There are also two very scarce envelope essays by M. Barre,—one a small oval, the other a small circular design, each with laureated head of emperor in centre, issued in 1862, and several other essays have emanated from his *atelier*. From time to time reports of a forthcoming emission of envelopes have obtained currency, but it seems doubtful whether the project has ever been seriously considered.

The essays of adhesive stamps are, taken altogether, uninteresting, at any rate to beginners, and lack the necessary guarantees of authenticity.

*Hybrid Emissions in Paris during the two Sieges.*

During the Prussian investment of Paris, the "besieged residents" were allowed to use post cards for their communications with the outer world per balloon, but no official post cards, in the ordinary sense of the word, were issued. Within certain limits of weight and size the public was left free to choose such textures as it pleased. Various cards were prepared and sold by stationers, and copies of some of them may still be obtained in Paris.

There were, however, official cards of a special description; they could be purchased in the Paris post-offices at 5 centimes each; to indicate their value they bore a 5 c. adhesive, and they contained, in addition to certain necessary instructions, four ruled and numbered spaces for simple negative or affirmative replies to an equal number of questions. The purchaser of the card in Paris wrote in a letter the questions he wished to ask, enclosed the card with the letter, and despatched the whole by balloon post. The receiver filled in his replies on the card, took it to the nearest post-office, and against payment of a franc the card was transmitted to a central office at Clermont Ferrand. There the address and the replies were copied on a large sheet of paper of which, by a special process, a miniature photograph was obtained, a sheet containing twelve to fifteen hundred messages being condensed into a space of about two-and-a-half square inches. This photographic copy was sent by pigeon post to Paris, and there, by means of an electric light and the most powerful procurable magnifying glasses, the messages were reproduced in legible characters, the photographic impression being magnified 160 times. Before the screen on which the messages were shewn four clerks sat at a table, and methodically copied them off. By this ingenious combination many an anxious dweller in the capital received intelligence from his absent family.

During the reign of the Commune many stratagems were employed to secure the safe delivery of letters in or from Paris after regular communication with the capital had been cut off. More than one article in these pages has been devoted to the description of the expedients adopted, but it is not within my province to do more than refer to the existence of the private postal agencies by which it is affirmed stamps were issued. Personally I may say, that with special opportunities of learning of the issue of such stamps, I never met with nor heard of any. I have seen placarded the advertisements of more than one postal agent, but have never seen any mention in them of the employment of stamps; and I can only conclude, that if any were really used the number must have been exceedingly small. On this subject the re-

marks of Dr. Magnus may be studied with advantage. After referring to the communist decree that all letters from the exterior delivered in Paris must bear a 10 c. stamp, besides the usual postage, and explaining the circumstances which gave rise to the establishment of postal agencies, he goes on to say:—

> Of these agencies the majority collected their charges by means of the ordinary government stamps which were remitted to them with the letters. The Moreau agency used 15 c. and 25 c. envelopes, which were sold by all the postage-stamp retailers, and even in the post-offices. The employment of these envelopes, which bore not a stamp, but the mention of their value, covered the agent's charge, but did not dispense from the payment of the special rate of 10 c. for the town of Paris.
>
> The Lorin office made use of envelopes and adhesive stamps, the latter being of two kinds—the postage stamp proper, serving to check the receipts, and the unpaid letter stamp representing the charge to be collected, according to the nature of the letter. The employment of these stamps and envelopes was exceedingly limited.
>
> Other agencies, whilst doing the same work, used neither stamps nor envelopes, but private people who were never engaged in the service have not been behindhand in issuing stamps. To that order belongs the series of 252 stamps, said to have emanated from Versailles, but which, in fact, had their home in the inventive brain of some native of the country of the locusts and the obelisk.
>
> We will not pursue any further this subject, which appears to us to be destitute of interest, but which, like the American local posts, may serve as a prolific source of deception.

The only stamps I have seen are those of the Lorin office, and they could be obtained for next to nothing *after* the struggle was over. However, following Dr. Magnus's excellent example, I will not discuss these emissions any further, nor—having completed the review of the French stamps—will I unduly prolong the present paper.

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ON THE

## MOTIVES FOR THE EMISSION OF NEW SERIES OF STAMPS.

BY THE EDITOR.

Generally speaking that which is the result of pure accident excites less interest than that which has its origin in some well-defined cause. Thus, for instance, mere secondary colour varieties, due solely to the thickness or composition of the printing-ink, or the amount of force used in obtaining the impression, are admitted on all hands to be of inferior value to varieties due to intentional changes of type, paper, or perforation. The operation of merely fortuitous circumstances in connection with the appearance of any given stamp evokes a passing surprise, but adds nothing to our knowledge, and therefore can add nothing to our interest in the pursuit. In like manner, if the constant succession of new series were due simply to chance or whim, or that monotonous opposite, an unvarying rule, such accidental or inevitable productions, as the case might be, would be devoid of one chief attraction. There are, in fact, some few emissions for whose appearance we are at a loss to account, and there are countries where series follows series with such rapidity as to give rise to the passing doubt whether such continual change can have any serious motive; but we are convinced that in every instance good and sufficient reasons exist, if we did but know them. We purpose jotting down in the present article the principal known causes of new emissions, and hope not only to interest our readers, but also to incite philatelists abroad to obtain information as to the *raison d'être* of series of which nothing is known beyond the mere fact of their appearance and currency.

The causes of the emission of new series may be roughly classed under four headings:

1. Political changes.
2. Alteration of the unit of currency.
3. Revision of postal rates.
4. Depreciation of the plates or dies of stamps, or other technical motive.

1. *Political Changes.* These consist in (*a*) the death or deposition of the reigning monarch, and the consequent occupation of the throne by his successor; (*b*) the substitution of one form of government for another; (*c*) the extension of territory. The death of Leopold I. led to the emission of the current series, bearing his son's profile; the deposition of Prince Couza and the accession of Prince Charles gave us the first series with the latter's portrait; the death, in succession, of Queen Maria and King Pedro, of Portugal, caused the issue of two new series; whilst the execution of Maximilian in Mexico, and the assassination of Prince Michael of Servia, led to the emission of new stamps containing the portraits of their respective successors. In like manner, the dictatorship of Colonel

Prado in Peru was the cause of the appearance of the beautiful series of stamps bearing a group of llamas in the centre. The accession of King John of Saxony, of Kings Kamehameha IV. and V. of the Sandwich Islands, and of Rajah Charles Brooke in Sarawak, were all signalised by the issue of new series of stamps. The substitution of one form of government for another as the motive of a new emission is exemplified twice over in the case of France. Mexico, also, again furnishes a case in point, and with the mention of Spain the list is tolerably complete. The third species of political change—extension of territory—produced its philatelical effect in the issue of new stamps for the German Empire, previously the North German Confederation; and for the kingdom of Italy, of which the sovereign was previously king of Piedmont.

2. *Alteration of the Unit of Currency.* Our North American dependencies offer several instances of the issue of new series, in consequence of the decimal system superseding the old English pounds, shillings, and pence. Canada, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, New Brunswick, and British Columbia, all of necessity changed the types of their stamps when they changed their monetary system. The last Spanish series, with head of queen, was inscribed with the values in fractions of the new unit—the *escudo*. The Roumanian authorities issued a fresh series of stamps, with value in *bani*, after the adoption of the decimal system; and Ceylon has recently shown us the example of a similar change.

3. *The Revision of Postal Rates.* This motive-power receives its most notable exemplification in the change in colour and type which took place in the various German states, in consequence of the treaty entered into between them which regulated the postal tariffs throughout the old confederation. Alteration in the rates has, however, more frequently resulted in the issue of isolated values than of entire series—to wit, the 30 c. French, the ninepenny English, the seven cents of the United States, the threepenny of Ceylon and of Western Australia, the 6 annas 8 pies of India, &c. In this country it led to the simultaneous issue of three stamps—the 10d., 2/-, and 5/-; and in Piedmont, to the emission of the 1856 series.

4. *Depreciation of the Plates or Dies of Stamps, or other technical motive.*—This, it must be allowed, is a very broad definition, and it is intended to embrace in reality those motives at which in many instances we can but guess. That the issue of the current Portuguese series was decided on in consequence of the defective impressions obtained from the dies of the preceding type, is a conjecture which has every probability in its favour; but who can give with equal certainty the reason for the substitution of the current Norwegian type, with value twice repeated, for its predecessor, with value expressed only once? Why were the Swiss stamps of 1854 superseded by those of 1862? Was it because a difficulty was found in adapting the perforating needles to the old size? The Argentine issue of 1864 was evidently suppressed on account of the roughness of the later printed supplies. It may be assumed that the first Egyptian series gave place to the second for a similar reason. The constant succession of Granadine stamps, all of designs bearing a family resemblance to each other, and all on about the same artistic level, has not been authoritatively explained; but it may be that the activity of the forgers has been the leading cause, as it certainly has been the motive for the frequent changes in the type of the Spanish stamps.

It cannot be doubted that the ugliness of some stamps has led to their supercession. Unfortunately, the lack of artistic merit in the designs is but too seldom made a cause for their withdrawal; still, in the case of the Bolivian stamps, it was the presumable cause of the suppression of the first series; and it may be assumed that in deciding on the suppression of certain of the Victorian labels, the authorities were as much influenced by their mediocrity as by other and more utilitarian reasons: whilst it is certain that the United States issue of 1869 was condemned because the stamps were too small, and the Canadian series of 1868 because the stamps were too large.

And here we may close. We do not pretend to give a complete list of the series comprised in the above classes. The foregoing examples

will suffice to show that every series is issued for some good reason, and therefore illustrates some *fact* in the postal history of its country. It will also, we trust, encourage collectors in every country to ascertain the causes of the emission of the stamps that are, or have been, in use, and when such causes are unknown, to solicit from the postal authorities an explanation of them, which we feel sure would rarely be refused.

## NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

Dutch West Indian Possessions.—The types described in our last number are now in circulation, and we are pleased to be able







to give engravings of them. Both are of a high degree of excellence, and form welcome additions to our stock of South American stamps. The colours of the two series were given last month, and it is hardly necessary to repeat them, but it may be as well to state that the grey of the 3 c. Curaçoa and 10 c. Surinam has a shade of bistre in it, and that the 25 c. Curaçoa and 50 c. Surinam are of a brownish-tinted orange.

France.—The post cards, of which the emission was voted by the Assembly in December, were not issued until the 15th ult., a notice from the post-office informing the public that it had not been possible to prepare a sufficient supply for the date originally fixed. The national printing-office received orders to prepare twelve million of cards, of which four millions for the 15th January, and two millions between that date and the 29th January. The cards are white, rather thin, smaller than almost any others, and exceedingly plain, being, in fact, simple type-set inscriptions framed in by a slight ornamental border, of which the pattern differs for each value. They do not show an impressed stamp, but their postal value is represented by adhesives. The 10 centime cards, for district correspondence, are ornamented with a space for two 5 c. stamps, and the 15 centime cards, for general correspondence, bear a 15 c. bistre stamp. The postmaster-general has issued a circular to his subordinates laying down the rules by which the issue and employment of these cards will be governed; and among others there is one which requires that no unstamped cards be issued to the public, the *employé* who neglects to affix the proper stamps to the cards before selling them rendering himself liable to certain penalties. Another regulation permits of the 10 c. cards being used for what we have termed general correspondence, provided an additional 5 c. stamp be attached to them. Both these cards are, we have reason to believe, essentially provisional. Before long there is great probability of the postal rates being reduced to their former level, viz., 20 c. for general, &c., and 10 c. for local letters. In that event a reduction in the price of the cards must almost inevitably follow; and when the emission of new 10 c. and 5 c. cards shall have been decided, we shall expect to hear of some attention being paid to their device, and to the preparation of an impressed stamp.

At the last moment we receive information of the emission of a nondescript stamp,—an adhesive, but not issued as such, and not intended to prepay letters. It is, in brief, a 10 c., with head of republic, of the 1849 type, pure and simple, without the enlarged figures; and it is at present exclusively used on the Paris local post cards. Its emission is evidently an afterthought, for on the Paris 10 c. post cards, which bear the new stamp, as on those used in the provinces, space is reserved for two 5 c. stamps. Moreover, the official instructions to the postal officials, issued a few days before the appearance of the post cards, expressly states that the district cards will bear two 5 c. stamps, the authorities not having any 10 c. stamps in hand. A Rouen correspondent, however, furnishes us with a clue to the mystery. This new 10 c., of the old type, is printed in *brown on rose*, and is no other than the old

10 c. bistre, dipped in the bath of colour used to tint the sheets of the current 80 c.; the colouring matter, besides dyeing the paper rose, having also changed the hue of the impression itself from bistre to a kind of bronze-brown. The authorities have thus turned to good account the surplus stock of the old 10 c., which value, as our readers will remember, was rendered obsolete by the elevation of the postal rates for local letters to 15 c. One of the Parisian minor papers states that this stamp will not be used out of Paris, but we can hardly credit this assertion, seeing what an economy of time and *matériel* would result from the employment of one stamp, instead of two, for the supplies of local cards for the provinces. In any case the new comer may be regarded as a veritable curiosity; an adhesive stamp which has no independent existence, but is only recognised as forming part and parcel of the post card to which it is attached, being quite an anomalous creation. We have been informed that its franking power has been tested by detaching a specimen from its card, and using it as an ordinary adhesive to prepay a packet of patterns, which was subject to a postage of 10 centimes, and was allowed to pass by the French post-office. If this be so—and we shall test it for ourselves—we shall certainly recommend its collection apart, as an adhesive stamp.

Much to our surprise, the current low values of the republic have received an addition in the shape of an engraved 1 c. olive-green, which we learn has been in use since the 10th December last. It is a noteworthy fact that this stamp does not represent any postal rate, the lowest being, under the new tariff, two centimes, and it is only absolutely *necessary* for the purpose of forming, in conjunction with the 2 c. stamp, the rate of three centimes, chargeable on packets of printed matter not exceeding 10 grammes in weight. The other rates below 10 c. can be composed by means of the previously existing 2 c., 4 c., and 5 c. stamps. Such being the case, the question suggests itself,—why did not the French office go the shortest way to work by issuing a 3 c. stamp?




New Zealand.—Description and comment on the new series are both rendered almost superfluous by the annexed engravings. De La Rue is a very Aristides among stamp engravers, and we, for our part, feel almost inclined to call for an oyster-shell, and condemn him "right away." We are loyal to the back-bone, but what would we not have given for the portrait of a tattooed Maori, instead of that stereotyped, expressionless profile of the Queen. The Chilians find room on their stamps for Columbus; the Canadians have given us the likeness of Jacques Cartier; why, then, did not those parsimonious New Zealanders supply us with the effigy of Captain Cook, or Anson, or fit up a postal gallery of portraits of the early settlers? The only consolation we can find for dissatisfied philatelists lies in the fact that the new series of stamps, of which, however, the colours are not yet known, will form a tolerably striking contrast to its predecessor.



Belgium.—The "reply-paid" cards announced in our last were, in fact, issued with noteworthy punctuality on New Year's Day, and answer in all respects to our description, which, from ocular inspection of the cards, we are now able to supplement by some

further details. The 5 c. stamp is a transfer from the adhesive; the design is in bright lilac; the cards are printed back to back, so that the two inner pages are blank,—the impression in this respect differing from that of the double Dutch card. The engraver's name, A. Doms, is written in minute characters in the lower margin, between the lines of the borders; and M. Moens reproaches him with having slavishly copied the English arrangement of the legend, &c.,—a reproach which appears to us to be hardly merited. One blunder, however, Mr. Doms did make, which has necessitated the employment of a government scratcher-out;—he added a T to the word ANTWOORD, making it read ANTWOORDT; and this superfluous letter has had to be erased by hand from every copy of the card. It must have been a little orthographical slip on Mr. Doms' part, as it occurs on both halves of the card.

Another advance in postal facilities has been initiated by the Belgian authorities. The receiver of a reply-paid card need not, unless he chooses, tear off the first half, containing the sender's communication; but may write his own reply on the second half, and return the card *entire* to the sender, without any extra charge being thereby incurred. The advantage it may frequently be to the sender to have his query and the reply side by side, for reference at any moment, will be easily perceived. Indeed, as auxiliaries to letters proper, post cards are becoming daily of greater importance, in proportion to the extension of their employment —in wise prevision of the financially profitable results—by the authorities of different countries. We have great hopes that the day which shall see the emission of international post cards is not far distant; and we have indeed already seen it stated in a French paper that France, which has hitherto been so much in the rear in postal reforms, will inaugurate the issue.

At the same time the design of the ordinary postal card has been altered to that of the "reply paid" cards. The words CARTE-CORRESPONDANCE, with the arms of Belgium underneath, and a stamp of 5 c., are printed in bright lilac. The card is rather larger than its predecessor, and exceeds the size fixed by the ministerial order of December, 1871, by about one-eighth of an inch.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.—*Ekaterinoslav.*—A new and interesting local is introduced to our notice by *Le Timbre-Poste* as coming from this town. We give an engraving of it, and would take leave to call our readers' attention to the date 1787, which crosses the centre. It is that of the foundation of the city by the Empress Catherine II. The letter E in the middle is the initial of the city's name. The surrounding inscription is of the usual purport. This stamp is printed pale yellowish green on white paper, and the value is facially indicated.




*Kadnikoff* (Wologda) possesses the annexed type, value 3 kopecs, and impressed in blue on white. The emblems, which have an ambiguous look about them, require explanation.




*Tchern* (Tula).—The annexed engraving represents a stamp first described on p. 98 of our ninth volume, and of which our publishers have but just received a specimen. The impression is a rough but plain one, in indigo on cartridge paper. The two wheat sheaves may be supposed to hint at the fertility of the region in which this 3 kop. Tchern circulates.




*Bogorodsk.*—In a letter from Moscow, of the 15th ult., we have received an entirely new series for this local post, which has already been sufficiently prolific in varieties. The design is similar to that of the previous issues, but the oval is smaller, and the forelegs of the horse, instead of being brought forward, are turned down. In fact, the horse is represented as prancing, instead of galloping.

The colours and values we have seen are—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | kop. | rose and pale rose. |
| 5 | ,, | pale rose. |
| 5 | ,, | dark blue. |
| 10 | ,, | rose. |
| 10 | ,, | light blue. |

It is probable, therefore, that the whole of the values exist in at least two shades of colour.

GERMAN EMPIRE.—In addition to the post cards already chronicled, we have to announce the advent of a new one for Germany, this time bearing an impressed stamp, which, with the rest of the design, is lithographed. The stamp is a rectangular one, of an old-new type, and consists of the imperial eagle in an oval, broken at each side by a small circular disk containing the numeral "½," and inscribed DEUTSCHE REICHSPOST in the upper, and the value, *ein halber groschen*, in the lower half, the rectangle being completed by an ornamental frame. The usual inscription is disposed in three lines, of which the topmost one is arched. The border is formed of a leaf pattern, with rosettes at the corners. The card is a large one, buff coloured, and the impression is in brown. The reverse side of it is plain. There is another card identical with the above, except in the value, which is 2 kreuzer.

A new envelope has just been issued, the ¼ groschen, bright lilac, of rather large size, and specially noticeable from the fact that it is destitute of any transverse inscription; perhaps in consequence of the absence of this inscription the embossed arms, which it is scarcely necessary to say are of the latest fashion, come out in strong relief. This new value exists on thin blue and white laid envelopes. Probably a twin one kreuzer has also been issued, to keep it company.

CHILI.—Our correspondent at Valparaiso, Mr. L. W. Meyer, has sent us specimens of the new Chilian post cards, which are now in use there. The stamp which they bear has already been engraved, but nothing has been said of the remaining portions of the device. The words CARTA TARJETA, in bold type, extend across the card, and above are the handsome Chilian arms,—a shield containing a five-pointed star, surmounted by three feathers (like the Prince of Wales's plume). The supporters are, on the left, a crowned horse, and, on the right, a crowned condor. The design of the border is the same as that on our own cards. Mr. Meyer also sends us specimens of the 5 c. envelopes, ladies' size, manufactured by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., which, with the cards, were issued in Valparaiso, on the 22nd November last. The other envelopes have not yet made their appearance, nor are they likely to do so for some time to come, as it seems the supply sent out was lost. Four boxes of post cards and envelopes are stated to have gone down with the steamship *Tacora*, off Montevideo, and it is at least probable that the higher values formed part of the contents. Mr. Meyer furthermore informs us that an order for a fresh supply was to be despatched by the mail which brought his letter. The special uses of the several envelope values he gives as follows: the 2 c. for the local service of Valparaiso and Santiago; the 5 c. for general employment; the 10 c. for letters (by steamer) southwards; and the 15 c. for letters (by steamer) northwards.

MEXICO.—We are indebted to our old friend, Mr. W. P. Brown, of New York, for a sight of the most highly ornamented postmark we have ever met with. He informs us that the die was engraved by one of the officials in San Luis Potosi, *for his own particular use.* Mr. Brown received several single stamps showing portions of this mark, and at length received a letter franked by an uncut pair of the current 12 c. blue Mexican, which show the entire design to perfection. It consists, in fact, of the Mexican arms,—a boldly cut eagle, with outspread wings, grasping a serpent in its mouth. The eagle supports itself on an elaborate scroll, or ribbon, divided into three parts, the left inscribed ADMON SU, the centre BALTERNA DE CORREO, the right DE LA $X^A$; between the parts of the ribbon are disposed some leaves. Above the eagle's head, in a straight line, and in bold type, is the word CERRITOS. This postmark, which more than covers the two stamps, is certainly a curiosity in its way, and the *employé* who designed it might with advantage be consulted by his superiors when next there is question of issuing a new series of stamps.

JAPAN.—We are now able, through the kindness of a correspondent, to chronicle the whole of the values for the new series of this country, the one *sen* of which was engraved by us last month:—

| | |
|---|---|
| ½ sen | brown. |
| 1 „ | indigo-blue. |
| 2 „ | orange-vermilion. |
| 10 „ | yellow-green. |
| 20 „ | bright mauve. |
| 30 „ | slate-brown. |

The three lower values are alike as to the central device, but differ from each other in the frame and spandrels. The three higher denominations increase in size, like the Bergedorf, the 30 sen nearly attaining the dimensions of the 5 p. and 10 p. New Granada of 1869. The branches of central device in the 10 sen give place to dragons with intertwisted tails; in the 20 sen they are superseded by a fancy circle with leaves below, but reappear larger than ever in the vast 30 sens.

LUXEMBURG.—The provisional one franc, formed by surcharging the 37½ c., of which the preparation was recently announced, has been in circulation since the commencement of December, and as no less than 70,000 copies of this stamp have been struck off, we shall probably have to wait a long while for the promised new type. The 12½ c. is stated to be now printed in carmine.

SWEDEN.—We have received information of the issue of two new post cards of the same type as the first (which is now withdrawn from circulation) value, respectively, 6 öre lilac and 10 öre carmine; besides which we learn from *Le Timbre-Poste* that "reply-paid" cards of each value have likewise been issued. They differ from the ordinary cards only in the possession of an additional inscription—SVARET BETALADT.

WURTEMBURG.—This country now possesses a "reply-paid" card, issued on 1st December, and of which each half bears an impression from the die of the 1 kr. green. *Le Timbre-Poste* speaks of the issue of a 2 kr. adhesive, orange-yellow, of the known type, printed on white paper, and line-pierced.

RED RIVER SETTLEMENT.—A correspondent informs us that he has heard of the emission of stamps for this settlement, and specimens have been promised to him. We recommend our Canadian friends to ascertain whether this report is well founded.

VICTORIA.—The threepence, hitherto printed in orange, now comes over of a pale yellow. Our publishers received a supply by the last mail.

## RAMBLES AT HOME AND ABROAD.

BY QUELQU'UN.

A GREAT struggle is evidently being made by our continental friends to induce collectors of postage stamps to become collectors of fiscal stamps also. Dr. Magnus has for some time past been working with this view, both formerly, in the pages of *Le Timbrophile*, of which he was the irresponsible editor, and now, with redoubled energy, in those of *La Gazette des Timbres*, of which he is the responsible editor. The last edition of Lallier's postage-stamp album is announced as "containing 4,621 stamps, of which 3,698 are postage stamps, and 923 fiscal stamps, of all countries and of all kinds." M. Moens, in his recent price-list, has catalogued a large number of fiscal stamps, which evidently shows that there is a growing demand for the article on the continent, or so prominent a position would not have been given to it.

We are glad to believe that the serious collectors of postage stamps in England repudiate all idea of foisting into their collections stamps which properly belong to other and distinct categories. The area of postage stamp collecting is now very considerable. Taking into account varieties dependent on colour, perforation, paper, and watermarks, a collection may, with care, patience, and study, be made to contain at least 10,000 specimens, a field which appears to us to be ample enough to satisfy most collectors. Still, if our continental neighbours will dream of fresh conquests, and are desirous of extending their collecting to other species of stamps, let them not, at any rate, endeavour, after the plan of M. Lallier, to incorporate them with the now time-honoured collection of postage stamps, but rather let all such stamps be consigned to a limbo of their own, where the amateurs of

"bung labels and physic stamps" may study them without distraction.

At present, with the exception of a few collections of bill and such like stamps, the collection of fiscal stamps has made but small progress in England; and before anyone attempts to form a more extended collection, we would recommend him to study the remarks of Mr. Pemberton, at page 185 of *The Philatelical Journal*. We were delighted to read the caustic remarks of one of the oldest contributors to this magazine, and one of the oldest disciples of philately. Of one thing we may be sure, that *The Philatelical Journal* will not advocate fiscal stamp-collecting, either openly or tacitly; but we regret to see, by a remark in the last number of *The Philatelist*, that the editor of that magazine is half inclined to throw up a straw to see which way the wind may blow.

We have all been interested of late, in the consideration of the definition of a postage stamp. A recent number of *La Gazette des Timbres* has given us some definitions of postage and fiscal stamps, which, while the definitions of the former are fresh in the minds of our readers, it may not be without interest to notice.

The writer of the papers "On the Methodical Formation of Collections of Stamps" proceeds, after a few words of introduction, to give his definition of what a stamp is. He says: "In its general acceptation, a stamp is an impression or vignette, the object of which is to represent the payment of a tax which individuals are bound to pay to the public treasury in certain cases, or under certain conditions fixed by law. This tax may be paid either by way of impost, or by way of remuneration for a service rendered by the state."

He then goes on to say that a stamp may be either fixed—that is to say, it may either be stamped on the document itself, as in the case of stamps on deeds, probates of wills, agreements, &c.—or it may be moveable, like foreign bill stamps, postage stamps, receipt stamps, &c.; and "although, in reality, the fixed and moveable stamps are destined for the same purposes, yet they differ in many respects from each other, and may be considered as forming two distinct collections, rather than two branches of the same collection. Nevertheless," he adds, "we think that an analytical classification should not be based upon the material form which the stamp takes, but on the purpose and the destination for which the stamp, whatever may be its form, has been created." The author, therefore, proceeds to divide stamps into two categories, which he subdivides into other classes, as follows.

"1st Category.—Fiscal stamps, or stamps the object of which is the payment of an impost, comprising:—

"*First.*—Stamps of dimension.

"*Second.*—Proportional stamps.

"*Third.*—Stamps for fixed duties.

"2nd Category.—Stamps, the object of which is the payment of a tax representing a remuneration for a service rendered by the state, comprising:—

"*First.*—Postage stamps.

"*Second.*—Telegraph stamps."

The author, in these hard-and-fast general definitions, has, we think, kept the French system of stamps too much before him, and has not duly weighed the effect they might have in other countries. We will see presently how these definitions would affect a collection of English fiscals; but before doing so, we would say a few words as to his definition of a postage stamp. A postage stamp is, according to him, "an impression, the object of which is to represent the payment of a tax which is considered to represent in itself the price of the conveyance of a letter, a conveyance accomplished by the state, or, in default, by the local administration, or by private enterprise."

We suppose that the definition of a telegraph stamp will be the same as the above duplex representative definition of a postage stamp, *mutatis mutandis*. In many countries on the continent, not only are letters and telegraphic messages conveyed by the state, but the state also charges itself with the conveyance of individuals on the railways belonging to and worked by it; in fact, for any country where the railways belong to and are worked by the state, we can scarcely conceive a better definition of a railway ticket than the above definition of a postage stamp, substituting the words "an

individual" for "a letter." For ourselves, if we had to choose between forming a collection of railway history and enterprise—the path of which has been, in some measure, marked out by the various forms of tickets that have been issued since the opening of the Liverpool and Manchester line in 1830, to that of the Japan line in 1872—and a history of the charlatanism of the United States, as evidenced by the varieties of stamps on all sorts of pills, potions, powders, and purgatives there vended, we should infinitely prefer the former, as a matter, not only of more entertaining, but also of more instructive study.

We have fostered philately amongst the young because it teaches them arrangement, order, some history, and no little geography; but we cannot help thinking that, without going into the question of obsolete railway tickets, the collecting of which would be requisite, in order to show the progress of railway enterprise, yet a collection of actual railway tickets would teach the fathers some geography that they did not know before, or had learnt only to forget.

But to return to the question of the fiscal stamps, which we will consider under the three heads above mentioned, the first of which is the *stamps of dimension*. These are stamps impressed on sheets of paper of various sizes, upon which are transcribed all deeds relating to dealings with real and personal property, all proceedings in the courts of law, such as writs, pleadings, copies of judgments, &c. They are called stamps of *dimension*, because the size of the sheet is regulated by law, and bears a stamp in proportion to its size. Thus, in France and Belgium, a sheet somewhat smaller than a sheet of foolscap, bears a stamp of about a franc, and the sheets so stamped are sold to the public. The document written on this stamped paper, is, when complete, taken to the registration-office, where the duties are paid, and a certificate to that effect is endorsed on the document. Until it is registered, it cannot be produced in court, nor can any legal proceedings be taken upon it; besides which it acquires no certain date, except from the day when it is sent in for registration. In some of the public offices in France, the documents delivered from the office have an adhesive stamp of *dimension* affixed to them, which is obliterated in the office. From this sketch it will be seen how entirely the mode of collecting certain stamp duties in France and Belgium differs from the system adopted in England.

The second class of fiscal stamps is what in France are termed *proportional* stamps, but in England are generally known as *ad valorem* stamps. In France, the only *ad valorem* stamps are those on bills of exchange, which are, as in England, both impressed and adhesive. But in England, this class of stamps embraces nearly the whole system of the collection of duties by the stamp-office. A collection of English fiscals, confined only to the adhesive stamps of this class, would be nothing but a shadow and a sham. In this class are comprised the adhesive stamps on foreign bills, the impressed stamps on inland bills, the stamps on policies, on deeds relating to the sale, purchase, mortgage, and leasing of property, &c., where the stamps vary in amount, from a penny on bills of exchange under £5, and life policies under £10, to thousands of pounds on some documents.*

The third class of stamps which are employed for *fixed duties* calls for but little remark. The number of such stamps, both adhesive and impressed, is very considerable in England, but is not numerous in France. We think, however, that enough has been said to make it evident that, to arrive at anything like perfection in a methodical collection of fiscal stamps would be hopeless. Impressed and adhesive must both be collected, or we reduce it to a childish distinction between gum and no gum.

But besides these stamps, there is a class of fiscals, the use of which is not compulsory, which are neither flesh nor fowl, and cannot be brought under any of the before-mentioned heads, and in which there is no question of gum or no gum. These have been partially treated of by Dr. Magnus, in a paper on "American Private Stamps," profusely il-

* The probates of the wills of Mr. Brassey and Mr. Loder were lately stamped with stamps to the amount of £10,000.

lustrated by some of the latest triumphs of the reproductive art invented by, and the exclusive property of, *La Gazette des Timbres* (S. G. D. G.), reminding us, in the effect produced, of the rubbings of monumental brasses. We will notice these in our next "ramble."

## THE STRAW THAT SHOWS WHICH WAY THE WIND BLOWS.

BY DON MARIANO PARDO DE FIGUEROA.

TRIFLING things, events which pass almost unperceived in the daily life of nations, frequently suffice to give an exact idea of the character of a people.

On what part of the envelope should the postage stamp be put? I believe the question has been already resolved; stamped envelopes, post cards, journal wrappers, &c., bear the stamp impressed in the upper *right* angle, —an arrangement which facilitates the obliteration and sundry other postal operations. Let us see now what is the law in Spain on this subject.

The official regulation (1st December, 1849), treating of the employment of the stamps which were to be issued on the 1st January, 1850, ordains their apposition to the *upper part* of the envelope, and the *Geographical Chart*, published by the postal department in 1865, lays down that the stamps are to be placed at the upper right angle. Don Firmin Caballero, one of the most noted of Spanish writers, in his curious articles, entitled *Epistolary Correspondence* (1863-5), recommends his readers never to put the stamp on the flap of the envelope on account of the inconvenience they would thereby cause to the postal *employés*; and that excellent work, *The Spanish Postal Pamphlet* (1868), which was specially recommended by the government, repeats this good advice, and adds that the stamp should be fixed in the upper right corner. The same opinion is found in the journal called *The Spanish Postal Indicator* (1871). The Post-office even went the length of issuing the following special notice on the subject.

POSTAL DEPARTMENT.—The serious inconvenience which may be occasioned by the habit of attaching stamps to the flaps of envelopes, or otherwise, so that they cannot be easily perceived by the postal *employés*, renders it necessary for the postmaster-general formally to request that stamps on all letters and packets be in future placed on the same side as the address.—Madrid, 26th Feb., 1869. —The Postmaster-general, EUSEBIO ASQUERINO.

And yet it is impossible to overcome the confirmed obstinacy of the inhabitants of this veritable Africa (if the Africans will not be offended at my so calling it), which commences with the Pyrenees. Each hidalgo sticks the stamps on his letters just where he pleases. The law, even when it favours him, is to the Spaniard a dead letter. The people which destroys itself simply for the mere pleasure of destroying, and disobeys the law for the mere pleasure of disobeying, is indeed hard to understand and almost impossible to govern. The English are the antitheses of my compatriots. In England, as in all other civilised countries, people stick the stamp in the allotted place, which suits the convenience both of the writer of the letter and of the postal official whose work it is to pass it through the post. The English, with their usual good sense, have made a law of politeness of the matter, and thus we find it stated in that charming work *Mixing in Society*, that "the stamp should be placed exactly in the right-hand corner of the envelope; it must neither be upside down nor slanting, nor in any way carelessly affixed. Negligence in these matters evinces a rudeness to the person to whom you write, as showing that you think anything will do."

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### AN INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE ASSOCIATION.

*To the Editor of* "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—As I know that you take an interest in the *extension* of collecting, and try to aid collectors, I will ask you if you could not find some plan for forming a sort of exchange society, by which collectors might be enabled to get rid of their duplicates, and obtain in exchange for them specimens which they do not possess. I know that in this town there are many persons (and I am one of the number) who have been on the verge of giving up collecting on account of the difficulty of procuring new stamps without always buying them If an international society (I suppose an *internationale* of this sort would be allowed in France) were established between English and French collectors, many colonial stamps might be sent over from this country which are comparatively rare in France, and other stamps wanted by English collectors sent back in exchange. I know that this scheme is almost chimerical, and that very great difficulties would have to be encountered, but still, after seeing how hopeful is the state of affairs at present, in your "Events of the Year," and how much has been done to encourage and promote philately by the aid of your paper and other

magazines, I trust that something of the sort may be established some day.

Trusting that I have not taken up too much of your valuable space with this long letter,

I remain,

Yours truly,

*Torquay.* B. C. del C.

## *IN RE* THE JAPANESE STAMPS.—A CORRECTION.

*To the Editor of* "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

SIR,—Allow me to correct a misstatement in your last issue. The circular disk in the top centre of the Japanese stamp is not the sun, but a chrysanthemum flower, which is the well-known crest of the emperor. The corners are the cherry flowers. The inscription in the centre, "Yu bin kitté," means postage stamp, literally post communication ticket. *Tempo* is not, and never was, a unit of value. It is the name of the cycle or certain number of years during which the coin of the value of 100, or rather 96, *mons* was first issued. The inscriptions on the old ones were not expressed in tempos, but in *mons*.

I am, Sir,

Yours truly,

*London, N. W.* JAPONICUS.

## A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT.

*To the Editor of* "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—I have with great pleasure read over the opening address of the XIth volume of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, and I never before experienced greater satisfaction. I have been a collector of foreign stamps for seven years, and for two years of that time I only obtained the twenty-four stamps given in the magazine; and I think had it not been for the magazine coming in month after month I should have forgotten my album altogether; whereas I now possess a collection of about 2000 varieties, in a modern album, which is admired even by people who despise stamps and stamp-collectors; and the possession of this album is entirely due to the perusal of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*. Irrespectively of the geography and history I have learned from stamps, the arrangement of them has taught me the value of method and neatness, so that these poor world-despised little bits of coloured paper are no mean agents in a work towards which all education is directed. *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* has, in my case, been the immediate cause of my interest in stamps, and it therefore possesses an intrinsic value, in my judgment, which it can never lose. I feel that I am but doing my duty in acknowledging the debt I owe to your magazine; and at the same time allow me to congratulate you upon the highly improved appearance of your new dress, not forgetting the value of the jewel in the beauty of the setting. Returning the compliments of the season,

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

W. M. COLLES, JUN.

*The Vicarage, Melton Mowbray.*

## NOTES AND QUERIES.

*To the Editor of* "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—The following are a few notes recorded while reading your magazine, in the expectation that an abler pen than mine would direct attention to the several points. Not having seen any notice of these particulars, I venture to send my memoranda to you.

1. ENGLAND.—Post cards; two sizes; smaller, 2nd issue? I purchased on October 1, 1870, at our local post-office, one of the large size, but I also received, *by post*, a card on that day, of the small size. The stamp is obliterated, OCT. 1, 1870. This seems to point to a simultaneous emission of two sizes.

It has been recorded that the essay of the English sixpenny has been seen obliterated, and the observer notes it as showing that the stamp has passed the post.* I have a specimen of the green essay, the obliteration unreadable. I can only make out SEY and 6. I have also a specimen of the violet essay, bearing the identical obliteration recorded as on the green—AM, AP. 9, 1856. I obtained my specimen direct from the general post-office some years ago, and suggest that the obliteration was applied as an experiment, before deciding the colour, and that the stamp in question never franked a letter. In further proof, the well-known numbered obliterating stamp was in use when the small sixpenny stamp was issued.

While on the subject of our English stamps, I would inquire why the bistre sixpenny has been issued with the corner letters white on colour, if it *be* the intention of the authorities to print the whole issue with the letters colour on white?

2. FRANCE.—The writer in the December number of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* seems to question the letters "5 FR." on the French stamp of that value being of a different colour to the stamps. My specimen shows the difference in tint most distinctly, the letters being a decided blue-violet.

3. VICTORIA.—I have not seen it noticed that the blue shilling Victoria has come over perforated to the size of the five-shilling stamp; this must show a rearrangement of the dies in the frame, resulting in their being placed further apart, to allow of this perforation.

4. TASMANIA.—Errors of perforation seem numberless. I possess a specimen of the 1d. rose, new issue, perforated not only in the right place, but *also* across the face of Her gracious Majesty.

5. HOLLAND.—The stamps of the Netherlands would puzzle any student of perforations. If some of the foreign philatelists would explain the cause of these eccentricities they would confer a boon on many a puzzled collector. Not only do the stamps vary in the size of the perforations (I have copies of the 5 cents perforated 12, 13, 14, 14½, respectively), but the lines of perforation vary in their distance apart. I have three stamps united, showing the centre stamp 2 1-10th centimetres wide; the others only 1 8-10ths, a difference quite perceptible.

6. FRANCE AND AUSTRIA.—I should be glad if some authority in printing would explain the phenomenon of the lined disk, seen in the 30 centime French "empire," and also in the 5 kreuzer Austria.

I remain, Sir,

Yours, &c.,

*Monmouthshire.* USK.

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

F. S., Copenhagen.—Our publishers have handed us your letter to them of the 10th ult., containing a set of the new Iceland stamps, for communication of which *we* also are indebted to you.

T.—With reference to your letter respecting certain dealers in forgeries, we should be glad if you would send us for inspection the counterfeits you mention, as the prices at which some of them are offered are quite high enough for genuine stamps.

* See *The Philatelist*, December, 1872, p. 169.

## PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. XXVI.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

# Germany.

UNDER the above heading might be included, after Lallier's fashion, the emissions of all the states, great and small, which go to form the Fatherland; but such an arrangement would, in reality, be a deviation from the alphabetical order adopted in these papers, and, in philatelic parlance, the issues of Germany are understood to be those of the Thurn and Taxis office, the North German Confederation, and the present German Empire. Let us, then, confine our attention to these.

### *THE THURN AND TAXIS OFFICE.*

To many young collectors the signification of the words Thurn and Taxis must be by no means clear. Ten years ago, in the first number of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, one of the earliest and most accurate of philatelic writers, Mr. Mount Brown, explained the meaning of this strange title; and very recently, in the pages of a contemporary, an abridgement of Mr. Mount Brown's article was published, but, as in these elementary papers, it is my duty to begin at the beginning, I need offer no apology for repeating the information already given respecting the origin of the Thurn and Taxis post-office.

Thurn and Taxis is not the name of a place, but of a family, whose ancestors were first heard of in Italy, as the *della Torres*, Lords of Valsassina; eight of the *della Torres* were, in succession, lords of Milan; the last of the eight, Guido the Rich, perished in a feud with the Visconti, and one of his sons, Lamoral I., settled in the territory of Bergamo, and took from the mountain Tasso (one of his possessions there) the name *del Tasso*, and afterwards *de Tassis*. His great-grandson inherited the possessions of his predecessors, united their titles, and was known as Roger I. of Thurn and Taxis. This personage was knighted by the emperor, Frederick III., in 1450, and in the latter half of the century founded the fame of his house by the establishment of a post in the Tyrol. This is all we know of Count Roger I., but it is sufficient to warrant our taking some interest in this half-forgotten German prince, who deserves to be ranked with Louis XI. as one of the earliest postal benefactors. He must have known how to manage the post he established; for instead of its dying out, like many another knightly venture, it proved to be the initial step towards the foundation of a service whose functions only ceased with the Prusso-Austrian war of 1866. So successful was the conduct of his enterprise, that, in 1516, his son—on whom Roger's mantle seems to have descended—was charged by Maximilian I. to form a post from Brussels to Vienna,—no mean undertaking in those days. The subsequent progress of the Thurn and Taxis post is best described in Mr. Mount Brown's own words:—

"In 1522, on account of the war with the Turks, an imperial post was established from Nuremberg to Vienna, which ceased on the return of peace. On this Charles V. ordered Leonhard, Count of Thurn and Taxis, to establish a permanent post, which went from the Netherlands, through Treves, Spires, Wurtemburg, Augsburg, and the Tyrol to Italy. In 1543 he created the Count *Oberpostmeister* of the German empire. About the end of the sixteenth century, the Thurn and Taxis post, shaken by disturbances in the Netherlands, and oppressed by debt, fell into disuse, but rose again under the favour of the Emperor Rudolf II. But the Palatinate, Wurtemburg, Saxony, Brandenberg, Mecklenburg, and other states of the empire, formerly included under Thurn and Taxis, had in the meantime established posts in their own states, and refused to recognise the validity of the office. Upon this, Lamoral, Count of Thurn and Taxis, was raised to the rank of Baron of the Empire, and received the imperial post in fee for himself and male heirs, which was subsequently extended to his female descendants. Various states have at times shaken off or purchased the monopoly; thus, Austria, Prussia, Bavaria, Hanover, Saxony, Baden, Oldenburg, Luxemburg, &c., have now their

own postal arrangements.* But the Thurn and Taxis family still possesses, as a fief of the empire, the posts in Nassau, Saxe-Weimar, Schwarzburg, Rudolstadt, &c., &c. In the free cities of Hamburg, Lubeck, and Bremen, they possess *some* of the posts, but the general direction of the Thurn and Taxis office has had its seat since 1811, at Frankfort-on-the-Maine, where the Thurn and Taxis posts are *exclusively* used."

From this we see that the Thurn and Taxis post survived, though with diminished importance, the empire under which it was created. We find, moreover, that, until a few months ago, a post conducted, not by the state, but by a private family for its own personal benefit, existed in the heart of Germany, as one of the recognised means of international communication; and the two unpretentious series of Thurn and Taxis stamps carry us back, by their associations, past locomotives and mail-coaches, to the old feudal times, and the primitive post-houses and runners of a by-gone age.

The list of the states served by the Thurn and Taxis office is as follows:—

*Northern* States (unit of currency, the thaler)—Electorate of Hesse, the Grand Duchy of Saxe-Weimar, the Principalities of Schwarzbourg-Sondershausen, Reuss, and Lippe, the free cities of Bremen, Hamburg, and Lubeck.

*Southern* States (unit of currency, the florin)—Grand Duchy of Hesse, the Principalities of Hohenzollern, the Grand Duchies of Nassau, Saxe-Meiningen, Saxe-Cobourg, the principality of Schwarzbourg-Rudolstadt, the Landgraviate of Hesse-Hombourg, and the free town of Frankfort.

The stamps issued for the two sections were all prepared at Frankfort, and, although M. Berger-Levrault gives the date of emission of the first *groschen* (or Northern) series as 1852, and that of the *kreuzer* (or Southern) series as 1850, I am inclined to believe that both were issued *together* in 1852, everything being in favour of a simultaneous emission. These stamps, like those of Baden and Wurtemburg, were issued pursuant to the provisions, or as a consequence of, the postal convention of the 6th of April, 1850, to which the Thurn and Taxis office was a party. The inscription, DEUTSCH-OESTR. POSTVEREIN (or German-Austrian Postal Union), which is found on all the Thurn and Taxis stamps (on the right-hand side), refers to this convention, whereby the postal arrangements over a great portion of central Europe were regulated, and uniform rates established.







The first series were printed in black ink, and were composed of the following values and colours:—

*Northern States.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ¼ | silber groschen | red-brown. |
| ⅓ | „ (1858) | flesh. |
| ½ | „ | green. |
| 1 | „ | light blue. |
| 1 | „ | dark „ |
| 2 | „ | rose. |
| 3 | „ | yellow. |

*Southern States.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | kreuzer | green. |
| 3 | „ | light blue. |
| 3 | „ | dark „ |
| 6 | „ | rose. |
| 9 | „ | yellow. |

The Northern issue shows a larger number of stamps, on account of the fractional denominations, which have no equivalent in the Southern currency. It will be observed that there is complete identity of colour in the corresponding values of the two series, and even of shade in the blue stamps. The two varieties of the blue are very distinct, have always been admitted, and seeing that they occur equally in both series, it is hardly likely that they were the result of accident. Probably the dark shade was the first issued—in former years it was certainly a *shade* rarer than its companion—and it being found that the postmarks did not show up clearly, it was superseded by the light blue.

* These states liberated themselves about the time of the restoration of Louis XVIII. to the French throne.

The designs are neatly and even finely engraved, but are not remarkable for their originality. A numeral of value in the centre of a square (for the *groschen* series), and of a circle (for the *kreuzer* series), sufficed, in the opinion of the Frankfort officials, for use, and a special ground pattern for each value for ornament. These designs remained current to the last, without any alteration.

In 1859 a second edition of them made its appearance, distinguished from the first by being printed in colour on white paper, and also by the addition of two new values to each set. The colours read as follows:—

*Northern States.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| $\frac{1}{4}$ | s.gr. | red. |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ | ,, | sea-green. |
| 1 | ,, | pale blue. |
| 2 | ,, | rose. |
| 3 | ,, | brown. |
| 5 | ,, | lilac. |
| 10 | ,, | vermilion. |







*Southern States.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | kr. | light green. |
| 3 | ,, | blue. |
| 6 | ,, | rose. |
| 9 | ,, | yellow. |
| 15 | ,, | lilac. |
| 30 | ,, | vermilion. |

The $\frac{1}{3}$ s.gr. is not represented in this set, and there is one exception also to the general similarity of colour in the corresponding values. Whilst the 3 s. gr. is in brown (the colour about that time adopted by various states in the postal union), the 9 kr. continues in its old shade, yellow.

The high-value stamps are of considerable merit, and may be said to be as pretty as stamps with numeral in centre can be. The two Northern values show the figure in the centre of a "tesselated" square, as it has not inaptly been termed; and the 15 kr. and 30 kr. have the figure on a similar ground, within a circular inscribed scroll. Such of my readers, however, as may not possess specimens, can judge for themselves from the annexed representations.

In 1862-4 a fresh series saw the light, characterised by an interchange of colour, and printed, like the preceding, in colour on white.

*Northern States.*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1864. | $\frac{1}{4}$ | s.gr. | black. |
| 1863. | $\frac{1}{3}$ | ,, | green. |
| ,, | $\frac{1}{2}$ | ,, | orange. |
| 1862. | 1 | ,, | rose. |
| 1864. | 2 | ,, | blue. |
| 1863. | 3 | ,, | bistre & yellowish bistre. |

*Southern States.*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1862. | 3 | kr. | rose. |
| ,, | 6 | ,, | blue (shades). |
| ,, | 9 | ,, | bistre (shades). |

No further change took place in the colours, but in 1865 all the values of both sets, except the two highest in each set, viz.:—

s.gr. $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2, 3.
kr. 1, 3, 6, 9.

were issued line-pierced, and the emission is marked by some accidental differences in shade. Subsequently, the same values were issued perforated, or rather pierced, on a line of colour. The two highest values in *groschen* appeared *piqués*, and also pierced in parallel lines, in 1866; the 15 kr. and 30 kr. appeared at the same time pierced in parallel lines. We believe, however, this was an unofficial *piquage*. These differences in perforation may only perplex the beginner, and copies of them are not now easily met with.

ENVELOPES.

Only one series, properly so called, has been issued for each of the two groups of states. The silber-groschen set and the kreuzer set appeared simultaneously on the 21st September, 1861. The values then issued were the following:—



*Northern States.*

| | |
|---|---|
| ½ s. gr. | orange. |
| 1 ,, | rose. |
| 2 ,, | blue. |
| 3 ,, | stone. |

*Southern States.*

| | |
|---|---|
| 2 kr. | yellow. |
| 3 ,, | rose. |
| 6 ,, | blue. |
| 9 ,, | stone. |

Each series shows the numeral of value on a plain ground, enclosed in an engine-turned pattern, inscribed frame; but the Southern set has this border enclosed in an exterior octagonal frame. The colours of the corresponding values, with the exception of the two lowest, are identical.




Later on, at the close of the year 1865, an additional value was added to each set, viz.:—

¼ s.gr. black. | 1 kr. green.

Three different supplies, or, as they may be termed, editions, of these series were printed off—the first two at Berlin, the last, on the occasion of the issue of the above-mentioned low values at Frankfort.

The first edition has the minute diagonal inscription above the impressed stamp—EIN HALBER (EIN, ZWEI, or DREI, as the case may be) SILBER GROSCHEN POST-COUVERT—printed in lilac. In the second edition the inscriptions are of the same colours as the embossed stamps. The third edition is distinguishable from the second only by its comparatively imperfect execution. The two former editions should be collected even by beginners, but the last hardly comes within their scope.

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It now only remains to state that at the close of the war of 1866 a large portion of the country served by the Thurn and Taxis post-office became incorporated with Prussia. Arrangements were made for the purchase of the remaining privileges of the Prince of Thurn and Taxis, and on the 1st of January, 1867, this monopoly ceased to exist, and was afterwards merged in the North German Postal Confederation.*

It is worthy of note that, unlike many of the obsolete German stamps, those of Thurn and Taxis have not been sold as remainders, and that, consequently, unused copies have not submitted to that depreciation of value which has made itself felt in respect of the Brunswick and Saxony emissions.

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## OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

*The Philatelist* for February, is, in Baconian phrase, a full number. The articles it contains are all instructive and worthy of careful perusal. The list of "Recent and Undescribed Emissions" opens with engravings of the new Japanese stamps, and a description of them, which in all respects but one is perfectly accurate. The flaw consists in the statement that the increase in size begins with the two sen. In fact this value is of the same dimensions as its companions—the half sen and one sen.

The regulations which govern the impression of the embossed stamp on private post-cards are worth quoting. They are as follows :—

(1.) The cards must be white,—*i.e.*, not tinted in any way.

(2.) They must be of the same dimensions as the official post card,—viz., $4\frac{3}{4}$ by $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

(3.) They must not be thinner than the official post card,—viz, 120 to the inch,—nor thicker than the telegraph card,—viz., 60 to the inch.

(4.) The words POST CARD, and THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE, must be printed on the face, as on the official post card; but there must be nothing else (the address excepted) printed, written, or otherwise impressed upon the face of the card.

(5.) All cards must be sent in with evenly cut edges.

(6.) At the right-hand upper corner of the face of the card, a space measuring $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches from the top edge of the card, and 1 inch from the side, must be left for the stamp; and this space must be left free from print, both on the face and the underside.

A reprinted article from *The Philatelical Journal*, on the rogues who trade in forged stamps, deserves to be generally read. It is only by constant and unflinching exposure of the tribe that good results can be obtained. In the correspondence columns is a letter from "A Victim" of a German swindler—Mr. Ernest Stoltze, jun., of Brunswick. The writer received, one fine morning,

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a packet, via Hamburg and London, the carriage of which amounted to *eight shillings and eightpence*. "I was from home at the time," he observes, "or *I* would not have received the parcel. No letter or advice of any kind had, or has, come to hand respecting it. The parcel weighed half-a-pound exactly, and contained two sheets entire of the 1 gr. crimson Brunswick adhesive stamps (1865), two cancelled money-order postal cards (Brunswick), and two price circulars; the rest was —coarse brown paper." To this communication the editor of *The Philatelist* appends the following instructive foot-note:—

We opine that the ingenious swindler above mentioned, will not gain much profit by the exercise of his wits. One of his intended victims, residing in Town, immediately on receipt of his eight-and-sixpenny worth of rubbish, proceeded to the carriers' office whence it came; and, under threat of appealing to the authorities, not only obtained the refundment of his money, but succeeded in preventing the transmission of forty or fifty parcels of the same nature to different parties in England. It seems the scamp had agreed with the German post-office to receive six shillings therefrom for each packet; so that, if one half of them had been taken in (like the recipient's) he would have made a tolerable hit. As it is, however, the German authorities are taking up the matter, and doubtless, ere this sees the light, the friendly correspondent of British philatelists will be provided with an apartment at the public expense.

In further continuation of the history of Mr. Stoltze we may mention, on the authority of the *Briefmarken-Anzeiger*, that he recently made his appearance on the Hamburg stamp exchange, and, being in debt to most of the members, they issued a very summary writ of execution, and after a tumultuous scene, he was kicked out of the room. Exit Stoltze with a crest-fallen look by no means counterfeited.

Among the remaining contents of our Brighton contemporary, we must not omit to mention a supplementary article on the envelopes of Germany, by "A Parisian Collector," giving an account of the emissions of the North German Confederation; and another instalment of the invaluable "Spud Papers," by Mr. Pemberton, containing an analysis of a very careful forgery of the Danish 2 R.B.S. blue, of 1851. The specimen which accompanies the description is heavily postmarked, and therefore more liable to deceive. The most prominent distinctive points in this new forgery are: (1) the absence of any dot after the word POST (the genuine stamp showing a broad oblong mark for a period); (2) the utter absence of the pale brown fancy pattern, which in the genuine stamp usually covers the whole surface of the paper; and (3) the absence of the crown watermark.

We notice that, at the last meeting of the Philatelic Society, the abnormal New Zealand (Queen's head placed *between* the shoulders) was shown by its fortunate possessor; but the reporter omits to state what opinion was expressed respecting it by the members present.

*The Canadian Philatelist.*—The fourth number of this excellent publication is before us. We have read it through, and are much pleased with the matter, style, and arrangement. The number opens with the continuation of a useful article on local stamps, in which the issues of Denmark, Egypt, Finland, and the Fijis are treated of. In a previous chapter of this article the true character of the so-called Canadian locals of Bancroft, Ker, &c., was demonstrated. In the current instalment the information given respecting the Danish and other stamps is thoroughly accurate, and has evidently been compiled with care. If we must object to anything in it, it is to the inclusion of the Danish railway stamps, which are certainly not postals. The article on "Newly-issued Stamps" is not a mere reprint of our own or our contemporaries' descriptions, such as we frequently come across in the American journalettes, but an original and fairly written paper, in which we notice only two errors; the Wissiegonsk stamps are ascribed to Weissenburg, and the issue for Iceland is quoted from the Brussels paper as for *Island*, the editor being uncertain to what group of isles the French name referred. The mistake was a pardonable one. The "Reviews" which follow are characterised by a spirit of courtesy, and the number closes with a paper reprinted from *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, of 1865, entitled "A Chat with Juvenile Collectors," and containing advice which is as useful now as it was on the day it was written.

*Le Timbre-Poste.*—The greater portion of the February number is taken up with the chronicle. This is followed by a paragraph treating of the English postal statistics for

1871-2, to which in turn succeeds an article on the Chilian cards and envelopes, containing absolutely no new information. Under the heading, "The Surcharged 10 Centimes French Republic," the editor describes a curious abortion, to which reference is made in another part of our present number. "Apropos of the New Caledonian Stamps" is the title of a short article in which proof is given that the New Caledonian stamps were issued gummed. The information it contains is worth quoting, more especially as it comes from a gentleman whose official position is a guarantee of its correctness.

About the end of 1862, I think (writes M. Moens' correspondent), the Postmaster-general of Algeria addressed a report to the central office, of which the following is the *résumé*:—The regimental baggage-masters collect the letters which the soldiers in distant localities write to their friends in France. Among the letters which one of these baggage-masters delivered to a post-office, there happened to be one bearing two 10 c. New Caledonian stamps. The postmaster, thinking that the stamps were false, caused inquiry to be made. The sender was found, and was called before the military commandant. He declared that having served in the Marines, and been on duty in New Caledonia, he had bought a sheet at the Porte-de-France post-office to prepay his letters for France as far as Sydney, thence to be carried by the English packet-boat. He showed this sheet which already lacked some stamps. It was retained and sent to the administration at Paris, in order that explanations might be obtained. Specimens were cut from this sheet from time to time, and sent to the foreign post-offices which requested to be furnished with copies of the New Caledonian stamp. The sheet was quite used up some time since. Since my return to Paris I have often had the opportunity of seeing this sheet; it was in fine condition and well gummed.

The number is completed by some remarks on an obliterated French stamp in the possession of "A Parisian Collector," which we defer discussing for the present.

## THE INELIGIBLE CLASSES.

The January number of *La Gazette des Timbres* contains the conclusion of a very instructive article, entitled "Notes on the Methodical Formation of Collections of Stamps." The writer gives the following list of designs or stamps which ought not to receive place in a postage-stamp album :—

1. Vignettes, at first considered by error as stamps (*e. g.*, the Austrian complementaries). These should be definitively excluded.

2. Charity fair stamps and other analogous issues, which are not stamps at all in the proper acceptation of the word, and can only be regarded as impressions admissible among a collection of engravings, lithographs, or curiosities, but not into a timbrological *collection raisonnée*.

3. Administrative *formulæ*, used in certain post-offices, such as the round scalloped seal of Bremen, and the Bavarian instruction stamps.

4. Certain labels which have been wrongly classed as postage stamps, and are in reality adhesive fiscals (*e.g.*, the Austrian and Lombardo-Venetian journal stamps (arms square), the journal stamps of Parma (6 and 9 cent.), and the French journal stamps).

5. Stamps, which, like the preceding, are fiscal, and which, moreover, instead of being adhesive, are fixed—*i.e.*, struck on the paper on which their presence denotes the payment of a certain sum—(*e. g.*, the *Fogli Esteri* of Sardinia, and the *Bollo Straordinario* of Tuscany).

6. Fancy envelopes, save only those having a direct and well-ascertained connection with postage-stamp history.

7. Stamps of private offices, which represent not a postal service effected by private enterprise in default of the state, but a service performed by an individual exclusively for his own benefit, and corresponding to the state postal service,—(*e. g.*, the pretended Rigi-Kulm and Rigi-Scheideck stamps, &c.)

8. The delivery stamps (*timbres de factage*) issued by sundry companies. These stamps no doubt present a great analogy to those issued by private persons who undertake the transmission of letters, still (says the writer from whom we quote), we think that, strictly speaking, a stamp is an official document created by the state, and it is only on exceptional grounds that the acceptance of one issued by private persons, instead of the state, for the performance of an analogous service, can be permitted, and, in short, that the exception should be limited as closely as possible. The delivery stamps have not the same character, and in any event should form a special subdivision.

Lastly, the able writer of the foregoing remarks concludes against the admission of official frank stamps (such as the Spanish, the German field-post envelopes, &c.), on the

ground which has already been taken in this magazine, that they represent not the payment of, but exemption from, a charge. The writer does not expressly allude to the adhesive official and service stamps, but they are included by implication,—the same arguments applying to them as to the impressed stamps.

Of the stamps placed in the above *index expurgatorius* those comprised in the articles Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 6 most certainly merit exclusion. Impressions which are in no sense of the word postage stamps are completely out of court, and should be pitilessly discarded. As to the class referred to in article No. 4, there is something to be said in favour, at least, of the Austrians. Stamps which represent a so-called *tax* on foreign journals coming into the country, and are obliterated in the post-office, are very much like postage stamps. The idea of taxing journals just as other imported commodities are taxed is a droll one when fairly considered. The charge which the Austrian stamps represent may be called a tax, but in its essence it is simply so much extra postage; in other words, the Austrian post-office claims a higher rate for the transport of foreign than it does for home newspapers. Philatelists, looking at the stamps in their true light, continue to collect them, and rightly so in our opinion. The French blue and rose 2 c. journal stamps are admitted by the writer in *La Gazette* to have a double character, but he argues that the fiscal tax being their principal object, and the postal tax an accessory one, they should be ranged with the fiscal emissions. This is matter of opinion, and we should be inclined to leave the question of their dominant attribute an open one.

With regard to class 5, our author is, we think, right, after all, in relegating it to the fiscals. Impressed journal stamps require special certificates of character to entitle them to admission into postage-stamp collections. As to the Rigi and similar stamps which are included in article 7, without discussing their *bonâ-fide* employment, we confess we don't see that the reasons advanced warrant their exclusion. They are condemned because they represent *un service exclusivement individuel correspondant au service postal de l'Etat.* We quote the original text, lest in our translation we may have unwittingly wandered from the true meaning, for which, in fact, we had to grope. To qualify a local stamp for admission it must, according to the writer in *La Gazette*, be issued for use along a postal route (*ligne postale*) which in default of the state is served by a private office. But it seems to us that as a question of principle it matters little whether one of the termini of a given route be a small town or a large establishment such as the one at Rigi-Kaltbad; and if objection be taken to the Rigi stamps it should rather be because they belong to the class mentioned in article No. 8 of the above list of exceptions as being, in fact, delivery stamps, which represent the cost of carrying letters to or bringing them from the post-office. We certainly take objection to the rule, that of necessity the private office must replace the state; for it may well happen that, for instance, a private steamship company may run its vessels, and carry letters prepaid by its own stamps, between ports to which there is no government service whatever, and it would be hard to deny to such emissions, if duly accredited, the character of *bonâ-fide* postage stamps.

In article 8 the French essayist establishes a justifiable distinction between local stamps issued by private offices—which, as far as they go, entirely replace the state, their operations embracing the collection, transport, and delivery of the letters confided to their care—and stamps issued by offices whose proprietors are only a step higher than street *commissionaires*, who, in fact, confine themselves to collecting their customers' letters and carrying them to the nearest post-office, and bringing back from the post-office the correspondence adddressed to their customers. The usefulness of such intermediate agents in large towns is easily perceptible, but it is none the less true that their postal functions are of the most elementary character, and the stamps they may issue ostensibly for the prepayment of their charges are far from being entitled to equal consideration with those of local posts proper.

We have dwelt, perhaps, too long already on the interesting "Note" under review, yet cannot take leave of it without noticing the

writer's argument in favour of the formation of collections with unobliterated specimens only. "The stamp," he reasons, "being, in fact, a kind of paper-money issued by the state for a public service, ought to figure in a collection such as it was fabricated and put in circulation by the state. Just as in numismatical collections those specimens of coins or medals, both ancient and modern, are most sought after, which have best preserved the freshness of their impression, their original diameter, and their primitive weight, so also should the stamp be collected such as it was issued, with all its particularities of gum, perforation, &c." On the other hand it may be argued, that whilst a coin submits to no official change during its circulation, but remains legal tender until it is withdrawn, a stamp is issued for a given purpose—that of prepaying a letter or journal—and its existence, so to speak, culminates with the apposition of the postmark. It is not, except by favour, a kind of paper-money; although *of value* it is not *of use* until it is attached to a letter, and that letter is dropped into the post-office box. The defender of obliterated stamps may therefore urge that it is preferable to collect a stamp which *has* performed its intended service, rather than one which is merely *capable* of performing it. As far as argument goes we think the advocates of used stamps stand on quite as good ground as their opponents. For our part we should never object on principle to a used stamp, and equally *on principle* we most certainly should not object to an unused one.













## NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

Japan.—We gave last month a description of all the values of the new series, accompanied by a list of the colours. We are now in a position to give engravings of all the denominations except the 10 sen. Of the six values the 20 sen is probably that which will be considered the most artistically designed.




The least adept in reading the Japanese numerals will find no difficulty in making out the signs which indicate the value of these stamps, except perhaps those which appear on the ½ sen. The one sen has a single horizontal bar, signifying 1, on the white space in each of the side borders; the 2 sen has two horizontal bars in the same place; the 10 sens has a cross, standing for 10; the 20 sens has the cross and *two* horizontal strokes above; and the 30 sens a cross, and *three* strokes above. All the stamps are irregularly perforated, and printed in colour on a thin yellowish-white paper. Some details respecting the flowers which occupy so large a part in them would not be unacceptable, especially if accompanied by an explanation of the symbolic importance which the Japanese appear to attach to them.

Russian Locals.—Make way for the locals! There are several of them waiting to be presented—some new comers, hitherto totally unknown, and others who claim precedence because they were described in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* in 1871. Assenting to the request of these latter, let us select for introduction the sole value in use in

*Kosoletz* (Tchernigoff).—Truly not a very

elegant stamp, but of acknowledged merit nevertheless, since it has now been in use some years. M. Moens states that it has been used since 1867, but this can hardly be, since the decree authorising the emission of local stamps, as he himself reminds us in another place, is dated the 22nd June, 1869, and informal issues are things unknown in Russia. The inscription and frame, which form the whole design of this Kosoletz stamp, are printed in bronze on white paper, unperf.




*Kropeevna*, or Krapivna (Tula).—The arms on this stamp are not easy of comprehension. The Tchern stamp, which comes from the same government, and of which we gave an illustration last month, bears two wheat sheaves, indicative evidently of the fertility of the district, and we are inclined to believe that the leaves on the Kropeevna stamp are those of some staple of the country. The horse-shoe inscription signifies KROPEEVNA RURAL POST, and the words below the shield express the value. Below them again is the abbreviation NO., followed, on the specimen whence our illustration is engraved, by a rotation number, written by hand, in black ink. From this it is evident that the circulation of the stamps must be very limited. The impression is in blue on a white paper bearing a *quadrillé* pattern.




*Kotelnich* (Viatka).—A somewhat imperfect description of two stamps issued for this district was given in our 1871 list. M. Moens has obtained specimens of both, and also of two others, which he believes to be of earlier date. We will take the stamps in the order in which he describes them:—

1*st Series.*—Type I.—Divided into two parts, separated by a fancy design, the right containing an inscribed double circle, within a square;—in the centre 3 KOP., and slanting figure of value in each angle; the left containing the following inscription:—

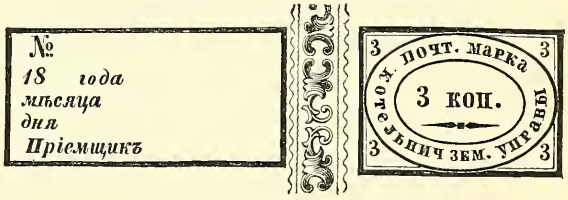
No.
Year 18——
Month
Day
Postmaster

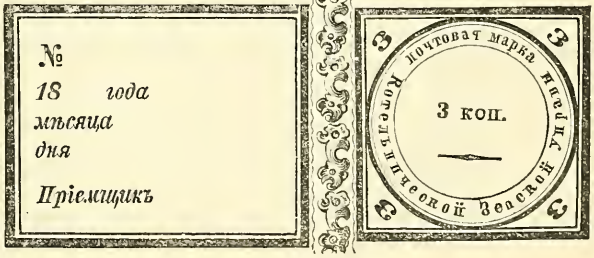
within a rectangle. It is probable that only the right half was attached to the letter, the left being detached, and either given to the sender as a receipt, or kept by the receiving post-office. This first type was intended for letters circulating within the district, and was printed in black on bluish grey paper.

3 kop. bluish grey.

Type II.—Same arrangement as in the first type. The inscription is abridged, and is in an oblong oval, and the corner figures are upright. The entire stamp is smaller, and the fancy pattern is continued uninterruptedly between the four stamps contained on a sheet, whilst in the first type this pattern breaks off with each stamp. Type II., printed in black on a glazed orange-vermilion paper, was destined for letters to other districts.

3 kop. orange-vermilion.



The four stamps which go to a sheet, form as many varieties, distinguished as follows:—

Var. 1.—The figure 3 approaches the oval, and under the value are 8 balls, or pearls, with a pointed ornament (lance-head) at each end.

Var. 2.—Instead of 8 balls there is a small square, between two lance-heads (see our engraving).

Var. 3.—Like 2, but the lance-heads much larger. There are also various differences in the disposition of the legend, and the words 3 KOP. take an upward direction towards the right.

Var. 4.—The words 3 KOP. are directed downwards, and the lance-heads are separated by a ball.

*2nd Series.*—This series possesses only one single type (lithographed), which is here represented, and it will be seen that the design is an improvement, in its way, on those of the first series. The oval does not fill the oblong, it is shaded, a dotted ground is added, and some attempt made to render the corners ornamental. The central figure and the frame are in black; the rest of the design is in colour. There are two stamps of the same facial value—one for letters in the issuing district, and the other for letters to other districts.




| | |
|---|---|
| 3 kop. | blue and black. |
| 3 „ | yellow and black. |

The 3 kop. bluish grey (1st series) and the 3 kop. yellow (2nd series) are not gummed; the 3 kop. orange-vermilion (1st series) has the right half gummed, and the 3 kop. blue (2nd series) is gummed all over.




*Rostoff on Don* (Ekaterinoslav).—Another old-new stamp, issued on the 7th May, 1871, and still in use. The design is a very modest one. The inscription reads thus: RURAL POSTAGE STAMP —FIVE KOP.—ROSTOFF ON DON. Printed blue on white.

*Bogorodsk.*—The stamps of the new type, which we noticed last month, are further distinguished from their predecessors by their having three rows of balls, instead of the four balls which figure in the old types at the bottom of the oval. The new stamps are also a millimetre shorter than the old, and are printed on thick white paper.

WURTEMBURG.—We learn from *La Gazette* that an unperforated stamp of the old arms-in-relief type has just been issued,—value 70 kreuzers, violet, printed on thick, white paper, and intended for the prepayment of letters on which the postage amounts to more than 69 kreuzers, and we presume (although *La Gazette* does not say so) *not* more than 70 kreuzers; some better or fuller explanation of the issue of this stamp is needed. That it partakes of an official character is evident from the fact that it is not sold to the public, but attached by the postal *employés*.

*La Gazette* notices the issue of a new 9 kr. stamp, bistre, line-pierced, and of the type already in circulation. The 2 kr. orange-yellow, referred to in our last, has made its appearance.

GERMANY.—The annexed engraving represents the stamp impressed in brown on the new German cards. *The Philatelist* doubts the genuineness of the two ¼ groschen envelopes we described last month, and *Le Timbre Poste* suggests that they may be issued for the Royal Society of Invalids, Berlin.




As yet we possess no positive evidence as to the character of these envelopes, but we believe that they are stamped by the German Postal Administration to the order of private individuals, in the same way as the higher values of English envelopes are stamped at Somerset House; and for our own part we

have no doubt of their being perfectly genuine.

Bavaria.—The 12 kr. is no longer in use. Since the 1st January its place has been occupied by a 10 kr. yellow, of the same type, and the 9 kreuzer, which had been withdrawn from circulation, reappears in reddish brown. Both these novelties are watermarked and perforated like the current stamps.

Guatemala.—Four years since, some penmarked stamps, bearing a design evidently copied from Hulot's well-known type, made their appearance, and were promptly and generally condemned as forgeries. These stamps now reappear, authentically postmarked, upon letters which have come straight from Guatemala. Of their genuineness there appears no reason to doubt; it is, however, very possible that they may be fiscals. They bear a French inscription—TIMBRE DE GUATEMALA—sufficient in itself to justify the suspicion which they formerly excited, and which gives colouring to the hypothesis that the stamps are a revenue series. The 4 reales, of which we give an engraving, is copied from one of four stamps which were taken off a letter by M. Moens, from whose journal we obtain these details: "Their authenticity being attested," says M. Moens, "we requested our correspondent to favour us with a sight of the stamps he had communicated in 1869, and which we then judged to be false. On comparison, we find our 4 rls. conforms, in all respects, to the one we had examined four years ago, and we also find that there are in all five values:—




| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ½ | real | brick. |
| 2 | ,, | orange-yellow. |
| 4 | ,, | blue. |
| 1 | peso | green. |
| 2 | ,, | rose, pale. |

These five values form as many types; they differ from each other in the shape of the shield and the groundwork. They are all lithographed." Not only the inscription, but also the high values, and the fact that on the 1 peso green, examined by M. Moens, traces of a signature were found, point to the supposition that this was, at any rate, originally a revenue series. Of the five values we at present know of, only one—the 4 rls.—is being utilised for postal purposes; and it is strange that it should be so utilised at the very moment when another 4 reales of the new type, recently engraved by us, is issued.

Mauritius.—We congratulate ourselves on being first in the field with engravings of the







new and handsome Mauritius envelopes, of which the forthcoming emission was noticed in our last volume. These finely cut stamps carry their origin on their faces. They are engraved by De La Rue & Co., who appear to be fast monopolising the manufacture of postage and other stamps for the colonies. The colours of these two new values are—

| | |
|---|---|
| Tenpence | maroon. |
| One-and-eightpence | blue. |

They will form a brilliant addition to an already brilliant page.

France.—To the list of embryonic provisionals must be added a 10 c. bistre, head of liberty, 1848 type, with the value in words, DIX CENTIMES, printed in black across the face. Most provisionals are formed by a surcharge expressing a new value, but, in this instance, the surcharge consists of a repetition of the original denomination. The solution of this riddle, as afforded by our Belgian contemporary, is very simple. At the end of the year 1871, the 10 c. bistre, was "out of work," having been superseded by the 15 c. of the same colour, and New Year's Day was at hand. On that day a vast number of visiting cards are sent through the post in France, and the postage of the same, in open envelopes, is 10 centimes, from one town to

another. For want of a 10 c. stamp the senders would have to use two 5 c. stamps, and just at that moment it happened that the supply of the 5 c. ran short. M. Hulot, the post-office magician, was applied to, and in a short time he turned out three millions of 10 c., surcharged as above mentioned, but they were never used, because he was also able to get ready a sufficient number of 5 c. The reason for surcharging the 10 c. with its own value was to guard against the confusion which would have arisen from its employment contemporaneously with the 15 c., and the deception which might have been practised on the postal officials.

## RAMBLES AT HOME AND ABROAD.

BY QUELQU'UN.

### II.

"THERE is now coming on a mania for collecting everything that looks like a stamp, no matter how preposterous or absurd in idea or nature. The present mania is commencing with bung-labels and physic stamps, and will finish with reel-tops and the lunatic asylum." *The Philatelical Journal*, p. 185.

IN our former ramble we endeavoured to show the fallacy of a collector ever imagining that he can arrive at anything approaching to completeness in making a collection of fiscal stamps; for the nature of the stamps themselves renders it an impossibility. Such a collection would have no cohesion, but at the very best it must be a gathering together of sparse and scattered specimens of die-sinking and engraving, which may be found in a thousand objects more worthy of collection. We also suggested, that as our continental friends had stated certain definitions, to include the collection of fiscals, they could scarcely, under the terms of their definitions, exclude the collection of railway tickets, which in our own opinion would be more instructive and interesting than the collection of many kinds of fiscals.

If we did not fatigue our readers in our last ramble, we will now ask them to accompany us again in one amongst a class of stamps which we said were of a hybrid nature, neither fish, flesh, nor fowl, and which, if tested by the definition of a fiscal stamp, as given by the writer of the articles in the *Gazette des Timbres*, can scarcely be regarded as fiscal. In this case, the impost is applied to the thing manufactured, and before it is sold the payment of the duty must be denoted by a stamp being affixed to it, purchased from the government, or some one representing the government. In England, these stamps are of two kinds only—the stamps on patent medicines and on playing cards. In the United States, which is so prolific in stamps—and where they seem like truffles, that only want hunting for to be found—our readers will not be very much surprised to hear that the field is larger, and is capable also of almost indefinite extension—a source, no doubt, of great consolation to amateurs of such like stamps.

We know—or, perhaps, some of us do not know, but, at any rate, our fathers did—how that during the times of the war with France, the stamps and taxes were a very unpleasant, but by no means a singular, concomitant of our dogged resolution to overthrow Napoleon. Many modes of tooth-drawing, more or less painful, were invented by the chancellors of the exchequer of those days. Matches, fortunately, only then existed as slips of wood dipped in brimstone, and were frequently manufactured at home, or for a certainty a more successful raid would have been made upon them then than that attempted by the present Chancellor of the Exchequer; but the stamp duty on patent medicines remains as it was when imposed in 1810; that on playing cards, which is of more ancient date, has been modified recently.

The secession war in America, like all civil wars, was an expensive thing of its kind. Our transatlantic cousins, however, set themselves to work with a will to find means, not only for paying the interest of its cost, but the principal also; and for this purpose every conceivable thing that could be taxed was ordained to contribute its quota. Stamp duties furnish no inconsiderable portion of this. Some, it is true, existed prior to the war, but the greater part were called into existence by the necessities created by it. Some were borrowed from English precedents, while others are due to the fertile genius and inventive brains of the Americans themselves. We need scarcely say that there

are duties on dealings with property, both real and personal, that are collected by stamps impressed and adhesive. There are also duties on other articles, such as tobacco, snuff, beer, &c., where the duties are also collected by stamps. The stamps on tobacco are very similar to those formerly used in England for the collection of the duty on paper, and affixed to each ream of paper liable to the payment of duty. These stamps were issued and signed by the officers of excise in the same way as the tobacco stamps in the United States. Surely, then, if tobacco stamps are collected, the same favour should be extended to their pioneer—the English paper-duty stamps. The duty on beer in England, when it existed, was collected in the same way as the duties on home-made spirits; but in the United States it is collected by means of a stamp placed over the bung of the barrel, the removal of which from it when full is felony. "Bung labels" may therefore be considered as being the exclusive invention of the treasury tooth-drawers of the United States.

But besides the above, there is a class of stamps called proprietary stamps, which form the subject of a recent article in the *Gazette des Timbres*, by Dr. Magnus, who earnestly advocates their collection. It appears from this, that in the United States the manufacturers of matches, of perfumery, and various other articles, as also the owner of any patent medicine, may, on paying a certain sum for the cost of engraving into the hands of the government, have a stamp prepared and printed according to any design he may furnish; so that, not only is the number of these stamps legion, and may be indefinitely increased, but they may be, and are, employed as an advertisement for the parties using them, and in the case of patent medicines are sometimes degraded into a puff of all sorts of quackery, the crop of which is quite as plentiful in the United States as elsewhere.

The learned doctor, after a rapid glance at the stamps on playing cards and matches, which we purpose noticing hereafter, dives, *con amore*, into those on patent medicines, winding up his description with the enthusiastic exclamation: "It is impossible to imagine the interest attaching to the search after these stamps; and their incontestable fiscal character justifies the collection of them."

The article is illustrated by a representation of an elaborate engraving intended to figure on the bottles of "F. Brown's Essence of Jamaica Ginger," and of another equally elaborate engraving, to be applied to the boxes of "Dr. Herrick's Sugar-coated Pills," with a portrait of, we suppose, Dr. Herrick in the centre. Each of the stamps also bears minute directions as to the doses to be given, and in the case of the ginger they are directed to be administered in sugar and water. A third representation is that of a stamp on which is the knave of clubs; but this has evidently found its way amongst the "doctor's stuff" stamps by mistake, and belongs to the stamps on playing cards. On the two stamps first mentioned an inscription tells us the amount of duty chargeable, but this is quite subservient to the rest of the design. On the whole, they are fair specimens of the genus, and, without enumerating others which have fallen under our own notice, are, we think, sufficient to satisfy our readers of the absurdity of collecting bottle and pill-box labels, and such like advertising puffs, under the guise of stamps.

This stamp duty on patent medicines was no doubt borrowed from England, where it has been imposed for the last sixty years. The language of the Act of Parliament (52 Geo. III., c. 150) is so very terse, that we can confidently recommend it as a model to the countries of codes. The Act, after enumerating a number of articles subjected to the duties, proceeds:—

> And also all other Pills, Powders, Lozenges, Tinctures, Potions, Cordials, Electuaries, Plaisters, Unguents, Salves, Ointments, Drops, Lotions, Oils, Spirits, Medicated Herbs and Waters, Chemical and Officinal Preparations, whatsoever, to be used or applied externally or internally as Medicines or Medicants for the Prevention, Cure, or Relief of any Disorder or Complaint incident to, or in anywise affecting the Human Body, made, prepared, uttered, vended or exposed to sale by any Person or Persons whatsoever, wherein the Person, making, preparing, uttering, vending or exposing to sale the same, hath or claims to have any occult Secret or Art for the making or preparing the same, or hath or claims to have any exclusive Right or Title to the making or preparing the same, or which have at any time heretofore been, now are, or shall hereafter be prepared, uttered, vended, or exposed to sale under the authority of any Letters Patent under the Great Seal, or which have at any time heretofore been, now are, or shall hereafter be by any Public Notice or Advertisement, or by any written or

Printed Papers or Handbills, or by any Label or Words written or printed, affixed to or delivered with any Packet, Box, Bottle, Phial, or other inclosure containing the same, held out or recommended to the Public by the Makers, Vendors, or Proprietors thereof, as Nostrums, or Proprietary Medicines, or as Specifics, or as beneficial to the Prevention, Cure, or Relief of any Distemper, Malady, Ailment, Disorder, or Complaint incident to or in anywise affecting the Human Body.

The duties levied by the Act are as follows:—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| On articles to the value of 1s..... | 0 | 0 | 1½ |
| From 1s. to 2s. 6d. ..... | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| ,, 2s. 6d. ,, 4s..... | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| ,, 4s. ,, 10s..... | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| ,, 10s. ,, 20s..... | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| ,, 20s. ,, 30s..... | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| ,, 30s. ,, 50s..... | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| ,, 50s. upwards ..... | 1 | 0 | 0 |

Stamped labels of the above values are issued by the stamp-office, to be fixed on the article, so that the contents cannot be removed without *tearing* the Stamp. The penalty in all cases is £10.

The stamps themselves are uniform in design, and this is of a most unpretentious nature; they are printed in red and black, after the mode of Mr. Whiting, and do not display that pleasing variety so remarkable in the physic stamps of the United States, in which also the puff forms a part of the stamp. Whether the design now in use is the same as that employed in 1810, when the duties were first imposed, or whether there may be one or more obsolete series, we are unable to say; but the actual type has been in use, to our own recollection, for forty years, where it is mixed up with certain reminiscences of boxes of "Shepherd's Black Currant Lozenges," cheaply purchased at the expense of a sore throat; though our memory fails us when we try to carry it farther back to a certain "Soothing Syrup," highly recommended to arrest infantine attempts at producing undue development of the lungs. If, then, the physic stamps of the United States are to be collected, on what ground, we ask, are the English physic stamps, the distinguished ancestors of the whole tribe of physic stamps and adhesives, to be ignored?

We have said that the physic stamps of the United States can be indefinitely multiplied. In fact, each collector might, on paying the necessary expense, have a stamp peculiar to himself. Further than this, any person desirous of advertising or puffing, can do it under the guise of a stamp. Suppose any American Dr. Squeers were desirous of advertising his establishment, he has only to take Mrs. Squeers's celebrated prescription,

℞. Sulph: flor: ℥iv.
Theriacæ ℥iv.

Fiat electuarium. Cochl: magnum j omne die mane sumend:

and set forth the preparation as a special cure for external and internal irritation in young people; and he can ornament the pots with a stamp of any design he pleases, including one of Dotheboy's Hall itself, the whole served up with a puff of any amplitude.

Fellow-rambler, do you not feel sick of physic? Our advice, offered gratis, is not to touch its stamps, but to leave them to the doctors and the druggists.

## THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

On Saturday, the 1st ultimo, a general meeting was held at Dr. Viner's, 34, Denbigh Street, in accordance with an official notice to all existing members, for the purpose of making arrangements for remodelling this society. It was proposed by the president, Sir Daniel Cooper, Bart., and resolved unanimously, that, in consequence of the inconvenience of corresponding with foreign and country members without employing the services of a paid secretary, which would entail too great an expense, the society be dissolved, and reconstituted. It was therefore settled, that the balance remaining in the hands of the acting honorary secretary be expended in purchasing sets of certain newly-issued stamps for presentation to retiring members, according to the amount of their paid subscriptions, but that the meetings should continue to be held at the above address, about once a month, of which due notice should be given in the magazines, at which all philatelists would be welcome to attend, without the payment of any subscription, for the comparison of specimens, and for other objects of philatelic interest.

To the said meeting, the attending members brought their collections of English stamps; the president exhibiting some choice

proofs of hitherto inedited Mulready varieties. Dr. Viner showed upwards of two hundred and fifty varieties of the envelopes, wrappers, and post cards of Great Britain.

The first meeting of the society under its new aspect took place on the 22nd ultimo, when the emissions of Egypt and of Western and Southern Africa were exhibited. The next will be held on Saturday, the 15th of this month, at 2·30, to which any philatelist is invited to be present. The stamps of India, Cashmere, the Deccan, and the Mauritius to be shown.

## REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

*Oppen's Postage-Stamp Album and Catalogue.* Seventeenth Edition. Edited by DR. VINER. London: W. Stevens.

THIS old-established favourite again calls for notice. Less than seven years ago the editorship of the volume passed into the care of Dr. Viner, and since then ten editions have been issued—a fact which tells its own tale as to the sterling worth of the book. It is almost superfluous to say that the edition before us is carefully brought up to the time of going to press. Spaces are provided in the album for all the most recent emissions, including Iceland, Curaçoa, Surinam, Portuguese Indies, &c.; and in the catalogue such novelties as the new Roumanian set, the 2½ gr. and 9 kr. German Empire, and the one franc Luxembourg, find place. After careful scrutiny we fail to discover a single flaw in the album, and the ample space allotted to each country, will, for some time to come, secure those who may patronise it against the annoyance so often experienced of not having room for future issues. On turning to the catalogue we notice a few points which we would suggest for the consideration of the editor against he is called on to prepare the eighteenth edition.

(i.) *The consistent recognition or rejection of minor varieties.*—At present perforation is only occasionally noticed, *e.g.*, Danubian Principalities, Heligoland, &c. Sometimes, as in the current French, no distinction is made between lithographed and engraved stamps, while under Hungary we find both kinds described. Under Mecklenburg Schwerin only one set of envelopes is mentioned, while Wurtemburg is duly credited with two sets, differing only in the size of their inscriptions.

(ii.) *The abolition of "vermin,"* such as British (except Keble College), Dresden, Leitmeritz, and United States locals known to be false, from the list.

(iii.) The following are *omitted*: Sardinia early covers, two sets. Guadalajara, medio real. Montevideo, "diligencia" set and provisional set. New Granada, 1867, 25 c. black on grey.

(iv.) *Addenda and corrigenda.*—The Swiss Rayons and Poste Locale 2½ have only one of their number, viz., Rayon III., with value in *cents* as well as in rappen. The 50 kr. and 50 sol. Austrian *envelopes*, Antioquia 25 c., Tolima (oblong) 20 c., are all creations of the editorial brain. Of Austria adhesive, 1867, 25 kr., there are two distinct colours. Danubian Principalities, 1865, 20 paras, is found in pink and carmine. The Portuguese Indies, 100 r., is found in yellow-green and dark sap-green. The Russian local for Louga is an adhesive, not an envelope. The British Guiana "newspaper" should be "provisional."

In conclusion, we have only to add that the paper, printing, and binding being of the best, the result is a very handsome volume.

## POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

NEW GRANADA.—M. Moens considers the frequent issues which take place as the indirect consequence of the frequent changes which are made in the staff of the Colombian post-office—changes which, combined with the irregularity of delivery and the general disorder in that department, have pretty nearly destroyed the confidence of the public in its efficiency.—*The Philatelist.*

PRESIDENT GRANT AND THE POSTAGE STAMPS.—Some time ago two youths of Bern addressed a letter to President Grant, asking him to aid them in gathering a collection of American postage stamps. A few days ago the said youths unexpectedly received, through the American envoy at Berne, a fine assortment of United States stamps, accompanied by a letter, in which the President said that his many duties had prevented him undertaking the collection himself, and that therefore his youngest son had taken the matter in hand.—*Swiss Times.*

UNITED STATES POSTAL CARDS.—We are told by *The New York Herald*, that letters are daily being received at the Post Office Department, asking when the postal cards will be ready. New York merchants have made application for over two millions, which are to be used as advertising cards. Firms in Boston, Providence, Philadelphia, Pittsburg, Cincinnati, St. Louis, and, in fact, all the large cities, have similar requests filed; and it is believed that at least one half the first lot (fifty millions) will be immediately disposed of to corporations and business houses, to be used as a cheap means of advertising.

NOVEL USE OF GUMMED PAPER.—"We were aware," says *The Echo au Norde*, "that the gummed paper bordering postage stamp sheets might be used in numberless ways, but we were ignorant of that mentioned by M. Paul Aquarone, of Toulon, an ardent amateur of birds. It is well to make it known, for it may prove of great service at the hatching season to breeders of poultry, &c. 'Whenever I meet with a cracked egg,' says M. Aquarone, 'and find its shell-membrane intact, I stick over the crack a small strip of paper cut from the margin of a sheet of postage stamps, and I put my egg away for incubation. Every egg thus patched up succeeds with me eight times out of ten. As much care as possible must, however, be taken to employ paper of the same colour as the egg, which is not a very difficult matter, considering

the numerous colours afforded by the various values of postage stamps. Without this precaution, the hen-bird, should the difference of shade be too marked, tries to remove the paper, when she generally breaks the egg.'"

CORRESPONDENCE BY NEWSPAPER.—The story of the young Irish girl who managed to obtain news of her lover by means of unpaid letters, which she never took in, has passed into history. A friend of ours has recounted to us an equally ingenious and amusing, though, in strictness, a less justifiable method, which he once employed in order to exchange communications at lower rates than those authorised by the post-office. When quite a young man, some eighteen or twenty years ago, he was in the United States, and was in the habit of corresponding with a young lady in the old country. At that time, be it remembered, the postage between the two countries was a shilling per half ounce letter. Whenever he received a letter from the object of his affections, he acknowledged receipt of it by sending a newspaper. He prepaid the postage thereon by means of two stamps, of low value, and wrote a brief reply, in a microscopic hand, across the space which the two stamps were intended to cover. He assures us that with care he used to get a great deal into that space, and this we quite believe. When the newspaper reached its destination the young lady had only to get off the stamps by moistening the back of the sheet, and the eagerly awaited epistle was exposed to view. Needless to add that the fair recipient, when she received a letter from the United States, acknowledged it in the same manner. We might have felt some qualms at initiating the public into this clever invention, but the postage to and from all civilized countries is now so low that such a practice as the one above described would hardly pay for the trouble.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### DATE OF ISSUE OF THE THIRD PARMESAN SERIES.

*To the Editor of* "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

SIR,—I notice that Dr. Gray, in the fifth edition of his valuable catalogue, gives the date of the Parma, fleur-de-lis in oval, inscribed DUC DI PARMA PIAC. ECC., as 1858. I have a specimen of the 25 c. brown of this issue, postmarked PARMA, 12 NOV., '57.

I am, Sir,
Yours truly,
*Winchester.* H. ST. C. F.

[The 25 c. and 40 c. were, we believe, issued in January, 1857, and the 15 c. in the November following.—ED.]

### THE QUESTIONABLE ECUADOR STAMPS.

*To the Editor of* "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—I must confess I look upon the new Ecuador stamps with great suspicion. By comparing the ½ real and 1 peso with the Haitian impostor, it will be seen that the similarity of design is very great, particularly in the ½ real; their perforation, also (11), is the same as that of a specimen of the above-mentioned impostor which I have by me. The 1 real, however, I am inclined to think genuine; (1.) From its difference in design; (2.) Because it appeared by itself, and not in company of the other two values. If this be true, what more likely than that the forgers, having heard of the emission of a 1 real stamp, but being ignorant of its design, should forthwith proceed to forge two other values, and by ingeniously setting them afloat at the same time as the genuine stamps appeared, attempt to entice the philatelic public into accepting them as genuine. Trusting this may be of some use,

I remain,
Yours truly,
VERITAS.

*Darlington.*

### NEW GRANADA "SOBRE-PORTE" 1868 STAMPS.

*To the Editor of* "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—We are all familiar with the unsullied faces of the above stamps, on which, with your permission, I wish to make a few remarks. For many years I have had correspondents in the republic who have sent me over many hundreds of stamps of all issues and values, but, strange to relate, not one of the reputed 1868 "Sobre-Porte" set has ever been amongst them. Yet, more surprising, I have never been able to buy them at Bogota, though, *perhaps*, I may have always hit on dates when they were out of stock. Most surprising of all, my correspondents, two of whom are intelligent collectors, profess entire ignorance of the set. Now, sir, how are these things to be accounted for? Are my friends, think you, hoaxing me? Have they any plot to make a used stamp of this series as rare, say, as a green Bolivar? Do help me.

Meanwhile let me call your attention to a little matter based on the copies which, through another channel, I have obtained. We all know that the lowest portion of the shield containing the Colombian arms is occupied by an isthmus, with a ship on each side. This is clear on many stamps, and visible to an instructed eye on all, even when the impression is from a very worn stone.

But now turn to your copies of the "rare" set under discussion. In the first place, you have not lithographs, but woodcuts. Next, not impressions from worn blocks, but prints as clear as they conceivably can be. Further, note the place of our friend, the isthmus, and its attendant ships—what *has* happened? Verily, to a tyro eye, though of course not to yours, is presented, a shapeless something, not more definitely to be described, as though the engraver had never understood the arms he was engaged to depict. This same conclusion is also further strengthened by an examination of the topmost division of the shield. There we *ought* to find two cornucopiæ, with a pomegranate (?) between them. But what *do* we find? Why plenty of horns, rather than horns of plenty! Again, sir, I appeal to you—you who have warned unwary gulls aforetime—to say to what all this points. English dealers, in my experience, do not sell these stamps; my copies came from Brussels long years ago, as, may be, yours did too; so if you have any curiosity about their parentage, I hope you will allow me, through your columns, to appeal to their introducer to give an account of his *protégés*.

Yours humbly,
ANTI-HUMBUG.

P.S.—A friend suggests a solution worth noticing: "Probably they are not Colombian stamps at all, but *Moresnetians*"!

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

R. F., Liverpool.—The Sardinian issue of 1854-5 has the king's profile on a white oval, and all the rest of the stamp is in colour, inscriptions included.

V. C., London.—The Guatemala stamps you describe are well known, and there is not the least doubt about their genuineness. It is respecting two new values that discussion has arisen, *because* they differed so widely from the authentic type.

## RAMBLES AT HOME AND ABROAD.

BY QUELQU'UN.

### III.

In our last ramble we pointed out that the stamp duties on physic were not an American invention, but had existed in England for many years. In fact, the label issued by the stamp-office is, we believe, the earliest adhesive stamp ever issued in England and sold to the public for revenue purposes. We also endeavoured to show the puerility of collecting such stamps, especially the American ones, which latter were practically inexhaustible, as they could be manufactured to anyone's order, to anyone's taste, and to cover even such prescriptions as that of Mrs. Squeers; or even for no earthly purpose whatever, except to minister to the vanity of the proprietors, by a display of their portraits, or to provide for the yearnings of collectors.* We will now see how the second of that species of stamp, which is applied to the article taxed prior to its sale, is worthy of collection,—we mean the stamps on playing cards.

Dr. Magnus tells us that the stamp duty on playing cards in the States is five cents on each pack; and he gives a list of the stamps as follows:—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | cent | red. |
| 2 | ,, | blue and orange. |
| 3 | ,, | green. |
| 4 | ,, | violet. |
| 5 | ,, | red. |

This *may* be all right, and we do not dispute it, for we have no *data* wherewith to do so. Our business is not with the American stamps, but with the English. We will only remark that we have *never seen* card stamps of 1 cent, 2 cents, or 3 cents. We have seen an old copy of 4 cents in black, and copies of 5 cents in blue, green, and black, as also a 10 cents in blue; we think, therefore, that there is no colour specially set apart for the different values, but that this is left to the fancy of the person who orders them from the government "bureau of engraving and printing."

Now the duties on playing cards are far from being an American invention, any more than those upon patent medicines. The existence of a duty on playing cards in England, dates from rather a remote period. It certainly existed in the time of Queen Anne; and if the duties were then taken by stamps, probably a specimen would be far more difficult to obtain than some other rarities of that reign, the search after which drives numismatists half crazy. But for our purpose it will, we think, be superfluous to go back beyond our own recollections. Within them we can find field enough and to spare even to satisfy such of our continental friends as are hungry after such things, and therefore we shall start from the law as it existed previously to 1862, when the duties established in 1828 by the Act 9 Geo. III., c. 18, were altered.

By the Act passed in 1828, a duty of one shilling was imposed on every pack of cards. The 4th section of the Act provided that this duty should be denoted on the ace of spades, which was constituted the stamp. Each manufacturer supplied his own plates to the stamp-office, each plate containing twenty aces of spades, of a design approved of by the authorities of the stamp-office, with the words "Duty One Shilling" forming part of the design. The manufacturer also sent to the stamp-office paper sufficient for the number of copies required, and the stamp-office printed them off, charging the manufacturer £1 for every sheet of twenty aces.

The Act also provided that the pack containing one such ace of spades should be wrapped up in a *jew*,† the design of which had been previously submitted to, and approved of by, the stamp authorities. The pack was then tied with a thread, and an officer of the commissioners affixed a label on each pack, to guard against the possibility

* Since our last ramble, we have had an opportunity of looking over a large collection of physic stamps. Were we to judge from them we should say that wind and worms were very prevalent in the States, and that there was a pretty considerable call for bitters.

† Some of our readers may not comprehend this provision of the Act, "that the pack should be wrapped up in a jew," and may possibly think it should have been reversed. The Act, however, explains that a jew is the technical term for a wrapper. What the etymology of the word is, we are unable to say, but we strongly suspect it has more to do with *jeu* than with the descendants of Abraham.

of the pack being opened, and the ace of spades removed before being sent out for sale. The Act further contained various anathemas against persons contravening its enactments, condemning to the punishment of death anyone found guilty of forging the stamps created in virtue of its provisions.

This law continued in force until the year 1862, when the duties were altered, and reduced by Act 25 Vict., c. 22, to threepence on each pack of cards. The ace of spades also was no longer the stamp, but it was provided that each pack should be enclosed in a wrapper furnished by the stamp-office. For this purpose each manufacturer of cards furnishes to the stamp-office a certain number of plates of a design regulated by the authorities, and when he requires a supply of covers, they are printed for him by the office. The Act provides that this cover or wrapper shall bear the name of the manufacturer: but though each manufacturer furnishes his own plates, yet the general design is the same for all, and all the wrappers are cut to the same shape. They are printed in blue, on thin, tough paper, and the engraving is the work of Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, & Co. The greater part of the design consists of flower and scroll work, with other engine-turned ornaments, and two anathematical notices, enjoining the destruction of the wrapper by the party opening the pack, and the cancellation of the stamp by the vendor of the pack.* The portion of the design appropriated to the stamp is the point of the tail of a bat-like design. The centre of the wrapper is cut away in an oval form, to show the internal wrapper of the manufacturer, and serves as a sort of framing to a picture of the Great Mogul, the Valiant Highlander, &c., as the case may be.

Having thus pointed out the provisions of the laws governing the stamps on cards in England, we will now examine shortly where a collector of stamps on cards would be landed, supposing he were to attempt to make a collection of English card stamps.

In the first place, taking the law as it stood from 1828 to 1862, during which time the stamp duty was denoted by the ace of spades, he would be compelled to form a rather extensive collection of aces of spades, considering that each manufacturer of cards must have supplied a considerable number of plates to the stamp-office during that period, each plate containing 20 aces differing, most probably, one from another in some minute particulars. As we are sure that no continental collector could overlook the design on the back of the new Mexican postage stamps, so, in like manner, he could not ignore the existence of the charming variety of designs and colours on the backs of the numerous *chefs d'œuvres* emanating from the *ateliers* of De La Rue, Goodall, Willis, Hunt, &c., &c. We have, then, the different varieties of paper, and during a space of thirty-four years, this must have varied much. In fact, we have all the following elements of varieties: the number of card-makers, the number of plates furnished by each manufacturer, the number of designs on the backs, and the various kinds of paper; the whole being multiplied by twenty, for the varieties of type of the *as* † on each plate. Any collector arriving at a hundredth part of this, ought, in his old age, to be presented with the freedom of the Honourable Company of Cardmakers, if certified still to be of a sound mind.

The collection of the stamps under the law of 1862 is not so laborious. We are not aware that any alteration in the general design of the stamped cover has been made since it was first issued. The varieties are therefore confined to the simple sum of the number of card manufacturers, multiplied by the number of plates supplied by each. The stamp itself, as we have seen, forms an integral part of the wrapper, and the whole must be collected together. The dimensions and shape are, it is true, rather awkward for collection; it

* These sensational notices were not required under the former system, the duties being taken, as we have seen, in a different manner. They much resemble those on the notes of the Bank of France, where we are told twice over, once in small letters, and once in capitals, that the law punishes the forger with hard labour for life. We should think such notices would have about as much effect in deterring an intending transgressor, as one of a similar nature affixed above the packet would have on any of the Bill Sikes fraternity who was contemplating an unlawful appropriation of its contents.

† French for *ace*. Nothing to do with the quadruped or the collector.

measures $9\frac{7}{8}$ inches from the extremity of one wing to that of the other, and $8\frac{1}{4}$ inches from the tip of the tail to the extremity of the head; but as the number is fortunately limited, not more than one large-sized volume would be required for an entire collection!

One word more before we cease our ramble. Though the invention of physic and card stamps does not hail from the West, yet there is one other stamp to be noticed, coming under this same category—that on matches—which had its origin in the States. More than three-fourths of these stamps bear a portrait of what we suppose to be the matchmaker himself, got up in his best style, possibly as an advertisement to kindle a flame for another kind of match. Efforts were made to impose this duty in England, but greater efforts were made to prevent the imposition. We fancy, ourselves, that the Chancellor of the Exchequer was in error in riding his own hobby with a uniform stamp. Had he permitted the male and female matchmakers in England to have employed a stamp with their own individualities upon it, we cannot but think that his attempt would have been more successful.

The match duty forms part of the present French budget of ways and means, but the design of the stamp is not remarkable, further than it is inferior, in point of execution, to the ordinary reel-tops, especially those on the commoner kinds of cotton.

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Since writing the above we have received an interesting communication from a zealous fellow-collector in New York, who writes us that although he collects everything pertaining directly or indirectly to postage stamps, yet he has not been "rash enough to go in for physic stamps, or beer stamps, or war envelopes." Though he possesses a goodly collection of proprietary stamps, given to him from time to time by a druggist, yet he uses them only as a bait to catch postage stamps.

He then goes on to say that the system of proprietary stamps is in reality a stamp duty of one cent on an article of the price of 25 cents; or a duty of four per cent. on the price. "On playing cards the duty is five cents on every package. What any other values have reference to I do not know, unless that at first the cards were taxed according to their retail price; or else that imported cards are so taxed.

"A private proprietary stamp is a privilege to the individual. He may choose the design or colours, or designate so many values, but the government has supreme control over the plate, paper, and printing of the stamps, just as it has over its own stamps, and the stamps must be ordered from the government and paid for by the individual. Furthermore, the government will not allow an individual a private stamp unless he can order a certain number—5000, if I mistake not."

He concludes by saying that the internal revenue stamps, including all proprietary stamps, will not last much longer. Like the postage stamp currency they will become a thing of the past.

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## OBLITERATION MARKS (MATASELLOS) ON SPANISH STAMPS.

BY DON MARIANO PARDO FIGUEROA.

(*Read before the London Philatelic Society*).

THE following information, which I submit to the correction of those better acquainted with the subject, is all I have been able to acquire. It is very difficult to fix the date at which each obliteration commenced, as but little is published in Spain in reference to such matters. With the exception of one (A) all these different obliterating marks are in use at the present time.

I can understand the little importance of these remarks, as I am unable to include a description of the postmarks of Cuba and of the Philippine Islands; but I hope the London Philatelic Society will value my good wishes more than the intrinsic merit of this paper, which I dedicate to them.

A catalogue of all the obliterations which have been, and are still in use in every country, with *fac-simile* drawings showing the colour of the ink, and the time each was in use, would, I believe, be worthy of the attention of the Philatelic Society; for, as Dr. John Edward Gray says, "the study of the means employed for this simple purpose

affords an interesting object of contemplation."



(A.)—Years 1850-1.—It was only during these two years that the obliterating mark A was employed. Although black ink was generally used, these stamps are occasionally found obliterated with red ink, as on some six cuartos. This notwithstanding that by order of the General Post-office, under date the 4th September, 1852, only black ink was to be used.



(B.)—Year 1852.—This obliterating mark is first found on letters dated 1852, but is used up to the present day in several offices; and notably in that of Madrid, in which office also the one marked C is still in use.



(C.)—Years 1856-7-8.—This postmark was employed during these three years, but made its appearance again in Madrid in 1871.




(D.)—15th October, 1858.—This postmark, which came first in use at that time, is still used in several post-offices, notably in those of Toledo, Santa Cruz, de Tenerife, Tarancon, &c. The number changes according to the different towns; Madrid, 1; Cadiz, 3; Seville, 7; Alicante, 9; &c., &c. The annexed engraving is not thoroughly accurate. Of the four figures 3 in the margin, only those at the top and bottom should be upright. The position of the four may best be indicated by the annexed type-set illustration.

3
3 3
3

(E.)—By order of the General Post-office, 14th September, 1857, letters received at the branch offices, and which did not go to the central office, but passed through to another branch office, were to be obliterated by a *common pen-and-ink cross.*




(F.)—Year 1859.—Ordered by the General Post-office, 25th November, "The post-office which has not a special seal to obliterate post stamps, will do so by affixing the date." This was in reality done before the publication of the above order, as witness the stamp in the margin, which reads S. LUCAR LA M., 25 MAR., '59, SEVILLA—"*San Lucar la mayor*, 25 *Marzo*, 1859, *Sevilla.*"




(G.)—1862. This mark is generally used at the present time in almost all the principal post-offices in Spain. The number changes according to the town, as in the case of D.




(H.)—Year 1870. This obliteration I have only seen on letters from Santiago, province of Corunna: and I cannot learn the meaning of the letters A. S.*

[Since the above paper was read in London, Senor Pardo de Figueroa has published in the *Averiguador* for 1872 (Nos. 29, 30, 31, 32, and 35) a much longer and fuller article on Spanish obliterations, which he purposes reprinting as a separate pamphlet. The above brief sketch should therefore be regarded as merely a preliminary attempt.]

## OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

*Le Timbre Poste.*—The current number contains a timely word of warning from the editor, respecting certain false stamps which have just made their appearance, and which possess certain particularities of a nature to render probable their acceptance by unsuspecting collectors. In the first place there is a series of provisional Tuscans printed *on paper bearing the genuine official watermark.*

*[A correspondent suggests that they stand for "Administration of Santiago."—ED.]

How the forgers could have obtained possession of a supply of the true watermarked paper is a puzzle, but that they have done so is proved by the issue of counterfeits of all the values, including the very rare 3 lire. The latter is printed in *too bright* an orange, and all the imitations may be detected on comparison with a genuine stamp of any value, from 1 to 80 centesimi, by the too great distinctness of the details of the engraving. The forgeries exist both used and unused. The used stamps are obliterated with six parallel black bars, and some of these misleading forgeries are mounted on letter-paper, folded to imitate the outside of a letter, and stamped with a date-stamp. "From Madrid," our contemporary goes on to say, "we have received other and more dangerous imitations, viz. :—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1851, | | 2 and 6 reales. |
| 1852 | (bear), | 3 cuartos. |
| 1853, | | 2 and 6 reales. |
| 1854, | | 2 cuartos and 6 reales. |

and other values, perhaps, exist. These stamps, according to Dr. Magnus, have been obtained by direct lithographic transfers from the originals. The imitations of the 1851 stamps are the least successful. A slight defect in the drawing of the nose gives quite a different aspect to the queen's face. Their colour condemns them all, excepting the 2 cuartos., which has been copied to perfection. The blue stamps are of a dirty blue, generally very dark, whilst the orange stamps are of too pale and dull a shade ; as to the 3 cuartos, to give it an old look it is printed on paper of a slightly greenish tint. All of them show the postmark in use at the time the stamps were current. Dr. Magnus thinks these forgeries were fabricated (whilst the originals were in circulation) with a view to cheat the government, and not collectors ; but M. Moens' information from Madrid is, that these old stamps have *just been imitated*. In any case, as he says, they were intended to deceive some one, and we cannot too promptly echo his warning."

The description of newly-issued forgeries is followed by a reply to the letter from Mr. Panopoulo, recently published in these pages. The article is replete with innendos, but is open to the same objection as the preceding one on the same subject, namely, that no positive proof is given that the Morton stamps are a private speculation of Mr. Panopoulo's. To set the matter at rest, corroborative evidence of their *bonâ-fide* employment is desirable, and such evidence it ought not to be difficult for Mr. Panopoulo to obtain.

Dr. Magnus's paper on stamped envelopes succeeds the Morton stamp controversy, and the present instalment treats of the envelope essays for France, prepared by the renowned engraver, M. Barre. These essays were submitted to the government, and, as existing specimens testify, were of great beauty. They were ultimately rejected in consequence of the objections made by certain adversaries of the system of embossing.

The March number closes with a notice from the editor and publisher, *in re* the Russian local stamps, which some jealous competitor insinuates are spurious. We can fully confirm M. Moens' assertion that these stamps are official and *bonâ-fide* emissions.

*La Gazette des Timbres.*—The February and March numbers contain instalments of an article on, and analytical list of, the post card issues of all countries, whence we extract the following interesting sketch of the rapid adoption of post cards by nearly all the European states.

It was in Austria, on the 1st October, 1869, that the first card appeared, and on the following 1st November Hungary enjoyed the same advantage. Germany adopted them on the 1st July, 1870. The kingdoms of Bavaria and Wurtemburg and the Grand Duchy of Baden followed the example of the North German Confederation, and during the war of 1870-71 the field posts of the different countries supplied to the soldiers and to their families special cards, of which the advantages were recognized by everyone. Luxembourg issued hers the 1st September, 1871 ; and Great Britain on the 1st October, at the same time that she reduced the rate for letters for the interior to one penny [?]. Switzerland at the same period adopted the post card, and was followed by Belgium and Holland, on the 1st January, 1871 ; Denmark on the 1st of April ; Canada in the course of the year ; Chili on the 23rd December, 1871 ; Russia, Finland, Sweden and Norway early in 1872 ; and Ceylon in the course of the same year. But at the beginning of that year a further improvement was introduced, that of reply-paid cards, issued in the first instance by Germany, and adopted later on by Holland (June, 1872), Belgium, Sweden, and Luxembourg (1st January, 1873.)

The instalments of the "Minor Gazette" are occupied with the details of Dr. Magnus's receipt for the preparation of a blank album,

which he recommends alike for beginners and advanced collectors. The author admits that ready-prepared albums possess this advantage, that the ruled squares teach the novice the stamps he should procure, and if space were given in such albums for only one set of each series, they might render greater service. Ruled and designed albums can only suit restricted collections, and to attempt to compose them for more extensive collectors, is, in the opinion of Dr. Magnus (and our own), to prepare the way for many inconveniences to the amateur who cannot decide on the value of the innumerable varieties to which his attention is called.

*The Stamp-Collector's Guide.*—This paper has reappeared under new management, and is likely to acquire a higher position than that enjoyed by the first issue. The number before us contains an interesting "Philatelic Review," by Mr. C. H. Coster, in which he discusses the lately-mooted question, "What is a Postage Stamp?" and argues in favour of the acceptance of too-late, official, and registered stamps (excepting only such registered stamps as are used merely as seals), and of the rejection of returned-letter and unpaid-letter stamps, which last appear to him to have no postal significance.

The leading article contains a good-humoured apology for the lack of method, or, in other words, the superficiality of the American style of collecting, and also for the grammatical slips which are so frequent in the composition of American philatelical writers. "We Americans," says the editor, "are a very live people; we do everything on the high-pressure principle. Stamp collecting did not and does not tame us. We handle that as we do everything else, with a rush. It must be confessed," he continues, "that Americans are more ardent than constant. We are spasmodic. One day we are wide awake on philately, the next day we are about something else. But with all our changeableness, most of us *keep* our collections, and are again and again drawn back to the 'old love.' And so philately holds its own. There are no signs of decadence. It is on the increase." Then as to the style of writing:—"If an American philatelist has an idea or a news item which, communicated to his fellow collectors, would be of value, he jots it down in an off-hand ready manner, and ofttimes leaves his grammar open to criticism. We want to apologise for such cases. People more nice than wise will sometimes criticise such writings maliciously and needlessly. It is far better that a good idea be published, even if couched in language not strictly rhetorical [?] than that idea be lost. It is characteristic of us to be hasty and get over much ground in little time. Hence we are not always as thorough as might be; but we enjoy as greatly, and in the long run make as much out of, what we do as any people." We must say we like the hearty spirit in which these suggestions are put, and are willing to admit their possession of a certain plausibility; still we are not satisfied that American stamp publications should be characterised by a disregard of grammatical rules; nor can we admit that the original ideas they contain are of sufficient value to excuse faults which, with a little attention, might easily be avoided. "Pretty fair, *considering* it's written by an American" would be rather a humiliating critique. Let us hasten to add that it would not be applicable to the magazine under review, which is honourably distinguished from certain of its *confrères* both by the style and the matter.

Following the leading article comes the pertinent query—"Did anybody ever see an unequivocally genuine postmarked specimen of either of the 'local stamps' of the 'Westervelt post,' which are claimed to be genuine locals?" A contributor to these pages last year declared that this post was a *bonâ-fide* one, founding his belief on a statement made to him by the proprietor, and on an inspection of used specimens. We still have our own doubts, however, on the subject, and should require very positive proof to convince us of the genuineness of the Westervelt stamps.

The article on new issues is well illustrated, and opens with a description and engraving of a lately-discovered Philadelphian local—the *Stait's Despatch Post*. The design consists of a double-lined circle, with STAIT'S DESPATCH running round the inner edge, and PAID in a straight line at the bottom. The address, S. THIRD STREET, in two lines, occu-

pies the centre. The sole known specimen is a handstruck impression, colour brick-red, and is struck on a circular letter. It is believed to have been in use for two months only, its suppression having been operated by the post-office authorities at the same time that Blood's offices were closed. Further particulars are promised respecting this stamp, which appears to be a *bonâ-fide* one. Communication is also promised of "some interesting facts" respecting the 1 c. Confederate, and the last noteworthy item in the number before us is the statement that the well-known New York dealer, Mr. W. P. Brown (who by the way has just commenced reissuing his *Curiosity Cabinet*), is about to proceed to Japan, there to join his father, the Rev. Nathan Brown, D.D., who is engaged in translating the Bible into Japanese. We wish Mr. Brown all possible success; and as the inhabitants of Japan are such apt imitators of European fashion, we trust he will succeed in rendering philately popular amongst them.

*The Curiosity Hunter.*—This journal, which is published at Rockford, Illinois, has attained its sixth number. We have refrained from noticing it earlier as, although a well-written publication, it contained but an infinitesimal proportion of stamp news. In the number before us there is, however, a marked increase in the quantity, coupled with a promise of greater attention to the philatelic department. *Inter alia*, we have a letter from an American collector of note, Mr. W. K. Freeman, respecting the first issue of Natal, in which he states that he has received a number of original unused specimens of that issue, the remainder of the stock of an inland post-office in the colony, "through the kindness of the manager of the 'Missionary House,' Pemberton Square, Boston." Then follows a notice of sundry new emissions, and scraps of postal information, one of which is worth extracting. It reads thus:—

> Unpaid letters, as everybody knows, are not delivered by the post-office authorities, but advertised. Now it occurred to Mr. John G. Chapman, a New Haven grain dealer, that some of these letters would be of value to the parties to whom they are addressed, and that a chance was afforded to the said Chapman, to advertise his business; so he went to the post-office just before the letter lists were to be sent to the papers, and affixed to each letter its proper stamp, together with another neat little label bearing his name and business address, with the added suggestion that he had paid the postage, and would be happy to receive any return in the way of business patronage, in case the letter should be of value to the recipient. This practice he has continued ever since last April, and he has profited largely by it. In nine cases out of ten his stamps have been returned to him, and have frequently been accompanied by more substantial favours.

*The Philatelist.*—Last, but decidedly not least, and last only by accident, our old friend comes before us looking as sound and healthy as ever, with a three-page list of novelties, a continuation of the editor's catalogue of telegraph stamps, and the 24th Spud Paper. In the latter two very fair forgeries are described,—the new Mexican, and the first Deccan. The Mexican forgery may be detected from its showing only one outer line, which is border, frame, and all: whilst in the genuine there is a second or finishing one, although it is put so close to the design that it runs into the edges of the labels and corners; these are consequently thickened on the outer parts, whereas the forgery shows a line of uniform thickness everywhere. In the Deccan forgery the network at the base is formed of two lines of meshes (the upper one incomplete, certainly, but still there); but the genuine only possesses a single row, very clear and beautifully done. Mr. Pemberton gives a further test, but we cannot quite make out where the three rows of meshes running "vertically" are situate; to us all the lines of meshes appear to run horizontally.

## STAMP-COLLECTING IN GABLONZ.

BY MR. MAX JOSEPH.

I HAVE pleasure in acquainting the readers of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* with a fact, of which, probably, none are yet aware. Stamp-collecting has found its way into the remote valleys of the Giant's mountains.

A few days ago, about noon, I was strolling through the streets of Gablonz, when passing the school-house, I beheld a large gathering of boys—a by no means usual sight, seeing that it still wanted an hour to the beginning of the lessons. Imagine my surprise, when, on approaching them, I perceived that they were exchanging postage stamps, just in the same way as I witnessed ten years ago, in

some alley of Cornhill, of which I do not recollect the name. There was, however, *one* difference: I missed the policemen who used to disturb the boys with their continual "Move on." Here, in fact, on the contrary, our urban police force appears to protect stamp-collecting; for only the other day one of the two "policemen of the town" entered my office, and desired me to give him some foreign stamps for his own boy. Is it not evident that the poor mountaineers have a better notion of the usefulness of stamp-collecting, than had the city police ten years ago? I need not assure you that the man did not leave me unsatisfied, but I acted unwisely in acceding to his desire, for since that time my office has been beleaguered by boys of all ages, who eagerly inquire for stamps, and will take no denial.

I may be permitted to suppose, without disrespect to my readers, that most of them are ignorant of what kind of place Gablonz is, and where situated. Allow me to tell them that it is a little, but very industrious town (of about 6000 inhabitants) on the Neisse, in that part of the Giant's mountains called Erzgebirge, eight English miles from Reichenberg. The products of the place consisting chiefly in Bohemian glass goods of all kinds, and fancy articles—which, by the way, will be represented on a large scale in the Vienna exhibition—are celebrated all over the globe. There is hardly a spot on the inhabited earth, to which they are not exported; they are carried even into countries in central Africa, where probably no European traveller has ever set his foot. You would be astonished to hear of the enormous quantities of glass beads, finger-rings, &c., shipped to Alexandria, Senegal, Angola, &c., to be taken into the interior by caravans, and of the mock jewelry forwarded to East India and South America. Of course the correspondence of the many commercial firms established in Gablonz (amongst which there are several English) is very extensive; and many of the lads here easily get stamps that were counted amongst the rarest in the first period of collecting, such as Montevideo, Buenos Ayres, Mexico, Brazil, &c.

Gablonz, although a very little place (up to the year 1866 it was only a hamlet), possesses many of the distinctive characteristics of larger towns: the last, but not the least of them (and certainly the most original), is the stamp exchange, the establishment of which certainly does not accord with the ignorant assertions of those who will have it that stamp-collecting is on the decline.

## NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

THERE is a decided lack of novelties this month, at any rate up to the moment of commencing the present article. We must, then, rest, and be thankful to chronicle such small fry as have been caught in the philatelic net.

FRANCE.—The number of varieties which may be distinguished among the post cards is something astonishing when we consider that they belong to a country which has always been remarkable for the accuracy and uniformity of its stamps. Some of these varieties are of inferior interest; such, for instance, as those which are formed from the apposition of the 10 c. stamp in the upright oblong inscribed "place for two 5 c. stamps," or from the suppression of this latter inscription. Others are more worthy of notice, as, for instance, the 10 c. and 15 c. cards, with a border of a new design, and the words PRIX 10 (or 15) CENTIMES added beneath the inscription, LOI DU 20 DECEMBRE, 1872. Of these latter the 10 c. is printed buff, whilst the 15 c. remains white. The explanation of these and other minor differences no doubt lies in the fact that the post-office, being unable to print off a sufficient number of cards on its own premises, has contracted with one or more private firms for the printing of a certain quantity, and that these firms, not being bound to conform strictly to the official pattern, have placed such bordering as they may happen to have in stock round the inscription. The supercession of the oblong, intended for two stamps, by a rectangle, containing space for one only, is no doubt the consequence of the issue of the 10 c. stamp. No harm can arise from the multiplication of types, inasmuch as the printed inscriptions have no value in themselves. New cards, with impressed stamps, are said to be in course of preparation, and the proof of a

proposed design is described by our Brussels contemporary.

There is an unofficial variety of the 10 c. post card in existence which is not without interest. The back of the card is bordered with advertisements, printed in red, and the space which they enclose, intended to receive the sender's communication, is covered with a ground of red lines. These cards are sold at a *sou* each, or only half the official price; and it appears the Parisian public has not been slow to appreciate the advantage offered by this reduction of fifty per cent. The tobacco shop on the Place de l'Opéra, which sold from ten to fifteen ordinary cards at 10 centimes each per day, now sells from 1500 to 1800. The post-office of the Madeleine, which used to receive 150 to 200 cards per day, has received from seven to eight hundred since the *sou* cards have been put on sale. Of course it will be understood that the gentleman (a Mr. Grénié) who buys the cards at 10 centimes, and sells them again to the public at 5 c., does not do so from any disinterested desire to prove the good results which would follow an official reduction in price; his loss on the cards is more than covered by his gain on the advertisements. Some officious meddler endeavoured to stop the sale, but has had to desist from the attempt, the right of printing at the back of the cards having been admitted by the *Journal Officiel*. The idea of using post cards as an advertising medium is not in principle a new one. When the Mulready envelopes came out, thirty odd years ago, they were employed by speculators in the same way, and the letter-writing public gained the benefit.

SPAIN.—*The Philatelist*, following in the wake of the Paris magazine, gives publicity to the report that a postage stamp has been issued by the Carlists, of which, according to a Bayonne correspondent, the design is as follows: Large rectangle; imperforate; watermarked with a single-lined *fleur-de-lis*. Full-faced portrait of Don Carlos in central pearled circle, resting on a knot of ribbons, on which is the word PAZ (peace); oak and olive branches on either side. Diagonal rays in the upper spandrels. On a white frame, enclosing the portrait, &c., are CORREOS at the sides; FRANCO below; ESPANO UNIDA above, separated by the arms of Spain; all in bright violet. The impression is light mauve; portrait black. The letter C is at the end of the ribbons. This stamp, says our contemporary in conclusion, is used for franking letters for the troops, and for all communications from head-quarters. We cannot say the description is much in favour of the authenticity of the pretended stamp. As far as we are aware, the Carlists have as yet made no pretence of establishing regular postal communications, even in the districts in which they are most at home. We possess, it is true, two stamps emanating from the Carlist army (for which we have to express our obligations to Don Pardo de Figueroa), but they are hand-struck impressions, in blue ink, something like the *Congreso* and *Senado* stamps, and bear the arms of Don Carlos, and inscriptions indicating that they emanate from the "military commandment." Even these are simply official marks, and not postage stamps. If the design described by *The Philatelist* were intended to frank correspondence for or from the Carlist insurgents it might be supposed that some inscription indicative of the fact would appear on the stamp. So far, however, from there being any such legend, we find merely the very ironical inscription—*peace*. There is no value stated, yet it is hardly probable the Carlists would go to the expense of establishing posts for nothing. Moreover, the impression is rather ambiguously described. In one line we are told that it is all in bright violet, and in the next that the portrait is black and the rest mauve!

GUATEMALA.—The annexed engraving is that of the one peso green, of the doubtful series referred to last month. It will be remembered that on the first appearance of this and its companion stamps, in 1869, they were condemned as spurious. Specimens are now coming over on letters; but it is supposed that their postal employment is accidental or temporary, and that they are in reality revenue stamps. The one peso *yellow*, recently men-



tioned, has been ascertained by M. Moens to bear the same arms (black scroll, &c.), as the four reals *mauve*.

Russian Locals.—*Dmitrieff* (Koursk).—The design of this stamp, though it does not resemble that of the state postage stamps, has nothing to indicate that it belongs to a local post, whilst the presence of the imperial arms might lead to the supposition that the stamp had been issued by the imperial government; and, according to the decree which regulates the emission of locals, there must be nothing on their face to authorise such a supposition. It would be interesting to know *why* the Dmitrieff district is allowed to use the imperial arms, or why it has no armorial bearings of its own. Pending the reply which we hope to receive to this query, let us chronicle the fact that the Dmitrieff stamp is printed in black on white wove paper, and is of the value of 3 kopecs.

*Bogorodsk.*—In *Le Timbre-Poste* we find an instructive rectification of a popular error as to the personage represented on the Bogorodsk stamps, on horseback, trampling on a dragon. We have always supposed this to be St. George, and Dr. Magnus took it to be St. Michael. This ancient byzantine emblem, it now appears, is intended to represent the czar as the propagator of Christianity, and it was only by some mistake that in 1727 it acquired the name of Saint George. M. Moens' authority is a Mr. J. Vandeimaelen, from whose "Historical Essay on Arms" he quotes a passage in support of the foregoing statement.

Danish West Indies.—The three cents carmine, which has dragged on its solitary existence for thirteen years, has at length been joined by a second value, a 4 c. ultramarine on white, perforated. The sole difference between the two stamps consists in the figure of value. The watermark of the 3 c. is repeated on the new comer. It is rather a disappointment to find that choice has not been made of a new type, similar to that adopted by the mother country; but perhaps it is desired to perpetuate the currency of the original Danish design. The current 3 c. carmine will, it is said, be issued perforated as soon as the stock in hand is exhausted.

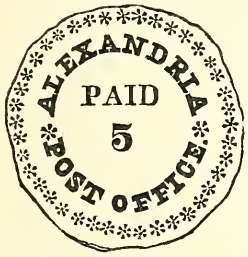
German Empire.—Pursuant to a notice of the Berlin General Post-office, dated 3rd March, 1873, private persons can now send their own envelopes to the office, to be stamped with any of the values of the existing adhesive series, but not less than a thousand of each value must be ordered, and the government charge for stamping that number is $7\frac{1}{2}$ groschen. The two $\frac{1}{4}$ groschen envelopes chronicled by us some time since, must have been struck in anticipation of the forthcoming decree (prior to the issue of which, only 1 gr. envelopes were stamped to order), and it appears that all the other values are in existence. The formalities to be complied with by persons who send envelopes for stamping are the same as in this country, except that no restriction is placed on the colour of the paper. The liberty of choice of colour has, we believe, already been used and abused by German stamp speculators, who are proceeding to multiply tints and shades as fast as the post-office can fill their orders. The varieties thus obtained are totally unworthy of collection, and we trust a decided stand will be made by English dealers and philatelists against their admission. In this instance, be it remembered, only the impressed stamp is of official origin, and if it be deemed necessary to possess evidence of the facility for stamping which has just been offered by the German post-office, a single copy of each value is surely sufficient for the purpose. We, for our part, under the circumstances, should prefer copies which have passed the post. We must not omit to mention that bands for printed matter are also stamped to order with the $\frac{1}{3}$ gr. and 1 kr. stamps.

The companion to the recently-noticed $\frac{1}{2}$ groschen post card—the 2 kreuzer—has made its appearance. It is identical with the former in all respects except the value. *The Philatelist* states, however, that the specimens of the 2 kr. which it has received are all paler in colour than the $\frac{1}{2}$ gr., and the letters consequently appear thinner than those of the groschen value, but this (it observes) may be accidental.

Great Britain.—We have been favoured by an esteemed correspondent with a sight of a specimen sixpenny stamp of the current

type, printed a greyish-green, of exactly the same shade as the existing 96 c. Hongkong. A supply in the new colour is to be issued on this 1st of April, and it will officially supersede the preceding deep brown and pale brown impressions.

United States.—The annexed cut represents a stamp found by our friend Mr. Tiffany among his correspondence, upon a letter dated the 10th July, 1847, and communicated by him to *Le Timbre-Poste*. It is printed in black on the ordinary buff paper, of a tint similar to that of the old United States envelopes, is cut round, as shown in the engraving, and fastened to the letter by means of a wafer. Besides the label, the letter also bears an ordinary date-stamp struck by hand, and inscribed ALEXANDRIA, D. C. (District of Columbia, to which the town of Alexandria then belonged), a large figure in a rectangle, and the word PAID. Mr. Tiffany sends the stamp just as he found it, and is unable to say whether it has been cut from an envelope, or clipped round through a whim of the sender. He hopes soon to be able to furnish further particulars. We confess ourselves to being rather puzzled as to the postal value of this stamp. The date above mentioned is posterior to the issue of the first series of government stamps, and it seems hardly possible that in the district of Columbia, close by the capital itself, any difficulty could have been experienced in getting a supply of the latter. Moreover, it would appear that the word *paid*, and the figure in a rectangle, formed the official evidences of prepayment. In short, the inscriptions on the label are all found repeated on the postmarks struck on the letter. In reply to these conjectures, the absence of the government adhesive, coupled with the fact that other post-offices did at that period issue stamps of their own for the convenience of the public, may be urged with considerable effect. We must, therefore, suspend judgment until the information which Mr. Tiffany hopes to obtain arrives.




Another stamp, of uncertain value, was recently chronicled by *Le Timbre-Poste*. Its design is here represented. The only known copy is handstruck in a dull dark blue, on the cover of a letter from Huntsville (Alabama), dated "5 Sept." We are entirely of M. Moens' opinion, that this mark is not a postage stamp, but simply an official postmark, possibly, to some extent, indicative of payment. The circle of stars is also evidently a mere ornament, without any emblematic meaning.




New Zealand. — A correspondent has kindly sent us, by the mail just arrived, a specimen of a new stamp for this colony. It is for newspaper postage, and of the value of *one halfpenny*. In design it somewhat resembles the English halfpenny adhesive, but it is rectangular in shape, and has an inscribed marginal label above and scroll beneath the portrait, which is in a plain oval, with value (½d.) on each side. It bears the inscription NEW ZEALAND NEWSPAPER POSTAGE, is printed in pink on white paper, and perforated. Next month we will give an engraving of this novelty.

We have been favoured with a sight of the queer stamp which has been dubbed with the title of the "abnormal New Zealand." It is, in fact, the result of a very unusual error or accident in printing. The sheet from which it was cut must have been shifted whilst under the press, and hence a kind of double impression. With the first stroke of the press, which must have been a faint one, the upper margin and the inscription NEW ZEALAND were printed, together with some faint outlines of the portions beneath; the paper must have then been drawn back and moved slightly to the left, and the lower half of the design printed with the second stroke. The consequence is a stamp almost square, about three quarters of the length of an ordinary impression, with a blurred oval centre, in which the bust, as far up as the necklace, can be clearly made out, and with top and bottom inscriptions perfectly legible. The shifting of the paper

to the left is shown by the fact that the lower portion of the design is struck to the left of the upper. The colour, the star watermark, and the gum are all those of an ordinary stamp, but the presence of a New South Wales postmark—N. S. W.—in the middle of three concentric ovals, is difficult to account for. The opinion of Sir Daniel Cooper is that probably the newspaper from which this stamp was detached was posted too late to receive the New Zealand postmark (say, on board the mail steamer), and was consequently not obliterated until its arrival at Sydney. Its possessor argues, and, as it seems to us, with much reason, that at least a row, if not the whole sheetful of stamps must have been composed of these "abnormals."

Switzerland.—A newspaper wrapper stamp of the design here figured has been in use since the 1st of February of this year. It is struck in relief to the left, and a broad line in rose runs along the upper and lower edges of the wrapper. The impression is in rose, and the value 2 centimes. There is also a 5 c. of the same type and colour, and a 5 c. post card is said to exist; but this we doubt. The entire absence of inscription renders this design an almost unique one.



Turkey.—The emission of a new series of stamps at Constantinople is, it appears, being discussed, the stock of the existing type being almost exhausted, and the supply of envelopes having already disappeared completely.

*T. B. Morton & Co.*—We are informed by Mr. Panopoulo that Messrs. Morton, having withdrawn their steamers from the line between the Black Sea, the Danube, and Constantinople, their postal service has consequently ceased to exist, and their stamps are obsolete.

Austria.—The use of post cards has been extended to the Levant, the Austrian branch offices there and in other parts of Turkey being now provided with cards bearing an impression of the current adhesive type, in *rose*, value 4 soldi, by which communications can be sent from one office to another in Turkey, and also from any office in Turkey to any part of Germany. The card is like the ordinary Austrian, and bears the Italian inscription. The Austrian post-office, we may here appropriately add, is said to be in negotiation with the Turkish government for the establishment of branch posts at Scutari, and in other towns in Albania and Bosnia.

Luxembourg.—New unstamped yellow, red, and solferino coloured post cards, with German inscription, printed in black, have made their appearance; and similar cards, with French inscriptions are to be issued, the whole to be finally followed by cards bearing impressed 5 c. stamps. The unstamped cards just out are of both kinds, single and reply-paid. By an official notice, it appears that rural letter carriers, when delivering a reply-paid card, may wait for a period not exceeding five minutes for the reply.

We have just received the 20 c. printed in a dark greyish brown, a shade which contrasts strongly with the former warm reddish brown of this stamp.

Chili.—Our Valparaiso correspondent informs us that shortly before the 15th January two more values of the new envelope series came into use, viz., the 10 centavos on yellow tinted, and the 15 c. on white paper; both full sized envelopes; and on the same day the 5 c. note size was issued on yellow tinted paper. In a postscript to his letter (which is dated the 31st January), our correspondent states that he has just seen the 5 c. on white and on yellow, large size; and, he adds, the supply of the 5 c. on blue and on white is for the present exhausted. The entire supply of the 2 c. and 20 c. (of which fewest were ordered), was lost in the *Tacora*.

Norway.—A 2 skilling envelope has been issued; impressed stamp (same as the adhesive) to right, and the same flap ornament (lion within a crowned shield) as on the 3 sk. envelope.

Newfoundland.—Our Brussels contemporary states that on this 1st April post cards and a new 3 c. adhesive are to make their appearance.

Iceland.—On the authority of our Brighton contemporary, we chronicle, by anticipation, the appearance of a 3 skilling stamp on this 1st of April.

Bavaria.—The same journal states that an unstamped reply-paid card for this country has been issued, with black inscriptions on green.

## A NOVEL RACE.

FROM "ALL THE YEAR ROUND."

It might, perhaps, have been thought that the ingenuity of man had been so thoroughly ransacked that a new description of race was almost an impossibility; but it has been reserved for the enterprising gentleman who rejoices in spiky moustaches and the title of the People's Caterer, to demonstrate the contrary.

A postman's race was the other day announced to take place at North Woolwich Gardens, over a three-hundred-yards course, planted with trees at a distance of about ten yards from each other; to each tree was to be affixed a number, a knocker, and a letter-box, and the men being started in heats of four (each man provided with the same number of letters), the duty of each competitor was to deliver the regulation postman's knock at each tree, drop a letter in the box, and, getting over the ground as rapidly as possible, either by running or walking, to return to the starting-post. To prevent this curious race from resolving itself into a mere trial of speed—instead of speed and accuracy combined—the whole sixty letters representing the number of leafy houses to be called at in going and returning, were not to be served out to each man, but a dozen letters were to be withdrawn at random from each batch, while a single false delivery among the forty-eight remaining numbers was to distance the unfortunate blunderer. Prizes were to be given to the winner of the grand heat, the winners of the trial heats, and also to the second and third in each heat.

The novelty of the event, and the peculiarly business-like character of the arrangement, attracted my attention, and it was with some surprise that I discovered a paragraph going the round of the papers, not only stating that the chiefs of the postal department declined to smile official sanction on the undertaking, but were throwing as much cold water upon it as possible. That the authorities should decline to take any trouble about the matter was conceivable enough, but it appeared to your contributor that they certainly travelled out of the record in administering a public snubbing to the projector. A postman when he gets a holiday—no very frequent occurrence—has clearly as good a right to attend a race, or even to take part therein, as any other citizen.

Entertaining some grave doubts as to the probable effect of the official wet blanket thrown over the project, I betake myself on a fine summer afternoon to Fenchurch Street Station, and proceed to discover North Woolwich Gardens. Although some thousands of people are there present, there is plenty of room for everybody. The blue uniforms of the postmen pervade the entire gardens, and the wives and families, the friends and adherents of those honest fellows, muster strongly. The swings are doing a roaring trade, and the proprietor of a huge iron roundabout, of the bicycle order of architecture, can hardly accommodate the numerous customers, who seem hugely to appreciate the fun of working very hard to spin—like horizontal squirrels—round in a circle.

The simple, jovial holiday-makers, in short, are getting on very well, and the laughter of merry children rings sweetly in the summer air, especially at the blissful moment when a huge tray arrives laden with fragrant tea, mighty heaps of shrimps in their ruddy brown armour, whole forests of green water-cresses, and bread-and-butter galore.

But the postmen entered for the race are beginning to collect at the end of the course—the dark blue uniforms gradually sifting themselves out of the crowd of merry-makers—and come to the front with the air of men who have a great undertaking before them. Some few of the competitors have gone to the length of laying aside their uniform altogether, and attired in jerseys, with over-coats tied round their necks by the sleeves in the approved athletic style, contrive, by their would-be pedestrian get-up, to slightly mar the symmetry of some of the races.

The People's Caterer and his merry men are busily employed clearing the course, and the general public relinquish with evident reluctance, the new and delightful amusement of trying the different knockers, a sport which has kept many youths and maidens in high good humour during the afternoon, and heavily taxed the powers of much-enduring paterfamilias in raising his olive branches to the level of the coveted noise-producer. The course is cleared at last; the trees, all duly accoutred with knocker, box, and number, are counted, and preparations are made for the start.

At last all is ready, and the four men drawn in the first heat stand ready, each man with his packet of cards in his hand. One of these, the stalwart fellow in a grey jersey, is a good specimen of that well-known character in all racing matters—the litigious competitor. He has been in great force all the afternoon, asking endless questions, and worrying the great caterer by propounding to him knotty points as to disqualification, the exact meaning of each and every one of the conditions, the choice of umpires, and such-like tough and uncomfortable subjects. I have a great hope that he will be beaten; and my sympathies are undoubtedly with the lithe young fellow in plain clothes, who says nothing, but takes up his letters and his position in silence.

The word is given, away they go, and at a clipping pace. Rat-tat, rat-tat, rat-tat, the air seems full of the postman's knock, so rapidly do the rat-tats succeed each other. The stout competitor, who went off with a tremendous rush, is dropping into the rear already, and his interesting family, craning over the ropes to "see papa win," is doomed to disappointment. I hope the discomfiture of papa on this occasion will not shake the faith of the family in its head. By Jove, the litigious man is leading; I can see his detestable grey jersey well in front. They have turned the corner, and are now racing back, grey-jacket has lost the pride of place. The quiet man leads; rat-tat, rat-tat, rat-tat; grey-jacket makes a final effort, but the quiet competitor wins in a canter.

The litigious man is placed second; and, true to the last, no sooner recovers his breath than he lodges an objection against the winner for going on the wrong side of a tree. The objector takes but little by his motion though, for number one has gone over the whole course, and delivered all his letters correctly, so the objection is quietly overruled. But the objector, though disposed of officially, hovers about for hours in a discontented manner, and putting on the air of one who has been deeply wronged, pounces like a sort of mail-carrying ancient mariner upon any unfortunate wight who may be weak enough to listen to the yarn of the litigious one. The heats now follow each other in rapid succession, and the interest is well kept up by the crowd of families and sympathisers. Meanwhile twilight falls softly over the broad river; the lights gleam brightly from the Woolwich shore; the illumination of the gardens commences; music strikes up on the platform, and dancing begins; but my dancing days, like the postmen's races, are things of the past, and, stepping into a railway carriage, I am soon once more in London's "seething cauldron."

## THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

A MEETING was held at Dr. Viner's, on Saturday, the 15th ultimo, at which the president, the vice-president, and the Baron Arthur de Rothschild, exhibited portions of their magnificent collections before a full attendance of admiring amateurs. One large folio volume of the latter member's contained, in most respects, an unrivalled assortment of the essays, proofs, and varieties of the stamps and envelopes of Great Britain; which was matched with a similar collection of Mr. Philbrick's. Two other volumes of the Baron's feasted the eyes with the emissions of some of the South American States; among which the red ½ centavo Peru, uncancelled impressions of the yellow ditto, pages of varieties of the Buenos Ayres ships, &c., were conspicuous; and a whole sheet of the 5 centavos of Montevideo, showing the numerous errors *in situ*. Among other curiosities, we remarked a pair of unsevered 2 reales Ecuador stamps, presenting a peculiarity which has escaped notice in our pages, of having the

two types,—viz., central circle, and broad oval,—side by side. The African collections of the president and vice-president were much admired. In the latter we noticed a variety of the penny Transvaal, both in red and black, which has never yet been chronicled in this or any other magazine. The stamps, which appeared last year for the first time, have the numerals in the upper angles set in distinct frames. The pages of varieties of the rarest early Mauritius impressions, many of them uncancelled, exhibited by the last-named gentlemen, were, as the Scotch say, "a sight for sair een." Mr. de Ysasi produced an amusing illustration of the carelessness of Spanish officials, in the shape of an envelope posted at Malaga, passing through Madrid, and reaching London in due time; but the Madrid postmark bore a date two days *later* than the time of arrival at its destination—say, posted in Malaga, Feb. 18th, reaching Madrid on the 22nd, and arriving in London on the 20th!

The next meeting is fixed for Saturday, the 12th instant; the stamps of Ceylon, the Straits Settlements, Hong Kong, and Shanghai, being chosen for exhibition and comparison.

## POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

Stamped Newspaper Wrappers.—After the 31st ultimo, stamped newspaper wrappers will not be sold to the public in smaller quantities than twelve, or multiples of twelve. Concurrently with this change, the two smaller-sized wrappers will be discontinued, the issue being limited to the larger-sized wrapper of the dimensions 12 inches by 5 inches. The price for twelve wrappers will be 6½d.

Postage Envelopes of a Square Shape.—Postage envelopes of a square shape, the dimensions of which are 4¾ inches by 3 11-16 inches, will shortly be issued. They will be sold to the public at the following prices:—One for 1½d.; two for 2½d.; three for 3½d.; four for 4½d.; 6 for 6¾d.; eight for 9d.; twelve for 1s. 1½d.; twenty-four for 2s. 3d.; and so on. The postage envelopes of the smallest size, viz., 4 inches by 2½ inches, will be discontinued.

Post Office Tea.—There has been formed a post-office tea association, for the supply of pure and genuine tea. The packets which this association sends out are adorned with a rough imitation of the penny postage stamp, reminding one somewhat of the Mauritius wood blocks. Over the Queen's profile are the words POST OFFICE, in an arch; in the lower margin TEA; and in the four angles are the letters P. O.—T. A. The idea of calling the tea "post-office" tea is rather a novel one, and if extended might yield valuable additions to advertising nomenclature. Thus we might have the sorter's sugar, the letter-carrier's coffee, the post-office clerk's sauce, &c. The last-named article might be appropriately adorned with a vignette, showing the manufacturers in the act of giving it to the public.

Sale of M. Berger-Levrault's Collection.—We understand that the fine collection of M. Berger-Levrault, of Strasbourg, has recently passed into the hands of the Baron Arthur de Rothschild and Mr. Philbrick, who have made the acquisition jointly. This collection, commenced when the pursuit was in its earliest stages, is remarkable in many respects: more particularly for an almost unrivalled series of the colonies of Great Britain. It is very strong, also, in uncut envelopes, and in the southern states of Europe. We hear M. Berger-Levrault has retained the portion which includes the French stamps, in which he possesses some almost unique essays and specimens: but the two gentlemen who thus will divide the residue of the collection will be able, by adding its treasures to their own, to make the latter beyond all question at the head of the French and English collections respectively.

Caution.—We have been favoured by Mr. Pemberton with the sight of some forgeries of the 1854 y 55 Philippines. The 10 cuartos is tolerably well imitated, and might deceive semi-tyros. The points of difference are as follows:

| Genuine. | Forgery. |
|---|---|
| 55 upright. | 55 sloping. |
| 43½ pearls, round and pretty regular. | 40 pearls, imperfect and very irregular. |
| Lines of shading, thick. | Lines thinner. |
| Crown of head left white. | Head filled with lines. |
| Coronet irregular. | Coronet regular. |
| Intense red. | Dull lake. |

There are a 5 c. orange-buff, a 1 real indigo, and a 2 reales green, evidently from the selfsame type, values excepted. These being nonexistent, in fact, none but the veriest tyro need warning against the swindle.—*The Philatelist.*

"Postal Matter."—We have been informed that the much-abused "franking privilege" granted to the "statesmen" of America, is to be abolished from the 1st of July next. It was well understood that many Western legislators, upon arriving at Washington, made extraordinary use of their franking privilege. Thus, one representative was convicted of sending his dirty linen back to his own State to be washed, and of having it returned to him, when clean, through the public mails. Kentucky members were suspected of "franking" kegs of Bourbon whisky from the Ohio to the Potomac; and Daniel Webster used to tell a capital story of having dined with a Pennsylvanian "statesman" who interpreted "postal matter" as including sucking pigs, upon one of which he entertained his friends at dinner in Washington. The enormous use of the franking privilege has long tended to make the arrears of the post-office department exceptionally heavy. For many years the late Horace Greeley never ceased to lift up his voice at this "expensive absurdity"; and honest men will rejoice to hear that after the 1st of next July, it will be impossible to send sucking pigs or dirty linen without charge through the American mails.

A Clerk's Perquisites.—Mr. Parsons, in his testimony before the investigating committee of the New York Legislature, having declared that it had long been customary to fee clerks of the Senate and Assembly, public attention has been turned to the men who have occupied these offices in previous years, and the curious fact is disclosed about J. B. Cushman, of Utica, clerk of the Assem-

bly from 1862 to 1866, that he has since had a great store of postage stamps,—the old red kind that were in use before they were superseded by the blue, and these again by the green ones now in use. So large a supply of stamps has Mr. Cushman had on hand that he has not only paid postage with them, but has used them to pay such items as a suit of clothes, and no longer ago than last summer he paid for cotton cloth, bought at a Utica mill, with stamps. When it is considered that the Assembly, for the five years Mr. Cushman was connected with it, expended over $56,000 for postage, according to the official figures, it is no wonder that there were some stamps left over; but one would suppose that they belonged to the State, instead of being one of the perquisites of the clerk. Mr. Cushman is now one of the assistant clerks of the Senate, at Washington, and as the Senate does not use stamps, we are glad to know that he is beyond the present reach of temptation.—*Springfield* (Mass., U.S.) *Republican*.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### A STAMP EXCHANGE CLUB.

*To the Editor of* "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—In last month's number I see your correspondent, "B. C. del C.," advocates a sort of Stamp Exchange Society, which I think would certainly prove very beneficial to stamp-collectors, in helping them to get rid of their duplicates, instead of always having to buy new ones. Why could not something of this kind be started in London, or any other convenient place on this side of the water—in fact, a sort of stamp club where collectors could meet? Of course there would be the room, &c., &c., to pay for; but I think that difficulty might be got over by a small entrance fee and an annual subscription. I think if something of this kind could be done it would meet with support.

I remain,
Yours truly,
*Slough.* P. W. B.

### FISCAL STAMPS.

*To the Editor of* "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

SIR,—I quite endorse the statements of "Quelqu'un" as to collecting fiscal stamps. Such a collection could not fail to be most unsatisfactory. In the first place it is almost impossible to get specimens of the impressed stamps used on English legal documents, except at a most enormous cost, and for this reason: Stamps upon deeds, probates, &c., are not, like postage stamps, of no legal value after they have been used. They must remain affixed to the documents, in order to show that the proper duty has been paid thereon, inasmuch as no document which is not duly stamped can be produced in evidence in a court of law, except on payment of a heavy penalty; and since, in certain cases, it is necessary to show a title of sixty years, of course the stamps on all the documents within that period must be preserved intact.

Again: if once fiscal stamps be admitted, there is no reason why chancery, common law, probate and bankruptcy fee stamps should not be collected. They certainly offer as much interest as the others, and many (the probate fee stamps especially) are most beautiful specimens of engraving. Many of the values are, however, very high, and used specimens would be almost unattainable.

Yours truly,
*Timperley, Cheshire.* G. H. H.

### THE PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.

*To the Editor of* "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—May I be permitted through your columns to offer a suggestion to Mr. Overy Taylor. There is no part of your magazine more interesting to me than the excellent "Papers for Beginners." But although they first began to appear about two years ago, they have not as yet proceeded further than Germany. This being the case, what a time we must wait before they get as far as Australia! We shall all be grey-headed, and by no means "Beginners" by the time the papers have come to an end. Under these circumstances, I hope I shall be pardoned if I suggest that Mr. Overy Taylor should publish a series of "Papers for Beginners," embracing *every* country, in the form of a book, that we may all profit thereby. Trusting that gentleman will give my suggestions the consideration I feel sure they merit.

I am, Sir,
Yours truly,
*Barnard Castle.* A YOUNG COLLECTOR.

### EIGHT-AND-SIXPENCE-WORTH OF RUBBISH.

*To the Editor of* "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

SIR,—There is a sort of satisfaction in knowing that you are not the only one who has been victimised by an ingenious scamp. On reading the current number of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* I find quoted in your monthly review of contemporaries a letter from "A Victim" of M. Ernest Stoltze, of Brunswick, to *The Philatelist*. I was another of his chosen ones. As in "A Victim's" case, I was from home; had I been there, I should not have received a parcel with eight-and-sixpence to pay, without any advice of it from the person sending. It was sent to me by post from my home, and on opening I found its contents identical with those described by the correspondent above referred to. At first I thought of writing to Stoltze, but then the old proverb about throwing good money after bad came into my mind, so I let the matter rest, and paid for the dearest packet I ever bought. I sincerely hope that our friend has got his deserts, and, enclosing my card,

I remain,
Yours truly,
*London, W.* ANOTHER VICTIM.

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

L. W. M., Valparaiso.—Many thanks for your obliging communication of 31st January. The following answer will reply also to your query as to Mr. Pemberton's journal.

ANOTHER VICTIM, London, W.—*The Philatelical Journal* is no longer in existence. It was published by Messrs. J. R. Grant & Co., 18, Paradise Street, Birmingham. The projected quarterly issue, we understand, will not take place.

G. H. H., Timperley.—We do *not* think the issue of the stamps of Bergen, Drammens, and Drontheim is in any special manner sanctioned by the Norwegian government. The emission, as we take it, is simply permitted; and the work of the private offices is confined to the delivery of letters, &c. With Helsingfors and Tammerfors the case, we apprehend, is different. The inscription STADSPOST on these stamps would seem to signify that the postal service is undertaken by, or in the name of, the respective towns.

## PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. XXVII.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

# Germany.

THE NORTH GERMAN CONFEDERATION.

THE Confederation called into existence by the war of 1866 was essentially a provisional one, intended to pave the way for that greater combination which resulted from the Franco-German campaign. It lasted only four years, and gave birth to but one emission,







properly so called; but it is a remarkable illustration of the complex nature of postal arrangements in the present day, that that emission comprises, all told, no less than twenty-seven stamps, more or less entitled to the distinctive epithet of "postage." Besides the duplicate series of ordinary prepaying stamps, we find a special label for the local service of a semi-independent city, a couple of envelopes, a couple of newspaper bands, a duplicate set of "service" stamps, and a pair of registration stamps. Even in a rudimentary article like the present the enumeration of all the values seems almost a superfluous occupation of space; I may, therefore, I think, confine myself to a rapid glance at the few peculiarities which the series presents. With regard first to the design: certain of the values of the franking series proper, and possibly all, show the figure of value shaded. At first sight the centre of the figure appears to be filled by a thick solid vertical line and two thin lines, but a closer inspection shows that the middle line is formed of a diagonal shading, the lines of which run from right to left. In the normal type the centre of the figure is quite white. The 1 groschen and 1 kreuzer and 3 kr. are the only values in which the diagonal shading has been remarked, but it may well be that the variety is exemplified in all the values.

All the values of the franking series proper exist both pierced (*percés*) and hole-perforated. They were first issued *percés*, and the perforating machine was called into action as, and when, fresh supplies were issued. The printing of these fresh supplies gave rise to certain more or less marked differences in shade; thus the $\frac{1}{3}$ gr., 1 gr., and 2 gr. are found in shades varying from light to dark of their respective colours. These variations call for no special attention, but the change from a mere *perçage* to perforation requires to be noted.

It has been asserted that the stamps just referred to were issued watermarked. In a Belgian paper an approximate engraving of the watermark was given, but after a careful examination of many copies I can but concur in the opinion expressed by the editor of this magazine, that the pretended watermark is nothing but a *mottling* in the paper, undeserving of notice. Such an almost imperceptible change in the appearance of the back of the stamp as this mottling produces, can never have been intended to serve as a means of distinguishing genuine stamps from false ones.

The stamp issued specially for Hamburg is a peculiar one. It has no central device, and the value (half schilling) is not indicated. It remained in use, I believe, as long as the other stamps of the series, and was used for the city postage. It would be curious to know on what grounds the privilege of employing a special stamp was conceded to Hamburg, whilst it was withheld from two other free cities—Bremen and Lubeck.



The registration stamps—so called for want of a better title—are remarkable for







the comparative fineness of their engraving.

It is also worthy of note that the plan of printing these stamps on gold-beaters' skin, initiated by the Prussian administration, was not continued by the Confederation officials. It is to be regretted that these stamps should have been obliterated by penmarks, as such marks are far less sightly than the ordinary impression from a hand-stamp, and unused copies are difficult to obtain.

The service stamps for the two sections of the Confederation are distinguished from each other, not only by the difference in denomination, but also by a difference in the colour of the ground. Whilst the groschen set is printed in black on a light brown ground-work, the kreuzer are printed in black on pearl-grey.




Of envelopes, properly so called, only two were issued, the 1 gr. and the 3 kr., both rose; but a number of "converted" envelopes of the absorbed states were issued. Perhaps, in strictness, the collection of all the *sixty-four* varieties should be advocated; but however interesting such a number of varieties *may* be to advanced collectors, it can hardly be expected that beginners should feel equally desirous of obtaining them all. However, the best plan will be to explain the mode of conversion, and leave the readers of these papers to judge for themselves as to the collectable value of the varieties. The envelopes used were those of Prussia, Saxony, Brunswick, Mecklenburg-Strelitz, and Oldenburg. Over the impressed stamps on these envelopes were stuck adhesive stamps of the Confederation. After the adhesives were attached the envelopes were brought under a die, from which an impression in pale grey, of a rectangular shape, about $1\frac{1}{8}$ in. by 1 in. was struck. This rectangular stamp, with rounded corners, was filled with minute repetitions of the inscription—NORDDEUTSCHER POST BEZIRK. It flattened the embossed stamp, covered the adhesive label, and left a broad margin of grey all round. The only envelopes to which this grey surcharge alone would not apply were the Oldenburg, of which the embossed oval stamps were so large, that to cover them it was necessary to print off a special supply of adhesives, with an eighth-of-an-inch of margin every way. These were used to hide the embossed stamp, and then the grey impression was struck.

The *values* of the envelopes thus surcharged with adhesives, are as follows:—

*Surcharged with a* 1 *gr. adhesive.*

1861. Prussia, 1, 3, s.gr.; 6 pf.; 9 kr.
1863-5. Saxony, $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2, 3, 5 s.gr.
1865. Brunswick, 1, 2 s.gr.
1864. Mecklenburg-Strelitz, 1, 2, 3, s.gr.
1862. Oldenburg, $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2, 3, s.gr.

*Surcharged with a* 2 *gr. adhesive.*

1863. Prussia, 2 s.gr.
„ Saxony, 2 s.gr.

*Surcharged with a* 3 *kr. adhesive.*

1867. Prussia, 1, 2, 3, 6, 9 kr.

From this it will be seen that only twenty-three values were operated on, the sixty-four varieties being, in fact, made up of surcharges on different sized envelopes.

I must not omit to state that the currency of the Confederation series was initiated by the issue of the adhesives for public use on the 1st of January, 1868, and terminated by the issue of the first series for the German Empire, on the 15th December, 1871.

GERMAN EMPIRE.

The stamps inscribed DEUTSCHE REICHPOST were issued as above stated on the 15th December, 1871, though their general currency may fairly be dated from New Year's Day of 1872. No change in the postal rates or arrangements marked the emission, even the colours are the same as those of the corresponding values in the preceding series. As originally issued, the first German series comprised the following denominations:—




Adhesives { $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2, 5 groschen. / 1, 2, 3, 7, 18 kreuzer.
Wrapper { $\frac{1}{3}$ gr. / 1 kr.
Envelope—1 gr.
„ 3 kr.
Registration Stamps—10, 30 gr.

About the middle of last year the ½ gr., originally issued in orange-red, made its appearance in a dull yellowish orange.

On the 1st June, 1872, the issue of a second series of adhesives was commenced, differing from the first only in the enlargement of the eagle and the introduction of certain modifications in its design. The stamps with enlarged eagle, though the difference be only a secondary one, must be considered as forming a distinct series, the change affecting to a certain extent the central design, and being made intentionally and for an important reason, viz., to bring the representation of the eagle on the postage stamp into conformity with the shape and bearings decided on by the heralds for the imperial arms.

In this second series all the above-mentioned adhesive values are represented, plus two new denominations which appeared towards the end of the year, viz., the 2½ gr. and 9 kr., both printed light brown.

The post cards, being (until lately) unstamped, possess but comparatively little interest. The registration stamps are identical with those of the North German Confederation, excepting in so far as concerns the inscription.

With regard to the envelopes, only the 1 gr. and the 3 kr. exist of the first series, but all the values of the second are now being printed off, private persons being allowed to send envelopes to be stamped with any existing denomination,—subject, of course, to certain necessary restrictions. Varieties without number, and without value from a philatelical point of view, will thus be produced, and, reiterating the advice given last month in the article on new issues, I can only say that one single specimen of each denomination should suffice.

I have not touched on the field-post envelopes of the Confederation or the Empire, believing it to be unadvisable to notice hybrid issues with which the general public has nothing to do. For a similar reason the stamps of the various invalid associations appear to me to be undeserving of special attention.

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## THE CITY DELIVERY POSTS OF SAN FRANCISCO.

BY C. H. COSTER.

The California Penny Post Co.—Since writing on this post (vol. x., p. 148) I have been fortunate enough to obtain another variety of the Penny Post Company's envelope. It is printed in black on a 3 cents envelope of the 1853 issue, and does not bear the usual round handstamp of the company. I am inclined to believe that several minor varieties of type B (illustrated in my first paper) exist, but I may be able to speak more definitely on this point before long.

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Our attention must next be directed to five city delivery posts which I have traced through the directories of 1860 to 1868.

*First.*—

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1862-3. | California City Letter Express, | | 418, | Washington St. |
| 1864-5. | do. | do. | 424, | do. |
| 1866. | do. | do. | 316, | do. |

I have no particulars whatever in regard to this post, nor do I even know whether it issued postage stamps. However, for the sake of completeness, I include it in my list.

*Second.*—

1860. San Francisco Letter Express, Van Dyke and Early, 162, Montgomery Street.
1861. San Francisco Letter Express, G. E. Early, 630, Montgomery Street.
1862. San Francisco Letter Express, S. W. Corner, Montgomery and Merchant Street (proprietor's name not given).

History has also left us in the dark as to this Express. Possibly it sold out to Robinson.

*Third.*—

1862-3. San Francisco Letter Express (also found as "S. F. City Letter Express"), John C. Robinson, 748, Washington Street.
1864. City Letter Express (also found as "City Express"), Dennis Gahagan, 423, Washington Street.

Gahagan, who succeeded to the Express in 1864, was previously to that time a carrier for Robinson. He associated with him one C. E. B. Howe, although this last mentioned gentleman's name is not found in the directory in this connection. Gahagan subsequently died or left the concern, which was sold out to W. E. Loomis. Mr. Howe died in San Francisco only a few months ago.

*Fourth.*—

1864-5. City Letter Express, Geo. A. Carnes (also found misprinted as "Cames"), 29, Government House.

1866. City Letter Express, Geo. A. Carnes, S. E. Corner of Washington and Sansome Street.

This Express also sold out to W. E. Loomis.

*Fifth.*—

1863, 1867, 1868, and 1869. City Letter and Package Express, Wm. E. Loomis, S. E. Corner, of Washington and Sansome Street.

As will be seen by reading the above, Mr. Loomis was the successor of Gahagan and of Carnes. He continued his Express, in conjunction with a stationery business, until a couple of years ago, when he abandoned it, as he found that the extra inducements in the way of prompt delivery throughout the city, held out by the U. S. Post-office in San Francisco, interfered very largely with his success.

As already stated, I have no reason for supposing that the California City Letter Express Company issued stamps. We must therefore proceed with those issued by the firm of

VAN DYKE & EARLY.

*Handstruck on envelopes.*

(A). Oblong frank, in shape not unlike the common Wells, Fargo, & Co., reading SAN FRANCISCO CITY LETTER EXPRESS, in two lines. Impressed in black at top of a white envelope, bearing a perforated one cent United States adhesive, and cancelled SAN FRANCISCO, JUNE 21, 1860.

(B). Same as last, but impressed in blue on an ordinary yellow envelope, across the end of which is a similarly shaped affair, enclosing a small transverse oval in centre, with "REC'D" to left and "M" to right.

(C). I can only give a very general description of this rarity, having never seen it. SAN FRANCISCO LETTER EXPRESS, surrounded by a rectangular oblong frame. Blue on buff envelope.

J. C. ROBINSON.

*Adhesives.*

I give below descriptions of all the franks bearing the name of *Robinson* of which I have ever heard. It is quite likely that some of them were issued by other parties of the same name, instead of by the manager of the "San Francisco Letter Express." (Those to which an asterisk is prefixed are noted either by Dr. Gray or M. Berger-Levrault).

*Adhesives.*

(1*). ROBINSON & CO. ONE CENT. Rectangular; coloured impression.

Brown on blue.
Black ,, blue.
Red ,, green.

(2*). ROBINSON & CO. SAN FRANCISCO EXPRESS, PAID. Oblong.

Black on yellow.

*Printed on envelopes.*

(A). ROBINSON & CO.'S EXPRESS above; PAID below. Bear in centre; hills, trees, &c. in background. The whole enclosed in a double lined oblong frame, pointed at top. Black on 3 c. buff 1864 United States envelope.

(B*). ROBINSON & CO.'S SAN FRANCISCO EXPRESS. Scroll. Blue impression.

*Handstruck on envelopes.*

(C). A correspondent mentions a small oval handstamp, reading ROBINSON & CO., CITY DELIVERY.

GAHAGAN & HOWE.

*Adhesives.*

(1). G. & H. in centre: CITY DELIVERY curved above; SAN FRANCISCO in straight line at bottom; "5" in corners. The whole enclosed in an oblong rectangular frame, formed by one heavy line, with a border of scallops inside.

Blue, on thin white paper.

(2). Larger than preceding. G. & H.—PAID in centre; CITY EXPRESS above; 423, WASHINGTON ST., S. E. COR. SANSOME, in two lines at bottom. Frame like last.

Blue on white.

(3). Similar to No. 2, with address changed to S.E. CORNER WASHINGTON AND SANSOME STS. Frame of dotted diamonds, with ornaments at angles. Black impression on white paper.

(4). I might very properly designate this number "The Unknown Adhesive," for I learn that there does exist at least one more variety which I have not seen, and must therefore leave its description to its fortunate possessor.

*Handstruck on envelopes.*

(A). SAN FRANCISCO above; LETTER EXPRESS below; horseman riding to left in centre. Oval.

Blue, on various ordinary envelopes.

(This may have been also used by Robinson, prior to the transfer of his business to G. & H.)

(B). CITY G. & H. EXPRESS at top; 423 WASHN. ST. S. E. COR. in centre; SANSOME ST. below. Double lined oval. Blue.

(C). I also hear of one similarly shaped, but smaller than last, and struck in black.

(D). Also of another much smaller, and inscribed G. & H.; likewise a black impression.

(E). CITY LETTER DELIVERY, S. E. CORNER WASHINGTON AND SANSOME, in scallopped oval, on plain yellow envelope.

I must thank Mr. Philbrick for his kindness in forwarding description of E, which was unknown to me.

GEO. A. CARNES.

*Adhesives.*

(1). Transverse oval, inscribed CARNES' CITY LETTER EXPRESS. Bear in centre.

Rose on white.

The value of this stamp was 5 c.

(2). Same, with X struck across in blue, altering its value to 10 cents. This was principally used on St. Valentine's day. Mr. Carnes charging double his usual rates for delivering valentines.

(3). Larger than preceding. Oblong enclosing oval, reading CARNES' SAN FRANCISCO LETTER EXPRESS. Angles filled with radiating lines, and monetary value in small ovals. Bear, surmounted by star, in centre.

Black, blue, red, bronze, silver, gold, } all on ordinary white paper.

(4). Very large transverse oval, enclosing CARNES' CITY LETTER EXPRESS. Value in centre.

15 cents rose on white.
25 „ „ „ „

(5). Similar to last, but reading CARNES & CO., CITY PACKAGE EXPRESS, 621 MONTG. ST.

15 cents rose on white.
25 „ „ „ „

*Handstamp on envelope.*

CITY LETTER EXPRESS in double lined oval. Blue, on ordinary envelope.

Before going any further I would add, that in regard to types 3 and 5 of Carnes' stamps I must confess complete ignorance; or, rather, I should say, that I have received from various sources such entirely contradictory statements as to the purposes for which they were issued, that I give up the subject, in despair of ever arriving at any satisfactory conclusion. It seems to me, however, that we shall not go far wrong in placing them in the same category as the golden-hued trio of Boyd's, Hussey's S. M. Post, and the Indian head and General Grant types of Westervelt's. I am informed by a correspondent that type 4 is above suspicion.

WM. E. LOOMIS.

*Adhesive.*

(1). Similar to 1 of Carnes', but with proprietor's name cut from the plate. Below the oval frame has been added S. E. COR. WASH'N. AND SANS'E.

Rose on white.

Owing to the clumsy way in which the word CARNES was erased, almost all specimens show traces of either the C or the S.

Loomis, who, it will be remembered, bought out both Gahagan & Howe and Carnes, seems to have used the handstamps of both these firms indiscriminately, as well as his own solitary adhesive. Hence we frequently find the adhesive of the one and the handstamp of the other firms on the same letter.

Below will be found a list of the franks issued by some other companies, which presumedly existed about the same time (1860-6), but of whose history I must confess I know nothing.

(A). PUBLIC LETTER OFFICE above, in scroll shape, in large ornamented capitals; NO. 5 in hollow of curve formed by LETTER OFFICE; KEARNY ST. below. In left hand upper corner of envelope, across the end of which is also printed, in old English type, DELIVERED WITHIN ONE HOUR AFTER MAILING. Black, on 2 c. "U. S. POST" envelope. Alongside the government stamp

appears a fancy handstruck impression, reading PAID 15 CTS.

(B). Dr. Gray notes a PUBLIC LETTER BOX, 5 KEARNEY STREET, *blue*, on 1864 envelope.

(C). Also the two following: PUBLIC POST-OFFICE (horseman); black impression.

(D). PRIVATE POST OFFICE (oblong), 15 cents, 25 cents.

Blue, on 1864 envelope.

In regard to the four last described, a correspondent writes as follows:—

I can't find out the least thing about the public and private letter-boxes. Mr. S —— says that people used to advertise such things when it was only to *take* letters *to* the post-office. He had a small die that he used to stamp on all that were left in his shop; but it was more for an advertisement than for anything else; and I notice in the large newspaper dépôts, where people buy envelopes, &c., that they *leave* their letters and newspapers to be mailed, instead of taking them to the post-office.

Therefore he thinks that many of these "letter-boxes," &c., were not regular *express companies*, but merely such as the above.

Before closing I must notice the firm of Hoag & Madison (I also hear of Madison & Barker, but can learn nothing further of any such concern), which was started fully eight years ago by one Bosley (I spell the name from sound), Messrs. Hoag & Madison only "lending their names," and never taking an active interest. A frank was issued, of which all the description that I can obtain is, that "it was some sort of a fancy thing, with a horse in the centre, and printed in red."

This completes my list of San Francisco city letter delivery companies known to have issued postage stamps, although it is quite probable that their example was copied by others whose emissions have not yet come to light. Should any such come under my notice they shall be duly communicated through the columns of this journal.

## THE STAMPS OF LA GUAIRA.

BY THE REV. R. B. EARÉE.

(*Reprinted from "The Philatelical Journal."*)

LA GUAIRA and Puerto Cabello are the two seaports of Venezuela (some fifty or sixty miles apart), through one or other of which, all letters to or from the interior must pass. The correspondence for the western part of Venezuela is all sent to Puerto Cabello, whilst La Guaira sorts all letters for the eastern portion. There are British Packet Agents at both ports, so that those who wish to prepay their letters to England can do so; and these agents represent the British post-office generally, and take charge of, and distribute, all British letters. As we have no postal convention with any of these "pie-crust" South American republics, we are obliged to have agents to look after our correspondence in these places.

The Danish Island of St. Thomas, in the West Indies, is the great centre where the mails for the whole of the West Indies and Central and South-west America are split up; and there are several "intercolonial" boats which ply to and fro (amongst many other places) between St. Thomas and the two Venezuelan ports, carrying the correspondence destined, respectively, for the interior or for foreign parts. It is with these boats and their freight that we are at present interested, for letters carried by them must be franked by the stamps which form the subject of this paper. With regard to the boats themselves, a portrait of one of them (whether a correct one or not I cannot say) is to be seen on all the stamps. These stamps are, of course, essentially *local* ones;—they are of no value for Venezuela, and they are of no value for St. Thomas; but their sole use is to prepay correspondence between La Guaira, Puerto Cabello, and St. Thomas. I have been unable to obtain any statistics as to the number of stamps sold, but I do not fancy that the number is very large. Most of those I have seen were unused.

ISSUE OF 1864.

DIE.—The stamps of the *reales* series are from two different dies. The first die has the figures in the corners (1, 8, 6, 4,) very small; the scroll ornaments above and below the ends of the word PAQUETE are distinct, and tolerably well engraved; the sky is very cloudy; the smoke of the steamer is thick and dark; the sea is calm: and the steamer itself looks something like a steamer. The second die has the figures large; the scroll ornaments are coarse; the



sky is almost clear of clouds; the smoke of the steamer looks blotchy; the sea looks more like a cauldron of boiling soap-suds than anything else; and the steamer has rather an abortive appearance. Altogether, I think the first die is decidedly preferable.

Perforation.—There are three varieties of perforation,—circular, oblique, and pointed. The first of these is only found in stamps of the first die, whilst both the other varieties are found on those of the second. To an English philatelist it seems rather singular that any country should *begin* with circular perforation, and then deliberately take to an inferior method, because we have been accustomed to see just the reverse; but, then, in these outlandish parts, we cannot expect them to be quite as civilized as we are in England.

Gum.—This is a scarce article in Venezuela; at least, I should judge so from the very small amount upon most of the stamps. What there is, is of a clear white.

Paper.—The paper varies from soft thickish to *pelure*. And now for the stamps themselves.

Die I.

Circular Perforation, 13.

Medio real:
- Yellowish rose. } Thin paper.
- Rose. } Thin paper.
- Light red. } Thin paper.

Dos reales:
- Pale yellow-green, v. to darkish green. } Thin paper.
- Green, v. to dark green. } Thin paper.
- Yellow-green, pale. } Thicker paper.
- ,, dark. } Thicker paper.
- Green, medium. } Thicker paper.
- ,, dark. } Thicker paper.

Medio real:
- Pale chalky blue ..... Thin paper.

Dos reales:
- Dark orange-yellow ..... Thicker paper.

Die II.

Oblique Perforation.

Medio real:
- Pinkish red, v. pale to medium. } Thicker paper.
- Lake-red, v. pale to dark. } Thicker paper.

Dos reales:
- Chalky green, v. pale to medium. } Thicker paper.
- Yellowish green, v. pale to darkish. } Thin paper.

Pointed Perforation.

Medio real:
- Very pale pink. } Thin paper.
- Darker pink. } Thin paper.
- Rose, v. pale to dark. } Thin paper.
- Very dark bright red. } Thin paper.

Dos reales:
- Chalky green. } Thin paper.
- Light ,, } Thin paper.
- Dark ,, } Thin paper.
- Yellow green, v. very pale to dark. } Thin paper.
- Green, v. bright to dark. } Thin paper.

Medio real:
- Pale blue. } Thicker paper.
- Chalky blue. } Thicker paper.

Dos reales:
- Orange-yellow, v. pale to very dark. } Thicker paper.
- Chalky orange, v. pale to medium. } Thicker paper.

I have seen very few specimens of the blue and yellow stamps, and have therefore been unable to chronicle many varieties; so far as I know, neither of them exists with oblique perforation. There are a great many shades of colour to be found in the green stamps with pointed perforation, but all, more or less, are *yellow*-green. I have not seen a single *blue*-green, out of all that I have examined. With regard to colour, paper, design, and execution, these stamps always remind me very forcibly of those of British Guiana, and many of the peculiar shades of colour, so difficult to describe in words, are exact counterparts of the shades to be found on the British Guiana stamps; so that those of my readers who feel more puzzled than edified by my description of the different shades, and who do not happen to possess many of the La Guaira stamps, have only to look at their British Guianas, and then they will immediately be able to recognize, and to know for themselves, the shades which I have endeavoured to describe. Of course I do not deem it by any means imperative, or even advisable, that collectors in general should look for, and place in their collections, every stamp that I have catalogued; but, as nothing like a complete list has ever been issued before, this one of mine will serve to show what shades of colour *do* exist, and what varieties collectors may accept, if they choose to do so.

Before proceeding to examine the *cents* issue, I think it necessary to expose the

counterfeits of the stamps last commented upon. These forgeries are all of the first type. At a distance, they have a specious appearance; but when they are more closely examined, they may be easily detected. They are badly perforated, on very white paper, and the colours are chalky, obliterated generally with a heavy black O.

| GENUINE. | FORGERIES. |
|---|---|
| 1. Tail of R in GUAIRA does *not* touch the A. | 1. Tail of R touches A. |
| 2. Tail of Q in PAQUETE does *not* touch the line below. | 2. Tail of Q touches the line below. |
| 3. Upper limbs of CB and E in CABELLO larger than the lower ones. | 3. *Lower* limbs of C and B larger than the upper ones. E correctly shaped. |
| 4. Steamship sailing on an even keel. | 4. The steamship heavily loaded at stern, so that the stem is raised. |
| 5. Flag distinctly visible below the smoke of the vessel. | 5. No flag. Smoke covers the place where the flag ought to be. |
| 6. Mainmast and halyards distinct. No mizen. | 6. Mainmast very faintly defined. Halyards almost invisible. An imaginary mizenmast depicted. |
| 7. Waves well defined Bowsprit placed obliquely. | 7. Waves blotchy. Bowsprit parallel with line of deck. |
| 8. Clouds finely engraved. | 8. Clouds very coarse and heavy. |
| 9. D of MEDIO nearly round, like an O. | 9. D shaped properly. |
| 10. D of DOS *very* much sloped. | 10. D nearly upright. |
| 11. 6 touches dot in left-hand corner. | 11. 6 is not near the dot. |

There are sundry other differences, but I have mentioned the principal ones. Following the genuine, the design varies in the two values. As a rule, forgers are content to take *one* value of the genuine, and make it serve for all the other values, by varying the numerals, &c.,—but in this case they have copied *both* values of the originals.

THE CENTAVO SERIES.

I have come to the conclusion that the stamps of this series were (as Mr. Overy Taylor says) manufactured at St. Thomas; and that they were intended to frank letters *from* that island *to* La Guaira. There are several things tending to prove that this is the fact.




1. The execution at once shows that Messrs. Waterlow & Sons had no hand in their manufacture.

2. They were not made in Venezuela, because the inscriptions are not in Spanish.

3. Like the stamps for St. Thomas, they are imperforate, whereas the La Guaira issues are perforated.

4. If the facial value for the St. Thomas stamps (3 cents) be an abreviation for 3 *centavos*, this will be an additional proof that these so-called La Guairas were printed on that island.

5. The microscopic steamship in the lower left-hand corner is sailing to *left*. Does this intimate the return journey?

These reasons may not appear very conclusive taken separately, but I think they are worth something as a whole. These stamps are not nearly so interesting as the *reales series*; nor are they so handsome. They are all printed in black, on coloured wove paper, and have a dingy look about them, which renders them very unattractive. The general appearance of the design reminds one of the 10 pesos, 1868, of New Granada.

*Design.*—The outer part of the design consists of a heavy-looking black frame, bearing the words ST. THOMAS, LA GUAIRA, PTO. CABELLO, PACKET. In the left-hand bottom corner is a square space, containing a microscopic steamer sailing to *left*. A square frame, inscribed with an octagon, surrounds the steamer. In the right-hand corner is a similar space, but I cannot make out the design which it contains. It *might* be a lighthouse, or a cap of liberty on a pole, or a front elevation of a steamer; but what it really *is*, I think only the engraver himself could tell us.

The central portion of the design is divided into two parts. The upper half contains the inevitable steamer, sailing to *right*, and the sea on which it floats forms the division between the two halves of the design. The steamer in the *reales* series is a *screw*, with jib and foresail set, but in the stamps of this series the voyagers are obliged to content themselves with *paddles*, and have not troubled themselves to set any sail at all.

The lower half contains the numeral of value, with the word CENTAVO in a curve beneath it. Strict grammarians might possibly take objection to the said CENTAVO being in the singular number for all the values; but the designer, apparently, did not trouble himself with such minor details. The numerals, upon the highest and lowest values, are

ornamented in a manner which reminds one of the first issue of Brazil.

Within the frame the whole of the design (with the exception of a small portion at the bottom) is covered with horizontal lines. In the ½ c. these lines are drawn even upon the numeral itself, but in the other values the numeral is not so disfigured.

There are two spandrels at the top corners, two at the bottom, and two supporting the sea, in the centre. Outside the frame is a thin black line. The horizontal lines from the interior are prolonged on the right side into the frame, and partially deface the ELL of the word CABELLO, as though the engraver had been in a hurry, and had drawn his lines too far.

*Paper.*—The paper is of medium thickness, wove, and somewhat hard.

*Gum.*—The gum is white and thin, though rather more abundant than on the other emissions.

There are not many varieties of shade, for being on coloured paper, the tints are tolerably uniform.

LIST.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ½ | centavo, | greyish white. |
| 1 | ,, | dull pale rose. |
| | ,, | reddish violet. |
| 2 | ,, | dull dark green. |
| | ,, | chalky green. |
| 3 | ,, | orange-yellow. |
| | ,, | dull chalky yellow. |
| 4 | ,, | chalky blue. |
| | ,, | bright blue. |

Moens catalogues a *two centavos-blue*, but I have never seen a copy. All the values exist in several shades of black, so those who wish can triple this list by accepting three well-defined shades which may be found in each value, viz., pale greyish brown, medium black, and deep black. The stamps are all imperforate.

FORGERIES OF THE ST. THOMAS SERIES.

I remarked when I wrote above that the St. Thomas series is not by any means handsome; but I had not seen the forgeries, or I should not have committed myself so far. Beauty and ugliness are, after all, more or less matters of comparison; and so the forgeries of the St. Thomas series make the genuine labels quite handsome—*by comparison*. I fancy that there are at least two full sets of these forgeries, one set considerably better executed than the other. The better-looking is postmarked with a thick circle, containing sundry thick, unreadable letters; and the postmarks on the other set resemble the outline of the deck of a vessel more than anything else. I will first take the variations from the original, common to both forgeries.

| GENUINE. | FORGERIES. |
|---|---|
| 1. Stop after PACKET. | 1. No stop after PACKET. |
| 2. Stop after CABELLO. | 2. No stop after CABELLO. |
| 3. Groundwork of horizontal lines partially covering the ends of curved scroll. | 3. Horizontal lines do not pass the boundary lines of scroll. |
| 4. Upper and middle spandrels covered by horizontal lines. | 4. Lines do not cover the spandrels. |
| 5. Line below ST. THOMAS, if extended upwards, would pass between L and A of LA GUAIRA. | 5. Line would cut through the middle of the lower limb of L. |
| 6. Same line, if extended downwards, would not touch the square in lower left-hand corner. | 6. Line would cut into the square. |

The above differences exist in *both* forgeries. We will now take each set separately, and compare with the genuine.

| GENUINE. | FIRST, OR BETTER FORGERY. |
|---|---|
| 1. All lettering in framework *thick*. | 1. Lettering in framework very thin. |
| 2. Letters of PACKET close together. | 2. Letters of PACKET far apart. |
| 3. Scroll rounded off both at beginning and end. | 3. Scroll rounded off at end, but unfinished at beginning. |
| 4. Stop after CENTAVO placed in the *outline* of scroll. | 4. ½ and 1 cent. have stop *inside* scroll; the other values have no stop at all. |
| 5. CENTAVO in singular for all values. | 5. CENTAVO on ½ and 1 cent. only; all the other values have CENTAVOS. |
| 6. P of PACKET, and stop after PACKET, at equal distance from sides of frame. | 6. P of PACKET very near the side of frame, but as there is no stop, the T appears very far from the other side. |

| GENUINE | SECOND, OR INFERIOR FORGERY. |
|---|---|
| 1. CENTAVO in a scroll. | 1. CENTAVO without scroll. |
| 2. Steamship tolerably well drawn. | 2. Steamship *very* coarsely executed. |
| 3. All the ropes in the rigging can be easily counted. | 3. Ropes in rigging very indistinct; and it is impossible to count them with any certainty. |

This second forgery is so very coarsely done, that I need say no more about it; but the first one is much more likely to deceive the uninitiated.

CURACAO SERIES.

These stamps have a very pleasing appearance, and yet the design is very simple. In the centre is a three-masted screw steamship, sailing to *left*, on a moderately calm sea. There are no clouds, but above the vessel is a scroll containing the words of value. Below the vessel are the initials J. A. J. & Z. in old English type, and below them the word CURACAO in Egyptian type; above, below, and at sides are solid labels with rounded ends, and lettered PAQUETE, SAN TOMAS, LA GUAIRA, PTO. CABELLO. In each corner is a solid circle, inscribed, in a square, and containing the value in figures. The external line running round the stamp is indented or scalloped, as in the oval Saxon adhesives.




*Paper.*—The paper is a yellowish white wove, and stouter than in either of the other issues.

*Gum.*—The gum is, as usual, very thin, and very sparingly laid on.

*Perforation.*—There are two varieties of perforation; punctured 10, and circ. perf. 13; but I cannot find out whether both values exist in both varieties of perforation. Unfortunately, I have very few specimens to describe from; and the following are all the varieties I have seen.

*Punctured perf.* 10.

Medio real, pale yellow-green.
„ darker „

*Circ. perf.* 13.

Dos reales, very pale rose.
„ deep carmine-rose.

This series does not appear to have been forged.

My notes are now completed, and I trust that the perusal of them will be of real benefit to my fellow-philatelists.

## NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

NEW ZEALAND.—Annexed is the promised engraving of the new halfpenny stamp. We have no need to apologise for deficiencies in the reproduction, for it is, in fact, about equal in finish to the original, which, we are happy to say, does *not* emanate from the De La Rue *ateliers*. We have little doubt, in fact, that the design was engraved and printed in the colony; the style, ink, paper, and perforation, combined with the absence of any watermark, are all in favour of the correctness of this assumption. The profile of the Queen, of which the expression is very accurately rendered in our engraving, is unlike any other stamp-portrait of Her Majesty. The design, as a whole, was no doubt suggested by that of our own halfpenny stamp, to which, however, we much prefer it; the rectangular shape, the legible inscriptions, and general simplicity of arrangement giving the New Zealand product a far more pleasing appearance. As stated in our last, the impression is in pink, on white (wove) paper. The perforations are ragged and uneven, and smaller at the sides than they are at top and bottom.




BARBADOS.—From an obliging correspondent in Barbados we are favoured with early intelligence of the intended issue of two new values—a threepence mauve and five shilling brown, the latter to be of a colour approaching that of the present English sixpenny. Orders to that effect were despatched from the colony on the 29th January last, and are probably in course of execution at present. The Barbadian officials remain faithful to the old design; the two new values are to be printed from the existing dies, and instructions have been given for the preparation of a supply of the current fourpenny stamp, with the value added.

GUATEMALA.—Mrs. Craig, of San Francisco, writes us that it is several months since specimens of the new Guatemala stamps came to the post-office of that town, and that she obtained, through a friend at the office, a

copy of the 4 rls. lilac, which had certainly prepaid the postage of a letter from Guatemala. She has also heard a report of the existence of the yellow (1 peso) stamp, and she adds that both lilac and yellow must be genuine, "unless Allan Taylor has bribed some of the postal officials in Guatemala to use them in order to get off one of his practical jokes at the expense of you Englishmen." Truly a novel suggestion.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.—*Podolsk* (Moscow).—What *can* be the meaning of the two crutch-like ornaments, *saltire*, which adorn the Podolsk stamps? We refer to the first description of the stamp, given in our own ninth volume, but find nothing there to help us, the device being simply described as "arms." In this difficulty we appeal to our St. Petersburg correspondent. In general appearance the stamp closely resembles the issues for Bogorodsk, Bronnitzi, and Kolomna, and there can be but little doubt that it is from the hands of the same engraver. The impression is in green, on white paper. There are two shades of colour, blue-green and yellow-green. The stamps are *perçés en ligne*.




*Syrvan* (Simbirsk).—In the spelling of these names we adopt the orthography of *Le Timbre-Poste*, from which journal we extract the account of this stamp and of those noticed in the two succeeding paragraphs. The Syrvan emission has hitherto escaped attention. The inscription reads—STAMP OF THE RURAL POST—5 KOP.—OF THE DISTRICT OF SYRVAN (the latter clause being expressed by an abbreviation). The impression is blue on solferino. There is a rather curious variety of this type, namely, a stamp every line on which is preceded by a repetition of the first letter or figure, and a vertical line to the left; thus 5 kop. becomes 55 kop.




*Tiraspol* (Cherson).—This is another unknown stamp, more rare than beautiful. The circular inscription signifies ADMINISTRATION OF THE TIRASPOL DISTRICT, and the central inscription, STAMP FOR PACKETS AND PRIVATE LETTERS, 5 KOP. Printed in dark blue on white paper.




*Berdiansk* (Taurida.)—The current stamp exists in two very distinct shades, viz.:—

10 kop. blue and yellow-green.
10 „ greenish blue and pale yellowish green.

CUBA.—The subjoined types, first noticed in our December, are now doing duty in the







Spanish Antilles. It will be observed that the only points in which the peseta differed from the other values are—the arrangement of the inscription in the lower margin, and the suppression of the corner disks. The proofs of the series comprised a 12 c., but the anticipation that the value would not be issued has been verified, the emitted set consisting of the following denominations:—

| | |
|---|---|
| 12½ c. | green. |
| 25 „ | lilac. |
| 50 „ | brownish bistre. |
| 1 peseta | yellowish bistre. |

It seems a pity that the two high values should both be printed in shades of one and the same colour.

UNITED STATES.—The long-expected post card is to make its appearance on the first of this month. The *American Journal of Philately* contains an engraving of the design which, though rich, strikes us as being rather heavy. It, however, preserves a dis-

tinctive character of its own, which is maintained even in the inscriptions. The post card becomes, in American phraseology, a "postal" card, and the instructions are conveyed in the following rather abrupt formula: *Write the address only on this side, the message on the other;* the latter clause seems rather superfluous. The card is rather larger than the English one. It has a broad effectively ornamented border. Within, in the upper right corner, is the stamp—a profile bust of Liberty, ornamented with the Phrygian bonnet, in a solid oval, with a broad engine-turned frame, inscribed U. S. POSTAGE above, and the value in words below. Crossing the card, in a waved line from left to right, are the words UNITED STATES in bold letters, and beneath in smaller type, in a curved line, POSTAL CARD. Below that again, in a straight line, come the instructions above quoted. There is one fault in the arrangement, and that is that sufficient space is not left for the address. Our contemporary does not mention the colour of the card or of the impression.

TOLIMA.—*The Philatelist* for April, published the annexed engraving which is that of a stamp communicated to the editor by a correspondent. No satisfactory information being as yet forthcoming respecting it, its character cannot be vouched for. It is a rather coarse lithograph; colour blue; value 20 centavos.




VICTORIA.—M. Moens, in his current number, says, "Hitherto it has been taken for granted that the issue of the stamps with emblems in the angles and a star watermark, took place in 1859. One of our correspondents sends us an envelope prepaid with two of these stamps, a penny and a fourpenny, and bearing the postmark, *Hamilton, 17th July*, 1857.

CANADA.—By the courtesy of a Montreal subscriber we are in possession of specimens of the current three cents, printed in bright orange-vermilion. A supply in this colour has just been issued.

SHANGHAI.—The supply of the brown 1 candareen being exhausted, a provisional supply of that value has been obtained by obliquely surcharging the 4 cand. with the inscription 1 CAND, and certain Chinese characters. The surcharged stamps are of two shades, violet-grey and lilac-grey.

UNITED STATES OF COLOMBIA.—We have just seen a sheet of one centavo stamps, of the 1872 type, printed in pink, the same colour as that used for the first issue (1865) of that value.

ICELAND.—The promised 3 skilling has made its appearance. It is of the same design as the other values of the series, for general use, and is printed pale grey.

SPAIN.—It is reported that the provisional government is making arrangements for the issue of a new series of stamps.

## A PEEP INTO THE GREY BOOK.

THE Grey Book is the French *Annuaire des Postes*. It may be said to consist of our *Postal Guide*, and the Postmaster-General's *Report* rolled into one, though it is destitute of those gossipping items which lend a certain interest to Mr. Monsell's periodical publication. It is, in short, made up of rules, statistics, and rates; but notwithstanding the dry aspect of its pages, it contains some instructive items of information, which we purpose laying before our readers.

The first noticeable regulation is that whereby the sender of a letter is allowed to withdraw it from the box into which he has thrown it. In this country, a letter once flung into the official receptacle is beyond reclaim. In France, if a letter thus placed in charge of the office has been wrongly addressed, the sender can obtain communication of it prior to its despatch, upon showing the seal which he has employed to fasten it, and a fac-simile of the address. He is then allowed to rectify the address. Should he wish entirely to withdraw the letter, he must, in addition to the foregoing formalities, declare in writing that he is the author of it, and engage to hold himself responsible for its suppression. He must, furthermore, be known to the postmaster, or else be accompanied by two witnesses, and in his or their presence the letter must be opened, in order

that the postmaster may assure himself of the identity of its signature with that of the claimant. The privileges thus accorded are, to our knowledge, occasionally made use of by commercial houses.

The foregoing is a sensible regulation; the following is a vexatious one. "Printed matter, samples, and manuscripts must be enveloped in wrappers or bands covering at most *one-third* of the surface." For years past this rule has not been strictly observed, but within the last two or three months a circular has been issued by the head office, requiring all postmasters to put it rigorously in force, and no little annoyance has been caused by this whim of the administration. To us, accustomed as we are to much greater postal liberty, such a regulation seems unreasonable. The post gains nothing by a diminution in the superficies of the band. All the explanation of the reason for the rule which we could get from a French postmaster was, that merchants, profiting by the indulgence accorded by the post-office, had gone on extending the dimensions of the band, until it at length frequently covered the circular, and thus acquired the appearance of an envelope. Now communications under cover obtain generally more attention than mere circulars *sous bandes*, and the senders of the circulars enclosed in large wrappers were thus, in the eyes of the wise postal officials, getting more than their money's worth. The explanation seems very childish, but we give it as a specimen of French official reasoning. There has been a lively discussion on the subject in some of the papers, but the edict has not been recalled; rather has it been confirmed by a fresh order from the French general post-office, requesting postmasters to reject circulars on which the postage stamp is so affixed as to keep the band in its place. The stamp must be entirely on the band. We expect shortly to see a fresh order, forbidding the senders to stick the stamps on upside down, or to place them in a diagonal position.

For the information of the public and of the postal officials, for whom this book is primarily intended, a list of the stamps in use is given, and we must not omit to quote it, for it contains a striking piece of intelligence. It reads as follows:—

"The postage stamps are of *thirteen* different values, namely, 1 c., 2 c., 4 c., 5 c., 10 c., 15 c., 20 c., 25 c., 30 c., 40 c., *fifty c.*, 80 c., and 5 francs." We could hardly believe our own eyes when we saw the 50 centimes quoted, in an official publication, as an existent value. Yet there it is, plain enough, and the number of thirteen can only be made up by including it. This shows, in a surprising manner, how little confidence can be put in official statements; for there is not, and never has been, a 50 c. stamp. What a pity this accurate publication does not mention the colour of the mythical value!

Let us turn now to the statistics. It will be within the recollection of our readers that in the autumn of 1871 the interior letter-rate was raised from 20 to 25 centimes, in the expectation that the advance would result in an increase of revenue. We are very happy to say this expectation has not been verified. On the contrary, the profits of the post-office for the year 1871 were some $7\frac{1}{2}$ millions of francs less than those of the year 1869 (we leave 1870 out of the reckoning, as it was an exceptional year), and though we are not in possession of official statistics, we have good reason to believe that the results since obtained have not been more satisfactory. Hence it is probable that the rate will soon be reduced to the old level. In further confirmation of the effect produced by the increase of the rate we may state that the number of letters which passed through the post-office in 1871 was less than in any year since 1864.

The French post-office is not nearly so progressive as our own. In 1848, about 122 million letters passed through it, and in 1869, only 364 millions. The number of stamps sold does not amount to more than half that of the English stamps. In 1871 it was only 483 millions.

Transgressions of the postal laws in France are, or rather were, it appears, by no means uncommon. In 1860, no less than 2711 persons were summoned for making use of stamps which had already passed the post. Of this larger number, however, nearly forty per cent were acquitted, the convictions being

only 1623, and the convicted persons being let off, on payment of a fine varying from two to forty pounds. A foot-note is added to the table which gives these results, explaining the acquittals from the fact that the law only punishes those who *knowingly* use stamps which have previously served. The number of delinquents diminishes each year. In 1871 there were but 498 summonses, and 205 convictions. Besides, or instead of, the infliction of a fine, we find imprisonment resorted to in the case of military culprits. In 1860, twenty-one such transgressors passed a period, varying from five to thirty days, in prison. In 1869, only five soldiers were found guilty, and in 1870 and '71 the ranks were free from offenders.

The post-office has no choice but to hand over to the civil courts persons detected in the act of employing used stamps, but in the case of minor infractions of the postal laws, such for instance as the illicit conveyance of letters, the insertion of notes or other illicit memoranda in packets of printed matter, &c., it has power to *transiger*,—that is to say, to settle with the offender the terms of his submission. Thus in 1860 there were 7575 such infractions, and in 7522 cases a *transaction* was arranged, with a total net benefit to the Treasury of about £1480; the remaining 53 offenders allowed the matter to be carried into court, and were all convicted. In 1866, the number of delinquents rose to over 13,000, and the fines brought in some £3600. Latterly, it is evident the post-office has become rather more severe, for with only 6757 cases there was a net yield of £1360.

It may be assumed that mercantile houses and carriers are the principal sinners. Letters, &c., are sent hidden in packages of goods, and from time to time the post-office makes a descent on the railway stations, opens the packages, and fines the senders. That letters are thus sent merely for the sake of saving postage, we hardly think. It is probable that in many instances there is a gain of time by forwarding them inside the packages.

Turning over the pages, we come lastly to the tariff, and find, in a note which heads it, the information, that correspondence is stamped with the letters P. D. when the rate quoted on the tariff represents the conveyance to destination, and with the letters P. P. when the rate only represents prepayment up to a certain point, the remaining expense having to be borne by the receiver. The rates themselves offer no subject for observation.

## OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

*Le Timbre Poste.*—The current number of this journal is composed of but two articles, the Chronicle, and the continuation of Dr. Magnus's exhaustive monograph on stamped envelopes. From the former we have extracted various notices of new postage stamps, but have not borrowed any of the descriptions of telegraph emissions. The latter are regularly chronicled in the continental papers, but in this country they have not taken root. We freely admit that they are collectable, but until we find ourselves in presence of a clearly manifested desire on our readers' part for information respecting them, we do not feel justified in discussing them in our columns.

In the *Chronique* we find reference to another new forgery,—that of the 50 baj. Roman States. The paper of the counterfeit is of a yellowish tint; the letters of the inscription, FRANCO BOLLO POSTALE; are rather larger than in the original; and the ball above the N in franco is incomplete, but the decisive tests are the festoons of the papal tiara. In the counterfeit these lines are *horizontal*.

Dr. Magnus completes in the number before us the analysis of the French envelope essays. The designs submitted by M. Renard are treated of. They were printed by, and were intended to demonstrate the advantage of, an automatic machine, by which all the operations connected with the stamping—such as the placing of the paper, the inking of the dies, the impression, the gumming and folding of the envelope—are effected under the superintendence of a single person, and with the aid of an insignificant steam power. This machine was capable of producing 20,000 copies per day, but the invention was never called into active use. The designs themselves were but recently referred to in these pages. The French essays

dismissed, the doctor next turns to Spain, and under that heading an engraving of a rather striking envelope essay is introduced. The original is in the collection of the learned doctor. The design consists of an embossed bust of the Queen in a large upright inscribed oval, with CORREOS above and 4 CUARTOS below, the space between the inscription being filled with an Arabesque pattern. There is a second and similar, but smaller, type struck in plain relief, without colour, on white and coloured papers. These designs are almost unknown to philatelists, and nothing positive can be gathered as to their origin.

*The Philatelist.*—The most noticeable article in the April number of our Brighton contemporary, is the Spud paper, in which Mr. Pemberton dissects the Sierra Leone and Fiji counterfeits. With regard to the former, which is a tolerably successful imitation, Mr. Pemberton says, "There is one thing that may be taken as an instant test, and that is the white appearance of the profile from the top of the crown to the end of the nose; and again, there is the same effect down the neck, which is unnatural, and due to bad workmanship. The lozenges in the angles containing the cross are mathematically true and perfect, and *all four alike* in the real stamp, though not so in the forgery. But, however we may pull its weak points to pieces, the whiteness of the profile remains *the* test, because the other points require comparison with an original; and when a forgery cannot be detected from its description alone it is proof that the tests are not true."

The chief fault in the forgery of the surcharged Fiji stamp is the shape of the base of the crown: in the genuine the bottom line is perfectly straight, but in the counterfeit curved or convex.

Mr. Pemberton laments, and with reason, that the miserable sameness of style, colour, paper, perforation, and obliteration, common to these vermin, is not sufficient to ensure their detection at sight, but the fact is, the buyers of these imitations are principally boys whose collections have no philatelic interest, and who know nothing about stamps—who collect blindly for the mere sake of amassing a certain number of labels, because in so doing the pence which are burning in their pockets find an outlet. It is none the less in the highest degree regrettable that they should be the victims of an organised and but too profitable fraud, but how to reach or warn them is the difficulty. These ignorant buyers of forgeries are our philalelic pagans. Perhaps if they could be got at, their blind confidence and equally blind distrust might be undermined; but where are the missionaries for this good work? If only papers such as Mr. Pemberton's could be brought under their notice their credulity would soon give place to discernment, but we fear that philatelic magazines are rarely read by this numerous class of collectors, who may truly be styled timbromaniacs.

## THE UNITED STATES POST CARDS.

It was intended, says *The Springfield Union*, from which the following particulars are extracted,* to have the cards printed and in use during 1872, but, by a singular oversight, the Forty-second Congress closed its second session, last spring, without making any appropriation for their manufacture, and the matter thus had to go over. The mistake was corrected at the opening of Congress in December, when an appropriation of $800,000 was voted for the manufacture of postal cards and stamped envelopes. The Postmaster General advertised for proposals to manufacture the postal cards, January 23, and on the 27th of February the contract was awarded to the Morgan Envelope Company of this city, which offered to furnish the cards at $1·39 7-8 per thousand. The next highest bidder was George H. Reay, of New York, whose price was $1·59 1-4 per thousand. The whole number of competitors was 14. The contractors agree to furnish one hundred million cards the first year, and more if required. The orders received at the department already amount to over 30,000,000, and are increasing every day, so that the Postmaster General calculates that at least

* We are indebted to our old and esteemed correspondent, Mr. L. H. Bagg, for communication of the newspaper from which these extracts are made. The article is adorned with an illustration of the forthcoming card, which, as regards the border pattern, differs considerably from the *A. J. P.'s* engraving.

130,000,000 cards will be called for the first year.

The cards are to be printed on what is known as "bond paper," that is paper which is worked together in a solid sheet without pasting. They will be five and one-eighth inches long, by three inches wide, and are of two shades of velvet-brown, bearing on one side a stamp with the "liberty" head, surrounded by the words U. S. POSTAGE ONE CENT, in lathe work, and having besides the words UNITED STATES POSTAL CARD. Printed across the face are lines for the address, with the letters U. S. P. O. D., one-and-a-half inches long, in a watermark across the body of the card. The weight is to be six pounds to the thousand.

By the terms of the contract the manufacturers must have 500,000 cards ready for delivery May 1, and a gang of workmen are busy getting the east part of the ground floor of the Morgan Envelope Company's factory on Worthington street, ready for the printing apparatus. The walls of that section of the building are of brick, and consequently fireproof, but the ceiling of the room has been strengthened by a coating of corrugated iron, which will be covered with mortar. The whole of No. 84 will be given up to the manufacture, which will employ sixteen hands. The press, of which mention was recently made in *The Union*, will be capable of striking off 35,000 cards per hour, or 350,000 per day. The agent, who will have a general superintendence of the manufacture as well as the forwarding, will have his office and that of his clerks in the front part of the room facing the street. In the rear a fire-proof vault is to be erected, 23 feet wide, 40 feet long, and 10 feet high, large enough to hold 15,000,000 cards. The walls of the vault are to be 12 inches thick. There will be one entrance from the rear of the work-room, by means of a doorway three by six and one-half feet. This will be protected by double iron doors.

The Morgan Envelope Company, which will fill this important contract for the coming four years, is among the most energetic and successful of our many manufacturing concerns. Upon a small beginning, they have built up a large business in the making and sale of envelopes, and have combined therewith several kindred manufactures, which have also assumed large proportions. All the articles from their factory heretofore have been characterised by neatness and tastefulness, so that as stationers, as well as envelope makers, their goods have become widely popular. There is every reason, therefore, to expect that the new postal cards will be neatly and handsomely gotten up, and so be a credit to the concern and satisfactory to government and people.

There has been much speculation as to the merits and demerits of the postal card system, many claiming that it will be used as a means of blackmailing and venting personal spleen, as has been the case to some extent in England, where the system has been in vogue some time. But the present postal regulations provide that any letter or package having on its envelope gross or obscene words shall be sent to the dead letter-office, and this law will of course apply to postal cards. No sooner had the system been voted than private parties began getting up postal cards on their own hook and sending them through the mail, with the usual one cent stamp affixed. As each card bore an inscription similar to the following: "Lipman's postal card, patent applied for," every one making its appearance at the post-office is confiscated and sent to the dead letter-office at Washington. Without the postal inscription the cards would have been allowed to pass like other mail matter.

## THE LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

THE meeting held on the 12th ult. was but thinly attended, many of the members being absent from town. The president and others showed the stamps announced for examination; but the meeting was not marked by any specially noticeable feature. The next meeting is announced to take place on Saturday, the 3rd May, when the stamps of Mexico and the other Central American States will form the subject of a probably interesting discussion.

An error crept into our report of the March meeting. The rare *medio peso* red, of Peru, was accidentally misnamed *half dinero*.

## THE MORTON STAMPS.— MR. PANOPOULO'S EXPLANATION.

REFERENCE was made by us in a recent review of "Our Contemporaries" to an article published in *Le Timbre-Poste*, in reply to a letter from Mr. Panopoulo which appeared in these pages. Mr. Panopoulo now writes us in vindication of the Morton stamps, and whilst declining to imitate the style of the article in question, or even to discuss it in detail, he hands us copies of the letters referred to by M. Moens, and accompanies them with the following certificate, of the genuine character of which we see no reason to doubt.

At the request of Mr. Panopoulo, ex-director of our postal department, and in order to clear all doubts respecting the authenticity of our postage-stamp emissions, as chronicled in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, we hereby certify that the said emissions were duly authorised by us, and the said stamps used for the payment of letters carried by our steamers to local ports, but are no more in use since we ceased to run on the coasting trade.

T. B. MORTON & CO.

*Constantinople*, 25th March, 1873.

The authenticity of the signature is supported by an impression from the company's ordinary handstamp.

We have read over the letters which Mr. Panopoulo puts in. They are the letters of a business man, and no importance one way or another attaches to a terminating expression, such as "*Dans l'espoir que vous serez content.*" We have seen similar phrases in letters from properly constituted postmasters advising the enclosure of parcels of stamps, and it must be borne in mind that the managers of private post-offices, unsubsidised by the state, can never take such high ground in their correspondence, and appear so indifferent to the sale of a certain quantity of stamps, as the officials of a government department. Some *soupçon* of the influence of "filthy lucre" clings to nearly all private stamps. Even granting their *bonâ-fide* employment, the issuers of such stamps, if they are acquainted with the demand which exists for them among collectors, and the value set on varieties, are tempted to find excuse for making frequent changes in the colours and designs, in order to replenish their coffers. That Mr. Panopoulo has shown any exceptional resistance to temptations of this kind, we do not pretend, but we certainly do not look on the Morton stamps, taken altogether, as inferior in value to those of other private offices. Whether his emoluments were derived from the sale of the stamps, or whether he was a salaried servant of the company, we know not; but the question, though it may be looked on as an impertinent one, is one which in reality is of no small importance in determining the exact philatelical value of varieties of stamps, which it is evident from the above certificate were primarily issued for the purpose of a genuine postal service.

M. Moens, in his article, made a great deal of the fact that Mr. Panopoulo had requested him to send all future orders for stamps directly to him. The entire phrase reads as follows.

N.B.—Veuillez adresser vos futures commandes en mon nom aux scins de Messrs. T. B. Morton & Co., en ajoutant:— "le Receveur des Postes de la Compagnie."

M. Moens only quoted the first clause, but it is clear, on reading the whole sentence, that no concealment was intended on Mr. Panopoulo's part, and the request simply proves that the postal affairs were under his control.

The only thing in the correspondence of which we do not quite like the look, is the following postscript to a letter of the 8th November, 1871.

P.S.—Des timbres ronds blancs *sans* le Steamer, il no nous en restent plus pour le moment; j'espère pouvoir vous en *envoyer par ma prochaine, si vous en voudrez.*

The stamps without the steamer, it will be remembered, composed the first series; and the stamps with steamer, the second. The same die was used for both series, the second being formed by engraving the steamer in a blank space above the word FRANCO. When once this steamer was added it necessarily became impossible to get by fair means any more impressions of the design as it stood in the first series. Now Mr. Panopoulo, in the above postscript, says that he has no more of the white stamps without steamer left; but that he expects to be able to send some in his next letter. But how was he to get them? How was he to get from a die

bearing a representation of a steamer, an impression without steamer? It could only be done, as the opponents of the Morton stamps allege it *has* in fact been done, by first covering over, or stopping up, the representation of the steamer. Now on this point we certainly want some explanations from Mr. Morton. His offer to procure a further supply of nonexistent stamps may be capable of a perfectly innocent explanation, but until we receive it we must say our faith in the "steamerless" impressions is considerably shaken.

## PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. XXVIII.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

### Hamburg.*

THE stamps of the free city of Hamburg, though they cannot lay claim to any remarkable delicacy of execution, are distinguished by a pleasing quaintness of design, and when grouped together their varied colours show off to great advantage, rendering the page to which they are attached one of the most striking of those devoted to European countries. Another thing which, from a beginner's point of view, is very much in their favour, is that there are, properly speaking, no rarities among them. A novice, commencing his collection to-day, may, with a very small outlay of patience and cash, obtain the whole series, and no great exertions are needed to obtain an acquaintance with their particularities.

The first emission was brought out on the 1st January, 1859, and consisted of the following values :—

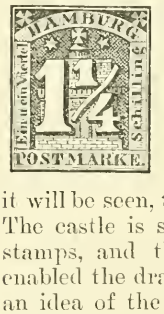
| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ½ | schilling, | black. |
| 1 | ,, | brown. |
| 2 | ,, | red. |
| 3 | ,, | blue. |
| 4 | ,, | green. |
| 7 | ,, | orange. |
| 9 | ,, | yellow. |

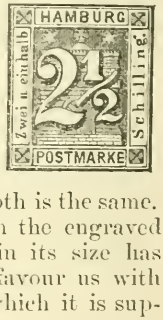
The design consists of the numeral of value surcharged on the city arms (a castle with two turrets flanking a central and cross-crowned dome). The exceeding similarity between the stamps might lead to the supposition that all the values were produced from one original die, the numerals being cut over the arms. Such, however, is not the case. On comparing any two values together slight variations will become perceptible. Attention may be specially directed to the stars over the towers; they are of all shapes and sizes. It may also be noticed, incidentally, that the arabesque ornament in the left upper corner is modified according to the exigencies of the different inscriptions of value. In the ½ schilling it disappears altogether; in the 7 schilling it is reduced to a trio of curves. As all these stamps were engraved on metal, the time employed in producing them must have been considerable. Possibly the expense of the initial series had something to do with the decision to employ lithography for the production of two new values which appeared in April, 1864. They were the




| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1¼ | schilling | lilac. |
| 2½ | ,, | green. |

The 2½ schilling differs from the 1¼ schilling in having the name HAMBURG in an horizontal instead of an arched label, and also in having a Maltese cross in each corner. In every other respect, it will be seen, the design of both is the same. The castle is smaller than on the engraved stamps, and the reduction in its size has enabled the draughtsman to favour us with an idea of the masonry by which it is supported.




Of the 1¼ sch. numerous colour-varieties exist, which are, in fact, the natural results of the choice of a colour so extremely susceptible to change as lilac. A slight alteration in the proportions of the various ingredients used in its composition may fre-

* The publication of the paper on Greece which, in accordance with the alphabetical order adopted, should precede the present, is unavoidably deferred.—O. T.

quently produce marked differences in tint. It may be affirmed that no two successive editions of a lilac, mauve, or violet stamp are of precisely the same shade, and the chances are that the second shows great divergence from the first. Such being the case no great attention can be claimed for the variations which are unintentionally, yet unavoidably, produced. Suffice it to say that the stamp was first issued in lilac, and that it exists in violet, in grey, in green, and (according to one authority) in blue.

All the foregoing stamps are watermarked with an undulating line easily perceptible when they are held up to the light. The $2\frac{1}{2}$ schilling, it is true, exists, or is said to exist, unwatermarked; I have, however, never met with this variety, and it is only noted by one author.

In October, 1864, the $\frac{1}{2}$ sch., 1 sch., 2 sch., 3 sch., 4 sch., 7 sch., and 9 schilling were issued perforated. No change in colour then occurred, but most of the values were printed in rather paler shades. In 1865, the colour of the 7 schilling was altered to mauve, and the 3 schilling ultramarine—probably an accidental variety—appeared. At about the same time the $1\frac{1}{4}$ and $2\frac{1}{2}$ schilling were perforated. The latter was issued in two tolerably distinct shades—dark green and yellow green. Since the suppression of the Hamburg office, unperforated copies of the 7 schilling mauve have appeared, and, though no postmarked specimens have been met with, the authenticity of this variety is generally admitted.

In 1866, contemporaneously with the emission of a series of envelopes, two new stamps, embossed like those on the envelopes, were issued. They were the $1\frac{1}{4}$ schilling deep lilac, and a new value, the $1\frac{1}{2}$ schilling, carmine, both very effective impressions. The former is represented by the annexed engraving. The latter is of the same design minus the exterior rectangle and corner ornaments. In fact the type of the $1\frac{1}{2}$ schilling is precisely that of the envelope stamps, and the perforations alone give it the appearance of a rectangle.




In the spring of 1867, the $2\frac{1}{2}$ schilling green, issued in 1864, was rather unaccountably superseded by a stamp of the first type, of the same value. Possibly depreciation of the lithographic stones may have been the cause, but the blurred lithographs were hardly rougher than the typographic impressions from the new die. The second $2\frac{1}{2}$ schilling is but a seedy relation of the earlier values of the same type; it is watermarked, however, like them, perforated, and owns to two distinct shades—yellow-green and blue-green, of which the former has now become relatively rare.




Had there been an embossed $2\frac{1}{2}$ schilling envelope, no doubt the die would have been used when in 1867 a new adhesive of that value was called for; but to have cut one specially to meet a temporary demand would have been inexpedient, and hence, so we may argue, the recourse to the 1859 design. Notwithstanding this reversion to the original type, however, it is permissible to suppose that had the Hamburg post-office continued in existence, a complete series of embossed adhesives would have been issued.

ENVELOPES.

A series of envelopes, prepared in the Berlin printing-office, was issued on the 5th April, 1866. The design adopted, and here represented, was originally engraved for impression on two post-office order forms issued on the 1st January of the same year. The values of the latter were, respectively, 3 sch. blue, and 4 sch. green; the colours are the same as those afterwards chosen for the envelopes of the same denominations, and perhaps, in strictness, these money-order stamps are collectable, inasmuch as they represented not only the cost of the order, but also the postage. However, leaving the hybrids to come up for judgment at some future time, let us examine the envelope stamps of which they were the prototypes.



The series consists of the following values and colours:—

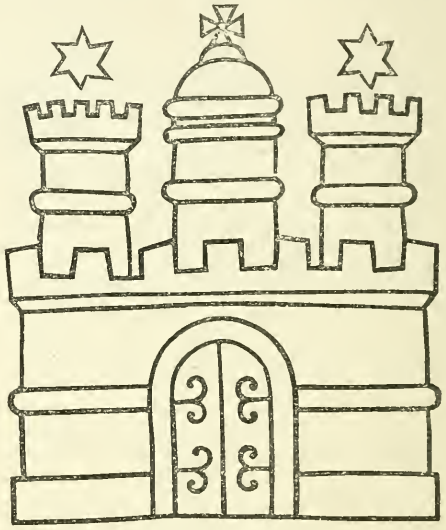
| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ½ | schilling, | black. |
| 1¼ | ,, | violet. |
| 1½ | ,, | rose, crimson. |
| 2 | ,, | shades of orange-vermilion. |
| 3 | ,, | shades of ultramarine blue. |
| 4 | ,, | shades of yellow-green. |
| 7 | ,, | lilac. |

They are a well-looking series; the design is clearly cut, and the colours brilliant. Above the stamp is the ordinary diagonal inscription EIN HALBER (EIN U. EIN VIERTEL, &c., according to the value), SCHILLING (or SCHILLINGE) POST COUVERT in black ink. *Schilling*, be it observed, is the singular, and *schillinge* the plural. Now it happens that throughout the whole of the series the impressed stamp uniformly bears the word *schilling* in the singular, whatever may be the value, whilst the diagonal inscriptions on the envelopes of the 3 sch., 4 sch., and 7 sch. are in the plural. The 2 sch. envelope, however, presents the anomaly of having the word *schilling* in the singular throughout the inscription. Hence it would seem, either that the envelopes of 2 schillings in their entirety, and the higher values, in as far as concerns the embossed stamps, are examples of grammatical errors, or that there is a looseness about the rule requiring the addition of a final s to the word which renders compliance with it immaterial.

There are no varieties in this series, other than those formed by the colours, as indicated by the above list, and they are simply accidental. Of differences in the tinting of the white paper, on which the impressions were struck, it is unnecessary to dwell, but the issue of four of the values on watermarked paper must not be passed over in silence, for they may be almost taken to form a new series, or at least a new edition. Their emission occurred in February, 1867. The values constituting the watermarked edition were struck in Hamburg, and issued in the following colours:—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ½ | schilling, | black. |
| 2 | ,, | orange-vermilion, various shades. |
| 3 | ,, | blue. ,, |
| 4 | ,, | green. ,, |

The design of the watermark, which was of unusual dimensions, is here given in its full size. The envelopes which bear it are



further distinguished by the fact that in the diagonal inscriptions, the word *schilling* is always in the singular, notwithstanding that the value may be in the plural. It only remains to add, that the 3 sch., although prepared for service, was never really issued, and at the end of the year in which the watermarked envelopes made their appearance, the Hamburg service and its stamps were suppressed.

It will be remarked that the intermediate values between the ½ sch. and the 2 sch. do not figure in the watermarked edition. The reason, as far as concerns the 1¼ sch., is that that value had been suppressed, and in consequence of its short currency, the unwatermarked 1¼ schilling envelope has become rare. This has led to its being reprinted. The easiest way to distinguish the reprint from the original, is to examine the words *post-couvert* in the diagonal inscription; in original copies these words are united by a line, in the reprints by a dot.

POST CARD.

The following was published in *The Philatelist* for February, 1871. "We are indebted

to a correspondent for the description of a North German (presumably local for Hamburg) post card, as follows: size, $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches by $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. nearly; very pale buff. Inscribed, NORD DEUTSCHES POST-GEBIET CORRESPONDENZ-KARTE, &c. A rectangle in the right-hand upper corner contains the violet Hamburg adhesive without value, and the back of the card is ruled longitudinally with eleven fine dotted lines in grey." This is circumstantial enough, but I have never seen any such a card myself, nor can I trace the slightest reference to it in any other journal.

ESSAYS, PROOFS, &C.

In the early days of stamp-collecting, frequent inquiries were made for a Hamburg "Interpostal" stamp, for which Lallier had allotted a space in his album. No such stamp, however, ever existed; but what appears to have been so christened by the careless French compiler, was an oblong impression, mentioned by Levrault as an essay, engraved in 1858, a year before the first emission, and containing the figure 1 in the centre on castle, SCHG. on each side, FR. STADT. HAMBURG above, and POSTMARKE beneath. This essay, which I described in an article published in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* in 1865, was printed on a delicate rose ground in black ink, on white paper.

"No end" of proofs of the ordinary adhesives exist, and they are of no real value, having been struck off to meet, or rather to create a demand. It is needless to catalogue either them or the "Instruction" stamps, similar to those of Bavaria, of which the use has already been explained.

LOCAL STAMPS.

The Hamburg locals may be dismissed with but few remarks. They were issued at a time when Hamburg was just getting a name it has never since lost for forgeries, and when the claims of any coloured bit of paper to be considered a stamp were not too closely examined. The statement that the Hamburg Boten were issued by a company of merchants for the prepayment of a charge for the delivery of letters within the city, was accepted with but slight hesitation. Immediately afterwards, spaces were found in the leading albums—Moens' and Lallier's—for the 116 varieties which had been so successfully foisted on the philatelic public. Since then—indeed, very soon after their recognition—it was discovered that they were worthless, and they might have been relegated to the limbo of spurious impressions, had they not been included in the albums above referred to. They have never since been expunged from them, but everyone knows that they are utterly valueless,—the Scheerenbecks, Hamers, Krantzs, Lafrenzs, and Van Diemens;—and the one thing to be done by everyone who wishes to keep clear of "vermin" is to abstain from collecting them. Even those who have albums in which space is allotted for the Hamburg locals would do better to fill the pages with no matter what genuine stamps, rather than cover the spaces for mere regularity's sake with a set of gaudy and meaningless humbugs.

## NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

NEWFOUNDLAND.—The most notable philatelic event of the month, in our estimation, is the appearance of the Newfoundland post card, which, as a veritable work of art, we think far superior to any of its brethren. A wood-engraving of the design would be very costly, and yet, from its nature, would fail in reproducing meritoriously those delicate details which lend such a charm to the whole; we must therefore beg our readers to be satisfied with a written description of the card. It is considerably under the average size, measuring hardly $4\frac{1}{2}$ by $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The border is unusually broad, and is filled with a link pattern of pleasing appearance; the corners are rounded off with a foliate ornament containing a kind of Maltese cross on shaded ground. Within the frame in the upper right corner is an impression from the die of the one-cent adhesive. The word NEWFOUNDLAND is inscribed in effective letters on an arched scroll which crosses the card. The initial letter of the word is in a tastefully designed shield from which depends an ornamental disk bearing the word TO in German

text. In a straight line below the name comes the inscription POST CARD on a straight and slightly embellished label, below which again is the usual legend:—THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE. The entire space within the frame is covered with a ground of very fine diagonal lines, which all spring from the lower left corner and widen out. Between these lines a still finer network pattern may be discerned. The entire design, groundwork included, is printed in a rich chrome-green, which on pure white card contributes not a little to heighten the effect. Less surprise may be felt at the possession of such a *chef-d'œuvre* by the Newfoundlanders when we add that it is the work of the American Bank Note Company, whose imprint appears in the lower margin. To render complete our notice of an emission of which we really cannot speak otherwise than enthusiastically, we have only to say that the back is entirely blank. The expected 3 c. adhesive blue, has made its *début* at the same time as the card. It is identical in design with the 3 c. red, and in colour with the 12½ c. Canadian.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—Were it not for the appearance of the Newfoundland card, the







two new Argentine stamps which are here represented would have an unquestionable claim to be treated as the lions of the moment. The card comes from the American Bank Note Co.; the stamps are printed by its rival, the National Bank Note Co., and the latter form a worthy continuation of the series whose currency was inaugurated in 1867. From an official notice issued by the Argentine Postmaster General we learn that the effigy on the one cent stamp is that of Gen. Antonio Balcarce, and that on the four cent, Dr. Mariano Moreno. What claims these worthies may have on the national gratitude we know not, but we trust that the obliging correspondent, whom we have to thank for communication of the specimens whence our engravings are copied, will favour us with some particulars of the lives of the two personages whose portraits will henceforth grace our albums.

The colour of the one cent is violet; of the four cents, brown. Their emission was authorised by the Postal Tariff Law of the 2nd September, 1872, and they came into use on the 15th March last. They are specially intended for the prepayment of prices-current and commercial circulars, for the prepayment of the extra fee for delivering prepaid letters at the recipient's house, and for the prepayment of correspondence for the United States under the terms of the postal law, which will shortly be in operation. They are printed in colour on white, and perforated like the other values.

BELGIUM.—Annexed is a representation of the design of the Belgian envelope stamp; and as the original has found favour in the eyes of that arch critic, M. Moens, who must be in a good position to judge of his countryman's production, we can do nothing but echo his opinion, and declare the type to be very good. Certainly the design is simple enough, and resembles in general appearance the Austrian series of 1861. As to its effect, that must necessarily depend on the execution, all we can now say being that it seems to be well proportioned. It is the work of the engraver of the current Portuguese series—Mr. C. Wiener—whose initials appear below the portrait. Rumour runs that it is to be struck in green on two inconvenient square sizes. The 1st of May was fixed for the emission, but it will be some time in fact before the supplies can be issued, as the envelopes which had been sent in to be stamped were rejected by the post-office, and were not replaced with sufficient promptitude to admit of the issue taking place at the original date. The Belgian public would, it seems, have been gratified if a similar measure had



been applied to the last supply of postal cards. Bitter complaints are made that the card is no better than blotting-paper, and no copying-ink has yet been found capable of transmitting a copy.

PERSIA.—Our Brighton contemporary states that he is enabled, on trustworthy authority, to confirm the existence of Persian stamps of the type of the 1867 essay, of which a few months since we reproduced an engraving. The impression is on thin white paper, but the stamps are *not* perforated. They were first issued in May, 1872. The sole values known to *The Philatelist's* correspondent are

1 schahi, lilac,
2 ,, green,
4 ,, blue centre;

but he himself thinks he has not the whole set, and it will be remembered that a vermilion stamp was referred to at the commencement of the year. The schahi equals a half-penny. The stamps are for home use exclusively.

PERU.—The annexed rather novel design is that of a stamp issued for the service of the town of Lima, on the 1st of March of this year. It is struck in relief, and the stamps are printed on continuous bands of paper by means of the Lecocq machine, to which reference has more than once been made in these pages. The value of the new stamp is 2 centavos, and its colour ultramarine. It is stated that it has an horizontal *perçage*, by which we can only understand that it is perforated at the top and bottom, but (in consequence of the way in which it is printed) not at the sides.




TOLIMA.—(U. S. Colombia). The doubts expressed by the editor of *The Philatelist* as to the genuineness of the 20c. stamp introduced to notice by him, and illustrated in our last number, are echoed by *Le Timbre-Poste*. M. Moens aptly points out that the arms are not those of Colombia, and that whereas the shading of the shield on all genuine stamps is formed of horizontal lines, which in heraldry indicate that so much of the shield as they cover should be coloured blue, the shading on this new Tolima is composed of vertical lines. The shield itself, when looked at from a little distance, bears a fantastic resemblance to a mask, and the creature above it is more bat than condor. Besides this, the stamp is perforated.

SPAIN.—That earnest advocate of postal progress in Spain—Don M. P. de Figueroa—has set the government a good example by getting up a post card of his own. The apology for the emission is found in the inscription which crosses the upper portion of the front, and reads thus:—

"POSTAL CARD, created in virtue of the regulations of the 10th May, 10th June, and 7th July, 1871, which authorises its circulation in Spain subject to the terms of the Tariff of the 15th September, 1872. As the Government shows an extreme reluctance to issue cards, Doctor Thebussem has had this one printed (May 1873) for his own use, and to please his friends. (On this side write only the address, and on the back the communication.—Circulates without band or cover.—It is good breeding to put the postage stamps in the upper right angle)."

We need hardly say that a gentleman who rightly advocates the practice of politeness even in the placing of a stamp has been careful to mark out the space in the upper right corner of the card, whereon the stamp ought to be stuck. The usual lines for the address, an exterior frame of a single line, and corner rosettes, complete this first forerunner of the government emission.*

In another part of the number will be found some interesting details, by Don Pardo de Figueroa, of a handstamp used at Bilbao.

At the last moment a report reaches us that a new series of stamps is to be issued on the 1st July, but our informant warns us against putting *too* much faith in the announcement.

BERMUDAS.—The new threepenny stamp, announced several months ago as "in the press," has just been published, and we have received specimens by the last mail. The

* Since writing the above, we learn that the government has actually been shamed by "Dr Thebussem's" action, into taking measures for the issue, at an early date, of official post cards. We cannot doubt but that the good work thus accomplished will earn for its author the gratitude, not only of philatelists, but also of the Spanish mercantile community.

stamp is printed a light orange-yellow—a somewhat ineffective tint. It is of similar design to its predecessors, though a change in appearance is produced by the enclosure of the circle containing the Queen's profile in a light octagonal frame, and the addition of ornamented triangles at each corner to complete the rectangle. The inscriptions fill the upper and lower margins, and, *par exception*, they are in colour on white. The watermark cc. and crown is maintained.

Russian Locals.—We transfer *en bloc* to our pages the description of no less than four new types which our Belgian contemporary has been fortunate enough to receive.

*Livni* (Orel).—The Livni administration, apparently dissatisfied with its bobbin-label stamp, has secured the services of an artist of an original turn of mind, who has produced the above grotesque and mystic combination. The scene in the upper half, it occurs to us, may be intended to represent the rising of the Phœnix, according to the engraver's notion,—a sort of lime-kiln taking the place of the customary embers. We had better not guess any further, but simply wait patiently the coming of those oft-requested explanations which no one seems able to afford. The new and original Livni type is printed in colour on white. There are two varieties of the solitary value, viz., 5 kop. pale red, and 5 kop. bright red.




*Werchnie Dnieproffsk* (Ekaterinoslav).—M. Moens asserts that this stamp was issued in 1866. Either he must be wrong, or all the statements which have been made as to the date of the institution of the local service must be incorrect. We are surprised he should content himself with simply affirming that the stamp here represented was issued years before the government had sanctioned the emission of anything of the kind. It seems to us to be a very careless or a very oracular manner of doling out information. The inscription signifies *Rural post of Werchnie Dnieproffsk*, and it appears that in the orthography of the word "post" a serious mistake has been committed which quite changes the meaning of the word. The impression is in black on white laid paper. The design is set up from printer's types, and there are three varieties in the setting.




*Wassyel* (Nijni Novgorod).—This stamp was at first thought to be an envelope, but such is not the case. The design is struck in plain relief on bands of yellowish white gummed paper—seventeen impressions per band. The students of emblems will find another nut to crack in the central device.




*Perm* (Perm).—The inconveniently large and unprepossessing type here represented has just been brought to light, and we presume is a new issue. The value is 3 *silver* kopecks. The impression is in black or grey on a yellowish white wove paper. The sheet is composed of fourteen stamps, eight placed vertically and six horizontally. The latter form as many varieties, but their distinguishing characteristics are by no means remarkable.




*Sizran* (Simbirsk).—This is the correct name of the district, which in our last number was referred to as Syrvan.

*Bogorodsk* (Moscow).—After all it appears that the man on horseback is intended to represent the victorious St. George; so, at any rate, asserts a Russian correspondent of M. Moens. The Czar Ivan III. (1462-1505) adopted the byzantine eagle, but the old emblem St. George was blazoned on the shield on the eagle's breast.

Switzerland.—A gentleman writing from Lausanne favours us with some information which permits of our rectifying and completing the statements made in our April number with regard to the new wrapper and

post card stamp. The 2 c. band, unlike its predecessor, has *not* a rose edging above and below. Of the new type there are two bands —the 2 c. and 5 c.; the 5 c. post cards, of which we doubted the existence, are in use. The old 5 c. cards, brick-red and rose, of the same design as the envelopes, are entirely done away with. The 5 c. envelope impression in left upper corner, exists in a kind of pinkish brown, very distinct from the earlier shade.

SHANGHAI.—The employment of post cards has extended to distant Shanghai, and we should not be surprised to find the Japanese authorities taking them into favour. The Shanghai card is issued by the local post, and the only attempt at ornament which it shows is an external chain-pattern border. Near the upper margin is the inscription,

SHANGHAI LOCAL POST CARD,
ISSUED TO SUBSCRIBERS ONLY,
THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

The middle line is wrongly translated by our Belgian contemporary, as "to be forwarded only by the writer." Will he permit us to tell him that the correct translation would be *délivrée aux abonnés seulement;* the double meaning of the word "subscriber" has misled him. At the back of the card is the legend NOTE FOR RECEIVER, under which is a line crossing the stamp, and below that the words Shanghai.....187.... The impression is in mauve on white card. The value, unindicated, is one candareen.

FRENCH POST, JERUSALEM.—Such is the inscription on the stamp of which we annex an engraving in the hope of obtaining information respecting it. M. Moens, by whom it is introduced, knows nothing of it beyond the fact that it is printed in blue on white, and that the specimen whence our engraving was copied shows a portion of an obliteration composed of black dots disposed in the form of a lozenge, the remainder of the obliteration having fallen on the envelope. The stamp, he adds, has not a suspicious look about it; nevertheless, we much doubt its being used for the prepayment of correspondence.




PHILIPPINES.—We are still but imperfectly acquainted with the values of the current series. The list given by us on page 199 of our last November number was supposed to be a complete one, but we now learn that another denomination was issued, namely,

12 c. de peseta, carmine-rose (pale and bright.)

The colour of this stamp has just been changed, and it is now issued in blue, so that there are at present two blue stamps, assuming the 16 c. to be still in circulation. The 62 c., originally issued in lilac, has taken unto itself the colour abandoned by the 12 c., and makes its appearance in carmine-rose.

NEW ZEALAND.—In completion of the information given last month, we should state that the new halfpenny stamp was issued on the 1st of January of this year, for the purpose of prepaying newspapers through the post in New Zealand only, the rate having been reduced on that date from a penny. New Zealand, it may be as well to remark, has acquired the honour of being the first of our South Sea colonies to follow the example of the mother country in the matter of newspaper rates.

GERMAN EMPIRE.—We learn from *Le Timbre-Poste* that as the $2\frac{1}{2}$ groschen and 9 kreuzer adhesives may be easily confounded by gaslight with other values of the series, they are to be distinguished by a surcharged longitudinal inscription of the value, in brown letters. In future the 1 gr. and 3 kr. envelope stamps will be struck *without* any transverse inscription.

DECCAN.—The latest arrivals show some variations in shade from the previously known stamps; thus the 1 anna is of a pale greyish-brown; the 2 anna, pale green; the 3 anna, yellowish-bistre; and the 12 anna, pale blue.

FIJI ISLANDS.—Lieut. Gibbons writes us that he has seen the proof of a new issue for these islands, and promises further particulars by next mail.

BARBADOS.—The sixpence vermilion watermarked with a large star has been received by a recent mail.

AZORES.—The 120 reis blue of the new type has been issued.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—The 30 c. is now printed reddish lilac.

## THE STAMPS OF LA GUAIRA.

BY THE REV. R. B. EARÉE.

*(Second Article.)*

THOSE of our readers who subscribed to *The Philatelical Journal*, no doubt noticed that my articles upon the Guaira Stamps had been reprinted last month from that magazine without alteration. This arose from the fact that our publishers forwarded me the proof to a wrong address, so that I was unable to make the necessary alterations in time for the May number. I am, therefore, under the necessity of writing a second article in order to correct the first.* I stated that the British packet-agents at La Guaira and Puerto Cabello *distribute* the British letters. Mr. Meyer, however, says that the agents forward the letters to the native postal officials, who distribute the letters themselves, thereby freeing our agents from any further responsibility. This, I believe, is correct.

With regard to the issue of 1864, the first impressions from Die II. are well perforated; but, when we leave the obliquely perforated stamps, and come to examine those with the pointed perforation, we notice at once that the die is getting much worn. For instance, during the pointed-perforation period, the Q in PAQUETE gradually loses its tail, and in the latest copies it is, to all appearance, a simple O.

PERFORATION.—I was at first tempted to believe that the circular perforation was the latest; but I fancy it is now generally thought that the different dies and perforations come in the order in which I have placed them.

PAPER.—The description of the paper on which these stamps are printed is not quite correct; it should have been as follows:—

Die I.—Hard wove paper, varying from yellowish to almost white. The darkest shade is found, I believe, on the stamps earliest printed.

Die II.—The paper used for the earliest stamps of this die (especially those with oblique perforation) is of a slightly bluish tinge. It is wove, like that of Die I., but much softer in texture. The later impressions are, however, more like Die I. in tint.

To my reference list of Die I. may be added a *medio real*, vermilion-red. This is the only additional variety with which I have met since the original list appeared.

The lists themselves are, very possibly, far from being complete, but I have described all the stamps which I have seen; and my object in writing these articles will be gained if the information contained in them be of any real use to my fellow-philatelists.

* The first article, originally published in *The Philatelical Journal*, called forth a critique upon it, which soon afterwards appeared in the same journal, containing one or two corrections, suggestions, and additions, of which I have now availed myself.

## THE STAMPS OF REUNION ISLE,—

ORIGINAL, REPRINTED, AND FORGED.

BY WARDEN.

HAVING recently been shown a pair of the coarsest "bogus" sold by a dealer of some repute for £8 as veritable Simon Pures, it has occurred to us that a few remarks on the above subject may be useful. On looking through the back volumes of this magazine we find it is a long time since any notice has been taken of the stamps, and accordingly hope even the little we have to say may not be unwelcome to our readers.







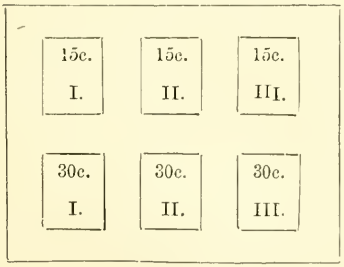
In vol. iv., p. 190, is the following extract from *Le Timbre-Poste*:—

> The creation of these stamps was authorised by a decree of the governor of the island, M. Doret, dated the 10th of December, 1851. The stamps were composed of typographical designs, and each sheet contained six impressions. Only one supply was ever printed, and that consisted of 7500 stamps of each value. Their circulation commenced on the 1st of January, 1852, and ceased on the 1st of January, 1860. No special postmark for their obliteration ever existed, and the few known specimens are cancelled by a stroke of the pen.

In support of the above statements we have no proof to offer; nor, on the other hand, any objections to urge against them. On one point only have we any remark to make. "Each sheet contained six impressions;" query, six 15 c. in a 15 c. sheet, and

six 30 c. in a 30 c. sheet, or three of each in a sheet compounded of the two values? The reprints, it is well known, show three varieties of each value; and as they are said to have been "composed" from the old types, by the setter-up of the originals, it has been pretty generally accepted that only three varieties of each value were issued by the post-office. Still of this we are not quite sure, as from the great rarity of the stamps, it has never been possible to get together any but a very small number for the sake of comparison. If even a dozen of each value could be collected, and it were found that only three varieties were among them, though the probability would be fairly strong in favour of the received opinion, it would not be absolutely conclusive. When, therefore, we say that our utmost efforts have only discovered five 15 c. and four 30 c., stamps, it will at once be manifest, that, in speaking of only three varieties of each value, we are not resting on any very solid ground. Perhaps these lines may meet the eye of some collector more fortunate than ourselves, who may be able to furnish evidence which will settle this point. Meanwhile, this much may be said in favour of three varieties only: that after close examination of all the originals available, we have failed to detect in the reprints any "type" not found in the actual stamps. This is a coincidence which could hardly have occurred, had the elemental parts of more originals been open to the use of the composer of the reprints.

We now proceed to compare the stamps with the reprints, so as to furnish *criteria* by which they may be distinguished.




This diagram shows the arrangement of the reprinted sheet; and, in default of proof to the contrary, we accept it as a true representation of the original, and, whether correct or not, it will be useful for reference in the course of these notes.

PAPER.

(i.) *Originals*: thin; pale clear blue; slightly surfaced; soft fibre; "wove" marks very small; made from fine pulp. This paper seems to have been "pressed."

(ii.) *Reprint* No. 1: slightly thicker; pale dull blue; unsurfaced; rather softer fibre; "wove" marks larger; made from not very fine pulp; unpressed.

(iii.) *Reprint* No. 2, &c.: not thin; rather deep dull blue; unsurfaced; and in other points as last.

IMPRESSION.

(i.) *Originals*: clear and strong; no *foulage*.

(ii.) *Reprint* No. 1: clear but weak; no *foulage*.

(iii.) *Reprint* No. 2, &c.: very coarse, and worn in many of the latest copies, and in all showing considerable deterioration in the "types;" very marked *foulage*.

It is suggested to us that the *foulage* points to the later reprints having been struck on undamped paper.

SIZES OF STAMPS.

15 c. (i.) *Originals*: $\frac{15}{16}$ inch × $\frac{23}{32}$ inch.
(ii.) *Reprints*: $\frac{7}{8}$ inch × $\frac{11}{16}$ inch.
30 c. (i.) *Originals*: $\frac{7}{8}$ inch × $\frac{11}{16}$ inch.
(ii.) *Reprints*: $\frac{7}{8}$ inch × $\frac{21}{32}$ inch.

DESIGN.

The complex central devices of each value being made up of ornamental "types," such as are commonly found in printing-offices, present in the reprints several small points of difference from the originals. It was at first our intention to enumerate these exhaustively, but, on discovering that the later reprints varied (from wear and inferior printing) in not a few minor details from the first reprints, we found, that to make the analysis of any use, it would be necessary to dissect the several editions of the said reprints. This would be a tedious process, and so we shall confine our attention to the frames. The variations of these, together with the

differences already mentioned, will enable anyone readily to pronounce on any specimen submitted for judgment.

In all 15 c. (originals), outer frame of two thick lines close together.

15 c. (reprints), outer frame of single thick line.

In all 30 c. (originals), outer frame of two lines, but, from their being placed *very* close together, and being less thick than in the (original) 15 c., it has a lighter appearance, and its double nature is less evident.

30 c. (reprints), outer frame of single thick line.

Besides these signal differences in the outer frames of originals and reprints, there are also minor differences; for instance, to take 15 c., variety I.; on comparing the angles, we observe that in the *original* stamp the upper right angle is imperfectly formed, owing to the *outer* lateral line meeting the *inner* top line; whereas in the *reprint* the lines are placed correctly, so as to meet if prolonged, which, however, they fail to do by a considerable interval. Again, if we compare 30 c., variety I., with its reprint, we find that, whereas it has all its corners closed, except the right-hand lower one, the latter has its upper left-hand angle distinctly open.

VARIETIES OF EACH VALUE.

As we have failed to obtain original copies of each of the six varieties, our remarks under this head are made from the reprinted sheet. The three of 15 c. may be distinguished by the shading of the bottom right-hand "pearl."

I. has it shaded above.
II. „ „ „ at right.
III. „ „ „ below.

To distinguish between the varieties of the 30 c. is less easy, as the differences are not so marked. Referring to the illustration at the commencement of this article, it will be observed that there is a circle at each corner of the central device. Calling the left-hand top one (*a.*), and going round the stamp from left to right (*b.*), (*c.*), (*d.*), we have—using the notation of the mariners' compass:—

30 c., I. (*a.*) Broken on S.E.; flattened above and at left.
(*b.*) Broken on N.; flattened at right.
(*c.*) Unbroken; flattened at right.
(*d.*) Unbroken; flattened below.
II. (*a.*) Left side wanting.
(*b.*) Broken W.N.W.; flattened above.
(*c.*) Right side wanting.
(*d.*) Broken S.W., S.S.E., S.E.; flattened at left.
III. (*a.*) Left side wanting; broken S.S.W., S.S.E.; flattened above.
(*b.*) Broken on E.
(*c.*) Broken on E.
(*d.*) Broken on S. and W.

FORGERIES.

Of these, at one time, there was an abundant brood, and the race, though somewhat diminished, is not yet extinct. In vol. v., p. 177, a set of seven values is mentioned; but as only the 15 c. coincides in denomination with an original, that alone need be noticed. It reads JSLE, and is thereby enough condemned, apart from its *square* shape. In vol. vi., p. 7, a pair of forgeries (in addition to above) are pilloried, though so vaguely, that we cannot identify them with any in our possession. Turning to our own "bogus" sets, we find the following tests amply sufficient.

Originals and reprints of both values show the breaks incidental to designs composed of ornamental type, and also show no points of contact between device and frame.

Forgeries are either woodcuts or lithographs, and, therefore, show none of the breaks just mentioned. In all cases, too, the device is made to touch the inner frame at sides. The "£8 pair" already mentioned are "postmarked," and so, for the most part, are the trash sold by the Hull rogues, and their Glasgow brethren, whereas no specimen of the real thing has yet been found cancelled, otherwise than by penstrokes.

CAUTION TO TYROS.

Have nothing to do with "Réunion stamps," unless clearly satisfied, by reference to some competent authority, that what you are offered is that which it professes to be. Originals are so *very* rare, that you may as well make up your minds you will never be

able to obtain them. Reprints of any but the latest editions are hard to get, and even these latest are not so cheap as to make it worth a beginner's while to purchase them. Should copies of reprint No. 1 come in your way, our advice is, buy them, as they are decent representations of the "unattainables," and always likely to be worth their present price of 12/- to 15/- the pair. With forgeries and fac-similes have as little to do as possible. Two vacant compartments in your albums will be no disfigurement—rather an ornament, as contrasted with squares filled up with "bogus"—and you will have the negative satisfaction, at least, of giving no custom to the knaves.

[The writer begs to return his sincere thanks to those English and foreign collectors who have so liberally helped him by the loan of their specimens, and by their advice.]

## A SEMI-OFFICIAL SPANISH STAMP.

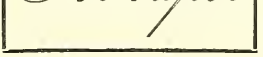
BY DON MARIANO PARDO DE FIGUEROA.

On the 8th of March last the Council of Commerce of Viscaya published the following notice:—

"Owing to the insecurity of road and rail, occasioned by the war with Don Carlos VII., the railway company of Tudela, with the approval of the civil governor, has engaged a steam-boat to carry the postal correspondence from Bilbao to the port of Castro-Urdiales, and all letters and packets so carried will pay a surcharge of 25 centimos de real."

The above surcharge, equalling only a halfpenny, having been found insufficient to cover the expenses, it has been increased by the Council of Commerce to 10 centimos de peseta (one penny). Only letters on which the extra charge has been prepaid are sent by boat. The Council of Commerce lacks either the power or the will to make the charge payable at destination, and consequently all letters on which the sea carriage has not been prepaid are forwarded by the usual land route, and no sooner do they leave Bilbao than they fall into the hands of the Carlists.

Letters which are to be forwarded by the steamer must be delivered at a public office, of whose whereabouts due notice has been given, and there the extra rate of 10 centimos de peseta must be paid in cash. All such letters must bear the usual postage stamp to cover the ordinary rate. On being delivered at the receiving-office they are stamped with a blue or black handstamp inscribed, like annexed fac-simile, *Por vapor*, which signifies "per steamer." The result of these arrangements is, that only letters posted in the town of Bilbao bear the new and necessary pass-word. The port of Castro-Urdiales is only about 25 kilometres from Bilbao, and between that port and the capital communications are open.




## A SERIES OF OFFICIAL STAMPS FOR THE UNITED STATES.

BY JOSEPH J. CASEY, A.M.

During its last session Congress abolished the franking privilege, to take effect July 1st, 1873. After this date Congress men will no longer have the inestimable privilege of sending home free their trunks and furniture, law-books and inkstands, undelivered speeches and published documents, but will have to do as other individuals in the matter of paying postage; they will then have more time to attend to the public business, and less to spare in finding out the maximum capacity and strength of the mail-bags.

As a consequence of the abolition of this franking privilege, it was presumed that the government, throughout all the departments, would revert to the use of the government postage stamps, and that the post-office would thereby increase its revenue by over two millions and a half of dollars, this being the amount necessary to keep the franking privilege up to the mark. But since Congress appropriated $2,000,000 for postage for the departments, and since new postage stamps have been prepared for the exclusive use of these departments, I presume that the

franking privilege has changed merely its name.

I said new postage stamps were to be used by the departments. The following is a description of them.*

The medallions on the present stamps are to be used on the stamps for the departments, but each one is to be in a different colour and design. That for the War Department has, beneath the medallion in the lower corners, a shield; and in the upper corners the letters U. S., with WAR DEPARTMENT across the top, and the denomination across the bottom of the stamp.

The Navy Department has a cable, extending around the stamp, outside of the medallion, with NAVY DEPARTMENT and two stars in the upper corners, the denomination written across the bottom, and the letters U. S. in the lower corners.

The Treasury stamp has folds of drapery, with heavy cords and tassels depending, on the sides of the medallion. TREASURY across the top, and the denomination across the bottom, and the letters U. S. in the corners, under the word "Treasury."

Stamps for the White House have EXECUTIVE written across the top in large letters, and U. S. in the upper corners; plain sides, and denomination across the bottom.

The Interior stamps are the handsomest of the series. The name of the department is written across the top, extending from side to side, with stars in the upper corners, and pillars on the sides, running from the top, and terminating with the letters U. S. set in relief.

The State Department stamp is very plain. The name of the department across the top, plain sides, with large letters, U. S., at the lower corners, and denomination across the bottom.

The Department of Justice has a plain and severe looking stamp, with plain sides and corners; DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE written across the top, and the letters U. S. in large type set in stars at the lower sides.

The Post-office Department stamp, instead of the medallion, will have the denomination in large figures, and full relief in white, on a black ground. The border of this stamp is of exquisite workmanship, and is composed of a delicate wreath of leaves entwined around the medallion; the letters U. S. are in the lower corners, and two balls in the upper corners. The reason for making the post-office stamp different from the others is, that the Post-office Department has to distribute these stamps to 30,000 postmasters throughout the country for official use, and it will occasion less confusion, and less opportunity for careless, ignorant, and dishonest postmasters to disarrange the system by having a distinctive stamp for their own use.

Each department has a different colour, so that there will be no occasion for the correspondence to get mixed. The colour for the War Department is carmine; the Navy, blue; the Interior, vermilion; State, green; Treasury, velvet-brown; Post-office, black; Agricultural, straw colour; Department of Justice, royal purple; Executive, chocolate.

It was at first proposed to give to each department a different and emblematic design, without regard to colour; but upon consultation, it was decided to make the colour distinctive, leaving the general design the same for all. The shades used by the departments will be entirely different from those in general use, so that a glance will determine the difference. The selections of colours have nearly all been made, and the designs chosen.

* [Our best thanks are due to Mr. W. K. Freeman, for communication of an extract from the New York *Evening Telegram* of 1st ult., giving precisely the same details, both contributors having evidently obtained the information, which they have so obligingly sent, from the same source. As in these descriptions there is one point which does not come out very clearly, we may take the opportunity of saying that we understand that the medallions are all printed in the colours used for the stamps employed by the public, and that the specially-engraved framework is printed for all the values in the one particular colour chosen for each department. Thus the colour for the War Department being carmine, we shall find the following varieties:—

1 cent, centre blue, frame carmine.
2 „ „ brown, „ carmine.
3 „ „ green, „ carmine.

and so on. The only difficulty is in respect of stamps of which the colour of the centre happens to be the same as that chosen for the framework, as for instance, in the case of the War Department, with the 90 c. Here, if the rule be carried through, we shall find a carmine centre and a carmine frame, and the same hitch must occur in respect of one value or another in all the intended series.—ED.]

There is in course of preparation a design for a special stamp, to be used by the State Department, to cover matter sent in despatch bags to foreign countries. This is to be done in two colours, with a medallion of William H. Seward (Secretary of State under Lincoln), engraved from the portrait of him in Carpenter's painting of the signing of the emancipation proclamation.

In conclusion, although having other matters to write about in this connection, let me state that these stamps are to be forwarded directly to the several departments by the Bank Note Company, in requisitions from the post-office at Washington, and that in no case are they to be delivered to the public, or sold to any person.

## POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

Advertising on French Post Cards.—A Paris advertising agent, as well as several *maisons de nouveautés* of the Boulevards, has made a contract with the Postmaster General for printing advertisements between the margin and the edge of the new post card. For such permission the contractors undertake to pay the post-office five centimes per card.

Female Employment in the United States Postal Service.—In answer to a circular letter from the Director of Posts, Berlin, Germany, Postmaster-General Cresswell replies, that the number of women employed in the postal service of the United States, is about 700, and they discharge the duties of their respective positions to the general acceptance of the department.—*The Curiosity Hunter.*

The Thurn and Taxis Stamps.—Mr. O. Taylor remarks that no remainders are procurable of the stamps in question. This is accounted for by the fact that the Prussians (owing, we understand, to a peculiar grudge against the Prince of Thurn and Taxis, on account of his Austrian proclivities and connections) burnt or otherwise destroyed all the stamps and apparatus found in any of the offices of which they took possession.—*The Philatelist.*

A Select Letter Service.—According to the *Italie*, the Empress of Russia, while in Italy, does not correspond with the Emperor by the post-office. A service of couriers has been established between Sorrento and St. Petersburg, composed of eighteen persons, who are continually *en route* between the two places. Every time the Empress writes, as she does nearly every day, a courier starts with the packet, which he is instructed to deliver into the hands of the Czar himself.

A Pigeon Express for Newspapers.—*The Ceylon Observer* has been attempting to run a "pigeon express" between Galle and Colombo, and would very likely have succeeded, had not a blood-thirsty civet-cat wriggled herself between the narrow bars (1½ in. apart) of the dovecot, and killed five of the finest pigeons in training; in every case it had cut the jugular vein and sucked the blood. *The Observer* hopes, however, that ere many weeks other pigeons, now in training, will be regularly bringing from Galle to Colombo, the budgets of news, written and printed on thin paper for the special purpose.

How Americans use up Postage Stamps.—The following will convey some idea of the immense number of postage stamps used in the United States. In the space of three months, the National Bank Note Company have made over 143,000,000 of all denominations, valued at over 4,000,000 dollars. During the past year 520,000,000 have been completed in a week, and 13,000,000 in a single day. Three times as many three cent stamps as of all other denominations combined. After them comes the one cent, and then the two and six cent.—The last weekly return of the company showed a manufacture of over 14,000,000 of finished stamps.—*American Newspaper Reporter.*

Fish by Post.—To send live fish in a letter by post from Naples to London would seem at first sight an incredible and impossible feat, and yet it has been done. Five little sea fish, measuring each about two inches long, wrapped up in damp sea-weed *(varech)* were forwarded, says the *Correspondance Anglaise*, on the 4th January, from Naples to London, as a registered packet, addressed to the Crystal Palace Aquarium. The little parcel weighed seven ounces. It reached its destination on the morning of the 9th. When unpacked the fish were found to be rather exhausted, but when they were placed in a vessel filled with sea-water, four out of the five regained their senses, and at present swim fearlessly about in their new domain. The travellers belong to the genus *amphiocus*, which figure in almost the lowest rank of the vertebrated order.—*Moniteur Officiel.*

Postal Jokes.—Years ago, when the cost of postage was much greater than at present, jokes were sometimes played off, the fun of which was to make a man pay heavy postage for very unnecessary information. When Collins, the artist, was once with some friends around him, one of them resisted every attempt to induce him to to stay to supper. He withdrew, and the friends in council over the banquet resolved that the sulky guest should be punished. Accordingly, on the following day Collins sent him a folded sheet of foolscap, on which was written, "After you left we had stout and oysters." The receiver understood what was meant, but he was equally resolved to have his revenge. Accordingly, biding his time, he transmitted, in a feigned hand, a letter to Collins, in which the painter read only, "Had you?" Therewith the joke seemed at an end; but Collins would have the last word. He waited and waited till the matter was almost forgotten, and then the writer of the last query opened a letter one morning in which he had the satisfaction of finding an answer to it in the words, "Yes, we had."—*Family Herald.*

Clever Detection of a Post-Office Thief.—As is well-known, Boston is a sort of postal head-quarters for New England, and a very large proportion of the mails from the South and West, intended for Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont, pass through that office, so that, aside from the day force, some twenty clerks are employed in distributing and forwarding the mails during the night. Between November and March last, Messrs. Hunter and Co., publishers at Hinsdale, N. H., were daily annoyed by, and suffered great losses from, the failure of valuable letters to reach their address. The losses were duly reported to the post-office department, and agents were put on the watch. Still, the losses continued; letters from California, Africa, the Sandwich Islands, and from almost every state, from Springfield, Boston, and from all points from which they had to pass through Boston, started but never reached their destination. These losses were almost entirely confined to the letters ad-

dressed to the firm named, of which nearly a thousand often passed through Boston in a single night; and although the losses daily increased—including not only letters with coin, but also those containing money-orders, drafts, checks, &c.—no clue could be obtained to the thief. One day, about the middle of February, Hunter and Co., in assorting their afternoon letters from Boston, discovered a large number of letters from various states, each of which was smoked on the back of the envelope, and when, upon opening the entire lot, they were found to contain nothing valuable, the conclusion was instantly arrived at, that someone had been using a light, and, by holding the letter over it, could easily see what letters contained money, and those that did not were allowed to proceed, while the others were stolen.

This clue was at once made use of, and the special agent at Boston for two weeks watched the employés vigilantly. On the first of March a night-watch was established, which soon succeeded in catching the thief in the act, the result of which was the arrest, on the 22nd, of Frederick W. Cooper, a night clerk at the distributing department. Cooper, who had been employed since November last in making up the mails which left Boston early in the morning, had, contrary to rules, been in the habit of reporting for duty before the designated time—11.30 p.m. —sometimes coming by half-past ten. This gave him the whole field to himself, and his method was to take a package, hold each letter over the gas-light, and steal all letters containing money, checks, &c. The rest, with, however, the tell-tale smoke-mark on them, were sent forward. Just after Cooper was detected, he left the office, and two weeks later he returned and tendered his resignation to Postmaster Burt, saying that he "could not stay any longer." Mr. Burt replied that he probably would stay longer than he wished, and at once arrested him. He denied the theft *in toto*, and referred the officer to his recommendations, but upon being taken before the special agent and cross-questioned, he broke down and confessed. An examination followed, and in default of bail he was committed.

Cooper's statement of the amount stolen bears no comparison to the amount missing, which is known to be at least $4000 in cash, besides an immense number of money, orders, drafts, checks, &c., all of which he had destroyed. He appears very penitent, which is, however, very characteristic of post-office robbers in general. Thus, after four months of steady depredations, and after causing great loss, annoyance, and delay to thousands who had sent money in various sums, the thief is caged and pretty sure to get his deserts.—*The Springfield Union.*

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### A HOME-MADE PERMANENT ALBUM.

*To the Editor of* "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—Having been engaged for some time past in the manufacture of an album for my collection of postage stamps, I venture to send you the following account of my method of so doing, in hope that it may prove interesting and perhaps instructive to such of your readers as may contemplate the performance of a similar task, premising that I do not wish to claim any great amount of originality for my design, having picked up many hints from letters and papers in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine;* but, having done all that I am about to describe, I may be able to give some details of the manufacture, which could hardly be given by one who had not tried it.

The main object of my method of construction is the attainment of permanence, by means of separate pages, fastened together in such a manner as to allow of the book being at any time taken to pieces for the insertion of fresh pages, in their proper places, or for entire re-arrangement. My book is fastened together by strings passed through holes, half an inch from the inner edge of each page, which holes are prevented from splitting or enlarging in any way by being protected by brass eyelets, the paper being further strengthened, as will be seen presently, by the linen hinge, which acts as a kind of backing.

The construction which I am about to describe can, of course, be adapted to pages of any size; but I will give the dimensions which I have used myself. The material I have employed is a very thin cardboard, somewhat thicker than the thickest drawing paper, and smoother on one side than on the other. I find the smooth side the best to rule lines upon, and it is, I believe, the right side of the paper, though the appearance of the other is equally pleasing. This cardboard is sold in sheets, twenty-two inches by thirty, price threepence each. It makes the book very thick; but it is more durable than any paper would be, is less liable to wrinkle, and is quite capable of carrying whole envelopes and post cards without danger of tearing.

I make the pages in two parts, which I will term, respectively, the *leaf* and the *hinge-piece*. The former measures eleven inches by eight inches, and the latter one inch by eight inches; the whole page being, therefore, an oblong of twelve inches by eight inches. I cut six leaves out of each sheet by dividing it longitudinally down the centre, and then cutting three pieces, each eight inches wide, out of each half; this leaves two pieces eleven inches long and six inches wide, out of which the hinge-piece can be cut.

The two parts are joined together by a piece of tape rather more than an inch-and-a-quarter broad; this is pasted on so as to cover the whole of the hinge-piece, leaving about a quarter-of-an-inch of the tape on which to paste the edge of the leaf, between which and the hinge-piece I leave a space of about one-sixteenth of an inch, which allows the leaf to turn freely on the hinge thus formed; I find that the leaf is held quite securely by a quarter-of-an-inch of the breadth of the tape, and the hinge-piece is much strengthened by being completely backed by it.

Round the leaf I rule a line, leaving a margin three-quarters of an inch wide at the top, bottom, and outer side, and one-quarter of an inch at the inner side—that next the hinge; thus forming a space of ten inches by six-and-a-half available for the stamps.

Should you think that it would be of any interest to your readers, I will proceed in the next number to describe my method of arrangement, in its general principles, and in its application to the different countries and their various issues; in the meantime I remain,

Yours very truly,

*Norwich.* CHETH.

[We shall have pleasure in inserting our correspondent's promised second letter.—ED.]

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

C. M.—You will find the French 10 c. brown on pink referred to in our February number. On page 123 of the last volume is an engraving of the current German type, with enlarged eagle; and further reference is made to the issue on page 186 of the same volume. We are, nevertheless, obliged to you for writing us on the subject.

## INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF THE RUSSIAN LOCAL STAMPS.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

The following article is principally based on information obligingly communicated by the St. Petersburg correspondent to this magazine, supplemented by details drawn from the French *Journal Officiel* and other papers. Its composition has been retarded, in the expectation that further intelligence would come to hand. Of its incomplete character the writer is fully aware, nor would he have ventured on publishing it, but for the hope he entertains, that it may act as a pioneer to worthier attempts to elucidate an interesting subject.

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The Russian local stamps, although they have taken a recognised rank among postal emissions, are but little understood. A certain amount of incredulity respecting their *bonâ-fide* nature is not inexcusable on the part of collectors, seeing how many well-puffed shams have, of late years, acquired an undeserved notoriety; and the disposition to look askance at them has been strengthened by the assertions of well-meaning persons who have made a few weeks' stay in Russia, to the effect that the local stamps are unknown to the postal officials. But the chief obstacle to an unhesitating acceptance of these stamps, is the vagueness of our knowledge of the circumstances under which they have sprung into existence, and the exact purposes they serve. The possession of an acquaintance with these essential facts suffices to do away with all vestige of suspicion, and gives to these quaint emissions an interest they would not otherwise inspire.

Properly to understand the Russian locals, we must take a glance at the internal economy of the empire, starting from the great event of 1861—the liberation of the serfs. This was accompanied by important edicts, regulating the administration of the rural districts. It was requisite to provide the freed men with a system of civil government which should educate them up to the improved position they were thenceforth to occupy. Previously existing institutions were therefore remodelled, and their benefits extended. Elective assemblies became the order of the day. The Russian communes themselves had, in their humble way, been accustomed for ages to regulate their internal affairs by means of a council composed of the heads of families of the village, elected in the proportion of one to every five hearths. The repartition of the taxes, the administration of justice, the division of the communal lands, all these duties were performed by the assembly of elders, which met on Sundays, in summer in the open air, in winter at the house of the most wealthy member. The powers of these village parliaments were confirmed in 1861, and at the same time, for judicial and other purposes, the villages were grouped together into *volosths*, or cantons, with a central council, presided over by a chief elected among the peasants, who, during its recesses, is assisted by a kind of committee or delegation, consisting of the heads of the villages forming the *volosth*.

An important advance in the development of the system of government by representation, which was thus initiated in the village administration, took place on the 1st of January, 1864. Provincial and district representative assemblies were then established in thirty-two * out of the seventy-six governments into which the major part of Russia is divided, and also in the territory of Bessarabia. The following are the names of the thirty-two governments, and as they have a connection with the issue of local stamps, it is as well to bear them in mind.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Charkoff | Orel | Taurida |
| Cherson | Penza | Tambow |
| Ekaterinoslav | Perm | Toula |
| Kaluga | Petersburg | Tver |
| Kazan | Poltawa | Tschernigow |
| Kostroma | Pskoff | Yaroslaf |
| Koursk | Riasan | Wologda |
| Moscow | Samara | Woronej |
| Nijni Novgorod | Saratow | Wjatka |
| Novgorod | Simbirsk | Wladimir. |
| Olonetz | Smolensk | |

With the provincial assemblies, which are the more important of the two, we have but little to do. They deal, as their name imports,

* The French *Journal Officiel* says thirty-three, but I prefer to accept the number fixed by the St. Petersburg correspondent, as it is accompanied with a list of the names of the governments, and is, moreover, officially guaranteed.

with the affairs of the entire province or government. Their annual sessions, which are of twenty days' duration, are held in the chief town of the government, and during their vacations, a permanent committee execute their decisions. Our business is more especially with the District Land Assemblies, which are composed (like the provincial assemblies) of delegates in equal proportions, of the landed proprietors, inhabitants of cities, and peasants within the district. The districts, it should be observed, are the leading sub-divisions of the governments. Some notion of their extent and relative importance may be formed from the fact, that in the whole of European Russia there are but 185 of them.

To resume: the district assemblies meet once a year for ten days. They are quite independent of each other, but are all equally subordinate to the provincial assemblies. Following the system adopted by the latter, the district assembly elects a committee consisting of a president and not more than three assessors, to administer the district affairs during the vacations. This committee is renewed at the end of every third year. It holds its sittings in the chief town of the district, where the president must have his residence. It is called the *Zemskaya Uprava*, or land court, and it is by this court or board that the public business is really transacted. The local postage service, wherever established, is under its control, and how it is worked we shall presently see.

The exact period when the first Russian local posts were established is not known. In fact, it is in respect of the date and circumstances of their establishment that the greatest difficulty occurs; for whilst on the one hand the imperial decree authorising the creation of such posts is dated the 5th September, 1870, on the other hand we find ourselves confronted with the emissions of Bogorodsk and Borowitz, which were noticed in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* in the middle of 1869; and it is asserted that other locals have been in existence since even an earlier date. The missing link in the chain of evidence is the source of the authorisation in virtue of which these first locals appeared. Unfortunately we do not possess means of tracing it, and there are but few data to help us in our search. We know indeed from *The St. Petersburg Gazette* (See *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. viii., p. 171) that when the local boards were first established their official correspondence was carried free, though whether by the post-office or otherwise is not stated, and that the ultimate withdrawal of that privilege led to a resolution by the land assembly of the Voronej government, in December, 1869, to establish a local post. We further learn that the resolution was disapproved of by the Voronej government, and annulled by the senate in August, 1870, on the ground "of its not being in accordance, in the first place, with the 1114th clause of the code, which directly prohibits the opening of any private establishment over and above the post-office department, for the carriage of letters; and, in the second place, with the imperial statute of 1st May, 1870, regarding the manner of conveying the correspondence of local courts." Now, it may well have been that similar action on the part of the land assemblies in other provinces may not have met with a rebuke from the governors of such provinces, but, on the contrary, may have been approved of by them. This is the most plausible explanation of the issue of the Bogorodsk and other stamps in 1868-69. They were in some sense irregularly issued, for though they must have had the sanction of the provincial authorities, their emission, as has been seen above, was contrary to the established law. The case of the Voronej land assembly was probably a typical one. Its resolutions were blamed for form's sake by the senate, whose observations really applied to the action of other provinces besides Voronej; but in less than a month afterwards the local service was regularly authorised. The matter must have been under the consideration of the government for some time previously, for the decree reproduced below shows a practical acquaintance with the particularities of the local service and its requirements which could not have been evoked out of a mere theoretical study.

Moreover, it must be borne in mind that if the local posts were, as it would seem, at first informally established in certain districts, the land assemblies, which thus took

the initiative in the creation of the service, were acting in the interests of their constituents, and the assemblies themselves being new institutions, which required to be developed, and not snubbed, it is possible that the governors, and perhaps the head administration, may have winked at the irregularity of the proceedings in consideration of the good really effected. However this may be, the writer feels convinced that the decree hereunder given, in spite of its necessarily stiff phraseology, should be looked on as intended not only to authorise the creation of local posts, but legally to confirm, and perhaps extend, the privileges of those already in existence. We find in the emission of local stamps prior to the date of the decree an apparent contradiction; but facts are facts, and a single good one is worth a dozen conjectures. We *know* that the stamps in question are authentic, and we *know* that the decree is authentic; the only conclusion we can draw is the one already indicated, namely, that the issue of the stamps was sanctioned by some authorities of whose acts we have no knowledge at present. Admitting the existence of these stamps, we, nevertheless, found their legality and their history —equally with that of subsequently issued series—on the decree, to which we now proceed.

St. Petersburg, 5-17 September, 1870.

Seeing that the means at the disposal of the post'al department are insufficient to ensure the transmission of the private correspondence of all the inhabitants of the empire, more especially of those who reside in localities which, from their geographical position, are almost entirely deprived of postal communication, or which happen to be at a great distance from the offices established by the post; with a view to facilitate to the inhabitants of those countries the possibility of exchanging their correspondence in the most convenient, and, above all, in the least costly manner, and in virtue of the laws of the Senate, dated the 27th August, of this year, I authorise the establishment of a special local post in the localities in which it may be needed, on the following conditions :—

1.—The local post is authorised—

*a*.—To carry ordinary correspondence, and also journals, circulars, remittances, registered letters, and other packages from the post-town to all the more or less distant portions of the district.

*b*.—To convey all such correspondence, &c., from the district to the nearest post-office.

*c*.—And to carry all such correspondence *between* such portions of the district as may be deprived of postal communications.

2.—Persons wishing to receive their correspondence through the post-office through the local post must present at the post-office written declarations or authorisations to that effect from the board (or court) of the district to which they belong.

3.—The transport of local correspondence must be confined to the cross-roads between the postal town and the villages.

4.—The local post is authorised to employ special postage stamps, solely on the express understanding that their design shall differ entirely from that of the stamps employed by the imperial post-office.

5.—The country letter-carriers of the local post may have on their bags the arms of the government or district, but without the post-horn.

Informing your Excellency of the arrangements made, I have the honour to beg you to transmit to the various offices the regulations of the local post, and to engage the provincial tribunals to contribute on their side to its organization, so as to ensure to the inhabitants of the district the free interchange of their correspondence.

The Minister for Home Affairs,
(Signed) PRINCE LOBANOFF ROSTOVSKY.
The Director,
BARON VELIO.

This decree was modified by a subsequent one, dated the $\frac{10}{22}$ November, 1871, of which the principal articles are to the following effect :—

1.—The responsibility for the regular transmission of the correspondence delivered by the imperial to the local post falls on the latter, and should a registered letter be lost, the local post must pay an indemnity of ten roubles.

2.—The local post may be worked over *all* non-postal roads, and the carriers may, if necessary, cross the post-roads, or even go along them to reach the next by-road.

The second article forms an important modification of the original rule, which it is easy to understand must have led to much unnecessary delay.

So far, then, for the laws which regulate the local post. Their execution is left with the district land assemblies, and, perhaps—for on this point the writer's information is not quite clear—the provincial assemblies may have a voice in the matter. The establishment of a local post is, in the first instance, made the subject of a vote, and if the decision of the deliberative bodies be in its favour, the organisation of the service is left to the local board, or land court, consisting, as already stated, of a president and not more than three assessors, elected for three years by the district assembly. It is the president of this board who is charged with the duty of submitting the designs for the stamps to the assembly, whose approval of them must be obtained, and it is he who attends to the printing, and in fact to all the arrangements. He makes his report to the district assembly; but the fashion of publishing blue-

books has not yet affected the Russian provincial councils, so that the hope for a moment entertained by the writer of getting official statistics respecting some of the local posts is not likely to be gratified.

The president, who, for our purpose, is no other than the rural postmaster, lives in the chief town of the district. The offices of the rural administration, or *uprava*, are also situated there, and in those offices the local postage stamps are kept.

The limitation of the employment of the local post to those persons only who obtain authority from their local court to receive their letters *appears* to be very injudicious, more especially as it would seem to involve the necessity of a journey to the chief town to get there quired document; but, perhaps, in practice the regulation does not really work badly. We know but very little of Russian habits in the matter of letter writing. Probably the peasants are as averse to correspondence as in most other countries, and the rural mails are chiefly composed of business communications. The business men of the district would easily obtain the authorisation of the local board; and, again, it may be that personal application for the same is not necessary. Besides providing himself with a permit, the village inhabitant who wishes to receive his correspondence through the local post must pay an annual subscription of 1 rouble 43 kopecs, which it may be presumed goes to meet the current expenses of the office.

A supplementary decree, issued by the home-office on the 25th October, 1870, to some extent opens the privilege of the local post to "non-subscribers" by a sensible provision that should the sender of a letter, of which the addressee lives elsewhere than in a post-town, state on the envelope that he wishes the letter to be taken to its destination, the post is bound to send it.

The correspondence between the local courts, the dispute respecting which led to the establishment of a postal service—*pro bono publico*—is carried by the local post free of charge, as indeed might have been supposed, seeing that the service really belongs to these courts. No official stamps are employed to represent the postage, but the letters are sealed with the seal of the district court, and entered in a book in which the receiving-court signs an acknowledgment of receipt. The Rjeff circular stamp, engraved on p. 185 of the last volume of the *S. C. M.*, is, in reality, merely used as a seal.

The localities served by the local post comprise, not only the out-of-the-way villages, but also not a few towns, which, happening not to lie on the imperial post-roads, are not in direct communication with the state post-office. On the other hand, villages which are on the post-roads, get their *through* letters by the state office, and are only indebted to the local office for their letters from other villages which lie off the post-road.

In the local service the rural letter carriers must play a very important part, for, as far as the writer can learn, no receiving-offices exist in the villages or towns; consequently it is the duty of the postman to deliver the letters *from* the chief town, receive the postage due on them, and collect the correspondence *for* the chief town. Seeing the distances they have to traverse, we should have thought it was the rule to send the postmen out on horseback, but it appears such is not the case. The postmen go on foot, and make their rounds in most governments three times a week; in some, at longer intervals.

(*To be continued*).

## SPANISH POSTAL CHRONOLOGY.

BY DON M. P. DE FIGUEROA.

(Translated from the *Revista de Correos*.)

It will be admitted that bibliography and legislation, in the matter of which we treat, are the necessary starting-points for every kind of disquisition. Few philatelical works have been published in Spain, but, in compensation, a number of laws exist relating to postage stamps. Leaving the list of publications for another occasion, allow me to submit to your appreciation the following catalogue of postal regulations. Excuse its omissions and redundancies, and allow me to hope that you or your readers will be good enough to improve it by adding to it items which may have escaped me, and eliminating whatever may be considered out of place.

1849.

*24th Oct. and 1st Dec.*—That on and after the 1st January, 1851, the prepayment and registration of letters shall be effected by means of gummed paper labels which shall bear the bust of Her Majesty the Queen, and that the backs of the stamps must be moistened, to enable them to adhere to the envelopes. Notice given that the stamps should be put in the upper *left* corner, and that care must be taken to well wet the gum to prevent them from falling off. In the *Carta de Correos Postas* (Madrid, 1865) and the *Cartilla Postal de Espana* (Barcelona, 1868), both which may be considered as official publications, it is recommended that the stamps should be put in the upper *right* corner. This is more just, convenient, and logical.

1850 and 1851.

Nothing.

1852.

*4th September.*—That black printing-ink shall be used for the obliteration of postage stamps.

*3rd November.*—That letter-boxes shall be placed in various parts of Madrid for the service of the local post-office, and that special stamps, of which the use shall be obligatory, shall be fabricated for the local correspondence.

1853.

*11th May.*—That great care should be taken in obliterating the postage stamps to notice if any appear doubtful. Reference is made to the discovery of false stamps on letters posted in Granada.

*29th May.*—That arrangements had been made for the issue of postage stamps of a new type for the ensuing year. That at the same time corresponding stamps for the local service recently established in Madrid, shall be proceeded with, and that the price of *one cuarto* shall be indicated on them, instead of *three cuartos* as at present.

[I have not thought it necessary to quote the dispositions which refer either directly or indirectly to the changes in the Spanish stamps in the years 1851, 1852, and 1853.]

*8th October.*—That on and after the 15th of this month, the postage of every single-weight letter for the interior of Madrid will be fixed at *one cuarto*, and that the stamps of that value will consequently be issued at once, instead of deferring the execution of the reform until the following year.

1854.

*16th March.*—On and after the 1st July, obligatory prepayment of official correspondence by means of the stamps which will be prepared for the purpose.

[On the 1st January, 1855, these stamps were changed, but I cannot find any decree which sanctions the alteration in shape and design].

*16th March.*—Proceedings to be taken in respect of letters bearing used stamps, and the punishment to be inflicted on those who may clean or sell to the public stamps which have passed the post.

## OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

*The Philatelist.*— In the May number the only noticeable items, other than those of which we have already taken leave to make use, are found in the article on recent and undescribed emissions. Thus, in disproof of the statement, which originated with the defunct *Timbrophile*, to the effect that the green 1 rl. Honduras were reserved exclusively for home, and the rose 1 rl. for foreign letters, the editor of *The Philatelist* observes, that at the April meeting of the London Philatelic Society the envelope of a letter from Amapala, addressed to a London firm, was exhibited, whereon half-a-dozen of the *green* Honduras adhesives appeared duly pen-post-marked. This, however, as the learned editor justly adds, though it militates against, does not fully controvert, the statement referred to, inasmuch as the employment of the green stamp may have arisen from a temporary lack of its pink companion. Under the title, "Colonial Essays," the following notice appears:—

A correspondent sends two stamps for information regarding them, which we hope to obtain from a trustworthy source. They are both printed in colour on white, and perforated. One bears the numeral 1, white in centre; across which runs PENNY, in colour on white. The whole on a small patterned groundwork within double-lined frame. Red, 1 penny. The other is more elaborate. The large numeral 1 is traversed by the word SHILLING, as before, within a circle, the ground of which is engine-turned. Fan-shaped triangles are at each corner, com-

posed of curved lines, numerals of value lying thereon. The intermediate space has wavy lines; double-lined frame. Blue, 1 shilling. The perforation of these labels proves that they were not early essays for Great Britain. They must, consequently, be colonial.

We are inclined to question the postal character of these mysterious designs. They may, perhaps, do work akin to that performed by the "instruction" stamps of some European countries, but in any case their claims to attention appear to us to be very slight. If we remember aright, similar essays were sent us several years since for examination

The June number of *The Philatelist* is well up to the usual standard. The most remarkable article is contributed by Dr. Magnus, and is no other than his prize essay "On the Various Modes of Printing Postage Stamps." The explanations of technical processes are given with the learned doctor's usual lucidity, and upon the appearance of the second part of the essay (the first part only being published in the number under review), we purpose laying its substance before our readers. "The Stamps of St. Louis redeemed from Obloquy" is the title of an article translated from *Le Timbre-Poste*, of which we shall have occasion to speak when reviewing the latter journal. The "Spud Paper" for June is from the pen of the Rev. R. B. Earée, who worthily occupies the space usually filled by Mr. Pemberton. The forgeries described are some recent New Granada fabrications. The 1 c. green of 1871 is very fairly imitated, and it is only necessary to place a genuine copy beside the counterfeit, to appreciate the difficulty with which the describers of forgeries have often to contend in specifying any one *easily perceptible* point of difference between the true and the false stamp, notwithstanding the vast difference in the *ensemble* which really exists. Seen side by side with the genuine stamp, the poverty of the lithographed forgery is startling, but the writer of the "Spud Papers" must be able to point out such particularities in it as will ensure its detection without the necessity of having recourse to comparison. Struck with the secondary character of the points indicated by the Rev. R. B. Earée, we sought to discover others which if not more certain should be easier guides to detection, and we then realised, as our readers may also do if they please, the difficulty of the task, and perceived that nothing could profitably be added to the writer's analysis. As we have said, the execution as a whole is far inferior to that of the real stamp, but the single notable difference consists in a flaw in the border-line, immediately over the top of the s in NACIONALES, making a white spot which *joins* the s to the line. In the 2 c. brown of 1872 a good test of the forgery is supplied by the two small scrolls across the top corners, containing the motto of the republic, LIBERTAD in the left-hand scroll, ORDEN in the right. In the genuine stamp these words can easily be read, whilst in the forgery LIBERTAD is totally unreadable, and ORDEN in right top corner becomes ORGIA.

*The American Journal of Philately* is now a fortnightly publication, but as the bi-monthly numbers are only half the size of the old monthly issue there is no real increase in bulk, and we are sorry to see a considerable falling off in the attractiveness of its contents. For the first four months of the year the journal was filled, to the exclusion of almost all other matter, with Mr. W. K. Freeman's monograph on the United States envelopes—an unquestionably able and exhaustive compilation, but, from its very nature, calculated to interest only a small section of our American contemporary's host of subscribers. In our humble opinion a succession of dinners off a single joint, however excellent that joint may be, is likely to exert a depressing influence on the appetite; and, whilst prepared to render all honour to the *pièce de résistance* which figured so long on our contemporary's bill of fare, we cannot refrain from saying that we should have liked to have seen it accompanied by some tasty side-dishes, upon the ingredients of which we might have had the pleasure of dilating in these pages. Now that Mr. Freeman's article has come to an end its place is taken by reprints, and the decadence which is marked by the almost entire absence of original matter is far from being of good augur for the future of American philately. For this reason we cannot help indulging in an almost angry feeling at our contemporary's dulness, and if these

observations have their effect in waking him up, we shall not be sorry. The only noticeable feature in the more recent numbers is the reprint of a lecture on the New York City post-office, delivered by James Watson, a letter-carrier, at Steinway Hall. From this we learn that in 1623 the primitive New York post-office came into being. Captains of vessels bringing letters from the old country began to deposit them at a coffee-house, where they were displayed in a rack; and the first letter-carriers were the good-natured hangers-on of the place who would volunteer to take letters to those whose visits to the coffee-house were rare. In 1764 the mail service between New York and Philadelphia was changed from twice a month to twice a week; and till some years after the revolution a boy with saddle-bags carried the mail without overloading his horse; now, a large mail-car, making four or five trips a day, is hardly sufficient to transport the mails between these two cities. Speaking of the abuse of the franking privilege half a century ago, the lecturer states that "A congress-man from New Jersey rode his mare to Washington during Jackson's first term, and then franked her back to New York, to which place she was led tied to the mail coach!" After that we think we may stop.

*The Stamp-Collector's Guide* seems to be going up just as the *American Journal of Philately* would appear to be going down. Its articles are original and readable. Thus, the opening paper in the current number, treating of the 1 c. Confederate stamp, is decidedly interesting, and bears a certain imprint of veracity and candour which disposes the reader to place faith in the statements it contains. After referring to the high prices realised by the copies, few and far between, which came on "the market" prior to 1871, the writer of the article in question—W. A. K.—goes on to give the following explanation of the sudden and surprising increase in the number of specimens on sale, which occurred about that time:—

In January, 1871, we received *four hundred* of the stamps, in sheet, among a quantity of other Confederate stamps, from a young man named Lucas, at Charleston, South Carolina. We were surprised thereat, never before having met with over a half dozen copies, and, supposing from Mr. Offut's statements that *very few* were printed, and *none distributed to post-offices*, we at once put forth efforts to secure whatever more of the stamps there were to be had, and also information concerning them. From Lucas we could obtain nothing satisfactory, but later a young man named Dodge opened a correspondence with us, sold us several thousand of the 1 c. stamps, and promised to call at our office in New York at an early day, and give us some facts concerning the stamps. He visited us in June, and the story he tells we have no reason to doubt. He is a cripple, had been south for his health, seemed a reliable young man. We were *convinced* that the stamps were genuine *originals* from the fact that he had a limited quantity, which cost him nothing, and which he sold at any price, and that he was not posted as to the value of various stamps. His story was, that when the Federal troops entered the city of Charleston they ransacked the post-office, and threw the stamps into the streets, where they were picked up by whoever wished them. The stamps he had were thus preserved, and he obtained them from a lady-resident of the city who *gave* them to him. He gave us the lady's name, Miss A. D. Robinson, and upon our writing to her, she confirmed the story of Mr Dodge. The public now has an explanation of the sudden appearance on the market of the "Confederate ones." We believe there are about 30,000 in the hands of various parties.

Among the other articles, that on "Newly-discovered Novelties" (a tautological title, by the way) is worthy of mention, as it contains a description of two Confederate locals for the town of Goliad, Texas. The design consists of a figure of value in the centre, GOLIAD above, POSTAGE below; J. A. CLARKE on the left, and POSTMASTER on the right-hand side; the whole within a type-set frame. Three specimens only are known, and efforts to obtain further information through the postmaster have failed, because, as it is asserted, Mr. Clarke was so much mixed up in the rebellion that he does not care about being "drawn out" on any subject connected with it. Of the three known specimens two are of the value of 5 cents, and one of these two has the word GOLIAD misprinted GOILAD; the third stamp is a 10 cent. Their describer omits to state in what colour these stamps are printed. He is sanguine of their authenticity, but without discrediting them we would rather wait before voting for their admission.

*The Stamp-Collector's Chronicle* is a new publication of about the size of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, containing fourteen pages of well-printed and well-written matter. It hails from St. John's, N. B., and is to some extent the successor of *The Canadian Philatelist*—a promising journal which, it is stated,

has been discontinued solely through the editor's lack of time to look after it. For a similar reason the new journal will only be issued once a quarter. We, for our part, should be very glad to receive it once a month, for we have derived considerable pleasure from its perusal. It contains, *inter alia*, a readable article on postal cards, their utility, collection, and arrangement, by Mr. L. W. Durbin (an old contributor to these pages), and a lucid and interesting paper on the coins and stamps of Prince Edward Island. From the latter we learn there was never "any legal or authorised coin for the island prior to the advent of the 1 cent copper coin which appeared in the autumn of 1871. The coins formerly passing current in the island were manufactured some ten (?) years ago by some private parties—who they were never transpired—on their own responsibility, and as the government did not interfere to prevent their circulation, they gradually came to be accepted as legitimate and to be generally used by the inhabitants; they ceased to be of value, however, upon the introduction of the new decimal issue." This intelligence is valuable, inasmuch as the first series of the island stamps have their denomination expressed in the irregular currency. The writer of the article says the coins were put in circulation "some ten years ago." This must be an error or a misprint, seeing that the stamps made their appearance in 1860, at which date the unofficial coinage must have already acquired a currency by prescription. The ninepenny stamp contains an allusion to the currency in the explanatory legend in the lower margin, "equal to sixpence sterling," the necessity for which, the New Brunswick essayist declares to have remained a mystery. He affirms, on the authority of a correspondent in the island postal department, that "but a few *hundreds* of this value were issued, and but a very few of that number were actually used." The accuracy of this statement we must take leave to doubt. It must have been very lightly made; for were it founded on fact, the 9d. Prince Edward Island would be an exceedingly rare, instead of a tolerably common stamp, and used specimens would be particularly scarce. We all know what is meant by a few scores or even hundreds of stamps scattered among the entire philatelic community. Such stamps are rarely seen out of good collections, whilst, in fact, the ninepenny Prince Edward Island is hardly as scarce as its sixpenny companion. Decidedly the postal official on whom the writer relied was either careless or mistaken in his assertions.

With reference to the questionable Ecuador stamps recently chronicled, the editor of *The Stamp-Collector's Chronicle* makes the following rather remarkable statement:—

> Upon reverting to our albums of bogus stamps, we find perfect *fac-similes* of the half-real and the one peso in a set of counterfeit Ecuador, which we received about a year ago from a firm then trading in Boston.

We should like to examine the *fac-similes* here referred to, as, if they can be identified with the stamps received on this side, the proof against them would be very strong.

*Le Timbre Poste.*—The most important article in the May and June numbers is from the pen of Mr. Tiffany, and treats of the St. Louis stamps. The first portion of the article, which appeared in the May number, goes over ground which has already been trodden in the article on the "Postage Stamps of the United States," published in the fifth volume of this magazine. The Postage Act of 1845 is recapitulated, the circumstances under which certain provincial postmasters issued stamps of their own are dwelt on, and corroborative proof is given of the accuracy of our own statement that the postmasters' stamps were issued in the interval between the passage of the Act of March 3, 1845, and the passage of the second Postage Act in 1847. That they could not have been issued at a later period is evidenced from the fact that the second law forbad the postmasters to make use of stamps of their own creation. The pith of Mr. Tiffany's article lies in its second portion, published in the June number. It contains the following extract from *The Missouri Republican* of the 5th November, 1845.

> Stamps for Letters.—Mr. Wymer, the postmaster, has prepared a series of stamps, or rather marks, to be put on letters, and to show that the postage has been prepaid. The postmaster has only followed in this instance the practice in New York and other towns. These stamps are engraved. They represent the arms of the state of Missouri, and are of the value of 5 and 10 cents. They

are intended to be stuck on the letters like a wafer, and will be very useful to business men and to all who have to prepay a large correspondence, inasmuch as they will prevent the necessity of having to pay for each letter at the post-office. They will be sold at the rate of sixteen 5 c. stamps, or eight 10 c., for a dollar.

As Mr. Tiffany observes, the whole history of the stamps is contained in this short notice. It gives the name of the postmaster by whom they were issued, their value, their employment, the date of their issue, and the price at which they were sold; and it will be noticed that the postmaster is careful to recoup himself of his outlay for engraving, by selling his stamps at twenty-five per cent. above their facial and serviceable value.

With regard to the 2 c. and 20 c., Mr. Tiffany feels positive that they are the result of a fraudulent speculation; firstly, because Mr. Kershaw, the engraver, is certain he never engraved them; secondly, because Mr. Wymer, intimate as he was with Mr. Kershaw, would not have sought the services of another engraver; and, thirdly and conclusively, because there was no reason for issuing any such values, seeing that the postal rates were, respectively, 5 c. and 10 c.

Mr. Tiffany makes short work of the objections originally mooted by M. Albis, in *The Timbrophile*, and commented on at the time of their publication in these pages. M. Albis grounded his disbelief in the stamps principally on two facts. 1. That having inhabited St. Louis from 1848 to 1851, he had never seen the stamps; to which Mr. Tiffany answers that that is not astonishing, seeing that the circulation of the stamps ceased in the fall of 1847. 2. That all the postmasters since the one named in 1845 by President Polk, on being interrogated by M. Albis's friend (the judge, N. H.), had denied having any knowledge of the stamps; to which, in reply, Mr. Tiffany triumphantly poses the question: "As Mr. Wymer, who was postmaster from 1845 to 1853, died in 1865, that is to say three years *before* the inquiry was instituted, how did the judge set to work to interrogate him?" M. Albis also attempted to make some capital out of the fact that the stamps do not bear the word *cents* like those of other towns; but, says Mr. Tiffany, "Mr. Wymer had nothing to do with his colleagues' way of acting; he issued his stamps according to his own notions; the public knew what price they had to pay for them, and he knew what he got for them; therefore there was no confusion possible, and consequently no absolute necessity for putting the word *cents* on the stamps."

Mr. Tiffany has very completely performed his work in dissipating the last shadow of a doubt as to the authenticity of the 5 c. and 10 c. St. Louis, nor has he less completely demonstrated the spurious character of the 2 c. and 20 c. We only regret not having space for his entire article, of which the above is but an outline.

## NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

Our budget this month promises to be a very meagre one. Can it be that the hot weather has an influence on new emissions as well as on most other mundane things? It would almost seem so, and the hungerer after novelties must assuage his pangs as best he may by the perusal of the following list.

Victoria.—From this colony we receive a new ninepenny stamp, apparently of native execution, and very creditable "at that," as our American friends would say. The impression reminds us to no slight extent of the new 10 c. French, as it is in reddish-brown on pink. As to the design, it is not surprising that a colony bearing the name of Victoria should remain faithful to the representation of the Queen. The bust which adorns the stamp under notice is rather a peculiar one; it is distinguished by a neck of inordinate length, which terminates in a collarless robe, and consequently has an ungraceful look. Of the face we can say nothing, as in our specimen it is hidden to a great extent by the obliteration. The portrait is in a lined circle with VICTORIA in an arched label above following the edge of the circle, and NINEPENCE in a similar label below. As is the case with most of the Victorian stamps, the word POSTAGE is con-



spicuous for its absence. An ornamental border runs round the stamp, and the four angles are filled with small shields; those in the upper left and lower right corners contain a minute drawing of a kangaroo, whilst those in the opposite corners bear a representation of the emu. From this it will be seen that the Victorian stamp engraver has reverted to the employment of emblems, though he has not reproduced those which form the corner ornaments of an earlier series. It only remains to say that the new comer is watermarked with a single-line figure 9.

Russian Locals.—*Mariopol.*—The annexed quaint design has not hitherto been chronicled. Although hardly more than an inscribed diagram, there is something about the arrangement of it which attracts notice, and the emblems are decidedly remarkable. The cross dominating the crescent does not, however, make its appearance for the first time on the Mariopol stamp, it has already been represented on the Belozersk 3 kop. black, and its significance has never been explained. There is this much, however, of novelty in the Mariopol, that the engraver has given us an outline of the profile of the man in the moon. Our illustration may be considered as almost a fac-simile of the original, seeing that the latter is printed in black on thick, strong, wove, well-gummed, creamy paper. It is rather a scarce but perfectly genuine stamp, the few known copies having been obtained direct from a gentleman holding a high official position at St. Petersburg.




*Podolsk.*—A correspondent suggests that the crutch-like arms on this stamp are really stone-breaker's hammers. Acting on his recommendation, we have re-examined the stamp, and find that, as far as can be judged from the blurred sketching of the emblems, he is right. Searching for a reason for the adoption of these hammers as the arms of Podolsk, our correspondent inquires whether that district is celebrated for its quarries? Being unable to reply ourselves, we invite the attention of our Russian correspondents to the inquiry.







*Riasan.*—After a currency extending over about four years the diamond-shaped stamps, figured at p. 137 of our seventh volume, have been withdrawn, and are replaced by the two annexed type-set designs. It will be observed that the values are the same, and we must explain that the differences in design, such as they are, are accidental, or we might almost say incidental to the mode of composition. There are eight varieties in two rows, of which four are of the first type with undulated inner frame. On each sheet these eight varieties are repeated three times. The colour of these new stamps is violet-blue, on thick, white, wove, rose-tinted paper. The inscriptions are precisely the same as on the old stamps.

*Livni.*—M. Moens states that the round scalloped stamp, the nearest approach to a bobbin label which philatelists possess, had its value increased to 5 kop. shortly before its suppression, although no facial evidence of the increase was given.

United States of Colombia.—A new description of vignette or "Cubierta" has been sent us by a lady-correspondent at Halifax, N. S., to whom our thanks are due. It measures only $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches by $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches, and is entirely type-set, having, in fact, the appearance of a simple ticket. It is struck in black on green, and a plain double-line border with fancy ornaments at the corners encloses the following inscriptions in ordinary typographic characters.

ESTADOS UNIDOS DE COLOMBIA.

SERVICIO DE CORREOS NACIONALES, MEDIO-PESO.

CERTIFICADO ANOTADOS.

SALE DE EN DE DE 187

REMITE EL ADMINISTRADOR.

At the bottom, outside the border, is the legend, SUPREMO DECRETO, MAYO 20 DE 1872. The specimen before us has the dates filled in, and bears the postmaster's signature. It is handstamped FRANCO, and bears sundry other illegible marks. The inscriptions denote that this label was applied to a registered and "noted" letter, that the value is a half-peso, and that it owes its existence to a decree of very recent date, and of apparently high authority.

Our correspondent can give us no information respecting it, further than that she received it from Panama with a lot of other stamps, and that in the same parcel was a similar label but with a large fancy border, and inscribed CERTIFICADO OFICIAL. We should be glad to receive further intelligence respecting these hitherto unknown emissions.

BERMUDA.—Annexed is an engraving of the new threepenny stamp described in our last number. It gives a fair idea of a stamp which is not likely to make a noise in the world, but will certainly go to swell the number of graceful mediocrities.




GERMAN EMPIRE. — The current number of the Belgian journal contains a description of three secondary varieties of the new type of the 1 gr. envelope; the first has a thick figure of value $3\frac{1}{2}$ mill. high; and between the N of GROSCHEN and the figure on the right-hand side are two little dots; variety No. 2 shows three little dots between the N and the figure, and the O in GROSCHEN is not so round; variety No. 3 has a *thin* figure, 4 mill. high; and the word GROSCHEN is composed of thinner and taller letters.

SPAIN.—From this distracted country we have no further news of the reported emissions, but it appears that Don M. P. de Figueroa's post card has set the journals talking about the neglect of the government to provide cards for the use of the public, and our learned contributor has received well-merited praise for taking the initiative in reminding the post-office of its duty. Perhaps, however, the most striking proof of the interest which his action has evoked is the issue of another private post card by some person or persons unknown. It is identical in almost all respects with that introduced by our correspondent, who, it may be as well to mention, writes in Spain under the *nom de plume* of Dr. Thebussem, and dates his letters from Wurzburg. The new card, however, contains the following additional line of inscription:—EDITION OF 1,000,000 COPIES FOR THOSE WHO ARE *NOT* FRIENDS OF THE GERMAN DOCTOR. The point of the allusion lies in the fact that "the German doctor" mentions in the inscription on *his* cards that they have been struck off for the use of his own friends.

GREAT BRITAIN.—Our Brighton contemporary was pleased to manifest considerable scepticism as to the accuracy of the statement made in our April number on semi-official authority, that the then current sixpence light-brown would be superseded by a stamp of the same design, printed in greyish green, of a shade similar to that of the 96 c. Hong Kong. The new variety has, however, made its appearance, and by this time has fairly entered into general circulation, as our unbelieving *confrère* must have perceived.

FRANCE.—We have just received a buff-coloured 10 centime post card, somewhat larger than the preceding emissions, with the same ornamental border as the first edition, and the inscription PRIX: 10 CENTIMES in the centre. The figures 10 are in thick type at least the eighth-of-an-inch high. The adhesive stamp is the new 10 c. On the back, running along the top, are four advertisements in as many compartments, and one of the advertisements appropriately consists of the description of a Guide to Phonetic Stenography, for the use of post-card writers who wish to keep their communications secret. This card, we presume, to be the one of which we quoted a description from *Le Petit Journal* some time since. We observe that the system of advertising on the back of post-cards has been patented by the "inventor," and that the card before us is one of the 1001st series.

ROUMANIA.—On the 1st ult. the Danubian Principalities were to follow the lead of their big European brothers in employing post cards. According to *Le Timbre-Poste* they

were to be of the value of 5 bani and 10 bani. From the same source we obtain the intelligence that the 10 bani of the provisional issue of 1872 has been met with on *laid* paper in bright and pale ultramarine.

Heligoland.—We have received official intelligence from the island that two new adhesive stamps, value, respectively, $\frac{1}{4}$ sch. and $\frac{3}{4}$ sch. are expected to make their appearance very shortly, and that they will be accompanied by new post cards. We are promised full details at an early date.

Norway.—The current series has received a fresh addition in the shape of a one skilling, printed in yellowish green. The new value corresponds in other respects with the previously issued denominations.

New Granada.—The new one cent adhesive exists in two shades of rose, pale and bright, and the unpaid letter stamp $2\frac{1}{2}$ c. is no longer violet, but *pensée*.

Servia.—The one para yellow was, it is said, withdrawn on the 1st June, and replaced by a 2 para black. This news requires confirmation.

## ERRORS OF WATERMARK ON THE STAMPS OF NEW SOUTH WALES AND VICTORIA.

BY ETONIA.

Amongst the stamps of New South Wales and Victoria are to be found numerous errors of watermark, the result of carelessness on the part of the printer, or of accident. To a collector desirous of acquiring patience, and a habit of examining objects attentively, and of combining the acquisition with a good deal of pleasure, an attractive field is here opened; for in every budget of the late issues of these two colonies, a good hand at detecting watermarks (which, by the way, is no easy task to one unaccustomed to it), will be pretty sure to discover some error.

I am induced to write this paper, as no monographs of the stamps of Australia have as yet been published, to my knowledge; if, however, some able member of the stamp-collecting fraternity will take the matter in hand, I feel sure that a great boon will be conferred on philatelic circles. Inverted and reversed watermarks, caused by the carelessness of the printer, are of not unfrequent occurrence; and are received with delight by collectors of the "French" school, who are thus enabled to add many varieties to their albums; but with intense disgust by the true-blue "English" school, who no doubt wish that an Irish hedge-schoolmaster had been at hand to correct the wandering propensities of the manipulator's mind. I will now give a list of all the errors of watermark that I have been able to see or hear of, commencing with New South Wales.

1850.—View of Sydney. The twopence blue exists watermarked with letters forming part of the word STAMPS. A specimen, showing the letters P. S., in double-lined Roman capitals, is noticed in vol. viii. of this magazine, page 13.

*Unperf.:*

1851.—Diademed head, large square.
Sixpence, brown; wmk. 8.
One shilling, brick-red, wmk. 8.

*Perf.:*

Sixpence, lilac; wmk. 5.
" purple, lilac; wmk. 12.

1862.—Diademed head, rect.
Twopence blue, wmk. 5.
" washy blue, no wmk.
" blue; single horizontal line across stamp, thus: ———*

1853.—Registration stamps, unperf.
Sixpence blue and orange, watermarked with part of the word SOUTH. (See vol. iv., page 83.)

INVERTED WATERMARKS.

1851.—Diademed head, large square.

*Unperf.:*

Sixpence cinnamon, wmk. inv. 6.
Eightpence orange, " " 8.
One shilling dirty red " " 12.

*Perf.:*

Fivepence sage green, wmk. inv., 5.
Sixpence lilac, " " 5.
" pale lilac, purple; wmk. inv. 6.
" pale lilac, violet; " " 12.
Eightpence orange, mauve (?); inv. 8.
One shilling brick-red, fawn, deep rose; wmk. inv. 12.

I have heard of a five-shilling stamp with inverted watermark, but am rather uncertain about it.

1856.—Diademed head, rect.
Threepence green, yellowish green, dark green; wmk. inv. 3.

1862.—Diademed head.
Twopence washy blue, blue; wmk. inv. 2.
Twopence blue, wmk. inv. 5.

1864.—One penny red, wmk. inv. 1.

* [Our correspondent has omitted the two errors in the *twopence* with name overarched. This stamp is found with watermarks 5 and 1. The threepence yellow-green, of the type of 1856, appeared in 1872 with a watermark of a double-lined 6.—Ed.]

Registration Stamps.
Sixpence red *and blue;* wmk. inv. 6.

REVERSED WATERMARKS.

1854. Large square, perf., eightpence gamboge, rev. 8.
One shilling fawn, rose; rev. 12.
Five shillings lilac, rev. 5/-
1862.—Twopence blue, rev. 2.
Registration Stamps.
Sixpence red and blue, rev. 6.

The current stamps of New South Wales are at present watermarked with a crown and the letters N. S. W. Specimens of newspaper bands are known watermarked with the letters A. P. (Australian Postage or Paper), having a kangaroo beneath, also with a kangaroo and emu facing each other. These are probably essays of watermark.

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We now come to Victoria, a colony fertile in errors, of which the οἱ πολλοι—or, as a certain friend of mine would say, the olly-polly—are to be found in the watermarks.

1861.—Emblems.
Twopence slate, mauve; wmk. THREEPENCE.
1862.—Figure of value at sides.
Fourpence rose; no watermark.
,, pale and deep rose; wmk. FIVE SHILLINGS.

This watermark is probably not an error, but was found on the end stamp of the row, which consisted of fifteen, thus giving the value of the whole row.

1863.—Laureated head in circle.
One penny green; watermark THREEPENCE.*
,, ,, ,, ,, 4; single-lined figure.
,, ,, ,, ,, 4; double ,, ,,
One penny green, deep green; single-lined figure 6.
One penny dark green; 8.
One penny green; watermarked with part of the word "Postage," and two perpendicular lines, thus:—



Twopence lilac, double-lined 1.
,, lilac, pale lilac; single-lined 4.
,, lilac, slate; double-lined 4.
,, deep lilac, single-lined 6.
,, slate, mauve; single-lined 8.
,, lilac, no watermark.
Fourpence rose; wmk., perpendicular lines, thus: ||||
Probably the end stamp of a row.
Eightpence orange; double-lined letters ©R, &c., forming part of the word Victoria.
1866.— Numeral of value at sides.
Sixpence blue; wmk. THREEPENCE.
,, ,, ,, FOURPENCE.
,, ,, ,, double-lined 1.
,, ,, ,, double-lined 4.

* [This is an error we have not met with. There is an error *sixpence* which our correspondent has not chronicled.—ED.]

INVERTED WATERMARKS.

1861.—Emblems.
Twopence slate, inv. TWOPENCE.
1863.—One penny green, inv. 1.
1866.—Numerals at side.
Tenpence reddish-brown, inv. 10.
1871.—Same stamp, surcharged NINEPENCE, inv. 10.

REVERSED WATERMARKS.

There is only one reversed watermark, that of the tenpence reddish-brown, which is found with a reversed 10.

The threepence purple-lilac of 1866, and the tenpence slate of 1865, are watermarked intentionally with a single-lined figure 8.*

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## THE STAMPS OF PORTUGAL.

BY THE REV. R. B. EARÉE.

I HAVE often wondered that so very little has been written concerning these stamps, for there is a fair amount of interest attached to them. Ten years ago we used to regard them in a somewhat patriarchal light, inasmuch as they even then bore the effigies of three sovereigns, which was a very uncommon thing in those early days. Now, however, Portugal is left far behind, philatelically speaking, by France, Spain, and other more restless countries, and, as a consequence, the history of her stamps remains yet to be written. My object in writing this article is to give as complete a list as I possibly can of the stamps of the various issues, and to describe the reprints in such a manner as to prevent any unwary amateur from mistaking the latter for genuine originals. My thanks and acknowledgments are due to our publishers, and to M. Moens, for very kindly placing at my disposal, for purposes of examination and description, a large number of these stamps, especially of the issue of 1853, of which my own collection, I am sorry to say, can boast but very few specimens.

### ISSUE OF 1853.

(Col. imp. on white. Imperf.)

PAPER.—Rather soft, white, wove, unglazed paper, of medium thickness.

GUM.—The originals of this issue are all backed with *brown* gum. I wish my readers to notice this fact, as the reprints have *white* gum.

* [The threepence of 1866 is also found with watermark of double-lined 1.—ED.]

Design.—Embossed profile of Donna Maria to left in solid pearled circle. Framework of engine-turned lines. On the neck of the bust are the initials F. B. F., which stand for the name of the engraver, Francisco de Borges Freire.

List.

5 reis, chocolate, v. pale to moderately dark.
5 ,, red bistre.
5 ,, yellowish brown.

25 reis chalky blue, v. from *very* pale to medium.
25 ,, chalky greenish blue, v. from pale to medium.
25 ,, royal blue, v. from medium to very dark.
25 ,, dark dull blue, almost indigo.

50 reis, yellow-green, v. medium to dark.

100 reis, lilac, v. pale to medium.
100 ,, reddish lilac, medium.

The postmark usually found on the stamps of this issue consists of a number (20) of *thin* horizontal lines, forming a circle, with numeral in centre. The highest numeral I have seen is 150. These stamps are occasionally found postmarked in blue ink, but more generally in black. The postmark is almost always very heavy, and the oil from the ink sadly spoils the stamps, so that obliterated specimens do not look handsome in the album. This is a pity, for unused originals are exceedingly difficult to obtain, and I know several collectors who have designedly placed the set of reprints which I am about to describe in the post of honour for this reason.

Reprints of the 1853 Issue.

These stamps were reprinted in 1864, and were soon after very common in England. They are now much more rare, and those who sell them for what they are, ask as much for them as for obliterated originals, or very nearly as much. *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for 1869, speaking of these reprints, says, "The higher values have been reprinted with such a careful regard to colour that they cannot be distinguished from the originals, but collectors may be assured that they will not be offered the latter." This statement I can thoroughly endorse, always excepting the fact that the originals are backed with *brown* gum, whilst the reprints are backed with white, or yellowish white. This brown gum is the chief mark by which we are able to distinguish the old from the new. The colours of the reprints are brighter than those of the originals, but in the 5 reis and 25 reis they have a streaky look; this is especially noticeable in the 5 reis. The dies also appear somewhat worn.

*5 reis, yellowish brown.*

In this stamp the coil of plaits at the back of the head is all broken up, and the upper part looks more like a tiny spray of groundivy than anything else.

*25 reis, chalky blue, somewhat dark.*

In this the engine-turning in the right-hand corners is very much blotched.

*50 reis, bright yellow-green.*

In this the engraver's initials on the neck of the bust are not to be found in any of the stamps which I have examined. The reprints of this value are finer than the originals.

*100 reis, lilac.*

Very carefully printed, but rather paler than the normal colour of the originals.

*(To be continued).*

## POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

A Convention for the reduction of the postage between Belgium and the United States has been signed.

Correspondence Extraordinary.—A couple were recently married in Terre Haute, Indiana, after fourteen years' courtship, during which they had each written and received two letters per week, or a total of two thousand nine hundred and twelve!

Proposed Abolition of French Post Cards.—An agitation is being set on foot to abolish postal cards; the loss will be a gain to the Paris post-office in point of revenue. The innovation is asserted to be unsuitable to the Parisian character, as the evil doers are so witty and wicked that they adopt this plan for circulating slanders, which there is no law to punish or to repress. It never strikes the objectors that an unsealed letter can just as well be read by the maid and house-porter as a card, and has the addition of being more attractive and tempting.—*Court Journal.*

Bees by Post.—The new practice of sending bees by post is causing trouble. A Washington correspondent explains thus: The cage is a block of wood, in which are three large holes, covered with a fine wire netting. Seven bees, including a queen-bee, are placed in each compartment, and are introduced through a hole in the side of the block, which is plugged up by a piece of sponge soaked in honey. The postmasters and clerks allege that the honey soaks through the paper placed over the holes, and daubs other mail matter; and besides, as one postmaster complained, the clerks in his office did not get

through examining and studying the contrivance until the bees stung every one of them; and in showing them how it was made, and how to handle it without injury, they stung him too.—*New York Times.*

THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL CONFERENCE.—The *Voss Gazette* of Berlin states that the points to be discussed at the Universal Postal Conference, which was proposed two years ago, and is now about to be held in Vienna or Berlin, are: 1. An agreement between all European States, the United States of America, Egypt, Algiers, Russia in Asia, Turkey in Asia, and British North America, for a postal union, and the formation of a uniform postal territory. 2. The introduction of a uniform rate of postage and charge for registered letters within the limits of the territory. 3. A uniform charge on newspapers, printed matter, and samples.—*Daily News.*

POST-OFFICE TEA.—In a recent number we briefly referred to a tea which is advertised under this title, and of which the announcements are adorned with a *travestie* of the penny postage stamp. The attention of the House of Commons was drawn, about the end of May, to this imitation of the official design, and the following is the newspaper report of the Postmaster-general's observations:—

"In reply to Mr. HEYGATE,

Mr. MONSELL said his attention had been called to an advertisement of the "Post-office Tea," which purported to be 'supplied by postmasters only in Great Britain and Ireland.' Complaints had been received from various grocers; but, with one exception, they were made in consequence of a medallion stamp affixed to the advertisement, which was supposed to give some official character to the transaction. One memorial inquired whether the Postmaster-general had gone into the tea trade. (Laughter.) The post-office could prevent the affixing of the medallion stamp on the advertisement, but, as he was advised, there was no power to prevent the postmasters from selling the tea."

AN ANOMALY.—One day last month a French commercial house received a written order for goods from one of its correspondents at Nottingham. This order was inscribed on the back of an ordinary English post card. Below the impressed halfpenny stamp the writer of the "communication" had stuck a penny adhesive. The two values combined represent just *half* the letter postage to France. The card reached its destination, and no extra postage was claimed on delivery. The two stamps, the impressed and the adhesive one, were both cancelled, and, so far, everything would favour the supposition that the card had accidentally escaped detection; but here comes in the most curious phase of the affair. The card bears on its face a handstamped inscription in red ink, in a plain transverse oblong frame, NOT TRANSMISSIBLE ABROAD. How then, if not transmissible, did it come to be transmitted? The handstamped notice could not affect the receivers. The only conjecture on which we can fall back is, that, after having been stopped and stamped with the above legend, the card by some accident, got mixed again with the letters for France, and so passed. It has been handed to us, and we keep it as a curiosity; and also as the well-defined shadow cast by a "coming event" in the history of international postal relations.

THE PROSPECTS OF NEWFOUNDLAND.—From time to time reports reach this country that Newfoundland is about to join the Confederation; and as the absorption of that colony would result in the suppression of its postal emissions, the event is one which would interest our readers considerably, from a philatelic point of view; we, therefore, make no excuse for giving the following extract from the letter of a gentleman who dates from St. John's, Newfoundland, bearing on the possibilities of the accomplishment of the union, and the present prospects of the colony:—

"At present there is very little prospect of Newfoundland becoming part of the Dominion of Canada. The people can see no profit in handing over fifty thousand pounds a year for the honour of being part and parcel of the Confederacy, with but a very small voice in the management of its affairs. We are to have a general election in November, which, it is likely, will cause a change of government, but there is little or no chance of its being a confederate one under the terms offered by Canada. We are progressing as fast as any of the maritime provinces, and when our country becomes better known, it will go ahead fast. At present we are the great link connecting the Old and New Worlds by telegraph, and sooner or later St. John's will be the landing-place of the wealthier class of emigrants to the United States and Canada. We have plenty of uncultivated lands as rich as any in North America, coal, copper, lead, nickel, iron, and marble in abundance, splendid timber, and our seal and cod fisheries. The two latter have been our only profitable investments for capital until the past seven or eight years, since which copper has been worked extensively at Tilt Cove, and with great success; lead at La Manche, and two companies are about opening coal mines in Bay St. George; an extensive deposit of lead has also been discovered at Port-au-Port. Men of capital and energy are what we want now; and as the Dominion mines are worked either by British or United States capital, we cannot expect our joining the Dominion would bring many capitalists thence to develope our mineral wealth."

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### A HORRIBLE "TAIL."

*To the Editor of* "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—Pray let me ask you to explain in your next number (or if the matter be beyond you, please insert this letter) the mysterious reference in the June *Philatelist*, p. 75: "Our Bath contemporary has Mr. Overy Taylor's *continuation*, in which," &c., &c. Has Mr. O. T. grown a tail? Have you bought it? Is it exhibited to incipient Darwinists for a consideration? Is it a "permanent" tail? How does it like the large German eagle, &c., &c.?

Pardon this intrusion on the part of an anxious

OURANG-OUTANG.

### THE MEETINGS OF THE LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

*To the Editor of* "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—Your May number of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* is this day to hand. With regard to the notice, "The London Philatelic Society," I observe that the meeting of the 12th ult. was thinly attended. If, as I gather from a former announcement, the meeting is open to all collectors, would it not ensure a larger company if the hour of attendance were stated in each notice of future meetings? I live in the country, and trains have to be provided for. I could have shown *something* good in Mexico to-morrow, but the absence of the above information prevents my attendance.

Yours truly,

W. A. T.

## THE STAMPED ENVELOPES OF THE UNITED STATES.

*To the Editor of* "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—Will you kindly permit me to say, through the columns of your excellent journal, in answer to several inquiries from British and Continental collectors, that the papers, "The Stamped Envelopes, Wrappers, &c., of the United States," are all from my pen. In the January number of *The American Journal of Philately*, it is so expressed.

Secondly, that I have anticipated the requirements of those who collect only *cut* copies, and it is my intention to give a detailed list of what should be collected in order to secure *completeness* in that feature.

I am,
Very sincerely,
*New York.* WILLARD K. FREEMAN.

## THE HAMBURG POST CARD.

*To the Editor of* "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—In the paper on the Hamburg stamps, in this month's number, you speak of a post card, mentioned in *The Philatelist* for February, 1871. The said post card belongs to me, and the description given is correct. A friend of mine, who is a native of Hamburg, obtained from his relations there a number of the Hamburg envelopes for me, and amongst these envelopes I found the post card. I shall be happy to forward it for your inspection, if you would like to see it. I considered it at the time to be a new issue for the North German Confederation, localised for Hamburg; but I have never seen another copy since.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT B. EARÉE.
*The Curatage, Walter Belchamp, Sudbury.*

[We should be glad to take advantage of our correspondent's polite offer to send us the card for examination.—ED.]

## NOTES ON THE MAY NUMBER.

*To the Editor of* "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

SIR,—THE LA GUAIRA STAMPS.—There are one or two points in the comparison of the genuine and forged La Guaira stamps (*real* series), which I find it difficult to follow. I have genuine used specimens of the ½ real blue and ½ real pink, which differ in several respects from the Rev. R. B. Earée's description. 1. The upper and lower limbs of C, B, and E in CABELLO are equal. 2. The D of MEDIO, though something like an O when looked at by itself, differs considerably from the O in the same word. 3. The 6 in the left-hand corner is placed exactly in the centre of a Maltese cross, and has no dot anywhere about it.

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—GERMANY.—I have several specimens of the 2 groschen blue, 1866, showing the diagonal shading in the upper part of the figure; the lower part does not appear to have been shaded.

Yours truly,
*Timperley, Cheshire.* G. H. H.

P.S.—I have a 2 skilling (head) Norwegian, which has printed on the *back* HSKCA in blue ink, and K ℈ in black. I shall be glad if you can inform me what these marks mean. The postmark bears date 1862.—[We cannot think the marks referred to have any postal significance.—ED.]

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

H. D. P., Oswego, N. Y.—We are much obliged for your thoughtfulness in sending us the newspaper illustration of the U. S. postal card.

G. C., Tours.—We regret we cannot satisfy your request. We could not guarantee the correctness of a list of the Virginia locals issued in 1862.

R. P. M., Malta.—The "ocean penny postage" stamp never had any operative existence, nor is it even an adhesive. It formed part of the design of an envelope issued by the advocates of an ocean postage scheme years ago, in support of their views, and was never intended or used to prepay postage, being simply a fancy sketch.

R. M. C., La Chaux-de-fonds.—1. The Straits Settlements stamps prepay the postage at Singapore of local letters and of letters for this and, possibly, other countries. —2. The best catalogue at present is that recently issued by M. Moens, Brussels.—3. The number of stamps in a collection forms no guide to its real worth, which depends on the genuineness, rarity, and condition of the specimens.

A LADY COLLECTOR, Halifax, N.S.—1. It is difficult to recommend you a work on forged stamps, inasmuch as those which have been published, if not out of print, as is very probable, are more or less out of date. The descriptions they contain have been rendered valueless by the issue of fresh forgeries, and the only really useful analyses are found in the Spud Papers, which have been in course of publication by *The Philatelist* for the last two or three years. Even they, however, have not been gathered into a book, and we do not know whether it is the intention of the authors to reprint them. To our mind the best guide to the detection of forgeries is the price list of a respectable dealer, and for this reason: a stamp-importer who does a large business must go to the fountain-head to get his supplies, therefore he obtains them at the cheapest rate, and the competition which exists in the trade obliges him to sell them at prices which leave him but a reasonable margin of profit. It follows that, taking his advantages on one side, and his necessities on the other, the prices which he quotes are the lowest at which genuine stamps *can* be sold; and if stamps which are offered by a dealer of known integrity at a shilling are advertised by some mushroom trader at twopence, it is a fair inference that the twopenny copies are counterfeits. This argument applies, *prima facie*, to unused stamps; but it is no less applicable to used stamps; for the large dealers, who have won their position by their honesty and enterprise combined, have correspondents in every country, who supply them with used stamps in quantities and on terms which the ephemeral advertiser has no power of obtaining. In effecting the sale the action of competition comes into play to the same extent as with unused stamps, and specimens which are offered at nominal prices and by unknown persons are tolerably certain to be false. The sale of false stamps would never have acquired its present proportions but for the existence of a weakness on the part of collectors for great bargains. It is very gratifying to get possession, in a fair way, of a genuine half-crown stamp for threepence; but the opportunity very rarely occurs, the stamps on which any such concessions are made being almost invariably false. Our advice to collectors is, therefore, above all things to fight shy of great bargains, and make up their minds to pay a reasonable price for their stamps, if they wish to secure genuine specimens.—2. The first series for the French empire was issued unperforated in 1853-4; see the article on France, p. 165 of our last volume.—3. To this question the best answer we can make is given in our current article on new issues.

## PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. XXIX.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

### EUROPE.

## Greece.

When first the Greek stamps made their appearance, their classical elegance of type




created quite a *furore* among the then numerous but unscientific crowd of stamp-collectors. An acquaintance with the one unvarying type extending over some twelve years has, however, somewhat dimmed our first enthusiasm, and the defective printing of the more recent editions has destroyed the delicacy of outline which gave such a charm to the early specimens. The design is now—if the expression may be coined—in ruins, and its suppression at no distant date seems almost inevitable.

The birthplace of art contains no engraver worthy of the name. When the Greeks—then living under the dominion of the beneficent Otho—determined on issuing postage stamps, they wisely resolved to order them in Paris, and for that purpose addressed themselves to M. Barre, the engraver, and M. Hulot, the printer of the French emissions. The type chosen—whether prescribed by the Grecian government or selected by M. Barre—was a happy one. No fitter postal emblem for the Homeric land could be found than the head of Hermes, or, to adopt the Roman title, Mercury—god of messengers and commerce—and none could more worthily have portrayed it than M. Barre. On the Greek stamps he is drawn with the true Grecian profile, his head adorned with the winged cap, called *petasus*, given him by Jupiter, and the accessory portions of the design are of that subdued and almost severe character which befits the subject. That they were copied from the French stamps detracts nothing from their merit; no more appropriate framework could have been chosen than that originally designed to enclose the profile of the goddess of liberty.

The first edition of the Greek stamps made its appearance on the 1st October, 1861. It was printed in Paris, as has already been indicated, by M. Hulot, and was composed of the following values:—

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 lepton | chocolate-brown. |
| 2 lepta | cinnamon. |
| 5 ,, | green. |
| 10 ,, | orange. |
| 20 ,, | blue. |
| 40 ,, | reddish violet. |
| 80 ,, | carmine. |

All the values are printed on paper more or less toned, and in the 10 and 40 lepta the paper is of a decided bluish tint. The 10 lepta has a large figure 10 at the back, and is thus distinguished from the other values. No confusion, however, is possible with the 10 lepta of subsequent series, as the figure in this first issue is much larger than that on the later stamps. Reference is made in *The Philatelical Journal* to the existence of specimens of the first—or Paris-printed—10 lepta *without* the figure at the back. I have not met with any, nor can I find any reference to them in the catalogues I have been able to consult, but I have no hesitation in chronicling the variety on Mr. Pemberton's authority. In like manner I may mention *en passant*, on the authority of Dr. Magnus, that some specimens of the first 10 lepta were unofficially perforated—probably merely as a trial or for amusement.

The striking clearness of execution of the Paris-printed stamps in itself suffices to no small extent to distinguish them from the subsequent editions printed off at Athens, but in respect of all the values, except the 1 lepton and 2 lepta, a more decisive test may be applied, seeing that the Athens-printed editions all bear on the back an impressed numeral of value, which is generally in the same colour as the stamp.

Two Athenian editions are distinguished by most writers, and are thus catalogued.*

FIRST ATHENS-PRINTED EDITION.

On wove paper.

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 lepton dark brown. | Without numeral at back. |
| 2 lepta bistre. | |

* The list is taken principally from *The Philatelist*, vol. i., page 71.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 5 lepta | emerald green. | With small numeral at back, of the same colour as the stamp itself. |
| 10 ,, | orange (on faint bluish-tinted paper.) | |
| 20 ,, | ultramarine. | |
| 40 ,, | light reddish violet (on blue-tinted paper.) | |
| 80 ,, | crimson-lake. | With *scarlet* numeral at back. |
| 80 ,, | crimson-lake. | With numeral at back of *same* colour. |

SECOND ATHENS-PRINTED EDITION.

Struck from the plates, much deteriorated, on coarser paper, and less delicate in shade.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 lepton | light brown | Without figures at the back. |
| 1 ,, | reddish brown | |
| 2 lepta | yellow-bistre, with pink tinge. | |
| 2 ,, | cinnamon. | |
| 5 ,, | green, with more yellow in it than 2nd edition. | With small numeral on back indicative of the value. |
| 10 ,, | dark orange on slightly bluish paper. | |
| 20 ,, | ultramarine. | |
| 40 ,, | reddish pink (*lie de vin*) on blue paper. | |
| 40 ,, | solferino on blue paper. | |
| 80 ,, | light pink. | |

There is considerable difficulty in distinguishing between the *first* Athenian 1 lepton and 2 lepta and their Parisian prototypes. Perhaps it will be safe to say that the Athenian stamps are of a deeper shade, but even this is hardly a sure test. No similar difficulty occurs in respect of the third edition; the coarseness of the two lowest values, and especially of the 1 lepton, is but too evident. Some of the latter are mere blotches, showing scarcely a trace of the framework and inscriptions.

Although the coarse impressions are all catalogued as forming a *third* edition, there can be no doubt that there have, in fact, been several *tirages*, each a little coarser than its predecessor. These gradations in inferiority might be remarked by an attentive observer, but it would serve no good purpose to crowd an overwhelming number of specimens by way of proof into an album. The successive workings have been accompanied with successive variations of shade. Thus we find the green 5 lepta in at least four shades; the 10 lepta in five; and the 40 lepta, the most changeable of all, in seven.

The design has remained unaltered in all its main points, but there is some room for the supposition which has been advanced, that the shading across the cheek and neck has been retouched and deepened. It is easy to perceive that the lines are much thicker and longer than on the Parisian edition, and they could not have been brought out by use, rather would they have been entirely effaced by wear and tear. Even the first Athenians show some difference from the Parisian series, and in the later impressions the face is fully whiskered.

The figures at the back are not always of precisely the same shade as the design itself. This may be specially remarked in respect of the 40 lepta, and would seem to indicate that the sheets are numbered at the back in advance, and that a surplus is sometimes left over. It may here also be appropriate to mention that there are two varieties of the figure at the back of the 5 lepta—a larger and a smaller.

The collection of the three editions, even by beginners, is to be recommended, although, perhaps, as an exception to the usual rule. The Parisian issue, or either of the Athenian issues alone, would very inadequately represent the Grecian emissions; the differences in the execution are so great that, although they simply evidence the difference between Parisian and Athenian printing, and are for the most part accidental, they cannot in justice be passed over.

ESSAYS.

The Greeks possess neither stamped envelopes, wrappers, official stamps, nor post cards, but, like most other European countries, Greece has had a couple of sets of spurious essays fathered on it. These essays are proof of the creative power of a demand. When Otho abdicated, and the King of Denmark's son succeeded to the throne of Greece, it was fondly hoped by collectors that the accession of the latter would be signalised by the issue of a new series of stamps. Hardly had the hope been expressed in the philatelic journals

of the day, than forthwith, mushroom-like, up sprung two fanciful types, said to have been submitted to the Grecian postal administration.

The engraving of the more striking of the two is inserted here as a *souvenir* of the credulity of collectors ten years ago. Of its artistic merit my readers can judge for themselves. These essays for a time were in great request, and fetched comparatively high prices, for the essay mania was then at its zenith. Not very long after their appearance, however, their true character was demonstrated, and they sunk into well-merited oblivion. Considering the unsatisfactory state of the design of the existing stamps, it would be matter for rejoicing were we to learn that designs for a new series had really been submitted.




## NOTES FOR COLLECTORS.

BY A PARISIAN COLLECTOR.

### Austria.

(*Continued from page* 6.)

BEFORE closing our notes on the stamps and envelopes of Austria proper, we should notice that the envelopes of 1861 were again reprinted towards the close of last year; but they differ in size from those of the reprint of 1866, and also in the letters of the words BRIEF COUVERTS. A newspaper band was also issued in 1872, for a description of which we refer our readers to vol. x., p. 171, of this magazine.

### Austrian-Italy and Foreign Branch Offices.

At the same time that the Austrian empire created a series of stamps for home use, a series was also created for those parts of the empire where the accounts were kept in *lire* and *centesimi*, as also for the use of the foreign branches. When the change was made in the monetary system, in 1858 (see vol x., p. 173), the value of the *lira* was made equal to that of the *florin*, and was divided into 100 *soldi*; the *soldo* and the *kreuzer* being therefore equivalent in value.

FIRST SERIES.

Issued on the 1st of June, 1850. The type appears to be identical in all respects with that of the stamps of the first series for Austria proper, save in the enunciation of the value. Almost the same varieties in colour and paper are found in one as in the other. The consumption of the corresponding values seems, however, to have been different, for the smaller values are comparatively scarcer; and thus the varieties of shade in the 5 centesimi are not so numerous.




*Classification.*

I.—Handmade paper, varying in thickness.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 5 | cents, | orange-yellow (shades), chrome-yellow (shades). |
| 10 | ,, | intense black, black. |
| 15 | ,, | vermilion (shades). |
| 15 | ,, | vermilion on ribbed paper, or paper showing *vergeures.** |
| 30 | ,, | red-brown (shades), warm brown (shades). |
| 30 | ,, | warm brown on ribbed paper. |
| 45 | ,, | Prussian blue (shades), light dull blue. |
| 25 | ,, | Prussian blue (intermediate shade), on ribbed paper. |

II.—Wove thick paper.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 5 | cents, | Naples yellow, to light chrome-yellow. |
| 10 | ,, | black. |
| 15 | ,, | scarlet (shades), to light brick. |
| 30 | ,, | light brown. |
| 45 | ,, | light Prussian blue. |

SECOND SERIES.

Issued 1st of November, 1858. Printed on white wove paper, and perforated 15. Identical in type with the corresponding values in the second series for Austria proper.

*Classification.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2 | soldi, | Naples yellow, light chrome-yellow (shades). |
| 3 | ,, | black, intense black. |
| 5 | ,, | vermilion, brick-red (shades). |
| 10 | ,, | light umber-brown, reddish brown. |
| 15 | ,, | Prussian blue (shades), light blue. |

* Since the classification of the first series for Austria proper (vol. x., p. 126), Mr. Pemberton has shown us a specimen of the 3 kr. scarlet on *laid* paper with wide *vergeures*. He also mentions a 3 kr. of this series, printed by error in *brown*, but we have not ourselves met with it.

THIRD SERIES.

No general series of adhesive stamps was issued on the 1st of January, 1861, when a series of envelopes was issued, corresponding in design and in their values with the series issued at that date for Austria proper. These envelopes, like those of the kreuzer series, were probably manufactured of two sizes—the large and the ordinary; but only three values in the large size are known to exist, viz., the 5 soldi, 10 soldi, and 15 soldi. The entire series is printed on white wove, soft, unsurfaced paper. These envelopes, like those of the kreuzer series, were reprinted in 1866 in the ordinary size; but the reprints are distinguishable from the originals by the same marks as the reprints of the kreuzer series, viz., the difference in the form of the side flaps, and the watermark of one or more of the letters composing the words BRIEF COUVERTS.

A second reprint was made last year, but this may be readily distinguished from the first reprint by the size of the envelopes, which are about $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch longer, and $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch wider, than the envelopes of the latter.

The series of envelopes seems to have been in use concurrently with the stamps of the second series; and though we find that the 5 soldi and 10 soldi, of the type of the envelopes, were issued early in 1861, yet, on the exhaustion of the supply of 3 soldi black of the second series, in August, 1862, its place was supplied by the green of the same type, which, it would appear, had been previously prepared for issue, as it is perforated 15, like its congeners, while the stamps of 1861 and subsequent years, up to 1864-5, were perforated 14.

*Classification.*

I.—Stamps of same type as envelopes of 1861; perf. 14.

1861.—5 soldi, brick-red and light red.
10 ,, red-brown (light).

II.—Stamps of the type of 1858; perf. 15.

1862.—3 soldi, sea-green, varying in shades.*

* The stamps of 1850, 1859, and 1861 have all been reprinted; those of 1859 at least twice, as also those of 1861, which appeared with the addition of the unissued values of 2, 3, and 15 soldi of that series. All the reprints of the stamps of 1859 and 1861 differ, however, from the originals in the perforations.

III.—Envelopes.

3 soldi, green, light green.
5 ,, vermilion, brick-red, and light red.
10 ,, red-brown
15 ,, Prussian blue.
20 ,, orange (shades).
25 ,, warm brown.
30 ,, violet (shades).
35 ,, pale grey-brown (shades).

FOURTH SERIES.

Issued 1st July, 1863, contemporaneously with the 4th series for Austria proper, as the kreuzer series. As in this latter series, there are two distinct issues, one perforated 14, and the other $9\frac{1}{2}$.

Of the envelopes, there appear only to be two issues, corresponding with the 1st and 3rd of the kreuzer series. *Sup.*, page 4.

*Classification.*

I.—Stamps of series of 1863.

1. Earlier issue, perforated 14.
2 soldi, Naples yellow (shades).
3 ,, sea-green (shades).
5 ,, rose (shades).
10 ,, Prussian blue (shades).
15 ,, light reddish brown.

2. Later issue, perforated $9\frac{1}{2}$.
2 soldi, Naples yellow to orange-yellow.
3 ,, sea-green, yellow-green.
5 ,, rose (shades).
10 ,, Prussian blue (shades).
15 ,, reddish brown and light ditto.

II.—Envelopes.

1. Envelopes on ordinary plain white wove paper, surfaced, with flaps similar to those of the series of 1861.
3 soldi, yellow-green (shades).
5 ,, rose and deep ditto.
10 ,, Prussian blue and light ditto.
15 ,, reddish brown and light umber-brown.
25 ,, violet (shades).

2. Envelopes on ordinary white wove paper, with flaps similar in shape to those of the reprints of the series for 1861, and with letters in watermark as in the same reprints.
3 soldi, light green.
5 ,, rose (shades).
10 ,, Prussian blue.
15 ,, light umber-brown.

The 25 soldi is said to exist, but we have not met with it.

FIFTH SERIES.

Issued simultaneously with the kreuzer series. *Sup.*, p. 5.

*Classification.*

I.—Stamps, perforated $9\frac{1}{2}$.
2 soldi, bright yellow to orange-yellow.
3 ,, dull green (shades).
5 ,, dull rose, madder-carmine.
10 ,, Prussian blue to light ditto.
15 ,, umber-brown (shades).
25 ,, dull violet (shades), violet, puce.
50 ,, salmon (shades).

II.—Envelopes.

1. Size A (*sup.*, p. 5).
3 soldi, green (shades).
5 ,, madder-carmine (shades).
10 ,, Prussian blue (shades).
15 ,, light umber-brown.
25 ,, violet (shades).

2. Size B.
(*a.*) Paper same as for size A.
3 soldi, green.
5 ,, madder-carmine and light ditto.
10 ,, Prussian blue.
15 ,, light umber-brown.
(*b.*) Paper with letters of watermark farther apart.
25 soldi, violet.

## Hungary.

In or about the month of May, 1871, a series of stamps was issued for the kingdom of Hungary. These stamps have been described so recently that it will suffice to give a simple catalogue of them. It should be remarked that this series, together with a set of envelopes, first appeared lithographed, but the series of adhesives was quickly followed by an engraved series. Both are perforated $9\frac{1}{2}$, and are printed on plain, white, unwatermarked paper.




*Classification.*

1871. I.—Stamps lithographed.
2 kreuzer, ochre-yellow (shades).
3 ,, green (shades).
5 ,, rose, madder-carmine.
10 ,, Prussian blue (shades).
15 ,, light umber-brown.
25 ,, lilac and dark ditto.
Variety.—5 kreuzer, rose, unperforated.

1871. II.—Journal stamp, lithographed. Type 1, the mouth of the horn being to the right.



No value (1 kr.), scarlet-vermilion (shades).

1871. III.—Envelopes.
3 kreuzer, green (shades).
5 ,, madder-carmine, dull rose.
10 ,, Prussian blue (shades).
15 ,, umber-brown (shades).

1872. IV.—Stamps engraved.
2 kreuzer, dark ochre (shades), orange-yellow.
3 ,, chrome-green (shades).
5 ,, madder-carmine.
10 ,, blue (shades).
15 ,, dark brown.
25 ,, dull violet (shades).

V.—Journal stamp, lithographed. Type 2, the mouth of the horn being turned to the left.

No value (1 kr.), scarlet-vermilion, dark brick-red.
Variety.—The same on bluish white paper.
No value (1 kr.) brick-red.







VI.—In November, 1868, two stamps of the above type were issued, values 1 kr. and 2 kr., in various shades of blue and brown; but these are not postage stamps, being affixed to foreign newspapers, in the same manner and for the same purpose as those mentioned as belonging to Austria proper, vol. x., p. 172.

Newspaper wrapper, see vol. x., p. 187.

The postal cards issued by Austria are of such recent date that they scarcely need any description. For the sake of reference, however, we propose to give a list of the different varieties in our next paper.

## NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

Barbados.—Following the fashion—for there is a fashion in connection with the issue of new values, especially among our widely-scattered colonies, who all draw their inspiration from the mother-country—Barbados has allowed itself the pleasure of two new stamps—a five-shilling and a threepenny. We have to thank our old correspondent, Mr. Daniells, for communication of early copies of both. The threepenny is the old type, pure and simple, printed in red-violet, perforated and star watermarked. The design of the five shilling is here represented, and may perhaps give the reader to imagine that the stamp itself is an effective one. It might be, were it



printed in some rich colour, but impressed as it is in a pale, reddish pink, it has a poor, washed-out look. The employment of the old type, which is almost entirely reproduced, is the great feature of the new stamp, the incorporation of the design of an ordinary rectangle being a novel idea. The inscriptions are in bold, legible characters, but the corner ornaments strike us as being very clumsy. The watermark consists of a star in each of the four corners. Our correspondent states that the revised fourpenny, with values added, has not yet been received, and that new plates are being prepared for the halfpenny and penny stamps, which also are to have the value specified.

ROUMANIA.—Post cards at present rule the roast, and form a large proportion of the new issues. The latest arrivals are the Roumanian, of which the emission was reported in our last number. The type, here reproduced, will certainly make no large claims on our admiration. It is prosaic in the extreme, reminding one of nothing more lovely than the formal Wurtemburg envelope. Very evidently the Roumanian authorities have not obtained this type from Paris. However, it must be said that, on the other hand, they have not gone to Paris for information as to the price at which post cards should be sold. They have not adopted the elevated and unproductive French tariff, but, following the example of more enlightened administrations, have issued the cards at 5 bani (a halfpenny) each. Furthermore, they have copied the Dutch innovation of reply-paid cards, and have initiated a further advance, in extending to the cards the facility of registration, hitherto, we believe, confined to letters. Among the explanations at foot of the card, we find one which strikes us as rather amusing: "There is nothing to be paid to the postman." Is it usual, we are led to ask, to pay the postman a fee on receipt of a letter? or were the authorities apprehensive that the public, without the above explanation, would hardly believe it possible that the total charge was represented by the impressed stamp? Returning to our muttons, we have to add that the stamp is printed in blue, and the inscriptions in black. In the upper left angle are the arms of Roumania, with supporters and motto, *Nihil sine Deo*, on a crowned mantle. The date of the Act authorising the issue of post cards—31st March, 1873—is quoted above the space reserved for the address. The card itself varies somewhat in size, and some trifling varieties in the inscriptions are distinguishable.

SPAIN.—For a wonder, the official announcement of a new series has been promptly followed by the apparition of the stamps themselves. It would have been too much to expect that any strikingly original type could have been conceived and engraved in the short space of time which has followed the abdication of King Amadeus. The officials have had recourse to the Cuban type of 1871, and have fitted it for service at home, as will be seen by our engraving, by simply substituting COMUNICACIONES for "Ultramar, 1871," and ESPANA, on either side, for "Correos." Nothing could have been simpler. The values and colours hitherto received are as follows:—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2 c. | de peseta | orange. |
| 5 | ,, | pink. |
| 10 | ,, | bright green. |
| 20 | ,, | black. |
| 25 | ,, | chocolate-brown. |
| 40 | ,, | dull mauve. |
| 50 | ,, | blue. |
| 1 | peseta | mauve. |
| 4 | ,, | brown. |

and there are, no doubt, more to come, but this instalment will, we presume, meet the most pressing requirements of the service, and satisfy the *Intransigentes*, to whom anything that savours of royalty is unclean. The $\frac{1}{4}$ cent de peseta remains in service, but the royal crown has made way for a mural one,—as per our illustration—and the stamp is printed bright green.

A German paper quoted by *The Stamp* states that the Carlists have issued one-real stamps, bearing the portrait of their chief, and that all letters not franked by these stamps, which fall into the hands of the insurgents, are destroyed.

A correspondent calls our attention to our omission to chronicle in due course the 20 c. mauve, head of Amadeus, issued at the beginning of the present year. We must plead guilty.

Brazil.—Some two years ago we described, on the authority of an American paper, a new 300 reis adhesive, printed in green and violet; and a few months afterwards an esteemed correspondent at Rio, who had been shown a specimen at the post-office there, informed us that the stamp was really printed with green centre and orange-yellow frame. Our American contemporary, in a recent number, states that a fresh supply of this value, in orange and green, has just been sent down from New York by the manufacturers—the Continental Bank Note Company—and wishes to know what has become of the first batch, sent out in 1871. On this point we are in a position to give our readers, and the *A. J. P.* at the same time, some information. The original supply is still lying in the Rio post-office, awaiting the entire exhaustion of the old small figure 300 reis, of which it appears but a small stock now remains. The issue of the new type will soon take place, and it is probably in order to have a sufficient quantity in hand to deliver out to all the post-offices, that a further supply has been ordered from New York. With great difficulty our friend at Rio has succeeded in obtaining a specimen of the forthcoming 300 reis from the postmaster there, which he has sent to us, and which is, we believe, the only specimen at present in this country. We annex an engraving of it, which will render any detailed description unnecessary. The general arrangement plainly indicates that the design is of New York origin, whilst the differences between this stamp and its predecessors no less clearly show that it is not from the same *atelier* as them. In fact, whilst the other stamps were fabricated by the *American*, the new-comer is the production of the *Continental* Bank Note Company. The impression in two colours also distinguishes this value from its *confrères*. The portrait—a very effective one—is in green, and the surrounding frame a rich orange-yellow.




United States.—The post card already described at length in these pages has made its appearance. The annexed engraving will acquaint the reader with the design of the rather elegant impressed stamp and the frame. The impression is in brown. On the 1st ult. the official stamps were to make their appearance, and it appears that, in addition to a complete set of adhesives, each department will have its own set of envelopes, while the Department of State (so says the *A. J. P.*) will rejoice in the possession of four additional adhesives and corresponding envelopes, of the value of two, five, ten, and twenty dollars, respectively. These will be adorned with a portrait of W. H. Seward; and thus it will be seen that collectors of official stamps will have to provide space in their albums for no less than 206 new stamps at a single stroke.



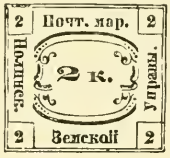

Russian Locals.—*Piratin* (Poltava.)—Our Belgian contemporary gives an engraving, which we repeat, of a stamp for the above district, said to belong to a rural post founded in 1868, and abandoned for want of support at the end of a year. The date both of the institution and of the suppression of this half-forgotten post is anterior to that of the government decree. The resuscitation of its stamps at the present day, though not without several parallels, is a surprising cir-



cumstance, as is also the suppression of the service. M. Moens gives full details respecting the stamp, and even states the number of stamps on a sheet. We do not know what may be the source of his information, but we cannot help expressing a hope that he has not been imposed on. Such a design as the above—though it may well have been chosen for a post established in an out-of-the-way locality—is easily concocted, and we have very few means of controlling its authenticity.

*Nolinsk* (Viatka).—A Nolinsk stamp was described as follows in the list published by us in July, 1871:—Numeral and value in centre of circle, inscription in outer oval frame, figure of value in each angle. Col. imp., obl., 2 kop., green. This stamp has at length turned up, accompanied by three others, two of which are presumably of earlier date, and the third is in use now.




Adopting the order in which they are chronicled by M. Moens, and which is avowedly based on the facial evidence afforded by the stamps themselves, we come first to a square, type-printed 2 kop., in black, on straw-coloured paper. This, there is every reason to suppose from it primitive appearance, was really the first issued. Then comes a slightly more complex design, in which the value is enclosed in a kind of double parenthesis. This also is in black, on yellowish wove paper. The third stamp is the one already known, though not quite correctly described. In this emission, the value is in a double transverse oval; the impression is black, and the paper green.

Lastly, we come to the type in present use, which, in some respects, resembles the second issue, and is printed in black on glazed, bright red paper. If we seek an explanation for these successive emissions, all of an equally primitive character, it will probably prove that only one supply of each type was printed off; and when that was







exhausted, a fresh type was composed by the printer from the characters nearest at hand, and, certainly, with an eye to utility only.

*Ekaterinoslav.*—It is stated by *Le Timbre-Poste*, on the authority of a correspondent, that the letter E in the centre of the stamp for this district does not stand for the name of the city, but is the initial of the Empress Catherine's name—Катерина. From this, we understand that the letter E stands for the Russian K.

*Weissiegonsk.*—A new series has already made its appearance for this district, and by the kindness of a correspondent we are enabled to annex an engraving of the design adopted. The stamps have rather a peculiar look, resulting from the manner in which they are printed. The entire design, inscriptions and all, is in black ink. The ground is coloured, and is printed over the inscriptions which surround the shield, whilst the external labels are left white. The black lined and dotted portions of the shield are left untouched, whilst the emblems they bear are coloured. The colour, as stated above, is printed over the black, and has been very successfully struck, as it rarely overlaps the white parts. In the new issue the crustacean is clearly apparent; the emblem in the upper part of the shield, however, does not appear to be the same as that on the previous type; and, seeing that the arms of the province or government are not likely to have been changed, the substitution of another device requires explana-



tion. What that other device really is we cannot quite understand. The date below the shield—1870—is also another noticeable feature in these stamps. As they have only just been put in circulation, it cannot be intended to indicate the date of emission, and we can only conjecture that it is inserted in commemoration of the now well-known decree of 1870, whereby the local posts were authorised. They are not, however, the first to bear a reference to the legislation which established the existing system of provincial government; in the Elizavetgrad a book figures below the arms, bearing the inscription RURAL ADMINISTRATION ACT. Of the new Weissiegonsk type three values only are as yet known, viz., the ½ kop., above represented, coloured black and yellow; the 1 kop., black and green; and the 5 kop., black and crimson. Our specimens are clipped close round and gummed.

GREAT BRITAIN.—A new threepenny stamp —differing from its predecessor, however, in secondary details only—quietly made its appearance on the 15th ult. The principal change is in the corner squares; which, instead of being solid, with white letters, contain each a white octagon, in the centre of which is a coloured letter; the little side disks in like manner are now white, with coloured numerals (11). These modifications have either necessitated, or been made the occasion for, the re-engraving of the entire framework, with the following results: the foliate ornament no longer touches the external frame; the corner squares now touch the inscribed frame; the white line running round the latter has been made broader, at the expense of the solid part of the frame, and, as a consequence, the inscriptions are in narrower and wider letters. Altogether, we are inclined to think the appearance of the stamp has been improved by the lightening of the details. The colour remains the same, though that also seems a shade lighter. It will not be forgotten by our readers that the intention of the postal authorities is to introduce white corner disks and coloured numerals in all the values of this series, and it is in part execution of this plan that we receive this new threepence.

MONTENEGRO.—The rumour which originated with *Le Timbre-Poste*, that this country is about to employ postage stamps, finds confirmation in the *Gazette des Timbres*, which contains an illustration of the adopted type, and information as to the circumstances connected with its creation. The design consists of a three-quarter face portrait of the prince of Montenegro, representing a young man of a frank, prepossessing aspect. Laurel branches, united by a knot below, encircle the portrait. The external frame is a rectangular one, with *fleur-de-lis* ornaments at the corners, and inscriptions, in white letters, which Dr. Magnus translates thus: On the left, BJIEEGA; above, POCHTE; and on the right, TSR. GORE, signifying POSTAGE STAMP OF TSERNAGORE. In the lower margin is the denomination NOVTCH (equalling about a kopec), preceded by the numeral of value. This design is the work of the imperial printing-office at Vienna, whither the prince went recently to visit the international exhibition. Seven values have been printed off, in colour on white, as follows:—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2 | novtch | yellow. |
| 3 | ,, | green. |
| 5 | ,, | vermilion. |
| 7 | ,, | violet. |
| 10 | ,, | blue. |
| 15 | ,, | bistre. |
| 25 | ,, | brown. |

These are, however, only proofs, and there is an eighth—a 10 novtch, blue on orange-yellow, intended probably for journals. All the values are to be gummed and perforated, like the Austrian stamps. The date of issue is not yet fixed. The characters of the inscriptions resemble the Russian very closely, and Dr. Magnus explains it by the fact that the Russian alphabet is borrowed from that of the ecclesiastical Sclavonic. The learned doctor concludes his notice of the stamps by expressing his confidence in the accuracy and good faith of the Viennese correspondent from whom his information was received.

CHILI.—Our correspondent, Mr. Meyer, of Valparaiso, has obligingly forwarded us a frank stamp which has a curious history of its own. It is composed of two parts: first of all, there is the word CANCELADO between branches in a transverse oval, and over this

has been struck the word FRANCA in a narrow oblong frame with convex ends. Mr. Meyer's explanation of their employment had better be given in his own words :—

Enclosed is a frank which is stamped on letters coming from the Caracoles mines. Caracoles is situate in a piece of territory claimed by Chili and by Bolivia. The discovery of silver mines led to a treaty between the two countries (completed in December last), in which it was agreed that both should share the revenue derivable from the said mines, saltpetre, &c. According to this arrangement, the profits of the post-office are to be divided; and, consequently, the Bolivian stamps (which were used at first) could no longer be employed, and the handstamp in question came into use. The "franca" stamp is the same as those used here for letters that go free, and the "cancelado" is, for aught I know, the signature of the Bolivian post-office. At first they were stamped in green, and now in black.

In the "Correspondence" columns will be found a letter from Mr. Meyer, containing a list of the Chilian envelopes that are at present in use.

ST. LUCIA.—The annexed cut is that of a type common to three suspicious or, at least,




doubtful stamps, which are stated, and probably with truth, to have been printed in Paris. M. Moens, though he has received them through a gentleman of unquestioned integrity, is not disposed to admit them, except upon full proof of character; and he remarks that, by a curious coincidence, the saints have been specially sought after by the concocters of stamps. Thus we find spurious emissions for Saint Domingo, San Marino, Saint Kitt's, Saint Thomas, &c. The three stamps are, respectively, numbered 1 (*qy.*, penny), ultramarine; 3, magenta; 6, violet.*

ANTIGUA.—The penny is now printed in an effective deep red, with CC. and crown watermark. The gum is much thinner than on preceding issues; probably a different composition has been adopted, to prevent that deterioration and change of colour to which the Antigua penny are so peculiarly liable.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—*The American Journal of Philately* states that the set of Argentine stamps is to be completed by the addition of the three following values—30 c., 60 c., and 90 c.

SERVIA.—The 2 paras, of which the issue was reported in our last, is now in circulation, and is of a new type, of which we expect to be able to give an engraving in our next.

NATAL.—The shilling has just come over in a new colour—a kind of reddish violet, with the surcharge, POSTAGE, in Roman capitals crossing the stamp from bottom to top.

JAPAN.—From *Le Timbre-Poste* we learn that a 4 sen rose has been issued, of which the design resembles that of the current 2 sen.

CEYLON.—The 4 cent envelope, originally of a dull, greyish blue, is now printed bright blue.

FINLAND.—A new post card for this country is announced.

* At the last moment before going to press, we receive the *Gazette des Timbres*, which contains information that "Messrs. Duboulay, Minvielle, & Co. have obtained the concession of a line of steamboats between Castries, Port Louis, and around the entire coast of St. Lucia. In virtue of an authorisation of the government, they will work the postal service from the interior of the island," and to that effect have had the above series of stamps lithographed in Paris. We leave with Dr. Magnus the responsibility for these details; he may or may not have been imposed on.

## THE STAMPS OF PORTUGAL.

BY THE REV. R. B. EARÉE.

*(Continued from page 110.)*

THE stamps bearing the effigy of Donna Maria hardly had time to get common; for




barely two years elapsed before they were replaced by the stamps of the new monarch. When I say they had not time to get common, I must except the 25 reis, which cannot be ranked with stamps of even average rarity. I should be glad if any of our correspondents would enlighten me as to the reason why this 25 reis was so much more used than the other three varieties. Judging only from the appearance of the reprints, any one would say, most unhesitatingly, that the 5 reis ought to be much more common than the 25 reis, or, in fact, than any of the other values; for the die of the said 5 reis appears to have had at least as many impressions printed from it as all the others

put together. In the face of this, the 5 reis, used, sells for three or four shillings, whilst the 25 reis can be bought for as many pence. These facts lead me to offer the following suggestions:—

1. A very large number of 5 reis stamps must have been printed, *and destroyed*; or,

2. A very large number of reprints must have been taken from the 5 reis die in 1864. Either of these things would account for the decadence of the 5 reis die; but I am inclined to the suggestion No. 1, because the reprinted 5 reis sells for half as much again as either of the other three, which would not be the case if the 5 reis had been the most extensively reprinted of the whole set. The reader must judge for himself as to which of my suggestions is the more probable. As I have said, these stamps had a currency of about two years, when they were replaced by the

### Issue of 1855.

Col. imp. on white, imperf.

Paper.—White wove paper, unglazed, a trifle stouter than that of the first issue.

Gum.—Yellowish white.

Design.—Embossed profile of Don Pedro to right, in solid pearled circle or oval. On the neck of the bust are the initials of the engraver, Don Francisco de Borges Freire. On the stamps of Donna Maria these initials are embossed, but on the stamps of this issue they are in sunken letters. The King is represented as having *straight* hair. Of the 5 reis Dr. Magnus mentions five types, "distinguished from each other (says *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for April, 1870) by various differences in the details of the design, and, among others, by the number of pearls forming the circle; these, when the condition of the specimen is good enough to permit of their being counted, are among the best evidence of the variety. For our readers' guidance, the following are the numbers for the five varieties, respectively: 75, 81, 89, and two, each 76."




In the state in which the obliterated Portuguese generally come to hand, it is excessively difficult to distinguish the various types. To count the pearls on the 5 reis of this issue, the best plan, in my opinion, is to turn the stamps over, and examine them from behind. With considerable difficulty I have succeeded in making out the following from the five types mentioned by M. Moens.

*Type* 1.—Lettering very large and coarse; first R of CORREIO has a short tail; I higher than the other letters; second R and E both touch circle round pearls; S of REIS at some distance from ornamental spandrels; all the loops of spandrels small; 89 pearls round the head.

*Type* 2.—Lettering large, but not coarse; foot of second R in CORREIO *almost* touches circle; I lower than the other letters; S of REIS *almost* touches spandrel; loops of spandrels, *very* small; 76 pearls.

*Type* 3.—Lettering large, but very thin; all letters of CORREIO at some distance from circle; E higher than the other letters; S of REIS not near spandrels; loops of spandrels moderately large; 76 pearls.

*Type* 4.—Lettering very small, and not near circle; E and I a little higher than the other letters; loops of spandrels very large; 75 pearls.

*Type* 5. — Medium-sized lettering, not touching circle; I higher than the other letters, and rather crooked; loops of spandrels very large; 76 pearls.

The number of pearls does not correspond in every case with the numbers given in the extract quoted above from *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine;* but the fault is very possibly on my side; for though I have counted the pearls on each stamp carefully several times it is, nevertheless, very easy to make a mistake.

### List.

| | |
|---|---|
| 5 reis, | chocolate, v. medium to dark. |
| 5 ,, | red-bistre, medium. |
| 5 ,, | yellowish brown, v. medium to dark. |
| 25 reis, | chalky blue, medium. |
| 25 ,, | dull blue, v. medium to dark. |
| 25 ,, | royal blue, v. medium to very dark. |
| 50 reis, | yellowish green. |
| 100 reis, | lilac. |
| 100 ,, | reddish lilac. |

### Issue of 1856.

In 1856 the stamps described above were suppressed, and a new set issued, similar to the last, except that the king's hair was represented as *curly*, instead of straight as before. From the fact that this new issue was almost exactly identical with the last—the only difference being in the portrait of the king—it is very probable that the alteration was made by His Majesty's own desire, as I do not fancy the government would have gone to the expense of a new issue, with such a *very* small alteration, unless the king had expressed a wish to that effect. This, however, is only my own theory. I have found two types of the 5 reis of this issue, each with 82 pearls round the bust. The first has the pearls very large, very close together, and oval; whilst in the second they are small, tolerably far apart, and quite round. M. Moens mentions two types of the 25 reis blue.* I have also found two types of the 25 reis rose, in which the figure 5 differs considerably.




#### List.

5 reis, chocolate, v. medium to very dark.
5 „ pale bistre.
5 „ red-bistre, v. pale to medium.
5 „ yellowish brown, rather dark.
5 „ very dark blackish brown.

(Two types, R. B. E.)

25 reis, chalky blue.
25 „ bright royal blue, v. medium to dark.

(Two types, J. B. Moens.)

25 reis, rose, v. pale to medium.
25 „ bright rose-carmine, v. medium to dark.
} Issued in 1857.

(Two types, R. B. E.)

50 reis. } Whether these two stamps were ever printed, or not, I cannot say. At all events they were not issued. Probably the 50 reis and 100 reis of the last issue were not exhausted.
100 „ }

### Reprints of the 1856 Issue.

As far as I can learn, only one of the stamps of Don Pedro has been reprinted, and that is the 5 reis, 1856. The paper is a little thicker, the gum whiter, the colour a warm yellowish brown, not at all streaky. I fancy the die has been touched up a bit, and the lines deepened. It is of my second type, with the 82 small round pearls; and the lettering is thin and very highly embossed. Frequently the pressure of the die has cut the stamp clear from the sheet for three parts of the way round. Some amateurs deny that this stamp is a reprint, but I have the authority of M. Moens—and, I believe, Dr. Magnus—for saying that it is. I have also never seen it obliterated, and it looks far too new and fresh for a stamp some sixteen or seventeen years old. I should be glad of the opinions of any brother philatelists concerning this stamp, especially as it is the only type of the 5 reis of this issue which is offered to collectors in any quantity—a fact which is in itself suspicious.

Next month, before going into the later issues, I shall endeavour to give a fuller account of the various types of the Don Pedro stamps. Up to the present date I have not succeeded in obtaining all the different types.

(*To be continued*).

* [The two types of the 25 reis blue are readily distinguishable by observing the network of the ground.—Ed.]

## INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF THE RUSSIAN LOCAL STAMPS.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

(*Continued from page* 100.)

We have endeavoured in the foregoing paragraphs to give an outline of the history of the establishment of the Russian local posts (as far as it is known), and to trace their powers and functions. That the service is yet in its earliest infancy is evident, but it is also evident that it is capable of great expansion, and is likely to prove an important auxiliary in the development of civilisation and commerce in Russia.

The surprising extent to which the system of local posts has been adopted in the few years which have elapsed since it was first thought of, shows a quick appreciation of its benefits on the part of the rural administrations. Of the 185 districts of which European Russia is composed, over fifty—scattered through twenty-three of the thirty-two departments—have already issued stamps. Some of these districts are situated in remote regions, Kotelnich, for instance, but the majority are found in or near the centre of the

empire, and it is a significant fact that many of them are in proximity to the great arterial railways. Thus, on or near the line from St. Petersburg to Moscow, we find the towns of Tver and Valdai, Novgorod, Borovitchi, &c.; on the line beyond Moscow, stretching in a south-easterly direction, are Kalomna, Riasan, Sapojok, Tamboff, Bogorodsk, &c.; more to the south we meet with Livni, Maloarchangelsk, Voronej, and Boguchar; and, finally, in regions lying near the sea of Azoff, we come upon Elisavetgrad, Peerjatin, Ekaterinoslav, and Cherson. Probably it is in these districts, in which railway communication has given a great impulse to trade, that the necessity of supplementing the imperial postal service by a local post, and thus linking the outlying portions with the chief towns, has made itself felt. In the really remote provinces, where the current of trade is sluggish, very little would seem to have been done towards improving the communications.

Turning now to the stamps themselves, we find it very difficult—we may say impossible—to trace the history of the various types and series with anything approaching to accuracy. This arises from the fact that they have been accidentally discovered one after another, and that for the great majority no precise date of emission can be fixed. The first stamp brought under the notice of collectors was the original 5 kop. Bogorodsk, blue. This was unearthed by the St. Petersburg correspondent of this journal, and described in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for 1869, page 75. The specimen which was then commented on was obliterated, and one of the very few used Russian locals which have made their way over here. It was figured in the number for July, 1869, in company with the Borowitz stamp which M. Moens was the first to meet with. Nothing was then known respecting the service for which they were issued, but the correspondent above referred to, wrote that he had seen several other types used for other places. A month later the Schluesselburg and Riasan stamps cropped up. The Soumy emission was shown at the Philatelic Society's meeting in October, and the Cherepovetz was described by M. Moens in December, 1869. In the number of this magazine for March, 1870, Mr. W. E. Hayns, in an interesting letter, discussed the variations in the inscriptions on the then known locals. No further notice appears respecting them, until November of that year, when the Belozersk made its appearance. In March, 1871, the Louga stamp was introduced to notice, and was followed in May, by the Berdiansk and Tver impressions. Finally, in *The Stamp Collector's Magazine* for July, 1871, appeared what purported to be a complete and authentic list of Russian locals. Though not, in reality, complete, it was in the highest degree, authentic. It included not only the stamps above mentioned, but a number of others previously unknown—in all, fifty-one. The different types were described from specimens which adorned the album of a painstaking official at St. Petersburg, who had been at great trouble to obtain them. They are now all of them known to collectors, having come over one after the other during the period which has elapsed since the publication of the list, which, be it said to the honour of the compiler, has formed the starting-point for all subsequent research.

It is unnecessary to trace any further the introduction of the local stamps to the philatelic world, and a critical analysis of the various issues does not enter into the scheme of a merely preparatory article like the present; suffice it to say that hardly a month has passed, since the appearance of the list, but what the chronicle of new issues has contained the description of one or more fresh arrivals. The number of specimens has risen to something like 140, and collectors will have seriously to consider the propriety of setting apart a special album for the Russian local emissions, treating each district as if it were a separate country. The propriety of such a course is rendered evident by the not unfrequent changes in type which take place; thus, three designs in succession have been issued for Cherson; three for Bogorodsk (whose stamps and envelopes have risen to the number of twenty-three); two for Belozersk; two for Tamboff; two for Longa; two for Rjeff; two for Weissiegonsk, &c. Reverting to the question of date of issue, if we accept as correct the statements made in *Le Timbre Poste* and M.

Moens' new catalogue—and we must suppose they are made on good authority—one at least of the Russian locals, the Schluesselburg, took its rise so far back as in 1865, and is said to have been withdrawn from circulation in 1868, so that it ran through its term of currency long before the law sanctioning the establishment of local posts was passed. That under such circumstances specimens of the Schluesselburg stamp should be so common as they are, is a fact which seems to require some explanation. Other locals, though not equally ancient, have been in existence for several years, Thus, exclusive of those mentioned in these pages in 1869 and 1870, which must even then have been in use for some considerable time, we find that the Demiansk, according to M. Moens, was issued in 1868, the Saratoff in 1869, the Koseletz in 1867, and for the first Kotelnitz the exact date of issue—the 22nd June, 1869—is quoted by the Belgian philatelist.

With regard to the designs of the stamps, they may fairly be divided into three classes. 1. Simple inscriptions, consisting of the name of the issuing administrations and the value, in a framework more or less ornamental. 2. The heraldic emblems of the district, or of the district and province combined, on the same shield. 3. Postal emblems. The first, which is certainly the least interesting class, finds its representatives in the Tichvin, Tver, Kiriloff, Boguchar, first Livni, and first Belozersk emissions. The third is composed of the Cherson stamps, with letter-carrier on horseback, galloping, and the Melitopol, with letter-carrier on horseback, ambling.

To the second class it is necessary to give more particular attention; for, apart from the purely philatelic interest which all stamps, pretty or ugly, present, as stamps, to the collector, the emissions on which are figured the local heraldic bearings of the district possess an interest of their own, from the fact that they illustrate the specialities of the region to which they belong. Unfortunately, even with respect to the meaning of the designs, our information is still very incomplete. It is not possible to give a comprehensive explanatory list, but it will not be out of place to insert here a *résumé* of the explanations which have been given respecting the devices on several of the local stamps.

*Belozersk*, 3 kopecs, fish and cross saltire. The fish indicates the situation of the town near the Beloe Ozero (White Lake), fish being the principal trade article there.

*Berdiansk*, a seaport on the Azoff, hence the anchor.

*Bogorodsk.*—The upper part of the oval contains the Moscow arms—St. George and the dragon—the lower, a weaving-loom or spinning-wheel, an emblem of the cotton works and silk manufactories of the town. Some discussion arose recently as to whether the horseman is really intended for St. George or for a Russian emperor; but it was finally admitted to be intended for the saint.

*Borovichi* is situated on the river Msta, which forms a connecting link in the canal system which unites the Baltic with the Caspian sea. The design in the right half of the stamp—a kind of staircase—is a lock or sluice, an illustration of the cataracts of the Msta, near Borovichi.

*Kolomna.*—The name points to the significance of the column or pillar which is, no doubt, the arms of the district.

*Schluesselburg.*—The name, literally translated, signifies *Keyborough*, the adoption of a key as its armorial device thus receives its explanation.

*Tamboff.*—Bee-hive: bee-keeping being very much spread, the bee-hive is the armorial design, not only of the town but also of the province of Tamboff. This is why it appears also on the stamps of Shatzk. The hive also indicates, in a general way, the fertility of the land.

*Soumy.*—The name Soumy is the plural number of the word Souma, meaning bag; this is the reason for the strange coat of arms of that town, which might be taken to be simply a representation of a mail-bag.

*Valdai.*—The peak has reference to the Valdai mountains, which form a chain of about 200 miles in length and 50 in breadth. They are situated in the south-eastern part of the government of Novgorod, and among them the Volga, Duna, Dnieper, and other rivers have their source. Their greatest elevation is only 800 feet, and they have

attracted attention simply because they are almost the only hills in European Russia.

This is but a sample of the instructive lessons which may be derived from the quaint and uncouth Russian locals, which by the very law which sanctioned them are condemned—fortunately for collectors—to bear devices which shall not be capable of confusion with the stamps of the imperial office. The first Melitopol stamp was suppressed because its device was considered to transgress the limits; the Dmitrieff, on the other hand, is maintained in use although its design consists of the imperial arms—an exception for which there must be some good reason.

The St. Petersburg stamps are included by M. Moens among the Russian locals, but, as it appears to the writer, on insufficient grounds. It is certain that their employment has nothing in common with that of the locals proper, and they were issued before the present system of rural government came into being; they bear, moreover, the imperial arms, and can only be considered as stamps issued for a special purpose by the imperial post.

Mr. Pleske, of St. Petersburg, in a letter published in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* last year, insists on the inclusion of the Livonian stamps among the Russian locals, because they really perform the same service. But the Livonian stamps were issued in 1863-4, and, according to statements which appeared at the time, the German inhabitants of the Wendenschen Kreis had possessed a local postal service, founded by Moravian immigrants, for many years; and when Russia took possession of Livonia, the inhabitants were confirmed in the exercise of their peculiar privileges,—among others the local postal institution, which has ever since been respected. Hence, the writer has deemed it unadvisable to include the Livonian stamps, which have an independent history of their own, with the Russian locals.

Of the varieties springing from differences in paper, perforation, colour, &c., this is hardly the place to speak. That many such varieties may be distinguished is probable. As to the design, the form of impression generally adopted — the lithographic — favours the multiplication of varieties arising from trifling differences in detail. M. Moens has already, with his usual keenness of observation, detected several of these differences, but the writer is inclined to doubt whether they will ever attract much interest. In roughly-printed or lithographed stamps variations become the rule rather than the exception, and specimens which differ from the normal type only by the presence of an additional comma, or the malformation of a letter, have but little philatelic importance.

In like manner, variations in the shade of colour can hardly be treated with much respect, though of course distinct colours of the same value must be collected. The existence of certain values in two different colours is not due to any printer's freak, or to an accidental running short of the colour first issued. In such cases each colour has its particular use; one serves for the stamps on letters from the town to the district, and the other for letters from the district to the town.

Very few of the Russian locals are perforated; the Cherson and the lately-issued Podolsk are, we believe, the only issues which "show their teeth." It is probable, however, seeing that the Podolsk, Bronnitzi, Kolomna, and Bogorodsk stamps are all printed at Moscow by the same person, that the next supplies for the three latter districts will also be perforated. Meanwhile it may be mentioned that the first Livni was issued with scalloped edges, which gave it quite the appearance of a bobbin label. The unusual shape of many of these locals is indeed one of the first things to strike an observer. We have small upright lozenges, *e.g.*, Pskoff and the new Borovitchi; large transverse lozenges, as witness the Egorieffsk; large rectangles, such as the Ekaterinoslav and Kiriloff; and small rectangles in the Demiansk and Tamboff. In short, taken altogether, these stamps combine in their designs, as in their history, the greatest possible interest to philatelists. They offer a vast field for study, and the writer trusts that among his readers not a few will be found to pursue the investigation indicated, rather than commenced in the present rudimentary introduction.

## POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

An International Congress, at which all the European Powers and the United States will be represented, is to meet at Berne, on the 1st of September, for the purpose of concluding a common postal treaty.

The Hour, among its other conservative tendencies, seems to avoid at least one form of modern innovation. The editor's office is situated in Fleet Street, and the printing-office is in St. John Street. Some papers would connect the two by a telegraphic wire or pneumatic tube, but our young contemporary reverts to the old posting system. Each evening a messenger on horseback, booted and spurred, stands in a neighbouring lane, and at his side are his saddle-bags. Every now and then some one emerges from the office with a parcel of "copy;" it is hurriedly given to the messenger, crammed into the bag, and off he goes at the top of his speed, like Tam o' Shanter.

Ocean Post Cards. — The Postmaster-General at Washington, according to *The New York Herald*, has at present under consideration a scheme for a postal card convention between England and the United States, by which the cards would be delivered in either country for three cents. The only obstacle in the way now is the demand of the steamship companies, who receive two cents, and urge that they are underpaid. The postage would be divided as follows: one cent to Great Britain, one cent to the United States, and one cent to the mail packet company. The new Philadelphia steamship line has signified its readiness to carry the mails at the lowest rate. The postmaster-general has authority to make the convention without reference to Congress, so that the old idea of ocean penny postage may be approximately realised in a few months, and this will be a long step towards the lowering of the rates for letters.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### "Mr. OVERY TAYLOR'S CONTINUATION."

*To the Editor of* "The Stamp-Collector's Magazine."

Dear Sir,—With regard to the letter which appeared in your last, on the above subject, permit me to say that the Editor of *The Philatelist* may well be excused for the expression, seeing that, in noticing my "Paper for Beginners," he was really referring to a *rudimentary* article.

Dear Sir,

Yours truly,

OVERY TAYLOR.

### CURRENT CHILIAN ENVELOPES.

*To the Editor of* "The Stamp-Collector's Magazine."

Dear Sir,—Since last I wrote you, another variety in the envelope line has appeared—the 10 c., pale blue on white. Perhaps the following list of dates on which the various envelopes appeared may be of use to you.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 5 c. white, | note size ($5\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{5}{16}$ in.) | | Nov. 22, 1872. |
| 5 c. blue, | do. | do. | |
| 5 c. buff, | do. | do. | |
| 10 c. blue, 10 c. buff, 15 c. white, | large size ($6\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{9}{16}$), | middle of Jan., 1873. | |
| 5 c. white, 5 c. blue, 5 c. buff, | do. | ($5\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{5}{16}$), | end of Jan., 1873. |
| 10 c. white, | do. | ($6\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{9}{16}$), | end of April, 1873. |

From this you will see that all that is required to complete the sets of the values in circulation, is the 15 c. on buff and on blue, as it is not at all likely that the 10 c., 15 c., and 20 c. will be issued of two sizes.

Dear Sir,

Yours truly,

*Valparaiso.* L. W. MEYER.

### THE LA GUAIRA STAMPS.

*To the Editor of* "The Stamp-Collector's Magazine."

Dear Sir,—I fancy your correspondent, "G. H. H.," must have made a mistake in his letter of last month. I said distinctly that the forgeries of the *reales* series were all of the first type (circ. perf. 13, small figures in corners); and the stamps he describes are of the second type, and are, therefore, in no danger of being mistaken for forgeries. In the *medio real rose* (first type), the upper limbs of C, B, and E, in CABELLO, are considerably larger, thicker, and more prominent than the lower ones, in all the copies which I have ever seen; and in the *dos reales*, though not quite so marked, they are sufficiently apparent. In the second type, with which the forgeries have nothing to do, these peculiarities do not appear. I fancy, therefore, his stamps *must* be of the second type. He speaks of the 6 being in the centre of a "Maltese cross." Now, the 6 *is* in the centre of a cross (not a Maltese cross, but a cross *pattée*, which differs considerably from a Maltese cross), but the said cross is so very rude that it is much better described as *a square, with a round or oval dot in each corner*. In all the copies of the first types which I possess, or have seen, the 6 touches the dot in the left-hand bottom corner; or, if your correspondent will have it so, it touches that part of the cross *pattée* where the bottom arm joins the left-hand one. For the guidance of non-heraldic readers, I may mention that the cross *pattée* is formed of four triangles placed point to point; whereas the Maltese cross resembles four arrow-heads, similarly placed, or four fishes' tails, joined at the parts where they have been separated from the body.

With regard to the article by "Etonia," I would beg to call attention to the fact that most of the inverted watermarks mentioned have been already described either by myself or "G. W. B." in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. ix., pp. 103, 119, and 134.

Yours faithfully,

ROBERT B. EARÉE.

*The Curatage, Walter Belchamp, Sudbury.*

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

G. C., London.—We should think Moens' new catalogue would be about the best.

Quæstor, Norwich.—Your stamp is simply a cut specimen of the impressed 1 groschen German envelope.

B. S.; A. H. L.; G. H. H.; F. H. S; J. S. Daniels.—To these correspondents our best thanks are due, for the information contained in their letters.

A. G.—Your letter of 3rd inst., though it contains no absolutely new information, is very creditable, as showing that habit of careful observation, without which no real advance can be made in the study of stamps.

L. W. Meyer, Valparaiso.—From our June number you will have perceived that we possess positive official information as to the names of the personages represented on the new Argentine stamps. Accept our best thanks for the intelligence your letter contains, of which we have made use in the present number.

## OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

*La Gazette des Timbres.*—The June number, which completes the first volume, reached us towards the end of July. Its contents are of an unusually varied and interesting character—a fact which increases our regret, on reading the announcement on the last page, that the *Gazette* is to be temporarily discontinued, with a view to subsequent reissue in another and cheaper form. Taken as a whole, the twelve numbers which have appeared have hardly come up to our expectations, there being in many parts a repellent dryness in the style; but the last of the twelve is much superior in its attractiveness to the rest. It opens with an account of the Alaska parchment money, mistaken by a traveller for postage stamps, and to which we elsewhere allude. The next article, entitled "The American Private (or Proprietary) Stamps," is a reply to the arguments which have been advanced in the pages of this and other journals, against the collection of the Yankee physic stamps. It is a well-written defence, but, borrowing an expression it contains, it seems to us "its reasoning is more specious than true." The learned doctor urges that the stamps which are fabricated in the government *ateliers* for the account of private persons—who, in addition to the printing expenses, pay a "royalty" of one cent per 25 cents to the government—are really fiscal labels. We cannot see that they are such, except in the very narrowest sense of the word. They are, above and before all other things, mere pictorial advertisements, designed for the purpose, literally and figuratively, of giving a certain *cachet* to the wares to which they are affixed. The proof lies in the fact that the government has issued a series of Internal Revenue stamps of its own, for the purpose of denoting the payment of the duty on patent medicines; and if the proprietors of such medicines prefer to have special stamps of their own engraved, it is simply with a view to the embellishment of their bottles and boxes. In a matter of this kind collectors of fiscal stamps will look to *the leading intention* of the issuing person or company, and will hardly be misled by shallow arguments based on the fact that the impression of the stamps involves a payment to the state. As Dr. Magnus himself says, with reference to the observation of one of our contributors, that, on the principles enunciated by the *Gazette*, railway tickets ought also to be collected, as being, in fact, a kind of stamp, "good sense, without difficulty, makes a distinction between them." Very true, and good sense must not be altogether disregarded in the pursuit of logical sequence to an end, which—seeing that it would involve the purchase, in this instance, of no end of pills and mixtures—may well be termed a bitter one. The learned doctor, in the course of his discussion of this very question of the difference between railway tickets and stamps, says, "The stamp which indicates the payment of a tax is a kind of *paper money*, which circulates, and which is purchased, like the precious metals. Adherence, and the cancellation which follows, whatever may be its nature, destroys this attribute, withdraws the stamp from circulation, and transforms it into a receipt or discharge." But, judged by this rule, how does it fare with his favourite proprietary stamps? Do they ever circulate? Would they be accepted as money, if even they were allowed to circulate? Decidedly not; their owner can do nothing with them but stick them on his packages; and until he does so stick them, would be very sorry to part with any of them; for were he to do so, they might find their way into the hands of some rival quack. Once on the pill-boxes, they become technically transformed into so many receipts, and in reality begin to perform the service for which they were created. Hence they are never stamps, in the proper acceptation of the word, and the faith in the future professed by our contemporary must be great, if it includes the belief that his opinions will ever make much progress on this side of the channel. That he feels their weakness is evident from the fact that he finds himself obliged to reinforce them by pleading the uselessness of collecting rainbow proofs of postage stamps—a practice which we are far from defending,—and also by referring, in proof of the omnivorous tastes of English collectors, to our publishers'

advertisements of packets of flowers, animals, monograms, &c., which it has not entered into anyone's mind to assert should form part of a philatelic collection. The utility of collections of flowers, pictures, or other objects, which it may please our publishers to advertise, has really nothing whatever to do with the question; and Dr. Magnus must have a peculiar notion of editorial responsibility, if he thinks that it is engaged in respect of the advertisements which fill the fly-sheet. Dr. Magnus asks us to admit that he is consequent with his premises, and declares that he is satisfied with being logical. We cannot make the admission he requires. Though it concerns us but very slightly, we cannot acknowledge that the physic labels are, in the fair acceptation of the word, fiscals. In collecting them, Dr. Magnus is true at most to the letter, but certainly not to the spirit of his own arguments; and philately itself—we say it with all respect to our learned *confrère*—suffers in the esteem of many by the spectacle of the excess to which, in consequence of the dreadful logical exigencies by which it is surrounded, the study of "stamps" conducts.

Thus much, then, for the medicine tickets, which form the subject of Dr. Magnus's spirited, but, to our mind, inconclusive article. To it succeeds a further instalment of his *Petite* or "Minor Gazette," in which the instructions for mounting the Austrian emissions are completed. Then follows the usual *Chronique*, to which we were indebted for sundry items of information published in our last; and the number winds up with a reference to a rare Hawaiian 2 c. stamp, and a short but interesting article on the Persian stamps, which, considering the importance of its contents, we have taken the liberty to reprint. In taking leave of our *confrère*, it is with the hope that, ere long we may have the pleasure of meeting him again under another garb, and bearing a title which will not oblige him to make excursions into the realm of fiscal and physic stamps.

*The Stamp.*—Having sped the parting, we are now free to welcome the coming guest, if the term can be applied to a journal which has already made good its footing among us by the issue of three fortnightly numbers. It is a compact and well-written eight-page publication, rather larger than *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, containing a great deal of information. In proof of the publishers' desire to keep their readers well informed, we may mention that the new English 3d. having made its appearance too late for notice in the body of the second number, a fly-sheet was added, containing a full description of it. If we must find something to complain of, we may as well run a tilt against the rather ostentatious display of linguistic knowledge, as shown in the frequent intercalation of French expressions, and the occasional dash of German and Italian phrases. In a single column we find "*che se ne vivono nel dolce far niente*," "*par excellence*," "*l'honneur de l'Amerique est sauvée*," and "*sonst und jetzt*." We must also object to the lack of care in correcting the proofs, which has led to a far too frequent recurrence of typographical stumbling-blocks. This, however, is a fault which we trust that time and practice will rectify. Meanwhile, we must do justice to the good intentions which evidently animate the publishers, and we cannot doubt but that their journal will meet with considerable support.

The contents of the paper are divided into four parts, viz., "Editorial," "New Issues," "Summary of News," and "Reviews." The "New Issues" contains the latest intelligence, together with illustrations of the greatest novelties. The "Summary of News" is made up of a number of more or less interesting items, and the article entitled "Reviews" is somewhat similar to the present one. We learn from the "Summary," that the National Bank Note Company has sent a frame of stamps to the Vienna Exhibition, and that Germany and Holland have followed suit. We glean from the "Reviews" that Messrs. Grant, late of Birmingham, and now of Dawlish, have published a Price Catalogue, which has had the advantage of being edited by Mr. Pemberton; but where is Mr. Pemberton's own analytical catalogue all this time? The measurements of all the stamps in the journal under review are given in millimetres, and

we observe that the publishers purpose issuing a scale of French and English measures, up to 8 inches, lithographed on strong paper—a useful auxiliary which we ourselves had the intention of issuing, and which our contemporary's readers cannot dispense with.

*The American Journal of Philately.*—We have before us the numbers for the 1st and 15th July, respectively. The latter contains six pages, or rather—deducting the head-piece—five-and-a-half pages of letter-press. Of these, one-and-a-quarter are filled with original matter; the remainder is occupied by a reprint of "Warden's" article on the Réunion stamps, first published in these columns, to which not a word of acknowledgment of the source is appended. Such conduct disgraces a journal; for the reprint is nothing less than a dishonest appropriation of an essay with the composition of which the *A. J. P.* had nothing to do. We would fain hope the omission of all reference to this magazine was accidental, but our contemporary has but too frequently shown a disposition to make the least possible acknowledgment for taking what "isn't his'n." Turning from this disagreeable subject, we observe that the *A. J. P.* has lately received two specimens of the one cent Nicaragua; and we note the rumour that an entire series of Brazilian stamps, like the new 300 reis, is in course of preparation. The impression for July 1st is almost exclusively occupied with a list of the new official stamps for the United States, of which we make use in another place.

*La Posta Mondiale.*—This is the title of a journal of which the first number was issued in July last, at Florence, by P. R. de Torres. As far as we can judge, it appears to be a well-written publication; and its only defect, in our eyes, is that it treats of fiscal stamps, and accords to them a too prominent place. The contents of the opening number are made up of an "Introduction," a "Programme," a "Chronicle of the Month," and a "Review of Philatelic Journals." Under the heading "Jerusalem" the editor treats of the stamp of which an illustration was given in our July number, and supports our view that it is not an evidence of prepayment, but simply a kind of control mark struck on all letters passing through the Jerusalem branch of the French post-office. The new Spanish, the Servian 2 para, and other novelties are duly described, together with a number of Italian revenue and municipal stamps, of which the less said the better. A sheet of lithographed designs of the principal labels mentioned accompanies the letter-press. We have only to add, in conclusion, that we hail the appearance of an Italian journal, and cordially wish it long life and prosperity.

*The Philatelist.*—The last two numbers afford comparatively little ground for comment. The bill of fare for each is, however, quite up to the usual standard. The second part of Dr. Magnus's essay on "The various Modes of printing Postage Stamps," is the *pièce de résistance* of the former, and a reprinted article on "post cards" in the latter is well worthy of attention. The "Spud Papers" appear in both numbers—the stamps treated of being those of the Danubian Steam Navigation Co., Shanghai, and the Dutch Indies; the descriptions are from the Rev. R. B. Earée's practised pen. In the Danubian company imitations the inscriptions touch the outside of the oval; the inner fluke of the left-hand anchor is invisible, and the cables are not plain; the 17 soldi has two dots after and one in front of the numeral; the two 10 soldi have the figure 1 printed lower than the 0. With regard to the Shanghai, the genuine, being printed from blocks, show a slightly sunken impression, so that the lettering appears more or less raised on the back of the stamps. This is not so in the forgeries, which are lithographed and perfectly smooth. In the genuine, the longest spike of the dragon's tail touches the outer line of the design (not border) in every case, whilst in the forgeries it does not touch the outer line of the design in any part. The counterfeit Dutch Indies are good imitations, but may be detected from the fact that the circle round head of king contains only 86 pearls, whilst the genuine show 87; furthermore, the lettering is not at all clear, and is thinner than in the genuine, and the barbed flukes of the anchors, which on the latter are very clearly drawn, are mere shapeless dots in the forgeries.

*Le Timbre-Poste.*—Like the preceding publication, this old favourite offers but little to the gleaner outside of the usual "Chronique," which, as usual, abounds in novelties. In the August number, however, we must not omit to mention the appearance of a long and carefully written paper, by Dr. Magnus, on the 1873 reprints of the first Prussian envelopes and adhesives. We must relinquish the intention we had for a moment formed of giving a *résumé* of its conclusions as far as regards the envelopes, for it would be impossible satisfactorily to sum up within our limits the distinctive points of the originals and the reprints. With regard to the adhesives the case is not the same. The stamps received by Dr. Magnus are the 4 pf., ½ sgr., 1 sgr., 2 sgr., and 3 sgr.; and it appears that it is exceedingly difficult to distinguish them from the originals, seeing that they are on paper watermarked with the laurel crown, that the plates are not worn, and therefore the impressions are equal to the original ones, and that although the paper seems somewhat thicker, no fair comparison can be made between these crisp new specimens and the oft-manipulated copies of the known originals. The colour of the paper offers, in respect of the three higher values, about the only test, and even that is an uncertain one. The old 1 sgr. have a more or less marked shade of *rose-orange;* the new are rose-mauve: the old 2 sgr. are dark blue; the new sky or greenish blue: the old 3 sgr. are dark orange-yellow; the new are much paler, with a tendency towards a greenish shade. As to the two lower values, printed in colour, the reprinted orange ½ sgr. is of a more yellowish shade, whilst the 4 pf. green has less of yellow in it. However, that the stamps are reprints is certain, for only a little time back the Prussian post-office did not possess a single old stamp, and now the values of the first series are very easily obtainable.

## MR. MONSELL'S ANNUAL REPORT.

The Postmaster-general's nineteenth report has just made its appearance; and as the doings of what may be fairly termed the parent post-office can never be without interest to philatelists, a short discussion of the contents of this report can hardly be considered as a misappropriation of our space.

The march of the English administration is a steady one, untroubled by violent episodes. Year after year the number of offices goes on increasing, additional accommodation is given to important towns, and ameliorations in the service are introduced. The report before us opens with the usual enumeration of new buildings constructed during the year, and of towns to which extra mails are now despatched. The postmaster-general next refers to an error in the returns for 1871, by which the number of letters in that year was made to be 915,000,000, instead of 870,000,000. The figures for 1872 are not given, but a system of check counting has been adopted, which Mr. Monsell hopes will enable him to give the number of letters with confidence in his next report.

A little further on we find the following reference to the post card with embossed stamp.

> In compliance with the urgent solicitations of the committee of wholesale and retail stationers of the United Kingdom, permission was given, under certain restrictions, for private cards impressed with a halfpenny stamp at the office of inland revenue, and serving as letters, to pass through the post like post cards issued by government. *But of this concession little use has been made.*

The report contains the usual reference to the number of wrongly addressed letters which find their way to the returned-letter office. These amounted to over three millions and a half. Eleven-twelfths of the total number were either reissued with corrected addresses, or returned to senders—a very satisfactory result. Upwards of 15,000 letters were posted last year without any address, and nearly 600,000 newspapers, addressed to foreign parts, were stopped in the post-office and destroyed because they were insufficiently stamped, many people believing the halfpenny newspaper stamp to be postally omnipotent.

Under the heading "Foreign and Colonial Posts" we find the following interesting observations:—

> It has long been the wish of the British post-office to see a low and, as nearly as practicable, *uniform* rate

established throughout the whole of Europe; and I shall much rejoice when this object is attained. The rate as between the United Kingdom and several European countries has already been reduced to threepence, *but the European rate which the British office would prefer is* TWOPENCE.

We trust that in time the idea of a uniform rate, which originated, we believe, with Prince Bismarck, will take effect; and it is something to see the influence of the British office thrown into the scale in its favour. Certainly the rate proposed by Mr. Monsell could hardly be lower.

We are glad to find that our postal revenue has more than recovered from the effects of the introduction of post cards, and the reductions in the tariff. The net revenue last year was £1,524,000; viz., £1,505,000 from postage, and £19,000 from money-orders, being *an increase on the net revenue from postage* in 1871 of £260,500! Thus the elasticity of the service and its recuperative power are fully proved. The extension of the benefits of postal intercourse which take place every year is strikingly shown in the fact that the expenditure in 1872 nearly equalled the gross revenue in 1863.

The postmaster-general winds up his report with a bit of chit-chat, which he calls "Miscellaneous," and of which the following are the leading items:—

Intimation having been received on the afternoon of the 3rd December last, from the gas company supplying the chief office, that a supply could not be guaranteed for more than a few hours, in consequence of the stokers having struck work, steps were immediately taken for lighting the sorting offices in this building, as also in the branch offices in the Eastern Central District, with candles (entailing an order for a ton weight); arrangements being likewise made to provide lanthorns and torches for the mail-cart drivers, and oil lamps for lighting the post-office yard.

Such provision had to be continued during the next three days; and in the evening the sorting offices presented the novel appearance of being lighted up with 2,000 candles. The total expense during the four days of the strike was upwards of £58, but on the other hand there was a saving in the consumption of about 160,000 feet of gas, leaving a balance of loss of about £27.

As might be expected, the post-office receives many letters of inquiry on matters with which it can have no possible concern; and a curious collection might be made of the letters thus arriving in the course of any year. One of the strangest that have lately reached the department was from a French gentleman, who having, as he said, no relations or friends in London, wrote to ascertain whether the English law permitted a foreigner to marry a young lady, who was of age, against her father's will!

As an illustration of the variety of interests which the post-office is called upon to consider, it may be mentioned, that when the question of affording a daily post to a small place in Ireland, which up to that time had had only a tri-weekly post, was under consideration, a gentleman called upon the postmaster to urge that things might be left as they were; stating, as the reason of his application, that he had heard that in order to give the additional accommodation it would be necessary to alter the hours of running the mail-car; an alteration which would not, he said, suit himself and some other gentlemen who were in the habit of using the mail-car when going to fish on a lake near the mail-car route!

Previously to last July, it had been the rule of the service for local time to be observed for certain purposes at country post-offices; but, so far as England, Wales, and Scotland are concerned, this rule was then abolished; so that Greenwich time alone is now kept at all the post-offices in Great Britain.

After the report comes the usual dry brigade of tables, which we must say are by no means inviting. We were struck, however, by a fact evidenced by the last appendix in the series, namely, that the *net* revenue of the post-office in 1838 amounted to £1,659,510, subject to certain deductions, which could not then have been *very* important, for the cost of the packet service, and of stationery. We certainly had no idea that the returns at that date were as important as they are now.

## THE STAMPS OF PORTUGAL.

BY THE REV. R. B. EARÉE.

*(Continued from page 124.)*

WHEN Don Luis ascended the throne, the event was naturally marked by a new issue of stamps. We come therefore to the

### ISSUE OF 1862.

Col. imp. on white, imperf.

PAPER,—as before.

GUM.—Yellowish white.







DESIGN.—Embossed profile of Don Luis to *left*, in pearled circle, or oval. Engraver's name (F. B. F.) in sunken letters, as before, except on the 10 and 50 reis, where it is embossed.

LIST.

5 reis, reddish chocolate, v. pale to dark.
5 „ chocolate, v. pale to very dark.
5 „ very dark rich chocolate-brown.
} 90 pearls, in circle.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 10 reis, | orange-yellow, v. pale to medium. | 88 pearls, in octagon. |
| 10 ,, | golden orange, v. medium to dark. | |
| 25 ,, | very pale rose, almost pink. | 83 pearls, in oval. |
| 25 ,, | rose, v. pale to dark. | |
| 25 ,, | rose-carmine, v. pale to very dark. | |
| 50 ,, | yellow-green, v. pale to medium. | 74 pearls, in oval. |
| 50 ,, | green, medium. | |
| 50 ,, | bluish Prussian green, dark. | |
| 100 ,, | lilac, v. very pale to medium. | 82 pearls, in oval. |
| 100 ,, | reddish lilac, v. medium to dark. | |
| 100 ,, | lilac, with shade of violet, v. medium to dark. | |

Of the 5 reis of this issue there are two varieties—one having the figure 5 very near the border, and at some distance from REIS; and the other having the 5 near to REIS, and further from border. Whether these are two separate types or not, I do not know. Both varieties have the 90 pearls.

### Issue of 1866.

#### Col. on white, imperf.

After a circulation of about four years, these stamps were suppressed in favour of a new set bearing the name of the country. The new stamps were engraved by Mr. C. Weiner, who has favoured His Majesty with a portrait very different from that designed by Freire. The chief peculiarity consists in the hair being brushed to a great height above the forehead, which has the effect of dwarfing the features in a most absurd manner.




PAPER.—White wove, rather thicker than before.

GUM.—White.

DESIGN.—Embossed profile of Don Luis to left, in pearled oval; legend, PORTUGAL CORREIO. Beneath the portrait of the king are the initials of the engraver (C. W.) in large embossed letters. All the values are from one matrix, having 65 pearls in oval; value in label with curved and rounded ends.

LIST.

| | |
|---|---|
| 5 reis, | greyish black. |
| 5 ,, | deep black. |
| 10 ,, | yellow. |
| 10 ,, | orange, v. medium to dark. |
| 20 ,, | bistre, v. pale to very dark. |
| 25 ,, | rose, v. pale to dark. |
| 50 ,, | dull yellowish green, v. medium to dark. |
| 50 ,, | bluish green, v. medium to dark. |
| 80 reis, | reddish orange, v. medium to dark. |
| 80 ,, | orange-vermilion, v. pale to very dark. |
| 100 ,, | dark lilac. |
| 120 ,, | dull blue, v. pale to dark. |
| 120 ,, | bright blue, v. medium to very dark. |

### Issue of 1867.

The next year the improvement of perforation was introduced, and the shades of colour a little varied; a new value was also issued.

#### Col. on white, perf. 13.

LIST.

| | |
|---|---|
| 5 reis, | greyish black. |
| 5 ,, | deep black. |
| 10 ,, | yellow. |
| 10 ,, | orange-yellow. |
| 10 ,, | vermilion-orange. |
| 20 ,, | bistre, v. pale to medium. |
| 20 ,, | yellow-bistre, pale to dark. |
| 20 ,, | bistre, with shade of olive, dark. |
| 25 ,, | dull rose, v. very pale to dark. |
| 25 ,, | bright rose, v. medium to dark. |
| 25 ,, | bright rose-carmine, v. medium to *very* dark. |
| 50 ,, | very pale bluish green. |
| 50 ,, | dull green. |
| 50 ,, | yellow-green, v. pale to *very* dark. |
| 80 ,, | vermilion-orange, v. very pale to medium. |
| 80 ,, | orange-vermilion, v. medium to dark. |
| 100 ,, | pale lavender. |
| 100 ,, | lilac, v. pale to dark. |
| 100 ,, | dull mauve, v. pale to medium. |
| 120 ,, | bright greenish blue, v. medium to dark. |
| 120 ,, | dull chalky blue, v. very pale to dark. |
| 120 ,, | ultramarine, v. medium to dark. |
| 120 ,, | royal blue, medium to very dark. |
| 240 ,, | reddish lilac, v. medium to dark. |
| 240 ,, | dull mauve, v. pale to medium. |
| 240 ,, | bright mauve, v. pale to very dark. |

### Issue of 1871.

#### Col. on white, perf. 13.

"The cry is, Still they come!" In 1871, the authorities, for reasons best known to themselves, issued another set, of a different type. In the new stamps, the labels containing value have straight square ends; there are 61 pearls in the oval; and the engraver's name has disappeared. But the chief difference is, as before, in the portrait of the king. The engraver has given him a Victor Emanuel moustache, and a small imperial (in the old type, the moustache curls downwards, and is scarcely visible, and there is no imperial); whilst



the hair is brushed plainly back from the forehead, showing a nice intellectual-looking face, to which our illustration hardly does justice.

LIST.

| | |
|---|---|
| 5 reis, | greyish black. |
| 5 ,, | deep black. |
| 10 ,, | chalky yellow, v. pale to dark. |
| 10 ,, | orange-yellow, v. pale to dark. |
| 20 ,, | yellowish bistre, v. pale to dark. |
| 20 ,, | bistre, with shade of olive, v. medium to dark. |
| 25 ,, | dull rose, v. pale to medium. |
| 25 ,, | bright rose carmine, v. medium to very dark. |
| 50 ,, | bright yellowish green, v. medium to dark. |
| 50 ,, | dull green, v. pale to dark. |
| 80 ,, | very bright orange-red. |
| 80 ,, | dull orange-red, v. pale to very dark. |
| 100 ,, | pale dull lilac. |
| 100 ,, | reddish lilac. |
| 120 ,, | dull blue, v. pale to dark. |
| 120 ,, | bright blue, v. medium to very dark. |

I have not yet seen the 240 reis of this type. A set of these stamps exists unperforated, but they were issued for a collector, I believe, so I shall not catalogue them.

Before I conclude, I wish to give a hint to my readers concerning the stamps of these last two types. The perforation is at a considerable distance from the outer edge of the design, so that a dishonest dealer might easily cut off the perforations, and sell the stamps as unperforated ones. Therefore, let those who are on the look out for any of the unperforated ones also look out that the stamps sold to them have a good broad margin. *Verb. sap.*

## STAMP COLLECTING IN CHILI.

BY FULANO.

STAMP collecting has been known here for more than twelve years, and, as is generally the case, it had its birth in a school. It was in 1860, if I mistake not, that I first heard that the boys at a large English school established here (Valparaiso) had discovered something new that was collectable—in addition to coins, pens, and wine and beer-bottle labels—viz., postage stamps. From that date up to the present, collecting has been on the increase, so that to-day there is not a single school of which a respectable portion does not collect stamps.

I am sorry, however, to add that, with a very few exceptions, collectors are all boys. I know of some who, on leaving school, have shelved their collections and never again looked at them, collecting being considered here as only fit for juveniles. It is a sight, of a morning, to see boys on their way to the public schools, in groups, comparing and discussing their stamps, which are pasted in small note or copy-books, sheets of paper sewn together, or else carried loose in their pockets.

It is not surprising, therefore, such being the advocates of philately, that scientific collecting is quite unknown. Paper, perforation, and watermarks are nowhere; envelopes are cut, and, in the majority of cases, post cards have to undergo the same operation. Imagine my horror, when, one day, having presented a young friend of mine with one of the handsome Cingalese cards, he deliberately tore out the stamp before I could prevent it, and threw the remainder away! Envelopes are not even cut square, every particle of blank paper being clipped away.

The only case (which is not too common) in which the stamps are found in their proper order is in collections which are kept in prepared albums; even then, when we come to new issues, for which no spaces are marked, we are quite in the dark, owing to the absence of catalogues or any other guides, the rule being then that the first comer gets the first place in the corresponding page.

Fiscal and medicine stamps are, of course, collected, and, as quack medicines are much used, the United States page is usually a very brilliant one, not taking into account the dirtiness of the specimens themselves, the consequence of the fingering which they must undergo in counting, comparison, &c.

I once saw in a collection a cuatro reales of Costa Rica, black, which I had also seen in another place, viz., in a German newspaper, serving as illustration to a stamp advertisement, the fortunate possessor of the specimen being fully aware of the fact! This will show what collecting was then, but I am happy to say that it is a *little* better now.

Though there have been, and still are, dealers in stamps (after a fashion), and of

whom I shall speak further on, it is no very easy matter for the majority of collectors to procure them. The usual mode is to get them from commercial friends; and for the less privileged, from some office *mozo*, or else by going to the post-office on mail days to peep over people's shoulders while they read their letters, in order to get a sight of the stamps, and then to pester them with their *hagame el favor de darme los sellitos, senor.*

The following freaks I am afraid will hardly be credited. During the war with Spain, in 1865-6, it was the custom among patriotic *chilenos* to place the stamps of that country with the queen's head upside down! Those who collected only used stamps, when they came across an unused one, would instantly make a pen-stroke on it, as if the mark which made it useless were a proof that it was a "used" stamp. All the foregoing I am able to state from personal experience, having seen a great many collections in my time.

The first time I saw foreign stamps offered for sale here was about five years ago, when one day a new signboard with the following words caught my eye: "Sellos para Colecciones," and "Stamps for Collections," on either side of an eagle holding a bundle of cigarettes in its beak (for the dealer in stamps was also a "*cigarrero.*") I entered the place, and asked to see the stamps. From under the counter a little cardboard box was produced, which contained the whole stock-in-trade, consisting entirely of used stamps, with the prices marked on the back, which, I remember, were higher or lower, according to the look of the stamps. At present there are two "dealers," the stock of one of whom may be seen in his window, in a little heap; the other hangs out a little sheet of paper headed *Sellos para Colecciones*, on which are stuck half-a-dozen dirty used stamps of the commonest kind. The way the stamps are procured is, by sending some one to the post-office to pick up or beg for whatever he can. I forgot to mention that there was once a shop at which really good stamps could be procured, both used and unused, and therefore evidently imported *in* letters, instead of *on* them. I have bought many a fine stamp there, and at reasonable prices too.

## NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

Spain.—The country which furnishes almost the only interesting intelligence which appears in the daily papers is also the one to which we must look for the greatest novelty in the stamp way. The pretender, whose "on to Madrid" march seems destined to be interminable, has forestalled his accession to the Spanish throne by the issue of postage stamps bearing his effigy. It is some months since the report of an emission obtained currency, but the actual type differs considerably from the apocryphal designs previously described. We annex an engraving of it, and may add that no reasonable doubt can be entertained as to the fact of its being in circulation in the mountain districts, which are dominated by the legitimist bands. The portrait of Don Carlos—the first we have seen—is a pleasing one. The general disposition combines boldness with simplicity. As for the execution, that, it appears, leaves much to be desired, the stamps being only rough lithographs, struck off at Bayonne, or, as some assert, at Bordeaux. Our Belgian *confrère* expresses some surprise that the value should be expressed in reales; but the new currency is of such recent date, and the old is so frequently used in calculating, that Don Carlos may be excused for not giving in his adhesion to the decimal system. Besides, if he succeeded, would he not regulate everything according to the old *régime?*




The stamp above represented is printed in pale blue on white wove paper, and is unperforated; a companion, value 2 rls., bearing the full-face portrait of Don Carlos, and struck in green, is likely to make its appearance.

To the Amadeus series we have to add a 40 c. de peseta, blue.

Nothing is yet said about official cards, and meanwhile the unofficial issues of Don M. P. de Figueroa and his imitators remain current. When describing these cards, the *Timbre-Poste* took occasion to comment on the funereal

appearance of the sombre frame, with its crosses at the angles, to which Don Figueroa wittily replies, that the frame and the crosses have a meaning, which he reads thus :—

+ Here lie the Spanish Finances.
+ Here lies Military Discipline.
+ Here lies Public Order.
+ Here lie the Rights of Property.

"The black frame," he adds, "reminds us Spaniards of the mourning we wear in our hearts, for we are watching the funeral of poor Spain."

Our learned friend, not satisfied, however, with introducing these significant post cards into circulation, has also gone the length of transplanting our English official cards into Spain. We have before us a halfpenny post card, which in the first place passed through the English post. Across the back Don Figueroa has written a communication, and across the front has added his correspondent's address. This card, with an adhesive 5 c. Spanish attached to the upper left corner, passed through the Spanish post, and was delivered in due course. Another English card, not previously used in this country, was served in a similar manner; it reached destination with the Spanish adhesive attached to it, obliterated, and the English impressed stamp untouched. This employment in one country of another country's emissions is probably unique in its way.

Prussia.—It would appear that a private company has been carrying letters, cards, and printed matter in Berlin since the 1st June, and has issued a stamp and a post card, both of the value 2 pf. We had no great confidence in this announcement when it first reached us, for it seemed to us that if, as we suppose, the postal laws are the same in Germany as in most countries, no interference with its monopoly would be permitted. However, the stamp of the company seems to be so generally believed in that we must presume it to be a really authentic emission. The inscription simply says DESPATCH OF PRINTED MATTER, and it is possible that in respect of printed matter the infringement of the postal monopoly may have been sanctioned; but the *Gazette des Timbres* says that, *malgré* the inscription, correspondence, of no matter what kind, in the town and environs, may be sent by this local post, and the statement is to some extent borne out by the appearance of the post card. The *Gazette* gives as an *on dit* that the decree of concession is dated the 1st May, 1873, and that the post began its service on the 27th of the same month. The director is said to be a Mr. J. J. Schreiber, formerly in business as an agent in Paris.




The post card is a large buff rectangle, with an impression in black from the die of the adhesive 2 pf. at the top, in the right corner, and trade advertisements running down (not across) the face. The adhesive stamp, we have omitted to state, is struck in black on thin carmine paper, and perforated.

Russian Locals.—*Toropetz* (Pskoff.)—The annexed engraving is that of the envelope described two years since. The building depicted, which has something of a light-house about it, must surely have a history worth the ascertaining. The impression is in black on plain white wove paper.




*Orgnieff* (Bessarabia).—From Brussels we learn that two stamps have appeared for this district, which forms part of the territory (not government) of Bessarabia.

Turkey.—We announced a long time since that the Constantinople local post had been re-established; but instead of being farmed out, it has been managed by the government department, which for three years has been content to use the stamps of the general series for the local service. A new emission, specially intended for the capital, is reported by M. Moens to be on the point of making its appearance; but without waiting for it, the authorities have surcharged four of the existing values with the word CHEÏR, signifying "local," or "local service." Of these, the first two are the 10 paras violet and 1 piastre yellow; the other two, 20 paras brown and 1 piastre brown, belong to the unpaid-letter set.

United States.—The official stamps came into use on the 1st July, and are as follows :—

*Agricultural Department.*—1, 2, 3, 6, 10, 12, 15, and 30 cents, yellow.

*Executive.*—1, 2, 3, 6, and 10 cents, carmine.

*Interior.*—1, 2, 3, 6, 10, 12, 15, 24, 30, and 90 cents, vermilion.

*Justice.*—1, 2, 3, 6, 10, 12, 15, 24, 30, and 90 cents, violet.

*Treasury.*—1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 12, 15, 24, 30, and 90 cents, deep brown.

*Post Office.*—Numeral of value, OFFICIAL above, and STAMP below, in oval white centre; POST OFFICE DEPT. above the oval, U. S. and value below.
1, 2, 3, 6, 10, 15, 24, 30, and 90 cents, black.

*State.*—1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 12, 15, 24, 30, and 90 cents, green. Profile of Seward in oval, DEPARTMENT OF STATE above, U. S. OF A. in lower angles.
2, 5, 10, and 20 dollars, head black, frame green.

*War.*—1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 12, 15, 24, 30, and 90 cents, carmine.

ENVELOPES.

*War.*—1, 2, 3, 6, 10, 12, 15, 24, 30, and 90 cents, red on white, lemon, and salmon paper.

*Post Office.*—In solid oval disk, OFFICIAL—3—STAMP; POST OFFICE DEPT. above, and value in words below in oval frame; and U. S. in small disks let into the frame.
2, 3, and 6 cents, black on lemon.




We have received a specimen of the 3 cents, here figured. Besides the stamp the envelope bears sundry inscriptions, including a form of address.

It will be understood that, except when a special description is given, the central medallions are the same as those on the corresponding stamps of the general series, and that the name of the department is in every instance inscribed above the medallion. The position of the letters U. S. varies; in the Executive and War sets they are found in the upper corners; in the other departments, except that of Justice, in the lower corners; from the Justice series they are absent. The sets are not all complete; the Executive only numbers five, and the Agricultural seven values; and the 7 c. is found in only three of the sets. The difficulty respecting the colours which we foresaw would occur, has arisen. The 10 c. of the Executive, the 24 c. of the Justice, and the 1 cent of the War are apparently in the same colour as their congeners in the series for general use, and two departments, according to *The American Journal of Philately*, from which we take the above list, have only one colour—red—between them. Our American contemporary does not believe that the system of a special series for each department can last, and we ourselves must admit we cannot see anything to recommend it. Probably it will not remain long in vogue.

Finland.—The new card, in its principal features, resembles its predecessor, but the inscriptions have all been changed. In our correspondence columns will be found a letter explaining the purport of the new inscriptions.

Belgium.—In our June number we gave an engraving of the design for the new Belgian envelope stamp. We have now specimens before us, and we are sorry to find that they scarcely bear out the encomium we then passed upon the grand features of the design. As we then stated, the border has no claim to originality, either in conception or design; and the effect of white relief of the king's head on the green ground is marred by the prominence given to the engraver's initials, which appear in letters in white relief. We also said that "the effect must necessarily depend on the execution." This latter leaves much to be desired, but we think a great portion of the want of effect is due to the poorness of the paper employed. It is thin, plain, white wove, not quite so good as that employed for the first series of the Austrian envelopes.

Alaska.—Some time since we quoted a rumour, to which currency was first given by our Parisian contemporary, to the effect that stamps were being used in this territory; this statement was inaccurate, but, as the *Gazette* now shows, had a foundation in

fact. Owing to the scarcity of coin in that out-of-the-way region, payments were made, under the Russian rule, by means of small inscribed squares of parchment, of a conventional value, ranging from 5 kopecs to 50 roubles. These bits of parchment had a hole pierced through the upper corner, so that they might be strung on a string. These were the labels which a passing traveller mistook for postage stamps. They were all called in and destroyed upon the transfer of the territory to the United States.

SCHAUMBOURG-LIPPE.—This unpretending label is an official stamp, hailing from the above-named small German state. The inscription takes the form of a notice: "This letter does not pay postage, pursuant to notice No. 8 of the government of the principality of Schaumbourg-Lippe." It is struck in black, on green, and other states are said to employ similar stamps. Schaumbourg-Lippe was one of the states formerly served by the Thurn and Taxis post, and now included in the Imperial dominions. The mere emission of the above stamp does not entitle it to be reckoned among the list of postage stamp issuing countries, this official label being, in fact, nothing more than a label employed by the executive of a state which has no postal service of its own.




FERNANDO PO.—It is a long time since an apocryphal stamp for this Spanish colony was chronicled. No satisfactory proof of its existence has ever been given, and most collectors have long since classed it with the series of myths or fabrications. A genuine provisional has, however, now made its appearance, being no other than the 10 c. Cuba, type 1871, surcharged FERNANDO PO in a half circle, in black capitals, and with a large crown below surcharged in blue; the latter, say Messrs. Grant & Co., from whose circular we quote the intelligence, may be obliteration, but the black lettering can only point to one conclusion.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.—We copy the following from the current *Timbre-Poste*. "Two new stamps have just been forwarded to us. They bear the effigy of Amadeus, of the type already known, and are printed on white paper."

25 cent de peseta, mauve.
1 peseta, 25 cent, bistre.

These stamps have been issued during the present year, as well as the 12 c. de p. blue, and 62 c. de p. carmine-rose. Those issued in 1872 were as follows:—

12 c. de p., rose,
16 ,, ultramarine, dull blue.
62 ,, mauve.
1 p., 25 c., blue on flesh.

SERVIA.—The 2 para stamp—printed in black on white wove paper and unperforated—proves to differ from the preceding type principally in the portrait, which is certainly a grotesque one, as our readers will perceive. The date of emission was the 1st/13th of June.




JAPAN.—We annex an engraving of the new 4 sen rose which, while differing in detail, is essentially of the same design as the other low values of the current series. We may here mention that a postal convention between Japan and the United States has been signed, which, if it does not necessitate the issue of new values, will at any rate render more common those now in use.




GERMAN EMPIRE.—The permission granted to the public to deliver their own envelopes to the post-office to be stamped with the impressed stamp, has been extended to newspaper bands and post cards! Here we light on another fruitful source of valueless varieties. Already the newspaper bands are found on green, rose, lilac, white, straw, and azure; and the cards on blue, green, grey, white, flesh, straw, and rose. At the risk of being charged with unnecessary reiteration, we beg to express the hope that these unofficial varieties will find no favour with English collectors. There is nothing to prevent their multiplication to an almost

indefinite extent, and they offer really no interest from a philatelic point of view.

Montenegro.—Of the forthcoming type for this dependent principality we were able to give full particulars in our last. We have, therefore, only to supplement our description on the present occasion by the representation of the type. The actual emission of the series has not yet taken place.




Heligoland.—The promised post card has made its appearance, and proves to be an unstamped one of large dimensions, bearing the royal arms in the centre, with HELIGOLAND on the left and POST-OFFICE on the right. Below the arms are the words POST CARD and POST KARTE, and on the right upper corner a dotted square, to receive the stamp. There are two other cards on which the inscriptions are all in German. The impression is black on buff.

New Zealand.—The sheet of the new halfpenny stamps consists of 240 impressions, and is watermarked with a line which forms a kind of frame, and by another line which cuts it down the centre. Furthermore, the letters N. Z. are repeated eleven times across, and ten times up the sheet, so that there are stamps with and stamps without watermark.

Chili.—In our February number we described the supporters of the Chilian arms as being a condor and a horse; we were right as to the former, but Mr. L. W. Meyer, of Valparaiso, informs us that the animal which we took to be a horse, is really the "huemul"—a kind of deer.

Pahlunpoor.—We leave to *The Stamp* the responsibility for the following:—"Pahlunpoor (British Burmah?).—We are informed that a set of local stamps of seven values (probably the same as those for Deccan) are, or shortly will be, issued."

T. B. Morton & Co., Constantinople.—This company, it appears, has failed. *The Stamp* contains a copy of the notification to creditors published in *The Levant Herald*, pursuant to the provisions of the Bankruptcy Act of 1869. The withdrawal of the company's stamps now finds a reasonable explanation, and M. Moens can hardly take credit to himself for having brought about their suppression.

## NOTES FOR COLLECTORS.—VI.

BY A PARISIAN COLLECTOR.

### Austria.

(*Continued from page* 117.)

POSTAL CARDS.

To Austria belongs the honour of introducing postal cards, an invention for the extension of cheap postal communication, which has now been adopted, not only throughout the greater part of Europe, but also in Asia and in North and South America. The "singular vagary" of the Austrian postal authorities, as we remember it was termed by one of the contemporaries of this magazine, has long lost its individuality, and may now be looked upon as a regular postal institution.

In one respect, the collection of postal cards has a decided advantage over the collection of postal envelopes. The institution is of a later date; philately, then unborn, has now become a science; what constitutes a variety, and is worthy of collection, has now become pretty well known, and it will therefore be the collector's own fault if he loses the opportunity of making something nearly perfect, at a very small cost. We say *nearly* perfect, for there is every symptom that the varieties will be very considerable; and the collector should use due diligence to seize upon them as they appear, or they will slide imperceptibly into the class of unattainables.

We are not certain as to the exact date of the first issue of postal cards in Austria. Dr. Magnus gives it as the 1st of October, 1869—a date which is difficult to reconcile with the fact that their appearance was chronicled in the philatelic journals of the previous month of August.

The Austrian postal cards are all type-printed in black, and for the most part upon a thin card of a pale buff colour. The stamp is lithographed in colour at the right upper corner. The size of the card is $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches, by about $4\frac{7}{8}$ inches. The general design of the border is the same in all the issues, but there are small differences in the type, as also in the size of the cards, some of them having only 98 denticles in the exterior border, while others have 100.

### First Issue.

1869.—This card bears on its face the inscription CORRESPONDENZ-KARTE in an arch over the Austrian arms, and the words AN and IN, with dotted lines for the name and address of the party to whom it is sent; and in the right upper corner a stamp of the value of 2 kr., of the type then and now in use. On the back, near the top is the inscription RAUM FUR SCHRIFTLICHE MITTHEILUNGEN (room for written communication), and below, a notice to the effect that the post-office undertakes no responsibility for the contents of the communications.

2 kr., chrome-yellow, light and dark ditto.

### Second Issue.

The date of issue of this type is involved in some obscurity, but it appears probable that it took place about the month of June, 1871. This is only one among many instances, of the difficulty of assigning any fixed date to the appearance of an issue which replaces another on the gradual exhaustion of the former.*

The type and general features of the second issue are similar to those of the first; but on the face of the card, the word ADRESSE is substituted for AN. The inscriptions on the back are also wanting, and are replaced in the left upper corner by the following:—

.....*am*.....187...

A portion of this issue is found on cards of a darker buff colour.

2 kr., chrome-yellow (shades), orange-yellow.
2 „ chrome-yellow, on darker buff-coloured card.

Later in the same year, these cards appeared with the addition of the translation of the inscription into one of the other languages in use in the empire. The type is similar to that last described, save the addition of the second language. The Austrian arms on the face are also of smaller dimensions. The inscription on the back is to the left.

KORESPONDENCNI LISTEK, for Bohemia.
CARTA DA CORRISPONDENZA, in Italian, for the Illyrian provinces.
KARTA KORESPONDENCYJNA, for Gallicia.
KAPTA KOP..... (KARTA KORESPONDENTSIENAIA), in Ruthenian.
LISTNICA, for Sclavonia.

### Third Issue.

In the year 1872 another issue for Austria proper was made, as also another in the two languages. This issue differs from the previous one in this respect only—that the inscriptions on the back, instead of being towards the left upper corner, are towards the right upper corner. We believe that this variety is found throughout the whole of the five double-language cards. We have seen it in all, except the Ruthenian, and it doubtless exists in that. The colour of the card in this issue also varies, and specimens are found in darker buff.

### Fourth Issue.

Towards the close of the year 1872, the postal cards commenced to appear without any inscription on the back, and this issue is in actual use at the present time. The cards for Austria proper have been issued in this form, as also those for Bohemia and Gallicia; and most probably the others will follow.

## Austrian Foreign Offices.

Early in the present year a postal card was issued for the use of the Austrian branch offices in the Levant and in other parts of Turkey. The card is like the ordinary Austrian, and bears on its face the words CARTA DA CORRISPONDENZA in an arch over the small type of the Austrian arms, as employed for the postal cards in two languages. The stamp is 4 soldi* in rose, of the same type as that of the series of 1867, except that the value is expressed in full—*soldi*—instead of being abbreviated. There is no inscription on the back of the card which is of a pale buff colour.

* All the principal stamp magazines for last month stated that the 3d. English made its appearance on the 15th of July. We ourselves purchased it on the 9th, at a country post-office nearly 100 miles from London.

* We are indebted to Mr. Max Joseph for pointing out to us an error into which we fell in our last paper. We there stated that when the change was made in the monetary system in Austria, the value of the *lira* was made equal to that of the *florin*, and was divided into 100 *soldi*. We ought to have said that the currency was rendered uniform, the *florin*, or *fiorino*, being adopted as the unit, the former being divided into 100 *kreuzer*, and the latter into 100 *soldi*.

## Hungary.

Towards the close of 1869 a card was issued similar to that first issued for Austria, except that the arms of Austria were replaced by those of Hungary in a shield surmounted by the crown of St. Stephen. Another was also issued of the same type, but with the inscriptions in Hungarian, instead of German; the words CORRESPONDENZ KARTE on the face being replaced by LEVELEZESI LAP; the inscriptions on the back being also in Hungarian. The cards are in various shades of light buff.

2 kr., chrome-yellow, light and dark.
2 kr., chrome-yellow (card of darker buff.)

SECOND ISSUE.

Early in 1871, a short time previous to the issue of the 1871 series of stamps and envelopes, a further issue of postal cards took place for Hungary. The border differs from that of the card previously described, and as a pretty accurate representation of it was given at page 88 of the ninth volume of this magazine, we will refer our readers to what was there stated. The engraving is not quite accurate in size, the card measuring $4\frac{7}{16}$ inches by 3 inches between the exterior borders. A later issue, in 1872, measures one-sixteenth of an inch less both in length and width, and the words CZIM and ADRESSE are farther apart.

Type 1871. 2 kr., dark ochre-yellow.
Type 1872. 2 kr., ochre-yellow, dark and light.

LOCAL STAMPS.

## Danubian Steam Navigation Company.

These stamps, described by Mr. Overy Taylor in vol. ix., page 7, are lithographed on white unwatermarked paper. Specimens of the first issue exist which are not perforated, but whether this was the case with those first issued, or whether it was an accidental circumstance, is not very clear. One thing is clear, that the perforation 12 existed for a few months prior to the larger perforation of $9\frac{1}{2}$.




*Classification.*

I.—1st April, 1866. Imperforate.
17 soldi, scarlet.

II.—Perforated 12.
17 soldi, scarlet.

III.—Perforated $9\frac{1}{2}$.
August, 1866.—10 soldi, lilac-mauve (shades).
1867.—17 ,, scarlet (shades).
August, 1868.—10 ,, bright green (shades).
July, 1871.—10 ,, scarlet.

This latter is said to be an error of printing. See vol. ix., page 152.

## THE PERSIAN STAMPS.

(Reprinted from *La Gazette des Timbres.*)

ONE of our leading Parisian amateurs, to whose courtesy we owe the earliest details respecting these stamps, has kindly communicated to us a letter and packet he has received from Teheran. The following is an extract from the letter.

TEHERAN, 3RD APRIL, 1873.

I should add for your guidance that there is no post in Persia. Two years ago an originator of reforms, of whom so many are to be found in the East, persuaded the Shah that it was of essential importance that his realm should be endowed with a postal administration, and the project, like all novelties, proving very seductive to his Iranian Majesty, the stamps, of which I send you specimens, were at once prepared in Europe. Things remained, however, at a stand-still, and there exists at present in Persia no mode of receiving, assorting, carrying, or distributing correspondence, except a Russian post-office attached to the imperial consulate at Tauris. All letters for or from the European colonists are carried by the couriers of the legations.

With this letter were forwarded five stamps, of which two are on thin paper, gummed and unperforated. They were evidently printed abroad [*qy.*, at home], and are similar to the 8 already described. Both are blue, and bear the Indo-Arabic figure 4. The other three specimens are carefully printed in colours identical with those of the essays in our collection. They are struck in colour on white papers, perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$, and gummed. The values, expressed in Indo-Arabic numerals, are as follows:—

1, violet.
2, green.
8, red.

which with the 4, blue, completes the four known denominations.

On reading the above letter a query

presents itself. Are these impressions postage stamps? Are they not rather proofs? Here we must take leave to introduce a parenthetical remark. The Persian correspondent is mistaken in stating that the fabrication of these stamps in Europe took place two years since. It was in 1865 that they were engraved at the Paris mint, as witness an article in *Le Timbrophile* of the 15th of September of that year.

This much settled, the letter testifies to the entire absence of postal relations with the exterior, and to an equal lack of arrangement for the service in the interior. Of what use, then, would postage stamps be, seeing there is not even a local service? But if the accuracy of the other details given be admitted, and we have no reason to doubt it, all these stamps must be considered essays. For the three perforated stamps, the analogy of colour, paper, and *piquage* ($12\frac{1}{2}$) with those already existing in philatelic albums, yields more than a presumption. They are, most probably, essays which have made the journey from Paris to Teheran and back. As to the others,—is the case the same? These unperforated stamps on thin paper—may they not be proofs struck off in Persia? We lean to that belief; for had they been stamps, and not proofs, nothing would have been easier to a person in the position of the writer of the letter than to purchase specimens at the post, and send them to his correspondent. If they are not perforated, it is simply because no perforating machine is to be found in Teheran. They have been divided by the scissors.

We think, then, that all these proofs are simply essays—interesting ones, especially the native impressions—because they prove that the project had been followed by a commencement of execution, as was the case with the first Paraguayan type.

However it may be, and much as we may regret the loss of our illusions, we cannot consider the question as definitively settled. The Shah's journey through Europe gives rise to a well-founded hope, that amongst many other improvements adopted in Persia we may see that of the establishment of a postal service, accompanied by the use of postage stamps.

## REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

*Alfred Smith & Co.'s Descriptive Price Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of All Nations.* Nineteenth Edition. London: E. Marlborough & Co. Bath: Alfred Smith & Co.

It is some time since we last had a peep at our publishers' catalogue. We find the new edition substantially the same as its predecessors—its covers brilliantly yet tastefully ornamented, and its contents printed with a neatness and accuracy which would gratify the most critical eye. Good printing is far more common than it was a few years back; yet we are confident that it would be difficult to find a publication which in its typographical arrangements surpasses the modest catalogue under review. If we thus insist on the excellence of the get-up, it is simply because a catalogue is nothing if not well printed. Plunging into the subject-matter itself we find that the lists are fully brought up to date. The new Argentine 1 and 4 c. are quoted and priced, as are also the 3d. Bermuda, the Chilian envelopes, the 6d. grey-black English, the Iceland series, &c., &c. In fact, the catalogue, upon its present plan, could hardly be more complete. Its compilers do not pretend to include the secondary varieties, their work is but a mere outline compared with the analytical studies of writers such as Mr. Pemberton; but Messrs. Alfred Smith & Co.'s catalogue is well adapted for the purpose it has to fulfil. Price lists are not so much required for advanced philatelists as for the great bulk of collectors, and to them no better work than the present could be offered. The stock which comprises, if our addition of the figures be correct, some 2900 different stamps, according to the catalogue, may be assumed to include also those minor varieties which scientific collectors make the object of their search. We fear that the price list cannot be a directly profitable speculation for our publishers; we can, however, hardly doubt but that indirectly the pains bestowed on its preparation bring their reward, and we trust it will be our privilege to review many future editions of this really useful little work.

## POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

Railway Stamps.—It is not long since an ingenious plan for collecting a uniform railway rate by means of stamps was mooted. In Italy a railway stamp is already in use, and its possession secures the application of a "uniform" rate. In other words, the officers of the army, who have a right to a reduction of 78 per cent. on the ordinary fares, in order to obtain it must present to the railway authorities a little book in proof of their identity, which book contains the officer's portrait, and below it the adhesive stamp here represented, which should be obliterated by the bearer's signature. On the death or retirement of an officer his book is returned to the minister of war.




Post Cards.—From the *Revista de Correos* we learn that post cards have flourished, are flourishing, and are likely to continue to flourish in their natal country—Austria. In the first year following their emission (1st October, 1869, to 30th September, 1870) the number issued was a little under nine millions; in the next year it advanced to eleven millions; in the third year, ending 30th September, 1872, fifteen millions were distributed, and since then the monthly total of the sales has approached a million-and-a-half, which, for the whole year will give eighteen millions, or double the number sold in the first year. In France, the adoption of post cards has given rise to abuses such as followed their appearance in this country. Two trials for slander have taken place, in which the defendants have been cast in heavy damages. A report went the round of the French press last month that the post cards were to be withdrawn, as they were found not to suit the habits of the French people, and consequently were not paying their way. This statement has, however, been denied, on official authority, by the *Rappel*, which states that the post cards are fully answering the expectations formed of them, and that the number of closed letters shows no diminution. The present postmaster, M. Rampont, retires, through a political intrigue, and is succeeded by M. Libon, a member of the permanent staff, under whose rule we may look for important changes.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### VARIETIES OF WATERMARK.

*To the Editor of* "The Stamp-Collector's Magazine."

Dear Sir,—I write to make a few *addenda* to "Etonia's" list of errors of watermark, given in your July number. They are:—

New South Wales.—1862 rect., diademed head.
2d. blue, watermark thin 1
1d. red, „ „ 2
1d. „ „ „ 2 inverted.
Victoria.—1866 rect., diademed head.
6d. blue, wmk. "Sixpence" inverted.

For my part (and this is a matter to be decided by each collector for himself), I do not admit *reversed* watermarks, because if we do so we are bound by consistency to add to the two varieties—normal and inverted—yet *two other* varieties, making a total of four distinct sets, viz.: normal, normal reversed, inverted, and inverted reversed.

This, as I have already observed, is a matter of taste, but surely the same tolerance is not to be extended to the watermarks at the borders of sheets, on which the stamps occasionally encroach. I refer to the parallel lines, and portions of the words VICTORIA, POSTAGE, &c.

Yours, &c.,
*Dunfermline.* E BEVERIDGE.

### RUSSIAN LOCAL STAMPS AND FINLAND POST CARD.

*To the Editor of* "The Stamp-Collector's Magazine."

Dear Sir,—I notice in the description of the Russian local for Ekaterinoslav a slight mistake with regard to the writing of the name. The Russian name for Catharine is Ekaterina (not Katarina, which does not exist), or, to write the name with Russian characters—Ekamepuria. You will, therefore, see that the E on the stamps stands for Ekaterina, and not for the Russian K, which is the same as the English K.

In his very interesting and valuable essay, entitled, "An Introduction to the Study of the Russian Local Stamps," Mr. Taylor says that he deemed it advisable not to include the Livonian stamps with the Russian locals. I am sorry to disagree with that gentleman's opinion. I certainly do put the Wenden stamps under the Russian locals, and why should not I do so? Although these stamps were issued some years before the Russian locals, and have a history of their own, they, for that reason, *do not cease to be Russian Local Stamps.* Is not Livonia as much a part of the Russian empire as Tver, Rjasan, Saratoff, &c.? Livonia itself does not occupy an exclusive position towards Russia, like Poland or Finland; why, therefore, should her stamps be chronicled and placed under a separate heading? If there were a separate stamp for *the three Baltic provinces* (Livonia, Estonia, and Curland), which together enjoy, in many respects, a different administration to that of Russia, I could understand a separate heading, but not in the present case. I put the Wenden stamps at the head of the Russian locals, and look upon them as the precursors of the latter; for who knows whether the Livonian stamps did not give the first impulse to the now long and unbroken line of Russian locals? Looking at it in this light I certainly think one cannot separate very well the one from the other.

The new Finland post card shows, as you will be aware, very little difference from the old one. The value—8 penni—is the same, so is the colour, only several shades paler. There is, further, a slight alteration in the lower inscription. On the old cards it read (in each of the three languages employed) as follows: ON THE FACE OF THE CARD THE ADDRESS HAS TO BE WRITTEN. On the new ones it is altered to: ON THIS SIDE THE ADDRESS HAS TO BE WRITTEN. TO RUSSIA IN THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE. The latter notice has probably been necessitated through people sending cards from Finland to Russia, and addressing them either in Swedish or Finnish, which, as those languages are not understood there, must have caused a great many cards to be sent back again. This may be the reason of the present issue.

I just observe that the Veissiegonsk stamps are the first to bear the name of their government or county, which I think is a very noticeable feature. The lower label bears an inscription which means county or government of Tver, thus indicating that Veissiegonsk is situated in it. I think the Veissiegonsk stamp is, on the whole, a marked improvement on the bulk of the present locals. It is well printed, and the inscription particularly very explicit.

I remain, dear Sir,
Yours truly,
*Liverpool.* JOHN SIEWERT.

## PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. XXX.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

### EUROPE.

## Hanover.

THE Hanoverian stamps, although not numerous, yet offer a considerable number of varieties, and though there are no really obscure points in their history, they still require careful attention on the part of beginners.




The first stamp to appear was the one guten-groschen blue; but for descriptive purposes we had better consider it as forming part of a series composed and issued as follows:—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1850. | 1 guten-groschen | blue. |
| 1850-51. | 1 „ | green. |
| | $\frac{1}{30}$ thaler | rose. |
| | $\frac{1}{15}$ „ | blue. |
| | $\frac{1}{10}$ „ | yellow. |

The dates, though I am not aware that any official documents in justification have been published, are generally accepted as correct, and hence it would result that the circulation of the stamps commenced shortly before the close of the reign of King Ernest Augustus.

The series includes two types, one special to the guten-groschen, the other common to the remaining values. The two types closely resemble each other, the only difference lying in the shading of the shield and the manner in which the value inscribed on it is indicated. The shield on the 1 g.gr. shows an arabesque ground, and on it is the figure 1 with the denomination running up the centre. On the other values the shield is a solid one, bearing the fractional denomination in full, in two lines, crossing from left to right.

The two guten-groschen stamps differ among themselves in an important particular. Whilst the green shows the same watermark as the other values, a well-designed oaken crown, the blue appears, and until 1870 was thought to be, "watermarkless." In that year, however, M. Moens discovered that it bore a watermark consisting of a single-line rectangle, of nearly the same size as the stamp, and so difficult of detection that it had even escaped the notice of so keen an observer as Dr. Magnus. Thus it is pretty evident that the one g.gr. blue was the forerunner of the series, and is entitled to be classed apart as an entirely separate issue. At one time it was suspected of being a chemical changeling, but all doubts as to its genuineness have long since been dissipated, and it now properly heads the list of Hanoverian stamps, though, strangely enough, it happens that in the archives of the Hanoverian post-office no trace of a supply having been ordered can be found. When the other values were being prepared, and it was decided to print the $\frac{1}{15}$ th. on blue, it became necessary to select another colour for the 1 g.gr, and the fresh supply—on green—was struck off on the oak-crown watermarked paper.

As all the members of the series are printed in black on coloured paper, the varieties must be sought in the difference of tint; but as there is much less deviation from the normal shade in paper than in coloured printing-ink—where the precise hue depends on the proportions in which certain ingredients are found—the varieties of this issue are not very striking. The $\frac{1}{30}$ th. alone exists in two distinct shades—salmon and carmine-rose—both of which are collectable. The varieties of the other values are unimportant.

The design of these stamps, which is very finely engraved, is interesting from the fact that it is in part formed of the English arms. My youngest reader is no doubt acquainted with the connection which exists between Hanover and Great Britain, and will therefore not be surprised to meet with the old familiar lion and unicorn on the Hanoverian issues, supporting the shield and the royal crown of England. The armorial bearings differ, however, in that the arms of Hanover, on an "escutcheon of pretence," are surcharged on the centre of the shield, and the motto, instead of *Dieu et mon droit*, is a Latin one, SUSCIPERE ET FINIRE, which can be easily deciphered on the stamps without the aid of a magnifier. For a full description of

the Hanoverian bearings I must refer my readers to an interesting article by Fentonia, published at p. 67 of the third volume of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*.

The mode of expressing the value adopted on the first series is an unusual one, the fractional denomination occupying the centre, and the equivalent in *silber-groschen* being inscribed on the banderole on the right side. This plan has one advantage, at any rate to us philatelists,—it teaches us that 1 sgr. is the thirtieth of a thaler, and remembering that a thaler is, roundly speaking, worth three shillings, we find that the silber-groschen equals one penny and a fifth; the early Hanoverian issues, it may here be noticed, are the only German stamps on which the *thaler* is used to express the denomination.* As to the *guten-groschen*, an obsolete currency, 24 of them went to the thaler, their value being, therefore, just three-halfpence. It seems strange that two stamps so nearly alike in value as the 1 sgr. and 1 g.gr. should have been maintained in circulation at the same time, but such was the case for several years.

On the 15th April, 1853, the series received an accession in the shape of a 3 pf. brownish rose, of simple design: value in pfennige; name, surmounted by a crown, in a vertically-lined oval, with the fractional value—EIN DRITTEL SILBER-GROSCHEN—on a scroll, which serves as a border to the upper half of the oval, the whole in a plain single-line rectangle. Let me, in passing, call my readers' attention to the inscription of the fractional value—one-third of a silber-groschen,—for later on we shall meet with the same type, printed in green, and bearing the value differently expressed. This early 3 pfennige is one of the rarest of the Hanoverians. It is distinguished from a later 3 pf. *rose* by its possession of the oaken-crown watermark.




The inaugural series of stamps on coloured paper, with its attendant 3 pfennige in colour on white was suppressed on the 1st January, 1856, but the types were maintained. The second series differs from the first in that it is printed on white paper, covered with an open network, running in a horizontal direction, and composed of alternate lozenges and hexagons. The impression is in black, and only the network is coloured. The values are repeated without alteration—




| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | guten-groschen | green. |
| $\frac{1}{30}$ | thaler | rose. |
| $\frac{1}{15}$ | thaler | blue. |
| $\frac{1}{10}$ | thaler | orange-yellow. |

In the 3 pf., which accompanies this issue, the design is struck in rose, and the network varies in colour from black to olive. The $\frac{1}{10}$ th. exists with very fine network. Obliterated specimens are far from uncommon, and *unused* copies of the other values may also be met with showing this finer ground, but it is tolerably certain that they are mere unauthorised reprints, or rather concoctions. The 1 g.gr. green and $\frac{1}{30}$ th. rose exist with the network running vertically, and are veritable printer's errors.

The first two Hanoverian issues are characterised by the possession of a peculiar, thick, rose-coloured gum on the back, and advanced collectors point with legitimate pride to the fact that the colour of the gum suffices to distinguish an original from a reprint, in proof of the necessity for carefully studying the backs as well as the fronts of stamps. In effect, the official reprints of the 1856 series all bear a whitish gum. The first series appears not to have been reprinted, but a number of worthless proofs, intended solely for sale to collectors, were struck off in 1864. Thus we find impressions on brown, blue, and rose paper, of the fractional values $\frac{1}{30}$ th., $\frac{1}{10}$ th., and $\frac{1}{15}$ th., and other similar changes were rung on the 3 pf., and on some of the 1856 stamps. Beginners

* The German thaler dates back no farther than the fifteenth century. It had its origin thus: the Counts of Schlick coined the silver extracted from their mines at Joachim's *thal* (Joachim's valley) into ounce pieces, which received the name of *Joachim's thalers*. These coins gained such a reputation that they became a kind of pattern, and others of the same kind, though made in other places, took the name, only dropping the first part of the word for shortness. *Dollar* is a corruption of the word "thaler," or "daler."—"Postage-stamp Money," *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. v., p. 129.

cannot give too wide a berth to such profitless lumber.

In 1859 the series with the profile of the blind King George V.*—finely engraved, and of a design uniting many of the most meritorious qualities—made its appearance, together with its satellite, the 3 pf. rose. This latter is distinguished from the first-issued stamp of the same colour and value by the absence of watermark. The values with profile are as follows:—




| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | groschen | rose. |
| 2 | „ | blue. |
| 3 | „ | yellow. |

Later on, in 1861, in conformity with the understanding come to between the German states, the colour of the 3 gr. was changed to brown, and at the same time an additional value was issued,—the 10 groschen, green. The denominations of value, it will be observed, are much simplified in this series; there are no perplexing fractions, nor conflicting "guten" and "silber" groschen, but all are reduced to the one uniform currency of groschens. For a short time, however, in the year 1859—whether before or after the emission of the profile series M. Berger-Levrault (my authority for the statement) does not say—the 1 g.gr. green, of 1851, was reissued for temporary circulation, probably a supply of the old stock being opportunely at hand to meet some accidental failing of the current value.

The colour varieties of this series are the result of successive editions. When the changes above alluded to were made in 1861, a fresh supply of the 1 gr. and 2 gr. was printed off. Hence we have to catalogue these values as follows:—

1 gr. deep rose (1859), light rose (1861).
2 „ dull blue ( „ ), deep ultramarine (1861).

On the 1st April, 1860, a new value was issued, the ½ groschen, in black on rather thick, yellowish-white paper. This is an extremely simple stamp. A thick single-line rectangle encloses the word HANNOVER, in block type, a crown, a well-drawn post-horn, and the value. The 1st January, 1864, witnessed the appearance of a fourth 3 pfennige stamp, this time printed in green on white, of the same type as its predecessors, but differing from them all in having the fractional value expressed thus: DREI ZEHNTEL SILBER-GROSCHEN—three-tenths of a silber-groschen. Probably the former denomination—one-third sgr.—had been objected to as inaccurate, there being ten, and not nine, pfennige to the groschen.




The history of the Hanoverian adhesives winds up with the perforation, or, more exactly speaking, the piercing, of all the values, except the 10 gr. The 3 pf., 1 gr., and 3 gr. underwent the operation in June, 1864, and the ½ gr. and 2 gr. in 1865 or 1866. Owing to the comparatively short time during which the perforated supply of the two latter values was in use, obliterated copies of the same are not frequently met with; but the other three members of the series are tolerably common. The perforated 1 gr. is met with in rose and bright rose, and the 3 sgr., instead of brown, was issued perf. in bistre.

### ENVELOPES.

The first series of stamped envelopes was issued on the 15th April, 1857. The design consists of the profile of King George V. to left, in solid oval, in oval engine turned border, inscribed, above the portrait, HANNOVER, and below EIN GUTER (1) GROSCHEN;* the portrait and the figure—which, on a small oval disk, intersects the value—are in white relief; the lettering is sunken; the usual microscopic inscription, EIN GUTER (or EIN, ZWEI, or DREI




* The king lost his sight from an accident when quite a youth, as is commonly reported, from his swinging a long purse round and round, which accidentally struck him such a blow on the eye as in the end to deprive him of sight.—*The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. iii., p. 68.

* Ein silber (1) groschen, &c., as the case may be.

SILBER) GROSCHEN POST COUVERT, printed in green ink, crosses the left upper corner in which the stamp is struck; the values and colours are the same as those of the adhesive set, viz. :—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | guter-groschen | green. |
| 1 | silber ,, | rose. |
| 2 | ,, ,, | blue. |
| 3 | ,, ,, | yellow. |

Entire original envelopes of this series are scarce, but all the values have been reprinted on bluish tinted paper. A specimen of the 1 g.gr. was discovered by M. Moens, struck in *rose*, with the diagonal inscription reading thus: EIN PROBE POST COUVERT (postage envelope proof), instead of the usual inscription. This proof envelope was probably an experiment.

The second series—issued on the 1st October, 1858, a few months in advance of the corresponding adhesives—differs from the first in the value, and in the possession of two circular disks in the border, one on either side of the profile, instead of the single oval disk at foot; said disks in the second series being in white relief, with the numeral of value sunk in the centre. Of this series three editions appeared, all with green diagonal inscriptions.




(1).—1st October, 1858; stamp in left upper corner.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | groschen | dark rose. |
| 2 | ,, | sky blue. |
| 3 | ,, | chrome-yellow. |

(2).—20th November, 1861; stamp in right upper corner.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | groschen | rose. |
| 2 | ,, | blue. |
| 3 | ,, | stone. |

(3).—May, 1863; stamp in left upper corner.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | groschen | rose. |
| 2 | ,, | blue. |
| 3 | ,, | stone. |

It will be seen that the first and third editions are substantially the same, the only difference being in the shade; hence the difficulty in distinguishing with certainty between them is excessive, whilst the necessity for collecting both is questionable. The appearance of the third edition, however, was neither due to whim nor accident. It was in compliance with a suggestion of the Prussian post-office that the second edition, with stamp to right, was issued; but the Hanoverians had become so accustomed to the envelopes with stamp to left, that they loudly objected to the innovation, protesting that the stamp in its new position stood in the way of the address. Such is the force of habit. We, on our side, should probably be equally dissatisfied were our post-office to take to issuing envelopes with the stamps to left. However, the Hanoverians got their way. The stamp-to-right envelopes were withdrawn, and the third series, above catalogued, was issued.

Originals of the first two editions are getting comparatively scarce; the members of the third are, however, easily to be had, and reprints of the first two are likewise plentiful.

*Town of Hanover.*

Envelopes of no less than four different types in all were issued for the local service of the town of Hanover. The two first were not discovered until long after their suppression, and original impressions are of considerable rarity. The earliest of these local envelopes takes precedence of all the adhesives issued for the general service of the realm in right of age, it having been issued on the 15th May, 1849; whilst the first adhesive stamp, the 1 g.gr. blue, did not see the light until December of the following year. This is far from being the only instance of a stamp or envelope for local postage being issued prior to the regular introduction of stamps. In this case the local envelope, or cover, requires all the importance derivable from priority of date to render it interesting, for it is simply a sheet of white paper folded thrice lengthwise, and then thrice crosswise, so as to form an oblong to receive the address, and on this oblong, above the space intended for the address, is struck in gothic characters the inscription BESTELLGELD-FREI (post free).

On that part which forms the back when the cover is folded into envelope shape, is an inscription in German, printed in black, to the effect that "by the use of these covers, provided on the face with the stamp *Bestellgeld-frei*, letters are forwarded free of postage to the persons to whom they are addressed within the capital town of Hanover, the suburb of Hanover (exclusive of the forest-houses in the Eilenreid), in the suburb of Glocksee, and in the parish of Linden; these covers will be sold by the Royal Hanover Post-office at 3 g.gr. the dozen."

The second local cover shows a rather more ambitious design, the front bearing a wood-engraved vignette, consisting of a post-horn, half hidden in a foliate ornament, at each corner. The corner ornaments are connected together by faint lines which form a rectangle, each line being broken in the centre by the word BESTELLGELD-FREI in gothic characters. A small handstruck stamp, like a postmark, in the lower left corner, contains the same word surrounding a post-horn, and itself enclosed in a single-line circle. The reverse side of the cover also bears an ornamental device on the portion marked for the flap, and on the lower part is an inscription similar to that on the first cover, with the exception that the price is raised to four g.gr. per dozen. The cover is of bright yellow paper, the vignette and inscriptions are in black, and the handstruck stamp in blue.

These covers were issued in sheets, upon which two varieties are found side by side;* in one of the designs the ornamental corners are all dissimilar; in the other that of the left lower corner is similar to that of the upper right corner. The former variety was reprinted in 1870.

On the 1st November, 1858, the ornamented covers were replaced by a buff-coloured envelope bearing a circular embossed stamp in green, struck on the left upper corner. The stamp contains a trefoil leaf in the centre, with post-horn below, and inscription BESTELLGELD-FREI in half-circle above, within a single-line circle; the whole in relief on a plain ground. At the back, on the upper flap, is the inscription, in green, SOLD AT THE HANOVER POST-OFFICE IN PACKETS OF TEN FOR 5 GROSCHEN. On the lower flap is another inscription in green, similar to that on the covers, but more concise:—POSTAGE FREE FOR THE CAPITAL TOWN OF HANOVER, THE SUBURB OF HANOVER, &c., &c.—a notice which, by the way, clearly contradicts a statement quoted in the second volume of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, to the effect that these envelopes were in use throughout the realm of Hanover. I have not been able to trace any explanation of the appearance of the trefoil on this local envelope; does it form part of the arms of the town? The question is one that deserves a reply; and at the same time the heraldic significance of the horse which figures on the succeeding type merits investigation.




The trefoil envelope is rather rare, but reprints are plentiful; and some years ago a number of them made their appearance cut square and gummed at the back, although the originals were certainly never issued as adhesives.

On the 20th November, 1861 (date of issue of the second edition of the second series of envelopes with profile), the trefoil stamp struck in left upper corner gave place to another circular stamp, this time with galloping horse in relief in centre, struck, according to the newly-adopted rule, in the right upper corner. In this design the post-horn does not figure, but the inscription, BESTELLGELD-FREI, is maintained, and the letter-press on the flaps is the same as in the preceding type.




In May, 1863, a second edition appeared, with the stamp struck to left, which was reprinted in 1870. It has been asserted by M. Moens, on the faith of official documents, that a supply of this type, impressed in *left* upper corner, was issued on the 1st October, 1861, and was consequently in use for the six weeks which elapsed between that date and the known emission with stamp to right.

* See *The Philatelist*, vol. v., p. 129.

Neither Dr. Magnus nor "A Parisian Collector" have, however, been able to trace this stamp, and its emission seems doubtful, inasmuch as at the asserted date of issue the decision had presumably been arrived at to cease impressing the stamp in the left corner.

The Hanoverian stamps all became obsolete on the 1st October, 1866, when they were superseded by the Prussian stamps. Just before the war broke out in that year, a new type for the envelope stamps was prepared, which would probably have been employed likewise for the adhesives. From the annexed engraving it will be seen that the type resembles in its arrangement that of the last Saxons. Of its official character there is no doubt, and only the result of the war prevented the emission from becoming *un fait accompli*. The proofs which have found their way into philatelic albums are printed in rose, black, blue, and bistre, and the portrait of the king is said to be a remarkably faithful one.




*Corrigenda.*

North German Confederation.—I have to thank a correspondent for calling attention to my omission to notice the two newspaper wrappers of the Confederation. ⅓ groschen green, and 1 kr. green, respectively, of the same design as the corresponding adhesives.

Hamburg.—I have also to express my obligation to the Rev. R. B. Earée for kindly forwarding for inspection his specimen of the Hamburg post card, originally described by *The Philatelist*, the existence of which I had ventured to query; and to Mr. J. B. T., of Manchester, for the information he sent concerning it. The card is the North German one, inscribed NORD DEUTSCHES POSTGEBIET; and an *adhesive* ½ schg. stamp—the one issued by the Confederation, without any value in the centre, for use in Hamburg—is in the upper right corner.

Letters from the Argentine Republic are no longer forwarded by the foreign consuls or packet agents, but are dispatched by the government postal administration.

## OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

*La Gazette des Timbres.*—Last month we announced the decease of this journal; we have now the pleasure of announcing its resuscitation, without any substantial change in garb. The illustrated wrapper is of a slate colour, instead of white; this is the sole external alteration; but we regret to find that Dr. Magnus's name as editor disappears from the title, and the number before us, consisting of eight pages of printed matter, contains nothing from his pen. The entire work connected with the *Gazette* now falls, at least temporarily, on M. P. Mahé, and we must say he has acquitted himself of it very successfully. The bulk of the number is occupied with the "Chronicle of Novelties," which contains notices of stamps issued during the last two or three months. It is preceded by an introductory paper, in which the services rendered by Gazette the First are narrated, and promises are made, which if kept cannot fail to render the new comer as interesting as its predecessor; and the number closes with sundry short paragraphs. Glancing over the "Chronicle" we are glad to find M. Mahé recommends the rejection of the multicoloured German cards and newspaper wrappers, impressed to order by the Berlin post-office. We also find the following statement respecting the doubtful Ecuador types:—

> One of our correspondents, in constant communication with this country (Ecuador), hands us, in the following terms, the information we had requested him to obtain respecting the new types, which so quickly disappeared:—
>
> "The government of Ecuador had made a contract with the printer for a certain number of stamps, of which the stock is not yet exhausted, for only lately a fresh supply was struck off, which, although the printing was defective, the government was obliged to accept. It is another printer who has undertaken the new series."
>
> We can understand now how it was that the new types, which were put in circulation the 1st January, have all at once disappeared, and been replaced by the old ones, of which a large number still have to be used up.

From this we must presume that, as the supply of the old stamps ran short towards the close of last year, the government was bound to have temporary recourse to the new designs, and that as soon as the printer had delivered his last batch of the old type the employment of the new was stopped. It is rather a pity M. Mahé's correspondent was

not more explicit, for the most plausible conjectures are but poor substitutes for solid facts.

Under the heading *Switzerland* M. Mahé publishes the statement of a Berlin correspondent, to the effect that his letters from Bâle, Fribourg, and Geneva are prepaid with the German 1 groschen, bearing the ordinary Swiss cancellation. He explains this anomaly by the fact that a convention between Germany and Switzerland has just come into operation, under which letters between the two countries are carried at the rate of 1 groschen, or $12\frac{1}{2}$ centimes; and as Switzerland has not had time to issue a stamp of the latter value, she provisionally uses the German 1 groschen. This, if the correct explanation, is certainly a strange one. The general rule is to create a provisional stamp, pending the fabrication of a supply of the new value, and such a thing as the stamps of one country being officially employed by another has never before been heard of.

*Le Timbre-Poste* for September is principally remarkable for the commencement of a useful article on the "Stamps of Parma," in which the decree of the 7th March, 1852, which regulated the emission of the first series, is published at length. From that decree it results that the two stamps printed in black on colour (10 c. black, 40 c. blue), which it has hitherto been supposed were issued *after* the 5 c., 15 c., and 25 c., colour on white, were, in fact, issued at the same time, and that the five values consequently form one and the same series. Following this article comes M. Moens' announcement of his intention to issue, at the beginning of the year, a journal similar in its get-up to *Le Timbre-Poste*, treating solely of fiscal stamps, and to be entitled *Le Timbre-Fiscal;* the editorship is to be confided to Dr. Magnus. This is a much better plan than mixing up postage and fiscal issues together, and we are very glad we shall not meet any references to the latter in the pages of our old friend.

*The Philatelist* presents a full list of new issues, followed by the continuation of a very useful article on post cards, to the reproduction of which we observe M. Mahé, in his *Gazette*, strongly objects. This is followed by the second part of Mr. Tiffany's article on the Saint Louis stamps, reprinted from the author's original manuscript, and to this succeeds the usual article on the "Philatelic Press," in which Dr. Magnus's monograph on the reprinted Prussian envelopes and stamps is carefully analysed.

*The Stamp* continues to fulfil the promise of early intelligence held out by its opening numbers. The issue for the 1st September, is full of news, some items of which we have tranferred to our own columns, but, though it is a good sign for the prosperity of the journal, we are sorry to see the advertisements encroaching so much on the letterpress as to leave no room for any other article besides that on "New Issues." The "General News," the "Reviews," &c., in the first numbers, were interesting reading, and it would be well if space could be found in each impression for these articles. The number for the 15th September is not yet to hand (29th). Surely our contemporary is not falling into the foreign defect of unpunctuality.

*The Stamp-Collector's Chronicle.*—The June number of this quarterly publication has only just reached us! Now, a quarterly publication published only once every six months is an hibernicism which we should think its conductors could manage to avoid. The contents of this second number are very readable, and the typographical arrangements leave really nothing to be desired. The opening article treats of Confederate locals, and the writer expresses himself very dubious as to the value of the Fredericksburg stamps, which were discovered by Dr. Petrie, and respecting which Miss Thom, daughter of the postmaster by whom they are supposed to have been issued, wrote so precisely. "To Young Collectors" is the title of a pithy chapter of advice addressed by Mr. L. W. Durbin to beginners. The following recommendations are well worth transcribing:—

> Do not send your orders to those who advertise *rare* stamps at a few cents per set. When you receive a letter or circular from anyone offering the set of Pacific Steam Navigation Co. stamps for 15 cents, a set of New Granada for ten cents, &c., *put a black mark opposite the name of that party;* for he is offering you forgeries, and you ought not to buy them, for you thus encourage dishonesty.

There is a mistake that young collectors (and some old ones too) make. They refuse to purchase unused stamps for fear they are counterfeits. But they should know that *nine-tenths of all the forged stamps sold are cancelled to give them a genuine appearance.*

"Some Post-office Rules" are very amusing, and contains some good hints to meddlers and busy-bodies. The article headed "Our Black List" tells its own tale; the firm of Sidney Simpson & Co. therein obtains additional but unenviable notoriety. The list of new emissions has a comical heading, which must be the result of a typographical blunder—"New and *prescribed* Issues, Novelties," &c. However, the information it contains is none the less useful. Among other odd items, we find a reference to a provisional three-halfpenny New Brunswick, of which we fancy we have heard before. It is simply one half of the lozenge shaped threepence, divided so as to form a triangle, and bearing the numerals "$1\frac{1}{2}$," surcharged in brick-red. The threepenny stamp was sold to the public entire, with the above figures struck on each half, the purchasers being left to effect the separation of the two as required. The remainder of the number is occupied with the article entitled "Our Review" and sundry minor papers.

*The American Journal of Philately.*—The principal article in the double number for the 1st and 15th August, is an instalment of "A Collector's Notes on the Stamps of New Granada,"—a really valuable addition to philatelic lore, to which we have already alluded, and which we trust to have the pleasure of reviewing when complete. "Stamps on blued Paper" is a reprint (acknowledged) from the *Philatelist.* From the chronicle on newly-issued stamps we have gleaned some interesting intelligence, which is duly noted in its proper place.

*La Posta Mondiale.*—The second number of this journal is before us. Its contents are composed in part of a description of newly-issued stamps, and in part of a reference to the Italian municipal issues. We cannot find any specially noteworthy or quotable piece of information in the number.

## NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

Heligoland.—The two promised novelties, the $\frac{1}{4}$ sch. and $1\frac{1}{2}$ sch., have made their appearance. The design is in all its leading points the same as that of the previously issued stamps; in both, however, the ornaments in the spandrels are suppressed. In the lower value the Queen's profile is on a green oval disk, and the frame is in carmine; whilst in the higher the order is reversed, the profile being on a carmine disk, and the frame of a delicate green; in both instances the inscriptions are in white letters. The carmine disk of the $1\frac{1}{2}$, it should be observed, is roughly struck, the colour encroaching on the embossed profile, and giving it a ragged outline.

Pahlunpoor.—In quoting last month from *The Stamp* the report of an emission for this state, we were careful to leave the responsibility for the intelligence with our contemporary, and our circumspection in the matter has been fully justified by the event. The stamps themselves, in a marvellously short time after the putting forth of the first feeler, have made their appearance, and we must say that their looks do not incline us to put much confidence in them. We append an engraving of the type, which does it more than justice. The originals are printed, with calculated roughness, in pale Indian ink on cream-laid note, and it is stated that the set is composed of seven values. Of course there is nothing to prevent the rajah of any outlandish Indian state issuing stamps, and having them printed on English note paper; but unless, and until, *properly authenticated* proofs are forthcoming, we shall refuse to believe that the Pahlunpoor stamps are other than essays on credulity, and we strongly advise all our readers in the meanwhile to have nothing to do with them.




Denmark and Danish Possessions.—A new monetary system has just been adopted in Scandinavia, as the result of a conference held by the savants of the north. The

future currency will be in *marks* and *öre*, and it is intended to issue fresh series of stamps for Denmark and her dependencies, with the values expressed in the new denominations.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.—For first intelligence of the following new issues we are exclusively indebted to our Belgian contemporary.

*Orgueïff* (Territory of Bessarabia.)—The annexed design hails from a district which now joins the stamp-issuing ranks, and, as will be noticed, is of an unusually ornate character. The tree and scythe are presumably the armorial bearings of the district, and may be intended to typify its fertility. The signification of the bull's head, which figures in the lower margin, must, perhaps, be sought in the geographical position of the district. It is situated between Moldo-Wallachia, the Pruth, the Dnieper, and the Black Sea. It has only formed part of Russia since 1812, when it was ceded by the treaty of Bucharest, and we shall probably not be far out in conjecturing that the bull's head, which it will be remembered formed part of the arms of Moldo-Wallachia, is in one way or another a *souvenir* of the former connection of the district with the Danubian Principalities. The oval inscription signifies RURAL POST OF ORGUEIFF, and the value in words appears in the scrolls beneath. There are two stamps, printed in black on glazed paper, covered with a coloured pattern, and perforated 13.



3 kop. black and flesh.
6 „ black and green.

*Werchnie-Dnieproffsk* (Ekaterinoslav.)—The type described four months ago, and said to have been issued so long since as 1866, has just been withdrawn in favour of the annexed lithographed design, of which the multiplication is perhaps easier and less costly. The new stamp is not a whit prettier than its predecessor, but it has, at any rate, the advantage of being struck in blue, instead of in black, and with this faint praise we take our leave of it.




*Atkarsk* (Saratoff.)—In our original list of locals this district figures under the name of *Atkar*, and we have since seen it stated that the name should be written Atkarsk; which is the correct orthography remains to be proved. The stamp described in our list (arms surmounted by crown in rectangle, no value indicated) has not yet come to light, but another design has been discovered, which is here illustrated. The curious trio of fishes in the upper half of the shield reminds one of the Belozersk stamp, whilst the three birds are evidently near relations of those which figure on the Fatejh and Livni emissions. The new comer makes its appearance in plain black on white.




*Novgorod* (Novgorod.)—We learn from *The Stamp* that stamps from a new die are in circulation.

*Maloarchangelsk* (Orel.)—The same paper states that a label for this locality has made its appearance. Is it the one described in our list, or a new type?

*Kotelnitsch* (Viatka.)—The stamps for this district are stated to have been withdrawn on the 31st December last.

*Tchern* (Tula.)—The 3 kop., recently described and illustrated, now comes over handstruck in black on horizontally laid white paper.

*Mariopol* (Ekaterinoslav.)—The design figured in our July number has already been superseded by a similar type. The arms are on a vertically-lined ground, the Roman figure 5 is enclosed in a double frame inscribed on all four sides, the ground is covered with a fine pattern, and the corner figures are in white on colour. The impression is in black on white wove paper.

*Charkoff* (Charkoff.)—The latest arrivals of the 5 kopecs are found to be printed carmine.

*Fatejh* (Koursk.)—A variety of the envelope has been received by M. Moens with the stamp printed in brick-red, instead of vermilion.

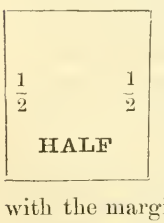
*Schatsk* (Tamboff.)—The stamp described in 1871 has just deigned to make its appearance. Were we ignorant of its name, the arms alone would suffice to indicate from what government it comes, for they closely resemble those of the Tamboff district, except in that the crossed sheaves of corn, which figure on the Schatsk stamp and strengthen the symbolism of the device, are wanting on the Tamboff. The inscription signifies SCHATSK DISTRICT RURAL COURT STAMP, PRICE 3 KOP. In like manner, the words RURAL COURT appear on the Tamboff emissions, and it may be remarked, *en passant*, that in some other governments the word COURT, instead of POST, is employed. The Schatsk stamp is struck in black on white.



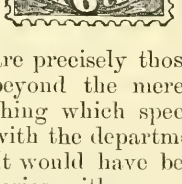

SERVIA.—This country has not been long in following the lead of Roumania in the issue of post cards. It has started with a 10 paras green, bearing a stamp of the annexed type, which is an evident copy of the Belgian 10 centime adhesive. There is also a reply-paid card, the two halves of which are mere reproductions of the ordinary card. In the centre, near the upper edge of these cards, are the Servian arms. The whole is enclosed in a border similar to that on the English post cards, whence it would seem that the Servian authorities have been intent on bringing out a post card of the composite order.




VICTORIA.—From this colony we have received a specimen of a provisional halfpenny stamp recently issued, and formed from the current penny green, with the surcharge figured in annexed diagram; the fractions are on either side of the profile, and the word HALF crosses the neck, so that in conjunction with the marginal inscription it reads thus: HALF ONE PENNY. The idea is an original one, and certainly leads to an economy of letter-press. Had, however, the word "halfpenny," in its entirety, been printed across the stamp, we cannot think the expense would have been much greater. The surcharge is struck in carmine. The stamps on which it appears bear the v. and crown watermark.

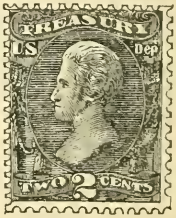



UNITED STATES.—We have had the opportunity of examining a number of the new departmental stamps, and have been somewhat disappointed in the designs. They are handsome and effective enough; indeed, they could hardly fail of being so, seeing that the admirable medallions of the ordinary series figure on them, and the colours are precisely those used in that series; but beyond the mere inscription there is nothing which specially identifies the stamps with the departments to which they belong. It would have been easy to embellish each series with appropriate symbols: thus, on the war stamps, the medallions might have had a trophy of arms for a background; whilst those for the agricultural department might have borne a representation of some of the leading implements; the navy stamps, instead of the bell-pull, which figures also on other sets, might at least have been provided










with an anchor, and so on. However, we must be content with the stamps as they are, though it must be admitted that, taken altogether, they are rather fatiguing from the monotonous repetition of the same types in a dozen different sets; and for the sake of the relief they afford we are prepared to vote the post-office set the handsomest. We append engravings of three of the designs (Post-office, Treasury, and Interior), that our

readers may be able to make themselves acquainted with the style.

The *A. J. P.* states that the printing of the adhesive stamps for the United States has been transferred from the National to the *Continental* Bank Note Company—the company by which the new 300 reis Brazil was prepared. The difference, adds our contemporary, is easily noticed without the aid of the imprint, the colours being paler than heretofore, and of a slightly washy appearance.

Canada.—Arrangements have been concluded between the United States and the Dominion for the carriage of post cards between the two countries at the rate of two cents each. Special international cards will have to be prepared by both the contracting parties, and, according to *The Stamp-Collector's Chronicle*, the effigy on the Canadian 2 c. card is likely to be that of the late Sir George E. Cartier. The same paper states that a registered letter stamp for Canada is being discussed among the postal officials, and it further adds that

Prince Edward Island joined the Dominion on the 1st of July last; its stamps consequently "fall out."

Spain.—One of our most valued correspondents calls us strictly to account for too readily placing faith in the Don Carlos stamp, of which we gave an engraving last month. The specimen whence our illustration was taken was communicated to M. Moens by M. A. d'Arlot de Saint Saud, who had received it from a Carlist officer, and our Belgian *confrère* appeared to have full confidence in it. But now we find in the resuscitated *Gazette des Timbres* the following perplexing paragraph:—

"One of our subscribers, an inhabitant of a French town in which some Carlist officers are detained, has received from one of them a stamp with effigy of Don Carlos, and after showing him the type which we reproduce [the design represented in our last], he declared that the one was as different from the other as night from day." Furthermore the correspondent above referred to, a gentleman whose knowledge of Spain permits him to speak with a certain authority, argues that the value is too high; there would have been more in favour of the stamp had its denomination been 4 cuartos or 10 *centesimos;* he also does not believe that Don Carlos has acquired sufficient footing in the country to establish a postal service. In presence of these conflicting reports and opinions, as difficult to reconcile as are the Carlist and Republican telegrams from Spain, we must suspend judgment until we are in possession of more positive data.

Our correspondent does not believe that the 40 c. blue (Amadeus), is anything more than a proof, and he is almost equally doubtful as to the 25 c. lilac.

Philippines.—The same friend questions the value of the recently chronicled 62 c. rose, and 12 c. blue for these islands. He believes that no used copies have been seen.

Argentine Republic.—The current number of *The American Journal of Philately* contains engravings of the three new values which a short time since were reported to be "in the press." The 30 (*treinta*) centavos, printed in orange, bears the three-quarter face to right of Gen. Carlos de Alvear; the 60 (*sesenta*) centavos black, the three-quarter face to right of Don Gervasio Antonio de Posadas; and 90 (*noventa*) centavos blue, a full-face portrait of General Don Cornelio Saavedra. These portraits—which, as far as we can judge from the engravings, appear to be very effective—are all set in ovals, with name above and value below, and numerals of value in upper corners. The government, it is stated by the same journal, is preparing a book giving the postal laws of the country, which will be illustrated with wood engravings of the stamps.

Antioquia.—A new 5 c. stamp is stated by *Le Timbre-Poste*, on the authority of M. Roussin, to have been issued. The type is similar to that of 1869, but having been redrawn it differs from the old in that—

The figures are shaded, instead of solid.
The design is lacking above and below the upper and lower figures.
The stars are smaller.
The eagle holds a scroll in its beak.

These are the principal variations, but there are a number of minor ones. The colour remains the same, 5 centavos green. The 10 c. is now reddish-lilac.

Italy.—This time there appears to be no reason to doubt that post cards are about to be issued for Italy. According to *Le Timbre-Poste* a contract has been passed with a Turin firm for the supply of the cards necessary for the emission, which is fixed for New Year's Day next. The cards are to be of two colours, yellow and rose; the yellow will be the ordinary card, the rose will be the double ones, with one half for the prepaid reply.

Dominica.—According to *The Stamp* a rumour is current in Dominica that stamps are to be issued there.

Great Britain.—The shilling green adhesive has been issued with the corner letters on white ground.

Curacoa.—It is only since the 1st June that these stamps have been in use.

## POSTAL RATES IN CHILI.

BY FULANO.

The Chilian government has just laid before congress a bill which, if passed, will ensure very important changes in the present postal tariff. This bill, as will be seen further on, while it benefits the majority on one side, adds to the burden of the minority (foreigners) on the other.

To the tariff of 1851 additions have been made from time to time, without, it seems, the slightest regard being paid to what went before; so that, as it stands at present it is a very curious arrangement. The following are examples, the lines of steamers mentioned being the "Pacific Steam Navigation Co." and the "C$^{a}$ Sud Americana de Vapores."

P. S. N. C.—$\frac{1}{2}$ oz. to any place in Chili, north of Valparaiso, 15 c.
C. S. A. de V.—$\frac{1}{2}$ oz. ditto, 10 c.
P. S. N. C.—$\frac{1}{2}$ oz. to any place in Chili, south of Valparaiso, 20 c.
C. S. A. de V.—$\frac{1}{2}$ oz. ditto 15 c.
$\frac{1}{4}$ oz. to Bolivia and Peru, as far as Callao, 10 c.
$\frac{1}{4}$ oz. North of Callao, as far as Panama, 20 c.

Thus it will be seen that the postage to Peru is 5 c. *less* (the letter being subject to no further charge) than to a place in Chili.

As a remedy for these *odiosas diferencias* the following is proposed.

Art. 1.—On letters, manuscripts, &c., sent by steamer, whether Chilian or Foreign, to any place in the Republic.
9 grammes (about $\frac{1}{4}$ oz.) 10 c., &c.

Art. 5.—On letters by steamer to any place in South and Central America, Mexico, United States, and West Indies.
9 grammes (about $\frac{1}{4}$ oz.) 15 c., &c.

So far so good, the proposed rates are lower than those now paid. But now we have the reverse.

Art. 8.—On letters to Europe, Russian and British America, Greenland (!), Africa, Asia, and Australia.
9 grammes 25 c., &c.

Up to the present, letters for Europe, &c., posted at the local offices, have been exempted from the payment of postage; and at the British and French Post Office Agencies the prepayment is optional. Under the new arrangement letters would, in every case, have to be prepaid.

There would be no great reason to complain of the rate, if we had not to pay the corresponding English postage as well; as the Chilian as well as the British government pay the P. S. N. Co., both have the same right to charge what they think fit. The postage of a $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. letter, *viâ* Panama, would, therefore, be: Chilian, 50 c. and English 45 c.=95 c., which is too much. I suppose that, should the bill in question become law, the British Post Office Agency would cease to exist, unless paid letters should have first to be taken there and then to the post-office.

Art. 9.—Letters from abroad (Europe, &c.) shall pay postage according to the rate mentioned in Art. 8.

This charge on inward letters is an old grievance, and one which foreigners take some time to digest. At present it is 15 c. per $\frac{1}{4}$ oz.

Under the new arrangement the recipient of a $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. letter would, therefore, have to pay 50 c., and his answer would cost 95 c. (including English postage), in all about 5/6, against 1/6 paid by the sender in England.

It will, therefore, be seen that, under this arrangement, the gainers, generally, would be the natives. One would be inclined to think the government lost by the post-office, that they could not afford to lower the postage in one case without raising it in another. And yet it is not so. Last year's net income was $40,000. A mode of increasing this would be by charging postage on newspapers, which are carried gratis now.

## THE STAMPS OF PORTUGAL.

BY THE REV. R. B. EARÉE.

*Supplementary Article.*

THROUGH the kindness of Señor A. Gomez, of Lisbon, I am enabled to offer to my readers a few more facts concerning the Portuguese stamps, which may, I think, be of general interest. I commented in my first article upon the great number of 25 reis stamps of Donna Maria to be met with, compared with the scarcity of the other values; and this arises from the fact that the postage of an ordinary letter, to any part of the kingdom from any other part, was then (and is now) 25 reis. The 5 reis stamp was used for newspapers, &c.,—5 reis for every sheet of printed matter. In the twenty years which have elapsed since 1853 literature has made great progress; and I need scarcely remind my readers that in the time of Donna Maria *comparatively* few newspapers passed through the post. This, then, will account for the rarity of the 5 reis. None of the Portuguese stamps have ever been officially declared obsolete; so that to this present day any stamps, whether of Donna Maria, Don Pedro, or Don Luiz, would serve to frank a letter through the post. This is rather strange, considering how very well the Donna Maria stamps have been reprinted, because it must be remembered that the old issues (though still current, if any private individual happen to possess a stock of them) are no longer officially sold. With regard to the printing of the stamps, there are three machines at the government printing establishment—two for the 25 reis, and one for the stamps of all the other values. One of the 25 reis machines is always at work, and if anything happens to either of them, the other is immediately put into action, so that there may be no stoppage. The number of offices in 1853 which were empowered to obliterate stamps was 219; each of these offices had, as I have before described, an obliteration stamp bearing the number of the office. The first of these (No. 1) was, and is, Lisbon, and the last (No. 219), Villa Real de Santo Antonio. The stamps of the current series were engraved by Campos, a Portuguese engraver. This artist has followed pretty closely the design of the former type engraved by C. Wiener, of Belgium, and has succeeded better; for I am told that the current stamps bear a very faithful representation of his present majesty, Don Luiz; whereas the effigy designed by Wiener does not bear the remotest resemblance to him. This may possibly be the reason why the new stamps were issued. The current stamps are all printed in sheets of 28; but from 1853 until the first issue of Don Luiz they were all in sheets of 24 only. The 240 reis of the present type has at last put in an appearance, and has now been in use for about six weeks.

I owe an apology to my readers for the very disconnected and fragmentary style of this article, but it must be remembered that all these facts reached me *after* the articles bearing upon the subject had appeared in print, and were, consequently, too late for insertion in their proper place. It is generally the fate of those who aspire to philatelic honours, that they have to write their articles *first*, and *then* receive the best part of their information; and I think they may esteem themselves fortunate if the information comes in friendly private letters (as in my case), instead of in hostile public criticisms.

## NOTES AND QUERIES.

BY AMATEUR.

NEW GRANADA.—Recently there has come under the writer's notice a fine postmarked copy of the 5 centavos lilac, issue 1859, large figures, *on laid* paper. The example in question is on paper laid with the lines horizontally placed, and was affixed to the original letter by the side of a ten centavos yellow-brown, of the same issue, on wove paper; the large postmark *Bogota*, in an oval frame, obliterated both stamps at one impression. The genuine nature of the edition on laid paper has been doubted by some, denied by others, no other stamp of the country being printed on laid paper; but the writer has never seen reason to question the authenticity of this 5 centavos. This is the second instance of a postmarked copy coming to his notice from an indubitable source, and is

chronicled in the hope of helping to set at rest a moot point.

Spain.—The stamps officially issued for the use of the chamber of deputies amount to a large number, some of them being scarce.

In 1872 two stamps—one blue, the other black—of similar design were issued; shield and arms surmounted by a crown, and supported by laurels, with labels above and below; the lower in both inscribed EL DIRECTOR GRAL; the upper, CORREOS Y TELEGRAFOS, stamp printed in blue; and COMMUNICACIONES, stamp printed in black; while in the centre, on a scutcheon of pretence, is the cross of Savoy. On lately scrutinising a copy before mounting, it was found to be on thick, *gilt-edged*, *wove*, *writing paper*. The only parallel case is in Guadalajara, 1867; 4 reales, on a bluish paper; *quadrillé*. Probably the specimens now sold were struck for the sake of complaisance; the impressions which cleared the post being handstruck on the letter or packet after it was received by the post official at chamber or senate house.

M. Moens, in his catalogue, 4th edition, p. 41, No. 15, records—"1851. 2 *reales bleu, erreur d'impression.*" The normal colour of this stamp is *orange*. This opposition of colours precludes the idea of chemical or other change, and as the only blue stamp in the series is the 6 reales, the most likely idea is that a die of the 2 reales got set up by accident in a sheet of the 6 reales. This particular error has not come under the writer's personal notice, but in the collection of M. Herpin, of Paris, was a copy of the 6 cuartos, 1857, printed in a lovely azure blue, as a trial of colour; and possibly M. Moens' original may have so originated. The paper tells its story, being a fine plate paper, and very distinct from that used for the series of stamps as issued.

## REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

*Histoire de la Poste aux Lettres, depuis ses origines les plus anciennes jusqu' à nos jours. Par* Arthur de Rothschild. Paris. 8vo. 1873.

The author of the work before us is not unknown in the world of philatelists. Possessed of one of the finest collections of stamps and envelopes extant, and recognised as one of the leading and most energetic collectors in Paris, Baron Arthur de Rothschild has from time to time contributed papers on subjects of philatelic interest to the journals—chiefly, we believe, to *Le Timbre-Poste*—and in 1871 published a *brochure* on the introduction of the postage stamp in England, followed, in 1872, by a pamphlet on "Penny Postage," in which he first described the various proposals submitted to the Treasury in 1840, and especially that of Samuel Forrester, an officer in the Excise.

The present occasion is the subject of a work of larger dimensions, and much more extended aim, though the author modestly disclaims any intention of being more than a faithful chronicler of facts.

We will briefly recount the contents of his book. After defining the word *Post*, he proceeds to disclose the result of his researches into ancient literature, so far as they bear on the subject; and thus he treats of the Post among the Eastern nations of old, follows it first through Greece, and then the republican days of Rome, and concludes what may be termed the ancient period by its history under the Cæsars and the later Empire.

Succeeding chapters deal with the Middle Ages, the creation of *maitres de poste* in France, the *ordonnances* of the kings prior to Henri IV., and through a multitude of events trace the history of the office down to its constitution under Louvois, in the times of Louis XIV. Passing rapidly by the Regency, Louis Seize, the Revolution, the Empire, and the Restoration, our author brings down the story of the French post-office till the eve of the great postal reforms in England, and the invention of the postage stamp. He then, leaving France, diverges, and devotes a chapter to postal affairs among other nations, and surveys their establishments, dwelling particularly—with much curious and novel information—on that of Tour and Taxis, so recently suppressed.

Having thus disposed of the older period, the reform initiated in England by Sir Rowland Hill is next treated of, and a well-merited tribute is paid to his enlightened and far-seeing views, that about the reign

of Charles II. Francois Velayer had conceived the idea of a postal billet or ticket, marked FRANCO, to denote *post paid*, is held not to disentitle Sir Rowland Hill to the full credit of being the originator of the present system.

After considering our postal reform, its results and probable future, the author turns to that originated in France, and the adoption of postage stamps there. He then gives an entire chapter to the organization of the post-office among our neighbours, with many details of the service; a chapter on the methods of manufacture of postage stamps follows; while one on post cards finishes the work.

Having thus given a brief but incomplete summary of the contents of the book, there remains to us to speak of the execution by the author of his self-imposed task.

In the preparation of his materials, the Baron has shown unwearied diligence, combined with great research. From Holy Writ itself, and the pages of the father of history (Herodotus), to the most recent articles in the philatelic press, the whole range of literature, classic and modern, appears to have been laid under contribution, and the result has been the collection of a series of authorities which we venture to affirm will lighten the task of all future historians, and render this work *the* repertory of all authorities for time to come.

The only objection we feel disposed to take is, that the author gives much greater credit to his readers for extensive acquaintance with the authorities referred to than the reading of most—even well educated—men could boast; but in these days of book making we are loth to find a fault in that which so honourably distinguishes this work.

The limits of our space, as well as the design of our magazine, prevent us from entering into anything like a critical analysis, and we the more readily refrain as the author adheres to his pledge, and contents himself with recording facts rather than advancing theories. What is thought in Paris of the work may be judged from the highly laudatory and lengthened *critique* which has recently appeared in the *Journal des Débats*.

Suffice it, therefore, for us to say that since stamp-collecting has been a recognised pursuit no such serious contribution to its literature has appeared, and those who at times share the reproach of the pursuit may feel that a work like the present redeems its votaries from all just cause of exception. From all true collectors thanks are due to Baron Rothschild; while the concluding lines of the book, in which an international foreign postage, at cheap rates, is advocated, are marked with the spirit of enlightenment which has rendered his family name so honoured in Europe, and show that the attentive study of the science tends to enlarge the views and encourage the development of those broader principles which have rendered the British postal service at once the admiration and model of the civilized world.

We ought to add that the book is printed in clear type, on excellent paper, and is a pattern of a substantial, plain, well got up work. Its price (3 francs) can hardly defray the cost of production. We hear the first edition is already exhausted, and that a second may shortly be expected to appear.

## OBITUARY.

THE death of a gentleman who in his day did much to advance the interests of philately—Monsieur JUSTIN H. LALLIER—is announced in the current number of the *Gazette des Timbres*. We are sure the news will be received by all our readers with sincere regret. M. Lallier's principal work was the album which bears his name. In later years its value to collectors of postage stamps has been impaired by the inclusion within its pages of space for a number of fiscal stamps; but the early editions were an unqualified boon to collectors, for they first rendered possible a scientific arrangement of the various emissions. M. Lallier, at his decease, was in his fiftieth year.

## POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE POST INTO JAPAN dates back but a very few years indeed, yet 2,500,000 letters were already carried by the native post last year.

THE POSTAL-CARD MANUFACTURE AT SPRINGFIELD, MASS., are now shipping 700,000 and 800,000 cards daily, and will soon increase the number to 1,000,000. The es-

timate of the Postmaster-General was that 100,000,000 postal-cards would be purchased this year. Up to this time—less than three months since they were issued—over 50,000,000 have been ordered, and the probabilities are that the consumption this year will be double the estimate.

Ocean Post Cards.—The negotiations which were being carried on between our government and that of the United States for the issue of threehalfpenny post cards, to which we alluded in a recent number, have, according to *The Times* Philadelphia correspondent, suddenly failed. The British postal authorities decline the proposition, which originated on the American side, on the ground that they do not wish to reduce the postage below the present rate of threepence per half ounce. We accept this intelligence with much reserve.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### A HOME-MADE PERMANENT ALBUM.

*To the Editor of* "The Stamp-Collector's Magazine."

Dear Sir,—In continuation of the letter you kindly inserted in your June number, I proceed further to describe my album.

I may as well state, to commence with, that I am a follower of the so-called English school of Philately; not a bigoted one, but simply because I cannot afford to make anything like a perfect collection on what I acknowledge to be the more scientific principles, and have at the same time a laudable ambition to make one which shall be perfect, as far as possible, of its kind; the arrangements I am about to describe are only suitable to collections of a similar nature to my own; the pages I described in my last letter, may of course be used for a collection of any description.

My arrangement is somewhat similar to that adopted by Lallier and other makers of albums, in which a ruled space, more or less appropriate in size and shape, is allotted to each stamp; but my great object has been to improve the appearance of my pages, by making the spaces considerably larger than the stamps which are to occupy them, and I think I need hardly assure you that the improvement is immense; I give to each stamp of ordinary size, such as the English and French, a space of 1 1-9th inch wide, and 1 3-10th inch deep; this allows of three rows of eight spaces each, as the utmost that can be placed on each page, leaving ¾ inch at the top and bottom, inside the margin line, and half the width of one of the spaces at the sides and between the rows. For larger stamps, I of course make larger spaces, and only two rows on each page.

I have attempted nothing in the way of elaborate ornamentation, as I do not consider that anything more ornamental than the stamps is required. I simply rule the lines in Indian ink, and print the name of the country in block letters at the upper left-hand corner, and the date of each issue immediately above the spaces for it.

I secure each stamp in its place with a small hinge of thin paper; postcards and whole envelopes I secure in a similar manner, attaching the hinges to the latter at the edge furthest from the stamp, and placing them on the page in such a manner that they may lap over one another, and only show the stamp, and so much of the envelope as is necessary, the hinges allowing of their being turned up for the inspection of the flap ornaments, &c.

With regard to the arrangement of the issues of particular countries, I do not think that I have any very original suggestions to offer, except that I have placed those of Germany and of Austria and Austrian Italy in two rows on each page, placing in the former case the silber groschen above the corresponding kreuzer series, and in the latter, the kreuzer issues above the corresponding centesimi and soldi, calling them simply Germany and Austria, believing the division into North and South Germany to be somewhat arbitrary, and that the soldi issues were *not* employed exclusively in Austrian Italy.

With many apologies for troubling you again with so long a letter,

I remain, yours truly,

*Norwich.* CHETH.

### THE CHILIAN ENVELOPES.

*To the Editor of* "The Stamp-Collector's Magazine."

Dear Sir,—The 20 c. envelope has at length put in an appearance, and, as you will see by the specimen I have the pleasure to enclose, is of a rather unwieldy size, which is the only one in which it is to be issued.* Of the 10 c. and 15 c. there will be no varieties of size; of the 5 c. the two already in use; while of the 2 c. there will be three, two corresponding to those of the 5 c., and the third the smallest of the series. The last-mentioned envelope has not yet been issued, but its appearance cannot be delayed very much longer.

All the 15 c. and 20 c. which I have seen are on white paper, which leads me to believe that the delicacy of the colours will not permit of their being stamped on tinted paper. When it was announced that all the values were to be printed on three kinds of paper, it had been decided to entrust the making to the American Bank Note Company, and to have them stamped in the colours of the corresponding adhesives, which are the reverse of delicate.

I forgot to state above that the 20 c. was issued at the beginning of this month.

I remain, dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

*Valparaiso.* L. W. MEYER.

* [The 20 c. Chilian envelope received measures 7⅞ inches by 4 inches.—Ed.]

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. S. Prahran, Victoria.—We are much obliged for the specimen of the halfpenny Victorian stamp, the only one we have yet seen. It is described in the present number.

W. S. G., Manchester.—Many thanks for communication of the stamp and post card issued by the private Berlin office, and described from your specimens in our last.

E. P., St. Petersburg.—We are glad to find the article published in these pages on the Russian locals meets your approval, and shall look forward with pleasure to receiving the statistics you so kindly promise.

Perplexity.—The three transverse bars by which numbers of Spanish stamps are obliterated, are not a postmark properly so called, seeing that the stamps on which they figure were never used on letters. They are the remnants of unused stock, and to prevent their being fraudulently employed, they are cancelled in sheets by means of these bars.

Mr. Frank A. Gray, Philadelphia.—Our publishers have no copies of the 18th edition of their Price Catalogue on hand.—Some of the numbers of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* are out of print, but most of them can be obtained at 5d. each, post free. The prepared covers will hold twelve numbers including advertisement sheets.

## SPANISH PHILATELICO-LEGAL CHRONOLOGY.

BY DON M. P. DE FIGUEROA.

*(Continued from page 101.)*

### 1854.

1*st September.*—That the stamps for the internal correspondence of the towns shall be sold at two *cuartos;* those for letters, circulating throughout the kingdom, at four *cuartos;* and for double-weight letters, at eight;* those for the Antilles, at one real; and those for the Philippines, at two reales. That the currency of the new stamps for Spain shall commence on the 1st November (1854); of those for the Antilles, on the 1st January; and of those for the Philippines, on the 1st April (1855).

(The statement made at p. 41 of M. Moens's work, *Les Timbres-Poste Illustrés*, to the effect that the 2 c. of the issue of November, 1854, was intended solely for service in Madrid, is erroneous, for the decree clearly states that it was to be employed in *all the towns in Spain* for the district correspondence).

15*th December.*—That the postage stamps to be issued in the ensuing year (1855), shall bear the bust of the Queen, and in order that every care and precaution may be taken in engraving the dies, to prevent forgery, the issue shall not take place until the 1st April.

18*th December.*—Concerning the conveyance and prepayment, by means of stamps, of the correspondence between the Spanish Colonies and the metropolis.

### 1855.

8*th March.*—That on and after the 1st April the stamps with the bust of the Queen will be used, and that the governors of provinces are charged to see that proper supplies are distributed to the offices.

26*th June.*—Price of the colonial stamps, and mode of prepaying the letters between those parts and Spain.

28*th September.*—That the prepayment of periodicals by means of postage stamps will be permitted by the central administration.

28*th December.*—That whereas some of the postage stamps are printed on bluish and others on white paper, the stamps of both classes may be accepted as genuine, provided they answer the necessary conditions in all other respects.

### 1856.

15*th February.*—That after the 1st July, the prepayment by means of stamps of all the public correspondence of the peninsula and the adjacent isles will be obligatory. That the postage of printed matter shall be prepaid by means of postage stamps, and that of periodicals by an impressed stamp;* the journals which do not bear it will be stopped.

11*th March.*—A list is forwarded to the civil governors of the authorities and functionaries entitled to use the official stamps, with a request that care be taken to supply them with the said stamps.

13*th March.*—That the prepayment of periodicals by means of an impressed stamp, shall be extended to those addressed to the colonies.

4*th April.*—Treats of forged stamps and their employment notably on letters from Seville, indicates the differences which exist between them and the genuine stamps, one of which is that the imitations change colour when held before a fire.

11*th April.*—That stamps printed on continuous paper, and without any transparent marks, may be accepted as genuine, provided they fulfil the other conditions of authenticity, and that advice must be given to the governor of the province whenever a letter is met with bearing a false or washed (*qy.*, chemically-changed) stamp.

21*st June.*—That postage stamps may be received in payment of the stamp duty on periodicals.

26*th June.*—That when an unpaid letter is observed bearing the words "have no stamps," the postal administration shall give notice of the fact to the director of the finance department.

* Although ordered by the decree, the eight cuarto stamps were never issued [M. P. de F.]

* That is to say a stamp struck on the journal itself. For full details of the different types of impressed journal stamps in use in Spain, the reader is referred to an article by the present writer, published in the Madrid journal, *El Averiguador*, of the 15th Aug., 1871 [M. P. de F.]

*11th and 22nd August.*—That the public correspondence of authorities who are entitled to use the official stamps, with others who have not that privilege, shall be delivered to the latter, subject to the obligation of representing the postage by means of ordinary stamps, which shall be attached to the letter, obliterated in the receiver's presence, and kept by the department to serve as vouchers.

*6th September.*—That when a letter is observed to be prepaid with false or doubtful stamps, such as have been noticed on letters from Ecèja and Malaga, it shall be forwarded under cover to the postmaster of the town whence it was received, in order that he may institute inquiries with a view to trace the fraud.

*27th October.*—That no consideration shall be shown towards *employés* who neglect to take the measures prescribed by the decree of the 16th March, 1854, for the detection of forged and used stamps.

*28th November.*—That pending the issue of official stamps in the colonies, letters to the authorities of the Peninsula shall be delivered free, provided they are addressed "On Public Service," and bear the stamp of the forwarding official.

1857.

*2nd January.*—Refers to the newly discovered, fraudulent practice of varnishing stamps, in order to render more easy the effacement of the obliterating marks, and makes applicable to this practice the provisions of the decree of the 16th March, 1854.

*17th March.*—That the stamps which pay the postage paid on letters returned from abroad, must be stuck on the envelope (*sic*), and obliterated with a pen-and-ink cross, instead of with the usual handstamp.

*16th and 24th June.*—That the correspondence of senators and deputies shall circulate free when it bears an impression from the special stamp inscribed, *Senado* or *Congreso de los Diputados*, and that letters addressed to the said senators must be prepaid by the senders.

*12th July.*—That many official letters are forwarded which do not bear the official stamps according to the regulation, therefore, postal *employés* are warned to be strict in enforcing the law, and not to allow the unstamped letters to circulate.

*13th August.*—Gives a description of the differences between the genuine stamps and certain counterfeits discovered in Almeria, in order that the vigilance of the postal officials in detecting the frauds may be redoubled.

*14th September.*—That the surplus stamps in branch offices shall be obliterated by means of a pen-and-ink cross.

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CORRIGENDA.

Page 101. Decree of 8th Oct., 1853. *For* "the stamps of that value will consequently be issued," *read* "the 3 cuartos stamps will consequently be sold at one cuarto."

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## THE CITY DELIVERY POSTS OF SAN FRANCISCO.

BY C. H. COSTER.

*(Continued from page 70.)*

THE CALIFORNIAN PENNY POST CO.

A. (vide vol. x. page 149).—A third variety has just appeared. It is of the value of 7 c., on an extra large letter-size envelope. The word FOR is replaced by CARE OF (in script). No. and STREET are in ordinary script, instead of backhand, and the sentence commencing "The party," &c., is omitted altogether.

E.—This was briefly noticed on page 67, but the accompanying illustration renders further comment unnecessary. On the reverse is printed THE PENNY POST COMPANY, OFFICE, 135, CALIFORNIA ST., SAN FRANCISCO. LETTERS ENCLOSED IN THE ENVELOPES OF THE PENNY-POST COMPANY AND DEPOSITED IN ANY POST-OFFICE, ARE DELIVERED IMMEDIATELY ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE MAILS IN SAN FRANCISCO, SACRAMENTO, STOCKTON, BENECIA, MARYSVILLE, COLOMA, NEVADA, GRASS VALLEY, MOKELUMNE HILL.

F. (also illustrated) is printed on an ordinary buff envelope, prepaid by a 3 c. stamp of the 1851 issue, and dated February 21.

N. B.—The electrotypes differ in many particulars from the original envelopes, but are sufficiently close to give a pretty fair approximate idea.

# TO THE PENNY POST CO.

Penny Postage Paid, 7.

*For*_____

*No.*_____ *Street,*

_____

CAL.

The party whose name is on this Envelope is hereby authorized to open the same and appropriate its contents.

**Postage must be paid in advance, otherwise your Letter will not be forwarded.**

Copy-Right Secured.

**LETTERS enclosed in these Envelopes,** Papers, and other mail matter, Small Parcels, Daguerreotypes, &c., directed to the Agent of the Penny-Post Co. and deposited in ANY Post Office, **will be delivered immediately** on the distribution of the Mails, in SAN FRANCISCO, SACRAMENTO, MARYSVILLE and STOCKTON, **and in these cities only for the present.**

CALIFORNIA
**Penny Postage.**
PAID 7

The writer requests the Post Master to deliver this to

## Agent of the Penny-Post Co.

## SAN FRANCISCO,

## CAL.

**Box 5,005.**

The P. P. Co. will please deliver to

**S. W. COLLINS, Front Street.**

## ON THE VARIOUS MODES OF PRINTING POSTAGE STAMPS.

A PRIZE ESSAY.

By Dr. MAGNUS, Editor of *La Gazette des Timbres*.

THIS subject is one of the most important which could possibly engage the attention of stamp amateurs. From its careful study is derived the means of gaining, in many instances, a more perfect acquaintance with stamps and the power of distinguishing counterfeits,—those plagues to young collectors. That it is the only means, we do not pretend to say; on the contrary, we willingly recognise that the study of watermarks and perforations will render no less important services, as also the comparative analysis of the details of the design. But very often the mode of impression alone will suffice to determine the rejection of a false stamp. This point of view seems to us to have been singularly neglected by English amateurs. We frequently admire the scrupulous care which they take to describe every particularity of the design which forms a test of genuineness; but they appear hardly to think of the efficacy of that simple statement,—the true stamp is typographed, the false is lithographed. We may mention, for example, the essays published in last year's *Philatelist*, referring to the issues of Orange Free State, Salvador, Sydney N.S.W., Costa Rica, Pacific Steam Navigation Co., Straits Settlements, Bolivia, and (more recently) Cuba and Nicaragua.

The excellence of this mode of distinguishing the true stamp from its counterfeit, is explained by the very *raison d'être* of the false stamps. When a stamp is issued for a postal service, so large is the number printed off, that the engraving expenses spread over the whole, are reduced to next to nothing. The forger, on the other hand, can only count on a restricted number of amateurs. Hence he finds himself obliged to employ a less costly method than that of engraving in *taille-douce* or *epargne*.* Above all, he cannot obtain the assistance of distinguished artists, such as those employed by the governments, whose self-respect would forbid their lowering themselves by contact with unworthy counterfeits. It is, therefore, generally speaking, on lithography that he falls back; and acquaintance with this fact may lead to the rapid discovery of the fraud.

It is at this point of view that we place ourselves in making the following examination; and without dwelling on any other considerations, we will enter at once on the subject. In putting the question which forms the object of this article, the editor of *The Philatelist* certainly had not the intention of requiring a minute description of the processess employed in printing. We believe we are thoroughly satisfying his desire in explaining, as clearly as possible in their principal features (1), the different kinds of engraving; (2) lithography; (3) the impressions which it is possible to obtain from the plates; and, lastly, the means of distinguishing between the products of these methods. That is the course we shall pursue.

The plate whence the impression is taken may present itself under three different aspects. The design of the stamp may appear either sunken, or in relief, or on an entirely level surface. To these three conditions of the plate correspond three modes of printing; but it is indispensable that we should first explain the preparation of the plate, in order to make the system of printing comprehensible.

In the first mentioned process, as we have said, the design of the stamp appears sunken. After having reproduced the details of the design on a metallic plate, covered with a coat of varnish, the lines are all cut into the metal by means of a burin. Only the blank portions remain untouched. Or else the lines are cut in the varnish down to the surface of the metal, the varnish in the lines is removed, and an acid poured over the plate, which fills the cuttings, and so bites into the plate itself, as to produce thereon the corresponding hollows. When the acid is considered to have acted sufficiently on the metal, it is washed off, the plate is cleaned with some spirit, and then the finer lines are touched up with the burin. This mode of engraving is called *taille-douce* (copper-plate) engraving. When it is desired to take an impression from the plate, the ink is made

* The explanation of these terms is given further on by the author.—ED.

to penetrate into the sunken parts by means of a pad; and the plate is then carefully wiped, so that no trace of the ink may remain on the untouched portions. The sheet of paper applied to the surface, and submitted to a strong pressure, takes up the ink in the furrows; and when it is withdrawn, the design appears on it. But, and this a very important circumstance to be immediately noted, the cuttings in the plate seem to produce corresponding projections on the surface of the paper. This is easily explained; those parts of the sheet covered by the design have, by the pressure, been to some extent driven into the indents on the plate to take up the ink.

*Taille-douce* engraving is practised on copper and on steel. Printing from plates is also called *taille-douce* printing. The old "native" stamps of Mauritius, engraved by Mr. Barnard; the 1853-4 Luzon, the Sydney views, the laureated New South Wales (rough stamps, on which it is most easy to recognise the standing out of the ink), afford philatelists the opportunity of thoroughly acquainting themselves with this system of impression and its characteristics. Among other better-engraved stamps, we may mention the English penny and twopenny, the first two emissions of Belgium and Saxony, the Neapolitan, and Sicilian stamps; and, in general, the United States stamps, and those of other American States, which emanate from the *ateliers* of the American and the National Bank-Note companies, respectively.

In the second process, the design appears in relief. In this instance, the burin removes all which is *not* design, that is to say, the blanks. This is called *épargne* engraving, or cutting in relief; thus named because the parts which bear the design are *épargnés* (preserved), and because they form the relief. The roller, impregnated with printer's ink, leaves the ink on those portions of the surface which are in relief. The sheet of paper, applied to the plate and submitted to the necessary pressure, is covered with the details of the design; but whilst in the preceding process the design causes those parts of the paper on which it is received to project, in the present instance, the contrary effect is produced: the printed portions produce an indent on the front or the surface of the sheet, and a corresponding relief at the back. More than this, when the pressure at the back of the sheet is at all strong, the intermediate blank parts of the design (which are cut into the plate) cause a slight bulging of the surface of the paper, which might be taken for a faint embossment. This may be perceived on the Swiss stamps (Helvetia full-faced), and the stamps of Bavaria with numeral in centre. When, instead of a design, the stamp is composed of an assemblage of printing types, the result is the same. Hence the name, typographic impression. We may cite as examples, the current stamps of Great Britain, and of the greater portion of the British Colonies on glazed paper, emanating from Messrs. De La Rue's manufactory; the Hawaiian stamps with numeral in centre, those of France, Spain, Modena, Parma, the Roman States, Tuscany, Greece, Sweden, Denmark, and many other countries; for it is by means of the typographic process that the majority of the stamps now in circulation are obtained.

In the third method, the surface whence the impression is taken is quite level. We refer to the lithographic process. Everybody knows that Aloys Senefelder was its inventor. A particular calcareous stone, which is almost peculiar to the neighbourhood of Solenhofen, being obtained, and the side which is to be used for printing being sufficiently levelled and pounced, the design is drawn with a pen dipped in a greasy ink, or with a greasy pencil, and the operation is terminated by the application to the entire surface of a liquid composed of a solution of gum, acidulated with hydrochloric or azotic acid. The object of the acidulation is to clean the stone, and fix the writing, or design, by rendering the ink or other substance insoluble in water. By this means, these two substances, combining with that of the stone, render the latter insensible to the action of the oily matter contained in the printing-ink. The roller, full of ink, runs over the surface of the stone, and adheres only on the lines of the design or writing, the water, applied to the surface by means of a sponge, preventing the ink from penetrating at any

other point. It only remains to place the sheet of paper and pass the stone under the rack, or the compressing cylinder. The result of this system of printing will be a design which causes no bulging of the surface either in front or at the back, but, on the contrary, gives the paper a glossy look.

Thus we have summarily indicated the three modes of printing.

1. Taille douce.
2. Typographic, or *épargne*.
3. Lithographic.

It is unnecessary to remind the reader that the operation may be effected either by means of a hand-press or a steam-press, the results not being affected by the machine employed. Nothing seems easier, at first sight, than to distinguish the products of the different modes. Let us see what are the difficulties which may render the distinction exceedingly embarrassing.

Engraving in *taille-douce* is generally done on copper or steel, but a lithographic stone may be employed; in which case, a coating of lamp-black mixed with gum-water is applied; and the design is cut through the coating down to the stone, by means of a steel point or a diamond. A pad charged with a greasy ink, and passed across the stone, does not affect the gummed parts; but the ink penetrates in the exposed portions, and forms on its contact with the stone an insoluble soap. The rest of the impression is the same, but the first proofs will possess the relief which characterises *taille-douce* impressions,—a relief which will gradually disappear with the wearing of the stone. As an instance of this kind of printing we may mention the 2d. Victoria (Queen on throne); of which the first copies, coloured brown, have quite the appearance of *taille-douce* impressions; whilst the later specimens, blackish or a violet tinge, show no trace of the characteristic relief, but present a blurred ground, the design having been partly effaced by long use of the plate.

Typographic printing is executed either by the aid of a composition of printing types, or by the aid of a plate engraved in relief. In many cases wood-engraving suffices for the service required. Woods of the closest and finest grain are chosen, such as box or pear. They are cut crosswise, that is to say, in the contrary direction to that of the fibres, so as to prevent their catching under the action of the tool. Copper and, above all, steel are worked in the same manner as in *taille-douce* engraving, only the work is interverted, and the entire sheet of dies is made up by *clichés* obtained from the original matrix. As examples of *épargne*, or relief, engraving on steel, and of the typographic printing of the designs thus produced, we may refer to the stamps of the French Republic and Empire, engraved by M. Barre. The type was multiplied by M. Hulot, by means of the electrotyping process, and the copper dies thus obtained have been endued with the firmness and resisting-power of bronze, by methods known only to him. Electrotyping is not the only way of obtaining *clichés*. Formerly they were got by striking; and it is by a revival of this old method, that the head of Mercury, engraved by M. Barre for the Greek stamps, was multiplied.

Latterly, photographs of designs have been obtained on metal plates, and fixed thereon by means of acids. This process, however, has not, as far as we know, been applied to the fabrication of stamps; but in some collections of engravings may be seen proofs of dies, which, were they but properly worked and touched up, might give excellent results. We mention this merely in view of what may happen at some future time.

Instead of multiplying the original dies engraved in *taille-douce* or in *relief*, recourse is frequently had to lithography to effect the multiplication. And here we may appropriately mention that, as only a limited number of proofs can be obtained from the original matrix-stone, it is by means of transfers that the design is multiplied. Impressions from the matrix-stone are taken on autographic (prepared) paper, which is then placed face downwards on a new stone, and wetted on the opposite side. When passed under the press, the design abandons the paper, and is transferred to the stone; and this operation can be repeated as often as may be desired. The same process may be employed for the multiplication of proofs from a die engraved in *taille-douce*, or in

relief, on the sole condition that lithographic ink be used to obtain the copy which is to be transferred to the stone. It will be perceived that the copies thus obtained, partake at once of the characteristics of lithographic impressions, and of typographic or *taille-douce* engravings. As examples of these different kinds of transfer, we may point to the Bergedorf stamps (originally lithographed), the Oldenburg stamps of 1851, 1858, and 1860 (originally engraved in *taille-douce*), and the Liberian stamps (engraved in the first instance on wood). All these stamps have been multiplied by lithographic transfers. The stamps of Liberia present even this special characteristic, that there are at least three several transfers; for though the stamps of one and the same value are all identical, the external line-frame shows a different arrangement, according to the period at which the transfer was effected.

Thus, then, we have summarily indicated the three kinds of impression. Let us briefly run over the means of recognition.

*Taille-douce.*—The lines of the design standing out in relief on the *front* of the sheet, in consequence of the visible thickness of the ink; traces of strong pressure at the back.

*Typographic.*—Design in relief at the *back* of the sheet; slight relief in front of the blank parts; no apparent thickness of ink.

*Lithographic.*—No relief of the ink in front; no relief at the back. More or less remarkable glossiness of the paper.

These are the distinctive characteristics; but they are sometimes difficult to recognise.

Thus, for instance, how shall we discover the peculiarities of typographic impression in stamps which have been pressed under a cylinder? For a reply we can but repeat the excellent recommendation which we found in a recent article by Mr. Pemberton,—"Learn to examine stamps; learn their peculiarities, their styles of engraving. . . Study your specimens, and you will find an imperceptible sense come to you."

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Poor Letter H.—Sir Rowland Hill made a good remark upon hearing the power of the letter H discussed, whether it were a letter or not. If it were not, he said, it would be a very serious affair for him, for it would make him *ill* all the days of his life.

## THIRTY-THREE YEARS OF FIRST ISSUES.

BY THE REV. ROBERT BRISCO FAREE.

It is curious to look back into the past, and note the slowness of most of the great European Powers to take up our invention of postage stamps. We might certainly have thought that after the plan had been once started it would be hailed with pleasure by the officials of all countries, and adopted at once; whereas, the list shows us that for three years we were alone in our use of postage stamps, and that the idea took actually *ten years* to travel to such places as Austria, Spain, and Prussia! And who were our first imitators? Not the great powers of Europe, not the busy centres of the world's industry, but an out-of-the-way Swiss canton, and a far-away South American kingdom! We should have prophesied something far different from this, especially when we remember how apt men usually are to take advantage of the useful inventions of others. But if some of these countries were late in availing themselves of Sir Rowland Hill's plan, they have most amply made up (at least, in the eyes of philatelists) for their dilatoriness, by the constant succession of new stamps which they have issued ever since they commenced using them. Take the three countries of Austria, Spain, and Prussia, mentioned above — Spain especially — though they allowed ten years to elapse before they took any advantage of the invention, yet the pages in our albums dedicated to the said countries make a goodly show. Indeed, Spain has hardly let a single year go by since the date of its first postage stamps, without bringing out a new issue; and philatelists have learnt to look for a new issue of Spanish every year as naturally as they look for the commencement of another volume of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*. The reader will remark that out of the whole thirty-three years, only two (1841-2) were unmarked by new issues. For the last three years there have been very few countries to be added to the list,—but this is easily explained by the fact that there are really not many civilized countries now which do not enjoy the benefit of postage stamps.

However, we need not grumble at this, for I fancy that if, from this date, no more new stamps were to be issued for any country, the stamps already existing would give us employment for years to come. The table given below I have compiled chiefly from M. Moens' catalogue, in which the dates are, for the most part, trustworthy. If, however, there are any errors, I am open to correction.

TABLE OF FIRST ISSUES.

1840.—Great Britain.
1841.—*Nothing.*
1842.—*Nothing.*
1843.—Brazil, Zürich.
1844.—Geneva.
1845.—Basle, St. Louis, New York, Finland, St. Petersburg.
1846.—Providence, R. I.
1847.—Philippine Islands, United States.
1848.—Russia.
1849.—Bavaria, Belgium, France, Vaud, Winterthur.
1850.—Austria, Austrian Italy, Baden, British Guiana, Hanover, Italy, Mauritius, New South Wales, Prussia, Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein, Spain, Switzerland, Tuscany, Victoria.
1851.—Canada, Denmark, Neufchâtel, Oldenburg, Trinidad, Wurtemburg.
1852.—Barbados, Brunswick, Chili, Holland, Luxembourg, Modena, Parma, Papal States, Réunion, Sandwich Islands, Thurn and Taxis.
1853.—Cape of Good Hope, Portugal, Tasmania.
1854.—India, Norway, Western Australia.
1855.—Bremen, Cuba, New Zealand, South Australia, Sweden.
1856.—Corrientes, Finland, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Montevideo.
1857.—Ceylon, Lübeck, Mexico, Natal, New Brunswick, Pacific Ocean Steam Navigation Co., Peru, Russia, St. Helena.
1858.—Argentine, Buenos Ayres, Moldavia, Naples, Nova Scotia.
1859.—Bahamas, Hamburg, Ionian Islands, New Granada, Romagna, St. Lucia, Sicily, Venezuela.
1860.—French Colonies, Grenada, Helsingfors, Jamaica, Liberia, Malta, New Caledonia, Poland, Prince Edward Island, St. Thomas.
1861.—Bergedorf, British Columbia and Vancouver Island, Confederate States, Greece, Nevis, Queensland, St. Vincent, Sierra Leone.
1862.—Antigua, Costa Rica, Hayti, Hong Kong, Livonia, Nicaragua.
1863.—Bolivar, Turkey, Turk's Islands.
1864.—Dutch Indies, La Guaira, Levant, Mecklenburg-Strelitz.
1865.—Bermuda, Bergen, British Honduras, Drontheim, Ecuador.
1866.—Cashmere, Danubian Steam Navigation Company, Deccan, Egypt, Honduras, Servia, Shanghai, Tammerfors, Virgin Islands.
1867.—Bolivia, Guadalajara, Heligoland, San Salvador, Straits Settlements.
1868.—Antioquia, Azores, Drammens, Fernando Po, Madeira, North German Confederation, Orange Free State.
1869.—Gambia, Sarawak, Transvaal.
1870.—Alsace, Angola, Cundinamarca, Paraguay, St. Christopher, S. Thomé e Principe.
1871.—German Empire, Guatemala, Hungary, Japan.
1872.—Fiji Islands, Portuguese Indies.
1873.—Iceland, Curaçao, Dutch Guiana.
(1874.—*Loanda? Macan? Montenegro? Persia?)*

## NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

BOLIVAR.—A series of four stamps for this sovereign state has just come over. The design is a lithographed one, of no remarkable beauty. The arms of the Colombian Federation, drawn on a diminutive scale, and surmounted by nine dots, intended to do duty for stars, appear in the centre of an uncoloured circular disk, round which runs the inscription ESTADO SOBERANO DE BOLIVAR. Above the circle, in the upper margin, are the words CORREOS DEL ESTADO, and in the lower margin the value in words. The numeral of value, accompanied by some very primitive-looking ornaments, fill up the spandrels. The entire design is in colour on white. The values are as follows:—




| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 5 | centavos | blue. |
| 10 | ,, | mauve. |
| 20 | ,, | green. |
| 80 | ,, | vermilion. |

We have no information as to the date of emission, nor, in fact, any other particulars respecting the series, of which we have, however, received specimens from a very trustworthy source.

SPAIN.—The dilatory postal authorities of this distracted country have at length made up their minds to issue post cards—in 1874, or later. They have given hostages of their sincerity to public expectation by adopting a design, and, if we are not mistaken, printing off a supply of cards in readiness. Thanks to Mr. Ysasi's courtesy, we have before us one of the intended cards, and find it will compare favourably in appearance with the emissions of its nearest neighbour. It is of rather large size, and the legend and stamp are enclosed in a tooth-patterned border. In the centre of the card, near the top, is the impressed stamp,

which is none other than our old friend the current Belgian arms type, modified to suit the circumstances. In place of the crown and lion on the Belgian stamp, we have on its Spanish imitation a small oval disk, containing the bust of the goddess of Liberty, crowned with the Phrygian bonnet, and a scroll with the word CORREOS on it replaces the Belgian motto. The figure of value (5) appears on a solid oval disk, as in the Belgian, and a portion of the word CENTIMOS below it. A lion, better drawn than that on the Belgian stamps, and looking to the right, hides the lower part of the oval disk, and keeps guard over a kind of ball placed by his side. Below him is the word ESPANA in coloured letters. Maltese crosses fill the upper angles of the stamp; in the lower are square disks containing rosette ornaments. Altogether, the type must be pronounced a successful one. The Spanish artist has in some respects improved on his model. The only thing we are surprised at is the prominence given to the lion. In the posture in which it is represented it no longer forms the armorial bearing of Arragon; and in any case the propriety of representing the bearings of one province, to the exclusion of those of the others, may be questioned. As a Spanish national emblem, we believe we are correct in stating the lion does not exist. The modest bust of Liberty marks the form of government under which it is expected the cards will be issued; and the words REPUBLICA ESPANOLA, in large letters, form an arch across the centre of the card—an arch which, however, is broken by the stamp, there being thus a word on either side. Below the impressed stamp is the inscription TARGETA POSTAL. Then comes the place for the address, and below that the customary notice, to the effect that the communication must be written on the back. The stamp and the external frame are in blue, the legend is black, and the card itself a dull white.

With regard to the Don Carlos stamp, of which we recently gave an illustration, M. Moens, who was the first to receive it, affirms its genuineness in the most positive manner, and ascribes to malevolent motives the adverse judgment of the *Gazette des Timbres* referred to in our last. It results, however, from M. Moens's own statement that the employment of the stamp is not obligatory, because the Carlists not being in entire possession of the four northern provinces, it has not yet been possible to make any durable arrangement. It was expected when our contemporary wrote this explanation that ere long a service of couriers would be established, but since then the prospects of the Carlists have taken rather an unfavourable turn. Moreover, in all the letters from special correspondents which we have perused we see no mention made of anything approaching a postal service, and we recollect that one correspondent thought himself very fortunate in being allowed to send his letter in Don Carlos's bag. It is true a Reuter's telegram from Bayonne, dated 30th Sept., states that a one real stamp has been issued, but we should hesitate to accept any unsupported statement of that kind, seeing that, as a rule, the information respecting stamp issues communicated in such haphazard way to newspapers is rarely to be trusted. Perhaps this telegram, together with M. Moens's information, may be taken to indicate an intention to issue a one real stamp, of which a supply has already been printed in readiness. If any specimens have already been used by members of the Pretender's army, it can only have been in an irregular sort of way. Had a postal service, however primitive its nature, been formally established, such an important political act would have received the utmost publicity; and if there be no such service in existence, we do not see any room for the employment, in the legitimate sense, of postage stamps. Hence we are inclined to look on the design which has made its appearance as at present nothing more than that of a projected stamp. One word in conclusion. M. Moens says the supply has been printed either at Bayonne, *or in London*. It would not add to our confidence in the "aspirant's" genuineness were we to find that London was the place of its nativity.

Before leaving the Spanish stamps we must mention that the colour of the 10 pesetas is not green, but violet-brown.

Russian Locals.—*Mariupol* (Ekaterinoslav).—The design here represented was described in our last, and we need only repeat that it is printed in black on white.




*Biejetsk* (Tver).—The Biejetsk stamps have been doing postal service by stealth for some time past, and will not now blush to find it fame. It is desirable to know, and to have all the local stamps issued; were it not so we might almost regret the unearthing of such an insignificant type as the one here represented. Ugly type-set stamps are always fruitful in varieties caused by the dropping of a letter, the omission of a comma, the misplacing of a section of the design, and other similar causes; and the Biejetsk stamps are no exception to this rule. We, however, hardly feel justified in taking up our space with a description of them; suffice it to say, that the type is printed in black on green paper.




*Maloarchangelsk* (Orel).—The word *archangel*, which occurs in the name of this district, might lead us to expect that its armorial bearings would include the representation of some celestial being, and a casual glance at the type here represented would tend to confirm the supposition; but, on a closer inspection, the winged creatures which occupy the shield turn out to be badly designed heraldic eagles. The upper compartment of the shield presumably contains the arms of the government, and the lower those of the district, and between the two the differences are comparatively slight. The impression of this tolerably commonplace design is effected by hand, and is consequently very rough. The colour is black on white. This type was described a couple of years since in the catalogue to which, for brevity's sake, we generally refer as the "July list."



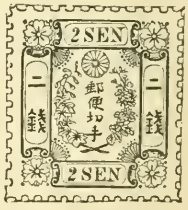

Montenegro.—It appears that on the projected series the value will be expressed in *soldi*, and not in *novtch*, as at first stated. The colours are as follows:—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2 | soldi | yellow. |
| 3 | ,, | green. |
| 5 | ,, | rose. |
| 7 | ,, | violet. (?) |
| 10 | ,, | blue. |
| 15 | ,, | bistre. |
| 25 | ,, | violet-brown. |

With the exception of the 7 soldi, the colours and values are those of the current Austrian set.

Victoria.—The provisional halfpenny adhesive, described in our last, has been followed by a newspaper wrapper, bearing an inscription from the die of the current penny green, with the value reduced to a halfpenny, by means of the surcharge described by us. The wrapper provisional stamp is in every respect identical with the provisional adhesive.

Japan.—The 2 sen red, issued at the beginning of the year, has already been superseded by a 2 sen yellow, of which we have just received specimens. The new comer presents the old design, which we here reproduce.




Ecuador.—Specimens of the three "suspects,"—½ rl., 1 rl., and 1 peso,—of which engravings were given in our January number, have just been received by a very respectable firm; and this fact, coupled with the information obtained concerning them by M. Mahé, encourages us to place faith in them. The yellow 1 real, on *papier quadrillé*, has just been received by M. Moens obliterated 15 Nov., 1865. As this value was issued in 1865, the variety referred to belongs to the first edition thereof, instead of to the last, as hitherto supposed.

Heligoland.—We have to thank a well-known dealer for communication of a ¼ sch. with inversed colours,—rose disk, white spandrels, and green border. This may either be a second issue, as our correspondent supposes, or, as we are inclined

ourselves to believe, either a trial stamp or a printer's error.

NORWAY.—The new series has received an addition, in the shape of an unexpected value, a 7 sk. chocolate, of the same design as the other recently issued stamps.

TURKS ISLANDS.—From a letter we publish in our correspondence columns it would appear that there is a probability of the stamps for these islands being withdrawn.

QUEENSLAND. — A correspondent informs us that the shilling stamp is now printed in claret.

DUTCH INDIES.—*The Philatelist* says that a 5 cent post card for Java will shortly be issued.

ROUMANIA.—In *Le Timbre-poste* for September it is stated that the post cards are very popular in Roumania, and that three editions of the known type have been issued, viz:—

1st edition, 3000 single, 2000 double cards.
2nd „ 30,000 „ 15,000 „
3rd „ 50,000 „ 20,000 „

The first edition is on white, the second on brown, the third on buff-coloured card, and on the third the arms are smaller.

PORTUGAL.—The same journal publishes information of the appearance of the 240 reis of the new type, and we are also indebted to it for the following paragraphs.

PERU.—The 2 centavos is now line-pierced on colour.

TASMANIA.—The 3d. has come over printed a dark violet-brown.

JAMAICA.—The issue of the 1d. and 1/- with c.c. and crown watermark, completes the series with that watermark.

SAINT LUCIA.—The sixpence is now printed in pale mauve.

SWITZERLAND.—Newspaper bands bearing a 5 c. stamp of the new type struck in rose, have recently appeared.

## OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

*The Philatelist* for October is a readable number, although it does not contain any very important news. We are glad to see that in respect of the Pahlunpoor humbugs the editor has taken up the same position as that which we ourselves adopted. Mr. Durbin's article, "A few Words of Advice to young Collectors," on which we commented last month, is reprinted, as is also an interesting paper, originally published in *The New York Journal of Commerce*, relating "How the United States Postal Envelopes are manufactured." From this we learn that the *line* envelopes (*qy.*, envelopes with lines for the address) must under the contract be gummed by hand, and this is how it is done:

> After they leave the cutting-rooms, they are sent to the gumming-rooms. Here they are laid out on rows of boards or tables, fixed above each other, so as to slide in grooves that are cut in upright boards placed at each end of the systems of tables. Behind these tables are adjustable step-ladders, for the operator to stand upon and reach any desired height. After the patterns are arranged upon the tables, each pattern projecting half-an-inch beyond the other, a girl goes over them lightly with a paste brush. This is the branch of work in which it is most difficult to secure competent hands. The least slip destroys a number of patterns and creates trouble, as every imperfection is noted, and involves an alteration in the accounts. Some of the girls who do this work, however, gum 50,000 per day; and it is found that the fastest gummers usually do the best work. The next part of the work is stamping, which is done on twenty machines, made especially for the purpose.

The other envelopes which do not require to be hand-gummed are fabricated by means of automatic presses, in which the sheet of paper, already cut by a pattern-knife to the desired shape, is thrown on parallel bars, on which, by other machinery, it is worked through all the operations of gumming, folding, and stamping. "Thus," says the article, "by automatic movement an envelope pattern put into the feeder goes suddenly through the several stages of manufacture, and drops out on the lower side a perfect stamped envelope." This puts us in mind of the mythical machine at Cincinnati, into which a pig enters alive at one end, and a few minutes after comes out as sausage meat at the other.

In the Spud Paper Mr. Earée discusses sundry Hanoverian forgeries. Those of the first issues are distinguishable by the fact that they are lithographed and unwatermarked, and that the thin inner line of frame is often so blotched as to touch the outer one, besides which the lion and unicorn show several points of difference. The 3 pf. rose and the same value green can be detected by there being only 30 lines in the oval, whilst on the genuine stamps there are 32. In the

genuine specimens of the head series, outside the circle between it and the border, there are two vertical lines of groundwork on the left-hand side, and one on the right; in the forgeries there is only *one* of vertical groundwork lines to be seen on either side. For the ½ groschen black the following is the recipe: *Genuine*, 10 small pearls and 1 large one outside the crown to right, and 9 small and 1 large to left. Inside the wide mouth of post-horn are 17 lines of shading. *Forged*, 11 small pearls and 1 large one outside the top of crown on each side. Inside the mouth of the post-horn there are only 13 lines of shading.

*Le Timbre-Poste.*—The leading article in the current number is entitled "The *soi-disant* Pahlunpoor Stamps," and in it their claims to acceptance are most mercilessly demolished by Dr. Magnus on the facial evidence they themselves afford, whence it is apparent that the concoctors of these fictitious stamps were misled by the results of Mr. Pemberton's study of the round Cashmere type. Dr. Magnus, possessing probably no information as to these Pahlunpoor impositions, deserves great credit for having extracted from them, by his own unaided investigations, the proofs of their worthlessness.

*The American Journal of Philately.*—The numbers for the 1st and 15th September are before us, and contain some good reading, and notably an article on post cards. The writer affects to believe that the silence of the English journals on the subject of post cards, from the time when the first Austrian came out until the appearance of the English cards, was the result of pique at the invention of so useful a system by foreigners; but seeing that there were no cards issued during the time when we were silent, we hardly see that the writer makes his point as far as we are concerned. In fact, from a quotation which he makes from *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* of 1869, it is evident—and we lay claim to the honour with pride—that we were among the first to perceive the real and immense utility of an innovation which was characterised by one of our *confrères* about the same time, as "a vagary"!

## PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. XXXI.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

### EUROPE.

## Heligoland.

Red is the strand,
White is the sand,
Green is the band,—
These are the colours of Heligoland.

And red, white, and green, are the colours of the stamps of the little "rabbit-warren" off the German coast, which, though an English possession, contains probably not a single English inhabitant, except the governor. Its stamps bear the profile of the Queen, but are fabricated at Berlin, and their denominations are expressed in the Hamburg currency.




Heligoland, or Holy Land, is a sandy patch about a mile long, and never more than half that distance broad. There are about 390 houses on the high ground, and 78 fishermen's huts in the lower part. There are 2000 people on the island, and "no end" of rabbits. The Heligolanders, besides postal communication and other proofs of a high civilisation, can boast of a "national" debt of £5000, and until a few years back, of a number of highly popular gambling "hells," which were summarily suppressed by the governor.

The exportation of fish brings in about £10,000 a year, and yields a livelihood to the fishermen, whilst the people in the high-town derive their means of subsistence from the visitors, of whom there are a great many from Hamburg and its environs.

The island became a British possession in 1807. A short time ago it was reported that Prince Bismarck had his eye on it, and that the government intended to cede it to Germany for a consideration, the negotiations, however, if any were really opened, dropped through, and at present there is no reason to doubt but that the stamps which form the subject of the present paper will long remain current.

The series as originally issued consisted of four values,—½ sch., 1 sch., 2 sch., and 6

schilling. The design is the same for all, but in the printing the changes were ingeniously rung on the traditionary colours,—red, white, and green,—as follows :—

*Coloured Lettering on White Ground.*

½ schilling, central oval, green; spandrels, rose; border and lettering, green.
1 schilling, central oval, rose; spandrels, green; border and lettering, rose.

*White Lettering on Coloured Ground.*

2 schilling, centre and spandrels, green; ground of frame and corner figures, rose.
6 schilling, centre and spandrels, rose; ground of frame and corner figures, green.

The issue took place on the 15th April, 1867. All four values were rouletted. The type is printed in two operations, one for each colour, there being separate dies for the border and the centre; and the first supply was rouletted. The green employed was a rich chrome-green, and the rose might, perhaps with more accuracy, be termed carmine. The profile of the Queen is in relief, and some attempt seems to have been made to impart an appearance of maturity to its lineaments.

In 1869 the ½ sch. made its appearance perforated, and printed in a delicate light-green of an emerald tint. In 1871 the 1 sch. was likewise issued perforated.

The emission of two new values—¼ sch. and 1½ sch.—has been so recently adverted to in these pages as to render unnecessary any but the briefest reference. Nor does the issue of the large unstamped post card require more than a passing mention.

## Holland.

The Dutch stamps, though far more numerous than those of Heligoland, present an equally clean record, and consequently offer no difficulty whatever to the student. The first series was issued on the 1st January, 1852. It consisted of three values—5 c. blue, 10 c. lake-red, 15 c. orange,—which are all very common. The design is simple, but well engraved. The stamps are below the average in size, and are water-marked with a post-horn. The only generally accepted variety is the 5 c. dark blue, which contrasts very decidedly with the ordinary light blue stamp. Mention, however, has been made of a jet-black 5 c., of which a postmarked copy has been seen. This cannot have been other than a specimen of the well-known proof in that colour. M. Moens catalogues dark and light shades of the two other values, but these distinctions are rather fine.




The first series held on the even tenor of its way, without any change whatever,




for rather more than twelve years, when the adoption of the system of perforation was made the occasion for the issue of a fresh type. The second series consisted of the same three values as its predecessor. The 10 cents appeared on the 12th of May, 1864; the other two denominations some months afterwards. The type is even more simple than that of the first. No attempt whatever is made at ornament, beyond the sketching of an almost imperceptible pattern on the oval frame. The colours differ only in shade from those of the corresponding values in the first issue, and collectors who have a partiality for colour varieties may distinguish (as Moens does) a 5 c. blue and dark blue, a 10 c. red and bright red, and 15 c. orange-yellow and orange.

A third series was issued in 1867, consisting of six values, namely, the original three, and three higher denominations,—20 c., 25 c., and 50 c. The design is a more embellished one than that of the former types. The King's profile, which is very well engraved, is turned to the left; a rather heavy border runs up the sides; and the name of the country—NEDERLAND—figures above the portrait. The colours are well chosen, and help to render the series an effective one, viewed as a whole. Blue is again allotted to the 5 c., but this time it is bright ultramarine; the 10 c. appears in red and carmine-rose;



whilst the 15 c. takes a reddish brown hue, approaching to "burnt sienna." Of the new values the 20 c. is a rich dark green, the 25 c. violet, and the 50 c. gold.

In 1868 the advent of newspaper stamps was inaugurated by the issue of the 1 c. black and 2 c. yellow, of the annexed type. The latter is still in use, but the 1 c. changed its coat in the following year, and appeared in a light, delicate green. In 1869 the $1\frac{1}{2}$ c. rose was issued, and in 1870 the $\frac{1}{2}$ c. lilac-brown, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ c. mauve made their *début*.




Three different sizes of perforation were indifferently used for the 1867 series, but only one for the newspaper stamps. All the values of the 1867 type, and also all the newspaper stamps, exist unperforated, and specimens are sufficiently numerous to admit of their being quoted at comparatively low figures in the leading continental catalogue; but no price is entered for obliterated copies, and it is permissible to conjecture that the unperforated issue was never even intended for sale to the public; they, therefore, cannot rank as "oversights," and are entitled to a very low rank as varieties manufactured only for the benefit of collectors. The 10 c. carmine-rose on bluish paper is, however, a genuine variety, and as it was issued in 1871, its currency was of short duration; it is, consequently, rather rarer than the ordinary stamps.







In 1872 the current series was brought out. It excited much admiration from its delicacy of execution, and is sufficiently well known to render description superfluous. It is merely necessary to observe that it comprises a stamp of which the facial value slightly exceeds four shillings, and it may not be inappropriate here to remark that the Dutch cent is, roundly speaking, worth two French centimes.

UNPAID LETTER STAMPS.




Two unpaid-letter stamps of the annexed type made their appearance in 1870:

5 cent. brown on orange.
10 „ violet on blue.

These stamps are perforated, but unperforated copies are known to exist.

POST CARDS.

The Dutch, though they have no stamped envelopes, possess those more generally useful innovations—post cards. In 1871 a stampless card was issued, but was soon followed by a card bearing an impressed $2\frac{1}{2}$ c. stamp, consisting of the central device of the newspaper type—arms in a circle, name above, and value below—in the upper right corner. Both cards are of a pale buff colour, and the stamp, the ornamental frame, and the four-lined legend in the lower margin, are in lilac. In 1872, a second card was issued differing from its predecessor in the absence of the marginal legend and in the colour of the impression, which is a reddish lilac. Of this latter type a "reply-paid" card was issued, consisting of two leaves folded like a sheet of paper, with the inscriptions for the "reply" half printed on third page. A kind of "post card" has been issued by a private society of commissionaires at Rotterdam, but it has really nothing whatever to do with any postal service.

ESSAYS AND PROOFS.

The name of the Dutch essays and proofs is legion. There are 700 varieties of one of the essay types, and proofs in all the colours of the rainbow of the adopted designs. Their value to a beginner is *nil*, nor can they be of much interest to a collector, seeing that they merely prove the speculative tendencies of the engravers or printers.

## THE FRANKFORT NEWSPAPER STAMPS.

RATHER more than eight years ago, the Frankfort stamps made some little stir in the philatelic world. In the third volume of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* the attention of collectors was called by Mr. Overy Taylor to Dr. Gray's description of a "dentated adhesive" stamp, the design of which consisted of a spread eagle, with FREIE STADT FRANKFURT above, and ZEITUNGS-STEMPEL below, in an oval. This reference gave rise to inquiry, and it was found that the type described by the learned doctor, and at first considered to be apocryphal, did really exist, but instead of taking the form of a dentated adhesive, it existed as an impressed stamp, that is to say, as a stamp struck by hand on the newspaper sheet itself. It was furthermore stated, that it represented not merely the postage, but also a newspaper duty, and the propriety of collecting it was questioned. There the matter remained, and the Frankfort hybrid, after a fitful appearance in the catalogues and magazines, disappeared from philatelic ken. From a communication, however, which has been made to us by a correspondent, in whose integrity we place every confidence, it would seem that but for the Austro-Prussian war of 1866, which proved the signal for the extinction of so many series of stamps, we should have made the acquaintance of the above design as what it was originally described,—a "dentated" adhesive stamp.




Our contributor sends for our perusal a letter he has received from an intimate friend at Frankfort, who is the son-in-law of one of the co-proprietors of the *Frankfort Journal*. The writer explains that, owing to this relationship, he had access to the offices of the paper, and in one of the editor's drawers he found a strip of twenty-five specimens of the Frankfort newspaper stamp, gummed and perforated, and of the value of one kreuzer. These stamps were intended to replace those printed on the sheets themselves. They would have been issued on the 1st January, 1867, but for the Prussian occupation of the city, and would have been for sale *auf dem Rechenei Amt*.

The twenty-five specimens found by the writer are probably all that now exist. They show the design, struck in black in rather a rough way, on rather thin, wove, yellowish white paper. The perforations are small, complete, and very neatly done, and form a rectangular frame to the oval design. The impressions appear to be handstamped, and are evidently from a well-worn die. They are kept pretty well in a straight line, but not at an even distance from the other; some of them touch at the sides, and the perforations run into the black line formed by the overlapping of the borders.

These stamps must always remain very scarce, and although even had they been issued they would not have been entitled to the consideration accorded to "thoroughbred" postals, they still possess considerable interest as indications of a projected advance in the issue of stamps on the part of the Frankfort authorities.

## POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

THE JAPANESE POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH SERVICE.—From Tokio (Japan) the following interesting details were forwarded to the *Gazetta de Venezia* on the 1st of May: "The postal system has, among others, been organized in a satisfactory manner. The letters from Europe arrive here by the English post from Yokohama, are handed over to the Japanese administration, and after their addresses have been translated into Japanese, they are distributed, and that generally with great punctuality. The telegraph service is not so well organised. As far as Yokohama, Nagasaki, Tokio, and other accessible localities, the telegrams generally arrive with security when the lines are once properly established, but in the interior it is not the same thing, the telegraphic wires being often maliciously cut, notwithstanding the heavy punishments which have been decreed for this kind of offence. Speaking of the telegraphic service, I must tell you in what an ingenious manner the enormous difficulty of telegraphing in the interior of the country in Japanese and in Chinese have been overcome. Those languages do not lend themselves to the operation, being composed, as is known, of a great number of signs and connecting marks. In consequence, out of the mass, 4000 words have been chosen, with which almost every idea can be expressed. These words have been numbered 1 to 4000, and by telegraphing the figures, correspondence by wire becomes easy.—*Journal Officiel.*

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS ACT, 1873.

*To the Editor of* "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—By the above act, after reciting that it is desirable that the Turks and Caicos Islands should cease to have a separate government, and that they should be annexed to, and form part of the Colony of Jamaica, it is enacted that, "it shall be lawful for Her Majesty by Order in Council, on addresses from the Legislative Bodies of Jamaica and of the Turks and Caicos Islands to declare that the said Turks and Caicos Islands shall, from a date to be therein mentioned, be annexed to, and form part of the colony of Jamaica, on such terms and conditions as Her Majesty shall think fit to appoint." The Act received the royal assent on the 4th April last, so that the transfer may, ere this, have been completed by Order in Council. It seems not unlikely that one result of the annexation may be the suppression of the three Turks Islands stamps, and the substitution of those used in Jamaica.

Yours truly,

*Manchester.* G. H. H.

### QUERIES ABOUT STAMPS.

*To the Editor of* "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—With your permission, I should like to ask those collectors who are well up in philately a question or two, respecting which I am in doubt.

1. Have the stamps of the countries named below ever been seen postmarked? As far as my experience goes, *used* specimens are unknown.

Angola (either of the values).
Bolivar (ditto).
Bolivia, 500 centavos black.
Baden, "Land-post."
Bergedorf, ½ schilling lilac, and 3 sch. black on rose.
Canada, 12d. black.
Cuba, 1862, ¼ rl. black.
Deccan (either of the values.)
"Fiji Times Express."
Great Britain, "V.R." 1d. black.
Hamburg (unperf.), 7 schilling *mauve*.
India (head in oval), 2 annas green.
Ionian Islands (either of the values).
Mexico (eagle), 3 centavos brown.
New Brunswick (Connell), 5 c. brown.
Moldavia (first issue, circular).
Pacific Steam Navigation Co.
Reunion.
St. Thomas and Principe (either of the values).
Service (arms), either of the values.
Shanghai (first issue).
Spain (1857), 12 cuartos orange.
Montevideo, "diligencia" (either of the three).

2. Why cannot any value but the *penny* envelope be obtained at the English post-offices? I believe there are also in existence 2d., 3d., 4d., 6d., and 1s. embossed envelopes, but of what earthly use can they be to the general public, if they cannot be obtained in the usual way, like other stamps. It would seem that by requiring persons to send to Somerset House, and there to undergo all the irritating routine inseparable from a government office, the authorities have no desire that these higher values should be generally used. Adhesives of corresponding value are purchased in immense quantities; and doubtless there would be a proportionate demand for the envelopes if they were more accessible. In that case, even stamp collectors would be no mean customers.

3. Are the 1851-60 United States stamps good for postal purposes at the present time? To my knowledge they have been offered, unused, in complete sets, at much below their facial value; and from this fact I am inclined to believe they were withdrawn from circulation at the outbreak of hostilities between North and South.

Apologizing for taking up so much space,

I remain, dear Sir,

Your obedient servant.

*London, N.W.* C. J. KILLICK.

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

K. WILLIAMSON, Cardiff.—We are glad at all times to receive suitable information for our columns, but we cannot undertake to insert everything that comes to hand.

C. J. SMITH, Norfolk.—The firm you ask about is still in existence, but have removed their business from Birmingham to Dawlish, South Devon, to which place address your letter.

L. C. K, York.—In December next, you may procure of our publishers the 1873 volume of this magazine, complete, in stiff paper covers, post free for 4/-. None of the other volumes have been published in this cheap form, but most of them can be had in cloth gilt for 6/6.

J. RAWLINGS, Rugby.—*The Stamp* was a fortnightly publication, published at 5d. The first number came out on July 1st. The latest we have had sent us is No. 5, for 1st September, and we believe this is the last that was published. There are now four numbers due.

AN OLD COLLECTOR asks, "Where are all the early writers on Philately?" And he mentions several by name, including Mount Brown; Frederic Booty; Dr. J. E. Gray; Edward Oppen; Thornton Lewes; Henry Whymper; Berger-Levrault; Bellars & Davie; Lyman Bagg; W. Vipond, &c. Echo answers, "Where?"

C. MORGAN, Abergavenny.—*The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* was commenced in February, 1863, and is now, therefore, in its eleventh year. Messrs. E. Marlborough & Co., 4, Ave Maria Lane, E.C., are the London publishers, of whom your bookseller may easily procure copies through his London agent, or you may subscribe direct through the Bath firm.

P. R. SCHOLEFIELD, Bradford, Yorks.—Your stamps, without exception, are utterly worthless, being badly-executed forgeries. You have only yourself to blame for being so easily cheated. Good and genuine stamps can only be obtained from respectable dealers, who have a reputation to maintain; and you cannot expect to buy a dozen rarities for as many pence. We have again and again, in these pages, cautioned our readers against the attractive announcements of certain Glasgow and Hull dealers.

H. T. H., Newham.—1. The covers sold by our publishers are the same as those used for the advertised bound volumes.—2. There is no 48 sk. post card for Denmark, and if you will refer to vol ix., p. 90, you will see that the values quoted are 2 and 4 sk. The engraving of the 48 sk., on p. 89, was inserted in the framework of the post card merely to show the type.—3. We very much doubt now whether an English edition of Berger-Levrault's catalogue will ever be published, and we fear that the 6th edition of Dr. Gray's catalogue will not make its appearance for some time to come.—4. Your envelope with 50 surcharged Indian "Service" stamps attached to it possesses no special value, the number of stamps does not in itself render the envelope interesting.

## IMPORTANT.

During the last few years, nearly every commodity and luxury of life has been "going up," and our readers have become so familiarised with strikes, advances in wages, and increase in the price of coal and a thousand other necessaries, that they will hardly feel surprised to find that the price of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* is, in its turn, to be raised. In point of fact, our publishers have not to complain of failing circulation, but of an augmentation in the cost of the magazine, and they find themselves in the presence of two alternatives: either the dimensions of the journal and the number of illustrations must be reduced, or the price increased. They have chosen the latter, for a reduction in size might be looked on as the sign of a decadence which is not felt. In their opinion, which we feel confident the decision of our readers will ratify, a diminution in the number of pages, the employment of an inferior paper, and a reduction in the number of engravings, would be greater evils than a comparatively slight increase in price; for there is in reality no lack of interesting and instructive matter wherewith to fill the magazine; and our publishers' impression, which we share, is, that the engravings, though they add largely to the expense, form too important an aid to the study of a subject which imperatively requires pictorial illustration, to admit of their employment being restricted to special occasions only.

Our publishers, in whose name we are authorised to speak, are far from being anxious to obtain a direct profit from the issue of the magazine. Without pretending to affirm that they carry it on purely from disinterested motives, we can, at any rate, say, that as philatelists of long standing themselves, they are principally desirous of placing within the reach of stamp collectors throughout the world a trustworthy journal, devoted to the study and advocacy of stamps, and will at all times be quite satisfied if they can do this without actual loss. For some time past, however, from the causes referred to above, they have found themselves considerably out of pocket; hence the resolution to which they have come, to increase the price of the magazine to Sixpence per month, or Six Shillings per annum, the advance to take effect from the first of January next. This, although a high figure compared with the prices of popular journals, can hardly be considered excessive for a magazine which, treating exclusively of one subject only, enjoys of necessity but a comparatively limited circulation.

We therefore appeal to our readers to favour us with the continuance of the support we have so long enjoyed at their hands. We do not believe that the increased cost will lead to any falling off in their number. We beg them to be good enough to renew their subscriptions at their earliest convenience; and we, on our side, take leave to renew the promise we have repeatedly made, and never broken, to do our utmost to sustain and augment the reputation which in the course of eleven years *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* has acquired as the leading philatelic organ of the Greater Britain.

## MR. PEMBERTON'S FORTHCOMING CATALOGUE.

We are glad to be able to announce that Mr. Pemberton's promised catalogue, long looked for, is coming at last. The first part is announced for New Year's Day. The work will be completed in eight monthly parts, and we trust that they will be issued punctually, in accordance with the list given by Mr. Pemberton's publishers. One great feature of this compilation, which we have no doubt will prove of the utmost value to philatelists, will be its illustrations by photographic fac-similes of every known type. We have before us a specimen plate of these photographic illustrations, which are of rare excellence, and reproduce most faithfully the minutest details of the designs. The stamps represented are the Cuban essay, the suspected Ecuador types, the new 2 dollar United States departmental postage stamp, four values of the old, and five of the present, United States general issue, and the Spanish post card. The

capabilities of the process are most triumphantly shown in the reproduction of the 15 and 24 c. U. S., with the miniature copies of celebrated pictures in the centre: the originals themselves are scarcely clearer. The least successful is the Spanish post card: the pale blue of the border and stamp not having taken well. But there is a very simple means of overcoming this difficulty —at any rate, in the case of stamps which are not of great value—and that is, to change the colour, by the use of chemicals, from blue to black, or to some other dark colour which photographs well. This would not interfere with the faithful reproduction of the design, but as the stamp would be spoilt by the dyeing, the process could not be resorted to in the case of rarities.

Thirty-one plates, of the size of the specimen, will illustrate the work. There will be three in the first part, and four in each of the others. The price of the first part will be 1/1; of the subsequent issues, 1/7 each. The contents will embrace everything issued to the end of 1873—in other words, will consist of complete lists of adhesives, entire envelopes, post cards, bands, and locals; but only government adhesives and envelopes will be figured, as the illustration of locals, owing to their great number and variety, is almost impossible. That the descriptions will be correct, and in every respect trustworthy, we cannot doubt; the author's name is synonymous with philatelic accuracy, and our readers cannot do better than subscribe one and all to his catalogue. We the more readily lend a hand to secure a wide publicity to this work, from the knowledge that it has been undertaken rather with a view to the benefit of philatelists, than in the hope of making a profit out of it; indeed, so costly is the process of photographing the stamps, that the book, even with the large sale there is every reason to expect for it, can hardly prove a financial success. That it will greatly enhance its author's reputation is, however, unquestionable, for in its pages will be condensed the results of many years of study and arduous investigation, by which collectors throughout the world will not be slow to profit.

We purpose reviewing the parts as they successively appear. Meanwhile, we have pleasure in publishing this notice, and thus roughly delineating the shadow of a coming event.

## THE PORTRAITS ON THE CURRENT ARGENTINE STAMPS.

UN (1) CENTAVO, violet.

GENERAL BALCARCE. — Deputy-Director of the United Provinces of La Plata in 1816; Governor of Buenos Ayres in 1832.

CUATRO (4) CENTAVOS, brown.

Dr. MARIANO MORENO.—Secretary to the Provisional Junta of Emancipation in 1810.

CINCO (5) CENTAVOS, vermilion.

BERNARDINO RIVADAVIA. — Distinguished Minister for Foreign Affairs, and of the Interior for the Province of Buenos Ayres; named on the 7th February, 1826, first President of the Argentine Republic; abolished slavery; was exiled in 1836, and died at Cadiz in 1845.*

DIEZ (10) CENTAVOS, green.

GENERAL MANUEL BELGRANO.—Member of the Provisional Junta of Emancipation (composed of nine members) in 1810. Gained the decisive battle of Salta on the 20th February, 1813.

QUINCE (15) CENTAVOS, deep blue.

GENERAL JOSE DE SAN MARTINO.—One of the officers who contributed the most towards the liberation of the provinces of La Plata, and the creation of the Argentine Republic. Died at Boulogne-sur-mer in 1850.

TREINTA (30) CENTAVOS, orange.

GENERAL CARLOS DE ALVEAR.—Supreme Director of the Republic of the United Provinces of La Plata in 1815.

SESENTA (60) CENTAVOS, black.

GERVACIO ANTONIO DE POSADAS.—Named in 1814 First Supreme Director of the Republic of the United Provinces of La Plata.

NOVENTA (90) CENTAVOS, blue.

GENERAL CORNELIO SAAVEDRA.—President of the Provisional Junta of Emancipation in 1810.

* See Biographical notice, *S. C. M.*, vol. iii., p. 85.

## PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. XXXII.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

### EUROPE.

## Hungary.

ONLY a feeling of respect for Lord Strafford's brief but expressive motto, "Thorough," induces me to refer to the issues of this semi-independent country after the careful analysis to which they have so recently been subjected by "A Parisian Collector" in his interesting notes. I have only to refer to those notes to obtain the materials necessary for the description of the Hungarian stamps of which only a single series, properly so called, has hitherto been issued; but as the historical importance of postage stamps can never be undervalued, I need no excuse for drawing attention to the remarkable change in the Austrian political system which led to their emission. It will be in the memory of most of my readers that in 1848 a terrible insurrection, which was only put down after a bloody struggle, took place in Hungary. The Emperor of Russia sent an army to assist his Austrian ally, who would otherwise have been overborne, and the Austrian General Haynau made his name hateful by his severity to the conquered Hungarians. The aspirations of the Magyar people, however, though crushed, could not be extinguished, and their smouldering discontent was a source of constant uneasiness to the Vienna cabinet. After the war of 1866, when Austria found herself excluded from the direction of Germany, and the empire appeared to be drifting into a state of disintegration, a different policy was inaugurated under the guidance of Count Beust. Conferences were held with the Hungarian leaders, and ultimately their demands for the recognition of Hungary as a separate state, coupled with the revival of its distinctive institutions, and a separate administration, were granted. Hungary ceased to be an Austrian province, and became a kingdom. An Hungarian cabinet was formed, and, as a pledge and confirmation of the agreement, the Emperor of Austria was crowned King of Hungary at Pesth, in June, 1867. Among the many changes which followed this resurrection of a people, came the establishment of a postal service, which bore fruit in the shape of a series of adhesive stamps in 1871; but as early as the 1st November, 1869, a post card for Hungary was issued, and a year before that







two journal-tax stamps—used for the same purpose as the square Austrian stamps, which have always been admitted into collections—made their appearance.

Taking, however, the adhesives first, the principal thing to note is the existence of two series of the same type—one lithographed, the other engraved. The former, by reason of its brief currency, is becoming rare. The difference in the appearance of the two is sufficient to ensure their being distinguished even by a tyro. Whilst the engraved type is remarkably well done, and clearly printed in bright colours, the lithographed is blurred, dull, and comparatively indistinct. To prevent needless repetition in respect of a well-known series, I take leave to refer my readers to p. 117 of the present volume for a list of the colours and denominations of each. Of the two journal stamps, the one with month-piece of horn to right was the first issued, and that with mouth-piece of horn to left is now in use.






Of the post cards, the first one, issued in 1869, might be taken for an Austrian; the inscription is the same as on the first Austrian card—CORRESPONDENZ KARTE—and an impression from the die of the yellow 2 kr. Austrian adhesive figures in the upper right corner, but the arms are the Hungarian, and if any of my readers do not

know them, they have only to put an Hungarian adhesive by the side of the cards, and they will at once see if the shield is the same as that on the adhesive, or not. The incongruity of an Hungarian card with German inscription being soon perceived, the first card was superseded by one inscribed LEVELEZESI LAP, which, however, differed in no other respect from its predecessor. Finally, in 1870, a third card came out with the imprint of the 2 kr. Hungarian in the right upper corner, and the Hungarian inscription above given. Of this card two secondary varieties are known, and they complete the list of Hungarian issues.

## Iceland.




To the recent emission for this country it is only necessary to refer *pro formâ*. It will suffice to give a list of the values and colours, and to reproduce the type.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2 | skilling. | blue. |
| 3 | ,, | grey. |
| 4 | .. | rose. |
| 8 | .. | brown. |
| 16 | ,, | yellow. |

OFFICIAL STAMPS.

(Same design, but different inscription).

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 4 | skilling, | green. |
| 8 | ,, | mauve. |

## Ionian Islands.

The trio of Ionian stamps belongs to the early days of stamp-collecting. It is now several years since, on the cessation of the English protectorate, they were withdrawn from service, together with the English officials. All three values have now obtained a certain moderate degree of rarity, but the set will be found in all old collections. The colours are as follows:—




| | |
|---|---|
| Orange | (1 obolus). |
| Blue | (2 oboli ). |
| Carmine-red | (4 ,, ). |

The blue has a reversed figure 2 for watermark, supposed to have some reference to the value, and the red a figure 1, for which no explanation can be found; whilst the orange is destitute of watermark. This series of stamps will certainly give rise to no difference of opinion or exercise of judgment in circulation. M. Berger-Levrault, it is true, reported the existence of blue stamps which appeared to be without watermark, but his conjecture has never been confirmed, and not even M. Moens has succeeded in discovering a noteworthy variation of shade; hence this series does not boast of a single "variety" of perforation, colour, or paper, and philatelists of all classes can accept it without difficulty in its entirety. The stamps have never been reprinted; not improbably the dies were destroyed in 1864, when the occasion for their employment ceased; and I have never even seen it stated by whom they were engraved. The type is very simple but very carefully executed, and the fine border-pattern reminds one of the English penny. Of forgeries there are plenty, but all I have seen are coarse lithographs, which could not "hold a candle" to the genuine impressions.

## Italy.

The last emission for Piedmont—or as it is generally, but, to my mind, erroneously, termed, Sardinia—remained in use for some time after the assumption by Victor Emanuel of the title of King of Italy; but in the present paper it will I think be preferable to treat only of the stamps on which the change of title and extension of territory are indicated by the inscription. The first stamp answering to this description is a poor lithographic design, represented below—the 15 c. blue. This is inscribed FRANCO BOLLO POSTALE ITALIANO. It was issued on the 12th October, 1863, and, to judge from appearances, must have been in use a long while, although officially superseded in December of the same year by the series which bears the suggestive inscription POSTE ITALIANE. That series is still in use, and calls for only



a brief notice. During the ten years in which it has been current some slight accidental alterations in shade have taken place, but they are hardly worth attention. The designs themselves appear to have suffered very little, if any, deterioration from the continued wear and tear to which the dies have been subjected; though one value, it is true—the 15 c.—was damaged at the time it was surcharged, and the retouching of the die gave rise to two varieties which are not without interest. All the designs are in De La Rue's best style, and the series as a whole must be pronounced an effective one. As originally issued it stood as follows:—



| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 5 | centesimi, | greyish green. |
| 10 | ,, | buff. |
| 15 | ,, | blue. |
| 30 | ,, | brown. |
| 40 | ,, | carmine. |
| 60 | ,, | lilac. |
| 2 | lire, | rosy red. |

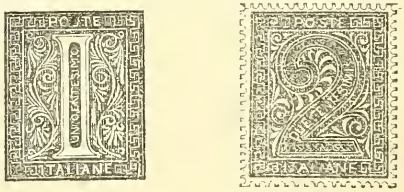
JOURNAL STAMP.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | centesimo, | sea-green. |

In 1864 the state of the postal finances called for an increase in the rate for internal correspondence, from 15 centesimi to 20 centesimi for single-weight letters; and to provide a stamp answering to the advanced rate, the 15 c. was surcharged with a semicircular bar, obliterating the original inscription of value, and with numeral and letter in the corners. The opportunity was also taken advantage of to print this value in a darker shade—a kind of slate-blue. It was whilst the surcharging was in progress in London that an accident happened to the die, and the flaw thereby occasioned was concealed, pursuant to instructions from the Italian post-office, by the addition of four white dots in the oval frame—two on either side the portrait. These dots will be found, respectively, above and below the little ornament in the frame which separates the inscription in the upper from that in the lower half. From the original announcement of this addition in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for 1865 (p. 54), it would appear that the accident took place prior to the surcharging, and that copies of the 15 c. unsurcharged exist with the four dots; but this is certainly not the case, for I have myself a surcharged specimen without the dots, and in all the catalogues the four-dot variety is figured as a 20 c. Later on, a second accident happened, and eight more dots were added, making twelve in all. The eight are scattered about in the framework, "two in the left-hand upper part of the stamp, between PO and after E, and on the right between AL and below the letter N; in the left-hand lower part between the letters VI, and also the CI, and on the right between the EN and under the first I in CENTESIMI." In 1867 this provisional stamp finally gave way to the current 20 c. of which the type is special to that value. This stamp exists in two well-defined and admissible shades—very light and very dark blue. It is a clearly designed stamp, but can hardly be compared with the others for richness of ornament. The 10 c. has been issued in a very dark reddish yellow, and the 60 c. in bright lilac.




The 1 c. journal stamp—a gracefully executed stamp—was joined in 1865 by the 2 c., of which two tolerably clear shades exist—brown and dark brown.



UNPAID LETTER STAMPS.

The unpaid letter stamps are not necessarily used only for letters which, presumably through the sender's neglect, have not been prepaid. Prior to the Roman occupation, at any rate, they were apposed at the frontier post-office on letters from the Papal States, as for lack of a convention

between the two countries, the Papal stamps only prepaid as far as the frontier. No doubt at present the "segna-tasse" stamps are used in some analogous manner, otherwise it is difficult to see what employment could be found for the high values, used specimens of which are, however, very common. The first "segna-tasse" stamp, issued in 1863, was a very mean-looking affair, yet it remained current six years, and two varieties of it are collected—lemon and orange. In 1869 it was superseded by a carefully engraved but not over legible type (reproduced below), and in 1870 the current series came gradually into use, with the exception of the 10 c., which was not issued until the succeeding year, in order to give time for the exhaustion of the 1869 stock. The 1 c., 2 c., 5 c., 10 c., 30 c., 40 c., 50 c., and 60 c. have the numeral of value struck in carmine, and the frame buff. The 1 lira and 2 lire have the figure in brown and the frame in blue, one frame sufficing for the whole of the values in *centesimi*, and one for the two values in *lire*, as is plain by noticing that the 1 centesimo reads 1 CENTESIMI, and the 1 lira reads 1 LIRE.










### CORRIGENDA.

HOLLAND.—Thanks to a communication from Mr. C. van Rinsum, I am able to correct an erroneous statement with regard to the issue of the first post cards. The stamped and unstamped cards both came into use on the same day—the 1st January, 1871. The unstamped card, value one half cent, is still in circulation and is used for communications to foreign countries; an adhesive stamp of the necessary value being apposed to cover the postage. I was not previously aware of the existence of any convention sanctioning the exchange of post cards between Holland and other countries, and should like to know what are the countries with which this arrangement is in force.

## EXTRACTS FROM MY PRIVATE NOTE BOOK.

BY C. H. COSTER.

As may be surmised from the title, the object of these papers is to present, in a clear and concise form, sundry items of interest collected from time to time, and likely to prove useful to the philatelic community, and especially to those who devote particular attention to the stamps of the United States, including those of the "Confederacy."

We will commence by considering some of the postal labels issued by postmasters in the Southern States during the late "unpleasantness." First on the list comes the one for

RINGGOLD, GEORGIA.—This is a recent resuscitation made by Mr. William P. Brown, the well-known dealer, and although by no means "a thing of beauty," it is likely to prove "a joy for ever" to the fortunate possessor of the only known specimen. It is a very imperfectly handstruck impression on an ordinary buff envelope. The design consists of three concentric circles, of which the innermost surrounds what looks like a letter o surmounted by some sort of very rough ornamentation (possibly a cannon and flags may be intended). The second circle bears the inscription, RINGGOLD, GEORGIA, and the third, what I take to be C. S. POSTAGE (although only C. S. P. is visible) above, and FIVE CENTS below.

MARION, VIRGINIA.—I have a letter from J. H. Francis, formerly postmaster of Marion, to W. P. Brown, Esq., dated about two years ago, in which he states that the stamps issued by him were of the values of 5 c., 10 c., 15 c., and 20 c. Under these circumstances, are not the "recently discovered, though undoubtedly genuine." 2 c. and 3 c. rather suspicious-looking customers, especially as the die is still in existence, so that these additional values could easily be

"prepared to order?" What a wonderfully careful man the postmaster at Marion must have been to preserve all these uncancelled specimens, so that they look as fresh to-day as they did twelve years ago! Almost as curious as the way in which somebody's grandmother or grandfather (I am not good at relationships, but the principle is all the same) put away those stamps of Fredericksburg,—and in some sort of an "official envelope" too, so that of course their authenticity is at once placed beyond a shadow of a doubt.

KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE.—I have recently met with two very good imitations of the circular stamp for this city, and append a list of the most salient points of difference.

| GENUINE. | COUNTERFEIT A. | COUNTERFEIT B. |
|---|---|---|
| Of the three ornaments on the left-hand side of the circle, the lower half of the top one is very imperfectly formed; in fact, the bottom stroke is almost altogether wanting. | All the ornaments on the left-hand side appear perfect, but the middle one on the right-hand is broken at the bottom. | All the ornaments are perfectly formed, but those on the right-hand side are considerably lower than those on the left. |
| In each ornament the lines separating the four dots are visibly curved. | The lines are nearly, if not quite straight. | The lines are very straight, especially on the right-hand side. |
| Take the upper half of the X of KNOXVILLE. There is no curve at the end of the hair line on the inside of the left-hand stroke. | There is a curve at the end of the hair line, which nearly touches the curve from the right-hand side. | The curve quite touches the curve from the right-hand side. |
| The O of POSTAGE is not very perfectly formed. | O of POSTAGE is very broken and irregular, and is also considerably out of line with the other letters. | No period between "C S"; O of POSTAGE is not closed at top, but it is otherwise perfectly formed. It is somewhat out of line with the other letters, and is very far separated from the S. There is a small dot under the C. |

ATHENS, GEORGIA.—At Messrs. J. W. Scott & Co.'s last auction sale I bought a copy of this stamp, which turns out, on examination, to be very different from an undoubtedly genuine specimen to which I have access. It may be that *both* are genuine varieties, but is it not a rather peculiar circumstance that while the auction variety is comparatively common, the other is of the greatest rarity?

I will proceed to point out a few of the leading differences.

| UNDOUBTEDLY GENUINE. | AUCTION. |
|---|---|
| PAID.—All the letters are about the same size. | The D is out of all proportion. |
| Stars.—One on the right and one on the left are about on a line with the top of the word PAID. | The one on the left is nearly on a line with the top of the word PAID, but the one on the right is a good deal too low. |
| Continue the line under PAID across the stamp on both sides, and you will find six stars below and six above. | There are five below and seven above. |
| A star is directly under the middle of M of "P. M." | Star is directly under the first stroke of M, and the engraver's tool seems to have slipped, so that the first stroke is continued beyond its proper distance, and touches the star. |
| Those odd-looking ornaments, something like a flattened-out S, are about twice as long on one side as on the other. | About the same size on each side. |
| A line drawn perpendicularly from the W of CRAWFORD, would strike the E of ATHENS. | A line from the O of CRAWFORD would strike the E of ATHENS. |
| The stamp is surrounded by two well-defined, perfectly-formed white lines, never touching each other, but always separated by a line in the colour of the stamp. | The stamp is surrounded by two fine lines, very irregular and frequently merging into each other. |

The genuine comes printed in red, also in dull mauve; the auction variety in a peculiarly plastery mauve.

PLEASANT SHADE, VIRGINIA.—The genuine is in every respect identical with type II. of the Petersburg stamp (which has been the subject of so much discussion), with the

exception that PLEASANT SHADE is substituted for Petersburg, and R E Davis P M. for W. E. Bass, P. M., and the fleur-de-lis on each side of Virginia is dropped.

The punctuation, or lack of punctuation, of "R. E. Davis, P. M." is as given above, and alike in both genuine and counterfeit.

The lettering of the word POST-OFFICE is very different in the genuine from that of the imitation, though the only describable point of variance is in the S, which is very peculiar in the latter, it being finished off by a stroke which has very much the appearance of a comma.

| IN THE GENUINE. | IN THE COUNTERFEIT. |
|---|---|
| A line drawn across the stamp from the break between the first and second fleur-de-lis, would intersect PLEASANT SHADE. | A line from the central stroke of the first fleur-de-lis would intersect PLEASANT SHADE. |
| In the word VIRGINIA the tail of the G does not extend perceptibly on either side further than the bowl of that letter. | The tail of the G extends considerably on either side, and indeed the entire word VIRGINIA is larger type than in the genuine. |
| The ornaments below VIRGINIA meet the side frames on either side, directly opposite the dot at the end of the central line of the third fleur-de-lis. | They meet the side frames almost opposite the break between the second and third fleur-de-lis. |
| The first row of ornaments below POST-OFFICE meets the side frames just above the break between the fifth and sixth fleur-de-lis. | They meet the side frames opposite the central stroke of the fifth fleur-de-lis. |
| The ornaments on the left-hand of the figure 5 meet the side frames just above the break between the seventh and eighth fleur-de-lis. | They meet the side frames directly opposite the central stroke of the seventh fleur-de-lis. |
| N.B.—Owing to there being several varieties in the arrangement of the ornaments on the right-hand side in the genuine, no *test* can be given. | |
| The ornaments above R. E. Davis, P.M., meet the side frames above the break between the seventh and eight fleur-de-lis. | The ornaments meet the side frames opposite the eighth fleur-de-lis. |

## INTERNATIONAL POST CARDS.

ALTHOUGH the issue of cards specially designed for international transmission has not yet become an accomplished fact, it is evident that it will not be long delayed. It will be remembered that a short time since it was rumoured that postal cards for correspondence between this country and the United States were to be emitted; then again it was stated that 2 cent cards were being prepared for use between Canada and the United States. These reports have been contradicted, but they were certainly only the shadows of coming events, as the following official notice, with regard to communications between the States and Newfoundland, will testify.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF FOREIGN MAILS,
WASHINGTON, D. C., *Sept.* 26, 1873.

An arrangement has just been concluded between the United States and Newfoundland, providing that on and after the first of October, 1873, United States postal cards mailed at any post-office in the United States, and addressed to Newfoundland, and Newfoundland postal cards mailed at any post office in Newfoundland, and addressed to the United States, *when prepaid an additional postage of one cent by affixing thereto an ordinary one cent postage stamp of the country of origin*, in addition to the stamp printed or impressed on the card, shall be reciprocally forwarded and delivered in the country of destination free of charge.

Postal cards of either country, when not so prepaid, will not be forwarded in the mails between the two countries.

The regulations and instructions governing the use and treatment of postal cards in the domestic mails of the United States and of Newfoundland, respectively, are equally applicable to the postal cards mailed in either country, and addressed to the other country.

Postmasters are instructed to carry this arrangement into operation on and after the 1st of October, 1873.

By order of the Postmaster General.

JOSEPH H. BLACKFAN,
*Superintendent.*

Who can doubt but that, to save the trouble of adding an adhesive to the impressed stamp, special cards will soon be prepared, nor that ere long the system will be considerably spread? Already, as appears from a statement in our correspondence columns, the exchange of post cards, with an extra low value adhesive affixed, is permitted between Switzerland, Austria and Germany. Decidedly among approaching postal innovations, international post cards hold the first place.

## NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

TOLIMA.—The annexed type, discovered at the beginning of the present year, was generally admitted to be of doubtful value, and was condemned by our Belgian *confrère*. We, however, have just received from a trustworthy source, a specimen of a 15 centavos black, of the same type. It is on an envelope, side by side with the current 5 c. dark green Antioquia, and both stamps are obliterated by the same postmarks. This conjunction of two stamps of different states is in itself remarkable, and deserves explanation. The obliterations consist (1) of a large double circle with an exterior diameter of about $1\frac{1}{5}$ in., with partially illegible circular inscription; (2) of the word FRANCO in large Roman capitals, in a straight line. *Their* genuineness appears to us to be unquestionable; and this much granted, the genuineness of the Tolima stamp follows. The 20 c. stamp of this type, here represented, and which we have not seen, was described by the editor of *The Philatelist* as rouletted, but the 15 c. black shows no sign of the roulette. Moreover, in our engraving, which is a fac-simile of the one given in *The Philatelist*, ten stars are shown above the condor; in the 15 c. stamp there are only seven, and the arms are considerably smaller, and not pointed at the base. Apart from these distinctions our engraving accurately represents the type, which is probably in reality common to both.
















BOLIVAR.—From the information which accompanied the specimen of the new 80 c. described last month, we erroneously inferred that the design of that value, reproduced above *pour mémoire*, was common to the entire series. We are now, however, happy to be able to give illustrations of the three other denominations, each of which forms a different type. Of the four stamps, the 5 c. is perhaps the most remarkable, for its lateral inscriptions give the design the appearance of being printed in a continuous strip. No doubt the series is a newly-issued one, which replaces the insignificant set previously known.

BRAZIL.—We learn from our Rio correspondent, that there is a likelihood of a new series of postage stamps being issued, as the present postmaster does not view the existing series with favour, considering the stamps—and especially the 20 reis and 200 reis—to be too large and unhandy.

DANISH WEST INDIES.—The annexed type is destined, according to *Le Timbre-Poste*, in six months time, to supersede the very homely fac-similes of the original Danish design, which have so long been in use in St. Thomas. The new stamps are modelled on the current Danish; paper, perforation, and watermarks are the same in both. The inscription DANSK-VESTINDISKE is intelligible, but we are not at all clear as to the meaning of the concluding word OER. The values and colours of the forthcoming series are:




| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | cent, | frame, | green; | centre, violet. |
| 3 | „ | „ | blue; | „ carmine-rose. |
| 4 | „ | „ | brown; | „ blue. |
| 14 | „ | „ | lilac; | „ green. |

These stamps will prove pleasing additions

to a page which has hitherto been conspicuous for its dulness.

Spain.—The annexed cut represents the design of the impressed stamp on the Spanish Republic post card.




With reference to our remarks respecting the prominence given to the lion in this type, a valued correspondent writes to say, that the lion has always formed part of the Spanish arms. This we did not contest, but we are surprised at his being represented to the exclusion of the other bearings.

To the same correspondent we are indebted for a sight of the new reply-paid card, which, like the single one, is intended to come into use on the 1st of January. The new card is the same size as its single brother. On the latter the inscription reads TARGETA POSTAL, on the double it is written TARJETA POSTAL. The orthographical error was pointed out by Señor M. P. de Figueroa, and, thanks to him, it has not been repeated. The general disposition of the reply-paid type is the same as that on the ordinary card, but the stamps are not the same. The half intended to be used by the sender bears a new design, consisting of the bust of Liberty surmounted by the traditional cap. Along the upper margin of the card runs the inscription CONTESTACION PAGADA. TARJETA DE IDA. The first two words signify reply-paid; the latter are difficult to translate, but may be rendered as "outward card," or "card to be sent." On the second half the words CONTESTACION PAGADA are repeated, and are followed by TARJETA DE VUELTA, or "return card." The stamp on the reply half resembles that on the ordinary cards in having a figure 5 in the centre, but the lion and bust of Liberty are omitted. In both halves the stamp and frame are printed green and the lettering black.

Our contributor also sends us some oddities which have passed the Spanish post. They are none other than the full size engravings of Californian local envelopes cut out from pages 150 and 151 of the last volume of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, pasted on cardboard, franked by stamps of the Amadeus and current series, addressed on the front, and, after the fashion of ordinary post cards, bearing communications on the reverse.

Ecuador.—Rehabilitation seems to be the order of the day. The genuineness of the three stamps referred to in our last, and originally described in our January number, is now admitted on all sides. We do not, however, regret having originally entertained grave suspicions as to their character. In the present day the extremest caution is necessary in accepting unaccredited individuals from far-off countries, as a recent example has proved.

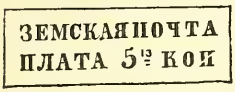
Sierra Leone.—A correspondent of M. Moens's informs him he has seen a 2d. bright violet-red, of the same type as the four recently issued stamps.

Nicaragua.—Just two years ago, the issue of the one centavo brown was announced as an accomplished fact, and a few specimens, we believe, reached this country, but since then but little has been heard of it. Our publishers, however, have at length received a supply, and there can now be no doubt that this value is in circulation. On examining the new comer, we find that some portions of the landscape have been cut away, the length and breadth of the space enclosed by the external frame being considerably smaller. This results from the shape of the frame. There are four large disks at the corners, and in order to get the straight borders between them on a level with the centres of these disks, it has been necessary to encroach on the design. Together with the 1 c. brown, our publishers have received supplies of the 2 c. blue, and 5 c. black. These stamps are now printed on a pure white paper, and the sun and clouds have been erased from the 5 c., leaving the entire space above the mountain-line blank. The 2 c., it should also be observed, is printed in a much lighter blue, of a shade quite different from that of the previous issue.

Heligoland.—It is now stated that the ½ sch. with carmine disk, white spandrels, and green border, supersedes the same value with carmine border and green disk; if so, the latter, by reason of its brief currency, will probably become in time very scarce, provided no reprints be made.

Russian Locals.—*Toula* (Toula).—Of the annexed engravings the upper one represents the design of a stamp embossed in white relief on the flaps of the envelopes issued by the Toula post; the lower, a blue stamp, handstruck on the reverse of the envelopes. The latter are of different sizes and tints. The inscription on the circular impression signifies *Seal of the administration of the district of Toula;* that on the oblong stamp—*Rural post, payment of 5 kopeks.* These stamps are introduced by M. Moens, as is also the following:—




*Woltschansk* (Charkoff).—There was some doubt as to the district from which this type emanates. It was stated at first to have come from Wolynka (Tchernigoff), but later intelligence,




which M. Moens has obligingly communicated to us, is to the effect that the stamp belongs to the Woltschansk district. The specimen from which our engraving was taken has been for upwards of a year in the possession of a correspondent of M. Moens, residing at Rome, and bears an indistinct obliteration. The impression is in black, with white lettering and frame, on a red ground; the animal, whatever it may be, is on a yellow ground.

*Kotelnitsch.*—M. Moens, in the current number of *Le Timbre-Poste*, gives the correct history of the Kotelnitsch emissions, accompanied by some interesting details, which we purpose reproducing *in extenso* in our next. Suffice it to say at present, that the suppression of these little known stamps was due to the decision of the district authorities, to deliver the rural correspondence free of charge!

Argentine Republic.—By the kindness of "A London Collector," who has communicated the specimens to us, we are enabled to present engravings of the three new stamps of this Republic. They are all distinguished by the high degree of finish and general artistic excellence which characterises the productions of the New York companies, and the effigies they contain form a further contribution to the portrait gallery of the heroes of South American independence. In another part of the present number we give a list of the names of these worthies; we, therefore, need only repeat the mention already made of the colours, which are as follows:—










30 (*treinta*) centavos, orange.
60 (*sesenta*) ,, black.
90 (*noventa*) ,, blue.

The emission took place on the 10th October last.

Germany.—Reply-paid cards — ½ gr. × ½ gr., and 2 kr. × 2 kr., have appeared. They differ from the ordinary cards in having a narrower frame.

Finland.—We learn from *Le Timbre-Poste* that in order to utilise the stock of post cards of the second type, the notice they bear has been completed by the surcharge in black of the inscriptions, in three languages, across the left-hand side of the card.

Switzerland.—The same authority states that the 30 c. envelope, stamp to left, is issued without the watermark, the metallic design from which it is obtained being worn down to an unserviceable state. A correspondent, whose letter we publish, denies the statement quoted by us from the *Gazette*,

to the effect that 1 gr. German stamps are used to prepay letters from Switzerland to Germany. We are indebted also to this correspondent for the communication of a hitherto unnoticed Swiss official post card. It is very plain, and bears no impressed stamp. On the right is a dotted inscribed circle, to receive the stamp of the issuing department, and on the left a similar circle to receive the postmark. Between these is the inscription:—

NR. 4337.

CARTE-CORRESPONDANCE.

OFFICIEL.

Below which, in three languages—French German, and Italian—comes the notice that correspondence not entitled to free transmission will not be forwarded. Then come the lines for the address, which complete the design, if so it may be called. The card is of a French-grey tint, and rather thin.

SHANGHAI.—The diagonal surcharge 1 CAND. has been struck in bluish black on the 2 c., 4 c., and 8 c. stamps. The surcharge noticed some months since was in pale blue on the 4 cents.

PHILIPPINES.—The "Habilitado" varieties for this colony now form a numerous series. The surcharge is applied to the obsolete types, which are being reissued, because, as M. Moens explains, the home government at present has so many grave affairs on hand, that it can spare no time to forward supplies of the new stamps to the colony. Hence the 10 c. rose of 1859 (4 varieties) has reappeared, and also the 2 rls. blue of the 1863 type,—all duly surcharged.

VICTORIA.—Mr. D. H. Hill, of the Treasury, Melbourne, has obligingly forwarded us, by the last mail, a specimen of a new twopenny stamp for this colony. The design consists of the usual profile of Queen to left in a broad oval, containing white inscribed labels above and below, and reticulated pattern at sides; a Greek-patterned ornament occupies each angle;—presenting altogether rather an effective appearance, though roughly executed. The watermark is a V and crown, and the stamp is printed a bright mauve, and perforated. We intend to give an engraving of this new arrival in the January number.

UNITED STATES.—In the specimen plate of illustrations of Mr. Pemberton's catalogue is an engraving of the two-dollar stamp for the Department of State,—a very handsome design. It is an upright rectangle, measuring nearly 2 in. by 1 in., and has a large sized bust of Seward in an oval in the centre, a bundle of *fasces* on either side, U. S. A. in the lower spandrels, DEPARTMENT OF STATE in two arched lines above the portrait, and the value in words in the lower margin. The bust and the oval ground are in black, the rest of the stamp is green. There are three other values of the same design and colours, viz., $5, $10, and $20.

CABUL.—From advance sheets of Messrs. Grant's circular, kindly communicated to us, we clip the following information:

> We have been favoured with the loan of five stamps, stated to have been issued by the Ameer of Cabul early this year. They are circular; but the round appearance is taken off by sundry ornaments outside the circle. The centre of each contains a tiger's head, and the value in Indian characters. They are all alike, but separately engraved, and the circular disc around the head is embellished by a flowing tracery, over which characters are engraved. This is similar to the ground-work of the rare Koorshedjah, and to that which fills the centre of the one anna oblong Deccan, and is essentially oriental. The value is in the centre; in the three lowest values, above the tiger's head; in the two highest, below it. There are—
>
> 1 anna, black on thick white laid.
> 2 " " "
> 4 " " "
> 8 " marone } on thin paper, unsurfaced, no watermark.
> 1 rupee, " }
>
> The 1 anna and 2 anna both show dotted circles; the 4 anna shows only the outer one dotted; whilst the 8 anna and 1 rupee have only plain circles.

NATAL.—From the same source we learn that the sixpence has appeared with POSTAGE surcharged on each side, to match the 1d. and 3d. The use of the lilac shilling (which is a fiscal), with POSTAGE surcharged on it, is mostly provisional; and the new batch of green 1s. will probably bear POSTAGE on each side, and complete the set.

GRIQUALAND WEST.—There appears to be some chance of the issue of a series of stamps for this district, better known as the Diamond Fields. We refer our readers, for information as to the present postal arrangements there, to the letter from Mr. Pemberton's correspondent, published in the above-named circular.

South African Republic.—The same publication states that the shilling stamps, cut in half, are doing duty as sixpenny stamps, and with regard to the solitary emission for

Fernando Po, it declares that "the stamp is most undoubtedly genuine," adding, "We know of many cases where they have been taken from letters, and can produce evidence of the fact." This statement is confirmed by Mr. Ysasi, to whom in this matter we owe the *amende honorable*. The stamp, it appears, was only in use for a few months in the course of 1868, which would account for its extreme rarity.

Saint Helena.—At last, says Messrs. Grant & Co.'s circular, the sixpence bears the c.c. and crown watermark, and is so issued in slate blue.

Mexico.—The stamps of the current issue are now coming over in deeper and richer colours.

Roumania.—The stamps of this country are printed in brighter shades.

Japan.—The 1 sen. now comes over in pale blue and in indigo.

South Australia.—The ninepence is printed dull mauve.

## OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

*The Philatelist.*—In the article on recent and undescribed emissions we find a reference to the curious Jerusalem postmark described some months since. A correspondent has forwarded to the editor a portion of an envelope bearing this mark. This time the impression is on thin blue laid paper, and is unmistakably handstamped; had it been on thick, white paper, such as described by M. Moens, and cut out, it might easily have been mistaken for a postage stamp. In the usual place for adhesives, on the same envelope, were an 80 c. of the French Empire, and a 40 c. perf. of the Republic. The postmark in question is independent of these, and its lack of value as a mark of prepayment is now established. In the same article two more of the mysterious designs which our contemporary arbitrarily designates "Colonial Essays" are described. The only noteworthy item in "The Philatelic Press" is one to the effect, that Dr. Magnus has not, as we had been given to understand, withdrawn from the editorship of the *Gazette*, but is, on the contrary, "as actively engaged thereon as ever." "The Spud Papers" are occupied this month with descriptions of forgeries of the 90 cents United States, the first 3 pfennige and the 10 neugroschen Saxon, and the Guatemala set. With respect to the former, the Rev. R. B. Earée pithily observes, "As regards general appearance, if the unlearned amateur meet with a copy coarsely perforated, on very white paper, with a very dark background, and a staring white cravat, he need not stop to enquire any further, but gently murmuring his watchword of 'Spiro,' he can pass on with untouched pockets." The two Saxon stamps should certainly be purchased only from well-known dealers. The forgeries are very fine, that of the 10 n.gr. being especially remarkable for its accuracy. The Guatemala imitations are respectable, but whereas the genuine stamp shows the sun, with eyes, nose, and mouth, and surrounded by 36 bright rays, in the forgeries the sun has only three dots, representing eyes and mouth, and there are 41 bright rays round it. "A few Words on the Stamps of New Granada" is the title of an article, by "Warden," treating of the period of currency of the 5 c. (1859) on *laid* paper, referred to by "Amateur" in our October number. The remaining contents of the number do not call for special notice.

*Le Timbre-Poste* for November opens with a strong list of novelties, followed by a short article on the Kotelnitsch stamps referred to elsewhere, and a further instalment of Dr. Magnus's valuable monograph on stamped envelopes. The number winds up with the following *nouvelle á sensation*: "Several times a rumour has reached us of the existence of a green 3 kr. stamp of the office of Thurn and Taxis. Our efforts to discover it having always proved fruitless, and no information of any kind being forthcoming, we have taken no notice of the report, preferring to wait until the opportunity might arise of testing its truth. The existence of the stamp is now confirmed by the produc-

tion of a specimen, which has been handed to us by Mr. Hans Jordan, accompanied by the following details:—'I remark that in your catalogue you do not mention a 3 kreuzer stamp of Thurn and Taxis, printed by error in green (instead of blue), on white paper, and that it has never been referred to in your journal. The stamp, however, may be found in several German albums and in Paris. I herewith enclose you one of a few specimens which I obtained some years since from a postal official. The stamp distributor having sold the greater part of the sheet of *green* 3 kr. in the evening, did not perceive the difference in colour, until the following day, when making up his books. The remainder was at once disposed of among collectors. I have seen in a Swiss collector's album this same 3 kr. green *obliterated*. The envelope, with the stamp on it just as it passed the post, has been preserved entire by him.'"

*The American Journal of Philately.*—The October number opens with a vindication of the suspected Ecuador stamps. "The two lower values," it says, "have come to us from several sources that render all doubts untenable." The number thus commenced, closes with the exposure of an attempt to swindle the publishers. They had received a letter signed "Mary E. Chase," reading as follows: "Sirs, I send you herewith a number of duplicate stamps for exchange. Please allow me all you can for them. I wish the following. * * * Send as soon as possible, and oblige." The answer—which Messrs. Scott have published, believing that had they posted it, it would not have found their lady correspondent—is cleverly put together, and will convince Mr. S. A. Taylor and his co-workers, that it is not so easy to "sell" philatelists with bogus varieties, as formerly. We give it in full for our readers' amusement.

*Dear* Miss? Our first surprise on receiving your letter was the extraordinary confidence you reposed in dealers whose address even you were unacquainted with. (It looks so charmingly innocent, you know.) But of course this was nothing to the surprise and pleasure with which we looked over the stamps you so kindly sent us to exchange for you. You are so liberal, you did not care much what you got for those beautiful St. Domingos; so charmingly innocent, that you did not notice you were sending us unchronicled varieties and values; so beautifully patient, that you did not care what trouble you went to to make the stamps look nice and the bogus genuine; but do, please do, tell us what freak of youthful playfulness caused you to run a penstroke across that set Swiss? why did you change the colour of the proof of the 2 cent Canada from green to blue? We can understand your cleaning the cancellation off the Nevis, Austrian, and Peru; but why discolour the 2 centavos Lima stamp—don't the colour stand acid?

Why did you stick the genuine medio real St. Domingo black on pink above the counterfeit of the same value, blue on blue, and cancel them both together? and if you thought they would look better if one was torn, why did you tear the genuine? and that bogus dos reals blue on yellow stuck on a piece of a genuine letter! Please tell us how they managed to bend the cancelling stamp so as to stamp round the corner. If you had left the paper off the backs of the bogus St. Domingo, they would have looked much more natural, considering the company they were with, and it was only waste to put such a good stamp with the lot as the 10 c. red Confederate.

Next batch of St. Domingos you print, use thin paper, such as is always used on the Island; but first take a few lessons of S. A. T., and then be sure and do not send counterfeits to anyone over ten years old.

Will return the stamps after they have been on exhibition a short time.

J. W. SCOTT & CO.

In the article headed "Clippings," we observe the reprint of a notice issued by the Havana postmaster, warning the Cuban public that forged 50 c. de peseta stamps are in circulation, and giving four points of difference, by which they may be detected. They are of a lighter colour, the engraving is coarser, and the eyes of the portrait are badly drawn, the left being smaller than the right, and there being no trace of eyelids; lastly, the border surrounding the bust is shaded merely by a line. A collection of Spanish and Cuban forgeries which have passed the post would be an interesting one.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### THE ALLEGED USE OF GERMAN STAMPS IN SWITZERLAND.—RECIPROCAL EXCHANGE OF POST CARDS BETWEEN SWITZERLAND, GERMANY, AND AUSTRIA.

*To the Editor of* "The Stamp-Collector's Magazine."

Dear Sir,—Be good enough to affirm that the intelligence published by you in your October number (p. 151), on the authority of M. P. Mahé, to the effect, that, in consequence of a convention between Germany and Switzerland, the postage of letters from Switzerland to Germany had been reduced to 12½ centimes, and might be prepaid by means of German one-groschen stamps, is *totally unfounded*. The postage of a letter from Switzerland to Germany costs 25 centimes, and can only be prepaid in Swiss stamps. Letters otherwise stamped can only have passed the post untaxed, through their having been overlooked by the officials.

On the other hand, Switzerland, Austria, and Germany have given an international character to their respective post cards, by permitting their reciprocal transmission from one country to another, provided a supplementary adhesive stamp, of the value (as the case may be) of 5 centimes, ½ groschen, or 2 kreuzers, be attached.

Dear Sirs,

Yours obediently,

A. R.

## ROUMANIAN POST CARDS.

*To the Editor of* "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—In the November number of your magazine, under "Newly-issued or Inedited Stamps," I notice a few mistakes concerning the number of Roumanian post cards issued, which allow me to correct by appending the following extract from an official letter I received from Bucharest on 14th October:-

"The white cards (which were only issued as an *elegant commencement*) have long since been used up. The decree authorised their issue (3000 single and 2000 double) for 13th June, and they just lasted until the end of that month, when they were followed by those now in use, of which 20,000 single and 10,000 double were prepared. This stock, too, will be exhausted in a few days, and replaced by a third issue, same type as first and present, only printed on finer card, of a rather yellower hue. 90,000 of these are already printed."

According to this, the second issue consisted of 30,000, instead of 45,000, as stated by M. Moens (from whom you quote); the third of 90,000, and not 70,000; and if the three issues are identical in type, how is it that M. Moens chronicles a third issue, "same as last, only arms smaller"? It may also be concluded from the above that the dates of issue were: 13th June, 1st July, and *about* 15th October (though I have not yet *seen* the third); and furthermore, that the third lot were *not* issued when M. Moens chronicled them in September.

Another, but an unofficial, correspondent informs me, in a letter dated 1st November, that on the 1st of January, 1874, "*Foreign* Post Cards,"—*i.e.*, cards for *extra-provincial* correspondence,—will be issued. Let us hope they will be better looking than the present "inland" cards—at least, be printed on white.

I remain, yours truly,

A LONDON COLLECTOR.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I have seen the third issue. The arms differ in the following points, 1st quarter, azure, not argent; ornaments between the supporters meet, instead of starting from centre; the motto is in one bend only; the mantle squarer at bottom; more folds at side, and the engraving of the whole altogether finer.

## OBLITERATED COPIES OF RARE STAMPS.

*To the Editor of* "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

DEAR SIR,—The answers to Mr. Killick's queries must be of interest to a great many, and I think I can give a little information that, if not new, may be comparatively unknown, but that which is useful will always bear repetition. As to the list of stamps which he never knew to have been seen used, two of the individuals do not fall under the category of postage stamps, viz.:

Great Britain. V. R.
Spain, 1857, 12 cuartos,

as both were essays, and never issued to the public.

Opinions are divided as to the claim of the 5 c. Connell to the name of postage stamp, as some maintain that it was never used, whilst others as firmly believe that it had a circulation of one or two days; and as a mere matter of opinion I incline to the latter view, and have seen what appeared to me a specimen authentically obliterated. It must be borne in mind that the Connell, as prepared for issue, and as stated to have been issued for the one or two days, was perforated by the same machine which operated on the legal issue. Consequently a Connell to be duly qualified as a postal (and not an essay) must show a like perforation as the rest of the series; those without perforation are essays, and many, if not all, are reprints.

Another stamp on the list which hardly seems to me to have a legal right to the name is the Hamburg 7 sch., imperf., *mauve*, for this seems to have been a proof, though nothing was to prevent its use on a letter so far as I can see.

Réunions I never remember to have seen obliterated;* neither the early Bergedorfs, nor the Bolivia 500 c, *though this can in no way militate against them as postage stamps.*

Certain countries never (to my knowledge) used any "postmark" proper, but confined themselves exclusively to a pen-and-ink obliteration. Both Bolivar and *Fiji Times* are only known with pen-and-ink cancellations, and the same holds good with Tolima and Cundinamarca, although Mr. Killick does not ask about these two last. The whole of the remaining stamps are known with genuine obliterations; and many, if not all, are extremely scarce, though the rarest of all is of course the twelvepence Canada. Essays and reprints of this stamp are plentiful enough; the real old specimens issued to the public were upon paper similar to that used for the rest of the *pence* series, but there cannot be above a dozen known specimens in existence, if so many. The green 2 annas India, head in oval, is another invaluable stamp when found postmarked, but the specimens of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company's stamps, of the genuine issue of 1856, on blued paper, similar to our old penny (red) English, are equally rare.

In conclusion, I think the study of obliterated specimens is somewhat neglected. As the writer of "Notes for Collectors" justly observes, of many stamps we can learn nothing beyond what they teach us themselves, and the possession of curious or dated postmarks will often lead to the discovery of some fact unsuspected in the history of the stamp.

Yours faithfully,

*Dawlish.* EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

## THE UNITED STATES LOCALS.

*To the Editor of* "THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE."

SIR,—These much slighted and little understood stamps seem, by degrees, to be attracting public favour, and the more they are studied and discussed, the more interesting do they appear to be. Of course there are in circulation impostors and mongrels, hitherto received by too confiding collectors, which should be weeded out from among the deserving candidates for a place in our albums; and, moreover, it cannot be denied that most of us have to be satisfied with reprints or close imitations of the, in some instances, almost unattainable originals. Still, with this drawback, and inferiority in intrinsic value—which,

* [We have seen a copy of the 15 c. with a pen-and-ink obliteration.—ED.]

however, if at all, can best be tolerated in a local—there is much left to interest and repay the persevering collector, and, it may be truly added, much also to puzzle any ordinary set of brains. One of the "reasons why," which I, for one, have hitherto been unable to fathom to my own satisfaction, is the apparently meaningless inscription on some of the best accredited locals—PENNY POST—and yet no such coin as a penny is current in Uncle Sam's territory. For instance, "Honour's Penny Post," "Blood's Penny Post," and several others equally authentic. I can only surmise that it is a sort of idiom adopted from the old country; yet our go-ahead transatlantic cousins are not, as a rule, given to copy our old-fashioned notions, but, on the contrary, are rather given to astonish us by novelty and startling progress. I do not recollect that where the words PENNY POST is inscribed, the price of postage is ever indicated (Californian locals excepted), but some one in this magazine informs us that when no amount is named, the postage is to be understood to be *one cent*. So here we have another anomaly, viz., a penny post carrying letters for a halfpenny each. Truly, John Bull was more consistent; for in the olden times when, on account of the great size of London, the local post was charged twopence, it was called the Twopenny Post; while in the provincial districts the same service was charged a penny, and properly called the Penny Post. Perhaps some of your numerous readers can elucidate the matter, or explain away this apparent inconsistency.

Again, the remarks hitherto published on the trio of Blood's, which for distinction's sake I term the *acrobats*, are anything but satisfactory, to my mind, as regards the lithographer's inscription compared with the name supposed to appear on the house in the left-hand corner. Mr. Atlee in his excellent notes on the United States Locals, declares the inscription at foot of No., III. (vol ix., p. 162), to be LITH. OF WAGNER AND MC GUIGAN, 100, CHESTNUT STREET, and at right-hand corner, J. SMITH. Now, it is a remarkable fact that this No. III. type is the only one of the three among the best class of reprints or imitations (a set of which has been in my collection for at least eight years) that has not this or a similar inscription. My No. III. has T. SINCLAIRS LITH. unmistakably clear, and no name whatever to the right. My Nos. I. and II. types have LITH AT (not *of* I think), WAGNERS (here about six letters indistinct), 100, CHESTNUT ST. (not *street*); and at right-hand corner SCHMITT, OR SCHMIDT; and I must say it is much more likely that a man with the German name of Wagner should have a workman named Schmidt, instead of plain J. Smith.

To increase my perplexity, the writer on the article, "Postage Stamps at Auction" (vol. x., p. 49), asserts that the name SINCLAIR (not Sinclairs) is plainly visible on the house above ITHOGRAPH. Now it is remarkable that on Nos. I. and II., which alone have the word ITHOGRAPH, and possibly, though too indistinct to identify, SINCLAIR also, should be signed WAGNER, while No. III., which is signed T. SINCLAIRS, is totally innocent of any inscription on the house.

Of course, writing as I do from reprints, or it may be worse, I labour under a great disadvantage in substantiating my assertions, and therefore they must be considered as mere suggestions rather than positive facts. However, I court inquiry, and ask for information.

*Clifton.* FENTONIA.

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

SUBSCRIBER, Birmingham.—The 10 c. Confederate States, of which a specimen was given in the October number, was issued in 1863.

A. R.—We are much obliged for your list of the portraits on the Argentine stamps, as also for communication of Swiss official post card.

E. H., Eton College.—The 81 and 108 paras Moldavia are priceless; an original 240 c. Montevideo is worth probably 30/-; the other stamps named by you vary in value from a shilling to sixpence. Are you sure your Moldavia and Montevideo are genuine?

MR. M. ISAACS, Newport, Mon., says, in reference to Mr. Killick's queries last month, that he has postmarked copies of the 7 sch. Hamburg imperf., the 2 anna green Indian, and the circular Moldavian. Is Mr. Isaacs quite sure that his circular Moldavian are genuine? Very few genuine copies of this issue are *known* to exist.

INCOGNITO.—1. The 5 c. adhesive Uruguay, with the letter *c* omitted from the word *centesimos*, is one of several known varieties.—2. On again examining the specimen of the lately-issued 9d. Victoria, whence we described the type, we find it is watermarked 10; we cannot explain our quoting the watermark as 9 otherwise than as a slip of the pen.

H. J. H., Newham.—We have no hesitation in pronouncing your 2 rls. blue P. S. N. Co., postmarked with concentric circles, to be a forgery.—1. Probably the 4d. and 5s. English will appear sooner or later with coloured corner letters on white ground.—2. The assumption by Napoleon III. of the victor's laurel crown followed on his successes against the Austrians in 1859.

A LONDON COLLECTOR.—We gladly accept your offer to communicate to us any information respecting newly-issued stamps, and tender you our best thanks for sending us the new Argentine values for inspection.—You speak of Hungarian cards which have been countermanded; is not this a clerical error? Do you refer to the *foreign* Roumanian post cards mentioned in the letter from you, which we publish?

CLAVERHOUSE sends us an impressed halfpenny stamp, cut from a supplement of the *Illustrated London News*, issued in 1851. It has the crown and heraldic flowers in a mantle, with ONE above and HALFPENNY below. On the left-hand side is the name of the journal, and on the right the word SUPPLEMENT. The impression is in red, and is interesting as in some sort the forerunner of the halfpenny stamp, although we fancy that in reality the supplement of the paper could not have been sent alone through the post.

END OF VOL. XI.