



SAPPHIRE

THE  
**P**HILATELIC **R**ECORD

AND

STAMP NEWS.

EDITED BY

*EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.*

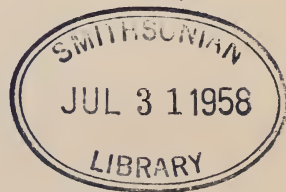
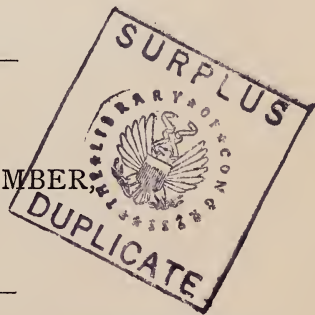
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## CONTENTS.

- A.  
Auctions, 28, 52, 83, 111, 160, 180, 200, 232.  
Australasian Postal Conference, 190.
- B.  
Beginners' Page, 25, 50, 81, 109, 177.  
Bolivian Postage Stamps, 206.  
Bolivian Stamps, How to Collect, 88, 115, 163, 184.  
British East Africa and Zanzibar, 39.  
Bundi, Stamps of, 36.
- C.  
Californian Locals, Some, 141.  
Cape "Emerald" Shilling, 8.  
Correspondence, 27, 159, 180, 256, 280.
- D.  
Departmentals, United States, 240.
- E.  
Editorial Notes, 1, 29, 53, 85, 113, 133, 161, 181, 202, 233, 257.  
Exhibition, International Philatelic, Manchester, 1899, 261.
- F.  
Fiscals, Postal, Indian, 215.
- H.  
Hayti, Stamps of, 63.  
How to Collect Bolivian Stamps, 88, 115, 163, 184.
- I.  
Illustration of Postage Stamps, 38.  
Imperial Penny Postage, 187.  
Indian Postal Fiscals, 215.  
Indian Postal System, 67.  
International Philatelic Exhibition, Manchester, 1899, 261.
- K.  
Kashmir, Stamps of, 142.
- M.  
Manchester, International Philatelic Exhibition, 1899, 261.
- N.  
Newfoundland Provisional 1 c., 9.  
New Zealand: New Issue, 137.  
Norway, Stamps of, 5, 32, 57.  
Novelties and Discoveries, 14, 41, 70, 95, 125, 147, 169, 191, 218, 246, 270.
- P.  
Penny Postage, Imperial, 187.  
Periodicals, First Issue United States, 112.  
Philatelic Gossip, 23, 49, 79, 106, 131, 157, 176, 197, 229, 254, 277.  
Philately in the Mags., 17, 43, 74, 100, 128, 150, 172, 195, 221, 249, 272.  
Postal Conference, Australasian, 190.  
Postal Fiscals, Indian, 215.  
Postal System, Indian, 67.  
Postmaster-General's Report, 1898, 312.
- R.  
Railway Fee Stamps, Status of, 35.  
Reviews, 13, 40, 69, 94, 217, 244.

## S.

- Sicily, Stamps of, 11.  
 Some Californian Locals, 141.  
 Status of Railway Fee Stamps, 35.  
 Stray Notes on Transvaals, 204, 238, 259.  
 Sydney Views : Collectible Varieties, 267.

## T.

- Tapling Collection, 65.  
 Tonga, Stamps of, 61, 91, 119, 208, 235.  
 Transvaals, Stray Notes on, 204, 238, 259.

## U.

- United States Departmentals, 240.  
 United States Postage Stamps, 167.

## Z.

- Zanzibar and British East Africa, 39.

## CONTRIBUTORS.

- Arthur H. Harrison, 5, 32, 57.  
 A. F. Basset Hull, 61, 91, 119, 208, 235.  
 Edward J. Nankivell, 9, 35, 137, 204, 238.  
 H. R. Oldfield, 88, 115.





# The Philatelic Record

AND STAMP NEWS.

JANUARY, 1898.

## Editorial Notes.



OUR arrangements for the coming year include the completion of Messrs. Harrison and Buckley's splendid articles on "The Stamps of Norway"; a further contribution on "The Stamps of Greece," from Mr. W. Dorning Beckton, dealing with the interesting Unpaid series; "The Stamps of Bolivia," by Mr. H. R. Oldfield; "Occasional Notes on English," by Mr. A. B. Creeke; "The Stamps of Australasia," by a well-known specialist; "The Colombian States," by Mr. T. W. Hall; "The Stamps of Gambia," by the Editor; "Stray Notes on Transvaals"; and a continuation of the editorial interviews with leading collectors, dealers, and auctioneers.

Our  
Programme  
for 1898.

Needless to say, we scarcely expect to get all this into one year's volume, but as it is all practically arranged for, we shall work it off as rapidly as possible. In this enumeration we have not included the many short articles which we shall publish, as before, from month to month.

In order to secure better printing, *The Philatelic Record* will in future be printed on antique paper, in old style. The heavy surfaced paper hitherto used in the *Record* was excellent for the printing of process blocks, but not for the type; special plates of stamps and portraits will be separately printed on plate paper.

A colonial collector, in mentioning *The Philatelic Record* in a colonial newspaper, gave its circulation as being 20,000 a month; it is not quite that, but we hope it will get into that neighbourhood some day. If our readers will each and all do their best to increase our circle of subscribers during the coming year, we can promise them that they will not regret it. Up to this time we have more than kept the promise of our programme. The difficulty experienced in getting such a journal out to time will, we trust, be got rid of entirely in the new year, for we are most anxious to secure the advantages that accrue from early publication.

\* \* \*

Two new issues of the month will stand out conspicuously for some time to come. Three Spanish colonies have a new type representing the young king as having emerged from babyhood into boyhood. The stamps bear the inscription "1898 y 99," thus indicating the intention to issue new types every two years in future.

The other notable new issue is much the more striking, for it gives us an up-to-date portrait of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales on one of a new series

of postage stamps in course of issue by the colony of Newfoundland. This is not the first time that this colony has placed a portrait of H.R.H. on its postage stamps. In 1866 the 10 cents contained a full-faced portrait of the Prince in military uniform, and three years later it adorned its 1 cent stamp with a portrait of the Prince as a boy. Strange to say, Newfoundland is the only British colony that has yet made use of a portrait of the Heir Apparent in this way.

\* \* \*

THE town of Dunedin, in New Zealand, is hankering after a free library, but has, so far, failed to "raise the wind," and now a happy idea has struck some of the citizens. Why not get the money out of Stamp flats by means of a Jubilee issue? There is no need to be thin-skinned in these days of jubilizing. Why should there be, when certain new issue dealers are able to assure the speculators that such rubbish "sells, and sells well"? Here is the precious calculation of how they hope to do it:—

	CREDIT P.O.	LIBRARY.
60,000 at ½d. sell at 6d.	£125 ...	£1375
60,000 at 1d. sell at 1s.	250 ...	2750
60,000 at 2d. sell at 2s.	500 ...	5500
60,000 at 2½d. sell at 2s. 6d.	625 ...	6875
	£1500	£16,500

This amount of £16,500, it is pointed out, would allow the Post Office to reimburse itself the cost of issue, and practically all the £1500 would be a gain to the postal revenue, "as it is very unlikely that any of these stamps would be used for letter-carrying purposes, but they would all be bought up as souvenirs of the occasion, and by collectors."

And so the game goes on, fostered and encouraged by those who find that this rubbish "sells, and sells well." Unless collectors bestir themselves, they will be flooded with bogus issues of all sorts. They have now the means of effectually boycotting all bogus issues. Let them back up the Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps by membership and by voice, till even the most innocent of beginners in stamp collecting will be able to protect himself from being made a sewer for the circulation of such refuse. The S.S.S.S. is now under the unrestricted control of eminent collectors, who will not hesitate to black-list all weeds, no matter whether they emanate from a British colony, or a poverty-stricken American state.

It is marvellous to us that stamp collectors allow themselves to be persuaded into buying jubilee trash. One would have thought that even the greatest simpleton would see through the advice to "collect what they like," and translate it into its real meaning, "collect what we sell, and sell well."

\* \* \*

THE *London Philatelist* publishes a letter from a well-known Dealer on the S.S.S.S., which we quote on another page. The name of the dealer is not given, but it is sufficiently apparent. He is one of those who broke away from the S.S.S.S. because he could not agree with certain condemnations, and, forsooth, the instances which he quotes as justifying his withdrawal are the Olympian Games issue and the Borneo surcharges on the dollar stamps. Now, though subsequent circumstances changed the Olympians from a temporary to a permanent series, there never was a more grossly speculative issue. The object of the issue was openly stated by the originators to be for the purpose of paying the expenses of the

inauguration of the Olympian Games; the stamps were to be limited in number, and in duration of issue, and the ordinary stamps were continued, thus proving up to the hilt that the Olympians were absolutely unnecessary for postal purposes. And yet this dealer boasts that *he* has been instrumental in exposing many bogus and unnecessary issues. Evidently in the eyes of some good folks in this matter it is a case of "Every man his own dictionary." It would be most interesting to have our friend's definition of a "bogus or unnecessary" issue. As to the Borneo surcharges, were they really so innocent of speculative intent?

Now that we have got to close quarters with at least one representative of those dealers who worried the poor secretary into a policy of masterly inactivity, let us have it out with him. Let us commune together. We have an unslaked thirst for good "copy," and a definition of a "bogus or unnecessary" issue by a dealer who objected to the S.S.S.S. condemnation of the Olympian issue at the time of its birth should be the *crème de la crème*. Says the spider to the fly, etc., walk into the parlour of our excellent contemporary, or into our equally open columns. Now, then, silence for this definition!

\* \* \*

CANADA wants to give us an object lesson in the direction of **British Empire Imperial Penny Postage**, for the Dominion is initiating a 1½d. Postage. British Empire postal rate on its own account. In a recent speech at Toronto, Mr. Patterson, Controller of Customs, on behalf of the Postmaster-General, who was unable to be present, said: "We have, and expect to have, closer and more intimate commercial relations with Great Britain under our tariff than ever before. You know that the Government have recognized the fact that, while now you can at the cost of 3 c. send a letter or communication weighing an ounce to any part of Canada, Newfoundland, or the United States, it costs 10 c. to send that weight of letter to Great Britain. Economies have been effected, while efficiency has been maintained and increased in our Post Office Department. Revenues have accrued under the Postmaster-General that have enabled him to give effect to the wishes of the Canadian Government, who want to do everything they fairly can to facilitate trade between Canada and Great Britain, and he tells me that the word has gone forth and been flashed across the Atlantic that, after January next, an ounce letter may be sent to every part of the British Empire, wherever the British flag floats, and 3 c. shall carry it."

Canada's proposal, however, has to be hung up for a while. A *Times* telegram from Ottawa announces that communications have been passing between Ottawa and Downing Street, and the result is the following official announcement: "It seems, with a view to securing the reduction of postage from Great Britain and other British possessions on mail matter to Canada, inexpedient to bring into force on January 1st next the intended reduction from 5 c. per ½ oz. to 3 c. per oz. on letters from Canada to Great Britain and the rest of the Empire. The Imperial authorities prefer that a conference be first held to secure a reciprocal reduction of postage both ways between Canada and the rest of the Empire, and which it is hoped will cover not only letters, but also papers and periodicals. The hearty acquiescence of the British and Colonial postal authorities in this larger question is looked for as the outcome of the discussions and negotiations, which will in all probability result in the establishment of a British Imperial preferential postal arrangement covering the whole field of postal communications."

\* \* \*



THE question of the pictorial illustration of postage stamps is still receiving its due meed of attention. Our friend of Saurkraut Postage Stamps. Alley naturally holds that a great deal too much has been written on this subject, and points to the fact that illustrated albums are still being published. Quite so; but they are, nevertheless, being published at the risk of penal proceedings. Our Saurkraut friend may, however, rely upon it that English publishers have no intention of effacing themselves for the benefit of "Ze Vaterland."

Here is a little evidence that we know how to attend to our own business. It is taken from a report of the proceedings of the recently held Annual Meeting of the Representative Council of the Typographical Association, at Manchester. At that meeting, "Mr. Hedge, on behalf of the Plymouth Branch, submitted the following:—

"That this R.C. views with dismay the recent prosecutions by the Post Office Department regarding the printing of illustrations of postage stamps, and hereby desires to advise a deputation to the Postmaster-General from the Typographical Association, the London Society of Compositors, the London Master Printers' Association (through Mr. Bowerman), and some important stamp dealer, and any others interested."

"Mr. Hedge explained that although British firms are being prevented by the Post Office authorities from producing *fac-similes* of stamps, German firms can introduce them into this country without any infringement of the law. The suppression of the trade in Plymouth alone would mean the displacement of at least twelve permanent hands. Sir E. Clarke had undertaken to introduce the deputation to the Postmaster-General, and to secure, if possible, the presence of a law officer of the Crown.

"Mr. Angel seconded the proposition, which was also supported by the Vice-Chairman and Mr. G. F. Jones, and unanimously agreed to."

We may add that one well-known English Stamp Journal is already having its illustrations "printed in Germany."

\* \* \*

**Index.** THE Index for the last volume will not be ready in time to send out with this January number, but will be included in our February number. It will be in the same elaborate style as last year, which has been so much appreciated.

\* \* \*

**Subscriptions.** SUBSCRIPTIONS for the new year are now due, and should be sent in as early as possible, in order to prevent disappointment in the making up of back numbers.





# The Stamps of Norway.

BY ARTHUR H. HARRISON,

*Hon. Sec. Manchester Philatelic Society*

(IN COLLABORATION WITH HUBERT BUCKLEY, CHRISTIANIA).

(Continued from page 316, Vol. 19.)

## Issue VI. January 1st, 1877.

Ten values. 1, 3, 5, 10, 12, 20, 25, 35, 50, and 60 ore.



PRINTED in Christiania by Petersen for a payment of 80 öre per 1000 in sheets of 100 in 10 rows of 10.

The design is almost the same as the previous issue, excepting that the word "POSTFRIM" is now on the lower left-hand portion of the oval band, and the value appears both in figures and letters on the right.

The paper is again wove, and varies considerably both in thickness and colour. It is to be found medium to very thick in some of the values (perhaps in all); in colour, yellowish (toned by the gum), greyish white, and white; sometimes of a soft nature, and again hard and glazed; and is water-marked exactly the same as the last issue, and again the watermark is to be found occupying many positions.

The size of the stamps is  $17 \times 20\frac{3}{4}$  mm. The perforation,  $14\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ , executed in a most regular manner.

The gum is yellowish or yellowish white.

The impressions of the first printings are rough, those of the later are clear. The printing at this time was done by two methods: firstly by the stereotype process from cast type, coated with an electro-deposition of copper, and later by the usual electrotype process. This being the case, it makes it almost a necessity for the specialist of the stamps of Norway to separate the two printings; they are easily to be distinguished by what one might term the coarse (or stereotype) impressions, and the clear or electrotyped. I am indebted, through Mr. Buckley, to Mr. Knudtsen (the printer of the present issues) for this information. And upon the same authority, in the case of the electrotypes, we have it that the small figures of value were engraved separately upon each stamp. Hence every stamp on the sheet differs in this way:—

### 1 ore, drab and bistre-grey.

In addition to the thickness of the texture of the paper varying, we find the following minor varieties:—

I. The whole design has in some specimens the appearance of having slipped during the process of printing.

II. The large figure "1" in the centre is broader by  $\frac{1}{4}$  mm. in some than in others (due to the unequal wearing of the plate).

III. The third stamp on the bottom row has a blotch of colour just above the serif of the large figure "1" in the centre.

IV. The little figure "1" before öre (all of which are different on the sheet), has in some cases the serif curved, in others quite straight, joining the main stroke at the top almost at right angles.

### 3 ore, orange.

Paper medium to thick; so far I have never found thin paper. There are three distinct shades, and I have found it to be the rule, the lighter the shade, the thicker the paper.

*Variety.* With a colon after "POSTFRIM" instead of full stop.

### 5 ore, shades of blue and ultramarine.

Paper varying from thin to thick. About as many shades of blue and ultramarine are to be found as can well be imagined.

Large quantities of this value being required, principally for inland postage, one can trace many printings. I think this value shows more clearly than any of the others the two primary modes of production—the coarse and the clear impressions (as I shall call them in future). The former shows plainly signs of the quickly-wearing plates, and the latter appear to me to have been retouched, or it may be a fresh plate was prepared. I understand printings were done, as required for use, about once each year. The stereotype process being proved unsatisfactory, the later issues were produced from plates made by the electrotype process.

To illustrate more clearly what is meant above, it is necessary to examine large blocks, or, if possible, *sheets* of the different modes of printings. So far I have not found the coarse impression in any other than the milky blue shades. The clear, too, seems to be always printed in blue or ultramarine. I have never found it in the milky shades. You will notice, in the first place, upon examining the two printings in blocks, that the size, shape, and position of the small "5" before "ore" vary in both, but that the variations of the coarse printing do not coincide with those of the clear. In the second place, the lines of shading of the background of the coarse impressions in many cases are uneven, and more often than not only 12 lines can be traced on the right-hand side, and also these lines do not quite join the design in the centre to the oval. Upon the fine impressions the 13 lines on the right are clean-cut and at even distances apart, and they connect the centre design to the oval. Lastly, the variety known as "without stop" (after "POSTFRIM") are neither in the same positions, nor do they occur in equal numbers on the two printings.

N.B.—I do not consider this of any great importance, as it stands to reason that the coarse impressions (for the reason before stated) will show the greater quantity.

Upon the coarse printing the specimens without stop are twelve in number, and upon the clear six. They occur in the following order:—

ON THE "COARSE."		ON THE "CLEAR."	
4th . . .	stamp on 4th row.	4th . . .	stamp on 1st row.
10th . . .	" " 6th "	3rd . . .	" " 4th "
1st, 7th, & 18th	" " 7th "	4th & 5th	" " 5th "
3rd & 4th . . .	" " 8th "	2nd . . .	" " 8th "
9th & 10th . . .	" " 9th "	3rd . . .	" " 10th "
4th, 7th, & 10th	" " 10th "		

I am of the opinion that this variety is due to the uneven wearing of the plate in the coarse or stereotyped printing, but not on the clear, the reason for which I shall give later when dealing with the following issue.

*Variety I.* Coarse impression. Postfrim, reading "POSTFRIM."

*Variety II.* Clear impression. Perforated across the stamp about 2 mm. from frame on right, consequently imperf. at sides.

**10 ore, dull rose (shades) carmine.**

The paper varies from thin (semi-transparent) to medium thick, and is in some cases quite white, and in others grey-white.

The two modes of production are again easily to be distinguished; the coarse impressions are more generally found on the grey paper.

The size of the small figure "10" before "ore" varies greatly, much as we find in the 5 ore value.

The shade varies greatly in the coarse impressions, and is found in a few cases in a shade approaching that of the 50 ore value.

The variety without stop is found in the coarse impressions, but as I have not been able to examine a sheet I cannot say how many times it may occur, or in what order. I have never seen the clear impression without stop. Specimens from the worn plate are often mistaken for, and are very similar to, the stamps of the next issue.

**12 ore, yellow-green, green (shades).**

This value calls for little comment. The curious "slipped" appearance (as in the 1 ore, bistre-grey) is often seen. The paper varies from very thin (semi-transparent) to medium thick.

**20 ore, yellow-brown, dull brown.**

The 20 ore is very similar to the 12 ore, the printing having great similarities, but the paper does not vary so greatly in thickness.

**25 ore, dull mauve, pale violet.**

The impressions found on this value are more or less blotted, and it will be noticed that the inscription and the figures are imprinted into the paper; also that the figures of the large "25" are slightly out of position.

**35 ore, blue-green (light to dark).**

The paper varies from very thin (semi-transparent) to medium. The impressions are often blotted. The 7th stamp on the second row has the "3" of the large "35" connected by a blotch of colour to the ring of the posthorn.

The variety without stop exists.

**50 ore, marone (shades).**

The paper is again semi-transparent to medium thick; the impressions are clean and finely executed, and, as we found on 25 ore value, imprinted into the paper.

*Variety.* Two rows of perforations across the top of the sheet.

**60 ore, deep blue.**

The paper does not vary to the same extent as in the previous values. The impressions are in a few cases blotted. On the 3rd stamp on the 2nd row the large figure "6" is out of shape, the right side of the lower loop is thick and elongated.

The variety no stop is said to exist (?).

(To be continued.)



## Cape "Emerald Shilling" Find.

BY MAJOR EVANS.

From "The Monthly Journal."



THE One Shilling triangular *emerald-green* of the Cape of Good Hope has always been a rather scarce stamp. Unused in mint condition, especially in unsevered pairs or blocks, they are decidedly difficult stamps to find; and this will be easily understood, when we remember that the stamps in this colour belong to the comparatively small supply of that value printed by Messrs. De La Rue and Co., and sent out in 1863, not long before the triangular stamps were superseded by the less striking but far more convenient rectangular. To this fact, and also no doubt to the fact that in those days the great majority of collectors were content with a single copy, and preferred that copy *obliterated*, we owe it that the *emerald-green* Shilling, in fine unused condition, has not come down to us in such abundance as we could wish.

One hundred and fifty-eight sheets is the total number stated in the London Society's *Africa* book to have been despatched to the Colony in January, 1863; this was the last lot of triangular Shillings that was supplied, and the only lot printed in *emerald-green*. It was, therefore, rather a shock to me when, a few days ago, a friend who had asked me to meet him, as he had something curious to show me, pulled a modest-looking roll out of his pocket, and carefully unwrapped one of these very 158 sheets, almost entire, lacking only two specimens out of the 240! It was a real find, having turned up in a mass of old papers, supposed to be of very little value, but containing a certain number of curiosities, amongst which this will certainly take the highest place.

The sheet is in excellent condition, perfectly clean, with original gum and margins, except where a single pair has been cut out, quite complete; and one can only wonder what led its original owner to stow away nearly £12 worth of stamps (face value) in this manner, for there can be little doubt that it has never before been in the hands of a stamp collector, and it would appear to have been accidentally preserved, as no other stamps of so early a date have yet been found in the pile.

The impression is not even in tint throughout, and it seems evident that either one end of the plate was somewhat worn, or that end was not so heavily inked as the other when this impression was printed, one end of the sheet being distinctly paler in shade, and showing a slight want of ink at some of the points where the corners of four stamps meet. The other part of the sheet is of a beautiful deep colour.

It is, of course, on the usual Anchor-watermarked paper, and as sheets of these triangular stamps are not often to be met with nowadays, I thought it of interest to take some notes of the dimensions of this one, and of the arrangement of the watermarks, &c. The arrangement of the stamps is well known; the sheet of each value contained 240 copies, in fifteen rows of eight pairs in each row. The watermarks are so placed that an Anchor should appear upon each stamp, with its stock pointing towards the top corner of the design. Surrounding the portion of the sheet intended to receive the impression of the plate, is a frame of five parallel lines in watermark, interrupted twice along each of the longer, and once in the centre of each of the shorter sides by the



word "POSTAGE" in outline capitals. The letters occupy the width of four of the lines, and the inner line is continuous all round the pane of Anchors.

The size of the pane of stamps, in the case I am describing, is  $263 \times 500$  mm., and of the sheet of paper (the watermarked frame extending quite to the edges)  $282 \times 536$  mm. From these particulars it will be seen that it would be quite impossible to put a sheet into the press *sideways*, which it is stated in the Society's *Africa* book is the cause of parts of two Anchors sometimes appearing at the bottom of a stamp, instead of one Anchor in the middle. This misplacement of the watermark is evidently due to the sheet being put into the press with the wrong side of the paper uppermost, which may frequently have taken place; in this case the diagonal space between the two stamps of each pair would fall along, or parallel to, the stocks of the two Anchors, instead of between the latter, and so a portion of each Anchor would come at the bottom of each stamp. We thus see that this paper, which had the advantage of having neither top nor bottom, but was always the right way up in one sense of the term, possessed the disadvantage of having a right and a wrong side.

Further examination of the sheet seems to show that the roller with which the plate was constructed probably bore two impressions of the original die, carefully placed with the bases of the triangles parallel to one another, as the diagonal spaces are very regular, whilst the horizontal and vertical spaces between the rows of pairs are not so; the former, that is the spaces between the rows of eight, vary from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 mm., and the latter, the spaces between the rows of fifteen, varying also, but not to so great an extent, and hardly in any part exceeding 2 mm.

All these little details may appear to be of minor importance, but it is as well to place information of this kind on record, as it is not always obtainable.

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## Newfoundland Provisional 1c.

By THE EDITOR.

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**F**OR the first time in its postal history, Newfoundland, in October last, had recourse to surcharging. All the 1 cent stamps of the Cabot issue, as well as the 1 cent, green, were exhausted. A new set of stamps had been ordered from the American Bank Note Company, but owing to some bungling they could not be ready in time.

For local purposes a hand ink-stamp was improvised; but the foreign mail matter could not be dealt with in that way, so a stamp had to be provided, and recourse was had to the stock of current 3 cent stamps, some 400 sheets of which were at once surcharged with the words "ONE CENT," in one line, between two horizontal bars. These bars are 18 mm. apart and  $1\frac{1}{4}$  mm. in width. The letters of the surcharge are, in Type I., 3 mm. from the lower bar; in Type II.,  $2\frac{3}{4}$  mm.; and in Type III.  $2\frac{1}{4}$  mm., judging by some 20 specimens that we have been able to measure.



When the stamps were first issued the sale was restricted to five to each applicant, but the applications became so numerous, and were repeated so often, that it was feared the issue would be exhausted before the 1 cent stamp arrived. The sale was, therefore, stopped altogether, and people having circulars or newspapers for abroad had to pay the postage in cash, and the stamps were affixed by the postal officials. Inland circulars and newspapers were franked

with the hand-stamp only, to prevent anyone posting large quantities of circulars, or open envelopes, to himself, with the sole object of getting the used stamps. In fact, everything seems to have been done to restrict the sale of these provisionals to their legitimate use, the issue being one of urgent necessity.

Four hundred sheets were surcharged. Each sheet consisted of 100 stamps, ten rows of ten stamps, and each sheet was divided in halves horizontally, and surcharged in half-sheets of 50, five rows of ten stamps. This was done to facilitate the printing, as the printer had not enough of one sort of type for sheets of 100 stamps, and even in setting up his types for 50 stamps he ran short, and had to make up the last row from other founts. The first eight stamps are of a very similar type, a little thinner and more open, and the last two stamps in the row are in sans serif letters. Thus there are three types or varieties. As shown in the following diagram, the first four rows are of Type I., the first eight stamps in the last row are of Type II., and the last two stamps, to complete the row, are of Type III.

I.	I.	I.	I.	I.	I.	I.	I.	I.	I.
I.	I.	I.	I.	I.	I.	I.	I.	I.	I.
I.	I.	I.	I.	I.	I.	I.	I.	I.	I.
I.	I.	I.	I.	I.	I.	I.	I.	I.	I.
II.	II.	II.	II.	II.	II.	II.	II.	III.	III.

The numbers of each type printed were, therefore, as follows :

Type I., 40 on each sheet	.	.	32,000
Type II., 8 on each sheet	.	.	6,400
Type III., 2 on each sheet	.	.	1,600
Total number printed	.	.	40,000

The following photo block shows the varieties of type :

<b>ONE CENT</b>	<b>ONE CENT</b>	<b>ONE CENT</b>
Type I.	Type II.	Type III.

There is a little puzzle connected with the surcharge which may interest the ingenious. The authorities imagine that they have introduced a peculiarity which will not be noticed by the average man, but which, being apparent to them, will safeguard the surcharge from forgery. Puzzle, what is the peculiarity?

We may add that there seem to be two distinct shades in the stamps surcharged, one a slate-grey and the other lilac-grey, the stock in hand evidently consisting of two printings. Presumably this surcharge exhausts the stock of the current 3 cent stamps. It will be seen from the announcement in our New Issues page that a supply of the new 1 cent stamp has been received. But the stock of the surcharged stamps had run very low.

For most of the information contained in this article we are indebted to Mr. Ohman and Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.

## Stamps of Sicily.

From the "American Journal of Philately."



HE excellent *Catalogue for Advanced Collectors*, which is being published in instalments by the Scott Stamp and Coin Co., is nearing completion. The December number of the *American Journal of Philately* brings the matter up to the letter U. As an interesting sample of the work done we quote the following description of the stamps of Sicily:—

"JANUARY 1, 1859.

"Typographed (portrait of King Ferdinand II.) on white wove paper; all the values are alike, having been made from one original die, the inscription in the lower label alone having been changed for each value. There are several plates of each of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 1, 2, and 5 grana, but only one of each of the 10, 20, and 50 grana.

" $\frac{1}{2}$  Grano.

"PLATE I.—This plate is formed of one hundred stamps in four blocks of twenty-five, in five rows of five stamps each, separated one from another by vertical and horizontal lines, and spaced horizontally 2 mm. and vertically  $2\frac{1}{2}$  mm.; the stamps from the left-hand blocks have the upper right corner broken and show two white spots below the nose; those of the right-hand blocks have a white spot between the nose and the frame.

"PLATE II.—This plate is also composed of one hundred stamps, but arranged in ten horizontal rows of ten stamps each, also separated by horizontal and vertical lines, but the spacing between the stamps is only  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mm. all round. The stamps of Plate II. do not show the spots which are found on those of Plate I.

"1 Grano.

"PLATE I.—This plate is formed in the same manner as Plate I. of the  $\frac{1}{2}$  grano. The stamps are spaced horizontally 2 mm.

"PLATE II.—This plate is the same as Plate I., but the horizontal spacing is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mm.

"PLATE III.—This plate is constructed in the same way as Plate II. of the  $\frac{1}{2}$  grana; the spacing is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mm. all round, and the stamps are better printed than those of Plates I. and II. The stamps of Plate III. come only in the greyish green shade.

"2 Grana.

"PLATE I.—Same arrangement as Plate I. of the  $\frac{1}{2}$  and 1 grano. The stamps of the upper left block show two white dots in the ground near the nose; on those of the upper right block there is a white spot on the nose; on the stamps of the two lower blocks there is a small white dot in the ground near the eyebrow. The spacing is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mm. vertically and 2 mm. horizontally.

"PLATE II.—This plate is arranged in the same manner as Plate I., except that the lower left-hand group has been replaced by a reproduction of the upper right one.

"PLATE III.—This plate is composed of one hundred stamps in ten horizontal rows of ten stamps each. The spacing is the same as in Plates I. and II. On all the stamps of this plate, except those of the top row, there are two small white dots—one at back of the ear, and the other against the neck—about 2 mm. from one another.

### "5 Grana.

"PLATE I.—This plate is formed of one hundred stamps in four blocks of twenty-five stamps, as Plate I. of the lower values. The spacing between the stamps is  $1\frac{3}{4}$  mm. horizontally and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mm. vertically. In the two upper and the lower left groups the stamps have a white dot on the nose, and the upper left corner is broken; on the stamps of the lower right group there are two white dots below the right foot of the 'A' of 'DELLA.'

"PLATE II.—This plate is made up of ten horizontal rows of ten stamps each. The spacing is the same as on Plate I., but the impression is better.

"Many of the stamps of the first plates of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 1, 2, and 5 grana show signs of having been partly retouched; this is also the case with a few stamps of the 10 grana plate, and one each on the 20 and 50 grana plates.

34. $\frac{1}{2}$ gr., orange; Plate I.	48. 2 gr., pale blue; Plate I.
35. $\frac{1}{2}$ gr., orange; Plate II.	49. 2 gr., pale blue; Plate II.
36. $\frac{1}{2}$ gr., yellow-orange; Plate I.	50. 2 gr., pale blue; Plate III.
37. $\frac{1}{2}$ gr., yellow-orange; Plate II.	51. 5 gr., carmine; Plate I.
38. 1 gr., brown-olive; Plate I.	52. 5 gr., brick-red; Plate I.
39. 1 gr., olive; Plate I.	53. 5 gr., vermilion; Plate I.
40. 1 gr., olive; Plate II.	54. 5 gr., vermilion; Plate II.
41. 1 gr., greyish green; Plate II.	55. 5 gr., pale vermilion; Plate I.
42. 1 gr., greyish green; Plate III.	56. 5 gr., deep vermilion; Plate II.
43. 2 gr., blue; Plate I.	57. 10 gr., indigo-blue.
44. 2 gr., blue; Plate II.	58. 20 gr., blackish violet.
45. 2 gr., blue; Plate III.	59. 50 gr., red-brown.
46. 2 gr., deep blue; Plate I.	60. 50 gr., dark brick-red.
47. 2 gr., deep blue; Plate II.	

#### *Varieties:*

(a) Error, printed in blue.

61.  $\frac{1}{2}$  gr., blue; Plate II.

(b) Impression in pale blue on reverse.

62. 2 gr., blue; Plate I. or II.

(c) '120' instead of '20,' result of retouching.

63. 120 gr., blackish violet."







## Scott's Catalogue, 1898.

*Scott's Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue, giving the date of issue, colour, shape, and value of every postage stamp that has ever been issued by any Government in the world, with illustrations of nearly every stamp, and giving the prices at which most of them can be purchased—used or unused—of the Scott Stamp and Coin Co., Ltd. Fifty-eighth Edition, 1897-98. Thoroughly revised and corrected, and fully brought up to the day of going to press. New York: The Scott Stamp and Coin Co., Ltd. 579 pp. 6½ × 4½ in. Price 50 cents.*

SCOTT'S 1898 Catalogue marks, in many respects, a decided advance on all previous editions. Excellent explanatory footnotes have been added where needed to help the collector to distinguish between forgeries and genuine specimens, and between reprints and originals, and there are other tit-bits of information to assist the puzzled collector; but such a footnote as "There are nine types fully described in the catalogue for advanced collectors" is apt to be a little exasperating. Numbers of minor varieties are excellently condensed into small type in summary form, and these are mostly left unpriced. This treatment renders the Transvaal list by far the simplest and yet most comprehensive list published. The note that none of the first German printings were ever in use is incorrect, and the die which illustrates the first issue is that of the well-known forgery most laboriously particularised on the next page. No. 104, surcharged "Een Penny," should be the first stamp of the second Republic, instead of the last stamp of the British occupation. In the matter of wide roulettes (6½) there are many omissions. The up-to-datedness of the Catalogue is shown in the inclusion of the recently-issued Sierra Leone provisionals, but three types instead of four are listed and illustrated. The omitted type is that with a straight instead of a curly foot to the figure "2" in the fraction of "2½." We do not find the well-known variety of "Halfpenny" on 1½d. inverted surcharge included, nor the minor variety "PFNNV." It is a pity the mere suggestion that "British South Africa" should in future be placed under the head of "Rhodesia" has been seriously acted upon. Whilst the country is officially known as British South Africa, and is so described upon the stamps themselves, there is no excuse for introducing such confusion as "Rhodesia" into a stamp catalogue.

Amongst the improved lists is that of Chili, which now includes illustrations and particulars of the watermarks of the interesting first issue, and the further division of local and London impressions; but our friends preserve an ominous reticence as to the 5 c. on laid paper, and perhaps it is as well until even the eminent doubters are fully convinced, as they must be some day, for specimens are now known in more than one collection, unused as well as used.

Re-engraved varieties are an increasing element of latter-day specialising. Keen eyes are detecting retouched or re-engraved dies in all directions. Scott particularises and illustrates a re-engraving of the 1882 Issue of Cuba; but does not the re-engraving extend to the stamps of the mother country?

In the matter of prices there are few, if any, surprises, such as marked the previous edition, and it is well that there should be a little rest from inflation, for inflation is apt to be contagious and harmful.



## British Empire.

**Barbados.**—Our publishers and Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us specimens of the Jubilee issue made by this Colony. As we understand that the stamps are to be on unrestricted sale for at least twelve months they will of course be recognized as an ordinary postal issue. We hope to illustrate the design next month. Meanwhile we may say that they are about the size of an English 5s. stamp, are watermarked Crown and CC and perf. 14, and that the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., and  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. values conform to the recent resolution of the Postal Union Congress, fixing uniform colours for those values; and it will be observed they are not bi-coloured like the other values.

### Adhesives.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d.,	grey, value in	carmine.
$\frac{1}{2}$ d.,	green.	
1d.,	rose.	
$2\frac{1}{2}$ d.,	blue.	
5d.,	olive, value in	brown.
6d.,	mauve	„ carmine.
8d.,	orange	„ ultramarine.
10d.,	blue-green	„ carmine.
2s. 6d.,	blue-black	„ orange.

**Bechuanaland Protectorate.**—The *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung* chronicles the current issues of Great Britain surcharged “Bechuanaland Protectorate” in large sans serif type in black, similar to Gibbons’ type No. 13 for British Bechuanaland.

### Adhesives.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d.,	vermillion.
1d.,	lilac.
2d.,	green and red.
4d.,	brown and green.
6d.,	brown on red.

**British East Africa.**—The *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung* has received the 1 r., 2 r., 3 r., 4 r., and 5 r., and also new values of 10 r., 20 r., and 50 r., of same design as before, but in a larger size, viz.,  $30 \times 25\frac{1}{2}$  mm. Wmk. Crown and CA, perf. 14.

### Adhesives.

1 r.,	ultramarine.
2 r.,	yellow-brown.
3 r.,	dark violet.
4 r.,	carmine.
5 r.,	black-brown.
10 r.,	yellow-brown.
20 r.,	yellow-green.
50 r.,	lilac.

**Gambia.**—Currency is now given to a report that the new series of stamps of the current Colonial type “have begun to arrive” in this Colony. Since the report of the dis-

placement of the pretty embossed series was first started with the announcement that the stock of embossed stamps had run so low that the postmaster was obliged to dole them out very carefully, dealers in this country have had further supplies of the embossed stamps, with varieties of shade, clearly indicating that the Colony received a further supply of embossed instead of the anticipated bi-coloured current Colonial type. The 3d. and 6d. are distinctly of paler shades.

**Great Britain.**—Mr. Walter Morley informs us that the control letter of the 1d. Army Official is now “V.”

**Newfoundland.**—This Colony has commenced the issue of a permanent series of new designs. We have received the 1 c. and 2 c. The stamps are the same size as the current 3 c. The 1 c. has a large portrait of the Queen in widow’s weeds in a circle. In a curved label above are the words “Postage one cent.” In a straight label above is the word “Newfoundland,” with large figures of value in each corner of the stamp. The 2 c. is the novelty of the series, for it contains a reproduction of a recent portrait of the Prince of Wales. The designing and engraving are the work of the American Bank Note Co., which now advertises its work by placing its name at the foot of every stamp. The 1 c. is printed in lake and the 2 c. in orange, neither of which colours conforms to the Postal Union arrangement, and will therefore have to be changed on or before January, 1899. Paper, stout wove; wmk., none; perf. 12.

We have elsewhere described the varieties of types in the “one cent” on 3 c.

### Adhesives.

1 c.,	lake.
2 c.,	orange.

**New Zealand.**—Mr. L. A. Sanderson writes to the *Australian Philatelist*: “Re new issue of New Zealand stamps. Through the courtesy of the Government Printer, I have been able to see proofs of the  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 5d. stamps, the first of a series to be issued shortly, probably about the end of the year. The dies are being prepared by Messrs. Waterlow and Sons, London:

$2\frac{1}{2}$ d., blue, view of Mount Earnslaw and Lake Wakatipu.  
5d., purple, view of Mount Ruapehu and Otiro Gorge.”



**Sierra Leone.**—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the 6d. value in the new type, but not bi-coloured. Wmk. Cr. CA, perf. 14.

*Adhesive.*  
6d., lilac.

**St. Vincent.** — *Le Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste* is answerable for the report that the two new stamps recently chronicled by us will be short-lived, as it is said to be the intention to replace the entire present set by a new one of the regular Colonial type.

**Victoria.**—We illustrate the 1½d. value chronicled by us last month.



## Foreign Countries.

**China.**—It is stated that the stamps of the new design do not give entire satisfaction, and as a result a new supply has been ordered from Messrs. Waterlow & Sons, London, of improved design and better engraving. As soon as this supply is received all that remain unsold of the Japanese printing will be called in and destroyed.

We illustrate the new designs recently chronicled by us. The 30 c. and 50 c. are of the same design as the 20 c. in our illustrations.



Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a specimen of the 50 c. in a very dark green, as dark as the 10 c., and inform us that their

correspondent writes them, "These were issued without people noticing the difference for several days, when they were all bought up, mostly by agents for dealers. There were only 240 so printed in error." The same correspondent adds, "The surcharged stamps are all called in and will be destroyed."

**Corea.**—According to the *Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste*, Corea will shortly enter the Postal Union, and presumably make a fresh issue of postage stamps.

**Fernando Po.**—We have received from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. a curious surcharge of 5 cents on the 6 c. The surcharge, in red, is within an oval ring, and consists of a large figure "5" and the word "Cent" curved below it.

*Adhesive.*

5 c., in red, on 6 c., plum.

**France.**—*Somali Coast.*—The *Nederlandsch Tijdschrift* says Djibouti and Obock have been merged into one Colony for postal purposes, and a new series issued in the current Colonial type under the name of "Côte Française des Somalis."

*Adhesives.*

- 1 c., black on blue; name in red.
- 2 c., brown " blue.
- 4 c., violet-brown " "
- 5 c., green " red.
- 10 c., black on lilac " blue.
- 15 c., blue " red.
- 20 c., bistre on green " blue.
- 25 c., black on rose " red.
- 30 c., brown " blue.
- 40 c., vermilion " "
- 50 c., carmine " "
- 75 c., black on orange " red.
- 1 fr., olive green " "

**Germany.**—*China.*—Already the *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung* is able to announce current German stamps surcharged "China." Other surcharges will no doubt follow after the German armada arrives. The surcharge is a diagonal one.

*Adhesives.*

- 3 pf., brown.
- 5 pf., green.
- 10 pf., rose.
- 20 pf., blue.
- 25 pf., orange.
- 50 pf., brown.

*Post Cards.*

- 5 pf., green.
- 5+5 pf., green.
- 10 pf., rose.
- 10+10 pf., rose.

**Greece.**—*Le Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste* says some of the values of the Olympian series are beginning to run out, and that the 1 l., 5 l., 10 l., and 20 l., have already been replaced by printings of the previous issue. A new issue is being prepared, and was expected to be ready for issue on the first of January, 1898. The colours are all changed in the new series, and a 3 dr. is added as a new value, but the 10 dr. of the Olympians is discontinued. The type up to the 2 dr. is the head of Mercury, and for the 3 dr. and 5 dr. a figure of Mercury with wings.

<i>Adhesives.</i>	
1 l., brown.	40 l., orange.
2 l., green.	60 l., red-brown.
5 l., bistre.	1 dr., grey.
10 l., blue.	2 dr., bright rose.
20 l., brown-violet.	3 dr., rose.
25 l., carmine.	5 dr., yellow.

**Japan.**—The *American Journal of Philately* chronicles the 2 sen, with syllabic character 23, on *laid paper*—a variety hitherto unknown.

*Adhesive.*  
2 sen, yellow; syllabic character 23. *Laid paper.*

**Mozambique.**—The *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung* chronicles the 300 reis of the 1894 type surcharged "50 reis," in black, in two lines, and says it is reported that only 1000 were issued.

*Adhesive.* 50 reis on 300 reis, blue on salmon.

**Peru.**—Messrs. Williams & Co., Lima, inform us that the 20 c. Unpaid stamp of the 1874 is now in use surcharged "Deficit," as on the 5 c. and 10 c. issued last August. The 1 c. Unpaid, 1879 type, is also being prepared with this surcharge. They also state that less than 30,000 of the 1 c. Unpaid, 1879 type, surcharged "Franqueo," were placed on sale on Nov. 6th for ordinary use during that month, the supply of 1 c. 1896 issue being exhausted. Our correspondents have been favoured with a view of the new 1 c., 2 c., and 5 c., which were to be placed on sale on Dec. 1st., and they state on official authority that this new issue is not intended as a commemorative issue.

**Roumania.**—The *Monthly Journal* says the 25 bani of the current type is now perforated 11½ instead of 13½.

*Adhesive.* 25 b., violet; *perf.* 11½.

**Russia.**—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. inform us that there is to be a complete new issue for this country early this year. The values will be the same as the existing set, with the addition of a new one of 6 kopecks.

**Spain.**—*Cuba.*—The *Timbres-Poste* announces a new issue for this Colony. The baby face gives place to that of the boy king.



The stamps bear the inscription "CORREOS—TELEGRAFOS," thus doing away with separate stamps for postal and telegraphic purposes. The stamps are also inscribed "1898 y 99," which presumably means that the stamps will in future be changed every two years.

*Adhesives.*

1 mil., pale brown.	6 c., blue.
2 mil. "	8 c., dark chestnut.
3 mil. "	10 c., vermilion.
4 mil. "	15 c., olive-green.
5 mil. "	20 c., carmine.
1 c., deep violet.	40 c., violet.
2 c., blue-green.	60 c., black.
3 c., blue-black.	80 c., chocolate.
4 c., orange.	1 p., light green.
5 c., rose.	2 p., blue-black.

**Philippines.**—A similar set has been issued for this Colony.



**Porto Rico.**—A similar set has also been issued for this Colony.

**United States.**—The *American Journal of Philately* chronicles some remarkable discoveries in United States stamps. First and foremost comes a pair of the 1847 issue, 5 c. and 10 c., with full original gum, on distinctly *laid paper*. To these it adds the 3 c. of 1867 with full grille imperforate, as well as the 3 c. with grille 13 x 16, in the same condition.

*Adhesives.*

1847 Issue.	
5 c., brown.	<i>Laid paper.</i>
10 c., black	" "
1867 Issue.	
3 c., rose, imperf.	<i>Embossing covering entire stamp.</i>
3 c., rose, imperf.	<i>Embossing 13 x 16 mm.</i>

## Our Monthly Packets of New Issues.

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

No. 2, price Five Shillings (postage extra).  
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The subscription to the paper (5s. per annum) is extra.—BUHL & Co., Limited, 11, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.





## Grenada, 1883, Provisionals.

THE *London Philatelist* includes in its November number some interesting "Remarks on the Stamps of Grenada," read before the Philatelic Society of London, in May of last year, by Dr. Stanley Taylor. After advocating a more extended subdivision of the Star Series, Dr. Taylor deals very fully with minor varieties of the surcharged provisionals. We quote in full his elaboration of the 1883 provisionals:—

"In January, 1883, the yellow fiscal, water-marked Small Star *upright*, with a Crown and 'One Penny' printed in green, was surcharged 'POSTAGE,' and used as a penny stamp; this surcharge was firstly (?) written across the stamp. Of the four written surcharges that I have seen (three of which I possess, the fourth being in the possession of Baron A. de Reuterskiöld) 'POSTAGE' reads from S.W. to N.E.; Mr. Bacon catalogues one reading from N.W. to S.E.

"The word 'POSTAGE' was then printed in Roman capitals,  $3\frac{3}{4}$  mm. in height, across the stamp. To form the '½d.' this word was printed twice diagonally across the stamp, reading the same way on both halves, from S.W. to N.E.

"As, I suppose, 'POSTAGE' in letters  $3\frac{3}{4}$  mm. high took up too much space, the word was printed in smaller letters,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  mm. in height, generally from S.W. to N.E., though I have one lower half on which the letters read from S.E. to N.W. In this type the surcharge is always inverted on the lower half.

"The words 'One Penny' vary in length. Mr. Bacon gives two lengths,  $9\frac{1}{2}$  and  $10\frac{1}{2}$  mm., measuring, I presume, the bottom of the surcharge, and he distinguishes one from the other by the 'O' of 'One' and 'P' of 'Penny,' in the  $10\frac{1}{2}$  mm. measurement, being taller than the other letters. Messrs. Stanley Gibbons give three lengths, 10,  $10\frac{1}{2}$ , and 11 mm., measuring, I presume, the top of the surcharge. I cannot agree with either of these lists. Although I have learnt a very great deal from the admirable manner in which Messrs. Stanley Gibbons' books are kept, I cannot accept their 11 mm. measurement. All their specimens I have seen have 'O' of 'One' and 'P' of 'Penny' high; and I have found that the  $10\frac{1}{2}$  mm. of their measurement (Mr. Bacon's  $10\frac{1}{2}$  mm.) varies somewhat from a small  $10\frac{3}{4}$  mm. to a good 11 mm., mainly owing, I think, to the thickness of printing. When we begin to discuss the differences of  $\frac{1}{4}$  mm., one has

not much to go upon; nevertheless, I have found three distinct variations of length. Measuring the bottom of the surcharge, I have found  $9\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $10\frac{1}{2}$ , and  $10\frac{3}{4}$  mm. My  $9\frac{1}{2}$  and  $10\frac{1}{2}$  mm. are distinguished from one another just in the same way as Mr. Bacon's and Messrs. Stanley Gibbons' measurement, by the 'O' of 'One' and 'P' of 'Penny' being taller than the other letters; but my  $10\frac{3}{4}$  mm. measurement is altogether another stamp, the letters are always even, and the measurement of the surcharge 'One Penny' is never less than  $10\frac{3}{4}$  mm., and varies even up to 11 mm.

"Calling the measurement  $9\frac{1}{2}$  mm. A,  $10\frac{1}{2}$  mm. B, and  $10\frac{3}{4}$  mm. C, and the word 'POSTAGE' measuring  $3\frac{3}{4}$  mm. in height Type I., and the word 'POSTAGE' measuring  $2\frac{1}{2}$  mm. in height Type II., my synopsis of these surcharges is:—

"I. The word 'Postage' *written* across the stamp with pen and ink.

"A. The words 'One Penny' measure  $9\frac{1}{2}$  mm.

"The word 'Postage' written across the stamp with pen and black or red ink.

"C. The words 'One Penny' measure  $10\frac{3}{4}$  mm.

"II. With surcharge  $3\frac{3}{4}$  mm. in height (Type I.).

"A. The words 'One Penny' measure  $9\frac{1}{2}$  mm.

"½d. black surcharge on the two halves of id., green on orange.

"id. black surcharge on id., green on orange.

"B. The words 'One Penny' measure  $10\frac{1}{2}$  mm., and the letters 'O' of 'One' and 'P' of 'Penny' taller.

"½d. black surcharge on the two halves of id., green on orange.

"id. black surcharge on id., green on orange.

"C. The words 'One Penny' measure  $10\frac{3}{4}$  mm.

"id. black surcharge on id., green on orange.

"III. With surcharge  $2\frac{1}{2}$  mm. in height (Type III.).

"A. The words 'One Penny' measure  $9\frac{1}{2}$  mm.

"½d. black surcharge on the two halves of id., green on orange.

"B. The words 'One Penny' measure  $10\frac{1}{2}$  mm., and the letters 'O' of 'One' and 'P' of 'Penny' taller.

" $\frac{1}{2}$ d.' black surcharge on the two halves of id., green on orange.

"C. The words 'One Penny' measure  $10\frac{3}{4}$  mm.

" $\frac{1}{2}$ d.' black surcharge on the two halves of id., green on orange.

"I possess specimens of all these types, except the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. of III. B, which is in Baron A. de Reuterskiöld's collection.

"The word 'POSTAGE' is usually very evenly printed, but I possess a specimen where 'TAGG' is printed lower than the other letters; and the whole word is sometimes doubly printed."

### A Dealer on the S.S.S.S.

At last we are getting a peep behind the scenes. The *London Philatelist* publishes some remarks from one of those Dealers who withdrew from the S.S.S.S., because he could not agree with the condemnations published by the Society. Says he:—

"With regard to Jubilee Issues generally, if the occasion is a national one of sufficient importance, there will always be a demand for the stamps in the country of issue by non-Philatelists, and I don't think the S.S.S.S. can stop them, though they may be able to restrict the sale in this country. Then you have the vast army of unattached collectors who belong to no society, and perhaps take in no Philatelic papers; many of these will buy the Jubilee Issues if the dealers will import them. I hope the S.S.S.S. will not condemn any issues without satisfactory proof of their speculative nature.

"I have been instrumental in exposing many bogus and unnecessary issues—a reference to the Circulars issued by the S.S.S.S. proves this—and I would co-operate with the new Society to put down rubbish; but I broke off from the old one because they were drifting into condemning legitimate issues, for which there was a great demand (I refer especially to the Greek Olympian Games), and I did not consider that I could consistently remain a member and sell the tabooed stamps at the same time, though I know of more than one member who did."

In justice to our friend, we quote also the following:—

"Quite recently I exposed a shady speculation of the 36 c. on 45 c. Seychelles, and when I have direct evidence, not hearsay or guesswork, of anything of that kind, I shall not hesitate to make it public for the benefit of Philately. I have had several letters from Rhodesia, offering to send me the Railway Stamps when issued, but I don't intend to deal in them, nor in any of the Australian 'disease' stamps. Of the Leeward Islands 'Sexagenary' Stamps I only imported four sets, one for my collection (I take everything

—good and bad) and three to oblige customers. I have been offered nearly all the Morocco locals at discounts varying from 10 to 25 per cent. under face for quantities, but I only sell those of Tangier-Fez and Mazagan-Marrakesh, which I believe to be the only thoroughly legitimate ones in Morocco. I only mention this to show you that I am as much against really speculative issues as you can be, but a dealer who has agents and correspondents on the spot is better able to discriminate than those whose business consists entirely in buying or selling collections."

All this goes to show that, after all, at bottom, we are most of us convinced that it is absolutely necessary to boycott rubbish. But we are still groping about in the dark for such a definition of what is "speculative or unnecessary" as will secure the co-operation of all new issue dealers. Shall we offer a rare orchid for such a definition?

### Australian "Disease" Stamps.

ALREADY we hear a slump has set in on the "Disease" stamps. They were among the stamps that "sell and sell well," but already they are on their way to the rubbish heap, and some speculators will have burnt their fingers over them, and serve them right. But the unkindest cut of all comes from the publisher of the *Australian Philatelist*, who says he purposely omitted the N.S.W. "Charity" stamps from his new issue list, and does not intend according a place therein to the Victorian issue, as they are in neither case "necessary" postal issues.

### St. Helena Remainders.

THE *Monthly Circular* is informed that all the St. Helena stamps previous to the present issue have been sent to the Crown Agents in London to be sold, and learns from the Governor's recently issued report that "the waterworks scheme, now ripe for execution, at a cost of about £2400, can be most legitimately defrayed from the sale of obsolete postage stamps, which have recently been sent to Britain to the value of £8447."

### Mecklenburg-Schwerin :

1-4th Sch.

THE following reply to a correspondent in the *Monthly Circular* will be of interest to those who are now doing Europeans:—

"Both the Mecklenburg-Schwerin stamps are catalogued as 4-4th schilling, but this is not quite correct. The 1856 stamp should be 1-4th schilling, each little stamp being perfect in itself and printed at an equal distance from its neighbours. It is not so, however, with the rouletted stamp of 1864, in which the impressions were re-arranged, the small stamps being in blocks of 4, the rouletting making each block a single stamp."



## Fiji Shades.

THE current issue appears to be yielding some interesting shades. Mr. F. J. Barnett, Suava, Fiji, writes to the *Australian Philatelist* as follows:—

“On the 5th inst. the Post Offices were supplied with a fresh supply of the 2d., green, of current issue. The new lot are in quite a distinct shade, being a bright emerald-green, which shows up the design of the stamp much better than the yellowish green of former lots. The paper is slightly thicker, and contains the same errors in watermark as the 1d. value, some of the sheets bearing a trade watermark. The Government here does not appear to pay very much attention to the execution of its orders for stamps, when the printer is allowed to print on what paper he likes; and it does not reflect much credit on John Sands, of Sydney, who, it is understood, is the contractor for executing the stamps for the Fijian Government. The sheets should either have a regular watermark or be plain, as it is intended they should be.”

Commenting on this, the Editor of the *A.P.* says:—

“The stamps of Fiji have always been printed at the Government Printing Office, Sydney. As the best suitable paper is used, and the Fijian Government have not adopted any specific watermark, the appearance of the maker's name or trademark is unavoidable.”

## Early Postmarks of Queensland.

MANY specialists who collect used as well as unused make a special study of the early postmarks. In this direction many Australian stamps are full of interest, but a special interest attaches to the early postmarks of Queensland on New South Wales stamps. The why and wherefore is explained by a correspondent in the *Australian Philatelist*. Says he:—

“Sufficient quantities of the current issue of New South Wales postage stamps were purchased to last until the arrival of a permanent Queensland issue. These were distributed amongst the various Post Offices, and sold for prepayment of letter postage, and when preserved (on the fourth page of the letter to which they were originally attached) rank as Queensland stamps.

“Quite recently, through the courtesy of a friend, I was privileged to scan over a dozen of these letters, all prepaid with the stamps of New South Wales, in one case a beautiful strip of the 1d., vermilion, of course imperforate.

“The tale of the date stamp is writ large on these letters, three of them, posted in February, 1860, are cancelled with a date stamp bearing the legend ‘BRISBANE N.S.W.’ Unfortunately I was unable to see any with March or April dates, but the next in order of date was received on 4th May, and is

cancelled with a stamp lettered ‘BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND.’ During the twelve months immediately following separation, the postal officials at Ipswich (Feb. 3–Nov. 12), Drayton (July 26, 1860–Jan. 3, 1861), Dalby (Jan. 31, 1860–Jan. 3, 1861), Condamine (Jan. 26–Dec. 31, 1860), and Taroom (Dec. 24, 1860) continued to cancel the correspondence passing through their offices with the date stamps in use prior to separation.

“The dates within brackets are those of the first and last impressions on the letters in my friend's album.

“Now, the explanation is, probably, that Brisbane, as the head office, had to stamp all correspondence inwards and outwards, and this, in the opinion of the authorities, was sufficient to warrant the sending to Sydney for a stamp specially made, a list being afterwards made of all the remaining stations and one forwarded for them all, which was probably completed and delivered some time in 1861.”

Here we have the old question of the nationality of the diverted stamp. Our friend may rank his postmarked specimens as Queensland stamps, but we fear it will be weary waiting to find them catalogued as the first issue of Queensland. They are undoubtedly most interesting curiosities, and as such only will be prized by the specialist.

## Leeward Revenue Stamps.

MESSRS. STANLEY GIBBONS LIMITED, having been invited to tender for the unused stock of the Leeward Islands Revenue Stamps, have secured the entire parcel, and in the *Monthly Journal* for November they set out in detail as follows the exact number of stamps in the parcel:—

“List of stamps bought by Stanley Gibbons Limited, through the Colonial Office, from the Crown Agents for the Colonies, Oct., 1897.

Nevis, 1d., lilac, surcharged ‘REVENUE,’ in black, and St. Christopher in mauve . . .	16
Nevis, 4d., lithograph, ‘REVENUE,’ in black . . .	364
do. 4d., blue, ‘REVENUE’ only . . .	1,256
do. 4d., blue, with St. Christopher printed in black . . .	656
do. 1s., mauve, with St. Christopher printed in black . . .	471
do. 6d., green, Revenue only . . .	2,936
do. as last, with St. Christopher in mauve . . .	236
St. Kitt's, Revenue, 3d., purple . . .	3,774
do. 1s., olive-green . . .	14,188
do. 6d., red-brown . . .	4,406
do. 1d., carmine . . .	27,383
do. 5s., yellow-ochre . . .	1,892
Montserrat, Revenue, 1d., violet . . .	56
do. do. 1d., large size, carmine . . .	596
Dominica, perf. 14, overprinted ‘Revenue,’ 1d., violet . . .	10,511
Dominica, 6d., green . . .	9,786
do., 1s., lake . . .	1,402
Antigua, long rectangular, 2d., blue . . .	16,851
do. do. 3d., blue . . .	2,898
do. do. 4d., blue . . .	16,137
do. do. 6d., blue . . .	4,197
do. 1s., red and blue, long rectangular . . .	2,580
do. 2s. ” ” ” ” ” ” . . .	7,522
do. 3s. ” ” ” ” ” ” . . .	5,000
do. 4s. ” ” ” ” ” ” . . .	3,892
do. 5s. ” ” ” ” ” ” . . .	43
do. 10s. ” ” ” ” ” ” . . .	148

Face value of the entire lot, £5,002 4s. 6d.”

## Argentine Confederation :

### No Reprints.

We quote the following from the *Monthly Circular*:—

“The editor of that excellent paper, the *Revista de la Sociedad Filatélica Argentina*, declares that there are people who could give points to the she-mule for obstinacy. He is tired of repeating that no reprints exist of the stamps of the Confederation (1858), having made that statement again and again to the point of satiety. Notwithstanding this *Le Timbre* of Bordeaux, with other papers, persists in believing in the existence of such re-impressions. Mr. Victor Flandrin, who has written an article on these stamps in the former periodical, has even been fortunate enough to find out the date (1866-7) at which the reprinting took place. ‘A crowning discovery this,’ says the editor, ‘to come across the date of an event that never happened. Let us repeat, for the last time, that NO REPRINTS EXIST of the stamps of the Confederation, and that if these stamps are now being sold at comparatively low rates, it is not because they are reprints. It is simply due to the fact that a few years since a large stock deposited in the Custom-House of Buenos Ayres came to light. This stock came into the hands of several dealers, who put the stamps on the market.’

“It is pleasant to see this old fiction disposed of. Moens gives as reprints the three values, all with large figures and narrow Greek border:—

5 c., red.  
10 c., green.  
15 c., blue.

“He quotes for the 10 c. and 15 c., which are purely fancy productions, and does not price the 5 c., which is not surprising, seeing that it does not exist.

“Collin and Calman appear to have copied Moens, but they impart a semblance of originality by describing the reprint as vermilion and the original as red.

“The note in Hilke’s ‘Reprints’ is hopelessly muddled, and this is probably due rather to the translator than to Dr. Kalckhoff. It was only the 1862 issue that was ‘privately reprinted by a London dealer since 1871,’ who certainly never had any plates of the ‘Confederation’ stamps in his possession.”

## Indian Provisionals.

IN the September number of our excellent Indian contemporary, the *Philatelic Journal of India*, Mr. C. Stewart-Wilson gives us the history of the 6 annas Indian Provisional, and the “short” 2 annas Service Indian Provisional.

### “THE SIX ANNAS PROVISIONAL.

“In May, 1866, it was ascertained that the stock of 2 anna stamps in the Calcutta Stamp Office had run low, while there was also a demand for stamps for overland postage (6 annas 8 pies). Stamps for this purpose

were under order from England, but had not arrived. In order to tide over the difficulty, it was decided to issue for postal purposes Foreign Bill stamps of the value of 6 annas, surcharged in Calcutta with the word ‘Postage.’ These stamps were accordingly issued on June 28, 1866, and were apparently supplied to the Treasuries in the largest towns only. I have been unable to ascertain how the type of the surcharge was changed, or how many of each type were printed. The estimated requirements were 166,460 stamps. The actual number sold, however, was 102,212, as appears from the figures below taken from the Post Office Annual Reports:

1866-67	...	...	94,808
1867-68	...	...	5,244
1868-69	...	...	845
1869-70	...	...	88
1870-71	...	...	511
1871-72	...	...	440
1872-73	...	...	117
1873-74	...	...	14
1874-75	...	...	145
1875-76	...	...	<i>Nil</i>
			102,212

“The 6 annas 8 pie stamp was issued for use in the last month of 1866, or the first two months of 1867, while the present 6 anna stamp was introduced towards the end of 1876.

“These figures show how rare the provisional stamp must be. When it is remembered that they were on enamelled paper with a brittle surface, it is clear that fine copies must have considerable value.

### “THE ‘SHORT’ TWO ANNAS SERVICE.

“In July and August, 1866, the Director-General of Post Offices received numerous complaints from various Treasuries that the supply of Service Stamps was not sufficient for immediate use. As Service Stamps printed by De la Rue had not arrived, and the stock of ordinary stamps was not sufficient to permit of any being overprinted locally, it was thought possible that a supply of the 6 anna provisional (Foreign Bill) stamps might be made available for Service Postage. In reply to a telegram making this suggestion, the Superintendent of stamps, Calcutta, wrote, on 9th August, 1866, as follows:

“In reply to your telegram of yesterday’s date, I have the honour to inform you that the 6 anna stamps, being in great favour with the public, and not particularly adapted for Service Stamps, I have, with the sanction of the Board of Revenue, converted 2 rupee Foreign Bill Stamps, of which I have an almost inexhaustible supply, into 2 anna service labels.

“These are the stamps usually known as ‘the Short 2 anna Service Provisionals.’ So far I have not been able to ascertain the actual number so treated, but, as a supply of ordinary stamps arrived from England within ten days of the writing of this letter, part of which was at once surcharged for service purposes locally, the number must have been very small.



"At some later period a small quantity of these stamps was reprinted for supply to countries of the Postal Union. When this was done and how many were produced, I cannot say. The surcharge, however, differs considerably from that on the originals, and is very easily distinguished from the latter.

"The variety with the *green* surcharge exists only as a reprint. Although it does not appear that these reprints were made in order to supply a postal want, there is no doubt that they could still be used for postal purposes."

### Exit Bikanir.

THE Catalogues of Moens, Scott, and Bright, all chronicle a set of stamps for the State of Bikanir, but Gibbons does not recognize the issue. In the September number of the *Philatelic Journal of India*, Mr. C. Stewart-Wilson tells us that he always doubted the accuracy of this information, but found it difficult to ascertain the facts. Now, through the kindness of Col. H. A. Vincent, Resident at Bikanir, he is able to solve the mystery.

"The first two stamps illustrated in the Scott Company's Catalogue are essays prepared some seventeen years ago for the then Maharaja, Sirdar Singh, who intended to introduce a postal system. This project, however, was not carried out, and the stamps were never issued at all.

"The other four stamps appear to be merely fiscals. I have the fiscal stamps of the State up to the value of Rs. 5. Some of the designs are extremely good, and others are more curious than beautiful. Like the stamps intended for postage, they are all printed from metal dies on highly-glazed, native-made greyish laid paper."

### A Provisional U.S.

ACCORDING to a writer (Mr. G. A. Camp) in the *Eastern Philatelist*, the United States can no longer boast that it has never surcharged one of its postage stamps. Says Mr. Camp:—

"The provisional postage due which was used for a short time in one of our Western States, and which has been noticed in one of our leading weeklies, is a very interesting specimen of what is likely to be considered a great rarity in the times to come, and an explanation of it may not be amiss. The stamp consists of an ordinary 2 cent postage due, present issue, cut in half, lengthways. On each half is printed "1 cent" in small capitals, forming a vertical surcharge. The postmaster who issued these stamps has made affidavit to the fact that he had run entirely out of the 1 cent due and that in order to properly conduct the business of his office it was absolutely necessary that these provisional split dues should be made. The one we have seen is on the original cover, the owner of which has secured the affidavit above referred to."

### English Rarities at the London Philatelic Exhibition.

MR. EWEN, in the November number of the *English Specialists' Journal*, gives an excellent *résumé* of English rarities which were included in the recent London Philatelic Exhibition set out as follows:—

"A short table showing the number of the rarer stamps exhibited in each collection may not be without interest.

	WHITE.	WILLETT.	SELBY.	Total.
1d., black . . . . .	79	9	15	... 103
1d., black, V.R. . . . .	8	4	5	... 17
1d., L.C., 16 . . . . .	14	4	8	... 26
2d., no lines . . . . .	13	10	10	... 33
2d., S.C., 16 . . . . .	3	4	2	... 9
2d., S.C., 14 . . . . .	22	4	2	... 28
2d., L.C., 16, Pl. 5 . . . . .	2	1	1	... 4
2d., L.C., 16, Pl. 6 . . . . .	1	3	—	... 4

"One of the finest things in any of the three collections was Mr. Willett's strip of three 2d., L.C., perf. 16, Plate 6. Mr. White's 2d., S.C., 14, comprised fine blocks of 10 and 6. All three collections were particularly strong in octagonals, as the following figures will show:—

	WHITE.	WILLETT.	SELBY.	Total.
1s., octagonal . . . . .	20	16	3	... 39
10d., octagonal . . . . .	26	18	13	... 57
6d., octagonal . . . . .	31	18	10	... 59
4d., Small Garter . . . . .	4	5	2	... 11
4d., Med. G. on azure. . . . .	3	2	—	... 5
4d., Med. G. on white . . . . .	6	3	3	... 12
4d., Large Garter . . . . .	28	11	12	... 49

"Of some of these stamps magnificent blocks and superb shades were shown. Mr. White's 1s. octagonals included a really grand block of eight.

	WHITE.	WILLETT.	SELBY.	Total.
4d., Plate 10 . . . . .	9	1	7	... 17
6d., Plate 6, Emblems . . . . .	8	1	7	... 16
8d., brown . . . . .	11	1	1	... 13
9d., Plate 4, Emblems . . . . .	9	2	6	... 17
10d., Plate 1, Spray . . . . .	32	6	7	... 45
2s., blue . . . . .	25	8	11	... 44
2s., brown . . . . .	21	2	4	... 27

"Mr. White's collection contained in addition fine *unused* copies of 9d., Plate 5, and 10d., Plate 2. The 2s. brown included an *entire pane* of 20.

	WHITE.	WILLETT.	SELBY.	Total.
5s., wmk. Cross . . . . .	11	4	10	... 25
10s., wmk. Cross . . . . .	4	2	3	... 9
£1, wmk. Cross . . . . .	3	2	2	... 7
5s., wmk. Anchor . . . . .	7	2	3	... 12
10s., wmk. Anchor . . . . .	2	2	1	... 5
£1, wmk. Anchor . . . . .	2	1	—	... 3

"The £1 Anchor has thus the lowest total, the entire Exhibition only producing 6 copies unused."

## Postal Union Colours.

THE Editor of the *Australian Philatelist*, commenting on the uniform colours decreed for  $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., and  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamps after this year, discusses the effect of the decree on Australian issues. He says:—

“In New South Wales the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. will require to be changed to green and blue respectively, while to avoid clashing, the 2d. and 3d. must put on another garb. Tasmania will have to alter the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 2d.,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., 5d., and 9d.; Victoria, the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d.,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d.,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., 6d., and 9d.; South Australia, the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d.,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., and 6d.; Queensland, the 2d. and  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d.; and New Zealand, the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 4d. Western Australia is the only colony which has each of the three values already in the prescribed colours.”

## Stamps on Chemical Paper.

WE quote the following from the *Metropolitan Philatelist*:—

“The older collectors recollect the 1866 series of Brazil appearing with a strange blue tinge to the paper, but few, if any, knew the cause of this peculiarity. It was vaguely called chemical paper, but what the purport might be or what advantages it offered has remained a mystery up to the present date. It now transpires that this bluish tinge was caused by the paper having been treated with an alkali which only slightly altered the appearance of the stamp, but when a second solution was applied in cancellation, chemical action ensued which entirely obliterated the stamp. It will be seen by the circular which we reprint in full that our own Government was experimenting with the principle. It is very likely that stamps so treated may have passed through the hands of collectors and dealers and been discarded as worthless owing to the excessive obliteration.

“The Brazilian Government does not appear to have used the re-agent in cancellation, for we have no recollection of having met with specimens badly disfigured.”

## Interlopers.

THE Editor of the *Monthly Circular* would like to see the new administration of the S.S.S.S. take a retrospective turn and make “a black list” of a good many of the more than doubtfuls that figure unblushingly in catalogues, and he gives one interesting and amusing *exposé*.

“We will take one that has found its place in catalogues since 1867, when it first appeared in M. Berger-Levrault’s catalogue of that date. For the convenience of persons staying at the Rigi Kalt-bad establishment an adhesive stamp was provided, which, affixed to the letter, insured its being sent without further charge to the Swiss Post Office at Weggis. It was first started in 1866, and when we were there a couple of years after we found that the

matter was in the hands of the head-waiter, who sold the stamps and paid the porter that carried the letters. The stamp had nothing to do with the Post Office, and was merely the hotel stamp. Very probably it was obliterated when the letter bearing also a Swiss Post Office stamp arrived at the Post Office, for ordinarily everything was obliterated. In France we have frequently seen a small adhesive stamp bearing the name of the hotel in the upper left angle of the letter, as religiously cancelled as the postage stamp in the opposite angle.

“In 1877 M. Moens’ catalogue contained half a dozen more of these Swiss hotel stamps. Why do these things remain in catalogues in which other things, with even better titles, do not find a place?”

As a member of the new administration referred to, we tremble at the task that our friend would impose upon us. Let us make a success of what we have taken in hand first. That done, we are sanguine enough to believe that old weeds will, as a natural result, follow suit with a little help.

## Sierra Leone Surcharged Fiscals.

THE *London Philatelist* publishes a letter received by a correspondent from the Acting Colonial Postmaster-General of Sierra Leone, which gives us some further information concerning the recent  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. provisionals surcharged on the long rectangular fiscal, or “Stamp Duty,” stamps. The letter is as follows:—

“GENERAL POST OFFICE,  
“FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE,  
“25th October, 1897.

“SIR,—In compliance with the request contained in your note of the 8th instant, I furnish hereunder the information asked for in regard to the issue of stamps of this Colony, surcharged ‘POSTAGE AND REVENUE’ in sheets of 120 stamps.

SURCHARGED ‘POSTAL AND REVENUE.’  
240 sheets issued and sold of Revenue 1d.  
74 “ “ “ “ “ 3d.  
98 “ “ “ “ “ 6d.  
35 $\frac{1}{2}$  “ “ “ “ “ 1s.  
2 “ “ “ “ “ 2s.

Also surcharged  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d.

“I have the honour to be, sir,  
“Your obedient servant,  
“(Signature illegible),  
“Acting Col. Postmaster-General.”

The numbers printed were, therefore:

$2\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 1d.—28,800.  
 $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 3d.— 8,880.  
 $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 6d.—11,760.  
 $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 1s.— 4,260.  
 $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 2s.— 240.

When we can get the information we asked for in our last number concerning the types of the surcharge, we shall be able to go further and tabulate the numbers printed of each type.

## Colombia 1863 Errors.

DR. MICHELSEN, in an article in a Continental journal on the Stamps of Colombia, alludes to the scarcity of the 50c., error of colour, in red instead of green, and, stating that he has never seen or heard of an unsevered pair, expresses his inability to say how the error arose, whether from a misplaced *cliché*, or from a sheet printed in the wrong colour.

Mr. Castle, in the *London Philatelist*, supplies the desired information. He writes :

"We are able to enlighten our friend on this point, as in the Tapling Collection there is an unused vertical pair, the 50c. above and the 20c. below ; and also a horizontal

used strip of three, the left-hand specimen being a 50c. and the remaining two 20c. ; the latter bears as a postmark 'Rio Negro,' in blue ink. These very interesting and apparently practically unique specimens indicate that the 50c., red, arises from a misplaced *cliché* in the sheet of the 20c., red. The converse error, 20c., green—as Dr. Michelsen justly observes—does not exist : it was well hunted over in olden days by us all, but nothing beyond the woolly-looking reprint was to be discovered."

The *American Journal of Philately* adds that "a pair of the 20c. and 50c., *se tenant*, have reposed in the collection of Mr. G. B. Calman for about five years, and were purchased by him from a Parisian dealer."



## New Zealand Jubilees.

THE town Dunedin proposes to make stamp collectors pay for a free library by means of a Jubilee issue, whereupon a local philatelist writes to the local press as follows :—

"SIR,—As a philatelist, I note with regret the intention of our Free Library Committee to raise funds for their object by a special issue of stamps. I will not call them *postage* stamps, as such issues are the veriest rubbish, and no more worthy of a place in a true collection of postage stamps than are our local beer labels. It was stated in your issue this morning that the issues of Victoria and New South Wales have been great successes, but as one who knows, I may state that 90 per cent. of the purchasers were merely speculators and not philatelists ; and these men, when they try to unload, will find themselves in a hole. In proof of this, I may state that the 'Society in London for the Suppression of Unnecessary Issues' has warmly taken the matter up, and if they put their ban on same no decent collector in Europe or America will look at same. The Society some eighteen months ago put the Grecian Olympic Games Society under the 'black list,' and the issue was a dead failure ; so they are a power to be reckoned with. Apart from the above, why should the unfortunate philatelist be the milch cow selected nowadays to provide funds for hospitals, libraries, &c. ? Just as well strike a set of special coins and pander to the coin

collector. The appended cutting from the *Philatelic Record*, a leading stamp paper in London with a circulation of over 20,000 a month, has a strong bearing on what I have written.—I am, &c.,

"WILLIAM L. HOOPER."

## The Oldest Collector.

IT was certainly an oversight on the part of the Executive Committee of the recent London Philatelic Exhibition not to have offered a gold medal for the oldest continuous collection record—the Collection and the Collector to be exhibited side by side in glass cases. Mr. Castle thought Dr. Legrand the holder of the championship belt for continuous collecting with his thirty-five years' unbroken active devotion to our hobby. But, lo and behold ! Mr. Walter Scott, of Cardiff, appears on the scene in the pages of the *London Philatelist* to claim the prize for an unbroken record of 38 years. Of course, someone will cap even this. One word of caution, however, to intending competitors—don't let your record antedate the first issue of postage stamps.

## A Cape Triangular Sheet.

AT a meeting of the Birmingham Philatelic Society, held on November 18th, 1897, Dr.



Lyon exhibited a complete uncut sheet of its medium green triangular Capes in mint condition. This valuable and interesting exhibit allowed the members an opportunity of noting the arrangement of the stamps, the spacings, and the watermarks. The whole sheet, allowing an average for the deckle edges, is  $21\frac{1}{8}$  inches by 11, the space occupied by the stamps—240 in number, in 15 rows of 16—is  $19\frac{3}{8} \times 10\frac{3}{8}$  inches. The space between the stamps making a pair is fairly even all over the sheet, and is about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mm. The space between pairs in the same row is much more irregular, and varies from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 mm. The spaces between the rows are nearly twice as great as between the stamps on each row, and vary from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 mm.

The Anchor watermark is very evenly placed in the centre of each stamp, while the whole sheet is surrounded by a watermark of five parallel lines, the total width of which is  $\frac{3}{16}$  of an inch. The outer four lines are interrupted in six places—once at the top, once at the bottom, and twice at each side by the word "POSTAGE,"  $2\frac{1}{16}$  by  $\frac{3}{16}$  inches, in open Roman capitals.

### Klondykes are Coming.

ACCORDING to *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* we may expect some Klondykes during the coming season.

"A Trenton, N.J., firm will start in the spring for the Klondyke regions with the intention of going into the business of express and mail transportation. They will establish routes of their own, and contract to carry both Dominion and U.S. mails. Franks and probably stamps will follow. As it is their intention not to oppose the Government monopoly, they will supplement it, and abandon their routes as the Governments establish routes, but will keep in close connection with the new mines as they are opened up."

### Destroyed by Fire.

THE *Monthly Circular* mentions a report in connection with the recent great London fire, that "a Greek in Hamsell Street sustained a unique and irreparable loss. Being a philatelist, he had collected a vast assortment of postage stamps. The fire destroyed them all."

### Rare Revenues Cheap.

A NEW YORK dealer advertises "Rare Revenues Cheap," and, by way of sample, lists a few. Amongst these cheap lots are one at £90, and another at £75. Evidently collectors of fiscals have to pay some tall prices even for their cheap stamps.

### How to Collect.

MR. J. W. SCOTT, the well-known dealer of New York, has his own special panacea for speculative rubbish. Says he:—

"We have always advised our patrons to collect for pleasure, and not to spend one cent more than they can afford to throw away. Where this advice is followed philately is a never-ending pleasure through life, and a valuable legacy to the loved ones after death. Where stamps are bought principally for speculation there are constant heartburnings, a persistent struggle to get the better of a brother collector, strong temptation to spend more than you can afford, and in too many cases final defeat and discomfiture."

We imagine the adoption of such advice would make short work of advanced collecting, and even of the trade itself. The fact is that collecting does require the expenditure of more money than collectors can afford to throw away, and for that reason they are compelled to protect their investments from the depredations of the speculative and commemorative carrion.

### Returning a Compliment.

SOME months since Liberia somehow slipped into the list of British Colonies in our chronicle of New Issues, and Major Evans promptly spotted the error, and put us into the public stocks for our philatelic misdemeanor.

But, alas! we are all more or less fallible, for last month even Homer himself nodded, and removed Canada from its proud position as a loyal British Colony to the category of foreign countries, sandwiching the patriotic Dominion between Belgium and China. We rub our eyes and hold up our claws in horror. That an ordinary plebeian should gobble up a West African Republic is bad enough, but what shall we say when an erstwhile gallant British officer gives away a British Colony?

### Coming Auctions.

ON January 4th and 5th Messrs. Puttick and Simpson will sell a fine private collection, including Great Britain, a large collection in lots, including 2d., blue, without lines; a strip of 3d. and 4d., Small Garter, both unused. Ceylon, imperf. 4d., 9d., and 2s. British East Africa, a very fine lot, practically complete, in all issues. A fine collection of West Indies, in lots, especially fine in Nevis, comprising the early engraved and lithographed issues, practically complete, in used and unused, &c. &c. New Zealand, half of 1s., green, on blue paper, used on entire (2). Queensland, imperf., 6d., green. Victoria, 1st issue, 2d., with fine background, and many others.



# Our Beginners' Page.

BY THE EDITOR.

## Introductory.

WITH the view of increasing the usefulness and the scope of the *Philatelic Record*, we have decided to set apart two or three pages a month to Stamp Collecting in its more or less elementary form. Everything nowadays is being written up from the specialist's point of view, and the elementary collector looks in vain for a word of help or encouragement of any sort. This should not be, and we will therefore do our best to guide and interest the beginner.

The beginner is not necessarily a school-boy or a school-girl. Serious men and women frequently take up the fascinating pursuit, for it is now generally recognized that Stamp Collecting, as a hobby, is eminently suited to either young or old. The young may gather the curious little labels, and vie with their school-fellows in the number and variety of their treasures, and find in them considerable and agreeable affinity with their school studies. Those of maturer age will naturally yield to the temptation to dip deeper into the related mysteries of the various processes of stamp production; varieties in the manufacture of paper, of engraving, and of printing; changes of government, of foreign and colonial administration, and the thousand and one things that directly or indirectly affect the issue of postage stamps.

We shall, as far as we are able, explain all matters that need explanation to smooth the path of the beginner. Each month a portion of the space set apart will be devoted to what may be termed elementary instruction about how to collect and how to arrange the stamps, perforation, colours, designs, watermarks and watermarking, provisional issues, &c. The remaining space will be given up to the compilation of a Catalogue, which will be confined to the normal issues of each country, thus omitting those numberless minor varieties that convert the ordinary Catalogue into a philatelic Bradshaw, clear as daylight to the specialist expert, but hopelessly confusing to the beginner. We shall commence with the British Colonies, and shall endeavour to give one or more Colonies complete in each number. The stamps of each country will be priced at the market price at which they can be supplied by our publishers. This will serve the purpose of a priced Catalogue between our readers and our publishers, and will also show the relative rarity of the various stamps, a very necessary thing for the beginner to study if he is to collect judiciously.

## How to Begin.

Time was when this question was one of the simplest to answer. In the early days of Stamp Collecting every collector took the stamps of all countries, and a new issue was a matter of general congratulation, for it revived the interest in the collection, which had arrived at a standstill of completeness. Now no collection of a general character is ever likely to arrive at a standstill of completeness, for the simple reason that in the first place it would require the resources of a millionaire to purchase the stamps, if they were to be had; and in the second place, for various reasons the stamps are not to be had for love or money. Hence it is an important matter for the beginner to settle at the outset what countries he will collect. It is true that many eminent philatelists advise a commencement in a general way with an all-countries collection as a very necessary education in collecting. For the beginner with plenty of time and money there is no doubt much to be said in favour of starting as a general collector. But for the average beginner it will probably be found best to start with a small group, and open out gradually. Personally, we favour a commencement with the British Colonies. They are more easily understood, and for English collectors certainly more interesting, than the stamps of any other group. They are also admittedly a safer and better investment for money spent. Therefore we shall commence our Beginners' Catalogue with the stamps of the British Empire.

## The Album.

The choice of an album is an important matter. To begin, it is, of course, best to use some album which will serve as an easy guide to the proper arrangement of the stamps. For this purpose there is just published a very excellently-arranged album for the British Colonies by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, which may be obtained through our publishers at the published price. It is done up in various bindings, at ten to fifteen shillings and upwards. The cheaper edition will be quite good enough for a start. The beginner may, if he wishes to be economical, get a plain book, and rule a 1½-inch or 2-inch margin at the left of each page, and copy in our catalogue, and thus make a neat and inexpensive album of his own. Many of our eminent specialists thus map out their own albums.

## Antigua.

Antigua is one of the West Indian Islands in the British Leeward group. It has an area of 108 square miles, and a circumference of about 70 miles. It was discovered by Columbus, who is said to have named it after a church in Seville, called Santa Maria de Antigua. Until 1632 it was uninhabited; then a party of English settlers took possession of it, and in 1663 another party of Englishmen, under the direction of Lord Willoughby, formed a settlement, his lordship having received a grant of the entire island by Charles II. The French overran the island in 1666; but it was soon reconquered by the British, and formally restored to them by the treaty of Breda, since which it has remained a British possession. The population is about 37,000, and the capital is St. John, with a population of about 10,000.

From the Stamp Collector's point of view Antigua is a small but interesting little colony. Its postal history has begun and ended, for it now forms one of the islands included in the Leeward group, having, since 1890, a postage stamp common to all. The authorities seem to differ as to the date of the first issue. The leading catalogues give 1862 as the year of the first issue—a solitary 6d. value, without watermark. The West Indian work of the Philatelic Society of London says the first supply of stamps was despatched to the colony on July 1st, 1862; but Stanley Gibbons' Catalogue, whilst including a 6d. value under the date of 1862, adds, "No satisfactory postmarked specimen has been seen, and consequently No. 1 must be looked upon as remainders." For all practical purposes we may therefore start with the issue of 1863.

This first series was perforated, and watermarked with a Star. The next series was of the same design, but had the watermark changed to a Crown and CC, *i.e.* Crown Colony. In 1879 there was a new design, but still watermarked Crown and CC. In 1882 the watermark was changed to Crown and CA, *i.e.* Crown Agents. In the last series issued the first design remained unchanged for the 1d. and 6d. values, the added values only being in the new design.



1863.

Two values. Printed from copper plates.

Printers: Perkins, Bacon, & Co., London. Paper watermarked with a Star. Perforated.

*Wmk. Star. Perf.*

	Unused.	Used.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
1d., red . . .	6 0 ...	2 0
6d., green . . .	15 0 ...	3 6

1873.

Same design. Printed by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., London, from the same plates. Paper watermarked Crown and CC. Perforated.

*Wmk. Crown CC. Perf.*

	Unused.	Used.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
1d., red . . .	2 0 ...	1 6
6d., green . . .	17 6 ...	3 6



1879.

New design. Surface-printed by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., London. Paper watermarked as before, Crown and CC. Perforated.

*Wmk. Crown CC. Perf.*

	Unused.	Used.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
2½d., brown . . .	70 0 ...	40 0
4d., blue . . .	10 0 ...	2 6

1882.

Same design as preceding issue. Printed by Messrs. De La Rue & Co. Watermark changed to Crown and CA, *i.e.* Crown Agents. Perforated.

*Wmk. Crown CA. Perf.*

	Unused.	Used.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
½d., green . . .	0 3 ...	0 4
2½d., brown . . .	7 6 ...	2 6
4d., blue . . .	17 6 ...	3 0

1884-6.

1d. and 6d. values designs as in the first issue, other values in new design. Printed by Messrs. De La Rue & Co. Watermarked Crown and CA. Perforated.

*Wmk. Crown CA. Perf.*

	Unused.	Used.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
1d., red . . .	0 3 ...	0 3
2½d., blue . . .	0 9 ...	1 0
4d., brown . . .	1 4 ...	1 4
6d., green . . .	3 6 ...	7 6
1s., lilac . . .	25 0 ...	25 0



## Shading in Catalogues.

DEAR SIR,—Scott's Catalogue for 1898 seems to me to be going to undesirable extremes in the matter of shades.

Stamps are nowadays printed in such delicate compounds of colours that it is next to impossible to match each printing with the previous supply, especially when years intervene. Hence shades will be abundant in all stamps, except those printed in primary colours, in which there will naturally be less variation.

Therefore, I submit, it is, to say the least, most unwise to burden our already overburdened Catalogues with an enumeration of shades. If shades must be indicated, then let it be done in the manner adopted by the Philatelic Society of London, by simply adding after the colour the word "shades." The pricing would, of course, refer to the most general shade.

Besides, unless Scott is to be quadrupled in size, the enumeration of shades must be utterly inadequate. In the 1898 edition the attempt is not only ridiculous, but betrays a lamentable ignorance in the fact that whilst some shades are particularized, other much better known and more pronounced shades are altogether overlooked. Take one simple instance. In Gambia we have the dark and pale shades of the 2½d. and 1s. CA, but no mention whatever of the more distinct and rare yellow-green shade of the 6d. which Bright prices very moderately 12s. 6d. unused, and 8s. 6d. used.

This ridiculous attempt at particularizing shades was begun in the last Gibbons, and everyone has recognized the laughable incompleteness of the Gibbons' Catalogue in this respect.

It is no use particularizing shades unless you can do it thoroughly. To do it in the ridiculously partial manner in which it is done in Scott and Gibbons is to lay the compilers open to ridicule by betraying their very partial knowledge of their subject. Only an experienced specialist can "shade" up a country, and even he may omit shades well known to other collections than his own. And, after all, what commensurate advantage is to be gained from this splitting of hairs, so far as a general catalogue is concerned?

I protest strongly against this latest develop-

ment. It is a futile and utterly unnecessary attempt to follow the specialist in his labyrinthian style of collecting. I do not object to his beautifully shaded pages, but I tremble for the future of philately when his sinuosities through all the infinitesimal minor varieties in which he revels are laboriously laid out as a necessary guide for the average advanced collector.

Yours truly,

ERGO.

## Inverted Watermarks.

DEAR SIR,—I note that inverted watermarks are still being chronicled as varieties to collect. Surely this is adding an altogether unnecessary burden to the pleasant task of collecting minor varieties. Stamps are now printed by the million, and that being so, inverted watermarks are as likely as not to occur. What earthly interest, therefore, can possibly attach to them?

I have just been looking through a lot of the current issue of New South Wales, and I find that in the new 2d. the inverted watermark is just as common as the proper way up, and no doubt the same may be said of every modern stamp.

Surely we can do without this nonsense about inverted watermarks. We shall next be discovering that certain sheets are perforated from the gummed side instead of *vice versa*, and make that a minor variety.

Yours,

L. M. C.

## New Zealand Jubilees.

SIR,—A most barefaced attempt is about to be made by some local residents to foist a ridiculous Jubilee issue onto the philatelic public to raise funds to build a library.

Surely if ever the S.S.S.S. could do philately a good turn and fulfil the purpose for which it was instituted, now is the time.

If philately is to exist at all, and not become the laughing-stock of the general public, a most determined effort should be made to thwart the designs of well-meaning but credulous people on philatelists.

The appended cuttings will thoroughly explain the matter.

WILCOX, SMITH, & Co.







## Notable Stamps at Auction.

	* Unused.	† On original.		
<b>BUHL &amp; CO.</b>				
<i>10th November, 1897.</i>				
British East Africa, provl. 1 a. on 3 a. . . . .	£ s. d.		British Columbia, 5 c., rose, imperf. . . . .	
Great Britain (1854), 2d., blue, Large Crown, perf. 14, block of 12 . . . . .	3 0 0		Canada, 12d., laid paper . . . . .	
New Zealand, 2d., blue, Star, imperf. vert. . . . .	12 10 0		Ceylon, 2s., blue, imperf. . . . .	
	4 4 0		Mauritius, Post Paid, 2d., blue, early . . . . .	
<i>13th and 16th December, 1897.</i>				
Labuan, 6, in red, on 16 c., blue . . . . .	6 15 0		Natal, 3d., blue, Star, imperf.* . . . . .	
Natal (1860), 1d., rose, no wmk., imperf., strip of 3* . . . . .	6 15 0		New Brunswick, 6d., yellow* . . . . .	
United States, Justice, 1 c. to 24 c.* . . . .	5 0 0		Ditto, 1s., mauve . . . . .	
Ditto, ditto, 90 c. . . . .	6 15 0		Ditto, 1s., mauve . . . . .	
			Ditto, 5 c., brown, "Connell"*. . . . .	
<b>WM. HADLOW.</b>				
<i>9th and 10th November, 1897.</i>				
Canada, imperf., 7½d., green* . . . . .	4 15 0		Newfoundland, 4d., carmine* . . . . .	
India, Long Service, 4 a.* . . . .	5 10 0		Ditto, 6½d., carmine* . . . . .	
Labuan, 6 c. on 16 c., blue, double sur. . . . .	5 5 0		Ditto, 1s., carmine* . . . . .	
St. Vincent, 4d. on 1s. . . . .	9 7 6		Ditto, ditto, used . . . . .	
Spain (1853), 2 r., pair . . . . .	9 15 0		Ditto, 1s., orange* . . . . .	
Switzerland, Zurich, 4 r., vert. lines . . . . .	13 0 0		New South Wales, 6d., brown, laureated, coarse background*. . . . .	
Ditto, Double Geneva † . . . . .	18 10 0		New Zealand, 2d., lilac, blue, <i>pelure</i> , imperf.* . . . . .	
Transvaal, error "Transvaal," 1d., red on blue . . . . .	25 0 0		Nova Scotia, 1s., violet, small margins . . . . .	
Ditto, 1d., red on blue, reversed sur. . . . .	6 15 0		Ditto, 1s., purple, used, on piece with 6d. . . . .	
Turks Islands, 2½d. on 1s., prune, type 9* . . . . .	5 15 0		St. Vincent, 5s., lake, wmk. Star* . . . . .	
Ditto, ditto, ditto, type 10* . . . . .	7 5 0		Ditto, 4d. on 1s, vermilion . . . . .	
Ditto, 4d. on 1s., prune, type 17* . . . . .	5 10 0		Switzerland, <i>Geneva</i> , 10 c., green, the double stamp . . . . .	
Tuscany, 2 soldi . . . . .	6 0 0		Ditto, <i>Zurich</i> , 4 rappen, vertical lines* . . . . .	
United States, slate, 5d. . . . .	13 0 0		Turks Islands, 2½d. on 1s., type 10 . . . . .	
			Virgin Islands, 6d., rose, perf. 15 . . . . .	
<b>PUTTICK &amp; SIMPSON.</b>				
<i>2nd and 3rd November, 1897.</i>				
Nevis, 6d., grey, litho.* . . . .	7 2 6		<b>VENTOM, BULL, &amp; COOPER.</b>	
New Brunswick, 1s. . . . .	9 10 0		<i>11th and 12th November, 1897.</i>	
St. Christopher, 4d., blue, CA* . . . . .	4 10 0		British Guiana, 1862, Provl., pearl in heart border, roul. † . . . .	14 5 0
United States, 1869, 15 c., reversed centre . . . . .	12 10 0		Buenos Ayres, 4 p., red* . . . . .	22 5 0
			Ditto, 4 p., orange* . . . . .	27 17 6
			Bulgaria, 1882, 5 st., rose, error of colour* . . . . .	11 0 0
			Canada, 10d., blue, thick paper* . . . . .	7 15 0
			Ditto, 12d., black, laid paper* . . . . .	26 0 0
			Cape of Good Hope, 1s., emerald-green* . . . . .	8 0 0
			Ceylon, 2 r. 50 c., lilac-rose* . . . . .	5 5 0
			Ceylon, Service Stamp, 2s., red and blue, imperf., pair* . . . . .	16 10 0
			Gold Coast, 1d., blue, CA* . . . . .	10 0 0
			Hanover, 1st issue, 1 ggr., black on blue* . . . . .	6 5 0
			India, ½ a., red, error, imperf.* . . . . .	6 15 0
			Lagos, 5s., blue, CA* . . . . .	7 0 0
			Ditto, 10s., lilac-brown* . . . . .	6 7 6
			Levant, 1865, 20 k., blue and red* . . . . .	8 0 0
			Mauritius, <i>Post Paid</i> , 2d., blue, error "Penoe"*. . . . .	25 0 0
			Mecklenburg - Schwerin, 1864, ½, red, roul.* . . . . .	7 10 0
			Naples, Cross, ½ t., blue* . . . . .	5 5 0
			Nevis, 4d., orange, litho.* . . . . .	8 8 0
			Ditto, 6d., grey, litho. . . . .	7 15 0
			Newfoundland, 4d., orange . . . . .	11 0 0
			Ditto, 1s., orange . . . . .	27 0 0
			Ditto, 6½d., carmine . . . . .	10 5 0
			New South Wales, laureated, 8d., orange † . . . . .	6 15 0
			Ditto, ditto, variety no leaves right of South † . . . . .	6 0 0
			Nova Scotia, 1s., violet . . . . .	22 5 0
			Oldenburg, 1st issue, lilac, black on yellow* . . . . .	6 6 0
			St. Vincent, 5s., rose* . . . . .	15 10 0
			Ditto, 1d., in red, on half 6d., pair* . . . . .	18 0 0
			Saxony, 3 pf., red* . . . . .	11 0 0
			Ditto, 1851, ½ ngr.* . . . . .	10 0 0
			Servia, 1st issue, 2 p., green on rose, error* . . . . .	10 10 0
			Sierra Leone, 4d., blue, CA* . . . . .	16 0 0
			South Australia, 1st issue, 1d., green* . . . . .	9 10 0
			Spain, 1851, 2 r., red* . . . . .	27 15 0
			Ditto, 1853, 2 r., vermilion* . . . . .	9 10 0
			Sweden, 1872, error "Tretio" for "Tjugo," 20 öre, vermilion* . . . . .	16 10 0
			Switzerland, <i>Zurich</i> , 4 r., vert. lines, type 3* . . . . .	7 7 0
			United States, 1851, 24 c., lilac, imperf.* . . . . .	10 0 0
			Ditto, Justice, 90 c.* . . . .	7 7 0
			Ditto, State, 5 dol.* . . . .	19 5 0
			Ditto, ditto, 10 dol.* . . . .	10 0 0
			Ditto, ditto, 20 dol.* . . . .	9 0 0
			Victoria, 5s., blue on yellow* . . . . .	18 5 0
			Wurtemberg, 1st issue, 6 kr., blue-green* . . . . .	5 10 0
			Ditto, 9 kr., rose* . . . . .	5 12 6
			Ditto, 1859, 9 kr., carmine, thick paper* . . . . .	5 5 0
			Ditto, 70 kr., rose-lilac* . . . . .	4 15 0
			Ditto, 2 marks, yellow* . . . . .	5 0 0
			Ditto, 2 marks, vermilion on orange* . . . . .	5 2 6





# The Philatelic Record

AND STAMP NEWS.

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FEBRUARY, 1898.

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## Editorial Notes.

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WE are glad to announce that a satisfactory settlement has been reached at last concerning the pictorial illustration of postage stamps by Philatelic publishers. The stamp trade, with all its ramifications, is not to be hounded out of the country. The authorities stick to their religious opinion that the illustrations are an infringement of the law, but they recognize "that the object in view in those cases where the illustrations are intended for the use of stamp collectors is an innocent one, and that a considerable industry has of late years sprung up in connection with their production." And they therefore "in future propose to abstain from interfering in all cases" in which regulations which they lay down are complied

Postage  
Stamp  
Illustrations.

with. The regulations provide that the illustrations must be in black alone, that the Board of Inland Revenue must be consulted before any illustrations are used, and that they must be satisfied as to the safe custody of the dies, and their officers must be free to visit the premises where the same are kept. The only restriction to the past usage of stamp dies is that they will not, under any circumstances, be permitted for ordinary advertisement purposes.

All this is eminently satisfactory, and Philatelists, and the stamp trade in particular, have much to be thankful for in the arrangement. So far as we can judge, there is, in the terms imposed, no evidence of any desire to restrict, or even hamper, the legitimate pictorial use of dies of postage stamps.

Few, we imagine, amongst collectors or dealers have been fully alive to the grave danger from which they have thus escaped. Of all the interests seriously imperilled the printing trade alone has backed up the firm of Stanley Gibbons, Limited, who have, single-handed, fought out the question. It is true they have fought for their own existence, but, all the same, the stamp trade owes the great Strand firm an acknowledgment of the fact that the continuance of the stamp trade in this country has been rendered possible by their action in the matter.

We may ourselves take some credit for having from the first recognized and impressed upon all concerned the serious drift of the official crusade, and the articles which have appeared in the *Philatelic Record* from time to time have been reprinted by the Printers' Trade Association, and have been made the basis of the effective action which that important organization took in the direction of opening the eyes of the authorities to the trade interests which were imperilled by their senseless crusade.

However, all's well that ends well, and we may therefore congratulate ourselves all round that the privilege of illustrating postage stamps is now placed on a more satisfactory footing than it has ever been. The authorities have only insisted upon rational and necessary safeguards, such as will be cheerfully given by all responsible publishers.

\* \* \*

**Another  
U.S. Postal  
Swindle.** WE like calling a spade a spade, whether it be of English, Colonial, or American manufacture, and for that reason we do not intend to mince words in our references to the proposed new stamp swindle, of which we have just received news from the United States.

Having openly fleeced stamp collectors in the most unscrupulous manner by means of a so-called Columbian Jubilee Issue, it is not to be wondered at that the postal authorities are once more upon the war-path for yet another substantial dip into the pockets of stamp collectors. This time the excuse is a Trans-Mississippi Exposition, to be held at Omaha this year. The official announcement of the issue states that "the Trans-Mississippi stamps will be sought after by collectors; and as there are nearly half a million of these people in the world, the Government, instead of being philanthropic, expects to realise handsomely upon the issue."

The Scott Stamp & Coin Co., who seem to be the only stamp dealers in America really alive to the insidious danger of these official swindles, have made a strong protest against the issue. They express the "hope that the Government of the United States will not, at this late day, lend itself to a scheme of this character, which can under no interpretation bear any relation to the legitimate ends of the Postal Service." But the *canaille* will see dollars in it, and the protest of the Scott Stamp & Coin Co. will be pitched into the waste-paper basket.

One good, however, may come of it—it may open even the eyes of the Scott Stamp & Coin Co. to the fact that you cannot patronize a Canadian or Newfoundland official swindle one day, and the next day hope to protest successfully against a similar swindle by your own postal authorities. The Trans-Mississippi Issue will probably be no better and no worse than the Canadian and Newfoundland Jubilees, which our friends the Scott Co. but so recently defended against the ruling of the S.S.S.S.

Some day, and possibly not a far distant day, for every official postal swindle must hasten that day, the most obtuse stamp collectors and the most grasping of new issue dealers will be convinced of the fact that there is a limit to all things, even to the successful gulling of stamp flats.

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**English  
Hospital  
Stamps.** It is with undisguised pleasure that we note and advertise the continued issue of these stamps. From the start they have been free from all objectionable quasi-postal disguise. They are what they profess to be, interesting stamp souvenirs of small donations to the greatest and most merciful of all our national charities. They take the attractive form of stamps, and therefore indirectly appeal to the stamp collector. They have probably not sold so well at the start as they would have if they had been made available for postal purposes, but their eventual popularity will no doubt be greater as years go by. Collectors are not likely to forget that some sacrifice has been made to their objections to a quasi-postal issue; and in all probability these souvenirs will generate a new and subsidiary form of

collecting—the collection of Hospital Stamps. There is no reason why our great cities should not each have its Hospital Stamp, each stamp vying with the others in artistic merit. Then will follow the Hospital Stamp Album, neatly got up for the drawing-room table. We understand that each year will see the issue of a fresh design, and already miniature albums have been published for the reception of the stamps of a series of years.

\* \* \*

**The Latest  
De La Rue  
Postage  
Stamps.** It was thought some years since that Messrs De La Rue & Co. had touched bottom in mediocrity of design and execution for English Colonial stamps, but by common consent the latest fashion of printing the body of the design, in all values, in a washy lilac, and the name and figure of value in a separate colour, has eclipsed all former efforts in the down-grade direction. There is no doubt that lilac is a splendid colour for cancellation, but cancellation is surely not the only consideration in the production of a postage stamp.

Why English stamps—home as well as Colonial—should be so poverty-stricken in design and execution is a puzzle to most people. Our stamps seem to be going from bad to worse, and there is no saying what shoddy may not yet represent the units of the British Empire in the matter of postage stamps.

Is there any real need for such skinflint methods of stamp production? We do not for a moment believe that the engravers are the willing manufacturers of such discreditable rubbish. The difference per thousand in the production of decent stamps cannot be such a very considerable item, and when it is taken into account that for a very appreciable quantity bought up by stamp collectors no postal service is required, the most poverty-stricken Colony ought to be able to afford stamps with some pretension to artistic merit.

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**Notable  
New Issues  
of the  
Month.** OUR new issues page this month does not include any very striking new issue, but there is the promise of something special in the further news which we give of the forthcoming very artistic picture series of New Zealand. Persia, like Uruguay, has changed the colours, but not the design, of its current stamps. Canada sends us three more values of its simple and effective new design.





# The Stamps of Norway.

BY ARTHUR H. HARRISON,

*Hon. Sec. Manchester Philatelic Society*

(IN COLLABORATION WITH HUBERT BUCKLEY, CHRISTIANIA).

(Continued from page 7.)

## Issue VII. About October 1st, 1878.

Three values. Kr. 1.00. Kr. 1.50. Kr. 2.00.



THESE three values, the complement of Issue VI., have an entirely new design, viz., the portrait of king Oscar II. in a very elaborate frame.

The portrait is in an oval medallion, on a background composed of 60 vertical lines.

At the top of the frame a band curved upwards in the centre, and extending to either side, bears the inscription "NORGE" in large capitals on a horizontally-lined background. At the foot an ornamental label bears the letters "KR" and the value in figures, both on a solid background. At the sides, framing the oval, an ornamented band bears the inscription "POST" to left, "FRIM" to right, on vertically-lined background. The remainder of the design consists of finely-executed ornamental engraving.

Printed by Petersen on medium white wove paper, watermarked "post-horn," in sheets of 100 stamps, 10 rows of 10.

To produce these stamps two printings were necessary. Firstly, the frame was printed with the oval in centre blank and without figures; and secondly, the head of king Oscar II. was printed on the oval space. Consequently two different plates were required; these were produced by electrolysis from matrices engraved by Krüger at Berlin. A separate plate was prepared for each of the three values to print the frame. The value in figures was engraved by hand on each stamp on the plate; thus we have 100 types of each value, *i.e.*, the numerals on every stamp vary in size and shape.

The gum is yellowish white.

The perforation,  $14\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ , is very regular, and the size of each stamp is  $17\frac{1}{2} \times 22$  mm.

Synopsis.—Kr. 1.00, green, with dark green centre.

Kr. 1.50, ultramarine, with dark blue centre.

Kr. 2.00, rose, with maroon centre,

*Variety* ,, 2 dots (:) between 2 and 00.

More than 1,000,000 stamps of each of the three values were printed and delivered to the authorities in August, 1878; and to-day, after the lapse of more than nineteen years, over 600,000 kr. 1.00, 900,000 kr. 1.50, 800,000 kr. 2.00 remain on hand.

## Issue VIII. 1883-84.

Six values. 3, 5, 10, 12, 20, and 25 öre.

The design for this issue is very similar to that of 1877. It is generally described as the unshaded posthorn issue, the ring of the posthorn being white and unshaded, except just beneath the crown. I am of the opinion that the same matrix, from which the plates for the 1877 issue were prepared, was used for this issue after having been retouched. I find the only difference to be: in the 1877 issue the third line of shading on the left, between the ring of the posthorn and the mouthpiece, is continued; in this issue it is removed. It is of importance to note this, for specimens from a worn plate of the 1877 issue can only be so distinguished.

Printed at the Government offices in Christiania (by the printer of the current issue) on wove paper, varying in thickness, watermarked posthorn; the watermark, as before, is found in various positions.

It is curious to note that in this issue the sizes of the stamps of the 3, 5, 10, 20, and 25 öre values differ greatly in measurement. These varieties of measurement are due to the shrinkage of the plates, not to the paper. Printings of these values were frequently required, no large stock being kept on hand, and many plates (described hereafter) were prepared.

It is also interesting to note the different ways in which these plates were set up. Many we find prepared from an impression of a single die, the small numerals being separately engraved on each stamp on the plate, and consequently all different upon a sheet. Others we find prepared from a *cliché* of four, upon which the small numerals have been engraved, thus giving only four types on a sheet, each repeated 25 times; and, again, we find them prepared from a die upon which the small numeral has been engraved.

The gum is yellowish and yellowish white.

The perforation,  $14\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ , is again very regular.

## 3 öre. 1883.

Printing A. Yellow-orange; medium white wove paper; set up in blocks of four;  $16\frac{1}{2} \times 20\frac{1}{4}$  mm. *See illustration A.*

„ A1. Lemon-orange; slightly toned paper.

„ A2. Orange.

## 3 öre. 1884.

„ B. Orange; medium toned paper; small numerals, all different;  $16\frac{1}{4} \times 20\frac{1}{2}$  mm. *See illustration B.*

„ C. Deep orange; thin white paper; small numerals, all different;  $16\frac{1}{2} \times 20\frac{1}{2}$ . *See illustration C.*

„ D. Deep orange; brown orange; thin toned paper; small numerals (very small); apparently in blocks of four;  $16\frac{1}{4} \times 20\frac{1}{4}$ . *See illustration D.*

Several minor varieties are to be found on this value, caused by imperfect or careless printing, such as the “3” after “POSTFRIM” having a white spot in the centre, giving the figure the appearance of “8”; the inner ring of the posthorn broken, etc. I do not attach any value to these.

## 5 öre. 1883 to 1889.

Printing A. Pale green (shades); medium greyish white paper; small numerals (very thin); in blocks of four;  $16\frac{1}{2} \times 20\frac{1}{4}$ . *See illustration A.*

- Printing B. Blue-green; medium toned paper; small numerals, slightly larger and thicker than A; in blocks of four;  $16\frac{1}{4} \times 20\frac{1}{2}$ .  
*See illustration B.*
- „ B1. Emerald-green.
- „ C. Dark blue-green; medium thick white paper; small numerals, apparently all the same;  $16\frac{1}{2} \times 20\frac{3}{4}$ . *See illustration C.*  
N.B.—This printing is often found very much blurred.
- „ C1. Grey-green.
- „ D. Grass-green; thick white paper; small numerals (thin), all vary in size and shape;  $16\frac{1}{2} \times 20\frac{1}{2}$ . *See illustration D.*  
N.B.—There are many shades of grass-green.
- „ E. Light sage-green (shades); medium thick white paper; small numerals (very small), apparently all the same;  $16\frac{1}{4} \times 20\frac{1}{4}$ .  
*See illustration E.*
- „ E1. Dark sage-green (shades); thick toned paper.  
*Variety. E1; without stop after "POSTFRIM."*


## 10 öre. 1883 to 1889.

- Printing A. Carmine; medium thick white paper, very similar to the paper of the 1877 issue; small numerals, close together, the "o" of "10" elongated, apparently all the same;  $16\frac{1}{4} \times 20\frac{1}{2}$ .  
*See illustration A.*
- „ B. Pink (slight shades); medium white paper; in blocks of four; on one stamp of each block the "o" of "10" has a double line at the top on the right;  $16\frac{1}{2} \times 20\frac{1}{4}$ . *See illustration B.*
- „ C. Brownish carmine (shades); thin white paper; small numerals (very small), apparently all vary;  $16\frac{1}{2} \times 20\frac{1}{4}$ . *See illustration C.*  
*Variety. Without stop. Every alternate row, commencing with the first, is without stop.*
- „ C1. Brownish carmine (deep); medium greyish paper; small numerals (very small), apparently all vary;  $16\frac{1}{2} \times 20\frac{1}{4}$ .  
*Variety. Without stop, occurring in various positions.*  
N.B.—The perforation of this printing is very rough and uneven.
- „ C2. Pale carmine-pink (shades); paper as B printing; small numerals (very small). C plate.
- „ D. Deep pink } medium thick white paper; small numerals (large),  
Bright pink } all vary;  $16\frac{1}{4} \times 20\frac{1}{4}$ . *See illustration D.*
- „ E. Pale carmine; thin white paper; small numerals (large), apparently do not vary;  $16\frac{3}{4} \times 20\frac{3}{4}$ . *See illustration E.*  
*Variety. Without stop.*
- „ F. Rose-red; medium thick white paper; small numerals (very small), do not vary;  $16 \times 20$ . *See illustration F.*
- „ G. Pale rose-red; medium white paper; small numerals (wide apart), apparently do not vary;  $16\frac{1}{4} \times 20\frac{1}{2}$ . *See illustration G.*
- „ H. Deep rose-red; medium greyish paper; small numerals, larger than in any other printing, apparently do not vary;  $16\frac{3}{4} \times 20\frac{3}{4}$ . *See illustration H.*
- „ I. Pink; medium toned paper; small numerals, all different;  $16\frac{1}{2} \times 20\frac{1}{2}$ . *See illustration I.*



## Status of Railway Fee Stamps.

By THE EDITOR.

HE *London Philatelist* in its December number publishes a paper read before the Philatelic Society of London on the Railway Letter Fee Stamps, by Mr. Dendy Marshall, but unfortunately we get nothing of the still more interesting discussion which followed, the question being, Are these stamps entitled to be ranked as postage stamps? The minutes of the meeting state that "in the course of the discussion which ensued, the general opinion was expressed that there is not yet sufficient information afforded to decide whether the stamps in question can be considered postage stamps in the generally accepted meaning of the term."

The discussion was one of the best we have heard at a meeting of the Society, for opinions were much divided. It is an interesting point, and deserves further investigation and discussion.

Mr. Castle adds a footnote to Mr. Marshall's paper, in which he formulates his opinion. He says, "Although we do not gainsay the interest attaching to these stamps, we consider that the postage is defrayed only by the adhesive Government stamp, and that the Railway stamps only represent a fee for accelerated service." But this does not seem to us to dispose of the question. They are obviously issued under an arrangement with our postal authorities, and they frank by special routes in a special manner.

Mr. Marshall explains that "when it is desired to send a letter by train an ordinary penny stamp is put on, and the letter is taken to the parcels office at a railway station and handed over to an official, together with twopence, in return for which he forwards the letter by the next train, having previously affixed a Railway stamp. According to the address, it is either posted on arrival at the nearest point to its destination, or left at the station to be called for by the addressee."

The official *Postal Guide* gives a list of the railway companies which have entered into an agreement with the Postmaster-General to convey letters.

What then are the stamps from the Philatelic point of view? Can they be ranked as postage stamps, or should they be classed with special or express delivery labels? Strictly speaking, they represent a special fee paid for expediting the transit of a letter over a portion of its route to its final destination. The ordinary rd. postage stamp placed on the same letter does not apparently serve its postal purpose until the letter is dropped into a letter box at the termination of the railway portion of the route.

The minutes of the Philatelic Society of London say there is not yet sufficient information afforded to decide whether the stamps can be considered postage stamps. But the facts are before us. We know that the stamps are authorized under an arrangement with our postal authorities, and that they are in daily use on most of our railways. Perhaps some of our readers can help us in arriving at a satisfactory conclusion as to whether these Railway Fee stamps are to be regarded, philatelically, as postage stamps or as mere special delivery labels.



## The Stamps of Bundi.

From the "Philatelic Journal of India."



UNDI is a Chohan Rajput State situated in the south-east of Rajputana. It has an area of 2220 square miles, and a population of 295,675.

It has a postal system of its own with ten post offices and connecting lines. It does a general postal business. Articles on "State Service" travel free, but private correspondence, etc., requires to be paid for. Prepayment has, since 1st May, 1894, been effected by postage stamps.

There have been four issues of stamps. By the courtesy of Bohra Meghbanjee Sahib, Diwan of the Bundi State, I am able to give the actual number of stamps printed at each issue. As the stamps were lithographed, each issue required a new drawing on the stone.

(1) May 1, 1894, $\frac{1}{2}$ anna	.	.	.	.	3,000
(2) December 7, 1894, $\frac{1}{2}$ anna	.	.	.	.	10,000
(3) November 1, 1896, $\frac{1}{2}$ anna	.	.	.	.	12,800
(4) July 1, 1897, 1 anna	.	.	.	.	1,600
2 annas	.	.	.	.	1,600
4 annas	.	.	.	.	800
8 annas	.	.	.	.	400
1 rupee	.	.	.	.	200

These stamps are all roughly lithographed, and no two stamps on the stone are the same. The half-anna stamps of each issue, though all of a more or less slate-blue colour, are, however, readily distinguishable even when found singly. The first two issues were on unwatermarked wove paper, and the third on laid. The stamps of the first and third issues resemble one another in that each stamp on the stone is separated from the neighbouring stamps by a white margin. Those of the second issue, on the other hand, were printed with each stamp touching its neighbour, *i.e.*, the right-hand portion of the frame of each stamp was part of the left-hand frame of the next stamp, and so on.

I have no means of ascertaining the arrangement of the stamps of the first issue. This can only be ascertained by examining a full sheet, which I have not been able to do.

A full pane of the second issue is described in Stanley Gibbons *Monthly Journal* as containing 140 stamps. It also appears that a block of the same issue has been seen by Major Evans, which corresponds with no portion of that pane. The conclusion to be arrived at is, therefore, that this issue was printed in two panes of 140 stamps each, making a total of 280 types.

The third issue was also printed in two panes, this time of 84 stamps each, making 168 distinct types. The distance between each stamp averages about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  millimetres. The paper is, as above stated, laid, and is watermarked with the portrait of a fashionably-dressed gentleman in a tall hat, holding a bouquet; and the words, "Made in Belgium for Nuzurally Hebioolabhoy, Bombay."

Three stamps, *i.e.*, the right-hand bottom corner stamp of both panes, and the left-hand top corner stamp of the right-hand pane, contain the value in

two lines, the "na" of "anna" appearing in the bottom line. Several other stamps show no traces of the final "a" in "anna."

So far the only value issued was that of  $\frac{1}{2}$  anna. On 1st July, 1897, the list of postage stamps was added to. No doubt this was done, at least partially, for postal convenience mainly for use on parcels, but I fear that the two highest values are not really required for the purely local postal business of Bundi. Be that as it may, the following is a list of them:—

1 anna	.	.	.	.	.	Indian red.
2 annas	.	.	.	.	.	yellow-green.
4 annas	.	.	.	.	.	light yellow-green.
8 annas	.	.	.	.	.	Indian red.
1 rupee	.	.	.	.	.	yellow on blue paper.

All these are printed on *laid* paper of various makes, and are printed in one pane only, arranged as follows:—

1, 2, 4 annas	.	.	.	120 stamps in 8 horizontal rows.
8 annas	.	.	.	104 stamps in 13 horizontal rows.
1 rupee	.	.	.	120 stamps.

Each stamp is divided from its neighbour by a plain margin varying from  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 millimetres. In the 2 annas value the artist has not ruled the lines between the top and second row straight, so that the margin between these rows varies between two millimetres on the extreme left to five on the extreme right.

The design of the higher values is the same as for the half anna issues; viz., an oval enclosed in a rectangle, the corners being filled with a foliate ornament. The oval contains a rough drawing of a "Katár," or Indian dagger, with the words "Raj Bundi" above in one line, and the value in one line below it.

The paper on which the 1 anna value is printed is watermarked with a highly ornamental fountain, enclosed in a laurel wreath with the words "Made in Belgium for Shaik Ahmed Shaik Dawd." The 2, 4, and 8 annas values are on paper watermarked with a Large Crown and the word "Superfine."

Since writing the above I have received the following answer to a letter which I wrote to the Prime Minister of Bundi, impressing on him the advisability of strictly confining the values of stamps issued to actual postal needs. The answer explains itself, and gives us a most welcome assurance that Bundi intends to keep to the straight path of philatelic rectitude. Would that all were so! The Prime Minister's letter runs:—

"I am in receipt of your very kind letter of the 6th instant, and thank you most cordially for the suggestion you made therein about the Bundi State postage stamps. The suggestion is indeed a proper one, and I had already a mind to abolish the issue of 1 rupee and 8 anna stamps, as the use of them is on a very small scale. I have now issued orders that, after the old stock of 1 rupee and 8 anna stamps, which is very small, has been exhausted, no further printings of higher values be made, and that the stamps be restricted to  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 1, 2, and 4 anna values only. I assure you that there will be no issue of 1 rupee and 8 anna stamps in future, but only those values that are constantly used in the post will be continued."

And thus does Bundi shame its big brother Canada. Bravo Bundi!



## Illustrations of Postage Stamps.



IT is with infinite pleasure and relief that we record a settlement of the vexed question of the privilege of the pictorial illustration of postage stamps. Nothing could be more satisfactory than the decision disclosed in the following correspondence.

The thanks of the philatelic public are due to Messrs. Stanley Gibbons for their persistent defence of philatelic interests. It is true they have been fighting for their own existence, but it is none the less true that they have been left to fight alone.

*To the Editor of the "Philatelic Record."*

SIR,—In reference to the correspondence on this subject which appeared in the public Press in the course of the autumn, we shall esteem it a great favour if you will allow the following letter, which has been addressed to us by the Secretary to the Board of Inland Revenue, to appear in your columns.

We venture to think that the result of the appeals which have been made to the Postmaster-General, to the Board of Inland Revenue, and to the Controller of Stamps, will be deemed eminently satisfactory to all who are interested in the collection and sale of postage stamps.

We are, sir, yours faithfully,

STANLEY GIBBONS, LIMITED.

CHAS. J. PHILLIPS, *Managing Director.*

391, STRAND, W.C., *January 5th.*

INLAND REVENUE, SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C.,  
*January 5th, 1898.*

SIRS,—Referring to the correspondence which took place with your firm last year, I am directed by the Board of Inland Revenue to inform you that they have recently considered, in conjunction with the Postmaster-General, the subject of the illustration of postage stamps by stamp dealers and others.

All such illustrations are—as the Board are advised—an infringement of the law.

It is, however, recognised that the object in view in those cases where the illustrations are intended for the use of stamp collectors, &c., is an innocent one, and that a considerable industry has of late years sprung up in connection with their production.

In these circumstances neither the Postmaster-General nor the Board of Inland Revenue desire that the practice should be prohibited so long as no danger to the Revenue arises from its continuance.

They propose, therefore, in future to abstain from interfering in all cases in which the following regulations are complied with:—

1. Illustrations must be in black alone. The Board will not abstain from interfering where the same are in colour, no matter what may be the size of the illustration.

2. The Board of Inland Revenue must be consulted before any black illustrations are made; and if they decide not to interfere it will be on condition that they are satisfied as to the proper custody of the dies, blocks, plates, &c., and that their officers are to be always free to visit the premises where the same are kept.

3. This concession will be limited to certain special classes of publications, such as stamp dealers' catalogues, books on stamps, stamp albums, articles in newspapers, periodicals, &c. Permission will not be given in any circumstances for ordinary advertisement purposes.

I am at the same time to state that it must be understood that the Board reserve to themselves the full right to withdraw this concession in any case in which they may deem it necessary to do so.

I am, Sirs, your obedient servant,

T. N. CRAFER, *Secretary*.

To Messrs. STANLEY GIBBONS, LIMITED.

## Zanzibar and British East Africa.

**M**R. CYRIL H. BOWDEN, writing from Zanzibar on the 26th Nov. last, sends the *London Philatelist* the following further particulars concerning the surcharged issues of these Protectorates.

"I am enclosing a few additional particulars anent the provisional issues of Zanzibar and British East Africa, which I trust you may find of interest.

"I think there remains little further to be said regarding the above issues, and it appears most unlikely that any necessity will arise in the near future for surcharging or overprinting.

"An impression, I understand, exists that the current Zanzibar stamp is likely to be superseded by another type of adhesive, bearing the portrait of the present Sultan.

"I am assured by Mr. Remington, however, that any such change is most improbable, and that the only one at present in contemplation is in connection with the Protectorate stamps, the higher values of which it is proposed to increase to a size corresponding with that of the current British India and Zanzibar issues.

### "CURRENT ISSUE, ZANZIBAR.

#### STAMPS OVERPRINTED 'B. E. A.'

January 1-5, 1897.

Annas.	No. Issued.
$\frac{1}{2}$ . . . . .	1500
1 . . . . .	4200
1, surcharged $2\frac{1}{2}$ . . . . .	3000
2 . . . . .	2400
3, surcharged $2\frac{1}{2}$ . . . . .	3600
$4\frac{1}{2}$ . . . . .	1800
5 . . . . .	1800
$7\frac{1}{2}$ . . . . .	1800

### B. E. A. STAMPS.

#### OVERPRINTED 'ZANZIBAR.'

June 1st, 1896.

Annas.	No. Issued.
$\frac{1}{2}$ . . . . .	1800
1 . . . . .	1800
$2\frac{1}{2}$ . . . . .	1200
August 12th, 1896.	
$4\frac{1}{2}$ . . . . .	2460
5 . . . . .	1800
$7\frac{1}{2}$ . . . . .	1800

#### SURCHARGED 'ZANZIBAR.'

January 5th.

4, surcharged $2\frac{1}{2}$ . . . . .	4200
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"NOTE.—The 1 anna surcharged  $2\frac{1}{2}$ , as catalogued, was never officially printed and issued for *Zanzibar*; and, if in existence, must be fraudulent. I should be glad to know if the red surcharge appears to have been stencilled instead of printed."

The change in size of the higher values referred to has since been effected. The larger sizes were chronicled by us last month, page 14.



## The Stamps of Romagna.

*Les Timbres Poste des Romagnes, par Emilio Diena, suivi d'une étude sur les réimpressions par J. B. Moens. Illustré de gravures sur bois. Bruxelles: J. B. Moens, Rue de Florence 42, 1898. Price 3 francs.*

THIS is a reprint in book form of the excellent and most exhaustive articles which Dr. Diena has contributed to the *Timbre-Poste*. It is rendered doubly interesting by a supplementary chapter from the pen of M. Moens on the purchase and manipulation of the original plates. The history of the reprintings from these plates, and their subsequent resale, is not pleasant reading viewed from the present-day objections to reprints. Still it is well to know—as we do through this volume first hand—all about the reprinting, and how to distinguish reprints from originals. For the main portion of the work Dr. Diena's name is a sufficient guarantee. One marvels that such apparently simple issues could afford scope for so much interesting philatelic matter as there is in the fifty-seven pages contributed by Dr. Diena.

## Hints on Stamp Collecting.

*Hints on Stamp Collecting: an A B C of Philately and Handy Philatelic Guide for Beginners. By G. H. Hinton. Illustrated. London: E. Nister, 28, Paternoster Row, E.C. Price 6d.*

MR. HINTON'S little book will, no doubt, be a very useful guide to those about to begin stamp collecting. It treats of the album and the mounting of stamps, and of methods of stamp production, of postal issues, provisionals and locals, of commemoratives, remainders, reprints, essays and specimen stamps, and of coinage. Quite enough as a start. So far as we have examined the little book, it seems to be clearly written with the main purpose always in view—of being useful to the beginner.

## The Stamp Auction Reporter, No. 1.

*The Stamp Auction Reporter. Published fortnightly. Conducted by F. A. Wickhart and M. Z. Kuttner. No. 1. Price 1d.*

WE are delighted to be able to accord this new claimant for philatelic favour a hearty reception as a welcome and desirable addition to our philatelic periodical literature. According to its introduction, it is going to deal only with hard facts. "What we have undertaken to do," say the editors, "is to publish the amounts realized under the hammer, thus enabling philatelists to value their stamps at 'bottom' prices." And, despite all the interested writing against auctions, the fact will remain that the prices realized do represent what the *Stamp Auction Reporter* editors very pertinently call "bottom" prices. Auctions may be fallacious as to the prices at which the great body of stamp collectors can hope to buy; but there is no gainsaying the brutal fact that they are full of most useful information as to the question of eventual realization.

The *Stamp Auction Reporter* is very neatly got up, and we hope it has come to stay.





## British Empire.

**Canada.**—We have from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. three more values of the very pleasing new design—no wmk. perf. 12. For simplicity and effectiveness of design the new



Canadians will be hard to beat. If you want to fully realize the effectiveness of the design, place it alongside of a current Trinidad lilac mediocrity.

*Adhesives.*

- 2 cents, dark violet.
- 5 " dark blue.
- 6 " dark brown.

**Cook Islands.**—The *Auckland Star* is quoted as authority by the *Australian Philatelist* for the information that a new postage stamp is to be shortly added to the current series. "It is to be used for parcels, and as a postal and revenue stamp also." But we are not told what value it is to represent.

**Mauritius.**—Our publishers have received the 1 cent in the bi-coloured, arms type; wmk. Cr. CA; perf. 14.

*Adhesive.*

- 1 cent, lilac; value in blue.

**New South Wales.**—The *Australian Philatelist* says the colour of the 2d. stamp is to be changed to ultramarine, on account of its present dark colour failing to show the obliterating mark with sufficient clearness.

**New Zealand.**—We quote the following reply to a question asked in the New Zealand Legislature concerning the forthcoming so-called picture series from the *Australian Philatelist*:

"Mr. Seddon said that the very high-class designs of the proposed new issue of stamps required the best skilled engraving, such as could not be obtained in the Colony. After much consideration and consultation with the London Post Office authorities and experts, it was decided that the 'recess' process of

printing direct from steel plates, instead of surface-printing from electrotypes, was the only one which would give satisfactory results. This was accordingly adopted, and the engraving intrusted to Messrs. Waterlow and Son, a firm of world-wide repute. On the plates being engraved they would be sent to the Colony, where the stamps would be printed. An initial supply, however, of the low value stamps would be printed in London, to enable them to be put in circulation about the end of the year. When in London he went very carefully into this question, and had two sets of stamps submitted to him. He found that the electrotype would not do justice to the designs; and, seeing that the Colony wished to have a set of stamps superior to any other in the world, they must have the 'recess' process. They could not get that done in the Colony, and that was his reason for sending home. As far as he could he would always support Colonial industries. They would have the printing of the stamps done here by their own printing office; but, as regards the dies, it was necessary to get them at home. They had been ordered, and would be here at the end of the year."

**Sierra Leone.**—The bi-coloured stamps are replacing the single-coloured stamps slowly. This month we have the 4d. value from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. The stamp is printed in the all-prevailing lilac, and the name and figure of value in carmine. Wmk. Cr. CA; perf. 14.

*Adhesive.*

- 4d., lilac; name and value in carmine.

**Straits Settlements.**—*Pahang.*—We have the 5 c. of the current tiger type from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. in bi-colour; *i.e.* the name and figures of value in olive, and the rest of the stamp in lilac. Wmk. Cr. CA; perf. 14.

*Adhesive.*

- 5 c., lilac; name and value in olive.

**Tasmania.**—Mr. Basset Hull writes to us as follows:

"I have seen a set of stamped envelopes which it is proposed to issue for Tasmania. There are only two values; *viz.* 2d. and 2½d. The stamps are printed in the right upper corner of the envelopes, from *clichés* of the

type of the current adhesives, and in the same colours respectively, green and magenta. The paper is white laid, and the size 142 × 80 mm. On the address side of the envelopes there are very artistic views of Tasmanian scenery, produced from Indian-ink drawings made by Mr. D. Warry. There are twelve of such views in all—six on the 2d., and six on the 2½d. envelope. The views are in black.

These envelopes are intended to advertise the charms of Tasmanian scenery, and I do not think that they were issued with any intention to exploit the pockets of philatelists. Of course there are so few comparatively who collect entire envelopes at all, that very little harm can be done to collectors by the issue, and they are certainly pretty things for visitors to use when writing home to their friends."

## Foreign Countries.

**Chili.**—*Le Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste* says the Government have invited designs for a new set of stamps. The competition is open to the artists of all countries.

According to *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* the "return registration receipt" stamp is now printed in black, and the letters "A.R." at the bottom, standing for the Spanish words "aviso recibido," have been replaced by the French equivalent, "avis de reception."

*Adhesive.*  
*Return Registration Receipt Stamp.*  
5 c., black.

**Dutch Indies.**—The *London Philatelist* chronicles a 30 c. unpaid letter stamp in the current type, perf. 14.

*Adhesive.*  
*Unpaid Letter Stamp.*  
30 c., carmine and black.

**French Colonies.**—*Dahomey.*—*Le Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste* says a series of the Colonial type is in preparation with the inscription "Dahomey et dépendances." The same journal has received the post card of 10 c., black on pale green.

**Greece.**—The *Philatelic Monthly* (U.S.A.) publishes the following note from a correspondent:

"I met a gentleman connected with the Postal Department of Greece last week, and elicited from him some very interesting Philatelic information. In the first place he assured me that the Olympian games set would be used up entirely, and no remainders would be sold to dealers. As a matter of fact, the five lowest values are sold out, the medium values up to 2 drachmas will last but a few months longer; but the two highest values, the 5d. and 10d., will remain in circulation for some years yet. In place of the low Olympian values, the remainders of the old Athens issue are again being used. Proposals for an entirely new set are under consideration of the authorities, but as yet nothing has been decided upon."

**Iceland.**—The *Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal* chronicles the 5 aur surcharged "Prio" in black, with figure "3" in red below. It seems that the stock of 3 aur had run short, and the authorities had recourse to

the stock of 5 aur for making a provisional. The 3 aur value is required for local postage and newspapers. Therefore on the 1st November they had 86 sheets of 100 each overprinted. On the 3rd November a further lot of 60 sheets were surcharged with the word "Prio" only, the figure being omitted. There are two varieties of the word "Prio," each sheet having 60 in small type, and 40 with the word in larger letters. The new supply had not arrived when the second lot of surcharged stamps was exhausted; but no further provisionals were made, postal matter requiring 3 aur stamps had to be handed in at the Post Offices with cash, and were then stamped with the word "Franco."

*Adhesives.*  
*Surcharged "Prio" and "3 aur."*  
3 aur on 5 aur, green.  
*Surcharged "Prio" only.*  
3 aur on 5 aur, green.

**Persia.**—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us two provisionals; viz. 5 ch. on 8 ch., and 1 kr. on 5 kran, and the *Austria Philatelist* adds a 2 kr. on 5 kran. The surcharge is in Persian, and repeated underneath in Roman characters, and is evidently done with a hand-stamp.

Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. also send us the current design in new colours. The 1 kran is in larger size, and has portrait of the Shah. Perf. 12½.

*Adhesives.*  
5 ch. on 8 ch., brown; sur. violet.  
1 kr. on 5 kran, blue and silver; sur. violet.  
2 kr. on 5 kran, blue and silver; sur. red.

*Current design; new colours.*

1 chahi, grey.  
2 " light brown.  
3 " mauve.  
4 " red.  
5 " yellow.  
8 " orange.  
10 " ultramarine.  
12 " rose.  
16 " green.  
1 kran, dull blue.

**Sarawak.**—Our publishers have received two more values of the new bi-coloured series; viz. 16 c. and 32 c. No wmk.; perf. 14.

*Adhesives.*  
16 c., green; value in orange.  
32 c. " " black.

Spain. — *Philippine Islands*. — Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the 40 c. and 80 c. to add to the current type.

*Adhesives.*

40 c., slate.  
80 c., red-brown.

United States.—The *Weekly Philatelic Era* says:

"The Bureau has already commenced printing the 1 c. stamps in green, which are expected to be placed on sale about the first of March. No change has been made either in design or plates. The supply of 100,000,000 1 c. stamps, which is generally kept on hand, has been allowed to run down to half the quantity, and the blue stock is being worked off as rapidly as possible.

"The new 5 c. in dark blue is expected to be placed on sale the latter part of April, but as yet no printing has been made. No other changes are in contemplation for the present."

## Our Monthly Packets of New Issues.

No. 1, price One Shilling (postage extra).  
The February Packet contains—

*SEVERAL VARIETIES*, all unused, including new Barbados, ½d., ¾d., 1d., Mauritius, 1 cent, Sarawak, 16 c., &c.

No. 2, price Five Shillings (postage extra).  
The February Packet contains—

*SEVERAL VARIETIES*, all unused.

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

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



## Canadian Jubilees.

It is said, on what authority we know not, that the devil is not half so black as he is painted, and it would seem from some accounts that the distribution of the Canadian Jubilee Issues was not, at the start at all events, quite so partial as it has been represented; and as it is our plan to give all sides of every question, we quote from the experience of Mr. J. B. Spurr, who says he is not a collector or a dealer, but has retained sufficient of his boyhood interest in stamps to be able to see a good chance for a bit of speculation in the Canadian Jubilee Issue. He prefaces his remarks with the usual ignorant sneer at the S.S.S.S., which always comes natural to your speculator in commemorative trifles.

However, let us take Mr. Spurr's experiences for what they are worth. He says:—

"I myself visited the Toronto General Post Office the morning they were first sold. I got there about 9.30, but there were dozens there before me, and outside was a perfect sea of bicycles, as though there were a 'meet' for some big club run. This showed the class of people who were buying stamps. The

entrance was crowded. I had to wait three-quarters of an hour before I got in sight of the counter, and three policemen were endeavouring to keep the crowd back and give everybody room at the counter. Three times I was forced back by a policeman, whilst others in front of me were handing over their bills to men near the counter, who were doing quite a wholesale business. The police distinctly stated that as soon as served each man must move out, and that buying for others was prohibited; but it was done right before their eyes by some, while others got jostled out as soon as they got their little few. It was the ones buying the large quantities that seemed to stick here. When I got up to the counter the half-cent stamps were about all gone, and the young lady gave me two, together with some twos and fives, but took one of the half-cents away from me before I left the counter. We were all informed that there was no necessity to rush, that the stamps would be on sale in every post office within twenty-four hours."

Just so. But they were not put on sale at every post office. In defence of the high values, Mr. Spurr writes: "It has been said that the \$5 stamp and other high values could



not be used. This is not, strictly speaking, correct. There is no limit in weight or size where letter rate is paid. You can ship a trunk through the mails if you are willing to pay 3 c. for every ounce in it. Large parcels of deeds going from lawyers or banks to England or France occasionally bear over \$5 in stamps upon them. Whilst these are very rare, still they are among the possibilities, and to say that they 'cannot' be used is not, strictly speaking, correct."

But the significant part of the business of issuing the high values is that until the Postal Authorities conceived the idea of this Jubilee swindle they never dreamt of needing any stamp of a higher value than 50 cents; and until 1895 they never had anything above 17 cents. Yet, for the purposes of this Jubilee swindle, by a most useful and profitable inspiration, the Postal Authorities suddenly discovered that they needed 1 dol., 2 dol., 3 dol., 4 dol., and even 5 dol. stamps. It will need a very considerable Spurr to wheedle even the greenest collectors on this side into the belief that these dollar stamps bear any relation to postal requirements. Of course, they will "sell and sell well" to flats, but we shall be glad to hear a year or two hence how the said flats fare when *they* want to "sell and sell well."

## Greco-Turkish War Surcharges.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Philatelic Monthly* (U.S.A.) writes:—

"The war with Turkey has brought forth some new things, at any rate. He (a gentleman connected with the Postal Department of Greece) showed me two unsevered 40 lepta stamps which, besides being cancelled in the ordinary way, bore a large blue surcharge. This surcharge is explained as follows: When during the panic at Larissa the postal clerks fled, leaving postage and fiscal stamps behind, there was much danger that these stamps might be stolen. In order to render stamps falling into the hands of the enemy worthless, the chief official of the Larissa Post Office surcharged all stamps remaining in his possession at Domokos with the large round seal of the Tax Office, and ordered the same process in all the offices of his district. Thus the stamps sold in the district threatened by the Turks were all surcharged before being sold to the public, and letters from these places franked with stamps not so surcharged were subject to being taxed by postage due stamps, as they were considered franked with stolen stamps. The surcharge is in blue, and always covers four stamps at a time. Since postal connection was interrupted often and traffic was very light during the critical period, these surcharges will eventually become very scarce. The surcharge consists of the Greek coat-of-arms and the word 'TAMEION,' meaning treasury. The Turks also created a provisional stamp, which was also used in Thessaly during their occupation of this Greek province."

## Steaming off Stamps.

MR. W. H. MITCHELL, in *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*, advocates the use of a jet of steam for the removal of stamps from envelopes, &c. For getting the jet of steam, he says: "Take an ordinary two-quart oilcan and place a cork or, better, a piece of rubber in the cap so it will screw down steam-tight; fill half-full of water so as to reserve a good space for steam, and affix a hose to the spout as long as desired for convenience in using the steam; heat can be applied by any handy means, alcohol, gas, or even an ordinary hand lamp. A pair of small elbow tubes, soldered into the can at the top and bottom with a glass medicine tube placed between them, and made water and steam-tight by a short piece of rubber tubing, will greatly add to convenience, as one can then know exactly how much water the improvised boiler contains. A jeweller's mouth blow-pipe is used as a nozzle."

## The "Post Office" Mauritius.

THERE is growing up a desire to tabulate the number of specimens of great varieties that are known to exist. Mr. Castle makes an attempt to number up the known specimens of the "Post Office" Mauritius. In the November number of the *London Philatelist* he writes:

"The recent sale of the two specimens from Dr. Legrand's collection at such an enormous price as £1920 elicited many enquiries as to the number of copies known, and how far the number justifies the figure. The specimens known are, we believe, nearly, if not quite, twenty, and it is obvious that with this quantity these stamps are not so rare as others that could be named; it is their *prestige* that has made, and always will make, them the "king and queen of stamps." They will celebrate their fifty years' jubilee next year—possibly by selling for over £1000 apiece!

"In this country there are one of each value in the Tapling Collection and that of Mr. W. B. Avery. A collector in Austria is credited with the pair, and there are, to our belief, one or two specimens in other portions of the globe. Almost all have, however, emanated from France, and there it is that the most copies remain. Herr von Ferrary has four copies—two of each; M. J. Bernichon holds Dr. Legrand's two; another well-known collector has the like; and the *Gazette Timbrologique* states that one recently-found specimen of the 1d. is held in Bordeaux, and that two copies of the 2d. were sold in Paris some years since. This would possibly include the specimen of the 2d., blue, on original letter that was shown at the London Philatelic Exhibition of 1897. It will be seen, therefore, that there are in all from seventeen to twenty specimens extant."

## Detection of Forgeries.

SOME three years ago the Philatelic Society of London appointed a Special Committee from amongst its members to receive, examine, and report on doubtful stamps. This Committee has just issued its first report, which we quote from the *London Philatelist*:—

### REPORT OF THE EXPERT COMMITTEE.

“This Committee, which was appointed in April, 1894, has now been in existence for three years and a half. The object of our appointment was, we believe, a two-fold one: first, to act as an Expert Committee in the ordinary sense of the term, giving an opinion to the best of our ability upon stamps submitted to us; and, secondly, to be a kind of Registration Committee, to which the owners of rarities might submit their stamps for the purpose of obtaining what might be termed a Certificate of Identity, which would accompany the particular specimen as in course of time it changed hands, and might thus furnish a history of the specimen in question in future years.

“The utility of a Committee for the first of these purposes is, we think, sufficiently proved, both by the number of stamps that have been submitted to us during the last three and a half years, and by the fact that the specimens submitted each year show a considerable increase in number over those of the preceding year; and we can congratulate ourselves upon the fact that as the work of the Committee has become more widely understood, the value of its certificates has apparently become more highly appreciated.

“As regards the second of the two objects, we are unable to report that it has to our knowledge been attained to any considerable extent. We cannot say that any number of undoubted specimens of rarities have been submitted to the Committee for purposes of registration alone. At the same time our record of stamps examined, and photographs of those which are pronounced genuine, serve as a register and a means of identification of those copies; and the certificates which we give in those cases are in such a form as to be the Certificates of Identity which a Registration Committee might give. But it must be acknowledged that if the second of the two objects has thus been effected, it has rather been done as a result of carrying out the first than as a distinct and separate matter.

“Our first consideration when we were appointed as a Committee had reference to the form which our certificates should take when we expressed a favourable opinion upon the stamp submitted, and we decided that in order to prevent any fraudulent use of these certificates it was absolutely necessary that each should include a photograph of the stamp to which it referred. This serves at the same time to make those certificates form

the Certificates of Identity required for our second purpose.

“In the case of stamps upon which our opinion was not favourable, we did not consider it so necessary to identify them, and we hesitated to make it a condition that we should be permitted to mark such specimens in any way, as we could not claim to be infallible. We fixed the fee for examination, with a view to its being sufficient to cover the expenses involved, and believing that the large majority of the stamps submitted would probably be genuine, we made the fee at first 2s. 6d. for each stamp, so as, although that sum would not cover the cost of passing round and afterwards photographing one single stamp at a time, it was likely to be enough if several stamps were circulated together, and more especially if some of them were not genuine, and therefore not photographed. Later, when we found that the genuine stamps sent to us were decidedly in the minority, and believing that it was not the intention of the Society that the Committee should form a regular source of revenue, we decided to reduce the fees, and they now stand at 2s. 6d. for one stamp submitted at a time, 2s. each for two or more sent together, reduced in each case to 1s. 6d. for each stamp not pronounced genuine and not photographed.

“On this basis there is still some profit (as is shown by the accounts), which has been handed over from time to time to the Treasurer of the Society; but we believe that the fees could not be further reduced without risk of loss, and we consider besides that a Committee of this kind, appointed by this Society, is not intended for the purpose of examining the commoner class of stamps.

“To conclude with a few statistics. We have examined in all 844 stamps down to the present date. Of these, 300 were pronounced genuine, and upon the remainder our opinion was unfavourable or undecided. It may be thought fairer to still further reduce the fee in future in the case of stamps upon which no decided opinion is given; but collectors who submit specimens (especially unused copies) of stamps which bear comparatively simple surcharges, should be aware that it is practically impossible to certify the genuineness of these overprints, and that a decided opinion is only possible where the surcharge does not agree with the genuine type.

“During the first twelve months, from the beginning of May, 1894, to the end of April, 1895, we examined 121 stamps; during the second year, 213, during the third 358, and since the beginning of May, 1897, during the period which includes the summer months, 152, showing, as we stated before, a constantly-increasing amount of work.

“Finally, we would express our hearty thanks to the specialists, members of this Society, and others, who have rendered us assistance, without which it would have been impossible for us to have carried out our duties.”

## Schleswig-Holstein.

MR. G. B. DUERST contributes to the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* the opening portion of a paper on the stamps of Schleswig-Holstein. He divides the stamps into the following periods:—

- "A. Schleswig-Holstein (Provisional Government. Seat of Government at Rendsburg). 15th November, 1850-1st February, 1851.
- "B. Schleswig-Holstein (Danish Government). 1st February, 1851-1st March, 1864.
- "C. Schleswig (governed by Commissioners appointed by Prussia and Austria. Seat of Government at Flensburg). 20th February, 1864-24th January, 1865.
- "D. Holstein (governed by Commissioners appointed by Prussia and Austria. Seat of Government at Kiel). 1st March, 1864-24th January, 1865.
- "E. Schleswig and Holstein (governed by Prussia and Austria combined. Seat of Government at Flensburg). 24th January, 1865-31st October, 1865.
- "F. Schleswig (governed by Prussia). 1st November, 1865-1st November, 1866.
- "G. Holstein (governed by Austria). 1st November, 1865-1st November, 1866.
- "H. Schleswig and Holstein (united with Prussia). 1st November, 1866."

## Brazil, 1893, 50 r. Varieties.

The *Journal Philatelico* of Brazil gives a detailed list of all the variations of the 50 reis of 1893. We quote the translation of this list from the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*:—

"Issue 1893. 'SOUTHERN CROSS' in an oval, 'CORREIO' and 'E. U. do BRAZIL' at the top, 'JORNAES' and value at the bottom.

Perforated 11.

50 reis; light yellow-green.

Perforated 11½.

50 reis; pale yellow-green.

50 ,, light yellow-green.

50 ,, yellow-green.

Perforated 13 by 11.

50 reis; green.

50 ,, yellow-green.

50 ,, dark yellow-green.

50 ,, light yellow-green.

50 ,, pale yellow-green.

Horizontally badly perforated, and vertically perforated 11.

50 reis; yellow-green.

Perforated 13½ by 11.

50 reis; yellow-green.

50 ,, light yellow-green.

Perforated 13½ by 11½.

50 reis; green.

50 ,, pale green.

50 ,, yellow-green.

50 ,, pale yellow-green.

Perforated 14 by 11½.

50 reis; green.

50 ,, yellow-green.

50 ,, light yellow-green.

50 ,, pale yellow-green.

Horizontally badly perforated, and vertically perforated 11½.

50 reis; yellow-green.

50 ,, light yellow-green.

Badly perforated.

50 reis; yellow-green.

50 ,, bright yellow-green.

Imperforate.

50 reis; green.

50 ,, yellow-green.

50 ,, light yellow-green.

Same as before, but the letters of *Correio* end in two lines at the bottom.

Perforated 11½.

50 reis; yellow-green.

50 ,, light yellow-green.

Perforated 13 by 11.

50 reis; yellow-green.

50 ,, bright yellow-green.

50 ,, light yellow-green.

50 ,, pale yellow-green.

Perforated 13 by 11½.

50 reis; yellow-green.

Perforated 13½ by 11.

50 reis; yellow-green.

Perforated 14 by 11½.

50 reis; yellow-green.

50 ,, light yellow-green.

Horizontally badly perforated, and vertically 11.

50 reis; pale yellow-green.

Horizontally imperforate, and vertically perforated 11½.

50 reis; yellow-green."

## New United States Stamps.

ACCORDING to the Washington correspondent of the *Weekly Philatelic Era*, "Bids will shortly be invited by the Post Office Department for furnishing the United States with postage stamps. At the present time the Bureau of Engraving and Printing is making the stamps for the Government, under an arrangement made between the Postmaster-General and the Secretary of the Treasury. The Bureau of Engraving agreed to print the ordinary stamps at 5 cents per thousand, the newspaper and periodical stamps at 11¼ cents



per thousand, the postage due stamps at 6·05 cents per thousand, and the special delivery at 11·4 cents per thousand. The work has been entirely satisfactory to the department, but the law provides for the regular advertising for bids to do this work."

We shall see whether the private firm can outbid the Government Department. Probably the American Bank Note Company will make a special effort to get back the work, for it lost *kuòs* and work when it lost the U.S. contract.

### Necessary v. Unnecessary Issues.

MAJOR EVANS, in the *Monthly Journal*, has a few ominous words on the question of Necessary *versus* Unnecessary Issues. He writes: "The big countries issue as many new stamps as their postal departments require; the postal departments of the little countries cannot require so many more, except for the purpose of drawing revenue from other than the ordinary sources."

Let us take one or two extreme cases:—

"*Great Britain* has not issued one ordinary postage stamp during the period in question (the last four years); eight adhesives have to be provided for, but they are all of the official class, and there are a few fresh varieties of the dies for the envelopes that are stamped to order.

"*Austria* does not occupy half a page.

"*France* has issued only fourteen new stamps for home use.

"*Germany* is even more economical of our space than Great Britain, as far as stamps for use in her European dominions are concerned; and the same may be said about *Russia* (Imperial Issues), *Spain*, *Switzerland*, and *Turkey*, while *Sweden* and *Norway* are very little more extravagant.

"Of important countries, we may fairly say that the *United States* is the only one that fills much space.

"Turning now to the other side, let us select an exceptionally flagrant case.

"The *Republic of Ecuador* commenced to issue stamps so long ago as 1865, and is, therefore, not altogether a novice. In the sixth edition of the Imperial Album, which included the issue of 1892, the stamps of Ecuador occupied four pages, two of letterpress and two of spaces. In the seventh edition, to end of 1893, they filled six, one more page of stamps only. In the new Supplement, the issues of Ecuador for the last four years take up ten pages, the stamps nearly filling five! And these are all supposed to be legitimate issues; there is not a stamp among them that has been condemned by the S.S.S.S. Will any philatelist tell us that this is as it should be, or that such a state of things is for the encouragement of the young collector?"

## Suppression of Speculative Stamps.

LAST month we gave particulars of a projected issue of stamps to get out of stamp collectors the funds otherwise obtainable for building a free library for Dunedin, New Zealand. The Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps promptly called a meeting to discuss the proposal, and have as a natural consequence issued the following circular. The local newspapers snap their fingers at the S.S.S.S., and pooh-pooh the idea that its condemnation of the issue can have any effect. We shall see.

### Dunedin, N.Z., Free Library Issue.

SOCIETY FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF SPECULATIVE STAMPS.

Effingham House, Arundel Street,  
Strand, London, W.C.

12th January, 1898.

DEAR SIR,—I am directed by the Committee of the Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps to inform you that the Sub-Committee of the Philatelic Society, London, have specially considered the question of the proposed issue of stamps in connection with the Jubilee Free Public Library at Otago, New Zealand.

The Sub-Committee are of opinion that these stamps are undoubtedly of a speculative nature, and constitute an attempt to induce collectors to include in their collections labels which are absolutely useless and worthless, and they would advise all amateurs to have nothing whatever to do with them.—Yours truly,

(By Order of the Committee)

H. R. OLDFIELD,

*Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.*



## The S.S.S.S. Rulings in America.

THE Editor of the *Post Office*, of New York, who has been the most industrious of all the writers on the other side in furbishing up plausible arguments against the S.S.S.S. movements, tells us that those who are willing to give an unqualified assent to the S.S.S.S. are a very small minority of collectors in America. We are sorry to hear it. But a few more Exposition stamp swindles, promoted by United States Postal Authorities, will probably put a different complexion upon matters.

## Proposed United States Postal Swindle.

THE Department of Publicity and Promotion of the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition to be held at Omaha, U.S., this year, publishes the following information:—

“For the third time in the history of the nation, in recognition of the importance of a brilliant enterprise, Postmaster-General Gary has decided to order a series of special postage stamps, commemorative of the holding of the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition at Omaha in 1898. The stamps will be issued in denominations of 1 cent, 2 cent, 5 cent, 10 cent, and \$1, making it possible for the public to use these stamps on all outgoing foreign as well as domestic mail matter and packets of merchandise. In the United States there are 70,000 post offices, so that the widespread circulation of these special stamps, suggestive of the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition, will be readily attained. The issue lends the Exposition the prestige of Government recognition and support.

“In issuing these special stamps it is not designed by the Postmaster-General to withdraw from sale the current series, as was the case during the World's Fair. The series of special stamps for the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition will be supplied to any office in the United States, and every postmaster will find an active demand for them from the start, not only by stamp collectors, but by hundreds of thousands of people who will prefer them during the exposition period in place of the regular series.

“The stamps will be different in colour from the regular series. In shape they will resemble the Columbian stamp issued in com-

memoration of the World's Fair. The new ones will be twice the size of the present postage stamp. The Trans-Mississippi stamps will be sought after by collectors, and as there are nearly half a million of these people in the world, the Government, instead of being philanthropic, expects to realize handsomely upon the issue. Columbian stamps to-day are selling at prices many times higher than was paid for them, and they are growing more valuable each year. It is the same way with the Centennial stamp, and it will also be true of the Trans-Mississippi stamp.”

## Death of Julius Goldner.

WE regret to announce the death of Mr. Julius Goldner, who died at Hamburg on January 16th, at the age of 54. He was one of the largest and oldest dealers in postage stamps. His business was exclusively wholesale.

## The Oldest Collector.

DR. C. W. VINER writes to us:—“In your January number you prophesy that someone will cap Mr. Walter Scott of Cardiff's boast of being the longest time collector of postage stamps. I cannot do it myself, having commenced regular collecting in 1860 only, thus scarcely equalling that gentleman, though I had had a few stamps some time previously. But when I first settled in London, in 1854, a lady friend of mine, still living and collecting, had what was then a tolerable show—arranged on a parchment chart, which, I believe, I still possess denuded of its contents. She, however, was not the earliest in the field, having taken the idea from seeing the collection of a gentleman named Scales.”

## English v. American Collecting.

MR. EDMUND L. LIMLEY, in the *Weekly Philatelic Era* (U.S.), enlightens us as to the difference between English and American styles of stamp collecting. He says: “The people who collect stamps in Great Britain are philatelists for the most part, while the majority of those who collect in America are merely ‘stamp collectors,’ who do not study stamps, and who care very little really whether a stamp is engraved in *taille-douce*, is arranged *tête-bêche*, or has a *bourrelet* band on its back, so long as it fills a space.”

## Dealers and Auctions.

It is an open question how far auctions affect dealers in stamps, but the following letter, which has recently been published in the *Glasgow Evening News*, opens one side of the controversy:—

“SIR,—In further reference to the letter signed ‘Philatelist,’ in your issue of December 28th, we shall be glad if you will caution your readers not to place dependence upon the price of a stamp realized at auction, either at London, Glasgow, or Edinburgh sales; we, who have been dealers and experts in stamp matters for over forty years, can speak from considerable experience. We ourselves find and know for a fact that the auction value is absolutely no guide to the real value, and for this reason. There are a number of sales almost every week; very few people have time to attend them, and the chief dealers, we among them, have an arrangement among themselves by which we do not oppose one another. This results in the trade generally securing certain stamps at a very low price, and it would be absurd for anyone to reckon for a moment that the prices at which stamps are sold at these auctions represent the real value of the stamps. A case in point is that at a recent sale we secured a certain lot for £48; this has since been sold to one of the keenest collectors for £100, and he knows that he has purchased a really cheap line, and one that he could not duplicate for double the price, even if he could at all. In this particular case we do not know of a similar lot outside of the collection of H.R.H. the Duke of York, and this, of course, is out of the market. There were three or four dealers represented at this sale, who would gladly have given much more than the price realized, but, owing to the understanding between themselves, they did not bid at all. We would give you thousands of instances, and could prove our facts up to the hilt, but no doubt your space is far too valuable for us to trespass more upon it.—We are, &c.,

“STANLEY GIBBONS (LIMITED).”

The letter also opens, or should open, the eyes of collectors on the look-out for bargains. If stamps are to be had at such knock-out prices, it will obviously pay the watchful collector to either attend or send commissions to those dealers who act as commission agents.

## The Philatelic Society of Victoria Burnt Out.

WE regret to hear that the room formerly occupied by the Philatelic Society of Victoria, together with the whole of the contents, have been totally destroyed by the recent great fire in Melbourne, and were uninsured. Amongst the contents was a valuable library of standard works on philately, and also bound copies of the leading journals, as well as the recognized catalogues of the world.

The loss sustained by the Society has been considerable, and it has therefore been decided to appeal to the generosity of members and other philatelists to assist with any books or journals, which will be gratefully acknowledged by the Hon. Secretary, 178, Russell Street, Melbourne.

## The Sale of the Season.

OUR publishers believe they have been fortunate enough to secure what will prove to be the sale of the season. Just as we are going to press they have successfully negotiated for the sale by auction of a truly magnificent old general collection. This collection is neatly arranged in several fine volumes, and is full of grand rarities in exceptionally fine condition. In our next issue we shall be able to give a few particulars. The sale will be held on the 7th, 8th, and 9th of March at Anderton’s Hotel.

## Birmingham Exchange Packets.

THE *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* wishes the Birmingham Philatelic Society “a better result than swapping stamps.” But we have a pretty well-grounded suspicion that the excellently-conducted arrangement for “swapping stamps” is a deservedly material factor in the Society’s success. Here is Mr. Johnson’s latest report on the “swapping” business:—

“The packets in December were of very fine quality, although they only totalled to £3439 2s. 8½d.; but they were largely comprised of fine sheets belonging to English, colonial, and foreign members, who are giving up certain countries in order to specialize in others. The same style of thing was continued in the January packets, which establish *another record for exchange societies.*”

	£	s.	d.
The A packet was	1543	9	1½
„ B „ „	1816	2	3
„ C „ „	1055	4	11
	£4414	16	3½

“This is not only the highest amount ever circulated in any Society in exchange in England, but it is by far the *best value*; and the splendid purchases made by the members who have already seen the packets fully testify to their appreciation of having such fine sheets to select from. Very few of the stamps are at more than half catalogue (except the current unused), and many are below that; while the unused Colonials in A and B amount to more than half those packets, while C contains some £600 worth of unused Europeans in mint condition.”

This sort of thing will stand a deal of sneering.



## Hungarian Issues.

At a recent meeting of the Birmingham Philatelic Society, Mr. G. Johnson, B.A., the energetic Honorary Secretary, read a paper on the stamps of Hungary.

After tracing the history of Austria and Hungary down to 1871, he gave a short account of the stamps of the latter country, including a description of the various printings, papers, perfs, etc.

Perhaps the most interesting point touched upon was the watermark of the 1878 to 1897 issues, on which all the chief authorities differ. Scott's *Advanced Catalogue* says it is "KP" in interlaced circles, 33 mm. in diameter, evidently following the early editions of Moens, but the latter has now altered it to "KL." This is improved on by Kohl and by Messrs. Gibbons, who say it is "Kr" in interlaced circles; but this is scarcely correct, the wmk. being "kr" (both lower case, sans serif) in interlaced ellipses, the minor axes of which are 33 mm. and the major axes 39 mm.

### Résumé.

#### ISSUE I. May 1, 1871.

Lithographed from transfers copied from dies prepared for second issue, plain white paper; perf. 9½, head of Emperor Francis Joseph to right on uncoloured circular ground, under which is the crown of St. Stephen over the National Arms. Six values, 2, 3, 5, 10, 15, 25 kr.

#### ISSUE II.

August, 1871, 2, 3, 5, 10 kr.

October " 15 kr.

January, 1872, 25 kr.

Engraved in recess, printed from steel plates, plain wove paper; perf. 9½. Reprints are on wmkd. paper, and perf. 11½.

#### ISSUE III.

October 1, 1874, on unwatermarked paper.  
April, 1878 " watermarked "

An envelope with Crown of Hungary above, posthorn below, laurel branches at sides, in a curve below "Magyar Kir Posta." Printed from steel plates, engraved in recess, perforated by a single-line machine. The gauge varies from 11½ to 13½ single and compound, 13 being commonest in the no wmk., and 11½ in the wmkd.

On June 1, 1887, the following values were added:—8, 12, 15, 24, 30, 50 "Kr." and 1, 2 "Fl." Surface-printed on wmkd. paper, with vertical coloured lines printed on it. Envelope smaller inscription, larger numerals in different colour from rest of stamp.

#### NEWSPAPER STAMPS.

May 1, 1871, mouth of posthorn to left (1 kr.)  
" 1872, " " right (1 kr.)  
October 1, 1874, 1 kr., yellow; no wmk.; spandrels plain.  
October 1, 1878, 1 kr., orange; wmkd.; spandrels plain.  
June 1, 1887, 1 kr., black; wmkd.; paper has no vert. lines.

#### NEWSPAPER TAX STAMPS.

August 1, 1868, 1 kr., blue; 2 kr., brown.  
Surface-printed on paper wmkd. "Zeitungs Marken" in the sheet. 1890, wmk. "Kr."

## Our Beginners' Page.

BY THE EDITOR.

### Bahamas.

THE Bahamas is a group of many islands, rocks and reefs stretching from the eastern coast of Florida to the northern coast of St. Domingo. The capital is Nassau, on the island of New Providence. The Bahamas were discovered by Columbus in 1492, were occupied by the British in 1629, and were finally secured to us in 1783. Area, 5450 square miles; population, 47,565. Of his visit to the islands Columbus wrote to Ferdinand and Isabella—"This country excels all others as far as the day surpasses the night in splendour; the natives love their neighbours as themselves; their conversation is the sweetest imaginable; their faces always smiling; and so gentle and affectionate are they, that I swear to your highness there is not a better people in the

world." The Bahamas may be said to be a land of perpetual summer. The coldest winter is represented by a minimum temperature of 66, and the hottest summer by a maximum temperature of 88. The people of New York, which is only three days' voyage, make the Bahamas a favourite winter resort.

The Philatelic history of the colony commences with the year 1859, when Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. made and sent out the first supply of one penny stamps. According to the West Indian work of the Philatelic Society of London the plates of the 1d., 4d., and 6d., constructed by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., were of steel, and each contained sixty stamps, in six horizontal rows of ten stamps. The first stamp issued was unwatermarked and imperforate, and is considered by many stamp collectors to be the most pleasing as a design

of any English or colonial stamps. In 1861 three values, 1d., 4d., and 6d., were issued, the 4d. and 6d. being of a fresh design. They were perforated, but were still unwatermarked. In 1863-75 the same values and designs were printed on paper watermarked Crown and CC, to which series was added a 1s. value of a new design. In 1882 the watermark was changed to Crown and CA in the case of 1d., 4d., and 1s. values, but in 1884-90 a full series, including the new values of 2½d., 5s., and £1, but not including a 1s. value, was issued in one uniform design. In this later series the colour of the 4d. was changed from rose to yellow. In 1883 the only surcharged stamp that stands to the credit of the colony was made as the result of the stock of 4d. being exhausted. The surcharge consisted of the word "Fourpence" in one word in Roman capitals, overprinted horizontally across the 6d. stamp.

REFERENCE LIST.

1859.

*No wmk. Imperf.*



I.

	Unused.		Used.
	s. d.		s. d.
1d., ake, Type I. . .	15 0	...	—

1861.

*No wmk. Perf.*



Type II.

	Unused.		Used.
	s. d.		s. d.
1d., lake, Type I. . .	—	...	15 0
4d., rose " II. . .	—	...	25 0
6d., lilac " II. . .	—	...	20 0

1863-75.

*Wmk. Crown CC. Perf.*



Type III.

	Unused.		Used.
	s. d.		s. d.
1d., lake, Type I. . .	2 6	...	3 6
4d., rose " II. . .	10 0	...	3 0
6d., lilac " II. . .	7 0	...	3 0
1s., green " III. . .	7 6	...	1 0

1862.

*Wmk. Crown CA. Perf.*

	Unused.		Used.
	s. d.		s. d.
1d., vermilion, Type I. . .	2 6	...	2 0
4d., rose, Type II. . .	7 0	...	3 0
1s., green " III. . .	1 9	...	0 9

1883.

*Surcharged "Fourpence," in black.*

	Unused.		Used.
	s. d.		s. d.
4d. on 6d., lilac, Type II. . .	20 0	...	20 0

1884-90.

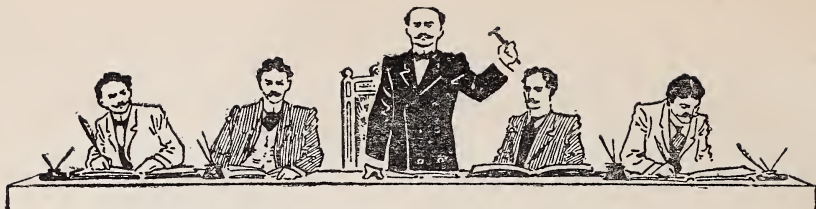
*Wmk. Crown CA. Perf.*



Type IV.

	Unused.		Used.
	s. d.		s. d.
1d., rose, Type IV. . .	0 2	...	0 1
2½d., carmine " . . .	0 4	...	0 1
4d., yellow " . . .	0 6	...	0 3
6d., mauve " . . .	0 9	...	0 9
5s., green " . . .	7 0	...	4 0
£1, red " . . .	25 0	...	13 6





## Notable Stamps at Auction.

	* Unused.	† On original.	
<b>CHEVELEY AND Co.</b>			
<i>20th December, 1897.</i>			
Brunswick, 1st Issue, 3 sgr.*	£ s. d.		
Colombia, 1862, 20 c., red	6 15 0		
India, 1866, Provisional "Service Two Annas," in green*	3 5 0		
	4 15 0		
<b>W. HADLOW.</b>			
<i>17th December, 1897.</i>			
Ceylon, 16 c., lilac, CA*	10 0 0		
Saxony, 3 pf., red	3 10 0		
<b>PUTTICK &amp; SIMPSON.</b>			
<i>30th Nov. and 1st Dec., 1897.</i>			
Barbados, 4d., rose-red, star*	6 0 0		
Hong Kong, 96 c., yellow-brown, CC*	6 5 0		
		£ s. d.	
Lagos, 5/-, blue, CA	5 10 0		
Nevis, 6d., litho.*	6 6 0		
United States, 1868, 90 c.	5 0 0		
Ditto, Justice, 90 c.	6 0 0		
Ditto, State, 5 dols.	18 0 0		
Ditto, ditto, 10 dols.	8 15 0		
Ditto, ditto, 20 dols.	7 5 0		
<i>14th and 15th Dec., 1897.</i>			
British Guiana, 1856, 4 c.	8 0 0		
Cape of Good Hope, 1s., emerald, triangular, pair*	9 10 0		
New South Wales, <i>Lan-reated</i> , 8d., orange*	27 10 0		
South Australia, 1d., grn., London print, pair*	15 15 0		
Switzerland, <i>Zurich</i> , 4 r., hor. lines, type 3	12 12 0		
Tuscany, 1st Issue, 60 c.	5 15 0		
Victoria, 1863-4, 1d., grn., wmk. double-line figure	4 0 0		
	10 0 0		
<b>VENTOM, BULL, &amp; COOPER.</b>			
<i>9th and 10th December, 1897.</i>			
British Columbia, 2½d., imperf, pair*	46 0 0		
British Guiana, 1856, 4 c.	18 0 0		
Ditto, Provisional, 1862, 2 c., border of grapes	7 0 0		
Canada, 7½d., green*	7 10 0		
Cape of Good Hope, 1d., red, wood block*	9 15 0		
New Zealand, 1863, 2d., blue, perf. 13*	17 0 0		
Switzerland, <i>Basle</i> , 2½ r.	5 0 0		
Ditto, <i>Geneva</i> , double†	20 2 6		
Tasmania, no wmk., pelure, rd., brown and red*	9 0 0		
Transvaal, 1887, V.R. Transvaal, all caps., surcharge inverted	5 15 0		
Western Australia, 1st Issue, 2d., brown on red*	8 10 0		
Ditto, ditto, 6d., bronze*	8 0 0		

## Notices.

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

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# The Philatelic Record

AND STAMP NEWS.

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MARCH, 1898.

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## Editorial Notes.

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**S**OME time since we published the announcement that the Postal Union Congress had agreed upon the adoption of uniform colours for the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., and  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. values in all countries in the Postal Union. Already many countries, and especially many of our British colonies, are falling into line, although the change was fixed to take effect in January next. The resolution has been regarded by philatelists as a compulsory one. We now understand that the resolution is more or less permissive. At all events, we have the highest authority for saying that no change whatever is contemplated in our English stamps, and that, therefore, January, 1898, will see no alteration in the postage stamps of this country.

**Uniform  
Postal Union  
Colours.**

Our authorities regard the present stamps, with all their shortcomings in the matter of design and artistic production, as the most safe and serviceable postage stamps they have ever had, and, remembering previous troublesome changes and experiments, they are not likely to be easily persuaded to make any further change. Hence the opposition of this country to the proposal, and its refusal to comply with the resolution.

English philatelists will regret this announcement, for they hoped and believed the time was approaching for having a series of postage stamps worthy of the country and of the empire.

\* \* \*

**Imperial  
Postage.** THE trading community of this country evidently do not intend to let matters rest so far as Imperial postage is concerned. In accordance with the resolution adopted at the last Council meeting of the Association of Chambers of Commerce, a letter was addressed to the Postmaster-General, asking him to receive a deputation from the Association on the question of Imperial postage. In reply the Duke of Norfolk says that, as Her Majesty's Government has been arranging with the Governments of the Colonies and of India for a conference on the subject of rates of postage within the British Empire, he does not think any useful purpose would be served by his receiving a deputation to discuss the subject.

One would imagine from the announcement of an important conference that Imperial Penny Postage is in the wind. But a reply to a question in Parliament, on the 22nd February last, effectually disposes of that idea. A

member wanted to know when the 2d. rate for foreign and colonial matter is to take effect, and Mr. Hanbury replied, "It is not possible to state at present whether the initial rate of letter postage to places abroad will be reduced to 2d. The hon. member may recollect that the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in his budget speech last session that this proposed reduction needed the consent of the Postal Union, and that consent has been withheld. In default of a general reduction, Her Majesty's Government would be willing to reduce the postage to 2d. to all parts of Her Majesty's dominions; and on this point measures have been taken to ascertain the views of the Colonial and Indian Governments."

\* \* \*

**The Omaha Postal Swindle.** AFTER going to press with our last number we had plenty of evidence that leading collectors and dealers in the United States had joined in the protest raised against the proposed issue of stamps designed to swindle stamp collectors out of funds to help a local exhibition at Omaha, grandiloquently dubbed a "Trans-Mississippi Exposition." But, as we anticipated, the protest has been put into the waste-paper basket.

Our friends on the other side cannot expect their protest against such an issue to be very effective after the manner in which they threw their hats into the air in welcome of the Columbian series. In each case the principle is precisely the same—to jubilate at the expense of stamp flats.

Some think we are too drastic in our wholesale and uncompromising crusade against these speculative issues, but the evidence is forthcoming that you cannot condone Government speculation in such cases as the U.S. Columbians, and Canadian and Newfoundland Jubilees, and yet hope to prevent the smaller, and perhaps less scrupulous, fry from indulging in similar enterprises.

Any way, our friends across the Atlantic are at last awake to the danger, so much so that even the Editor of the *Post Office* of New York condemns the Omaha stamps as "the greatest humbugs imaginable among speculative issues."

The S.S.S.S. is of the same opinion, for the Speculative Issues Committee of the London Philatelic Society has promptly black-listed the proposed issue, and the S.S.S.S. has forthwith promulgated the decision.

\* \* \*

**Auction Sales.** WE quote the following from the *Westminster Gazette*:—

**A Warning.** "Everybody knows that there is a class of men who attend auction sales in London with the object of bidding against intending purchasers who have declined to give these men a commission to act as agents. The bidding done under these circumstances is not honest. It is engaged in with the sole object of making the *bonâ fide* bidder pay a higher price than he would have to pay if he engaged a commission agent. It is gratifying to learn that the Registrar of the Birmingham County Court has issued a warning making it clear that this form of dishonesty is likely to bring those who follow it within the meshes of the law on an indictment for conspiracy."

We wonder what view the Registrar would take of "knock-out" gangs at stamp auctions. If it is illegal to form a conspiracy to force up prices at an auction, what is to be said of a conspiracy to force prices down, and deprive the seller of his fair rights? An authoritative opinion would no doubt be of interest to those philatelic myths, the Strand gang of "knock-outs."

\* \* \*

**Gambia**  
**Embossed**  
**Obsolete.**

At last the beautiful and much admired embossed series of the stamps of Gambia have given place to the stereotyped bi-coloured series of the common garden variety of current Seychelles type.

The disappearance of this beautiful series will be regretted wherever British Colonial stamps are collected. They have no peer amongst postage stamps in artistic design and production. That they will eventually take their permanent place amongst high priced and most sought after stamps there is little doubt, and possibly closer study may reveal some minor varieties that have hitherto escaped attention. Of shades there are many interesting varieties, not the least noticeable being the latest, which indicated a fact that has since come to our knowledge, that there was a fresh printing from the plates quite recently. We believe this latest printing was not a large one, and was made in order to supply the final demand for copies of the embossed series before they were displaced by the bi-coloured. This latest printing is easily recognized in the case of the 3d. and 6d., and may turn out to be scarce.

\* \* \*

**Are Stamp**  
**Auctions**  
**Doomed ?**

THOUGH they have been running now for some nine years, stamp auctions may be said to be still more or less of an experiment. In the United States they do not appear to have been such a success as they have been in this country. Mr. Crawford

Capen in the *Post Office* (U.S.), writing of the outlook on his side of the water, says, "The great demand among collectors for fine specimens of stamps; the increase in their call for well centred, finely printed, and, when unused, stamps in mint condition, produced among those who dealt in stamps a dearth of desirable specimens. The auction sale could not be continued if good stamps only were to be offered for sale; hence the point was soon reached where all sorts of stamps of every kind and condition were offered to collectors. It is a perfectly simple matter, capable of easiest explanation, to draw the conclusion under such circumstances that auction sales must die a natural death."

We need scarcely say that this pessimistic view of stamp auctions is not held in this country. Though the bulk of stamps offered at auction cannot be what is termed fine, it probably averages quite as well in that respect as even our best dealers' stock books. Grand copies of good stamps are naturally scarce everywhere, except in the albums of wealthy specialists, and, in our experience, they turn up quite as frequently in auctions as they do in the average dealer's stock book.

If auctions die out on this side it will not be for lack of good stamps in fine condition, for there is such a plethora of stuff offered to our auctioneers nowadays, that the leading firms can afford to reject all poor stuff, or lump it together in wholesale lots.

In our opinion the stamp auction has come to stay. It will probably be subject to its little weaknesses, as other auctions are, but we do not believe that even the silly attempt to get up a scare about the operations of Strand "knock-out" gangs will affect their popularity, so long as they continue to be conducted on straightforward business principles.

\* \* \*

**Our Articles.** IN this number we publish the closing chapter of the very able series of articles on the stamps of Norway, written for this journal by Mr. A. H. Harrison, of Manchester, in collaboration with Mr. Henry Buckley, of Christiania.

As we do not wish to play the dog in the manger, any journal is at liberty



to reproduce articles from our pages, provided it duly acknowledges its indebtedness to the authors and to this journal. Such excellent and painstaking articles as we have had the pleasure of providing for our readers make for the permanence of philately, and add materially to its position as a science, and the wider their circulation the greater the benefit all round.

In this issue we also publish the first portion of an article from the pen of Mr. A. F. Basset Hull, an eminent Australian philatelist, and author of the London Philatelic Society's work on the "Stamps of Tasmania."

Next month we shall commence the publication of a most interesting, instructive, and unique article by Mr. H. R. Oldfield on "How to Collect Bolivian Stamps." Mr. Oldfield is a specialist in Bolivians, and he is going to give the readers of the *Philatelic Record* a few valuable wrinkles, which we believe they will not be slow in appreciating. The article will be fully and handsomely illustrated with beautifully enlarged photo reproductions of the leading varieties.

---

## Suppression of Speculative Stamps.



As anticipated, the Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps has promptly condemned the proposed Omaha Trans-Mississippi series of quasi-postage stamps. The so-called Trans-Mississippi Exhibition is to be held at Omaha, U.S., this year, and, as explained in our last month's number (p. 48), the proposed swindle of an issue of postage stamps to fleece stamp collectors of funds has secured the connivance of the U.S. Postmaster-General. As a consequence, with the aid of speculators and other interested boomers of this kind of discreditable rubbish, the promoters of the Exhibition and the Government of the United States "expect to realize handsomely upon the issue." The leading collectors and dealers of the United States have strongly, but vainly, protested against the scheme.

### The Omaha Trans-Mississippi Exhibition Stamp Swindle.

SOCIETY FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF SPECULATIVE STAMPS.

Effingham House, Arundel Street,  
Strand, London, W.C.

22nd February, 1898.

DEAR SIR,—I am directed by the Committee of the Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps to inform you that the Special Committee of the Philatelic Society, London, have taken into consideration the proposed issue of Trans-Mississippi stamps in connection with the Exhibition to be held at Omaha, U.S.A., and are of the opinion that the same is speculative and unnecessary.

In making public the above opinion this Society recommends collectors to refuse to purchase these stamps, and so assist in preventing the issue of stamps intended mainly for the purpose of sale to collectors and speculators.

Yours truly,

(By Order of the Committee, this 18th February, 1898)

HERBERT R. OLDFIELD,

*Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.*

Plate V. 20 ore.

C



D



F



G



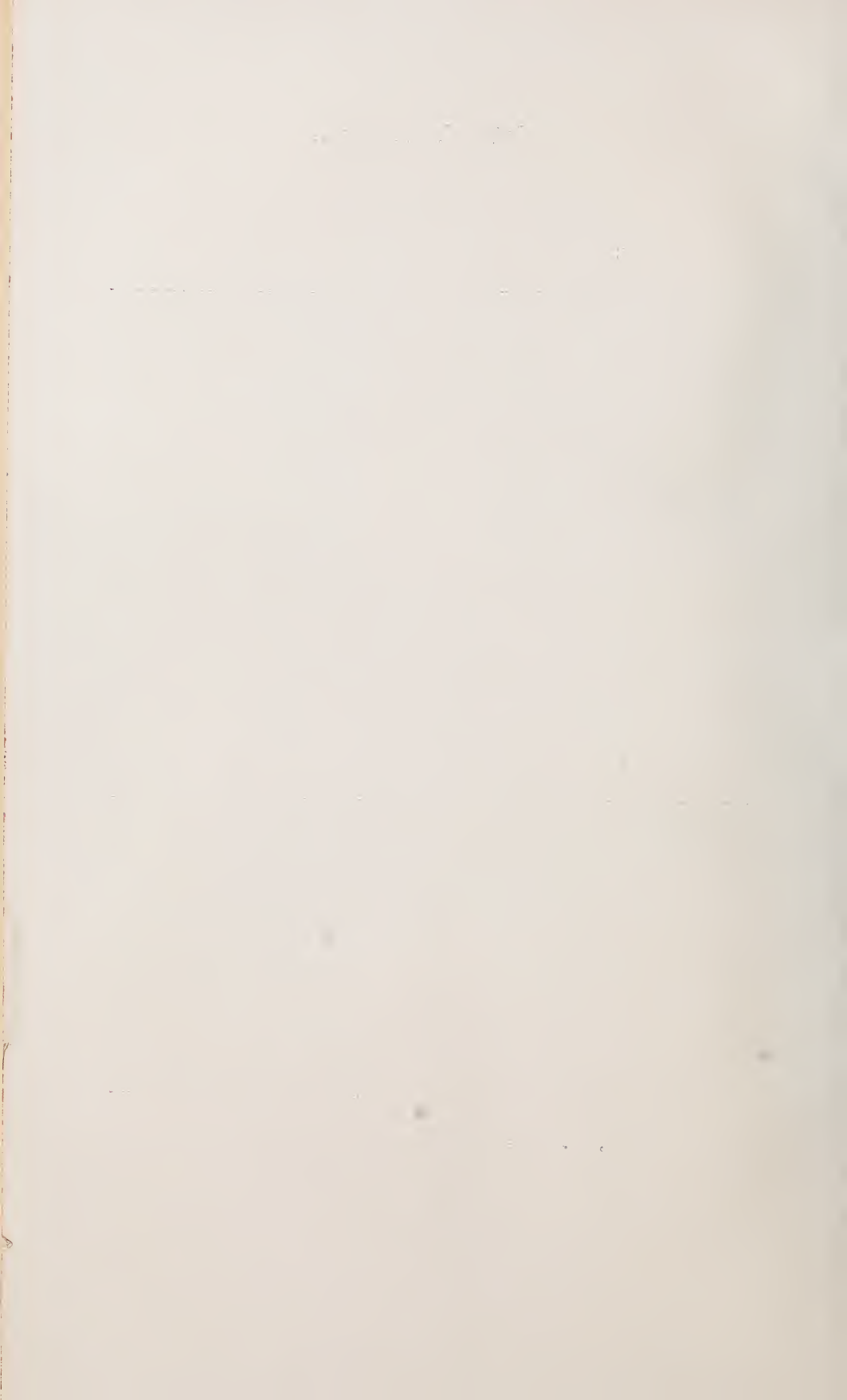






Plate III. 10 ore.

A



B



C



D



E



F



Plate IV. 10 ore.

I



G



H





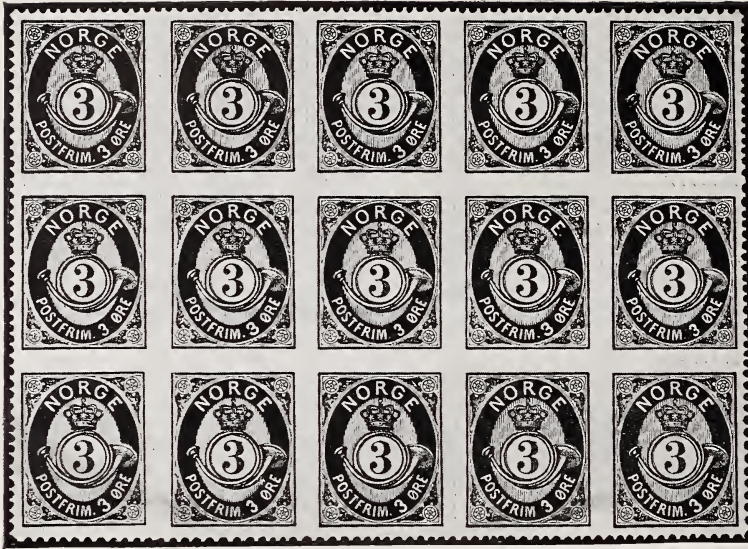
1875

1875

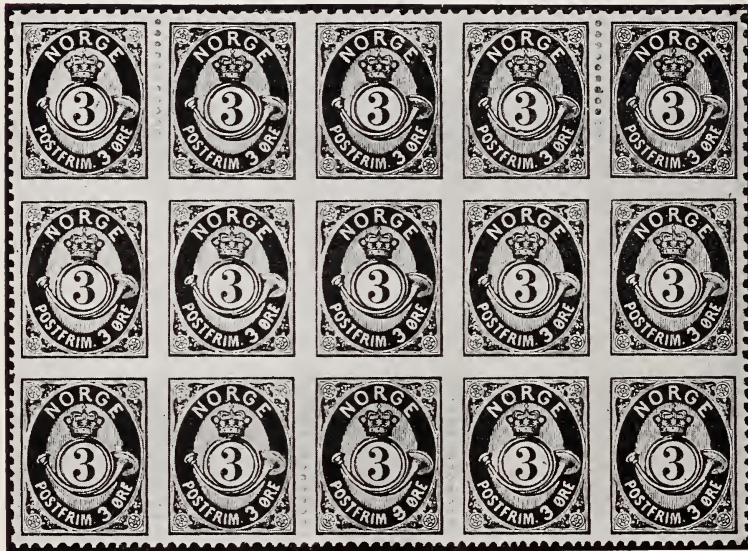


Plate I. 3 ore.

A



C



B



D





Plate II. 5 ore.

A



B



C

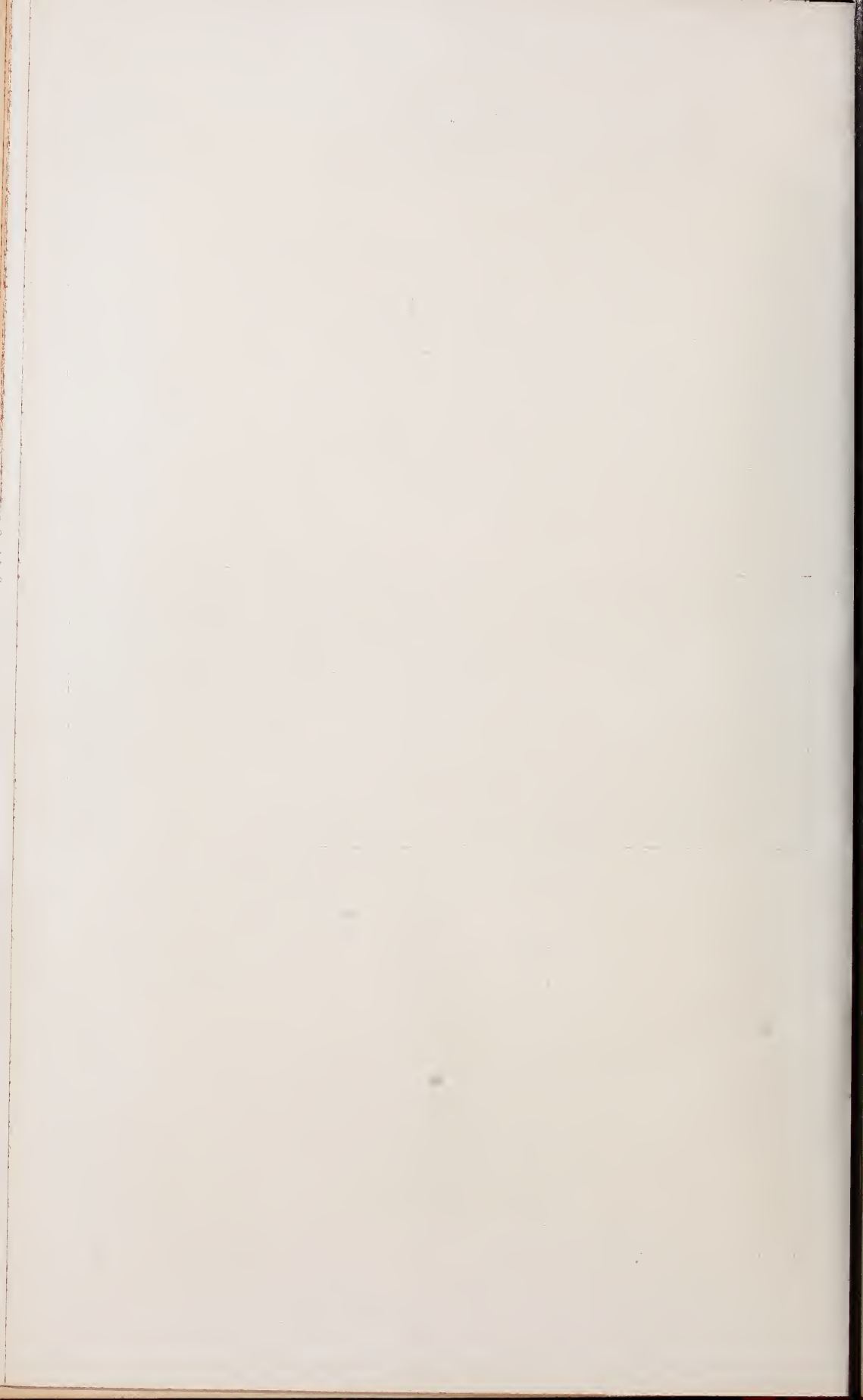


D



E





# The Stamps of Norway.


BY ARTHUR H. HARRISON,

*Hon. Sec. Manchester Philatelic Society*

(IN COLLABORATION WITH HUBERT BUCKLEY, CHRISTIANIA).

(Continued from page 34.)

## *Variety of 10 öre. Imperforate.*

T is known that one sheet was accidentally issued to the Lauvrik Post Office.

**12 ore, pale green, very light shades. (February, 1884.)**

I have found only one plate for this value. The measurement of the stamps is  $16\frac{1}{2} \times 20\frac{3}{4}$ . Between the 8th and 9th line of shading (counting from the right) and above the ring of the posthorn there is a dot of colour, more or less distinct, on every stamp.

**20 ore, pale brown. (January ?, 1883.)**

Size,  $16\frac{1}{2} \times 20\frac{3}{4}$ . I have not found more than one plate. All the small numerals of value appear to vary in size, shape, and position; indeed, on some specimens the figures are so badly formed that the "2" of "20" resembles a hook.

**25 ore, dull mauve, bright mauve, reddish mauve, and shades.**

Printing A. Dull mauve, 1883; medium toned wove paper;  $16\frac{1}{2} \times 20\frac{1}{2}$  full; small numerals, all different.

„ B. Light mauve; thin white wove paper;  $16\frac{3}{4} \times 20\frac{1}{4}$ ; small numerals, all different.

### *Variety. Without stop.*

„ *BI.* Bright mauve, mauve, reddish mauve; thin white wove paper.

*Variety I.* Without stop.

„ *II.* The foot of the "2" thick, with curved upstroke; (large numerals in centre).

„ *III.* Full-stop both before and after "25" (small numerals).

„ C. Mauve (bluish); exposed to light the shade becomes very blue; thin toned wove paper;  $16\frac{1}{2} \times 20\frac{1}{4}$ ; small numerals, all different.

*Variety.* Round white spot below the bell-shaped end of the posthorn, 10th on the 10th row.



## Issue IX.

About the end of 1883, or at the latest the early months of 1884, the shades of the 12 and 20 öre values were changed, the former from green to brown (shades), the latter from brown to blue.

## 12 öre, grey-brown, yellow-brown.

The dot which we found upon the green shade is very plainly defined upon the grey-brown shade, but not so clearly upon the yellow-browns.

The following minor varieties occur upon the yellow-brown:—

- The 4th on the 3rd row, the "1" and "2" (small numerals), appear to very nearly touch at the top.
- „ 7th „ 3rd „ two stops (:) after "POSTFRIM."
- „ 1st „ 4th „ a white spot over the mouthpiece of the posthorn.
- „ 2nd „ 4th „ a large white spot before "N" of "NORGE."
- „ 6th „ 4th „ a small white splash over the mouthpiece of the posthorn.
- „ 2nd „ 9th „ two white spots; the one touches the inner side of the bottom bar of the "E" of "NORGE," the other appears like a full-stop after "NORGE."

That two different plates were prepared (the one used for the grey-brown printing, the other for the yellow-brown) is proved by irregular spacing of the grey-brown plate, whereas the yellow-brown is regular. The two plates were prepared from the same matrix.

The varieties enumerated above do not exist upon the grey-browns. The stamps of both shades measure  $16\frac{1}{2} \times 20\frac{3}{4}$ .

## 20 öre, blue, light blue, grey-blue, ultramarine, and shades of each.

Many printings exist of this value, but as I have not been able to procure large blocks it is not possible to say how the plates were set up.

Printing A. Blue; plate of 20 öre, brown.

- „ B. Ultramarine and light grey-blue; thin greyish wove paper;  $16\frac{3}{4} \times 20\frac{3}{4}$ ; small numerals, badly drawn; the "2" in some specimens has no foot.
- „ C. Dark grey-blue; thick greyish wove paper;  $16\frac{3}{4} \times 20\frac{1}{2}$ ; small numerals well defined and close together; all without stop after "POSTFRIM." *See illustration C.*
- „ D. Pale milky blue, Prussian blue; thin white wove paper;  $16\frac{3}{4}$  full  $\times 20\frac{3}{4}$ ; small numerals, very badly drawn, the figure "2" being all shapes and sizes. *See illustration D.*
- „ E. Grey-blue; medium greyish wove paper;  $16\frac{1}{4} \times 20$ ; small numerals (very small and thin), the figure "2" nearly upright.
- „ F. Dark blue; medium white paper;  $16\frac{1}{4} \times 20$  bare; small numerals, clearly defined, close together, and the same size as the lettering; the foot of the figure "2" is straight. *See illustration F.*

Printing G. Blue; medium white paper;  $16\frac{1}{2} \times 20\frac{1}{4}$ ; small numerals, clearly defined, but more rounded than F, and varying in size; set up in blocks of 4. *See illustration G.*

*Variety.* Imperforated.

### Provisional Issue.

The postal rate to Sweden being fixed at 2 öre, in July, 1888, the authorities decided to surcharge the stock of the 12 öre, browns (all shades). This stamp remained in general use until 1890, and is available for postage to this day. There were, in round numbers, 2,700,000 surcharged "2 öre," in black.

The overprinting was carefully executed, and there are no varieties beyond broken figures and letters.

### Issue X.

#### 1 ore, black-brown (shades).

Coarse printing; design as before; paper medium wove, rather hard and slightly glazed; perforated  $14\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$  regularly; gum yellowish white. The size of each stamp  $16\frac{1}{4} \times 20$  mm.

The watermark, which is found once more in various positions, is changed for the first time since 1872. The impression is much clearer, slightly smaller, and it resembles the shape of the posthorn on the face of the stamps.

There are several minor varieties, the following being the principal:—

- I. There is a round, nearly white dot touching the outer border line of the oval, almost above the "E" of "NORGE"; it occurs upon the following:—

The	8th stamp on the 2nd row.
„ 8th and 10th	„ „ 4th „
„ 10th	„ „ 8th „
„ 8th	„ „ 10th „

- II. The 6th stamp on the 5th row has the "E" of "NORGE" misformed.  
 III. Two lines of shading on the left above the crown are joined, forming one thick line, which connects the top of the crown and the oval upon

the 4th stamp of the 5th row.

„ 4th „ „ 7th „

- IV. The 10th stamp on the 6th row has two white dots (:) before "NORGE."  
 V. The 5th stamp on the 7th row has the "N" of "NORGE" very small.

### Issue XI.

#### 1 ore, grey, bistre-grey, 1891.

Design as last; impression clear; apparently all the small numerals vary, the plate from which this stamp was printed being, I think, prepared from a single die; the distance between the stamps varies slightly; some are higher than others, and some are not set exactly upright. The size is  $16\frac{1}{2} \times 20\frac{1}{4}$  mm. The paper is as last; the watermark reverts to old style. The perforation,  $14\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ , as before.

*Variety.* The arch on the right side of the crown not joined.

### 2 ore, yellow-brown, bistre-brown.

Here again we find a most curious method of "setting up" the plate. Upon careful examination of a sheet, I can clearly trace two blocks of 4, which are reproduced as under.

A—First block of 4 on left-hand corner of the sheet.

B—Second ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,

A.	B.	B.	B.	A
A	A	B	A	B
B	B	A	B	A
A	A	B	A	B
A	B	A	B	A

### Issue XII.

Printed at the Government offices in Christiania from an original matrix engraved on steel by Trousen, of Krongisberg. The matrix is without the small numerals of value, and is fitted with screwed centre-pieces.

The design is very similar to the previous issues, but the lettering is now in Roman capitals.

The paper, which is very similar to that of the foregoing issues, is manufactured at the Alvocus Paper Works, Bergen.

Watermark as before; perforation,  $14\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ ; later,  $13\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ .

SYNOPSIS.—1 öre, grey, perf.  $13\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ .

3 ,, orange (shades),  $14\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ , and  $13\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ .

5 ,, green (shades),  $13\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ .

10 ,, pale rose,  $14\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ .

10 ,, ,, to deep rose,  $13\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ .

20 ,, blue,  $14\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ , and  $13\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ .

35 ,, blue-green, }  $13\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ .

50 ,, marone, }

(Concluded.)

## The Stamps of Tonga.

By A. F. BASSET HULL.

**I**N the opinion of most philatelists there has been a great deal of "unrest" in connection with the postal issues of Tonga. While there is doubtless much to support the contention that many of the emissions of the kingdom have been unnecessary from a philatelic point of view, there are several extenuating circumstances that should be taken into consideration in order to arrive at an impartial decision.

In the first place it is well to remember that if it were not for the demands of unthinking philatelists or unscrupulous philatelic speculators there could be no "philatelic unrest." Therefore the disturbing cause is to be sought amongst the lower ranks of the very persons who complain of the disturbance! Had there been no urgent demand for abnormal varieties of surcharge, or quantities of stamps cancelled to order, there would have been no supply of such articles,



and it seems rather unfair to force a certain condition of affairs and then reproach those who yielded to pressure for their compliance. It is too much to expect that officials, inexpert in matters purely philatelic, should be able to discriminate at once between the desires of *bonâ fide* collectors and the self-seeking demands of speculators. For this reason alone some consideration should be shown to the Tongan authorities when deciding upon the question whether their issues were justified or not.

Again, it is necessary to look at the state of government, the rudimentary condition of an administration just emerging from barbarism into semi-civilization, the unsatisfactory state of the finances, and then to consider how easily any pressure from speculators would meet with a successful result.

Take also the somewhat isolated position of the kingdom, and reflect upon the inevitable result if a few resident speculators should combine to exhaust the supply of any given low-value stamp in order to force the issue of temporary expedients to meet the immediate demand.

There is no doubt that little thought was taken of the future by the authorities when the first demand came, and they too readily yielded to the call for abnormal varieties, blind, either wilfully or through ignorance, to the fact that they were, by the exhausting process of over-production, in reality killing the goose that laid the golden eggs. The confession of Mr. Basil Thomson, referred to later on in this article, shows that, anyhow, at first but little pressure was required to start the ball on the downward road, and once having commenced, the continued pressure kept it rolling until it threatened to do serious damage in its course.

The death of King George I. and the consequent changes considered necessary in the design of the stamps, the unsatisfactory character of the portrait when produced, and the necessity for procuring the stamps from a distant country—all may be taken as extenuating circumstances in connection with the production of the later issues; and now that an entirely new series is to be issued, which the present authorities intend shall be furnished in sufficient quantity to meet all possible demands, and will not be overprinted or altered in any way in response to speculators' demands, we may try to overlook the past, and do our best to restore the status of the stamps of Tonga and admit them to our collections.

Tonga is a kingdom, of which the present king is George II. He is assisted in his administration by a council of native chiefs. Great Britain, Germany, and the United States of America are represented by consuls. Gold and silver coins of these three countries are legal tender, but the national accounts are kept in dollars (at 4s.), shillings, and pence.

The Tonga, or Friendly, Islands extend from  $173^{\circ} 52'$  to  $176^{\circ} 10'$  west longitude, and from  $18^{\circ}$  to  $22^{\circ}$  south latitude. They consist of three groups—Tongatabu, Haapai, and Vavau, the most southerly being Tongatabu, and the others stretching north-east in the order named. In the Tongan Archipelago there are, great and small, about a hundred islands. Many of these, however, are mere coral banks, giving roothold to a few palms.

The capital is Nukualofa, in the island of Tongatabu, where are situated the king's palace, king's church, and the public buildings.

It is not generally known that prior to the issue of definite postage stamps for the kingdom of Tonga a small supply of Fijian stamps was obtained and used.

The *Interim Report on the Accounts of the Post Office, Nukualofa, for the period July, 1886, to December, 1893* (dated 15th December, 1893), a document from which I have extracted much valuable information relative to the dates of issue and quantities of stamps printed, contains (Annex B) a statement

of stamps accounted for and actually received at the Post Office, Nukualofa, 1886-93.

This statement is drawn up in three columns. Column A refers to "Stamps entered as received on books of office, and debited by chief postmaster"; Column B refers to "Stamps actually received in office from Wellington and elsewhere, showing the true amount which chief postmaster should have debited"; and Column C gives the deficit charged by the Commission appointed to enquire into the accounts of Mr. A. M. Campbell, late chief postmaster.\*

Mr. Campbell thereupon brought an action for libel against Mr. Whitcombe, but on the third day of the trial he withdrew from the case, judgment being entered for the defendant with costs.

In Column A the first entry is dated July 27, 1886, and is as follows:—"To stamps, Fiji, 2d. and 6d., \$157 2s." As the next entry is dated just one month later and relates to the stamps received from Wellington, it appears that the supply of Fijian 2d. and 6d. stamps was sufficient to last out the month. The proportionate number of each value is not given, but supposing an equal number was obtained, there would be 948 of each value. I have not seen any Fijian stamps bearing the Tongan cancellation, but doubtless a search amongst any large stock of the 1883 issue would reveal a specimen or two. The stamps of the two values mentioned then current in Fiji were of the type with V.R. engraved, wove paper, perf. 10 or  $10 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ , 2d., pale green, and 6d., carmine-rose.

I have no definite information as to whether Tonga paid face value for these stamps or obtained them at cost of production only, but have little doubt that the latter was the case. Under any circumstances the stamps were used as Tongan, for there never has been any political, financial, or postal connection between Fiji and Tonga.

\* Under date January 6th, 1894, the Tonga correspondent of the *Sydney Morning Herald* wrote:—"The audit of the Customs and Post Office accounts has been concluded, but it cannot be said to be satisfactory. Mr. Whitcombe, who is called the Foreign Secretary, and Mr. A. G. Hamilton were appointed, and duly commenced the work; but Mr. Hamilton being taken ill, Mr. Whitcombe completed the task alone, and acting upon his advice the Government took proceedings in the British Consular Court against Mr. A. M. Campbell, the late Collector of Customs. The case was heard on the 29th ultimo, and consisted of two charges. The first was on account of some registered envelopes supposed to have been received in 1891, and the second charge was on account of stamps received last October, and apparently not accounted for. Mr. Whitcombe prosecuted on behalf of the Government. The Vice-Consul (Mr. R. B. Leefe), who presided, stated that there was no evidence to support the charges, and gave it as his opinion that the Tongan Government had been badly advised in the matter, and dismissed the case."

(To be continued.)



# The Stamps of Hayti.

By JOSEPH B. LEAVY.

From "The American Journal of Philately."



ATELY I have devoted a few of my ducats, a great deal of my time, and my entire philatelic attention, to the stamps of Hayti. This interesting little West Indian republic has been almost entirely neglected by collectors in their wild scramble for the stamps of its British associates, and the result is that not one catalogue lists its issues correctly, and shades that are distinct enough to be almost termed different colours have passed unnoted.

The following list is the result of the combination of my ducats, time, and attention, and I publish it in the hope that it may be of interest and benefit to other riders of our pleasant hobby. The types of the stamps are too well known to need description, and the illustrations furnished herewith will be amply sufficient.

## 1881. *Imperforate.*



These stamps were lithographed in sheets of fifty, one stone serving for all values, the shield containing the numeral of value being blank, the numerals being set up in type and printed in afterwards. Each stamp of the fifty is different, the differences showing principally in the lettering and in the band surrounding the head; they are too minute for description, yet ample for the purposes of plating. The paper is white, surface tinted.

1 cent, orange-vermilion on deep buff.	3 cent, olive-bistre on very light buff.
1 " vermilion " " "	5 " bright green on greenish.
1 " pale red " " "	5 " pale green " "
1 " pale rose-red on very light buff.	7 " dark blue on grey.
2 " grey-violet on lilac.	7 " bright blue "
2 " black-violet "	7 " dull blue "
2 " " on grey.	20 " orange-brown on deep buff.
3 " bronze-bistre on deep buff.	20 " red-brown on very light buff.
3 " " " " very light buff.	

## 1882. *Perforated 13½.*

These stamps are also lithographed in sheets of fifty, but from another stone, and show no differences. The paper is white, surface tinted; but either the paper or the ink is of a peculiar oily nature, which causes the colour to show



through on the back in a greasy manner, and gives it a metallic lustre when held to the light.

1 cent, pale vermilion on very light buff.	3 cent, olive-bistre on very light buff.
1 ,, rose-vermilion ,, ,, ,,	5 ,, bright green on greenish.
2 ,, maroon on grey.	7 ,, dark blue on grey.
2 ,, plum ,, ,,	20 ,, red-brown on very light buff.

1883. *Perforated* 13½.

Lithographed from the same plates as the preceding issue, on white paper, surface tinted, but without the greasy appearance and metallic lustre. This issue does not come on white paper as generally catalogued.

1 cent, rose-vermilion on deep buff.	5 cent, yellow-green on greenish.
1 ,, rose-carmine ,, ,, ,,	5 ,, pale yellow-green on greenish.
1 ,, scarlet ,, ,, ,,	7 ,, bright blue on grey.
1 ,, pale vermilion on very light buff.	7 ,, dull blue ,, ,,
2 ,, grey-violet on lilac.	7 ,, pale blue ,, ,,
2 ,, black-violet on grey.	7 ,, dark ultramarine on bluish.
3 ,, olive-bistre on very light buff.	7 ,, bright ,, ,, ,,
3 ,, grey-bistre ,, ,, ,, ,,	7 ,, pale ,, ,, ,,
3 ,, ,, ,, grey.	20 ,, red-brown on very light buff.
5 ,, bright green on greenish.	20 ,, pale brown ,, ,, ,,
5 ,, pale blue-green on ,,	20 ,, ,, ,, on straw.

*Imperforate Horizontally.*

1 cent, pale vermilion on grey.

*Imperforate Vertically.*

2 cent, black-violet on grey.  
 5 ,, bright green on greenish.  
 7 ,, bright ultramarine on bluish.  
 20 ,, pale brown on straw.

1885. *Perforated* 16.

These stamps appear to be from still another plate; the head and lettering surrounding it seem to be a trifle larger than in the preceding issue. The paper is a little thicker than last, and milky white.

1 cent, vermilion.	5 cent, pale yellow-green.
2 ,, dark violet.	7 ,, bright Prussian blue.
3 ,, grey.	20 ,, chestnut.

1886. *Perforated* 14.

Same in every respect as preceding issue.

2 cent, dark violet.	7 cent, bright Prussian blue.
3 ,, light brown.	20 ,, chestnut.
5 ,, pale yellow-green.	

1886. *Perforated* 13.

From still another plate, the lettering surrounding the head being much larger than in any of the preceding; white paper, surface tinted.

5 cent, yellow-green on greenish.	5 cent, yellow-green on grey.
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1886. *Perforated* 13 and 13½.

Yet another plate, showing extra shading in the face and neck; white paper, surface tinted.

1 cent, orange-vermilion on deep buff.	1 cent, rose-carmine on very light buff.
1 ,, rose-vermilion ,, ,, ,,	1 ,, brown-red ,, ,, ,,
1 ,, vermilion on very light buff.	2 ,, dark violet on grey.
1 ,, pale vermilion on very light buff.	

1887. *Perforated 14.*

New design, head of President Salomon; white paper.

- 1 cent, dark carmine.
- 1 ,, pale red.
- 2 ,, light purple.
- 3 ,, bright blue.
- 3 ,, dull blue.
- 5 ,, green.
- 5 ,, yellow-green.

1890. *Perforated 14.*

Three cent stamp of preceding issue, hand-stamped with new value in red ink. This being a hand-stamp, there are numerous varieties, caused by the failure of some of the letters to print; there are also double and triple surcharges.

From this date on the catalogues are correct, so there is no need of repeating the list.



## The Tapling Collection.

*Extracted from "The Stamp Collector."*

**U**ST as we are going to press we have received from the publisher, Mr. George Redway, a welcome addition to his admirable "Collector Series" of Handbooks, a copy of *The Stamp Collector*, by Messrs. W. J. Hardy and E. D. Bacon. We shall review the work at length and in detail in our next issue, but we cannot forbear extracting for this issue of the *Philatelic Record* from its wealth of good things the following most interesting account of the Tapling Collection, which, of course, is from the pen of Mr. E. D. Bacon, the friend and co-worker of the late Mr. Tapling.—  
ED. P.R.

THE late Mr. T. K. Tapling, M.P., first engaged in the pursuit when he was about ten years of age, and continued his collection whilst at Harrow. From the commencement he followed scientific lines, and save for the few years that he passed at Trinity College, Cambridge, he remained an enthusiastic collector till the time of his death, in April, 1891.

His collection was already a fine one when, in 1882, it received its first accession in the purchase of Mr. Image's collection. He subsequently added to it the European stamps of Mr. Westoby, and down to his death had the pick of all the numerous fine collections which came into the English market between 1882 and 1887. Amongst these was the magnificent collection of Mauritius stamps formed by Major E. B. Evans, R.A., from which he derived a perfect specimen of the One Penny "Post Office" on the original envelope, and a number of other early stamps of that colony. The other value of the "Post Office" Mauritius, the Two Pence, blue (which is unused), he obtained by exchange from Herr P. von Ferrary. From Captain Weare's collection he acquired a magnificent selection of the early issues of Afghanistan, and of the stamps of

Portuguese India, British India, and some other countries; from Mr. Cameron's, a number of the first issues of Cashmere; from Mr. E. B. Luard's, many of the stamps of British Guiana; and from the collections of Messrs. De Ysasi, Burnett, and Castle he also added a very large number of specimens.

During all the time that he collected Mr. Tapling was in active correspondence with the principal stamp dealers throughout the world concerning the acquisition of individual specimens, and it may be recorded as an instance of the keenness and ingenuity with which he followed philately, that his wonderful collection of the early issues of the stamps of New South Wales was brought together by advertising in the Sydney papers for stamps of the colony formerly current there, by which means alone he added to his collection some hundreds of specimens of the "Sydney Views" and "Laureated" series.

By the year 1887 his collection had grown to such an extent that the stamps spread over both sides of the leaves of his albums, and the specimens ran an undoubted risk of damage from overcrowding. Just then the Messieurs Caillebotte's collection came into the market, and it was agreed that Mr. Tapling was to have from it anything he wanted. The superior arrangement of the Frenchmen's albums, and the capacity for development they possessed, so charmed him, that he determined to make their collection his own; and he removed from his albums whatever the other collection lacked, parting with the surplus of his own overcrowded books.

But even this preferable arrangement he did not intend to be permanent. He had already bought from Judge Philbrick a hundred albums, bound in red morocco, which had been made for his own collection, and which remained on his hands after its sale. Each of these albums contained about sixty movable leaves of blank paper of a grey-green tint, and Mr. Tapling's intention was to have each stamp hinged and mounted upon a white card with a red line round it. The stamps on these cards were then to be affixed to the pages according to the date of issue, one specimen of each value of the issue being placed first, and the shades and varieties of each value following in order; so that in the case of a large issue, the stamps of which might extend over several pages, the student would see at a glance the number of values composing that issue. This method of arrangement is being faithfully carried out at the British Museum, where, as has been previously stated, the collection is now placed, the date and particulars of each issue being added on the pages of the albums.

The collection contains postage and telegraph stamps, and "postal stationery" of every description. Mr. Tapling's chief aim was to obtain every variety unused, and he only took used stamps when there was no chance of acquiring them in the former state, or in the exceptional cases where used stamps are more valuable than unused. Mr. Tapling intended to exclude from his collection stamps issued subsequent to the close of the year 1889, a date which practically allowed the admittance of all issues during the last fifty years of the movement (1840-1890).

It is to be regretted that the Trustees of the British Museum have no funds available for additions to the Tapling Collection. Additions have, it is true, been made to it of certain of the few specimens it lacked; but for these the nation has to thank the philatelists, both collectors and dealers, who have generously helped towards rendering the collection exhaustive. Let us hope that this example will be emulated by others.

A few words as to the collection itself. In the stamps of every country it is, of course, singularly rich. It is indeed difficult to specify a country that is more perfectly represented than another, but we may call particular attention to Great Britain and her colonies, and most of the European states. A special feature in the collection is the presence of entire or reconstructed sheets of stamps,



differing in type, and also the stamps issued by Government or private local posts.

The collection of "postal stationery" is almost complete. It comprises the Sardinia letter-sheets of 1818 and 1820, the Sydney letter-sheet of 1838, the Houses of Parliament envelopes, and the Mulready envelopes and wrappers; whilst amongst the more recent examples of importance and interest may be named the Balloon letter-sheets used during the siege of Paris, and the post cards used by the German army during the Franco-Prussian war.

Owing to the rise of prices, the value of the whole collection has increased at least threefold since it was left to the British Museum, and may now be computed at a sum between £75,000 and £100,000.

Mr. Tapling was Vice-President of the Philatelic Society of London from 1881 till the time of his death. As a writer on philatelic subjects, he will be best remembered by papers on the early stamps of New South Wales, the first issue of Tasmania, and the stamps of Turkey, and the early issues of Afghanistan. With regard to the first-named country, the plan which he adopted, and to which we have already referred, bore such excellent fruit, that, together with the specimens he then had, and with the assistance he received from the Messieurs Caillebotte and other collectors, he was enabled to prove beyond question how many stamps each of the three plates of the "Sydney View" issue contained, the number of times the plates of the One Penny and Two Pence were retouched and re-engraved, and the order in which the different varieties had been engraved on those plates in the various stages through which they passed. He also became in a position to elucidate the history of the production of the "Laureated" series in the same manner. As regarded the stamps of Tasmania, his work was equally important. He reconstructed the plate of the One Penny, placing the twenty-four varieties of which it consisted in their original order. He discovered two separate plates, each containing a like number of varieties, of the Four Pence; these plates he reconstructed in a similar way. Such achievements alone entitle Mr. Tapling to rank with the foremost philatelists of the world; and the readiness with which he imparted his vast knowledge on philatelic subjects will be gratefully remembered by many students of the science.

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## The Indian Postal System.

*From "The Times," February 25th, 1898.*



HE courage with which the Indian Post Office undertakes services from which St. Martin's-le-Grand still shrinks might warm the heart of a British postal reformer. With the assimilating powers of a young institution, it absorbs whatever it finds suitable to its own growth in the systems of Europe and America, and quadruples its work in short periods of years. The Indian Post Office dates only from the beginning of the Queen's reign, and the first Indian postage stamps were struck in 1854 as one of the daring innovations of Lord Dalhousie. It now ranks fourth in the world as regards the number of its post offices, fifth as regards the number of its letter-boxes, and seventh in the amount of its money-order business. It has attained to these dimensions in a single generation, and among a population of whom only 4 per cent. can yet read and write. It advances by bounds with the progress of public instruction, and before another generation is gone, if the

career of British rule in India sustains no check, it will bid for a first place among the postal administrations of the globe. During the past twelve years its number of letters and post cards doubled, while in all other postal business the expansion has been still more rapid.

Many facilities long given by the Indian Post Office have but recently been conceded here. The parcel post, telegraphic money orders, and the free redirection of letters were features of the Indian postal service for years before they were introduced in the United Kingdom. Even now there is a want of simplicity in our English system of redirecting letters; for the redirection of parcels an extra charge is made, and a second commission is taken in the case of money orders if the office of payment be changed. The Indian Post Office saves the public all such vexations and uncertainties by a uniform rule of free delivery for the initial charge. Money orders and parcels, as well as letters, are redirected without further payment, although the fresh journey may involve another 2000 miles, from Quetta to Mandalay, or from Peshawar to Tuticorin. The Indian authorities admit that a second charge is justifiable, but they find that the convenience to the public, and the encouragement to use the post, greatly exceed the loss to themselves.

These words, "encouragement to use the post," give the keynote of the whole Indian system. That system, on its modern lines, had to be created among an illiterate population, which clung to the old Asiatic methods of transmitting communications by messengers or by word of mouth. The problem, therefore, was how to develop a postal service requisite for carrying on the government of a great empire at as little cost as possible, by tempting the people themselves to use it, and so to contribute to its maintenance. In this task the Indian postal authorities have displayed a spirit of enterprise and a wise liberality. They recognized that Indians are poor, but love secrecy, and use small or light pieces of paper, so they gave a halfpenny post for sealed or closed letters of little weight. The transmission of money through the post office without the need of any separate communication between the remmitter and the payee, the payment of money orders by postmen at the house of the addressee, and the cash on delivery system for parcels, are a few of the arrangements of the Indian Post Office of which we have little or no practical experience in this country, although they exist in European postal systems. To take an example of how such arrangements bring the post office into the trade and economic distribution of the country. The cash on delivery system for parcels, or "value-payable post," as it is called in India, is an arrangement under which a letter, parcel, or open railway receipt goes through the post on condition that it is to be delivered only on payment to the postman of a sum specified by the sender, which on receipt is at once forwarded to him by the post office. This system has been in operation for nineteen years, and last year more than two millions of articles, valued at over twenty-three million rupees, were thus sent through the Indian Post Office. The arrangement not only tends to place purchases on a cash basis, but it enables the consumer in remote up-country districts to obtain the benefit of the lowest cash prices in the great centres of production or of trade. No previous references are given or required, for the distant seller knows that he is certain of his money on the delivery of the goods. Calcutta firms alone posted over 700,000 consignments last year on this expansion of the cash system, and received in return from the post office  $8\frac{1}{2}$  million rupees. The business has doubled within the last seven years, and, like the *service des envois contre remboursement* of the Continent, meets a real want.

The Indian Post Office, however, is very far from being purely imitative of European methods. It strives to bring within its scope not merely trade distribution, but also the relations between the Government and a vast population of small taxpayers. The postal money-order service provides a special procedure

for the payment of the land revenue to the Treasury, without requiring the cultivator to stir a foot from his often distant hamlet. It has another special set of forms to facilitate the payment of rents by cultivators who wish to avoid the delays and petty exactions incident to their attending in person at their landlord's office. In the Punjab there is a further development of the system, based on the value-payable post, under which persons in the interior can obtain copies of documents from the courts without the expense involved by a personal journey or by the employment of a lawyer. In the same province, too, there is a special arrangement for the payment of military pensioners through the post, and for their identification at their local post office. Last year over 24,000 pensioners were paid under this arrangement without troubling them to leave their native villages.

Indeed, so closely has the postal system been brought into the popular life that almost every department of the public service tries to enlist its agency whenever it has to deal directly with the people. In this way the Indian Post Office is led into tasks which would scarcely be appropriate in European countries. Thus in 1892 when Sir Charles Elliott, the late Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, resolved to check the scourge of malarial fever by offering the peasantry pure quinine at cost price, he could find no agency likely to be so efficient as the village post offices. The duty was admittedly outside the range of the postal authorities, but the importance of the cause was held to justify their co-operation. The quinine is made up in single-dose sealed packets of five grains, stamped with the Royal Arms and bearing directions for use, and sold at the village post offices for a *pie* each—the Indian equivalent of a farthing. This arrangement has since been extended with great success to other malarial provinces, and during the last two years nearly six million quinine packets were thus sold by the village post offices in Lower Bengal alone. More strictly legitimate, and, perhaps, even more striking, is the banking business done by the Indian Post Office. More than 91 per cent. of the depositors in its savings banks are Indians, and nearly the whole of its eleven million money orders last year were sent by and paid to natives. The sepoy on active service, the coolie from distant provinces on the Assam tea-gardens, and the domestic servant following his master's fortunes over the length and breadth of India are as sure that their monthly wages will punctually reach their remote homes as if they paid over the money with their own hands. A small but promising beginning has also been made in life assurance through the agency of the post office.

Such facts are more significant than figures, however large. Yet the figures are very big ones. Of the 123,000 miles of mail lines in India only 42,000 are by railway, steamer, or coach. The remaining 81,000 are lines on which the mails have to be carried by foot runners, mules, camels, horsemen, or country boats. The very accidents of such a postal system form a romance of their own—a rest-house at the height of 13,500 feet buried beneath an avalanche, or the mails attacked by frontier or native states' banditti, or swept away by river floods or irresistible invasions of the sea.







## India—Native States.

*British Indian Adhesive Stamps Surcharged for Native States.* By C. Stewart-Wilson. Philatelic Society of India. Calcutta: Printed for the Society by B. L. Chakravarti, at his New School Book Press, 1897. Part I. 75 pp. 4 plates. Price 5s.

WE accord a hearty welcome to the first work of the recently-formed Philatelic Society of India. Mr. C. Stewart-Wilson tells us in his preface that this little book is the result of much hard work, but he will probably not regret his labours when he finds that the result is so highly appreciated as we believe it will be by philatelists generally. It is not too much to say that Mr. Stewart-Wilson has put quite a different complexion upon British Indian Stamps surcharged for Native States. It has been the custom to look suspiciously on the whole family, burdened as it has been with all sorts and conditions of "errors." But Mr. Stewart-Wilson now sets out the actual facts of their production with the very rational belief that philatelists will be convinced that they are genuine postage stamps with a real interest of their own.

He says, "The surcharging is done in Calcutta at the Government of India Central Printing Press, under conditions and supervision, &c., which make underhand dealings impossible. The stamps to be surcharged are supplied by the Superintendent of Stamps and Stationery under special precautions, and a like number have to be returned to him after receiving the surcharge. The employees cannot bring into the office, or introduce extraneous matter, such as unused stamps bought for the purpose, into the machines, and cannot manipulate the setting of the surcharge when once passed."

Then, again, he defends these issues from the charge that they are made for collectors rather than to supply actual postal requirements. He has been at considerable pains to gauge the actual wants of each State in the way of postage stamps, and contrasting the number of postal articles per head of literate population in a particular State with number per head of the same class in British India (*i.e.* 36), he gets the following results for the States dealt with in this part of his work: Average annual number of postage stamps of all kinds issued per head of literate population:—

British India	...	...	...	...	36
Chamba	...	...	...	...	27
Faridkot	...	...	...	...	35

The figures for Gwalior are not given, as Service articles have, up till recently, travelled free in this State, and it is, therefore, useless to work out the figures. Still, the results we get will be a revelation. It will be seen that the much-jeered-at and insignificant State of Faridkot compares well with British India itself in this test.

This part deals with three States—Chamba, Faridkot, and Gwalior—giving in each case a short history of the State, the date of each supply of stamps required, and the numbers of each printing, with a complete reference list of all stamps issued, and the "errors" that are at present known to exist.

The work is excellently illustrated with three full-page plates and one double-page plate, all clearly photographed by the Survey of India Office at Calcutta.

We may add that copies of Part I. may be ordered from the Secretary of the Philatelic Society of India, Bank of Bengal, Calcutta. Price 5s.



## British Empire.

**Canada.**—We have the following further values of the new design from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.:—1 c., 3 c., 8 c., and 10 c., making the issues of the new design up to date as per list appended. Many of the stamps are badly centred in the matter of perforation, a characteristic defect of American Bank Note Company work.



*Adhesives.*

- $\frac{1}{2}$  c., black.
- 1 c., green.
- 2 c., dark violet.
- 3 c., red.
- 5 c., dark blue.
- 6 c., dark brown.
- 8 c., orange.
- 10 c., puce.

**Ceylon.**—The *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* has received a copy of the fresh printing of the 4 c. in bright carmine and with white gum.

*Adhesive.*

- 4 c., bright carmine.

**Malta.**—The *Melita Philatelic Chronicle* says the present issue will before long be augmented with three new values, probably 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 2s. 6d., and 10s.

**Newfoundland.**—We now illustrate the new designs chronicled by us in January last (page 14). We then understood that these were the forerunners of a series of new designs, but there seems to be some doubt on this point. It is a thousand pities the colony did not retain as a permanent series the beautiful set of the Jubilee issue.



**New Zealand.**—The *Australian Philatelist* says the current halfpenny stamp will appear with the new series, printed in green instead of black, and that pictorial post cards of 1d. and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. values, printed by Messrs. Waterlow and Sons, will shortly be issued.

**North Borneo.**—The current set up to 12 cents has been surcharged "Postage Due," in black, in sans serif letters.

*Adhesives.*

*Postage Due.*

- 1 c., bistre and black.
- 2 c., carmine and black.
- 3 c., mauve and olive.
- 5 c., orange and black.
- 6 c., olive-brown and black.
- 8 c., mauve and black.
- 12 c., blue and black.

**Straits Settlements.**—*Negri Sembilan.*—The following are chronicled as being now in use:—

*Adhesives.*

- 5 c., lilac and ochre.
- 10 c., lilac and orange.
- 20 c., green and olive.

**Selangor.**—The *Monthly Journal* has received two of the high values of the current series. Wmk. Cr. CC.

*Adhesives.*

- ₹2, green and carmine.
- ₹3, green and mustard.

**Western Australia.**—The *Australian Philatelist* chronicles another Cycle Express stamp. It says:—

"We have seen a large stamp issued by the proprietors of the Lake Lefroy *Cycle Mail*. The words 'Lake Lefroy Goldfield,' on a lined ground, occupy the upper portion of the design. Below this is a swan in an oval frame, inscribed 'Cycle Mail' above, and 'Western Australia' below. At the base of the design is the word 'Postage,' with '6d.' in each of the lower angles. A scalloped frame surrounds the whole design, which is very roughly executed, and apparently lithographed. The stamp is printed in red on green wove paper, perf. 12.

"This is doubtless issued by another of the 'pioneer posts,' which serve outlying mining settlements not reached by the Government mails. Its fate will probably be similar to that of the Coolgardie Cycle and Camel Express, which had to cease operations as soon as regular mail communication was established."

## Foreign Countries.

**Austria.**—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the 3 kr., 5 kr., and 15 kr., perf.  $13 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ .

*Adhesives.*

3 kr., pale green; perf.  $13 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ .  
5 kr., rose " "  
15 kr., mauve " "

**Egypt.**—**Sudan.**—The *Philatelic Journal of India* publishes the following extract from a letter from an officer in the Sudan: "There were only £700 worth of the Sudan stamps printed. I have just designed a new Sudan stamp to the Sirdar's order, which has been approved by the Khedive, and will, I hope, in the course of a few months, make its appearance. It has gone home for estimates to be made as to its cost, &c. The design I made was a camel trotting fast across the desert, with an Arab on its back, holding a rifle and two spears, and the mail bags on the saddle. Different colours and borders for the values."

**Germany.**—**Togo.**—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the 5 pf., 10 pf., and 20 pf. of the current German stamps surcharged "Togo" diagonally in black, in capitals and small letters.

*Adhesives.*

5 pf., green.  
10 pf., red.  
20 pf., blue.

**Guatemala.**—We have received from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. a specimen of the 1897 Exposition Issue surcharged, presumably for regular use, "un—centavo—1898," in black, sans serif, in three lines; and the *American Journal of Philately* chronicles a variety of the surcharge on the same stamp with "un centavo" in one line, in larger sans serif letters, and "1898" below.

The *Monthly Journal* says the 12 c. stamp, both with and without the surcharge, exists on paper coloured on both sides, as well as on paper with only the face tinted.

*Adhesives.*

1 c. on 12 c., black on carmine, sur. in three lines.  
1 c. on 12 c. " " " in two lines.

**Iceland.**—We made a slip in our note last month (p. 42); "Prio" should have been "Prir."

**Mexico.**—The *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* chronicles the following on the new paper, wmkd. with Eagle and R. M., and also a new post card, but without the "M. C. 16" in the corner.

*Adhesives.*

4 c., orange.  
5 c., blue.  
12 c., olive-brown.  
50 c., violet.

*Post Card.*

5 c., brown, inscription carmine (Interior).

**Peru.**—Messrs. Williams & Co., of Lima, write to us as follows: "On January 1st, 1898, were issued three stamps, 1 c., blue, 2 c., brown, and 5 c., pink; also seven post cards, 1 c., red, 2 c., blue, 2+2 c., blue, 3 c., red-brown, 3+3 c., red-brown, 4 c., black, and 4+4 c., black. On December 26th, 1897, a 1 c., green, post card, for local use, and a 2 c., orange, post card, for provincial use, with New Year's greeting on reverse, and dated January 1st, 1898, were issued. These post cards, with the exception of the 3 and 4 c. (four) were surcharged on the old 5 c., black. All the nine varieties have a view of the new Post Office building (which was opened January 1st, 1898) in the upper right-hand corner. The 1896 and subsequent issues are still available for postage, but the 1 c., 'Franqueo,' were all sold out a short time after they were placed on sale."

We are indebted to Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. for specimens of the 1 c., 2 c., and 5 c. adhesives. They are attractive stamps. The 1 c. has a view of a suspension bridge, the 2 c. has a view of the new Post Office, and the 5 c. a portrait. The 1 c. and 2 c. are oblong, about the size of the United States Columbians, and the 5 c. is a large rectangular. All three are labelled 1897, but we understand are a permanent issue. We shall illustrate these stamps in a later number. They are perf. 12, and are the work of the American Bank Note Company.

*Adhesive Stamps.*

1 c., deep ultramarine.  
2 c., brown.  
5 c., carmine-rose.

*Post Cards.*

2 c. on 5 c., blue and black, *white*, four stars after "2."  
1 c. on 5 c., green and black "  
2 c. on 5 c., orange and black "  
1 c. on 5 c., red and black "  
2 c. on 5 c., blue "  
2+2 c. on 5+5 c., blue and black.  
3 c., violet-brown and black, *white*.  
3+3 c. " "  
4 c., black, *white*. "  
4+4 c., black.

**Samoa.**—The *Monthly Journal* has received the 2½d., perf. 11, and the 6d. with the same perforation, but in a new colour. The *American Journal of Philately* adds the 2d. with colour changed and perf. 11.

*Adhesives.*

2d., bright yellow.  
2½d., rose.  
6d., marone.

**Uruguay.**—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us three more of the current designs with colours changed.

*Adhesives.*

1 peso, frame brown, centre slate blue.  
2 pesos " bistre " carmine.  
3 " " mauve " "



**United States.**—We have received the I c. stamp in the new colour, yellow-green.

*Adhesive.*  
I c., yellow-green.

*Mekeel's Weekly News* publishes the following official circular:—

**“NEW ISSUE OF POSTAL CARDS.**

“Post Office Department,  
“Washington, D. C., Dec. 1, 1897.

“Beginning with to-day, a new contract for the manufacture of postal cards goes into effect, under which the following sizes and denominations are provided for:—

**“SINGLE CARDS.**

- “H.—Ordinary one cent cards, for use in the domestic mails. Size,  $3\frac{1}{4}$  by  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches.  
“K.—Small one cent cards, for use in the domestic mails. Size,  $2\frac{1}{8}$  by  $4\frac{1}{8}$  inches.  
“E.—Two cent cards, for use in international mails. Size,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  by  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

**“DOUBLE CARDS.**

- “D.—Domestic reply cards, 2 cents. Size of each part,  $3\frac{1}{4}$  by  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches.  
“F.—International reply cards, 4 cents. Size of each part,  $3\frac{1}{4}$  by  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

“The ordinary one cent domestic card—H—is of the same length as the present G card, but is one-fourth of an inch narrower, admitting of its ready enclosure in the customary sizes of business envelopes. The small one-cent domestic card—K—is considerably smaller than the G card, conforming to the size employed by librarians and others for indexing by the card system.

“These two cards have new designs, descriptions of which are as follows:—

“Large Single Card.—To the right in the upper corner is a portrait of Thomas Jefferson, three-quarters face, looking to the left, exactly as now appears upon the ordinary one cent card, but surrounded by a somewhat fuller olive wreath, and having at the bottom, in very small capitals on a curved tablet, the name of ‘Jefferson.’ To the left of the portrait are three straight lines of lettering. The first, which is two inches long, is made up of the words ‘Postal Card—One Cent,’ in Gothic capitals, about one-sixteenth of an inch high, with the beginning letter of each word, however, twice that height. The second line,  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches long, contains the words ‘United States of America,’ in ornamental white capitals three-sixteenths of an inch high, upon a plain black tablet one-fourth of an inch wide, surrounded by a single fine black line, with a heart-shaped finial at either end, and a semicircular ornament at the bottom, having a straight line extension from each side running parallel with the tablet. The third line,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches long, is made up of the words, ‘This side is for the address only,’ in very

small Gothic capitals. Black ink is used in printing this card.

“Small Single Card.—In the upper right-hand corner is a portrait of John Adams, three-quarters face, looking to the left, surrounded by an olive wreath, and with the name ‘John Adams’ upon a scroll at the bottom. To the left of the portrait are three lines of ordinary Roman capitals. The first,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches long, contains the words, ‘Postal Card—One Cent,’ the beginning letter of each word being larger than the other letters. The second line,  $3\frac{1}{8}$  inches long, contains the words ‘United States of America,’ in capitals exactly like the large letters in the line above. The third line,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches long, contains in quite small letters, ‘This side is for the address only.’ Between the second and third lines is an ornamental dash  $1\frac{3}{8}$  inches long. The card is printed in black.

“Both the domestic and the international reply cards—which retain the designations they now have—D and F—are reduced one-fourth of an inch in width; but they are unchanged in their designs, as is the case also with the E, or single international, card.

“Although the new contract begins on this date, the department still has on hand at the several agencies considerable quantities of the ordinary or G cards (a two months’ stock probably), which will continue to be issued upon the requisitions of postmasters until the supply is exhausted. Up to that time in ordering ordinary postal cards, it is preferred that postmasters should call for the G card rather than the H; but whenever the H cards are desired and are called for, they will be furnished.

“The K cards may be ordered and supplied at any time hereafter.

“A comparatively large quantity of the D, E, and F cards of the present sizes are also on hand; and these the department will go on issuing as long as they last, before supplying the new sizes. In special cases of extreme urgency, however, the department may honour requisitions for D and E cards of the new sizes; but in every case of this kind the postmaster should send explanation to the department with his requisition. Of the F cards the department has a supply that will probably last during the entire term of the new contract.

“Besides these the department has a considerable quantity of the A cards first issued in 1891— $2\frac{1}{8}$  by  $4\frac{5}{8}$  inches in size—which may be had whenever ordered.

“The old B and C cards cannot be had at all.

“The H and K cards—large and small one cent single cards for domestic use—may be had in sheets, the first of 50 or 40 cards, as may be preferred by persons calling for them, and the latter of 50 cards only. To secure these cards in sheets they must be ordered in quantities of 10,000 cards or more of either kind.

"The sheet of 40 H cards is made up of four cards across—the cards running lengthwise—and ten cards down. The sheet of 50 H cards is made up of five cards across, arranged lengthwise, and ten cards down. The sheet of K cards is made up the same as the sheet of 50 H cards.

"In furnishing cards in sheets the department cannot guarantee to have the forms

printed so exactly as to provide an equal margin outside of the imprint on all sheets. Parties ordering them in this way must therefore expect to make special provision to secure accurate registering when they come to put on the cards their own imprint.

"JOHN A. MERRITT,

"Third Assistant Postmaster-General."

## Our Monthly Packets of New Issues.

No. 1, price One Shilling (postage extra).  
The March Packet contains—

*SEVERAL VARIETIES*, including new Persia, 1 ch., grey; British Central Africa, rd., black and blue, wmk. CA; German Cameroons, 3 pfennig; Labuan, 1897, 18 cents, inscription altered, &c.

No. 2, price Five Shillings (postage extra).  
The March Packet contains—

*SEVERAL VARIETIES*, including Newfoundland provisional, "One Cent" on 3 c., &c. &c.

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

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



## Pacific Steam Navigation Stamps.

THE *London Philatelist* has an excellent paper on Peruvian stamps by Mr. T. W. Hall. The paper, entitled "A Few Notes on the Early Issues of Peru," was read before the London Philatelic Society in December last. A very handsome plate illustrates the paper.

Touching on the Pacific Steam Navigation stamps, Mr. Hall says:—

"It is generally admitted now by specialists that a small quantity of these stamps were genuinely used by the Pacific Steam Navigation Company and bear their cancellation marks, viz., an oval, 19 mm. in depth by 25½ mm. in length, composed of three straight lines and one curved line top and bottom, two curved lines at each end of the oval surrounding a figure in Roman lettering (probably the distinctive number of the carrying vessel).

"The commonest postal cancellation of these Pacific Steam Navigation Company's stamps consists of the word 'Lima' in block letters 4 mm. high, with date, in a three-

line inscription, enclosed in a circle roughly 20 mm. in diameter. A second Lima cancellation is the word 'Lima' in a small elongated oval, 12½ mm. x 9 mm., surrounded by a series of dots forming a rough oval. The only Callao cancellation I know of consists of the word 'Callao' in tall Roman letters 2½ mm. high, surrounded by the dots, but without the enclosing oval. I have not met with the Chorillos cancellation. I do not suggest the above remarks exhaust the list of genuine postmarks on the P.S.N. Co.'s stamps."

Of the embossed series, Mr. Hall writes that "all, including the

" 1 dinero, red . . .	18th November, 1862
1 peseta, brown . . .	15th January, 1863
1 dinero, green . . .	July, 1868
5 cents, vermilion . . .	April, 1871
1 peseta, yellow . . .	February, 1872
2 centavos, blue. . .	1st March, 1873,

"were printed in colour, on white paper in relief, with the Lecocq machine brought from Paris, which prints the stamps one by one on a continuous band of paper about 24 mm. wide, or just wide enough to receive the



stamp and leave a margin. The band of paper enters the machine, and is first impressed with the coloured frame. The paper is next embossed with the Arms, and then gummed. (In later issues a rouletting attachment was added.) Where the band of paper ended another band was pasted to it, the joint being about 8 mm. wide, and it often happened that a stamp was printed partly over this joint. As the impression is particularly heavy on the double part, the upper coloured part may be soaked off, leaving the remainder embossed in white. In this manner the various—wholly or in part—'albino' varieties were manufactured."

### Railway Letter Fee Stamps.

In our last issue we set out (p. 35) the important question which has been raised as to the status of Railway Letter Fee Stamps. Since then Mr. W. A. S. Westoby has put the matter in a nutshell in *Philatelists' Supplement to the Bazaar*. He says:—

"Under the provisions of the Post Office Acts of 1 Vict., both the sender and carrier of any letter otherwise than through the Post Office were liable to penalties, save in some few excepted cases. The Post Office claimed no monopoly for the conveyance of newspapers, single copies of which are frequently sent by the railways, and as it appeared that it would be a matter of great convenience to the public to be able to send letters by the same mode of conveyance without exposing themselves to penalties for so doing, the Postmaster-General devised a mode by which this might be done without damage to the Post Office. For this purpose he agreed with all the principal railway companies in Great Britain and Ireland to convey any single letter over their lines for 3d., of which 1d. should be the share of the Post Office and 2d. that of the railway company. To avoid the necessity of keeping any accounts between the Post Office and the railway companies the share of the company was to be denoted by a stamp provided and affixed by it, while at the same time it obliterated the postage stamp of 1d. affixed to the letter, which represented the share of the Post Office.

"A general type for the stamp of the railway companies, of the value of 2d., was agreed upon, the principal features being a shield, in the centre of which is '2D.' within a circular band inscribed 'Free for conveyance of single post letters by Railway,' enclosed in a rectangular frame with the name of the company on tablets at the top and bottom. Each company had its own stamps manufactured, so that they differ in details as also in colour. Most of them are in green of various shades, and some few in red or blue. They are not strictly postage stamps, but are part of the machinery by which the Post Office carries out this particular service, for, unaccompanied by a postage stamp of 1d., they are of no value."

Still, we do not feel quite satisfied that the question is settled, for if 3d. was the agreed total charge for the conveyance, or postage, of the railway letter, and the parties to the business divided that 3d., the Post Office taking 1d., represented by its own stamp, surely all the stamps on the letter are on an equal footing as to the character of the work they perform. We pay 3d. for the conveyance, or postage, of an ordinary Post Office parcel; part of that payment goes to the railways; but because a different system of accounts obtains in regard to those parcels, the use of two sets of stamps is not required to apportion the shares. Have not these cases some relation to each other? Further, it is evident that Mr. Westoby himself is a little unsettled on the question. Mr. Bacon informs us in his new book, just published, that Mr. Westoby now edits *Alfred Smith's Monthly Circular*, and in the editorial in the February issue we find practically the same information, but a different conclusion, as follows:—

"It seems therefore, to us, that these stamps are entitled to some sort of recognition as postage stamps, for they are used by an *ad hoc* officer of the Post Office, and were created at the express instance of that office, and are a part of the machinery invented by it for carrying out a project due to its initiation, and not to that of the railway companies."

### Manufacture of German Stamps.

MR. W. A. S. WESTOBY contributes to the *Philatelists' Supplement to the Bazaar* the following interesting account of the manufacture of the stamps of the German Empire:

"Fifty impressions are struck in lead by a fly-press from the original die, and after being clamped together in five rows of ten, are put into the bath, and copper deposited on them to the thickness of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mm. ( $\frac{1}{16}$  in.). This plate serves as a matrix for making the printing-plates by the electro process, each plate consisting therefore of fifty stamps; and when it has been steeled (that is, after a film of steel has been deposited on its surface), and backed up with type-metal to the necessary thickness, it is fit for printing.

"The sheets contain 400 stamps, divided into four panes of 100 each, arranged two and two, and each pane is subdivided by a space of 5 mm. into two portions of fifty each, so that each sheet of 400 stamps measures about  $21\frac{3}{4}$  in. deep by  $18\frac{1}{2}$  in. wide.

"The paper as received from the mills is in rolls of the width of two sheets. On one side is a centimètre scale, each centimètre being marked on the margin by a violet line about 6 mm. long, while on the other margin is the word REICHSDRUCKEREI (Imperial Printing Office) in short, wide capitals, about  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. apart, so that when the paper is cut down the middle either the scale or the word appears on the outside margin of each sheet. The gumming is done before the paper is cut into



sheets, by passing it under a felt roll kept charged with liquid gum; it is then carried forward on laths, fixed to an endless chain, into the drying-room, which is heated by steam pipes. After drying it is again wound on to a drum, smoothed, and cut into sheets. Previously to the printing a design is printed on the face of the paper in an invisible ink, composed of phenol, combined with a hydrocarbon, the effect of which is that if an attempt to clean the stamp by an ordinary detergent was made, the operator would find himself confronted with marks he could not again render invisible. In the printing, on the sides and bottom of each pane, is a marginal border of lines, 2 mm. long, and about thirteen of them to each 5 mm., with the same object as what are called the Jubilee lines in the English stamps, and at the top, over each vertical row of ten, is printed the price. Thus, in a pane of 100 stamps of 3 pfennig, over the first vertical row is 0,30, over the second 0,60, and so on to 3,00.

"After the printing the sheet is divided horizontally, each half-sheet being  $10\frac{1}{8}$  in. deep by  $18\frac{1}{2}$  in. wide. They are then perforated by comb machines in layers of six, the perforation commencing from the side of the stamps, and not from the top or bottom, as in England. Four perforating machines perforate 60,000 of these half-sheets per day."

### Austrian Mercuries—Types.

MR. CASTLE, in the *London Philatelist*, sets out the varieties of the various types of the Austrian newspaper stamps of 1867, commonly called Austrian Mercuries from their design bearing the head of Mercury. We quote his description in detail:—

"The central design of the stamp is a head of the god Mercury to left, bearing the winged cap or helmet that mythology associated with his aerial flights. This helmet to right and left, and near the top, bears wings. It is in these wings, or rather in the right-hand one on the portrait, that I consider exists the readiest method of denoting the three types.

#### "TYPE I.

"The wing is shaded by fairly clear parallel lines, which in no case touch the outline, and fall in line with the further parallel lines that shade the back of the helmet, but do not project nearly to the fore part of the said wing. At the junction of the latter with the helmet in front where the vertical line occurs, it will be noticed that the shading beneath it consists of five or six small distinct and separate strokes placed at an angle of about 45 degrees. The lines of shading in the front of the helmet are always composed of dots. There are no vertical lines of shading at the back of the net.

"The second test is the outer white circle enclosing the head. This is slightly flattened immediately beneath the third ornament in the Greek border at the top of the stamp, and

is drawn apparently so as not to impinge beyond the coloured line that joins the spandrels of solid colour.

#### "TYPE II.

"The right wing is shaded heavily by a number of interlacing strokes that only leave flecks of white, and show no trace of parallel lines; they do not extend to the front, but leave only a narrow and tapering white space on the top of the wing. This shading continued to the back clearly stands out from the parallel lines beneath it. The junction of the wing with the helmet in front has a thick vertical line in front; beneath are two distinct thick lines almost parallel, in addition to a couple of very small ones. The shading is always (like Type I.) dotted, with the exception of occasional instances where heavy inking makes the dots apparently continuous. There are vertical lines of shading at the back of the neck.

"The outer white circle of colour is completed below the third ornament in the Greek border above by a thin line which projects beyond the line that should unite the coloured spandrels, and approaches the horizontal coloured line that encloses the central design.

#### "TYPE III.

"The shading of the right wing is practically the same as Type II., but leaves hardly any white space above. The vertical line of junction in front is rather thinner, while below it reverts somewhat to the design of Type I. in having five or six separate parallel lines, though rather thicker. The helmet is shaded back and front with distinct parallel lines, the former extending up to the front of the wing. There is no vertical shading at the back of the neck. The white circle above is broken immediately below the third ornament in the Greek border.

"These ornaments are irregularly drawn, with a tendency to bulge out, notably in the horizontal borders; the double outer lines of the border are wider apart, and the whole of this has apparently been redrawn.

"There are other points of divergence, but in view of the great difference in the impression it is not safe to rely upon these; therefore I do not further refer to them. I should imagine there was only one original die, and that it had been at least twice altered.

"To briefly recapitulate the most marked point of difference in each case:—

"Type I. Several thin strokes beneath wing of helmet.

"Type II. Two thick strokes beneath wing of helmet.

"Type III. Outer circle does not meet above head.

"The shades are so numerous as almost to defy description, and I am sure that there are many that I do not possess. I can only guess at the order of issue, but I have roughly placed them according to what I consider likely.

“TYPE I.

“Pale violet. | Lilac.  
Dark violet. | Greyish lilac.

“TYPE II.

“Lilac. | Lilac-brown.  
Dull violet. | Brownish grey.  
Grey.

“TYPE III.

“Greyish lilac. | Dull violet.

“There are, of course, shades of each of these colours, but in Type III. they are much less marked than in the other types. The paper of the former is to be found distinctly yellowish, and is smoother and better manufactured than in the latter. A number of perforations are also found in Type III., but, though apparently executed for legitimate purposes, are not official. These stamps, contrary to the general run of the older issues of Austria, have never been reprinted, and I think, despite their uncouth appearance, are yet worthy of the interest and attention of the collector.”

Schleswig-Holstein.

MR. DUERST, continuing his article on the stamps of Schleswig-Holstein in the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, from which we quoted in our last number (p. 46), dealing with the first issue, says they were printed by the firm of H. W. K bner Lehmkuhl, in Altona, on paper with blue vertical silk threads, obtained from Pasing, near Munich, in sheets of 80 stamps. He gives the following quantities printed and delivered:—

	1 schill., blue.	2 schill., rose.
“Nov. 10, 1850 . . .	80,000	40,000
„ 25 „ . . .	20,000	20,000
Dec. 24 „ . . .	100,000	100,000
Feb. 14, 1851 . . .	1,100,000	540,000
	1,300,000	700,000”

He tells us that

“The large remainders were sent to Copenhagen with all documents and dies. They have been sold gradually, and their present high price seems to indicate that the stock must be nearly exhausted,” and adds, “Reprints of this issue do not exist,” for which collectors of old Europeans are, no doubt, devoutly thankful.

Price of Newfoundlands.

A CORRESPONDENT in the *Weekly Philatelic Era*, U.S., marvels at the low market price of some Newfoundland stamps. He writes:—

“No country furnishes a better proof than Newfoundland of the fact that stamps do not always command prices commensurate with their rarity. Many of the lake varieties, one would think, ought to bring far better prices than they do, and probably they will when collectors wake up to the fact that there are not as many of them in existence as they imagine.

“What is true of the lake pence is equally true of some of the cents. The 10 c. and 12 c., 1866, on thin yellow paper, are very scarce in an unused condition. I have seen with original gum only three of the 10 c. and one 12 c. The latter changed hands about three years ago at something over \$12.00. The 1 c., lilac, of 1867, printed by the National Bank Note Company, is also very much scarcer than is generally supposed. There is only one record to be found of a shipment of stamps from the National Company, and that is of an amount remitted ‘for engraving one cent stamp plate and printing 1000 impressions from same, \$175.00.’ This would mean not more than 11,000 stamps, as the American Bank Note Co. printed the 1 c. stamps of the same design in violet-brown colour in sheets of 110.”

More Frauds to Come.

WE take the following announcement of more frauds on the road from the *American Journal of Philately*. The “New Collector” will surely have a sufficient quantity before long:—

“Mr. F. A. Martins, the well-known Lisbon dealer, informs us that the issue of new stamps for Portugal and the colonies, which was to have been made in January, will probably be postponed until August, as an honourable gentleman by the name of Vasco de Gama must be celebrated in the meantime. A special issue is to be made to commemorate the navigator, and it is to remain in use for three months, viz., from May 1st to July 31st. Of course, the colonies must participate in the general jubilation, and therefore seven sets have been kindly provided, as follows: Portugal, Azores, Madeira, Africa, India, Macao, and Timor.”

Mr. Seebeck’s Last!

THE *American Journal of Philately* publishes the following letter from Mr. Seebeck in regard to the new stamps of Nicaragua and Salvador, chronicled in this number:—

“Herewith inclosed find specimens of stamps, envelopes, and post cards, which went into use in the ‘Greater Republic of Central America’ in the States of Nicaragua and Salvador respectively, on January 1st, 1898.

“Owing to the political changes in Central America, as indicated above, it was not acceptable to the Governments of the former Republics of Salvador and Nicaragua to have the ‘1897’ remain in use in 1898, and therefore a new issue (as inclosed) became necessary.

“These are the last under my contract.

“Yours truly,

“N. F. SEEBECK.”

The last! Let us hope so; but it is surely too good to be true.



## The S.S.S.S.

THE critics of the S.S.S.S. have been busy of late, but they have one and all demonstrated the fact that they have not a leg to stand upon if you strip their arguments of the taint of trade.

Alfred Smith and Son in their *Monthly Circular* urge that the editors of the leading philatelic journals already sufficiently warn collectors against speculative issues, and that therefore there is no need of the S.S.S.S. But the editors speak for themselves, whereas the censorship of the S.S.S.S. is the combined, responsible, and well-considered judgment of eminent philatelists. Then a great deal is made of the discovery that it is really possible, under exceptionable circumstances, to postally use the high values of the Canadian Jubilees. Bah! what difference does that make? The main fact remains, that the issue was not in the slightest shadow of a degree the result of postal needs, but was a purely speculative issue to enable the Dominion to jubilate at the expense of stamp collectors. Then Messrs. Alfred Smith and Co. tell us that the influence of the S.S.S.S. was practically confined to this country, and that Messrs. Scott and Maury sold the Olympic stamps. Now, as a matter of fact, the Scott Co. were the first to expose the speculative character of the Olympians, and the amount of space continually devoted to the S.S.S.S. in foreign journals attests the fact that the influence of the Society is not confined to this country, as the hermit of Essex Street may learn if he will pursue his inquiries beyond his own ken.

Then, a correspondent, who has evidently been nettled into the suspicion that the S.S.S.S. movement is directed against new in favour of old issues, writes to the *Bazaar Supplement*, and gets the following reply from the editor:—

“We are sorry to differ from our correspondent *in toto*. The object of the late movement, which he denounces, is, in reality, to save philately from total extinction. This seems, perhaps, rather strong, but the official jobbery of the past few years has, we believe, caused many collectors to throw up our hobby in disgust. No doubt most of the stamps banned by the S.S.S.S. would prepay letters during some temporary period, but they were issued, not to serve any postal need, but simply for sale to collectors; and, therefore, though they may be ‘stamps’ according to our correspondent’s definition, they cannot possibly be compared for a moment with labels issued to supply a real want. No reasonable collector objects to modern issues, so long as they are *bonâ fide*; but there is a strong line of demarcation between ‘modern issues’ and ‘modern rubbish.’ We might paraphrase an old proverb by saying that ‘the proof of the value is in the selling,’ and if our correspondent were to make a collection of modern issues and a similar collection of modern rubbish, and send the

two to an auction or a dealer, the difference in the price would show him that the S.S.S.S. has right on its side.”

As a matter of fact, we may now separate the pros and cons in the matter of the S.S.S.S. thus:—

*Pros*—collectors and self-respecting dealers who wish to protect stamp collectors as a body from being fleeced by needy Governments; and *Cons*—those dealers who have stocked a lot of the condemned rubbish which they want to sell and sell well; hence their interested advice to stamp flats not to be dictated to as to what they shall collect.

## Chili 10 c., *Bleuté*.

THE *American Journal of Philately* has made a discovery! It says:—

“Mr. J. B. Leavy submits to us a specimen of the 10 c. of the first issue which is undoubtedly on blue paper, notwithstanding the generally accepted statement that this stamp was never issued in that variety. The paper of the particular specimen in question is exactly like all the *bleuté* papers of Perkins, Bacon & Co., and it even shows the ivory head variety which is apparent on some of the English stamps of the same period. In view of this particular stamp, we must admit that the 10 c. stamp with the London print appears on blue paper as well as on white, and it will have to be chronicled in future.”

The stamp is well known to all Chilean specialists. The *bleuté* characteristic is not, of course, so marked in the case of the 10 c. as in the 5 c., for the discolouration naturally shows more clearly against the brown printing than against the blue of the 10 c. All the same, we don’t know a single Chilean collection that does not contain several well-marked specimens. An unused specimen with full gum is a great rarity, but we have several used copies in our own collection with gum, undoubtedly *bleuté*.

## The Canadian New Issue.

ALREADY there are complaints over the colours of the new Canadians. The *Weekly Philatelic Era* (U.S.) says: “There seems to be a lot of kicking by post office officials relative to the colour of the new 2 cent stamp, on the ground that at night it is difficult to tell whether the stamp has been cancelled or not, thus giving opportunity for used stamps to be ‘shoved through.’ Also it is further claimed that it is difficult at night to distinguish the two from the six cent in the matter of colour. Now will this lead to a change of colour in the two cent stamp?”

From the cancellation point of view deep or dark shades of colours are certainly a disadvantage, and some recently issued series show that they can be avoided even in the case of a long range of values.



## The Omaha Exhibition Stamps.

THE *Pittsburg Leader*, U.S., indulges in a versified reference to the Omaha proposed exhibition, or Trans-Mississippi stamps. We quote three of the verses:—

“In the far away West there’s a wild woolly town  
Which geographers call Omaha,  
And ’t is making a bid for extensive renown  
With a jubilee full of *déjà*.  
This affair will surprise  
And ’t will open the eyes  
Of the neighbouring hamlets and camps,  
And the glory supreme  
Of the wonderful scheme  
Will be Omaha’s Jubilee stamps.  
“Uncle Sam has these marvellous labels in hand,  
He has artists at work on the same,

Who, with picturesque Western themes at command,  
Put the earliest masters to shame.  
In carmine and green  
And in ultramarine  
And vermilion the painter revamps  
Sights and scenes in the West  
Which will show at their best  
Upon Omaha’s Jubilee stamps.

“After Omaha’s triumph is properly won,  
Other towns, not forgetting our own,  
Will be fully entitled to do as she’s done;  
In this thing she must not stand alone.  
And if some day the crush  
Of the jubilee rush  
Uncle Sam and his factory swamps,  
Then old Sammy will moan,  
‘Ah, had I only known,  
I’d have sat on those Omaha stamps.’”



## Proposed United States Postal Swindle.

COLLECTORS and dealers in the United States may be said to have risen as a body and protested against the proposed Omaha Exposition Stamp Issue. Even the *Post Office*, a New York journal, which has been one of the worst enemies of the S.S.S.S., says:—

“We publish in another place a statement in relation to a new stamp which is one of the greatest humbugs imaginable among speculative issues. It is to be hoped that the collecting interests of the country will refuse to recognize these stamps in any way, and that the Government of the United States may be prevailed upon by them to refuse to have anything to do with the issue of the stamp ‘Commemorative of the Holding of the Trans-Mississippi Exposition.’ Every collector should place against this issue of commemorative stamps a protest wherever it will do any good, either by writing to his Member of Congress or the Senator from his State, urging against the allowing of the use of Government influence in such a manner.”

Mr. J. M. Andreini condemns the stamps as “utterly unnecessary for postal purposes, and are to be issued with the confessed intention of obtaining money from collectors.”

Mr. Henry Clotz is “decidedly against such an issue,” and holds that “such speculative issues are dangerous to stamp collecting, and it is high time to put a stop to it.”

Mr. W. F. Gregory considers “the issue of souvenir stamps has already passed forbearance, and almost acquired the character of a bunco game.”

A deputation of collectors and dealers waited upon the postal authorities at Washington to endeavour to persuade them to abandon the proposed issue; but it was of no avail, the authorities replied that they saw no reason why they should not make the issue.

All this points to the inevitable conclusion which we have long advocated, that an international combination with S.S.S.S. objects will be necessary to put an end to this systematic official swindling of collectors.

## Philatelic Society of India.

THE Philatelic Society of India held its annual meeting on the 17th December, 1897, and its president, Mr. C. Stewart-Wilson, who presided, was able to congratulate the members upon their unquestionable success. The Society had been in existence for barely twelve months, but in that time it has gathered in a membership of ninety-five, has published a much-appreciated high-class journal, and has issued the first part of a very valuable original work on the stamps of British India surcharged for the Native States. Very few old societies can boast of such a record, and some that should at least emulate it are sleeping the sleep of Rip Van Winkle.

## Sued for Commission.

IN the case of Michalski v. Kennedy, Mr. Beirno Michalski, diamond broker, carrying on business in Hatton Garden, recently sued Mr. H. A. Kennedy, a dealer in foreign stamps, of Hart Street, New Oxford Street, to recover commission in respect of the sale of a large collection of foreign stamps. Defendant denied liability.

It appeared that in the latter part of 1895, Mr. Koster, of Amsterdam, wished to dispose of a large collection of foreign stamps, for which he asked £3000, and he placed the matter in the hands of the plaintiff, who communicated with the defendant. Plaintiff's case was that the defendant promised to pay him a commission of £100 if he purchased the collection. Eventually, defendant bought the collection for £2250, and plaintiff now contended he was entitled to his commission. In cross-examination, plaintiff admitted that he received £100 from Mr. Koster when the sale took place. Defendant admitted the purchase, and said he lost considerably by it. He also contended that the plaintiff agreed to forego his commission if he (defendant) would buy the collection.

Mr. Justice Mathew gave judgment for the plaintiff for £100, with costs.

## The Oldest Collector.

THE oldest collector is being tracked to his lair. We shall reach him in the sweet by-and-by. We got him back to 1854 in our last number. Now we are a step further back with an 1853 record. Dr. J. W. Ballantyne writes us from Edinburgh as follows:—

"I have the pleasure of a personal acquaintance with Mrs. C., an Edinburgh lady, who tells me she has been collecting stamps since 1853. She is still enthusiastic over matters philatelic, and has a fine collection."

## "Enamelled Green" Capes!

AN American contemporary says: "A sheet of 238 10 h. enamelled green triangular Cape of Good Hope stamps has been discovered among some old papers in London." That sheet must indeed be a real out-and-out find. We have heard of the find of a sheet of 1s. emerald-green, but a "10 h." (whatever that may mean), "enamelled green" is quite beyond our finite ken.

## Dealers' Guarantees.

THE *Phil. Journ. of Great Britain* has turned up a law case which seems to shed some light on the legal aspect of guarantees. It says:—

"We have now a judicial decision upon the point in a case which was argued before Justices Day and Lawrance on an appeal from the decision of the Manchester County Court judge. In that case an orchid was sold as *Cattleya Acklandia Alba* upon a warranty. When it bloomed two years after the sale, it turned out to be the ordinary variety and not

*Alba*. The County Court judge took the seller's view as set out above and gave judgment for the return of the purchase money only. The purchaser maintained he was entitled to have the article he purchased replaced with the proper plant or its value, and being dissatisfied with the decision appealed.

"Justices Day and Lawrance took a more favourable view of what the purchaser was entitled to than the judge below, and held, in addition to the return of the purchase money, that he should have interest on his money and some compensation. This case is analogous to the case of a guaranteed stamp. The only question which remains open is the principle of determining what is reasonable compensation in the case of a stamp, the considerations on that head in the case of an orchid being materially different. It seems to us that the proper way of determining this point is to take the difference between the price paid and the price at which the particular stamp could be purchased when the fault is discovered, and then to award the purchaser a reasonable percentage (we suggest 20 per cent.) of that difference."

This goes rather beyond the practice laid down by Stanley Gibbons Limited, who return the money and 5 per cent. interest. The compensation part of the arrangement seems a little hard on the seller, and yet 5 per cent. interest may be said to be a little short of meeting the case, for, strictly, it should be compound interest. Still, taking all matters into consideration—liability of a stamp to be changed, possibility of error in other ways, etc.—the return of the money and 5 per cent. interest seems to be a very fair arrangement.

## Death of G. B. Calman.

WE greatly regret to hear of the death of Mr. Gustav B. Calman, senior member of the firm of G. B. Calman, which occurred on the 25th January last. Mr. Calman was only 38 years of age. He was well known in stamp trade circles in London as one of the most genial of wholesale stamp dealers.

## Another Stamp Auctioneer.

YET another stamp auctioneer. This time it is Mr. H. W. Plumridge, who promises to hold his first sale at the Arbitration Room, in Chancery Lane, on March 21st. He says he has plenty of stuff, and no fear of the result. If we go on at this pace, we shall, in the sweet by-and-by, have more stamp auctioneers than buyers. As it is, some of the sales are represented by one man in the rostrum, and an audience of half a dozen imperfect varieties.

## The Post Office, U.S.

THE *Post Office*, U.S., announces that Messrs. J. C. Morgenthau & Co., of New York, have purchased the stock of the late Mr. Henry Gremmel. As the *Post Office* is included in the purchase, that journal is now published by Messrs. J. C. Morgenthau & Co.



## Our Beginners' Page.

BY THE EDITOR.

### That Album Again.

FURTHER consideration of the album question and an inspection of numerous albums compel us to admit that there is not a single one on the market that, in our opinion, meets the simple needs of the beginner who wishes to follow our advice and collect by our simplified list.

Therefore we recommend the adoption of the plan we outlined in our January number of beginners mapping out simple albums for themselves. That being so, perhaps it may be as well to go a little more into detail.

### Make Your Own Album.

The advantages that will accrue to a beginner as the result of the little extra trouble which will be entailed in the making of his own album are many. To enumerate a few, he will better remember the various stamps of each country if he has to copy the reference list neatly into his own album; he will not be hidebound as to space in displaying and arranging his stamps, and he will be working on the same plan as our most eminent specialists.

Now then for the album and the plan. Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co., 36, Bucklersbury, London, E. C., sell paper water-lined in small squares, *i.e.*, what we philatelists term quadrillé lines, but what the stationers call surveyors' foolscap. This paper they can make up cheaply in leather backs, cloth sides, flush; or expensively as desired. Foolscap quarto makes a very neat and handy size. Rule off, on the left-hand side of the right-hand page, a margin of about two inches, and copy our simplified list neatly into this margin. If you cannot write neatly, or are too lazy to do this work, you can cut out our list and hinge it in. But you must be careful not to copy too much of the list into each margin. The list in each margin should be a Reference List only to the stamps on that page, so that each page will be complete in itself. Don't crowd your stamps together. They will look best with a nice clear space around each stamp. The clear space should not be less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch all round. The left-hand page should always be left blank, for you cannot place stamps on both pages of an opening of a book without running the risk of injuring them.

### On Picking Copies.

Begin with a Medes-and-Persian sort of resolution that you will never disfigure your collection with a damaged stamp. Some people will try to persuade you to take a damaged copy of a rare stamp in exchange rather than be always minus that particular stamp. They will tell you, plausibly enough, that good copies of that particular stamp are rarely ever met with. Never mind, stick to your resolution. A damaged copy of even a rare stamp will disfigure any page of otherwise good copies. So little value is now attached to damaged copies, that the gain in completeness is not worth the disfigurement. Besides, you never know in stamp collecting what will turn up. We waited and watched and searched for many years for a particular *été-bèche* variety for our Transvaal collection. At last it turned up, but it was priced £20. We refused it, preferring to take our chance of getting it at a more rational figure. A few days afterwards that same variety was offered us at £3, and we snapped it up, and yet a few days later a still rarer copy was offered us again at £3. Therefore the collector should wait and watch, for most things, great and small, will turn up sooner or later. In stamp collecting there is a special truism in the saying, "Everything comes to the man who waits." In *used* stamps, pick lightly cancelled. Some stamps you will learn in time are rarely ever to be had in a lightly cancelled condition. Then you must make the best of it, and take the most lightly cancelled to be had under the circumstances. In *unused* never take a stamp without full gum, if you can possibly help it. In our opinion a decent copy of a used stamp is infinitely preferable to an unused copy minus gum. Without the gum an unused stamp is a shady customer at best. It may be a chemically cleaned used stamp, or it may be a stamp that has gone through the post and escaped cancellation. Also see that your stamps, whether used or unused, are well centred, *i.e.*, that the design, the stamp itself, has an even margin all round. In some countries it is very difficult to insist on well-centred copies. Still, let it be your high watermark. Then again as to the watermark, always, of two otherwise equally good copies, take that on which the watermark is clearly outlined.

Of course, some folks will tell you that



if you are going to be so fastidious as all this, you will never get a decent collection together. Let them be welcome to that opinion, but keep to your resolution. There is much pleasure in possession, but there is still greater pleasure in the actual work of collecting. In rational stamp collecting there is no train to catch, *i.e.*, there is no compulsion to complete a country or a series by a given day. Therefore, don't let anyone "rush" you out of your determination to collect only good copies.

### Barbados.

Barbados is an island on the outer fringe of the Windward Islands, seventy-eight miles from the island of St. Vincent. According to Hazell's *Annual* it has an area of 166 square miles, and a population of 225,000. The island is said to be a coral formation, and is surrounded by coral reefs. It is administered by a Governor, a Legislative Council, and a House of Assembly of twenty-four members elected annually. The capital is Bridgetown, with a population of 21,000.

The history of the island commences with the landing of the crew of the English ship *Olive Blossom*, in 1605, who erected a cross as a memorial of the event, and cut upon the bark of a tree the words "James, King of England and of this island." Since that day the island may be said to have been an English possession, for it has never once been grabbed by any other country.

From a philatelic point of view Barbados is an interesting colony. Till the latter part of 1874 the stamps were engraved and printed by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. Since then they have been done by Messrs. De La Rue & Co. The first issue represents, in common with the first issue of a few other colonies, the crude idea of making the colour of a stamp alone express its value. Thus the ½d. value was distinguished by a green colour, the 1d. by blue, and the 4d. by red. There were no words or figures of value on the stamps. Such an idea applied to modern ranges of values would be appalling in its results. In the next issue the value was expressed in words in a straight line at the bottom of the design, and from that simple plan of indicating the value Barbados has never deviated, despite the long prevailing fashion of adding figures as well.

The first stamps, issued in 1852, were limited to three values, ½d., 1d., and 4d., and were without watermark or perforation. In 1859 6d. and 1s. values were added, still without watermark or perforation. In the following year perforation was introduced, and in 1870 the stamps were also watermarked. In 1873 the plan of indicating value by colour only was at last abandoned, and the ½d., 1d., and 4d. stamps were inscribed with the words of value. Otherwise the design remained unaltered.

In 1873-4 a 3d. value was added of the current design, and also a 5s. stamp of new design and large size.

In 1878 a provisional became necessary, and was made by dividing the 5s. vertically and surcharging each half "1d."

In 1875-8 the stamps were all watermarked Crown CC.

In 1882 the watermark was changed to Crown CA, and a new and uniform design adopted for all values, the old figure of Britannia giving place to a portrait of Her Majesty, and a 2½d. value was added to the series.

In 1892 a provisional ½d. was required, and the 4d. of the current issue was consequently surcharged with the words "Half-Penny," in one line.

In 1892-6 the design was again changed, the figure of Britannia being reinstated, but this time in a chariot, and the series included a farthing stamp, but no 4d. or 5s. values; and new values were added of 5d., 8d., 10d., and 2s. 6d. Several of the stamps were bi-coloured, *i.e.*, the principal part of the design was in one colour and the value in another colour. In the end of 1897 the colony came out with a glorified edition of Britannia in her chariot ruling the waves, as a jubilee issue, but for permanent issue. The new stamps are of the size of the 5s. English stamp, and, as before, several are bi-coloured. The values are the same as in the previous issue, and are printed once more upon the old CC paper.

### Reference List.

1852.

*No wmk. Imperf.*



Type I.

	Used.		Used.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Green (½d.), Type I.	. 15	0	...	8 6
Blue (1d.) "	. 7	6	...	3 0
Red-brown (4d.), Type I.	. 15	0	...	15 0

1859.

*No wmk. Imperf.*



Type II.

6d., rose-red, Type II.	. —	...	10	0
1s., black "	. —	...	5	0

1860.

No wmk. Perf.

	Unused.	Used.
	s. d.	s. d.
½d., green, Type I. . . . .	4 0 ...	1 0
1d., blue " . . . . .	2 0 ...	0 6
4d., red " . . . . .	30 0 ...	7 6
6d., vermilion, Type II. . . . .	30 0 ...	2 6
1s., black " . . . . .	10 0 ...	1 0

1870.

Wmk. Star. Perf.

	Unused.	Used.
	s. d.	s. d.
½d., green, Type I. . . . .	5 0 ...	1 6
1d., blue " I. . . . .	10 0 ...	0 6
4d., red " I. . . . .	—	20 0
6d., vermilion " II. . . . .	—	5 0
1s., black " II. . . . .	15 0 ...	1 0

1873-4.

Wmk. Star. Perf.



Type III.

	Unused.	Used.
	s. d.	s. d.
½d., green, Type II. . . . .	7 6 ...	2 0
1d., blue " II. . . . .	7 6 ...	1 6
3d., claret " II. . . . .	30 0 ...	20 0
5s., pink " III. . . . .	—	60 0

1875-8.

Wmk. Cr. C.C. Perf.

	Unused.	Used.
	s. d.	s. d.
½d., green, Type II. . . . .	0 8 ...	0 4
1d., blue " II. . . . .	3 0 ...	0 3
3d., mauve " II. . . . .	—	8 0
4d., red " II. . . . .	—	1 9
6d., orange " II. . . . .	7 0 ...	1 0
1s., violet " II. . . . .	10 0 ...	2 0

1878.

Provisional.

1d. on half of 5s., Type III. —	...	—
---------------------------------	-----	---

1882.

Wmk. Cr. C.A. Perf.



Type IV.

Unused. Used.

	Unused.	Used.
	s. d.	s. d.
½d., green Type IV. . . . .	0 2 ...	0 2
1d., rose " . . . . .	0 4 ...	0 1
2½d., blue " . . . . .	0 8 ...	0 2
3d., mauve " . . . . .	1 6 ...	3 6
4d., grey " . . . . .	—	1 0
4d., brown " . . . . .	1 0 ...	0 4
6d., olive-brown " . . . . .	5 0 ...	5 0
1s., orange-brown " . . . . .	3 0 ...	2 6
5s., ochre " . . . . .	30 0 ...	30 0

1892.

Provisional.

	Unused.	Used.
	s. d.	s. d.
½d. on 4d., brown, Type IV. . . . .	0 6 ...	0 9

1892-6.

Wmk. Cr. C.A. Perf.



Type V.

Unused. Used.

	Unused.	Used.
	s. d.	s. d.
½d., grey and carmine, Type V. . . . .	0 1 ...	0 1
½d., green " . . . . .	0 1 ...	0 1
1d., rose " . . . . .	0 2 ...	0 1
2½d., blue " . . . . .	0 4 ...	0 1
5d., olive-brown " . . . . .	0 9 ...	—
6d., mauve and carmine " . . . . .	1 0 ...	—
8d., orange and blue " . . . . .	1 6 ...	—
10d., blue and carmine " . . . . .	1 9 ...	—
2s. 6d., black and orange " . . . . .	5 0 ...	—

1897.

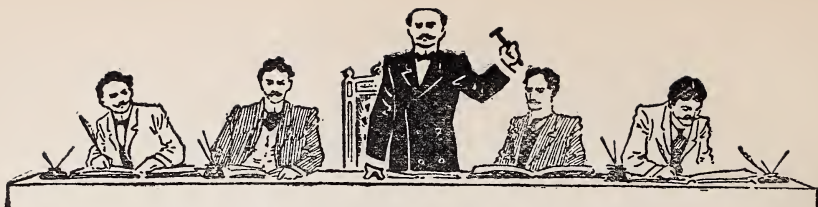
Wmk. Cr. C.C. Perf.



Type VI.

Unused. Used.

	Unused.	Used.
	s. d.	s. d.
½d., grey and carmine . . . . .	0 1 ...	0 1
½d., green . . . . .	0 1 ...	0 1
1d., rose . . . . .	0 2 ...	0 1
2½d., blue . . . . .	0 4 ...	0 2
5d., olive and brown . . . . .	0 9 ...	—
6d., mauve and carmine . . . . .	0 10 ...	—
8d., orange and blue . . . . .	1 3 ...	—
10d., green and carmine . . . . .	1 4 ...	—
2s. 6d., black and orange . . . . .	4 0 ...	—



## Notable Stamps at Auction.

		* Unused.	† On original.	£ s. d.	
<b>BUHL &amp; CO., LTD.</b>					<i>10th February, 1898.</i>
Great Britain—	£	s.	d.		British East Africa, 1891, £ s. d.
1880, 2s., red-brown ..	2	2	0		1 a. in MS. on 4 a., brown
1882, £5, orange on white	2	4	0		†, with ½ a. and 3 a. ..
ros., grey, anchor ..	2	4	0		9 15 0
£1, purple ..	3	0	0		Ceylon, 4d., rose, imperf.
Levant, 40 p. on ½ d. † ..	0	9	0		11 0 0
Russia, 10 kop., imperf.,					Ditto, 8d., yellow-brown,
pair* ..	4	4	0		star, perf. ..
Virgin Islands, 1867, 6d.,					9 10 0
rose, perf. 15 ..	5	10	0		Ceylon, 32 c., slate, perf.
					14 × 12½ ..
<b>WM. HADLOW.</b>					<i>10th February, 1898.</i>
<i>31st January, 1898.</i>					
Mauritius, Post Paid, dark					Colombia, <i>Antioquia</i> , 1st
violet-blue on light blue,					Issue, 2½ c., blue, ..
earliest state ..	10	10	0		Ditto, ditto, 5 c., green,
Naples, ½ t., arms ..	7	7	0		pair ..
New Brunswick, 1s., violet,					19 0 0
pen-marked ..	8	15	0		Ditto, ditto, 10 c., lilac
Nova Scotia, 1s., mauve	5	7	6		18 0 0
					Ditto, ditto, 1 peso, red
					4 10 0
<i>14th February, 1898.</i>					<i>Great Britain—</i>
Nevis, 1s., dark green,					1840, 2d., blue, no lines,
litho., perf. 15, com- plete sheet of 12 ..	17	0	0		unused block of 84,
Saxony, 1851, 2 n. gr., black on dark blue* ..	4	4	0		no gum, several dam- aged* ..
South Australia, 1s., yellow, roul. ..	4	0	0		2d., blue, small crown, perf. 14, pair* ..
					7 0 0
					£1, green, I.R. official, pair ..
					6 0 0
					Naples, ½ t., armst. ..
					14 0 0
					Natal, 3d., blue, star, im- perf. ..
					5 5 0
					Niger Coast, 5s., in violet, on 2d.* ..
					3 0 0
					Niger Coast, 10s., in ver- millon, on 5d.* ..
					5 0 0
					Peru, medic peso, rose ..
					11 10 0
					Roumania, <i>Moldavia</i> , 1st Issue, 81 paras ..
					65 0 0
					Spain, 1851, 2 r., red, ..
					15 5 0
					Do., 1854, 1 r., light blue
					6 0 0
					Do., 1865, 12 c., rose and blue, inverted frame ..
					5 10 0
<b>PUTTICK &amp; SIMPSON.</b>					<i>11th February, 1898.</i>
<i>18th January, 1898.</i>					
British Columbia, 1 dol., green, CC, perf. 14 ..	15	0	0		British Columbia, 2½d., imperf. ..
Ionian Islands (1d.), blue, sheet of 120 ..	13	0	0		21 0 0
Ionian Islands (2d.), car- mine, sheet of 120 ..	6	0	0		British Guiana, 1st Issue, 12 c., blue† ..
Mauritius, 2d., dark blue, Post Paid ..	11	0	0		11 10 0
St. Helena, 1s., green, CC, 12½, bar 14 mm., pair ..	9	0	0		Ditto, 1852, 4 c., blue†
Switzerland, <i>Basle</i> , 2½ r. †	5	0	0		7 12 6
					Nevis, 6d., grey, litho. ..
					7 0 0
					New Brunswick, 1s., violet
					16 10 0
					Newfoundland, 4d., car- mine ..
					7 7 6
					New South Wales, 1855, 8d., orange* ..
					17 10 0
					New Zealand, 2d., blue, no wmk., perf. 12* ..
					13 0 0
					Ditto, 2d., vermilion, wmk. lozenges? * ..
					7 0 0
					Nova Scotia, 1s., violet ..
					9 12 6
					St. Vincent, 1d., red, no wmk., compound perf. ..
					7 10 0
					<i>24th February, 1898.</i>
					British Columbia, 2½d., imperf. ..
					17 0 0
					British Guiana, 1856, 4 c., black on magenta† ..
					8 15 0

## Notices.

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

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



# The Philatelic Record

AND STAMP NEWS.

APRIL, 1898.

## Editorial Notes.



THE philatelic event of the month is the conversion of the old-established firm of Stanley Gibbons into a public company. Some forty years ago Mr. Edward Stanley Gibbons started in a small way as a stamp dealer in Plymouth, and subsequently moved to London. Eight years ago he sold his business to Mr. Charles J. Phillips, then of Birmingham, for £25,000, and now Mr. Phillips is selling it, lock, stock, and barrel, to a Company for £102,000. In the eight years of Mr. Phillips's management the turnover has grown from £16,000 a year to £50,000 a year, with profits averaging over £11,000 per year for the last three years.

Stanley  
Gibbons,  
Limited.

The capital of the new Company is to be £120,000, viz., 75,000 shares of £1 each, and 900 5 per cent. debentures of £50 each. The purchase price of £102,000 is payable £64,000 in cash, £13,000 in debentures, and £25,000 in shares, and the new Company takes over the business from the 30th June last. The Directors are to be Mr. M. P. Castle, (Chairman,) Mr. Charles J. Phillips, (Managing Director,) Major Evans, Mr. Gordon Smith, Mr. W. H. Phillips, and Mr. Robert Ehrenbach, a very strong Board from a philatelic point of view, and, by a curious coincidence, with the exception of Mr. Phillips and his brother, drawn bodily from the Council of the Philatelic Society of London, with the Vice-President of the Society as Chairman of the Company.

The stock has been valued by Messrs. Ventom, Bull, and Cooper at £90,638, after making a discount of 40 to 75 per cent. off the selling value of retail stock and off the trade price of wholesale stock, taking publications at cost price, and excluding altogether the immense stock of packets and sets of stamps, common approval sheets, loose used stamps, post cards, envelopes, &c.

The promoters, in addition to applications from stamp collectors, anticipate a very large demand from the general public. So far as the general public is concerned we fear they will be disappointed, for the outside public does not take kindly to our hobby. Its forty years of surprising growth has not sufficed to dispel the scepticism that regards it as a mere passing fancy. Investors will draw their cheques by the thousand for imaginary gold mines in the ice-bound regions of Alaska, and for experiments with ephemeral patents, but they will tighten their purse-strings against a business growing by leaps and bounds, with a stability unaffected even by years of great commercial depression. With unbroken unanimity the financial advisers of the daily Press, and especially the blackmailers of the financial Press, have scoffed at the preposterous idea of subscribing £120,000 for a pettifogging old postage stamp business.

The rigid financier sees great objection to the debentures which have to rely for security mainly upon a floating stock that may be dispersed in the ordinary course of business; but, for all that, those same debentures will probably be subscribed by those who have the best means of judging of their real value. It is true they are more in the nature of preference shares than debentures in the ordinary sense of the term, but the debentures may, and evidently will, be paid out, whereas preference shareholders could not be got rid of. If the prosperity of the business continues, we see no reason why the new Company should not pay 10 per cent. to its shareholders, clear off a substantial number of debentures, and put something to reserve every year. Then, when the business is represented by its shareholding interest only, there may be some sceptics who will wish they had subscribed for the shares of the "old postage stamp business," rather than have frittered away their substance upon imaginary gold mines and ephemeral patents.

\* \* \*

ACCORDING to the *Daily Mail's* Melbourne correspondent the Imperial proposal to reduce ocean postage to twopence has been discussed by the Australian Premiers in conference and declined.

It now remains to be seen what this country will do with its proposal. It certainly cannot, after the action of Canada, be allowed to fizzle out altogether. And the question may arise whether it is not better to face the bold alternative of Imperial Penny Postage on our own account and let the Colonies fall into line at their own convenience. Under such an arrangement there is little doubt Imperial Penny Postage would soon be general.

As will be noted from our record of postal matters in Parliament on another page, there is to be a Conference with Colonial representatives in June next.

\* \* \*

ON another page, in our "Philatelic Gossip," we quote an interesting and instructive table of prices, which cannot fail to afford much food for reflection. In 1891 the late Mr. Gilbert Lockyer, in an article entitled a "Retrospect on Prices," set out in the *Monthly Journal* the enormous rise that had taken place between 1876 and 1892, but that was capped by what was then regarded as a very optimistic forecast by Mr. C. J. Phillips of what those same stamps would probably run to in 1902.

And now, though we are still four years short of 1902, Mr. W. H. Phillips finds that in almost every case the price has already risen considerably above the estimated value for 1902.

The pessimist will naturally ask, Where is all this to end? Who can say? The prices of the next century may eclipse all the present records. It is not so many years ago that even shrewd philatelists ridiculed as senseless the extravagance of paying £5 for a single stamp, and now we pay hundreds. Prices are certainly getting into the acute stage, and but for the beneficial corrective of auction figures there is no saying where we might be at present.

\* \* \*

WE quote with considerable satisfaction the following item from an Editorial in the *Australian Philatelist* in reference to **A Slump in Speculatives.** the recently issued Victorian Hospital Stamps:—

"The issue of 2s. 6d. stamps was largely over-applied for, and one order for £500 worth was undoubtedly received. Orders were cabled out from England—it was officially stated—by DEALERS! Now, if there were

no buyers for such stamps there would be none prepared for sale. Who are the buyers? The stamp dealers and speculators who dabble in stamps. Why do they buy them? To sell to collectors at a premium. Why are the collectors foolish enough to buy them? Well, judging from the recent drop in prices, we feel inclined to say they DON'T!"

And we sincerely hope they won't be such arrant fools as to buy them. Let the speculators burn their fingers, and serve them right; the more severely they are burnt the better for the credit of stamp dealing and stamp collecting. It is simply delightful to learn that the speculators have been landed with rubbish, and that a slump has set in which will convert their anticipated profit into a substantial loss.

\* \* \*

**Notable  
Novelties  
of the  
Month.** OUR page of New Issues contains no very striking novelty, though there are some "on order." Still, there are several interesting items to be noted. British Honduras is, we are told, about to add a new value to its series, viz., a 25 c. stamp; the colour of the 2d. Cape of Good Hope has been changed, as expected, to prevent confusion with the 1s. value; the new 2d.

is a chocolate-brown instead of ochre; the new Gambias are not to be issued till the 1st of May; some interesting die varieties have been made in the 1d. and 2½d. values of the so-called "Record Reign" type of New South Wales; the heralded change of colour of the 1s. St. Vincent from vermilion to salmon turns out to be a myth, no change having taken place; the Argentine Republic has issued a new value of 30 centavos for registration letter return receipt purposes; Chili seems to have commenced the issue of a new series of Unpaid; and China has sent us the first stamp of the new Waterlow set, which is to replace the Japanese design and printing.

\* \* \*

### Postscript.

**Stanley  
Gibbons.** WE regret to hear that the response to the issue of the Stanley Gibbons prospectus has not been sufficient to warrant the Directors in going to allotment. The promoters of the "As you were." Company, we fear, relied too much upon the general public and too little upon stamp collectors. Had the appeal been more definitely made to stamp collectors, and the list kept open for, say, a month, every penny would probably have been subscribed.





## How to Collect Bolivian Stamps.

By H. R. OLDFIELD.



FOR various reasons these stamps have been neglected :—

1. Bolivia is one of the South American countries.
2. Very little has been written or is known about the stamps.
3. The catalogue prices do not represent the present market value of the stamps, and in many cases are believed to be too high.

South America has for many years been out of favour with collectors, owing, I think, partly to the decline in general collecting, and partly to excessive surcharging and unnecessary issues.

The days of the general collector are rapidly passing away. The average amateur has neither the time nor the means to meet the demands which a general collection makes upon him—demands which necessarily are constantly increasing. The *new* collector, who arbitrarily fixes the year 1890 as the date of the birth of the earliest of his treasures, is only postponing the evil day when he will realize that a complete general collection is impossible, and when he must make his choice of a country or countries to which his ambition must be confined if he is to derive any real satisfaction from his hobby; for completion is the ultimate object which eventually will engross his attention and absorb his energy.

Not that I would discourage attempts at a general collection—indeed, the *beginner* should not limit himself to one or two countries, but collect all he can, so as to acquire a wider knowledge of his subject before devoting himself to any particular branch. My point rather is that a time will come when the general collector begins to realize how hopeless it is ever to secure something worth having or anything approaching completion unless he concentrates his efforts, for the time being at least, in some particular direction.

Undoubtedly for many years past a certain number of collectors each year arrive at this conclusion, and hence specialism had its origin.

It was possible to obtain completion if the collector confined himself to one or more countries, and gradually the general collection took a second place, and in many cases was abandoned altogether.

Just about the time when specializing began to acquire a hold and influence over collectors, South American countries were out of favour, and were not included among those selected for special study. This fact, coupled with the gradual abandonment by specialists of their general collections, still further reduced the demand for South American stamps.

Specializing naturally raises the price of the stamps of the countries which are so treated, and consequently the prices of European, North American, and Australian issues have largely increased, so that it is now becoming very difficult on the ground of expense to secure a representative collection of the stamps of the countries forming part of these continents, and the *coming* specialists will be gradually forced to look further afield. No doubt, owing to the vagaries of fashion as regard the countries selected and the fact of used stamps being now unduly depreciated, and of unused stamps being so highly appreciated, there are still opportunities for acquiring moderate completeness in a European,

North American, or Australian collection at a reasonable cost, but the way is by no means so easy as it was, and too many competitors are in the field.

Reasons such as these led me to think of South America, where there was, and is still, an ample field for choice. Sooner or later the force of circumstances will drive others in the same direction, and it will then be found that South America offers quite as much scope for rarities, condition, discoveries, pleasure, and investment as Europe does now, while it possesses the additional advantage for the earlier comers of cheapness and of possible completeness.

As for myself, Bolivia was an attraction mainly because the stamps were engraved, surcharges were at a discount, unnecessary issues were conspicuous by their absence, forgeries were fairly easy to detect, and genuine rarities were in existence, while the country presented opportunities for study and for discoveries.

Although very little has been published or written about these stamps, there were known to be great difficulties in connection with the first issue, more especially as regards the 5 centavos, the types being very numerous and very difficult to distinguish one from another. Prices also were unsatisfactory, as they were based upon catalogues which placed them far above present market values. Prices really depend upon supply and demand. If the demand is great and the supply limited, prices must rise. If either the supply is considerable or the demand restricted, prices ought to rule accordingly. So far as Bolivia is concerned, the demand at present is undoubtedly small, while the supply is limited for some stamps but fairly abundant for many others.

My object in writing this paper is to assist intending collectors of the stamps of this country by showing how the difficulties of types may be overcome, how numerous unappreciated varieties may be distinguished and secured, and how a representative collection may be formed at a small expense; and also to proffer some advice as to the present market value of stamps which are now over- or under-priced in the catalogues. Nothing is more discouraging than to pay a substantial sum for a rare stamp and to find that you cannot realize save at a heavy discount. At present, so far as Bolivia and many other South American countries are concerned, the collector has his opportunity, for dealers neglect them, and many a really valuable stamp may be picked up by those who will take the trouble before dealers as a body wake up to the fact of their value.

The first, or eagle, issue appeared in 1866, and continued until the end of 1867. It consisted of four values:—

- 5 centavos, printed in green of varying shades, subsequently printed in lilac of varying shades.
- 10 centavos, printed in varying shades of brown.
- 50 centavos, printed in shades of yellow and orange on thick paper, subsequently printed in blue on thin paper.
- 100 centavos, printed in blue on thick paper, subsequently printed in green on thin paper.

In addition stamps are to be found of the 10, 50, and 100 centavos value printed on the original plates on very thin card, and these are either proofs or reprints. The only dangerous forgeries I have met with are in the 5 centavos, lilac, and in the postmarked copies of the 50 centavos, yellow.

The 5 centavos stamps were printed from a plate, which was retouched no less than six times, making seven different printings in all, and there are 72 types of each printing. It is not only a difficult task, but really unnecessary labour to endeavour to collect all these types. If you should happen to come across an unused sheet, by all means take it; but it is more interesting and will be found to be more remunerative to look out for varieties of type, the more

prominent of which I will proceed to indicate and illustrate, and anyone who can obtain all or a considerable number of these varieties may fairly consider that he has a representative and valuable collection, more especially if he can contrive to add a complete unused sheet of one of the seven printings, some of which are comparatively common, although one or perhaps two of them are exceedingly rare.

A complete sheet, however, can be regarded more in the nature of a luxury than as a necessity.

Dealers make at present no distinction in their prices as regards copies of the 5 centavos, green, with the sole exception of the yellow-green printing. The yellow-green represents the very earliest printing from the plate, and a variety in this colour is exceedingly valuable, there being only one in each sheet of 72 varieties.

The catalogue price of a yellow-green stamp is, unused, from 8s. to 30s., and used, from 8s. to 15s.

The *present* market value in my opinion is, unused or used postally, from 7s. 6d. to 15s. ; pen-marked, from 5s. to 7s. 6d.

The value of one of the varieties in the yellow-green shade is simply a question of demand, for the supply is naturally exceedingly limited. The value would to a certain extent depend on whether the variety were a prominent or a minor one.

I will indicate, when describing the varieties later on, which are to be found in the yellow-green shade.

The catalogue price of the ordinary 5 centavos, green, is from 4d. to 5s., and this is much too high. The fair market value in my opinion is—

For unused, 3d.

For those used postally, 6d.

For pen-marked copies, 1d. to 2d.

These prices only apply to ordinary copies, for special types or varieties are intrinsically worth very much more ; for instance, there are varieties of which only one is found out of all the seven printings, that is to say, out of every 504 copies ( $7 \times 72$ ) there is only one of the particular variety in question. These figures speak for themselves, and so long as dealers choose to neglect such facts the collector will do well to make use of his opportunity.

(To be continued.)





# The Stamps of Tonga.

By A. F. BASSET HULL.

(Continued from page 62.)

## I.—THE FIRST ISSUE OF TONGAN STAMPS.



THE second entry in the *Interim Report*, Column A, is:—

" 1886. August 27. G.P.O., Wellington, 1d. . .	\$256	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
2d. . .	515	2	0
		0	0

As the date is that on which the stamps arrived at Tonga from New Zealand, it may fairly be taken as the approximate, if not the actual date of issue to the public.

The numbers (the dollar being worth 4s.) were:

1d., 12,312, or 102 sheets and 72 stamps.
2d., 12,360, or 103 sheets.

The next entry is:—

" 1886. October 9. G.P.O., Wellington, 6d. . .	\$105	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
		0	0

This supply consisted of 840 stamps, or seven sheets.

It was not until the following year that the series was completed by the arrival of the 1s. value. The entry is a singular one, and reads:—

" 1887. April 15. G.P.O., Wellington, 1s. . .	\$3600	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1s. . .	120	0	0
6d. . .	1455	0	0

There appears to be no reason why the 1s. value should have been entered in two sections, the first consisting of 14,400 stamps, or 120 sheets, and the second of 480 stamps, or four sheets. I feel confident that the "s" in the second entry is a misprint for "d," and that the stamps to the value of \$120 were of the 1d. denomination. In this case there would be 5760 stamps, or forty-eight sheets. Of the 6d. there were 11,640 stamps.

The next entry refers again to the 1d. and 2d. values, and completes what may be termed the "First Issue." It is as follows:—

" 1887. July 15. G.P.O., Wellington, 2d. . .	\$2510	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1d. . .	1010	0	0

The numbers thus added were 60,240 stamps, or 502 sheets of the 2d., and 48,480 stamps, or 404 sheets of the 1d.

Assuming that my conclusion as to the \$120 of April 15, 1886, is correct, the total number of each value received during 1886-7 was:—

1d., 66,552 stamps, or 554 sheets, and 72 stamps.
2d., 72,600 " 605 "
6d., 12,480 " 104 "
1s., 14,400 " 120 "

The dies for first Tongan stamps proper were engraved by Mr. Cousins, of Bock and Cousins, of Wellington, New Zealand. They were printed from electro-plates at the Government Printing Office, Wellington, on the same paper

as that used for the New Zealand stamps, bearing as watermark a five-pointed Star, and the letters "N.Z." It is worthy of remark that although the first supply of the two lower values had actually reached Tonga on August 27th, 1886, the *New Zealand Times* of September 29th of that year stated that "a set of stamps for the Government of Tonga, South Seas, are being printed by the New Zealand Stamp Department . . . The stamps are being beautifully printed."

This paragraph is reprinted in the *Philatelic Record* for November, 1886, and the *whole series*, including the 6d. and 1s., is described. This is somewhat remarkable, as the 6d. did not reach Tonga until October 9th, 1886, and the 1s. until April 15th, 1887.

The sheets contained 120 stamps in two panes of 60, each in ten horizontal rows of six stamps. There is a space of 10 mm. between the panes. Above the second stamp on the first pane, and the fifth on the second pane, and below the fifty-sixth stamp on the first, and the fifty-ninth stamp on the second pane, there is a design consisting of a dot enclosed in two concentric circles, the inner one broad and the outer one narrow.



This first supply appears to be consistently perforated 12½. The colours were:—

- 1d., pink.
- 2d., purple.
- 6d., blue.
- 1s., green.

On October 15th, 1888, an invoice for stamps was noted as received, but no particulars as to the denominations or values were given. However, the Commission of Inquiry supplied this deficiency in Column B of the *Interim Report*, and debited the late Postmaster with the gross value. The particulars were as follows:—

" 1888. September 11.	25,000 stamps at 1d.	.	.	.	\$520	s.	d.
	25,000 "	2d.	.	.	1041	3	4
	25,000 "	6d.	.	.	3125	0	0
	25,000 "	1/-	.	.	6250	0	0

This supply equalled 208 sheets and forty stamps of each value, and was evidently obtained, not for legitimate postal use, but for the purpose of being cancelled and sold to collectors and dealers at a nominal price.

That the cancelled stamps met with a ready market is evidenced by the fact that on December 18th, 1891, another supply consisting of 26,160 1d., 26,280 2d., 26,400 6d., and 26,160 1s. was obtained. This supply equalled 218 sheets each of the 1d. and 1s., 219 sheets of the 2d., and 220 sheets of the 6d.

The *Interim Report* shows that during 1891 about \$580 worth of stamps were "exchanged with other countries," and calls special attention to two papers found in the office of the late Chief Postmaster, and which I will quote in full, as they tend to support my belief that the whole of the two supplies of September, 1888, and December, 1891, were intended for sale in a cancelled state as specimens, even if they were not all so disposed of.

The first is a receipt worded as follows:—

" NUKUALOFA, August 3rd, 1891.

" Received from the Chief Postmaster of Tonga 26 sheets stamps, 'specimens,' at 5s. per sheet. (Signed) GEO. CRAWSHAW.

Face Value.	6½ sheets at 1s.	.	.	.	£39	0	0			
	6½ "	6d.	.	.	19	10	0			
	6½ "	2d.	.	.	6	10	0			
	6½ "	1d.	.	.	3	5	0			
	£68	5	0		£68	5	0			
	6	10	0							
	—————							£61	15	0"

The Commission of Inquiry comment on this transaction in the following terms:—

“ Thus stamps to the face value of £68 5s. were sold in sheets of 120 stamps to the sheet for the sum of £6 10s. Though nominally sold as ‘specimens,’ no stamps have ever been issued as such in Tonga, *i.e.*, with the word ‘Specimen’ printed on the face of each, and there is nothing to prevent these undistinguished stamps, though called ‘specimens’ in the above receipt and in the Postmaster’s books, from being used for ordinary postal purposes, thus causing a loss to the revenue of the difference between the amount received for them (£6 10s.)—supposing such an amount to have been paid into revenue—and their face value (£68 5s.), *i.e.*, a loss of £61 15s. (\$308 3s. od.)”

The Commission were evidently unaware of the system of cancelling these “specimen” stamps by means of the ordinary postal obliterator.

The other paper is a receipt, as follows:—

“ Received from the Chief Postmaster, Tonga,  
Specimen stamps to value of nine pounds (£9),

(Signed) BASIL H. THOMSON,  
(Stamped) Assist. Minister of Finance,

“ NUKUALOFA.”

14 Nov., 1890.

Both of these receipts, which together account for 15½ sheets of each value (supposing that Mr. Thomson’s purchase consisted of an equal number of each value), were dated prior to the receipt of the second consignment, and both were dated over two years subsequently to the receipt of the first consignment. There was, therefore, plenty of time during which the balance of the 208 sheets of each value could have been disposed of. Doubtless the two recorded sales exhausted that supply, and necessitated the ordering of a fresh lot. Whether the amount received for the sale of these stamps was paid into revenue, applied in payment of cost of printing, or otherwise disposed of, philatelically speaking, is a matter of no importance. The evidence we have before us of two large consignments of stamps, aggregating upwards of 50,000 specimens of each value, having been received and disposed of, either wholly or in part, purely as specimens or examples of the Tongan issues, proves that they are not worthy of consideration as genuine postal issues.

That from the first they were never intended to do duty as postage stamps is abundantly evidenced by the fact that Mr. Campbell, though noting the receipt of the invoice, did not debit the face value in the “Books of Office.” There was no real ground for suspecting the fraud so elaborately alleged by the Commission of Inquiry. No attempt was made to conceal the fact that exceptionally large supplies of stamps had been received, as the invoices were “noted as received,” but the actual destination of, or intentions with regard to, the stamps were not clearly detailed in the books. We may fairly assume that as Mr. Campbell held the responsible position of Head of the Department, he did not think it worth while to make entries in explanation of his dealings with these stamps, not anticipating that his actions might possibly be misconstrued.

(To be continued.)







## The Stamp Collector.

*The Stamp Collector.* By *W. J. Hardy and E. D. Bacon.* *The Collector Series.*  
London: George Redway, 1898. Cloth, 8 in.  $\times$  5 $\frac{1}{4}$  in. Price 7s. 6d. net.

THIS book forms one of Mr. Redway's popular Collector Series. It is designed for public consumption, and will, no doubt, do much to popularize our pursuit in quarters where a little explanation is needed to dispel ignorance and prejudice.

The contents are divided into eleven chapters, with popular headings, as follows:—

I., Introductory; II., The Issue of Postage Stamps; III., Collecting: its Origin and Development; IV., Stamps made for Collectors; V., Art in Postage Stamps; VI., Stamps with Stories; VII., History in Postage Stamps; VIII., Local Stamps; IX., The Stamp Market; X., Post Cards; XI., Famous Collections. In an appendix there is a very excellent list of "useful works for the student," and a list of the principal Philatelic Societies, with the names and addresses of the Secretaries. There are twelve full-page autotype plates of more or less notable stamps, all of which are well done.

The history of the early days of stamp collecting is carefully written, with a wealth of interesting detail, and stamps made for collectors are pilloried without mercy. Probably the most interesting chapter in the book is that entitled "Art in Postage Stamps," which gives the history of the production of all the most notable first issues.

### Perkins, Bacon, and Co.'s Designs.

Of these the authors write: "Most of the early postage stamps furnished to the Colonies are amongst the gems of the engravers' art, and for nearly all of them Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, and Co. are responsible. They had produced the first adhesive postage stamps which appeared, and the design of these was a model of grace and simplicity. . . . Mr. Edward H. Corbould prepared a careful drawing of Queen Victoria's profile on the obverse of Mr. William Wyon's medal, struck to commemorate Her Majesty's visit to the City in 1837; and the work of engraving the die was entrusted to Mr. Charles Heath. In the delicate and richly-worked engine-turned background lay the safeguard against imitation, and that, from the first, was what Government most feared in the introduction of postage stamps. As the Queen's head figured on the first adhesive postage stamp, so it did on many of the early colonial stamps of Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, and Co.'s manufacture. The head on the first two stamps of Great Britain was never exactly reproduced, but the likeness was usually drawn or painted from some well-known portrait of Her Majesty, as in the case of New Zealand, where it was taken from the picture painted by Mr. Alfred E. Chalou, R.A., immediately after the Queen's accession. The engraving of many of Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, and Co.'s colonial stamps was entrusted to Mr. W. Humphreys, and the large rectangular stamps bearing the Queen's portrait in frames of various shapes, produced for Ceylon, are, perhaps, the most successful efforts of all concerned."

### United States Portraits.

These portraits are deservedly characterized as "a wonderful array," and some of our readers may like to have the list with the reference to the originals of the current issue.

"The profile bust of Benjamin Franklin, on the one cent, is after Rubricht; Washington's portrait, on the two cents, is after Houdon; Andrew Jackson's, on the three cents, after Powers; Abraham Lincoln's, on the four cents, is from a photograph taken from life. The portraits of General Grant, on the five cents, and President Garfield, on the six cents, are also from photographs. The ten cents and fifteen cents show us respectively Daniel Webster's and Henry Clay's portraits, taken from daguerreotypes; the profile bust of Jefferson, on the thirty cents, is after Ceracchi; and the likeness of Commodore O. H. Perry, on the ninety cents, is taken from Walcott's statue. In 1894 the thirty cents and ninety cents were withdrawn, and their place taken by stamps of similar design, but of the value of fifty cents and one dollar. Two more new values of two dollars and five dollars, the former with a portrait of James Madison and the latter with that of John Marshall, were then added."

### The O'Connell Stamp.

Of the Connell stamp we quote the history. It is an old story, but it will bear repetition. "In 1860 appeared the postage stamp which may claim to have aroused more public hostility, and to have made a greater noise in the world, than any issued before or after it. This was the Five Cents New Brunswick, bearing the portrait of Mr. Charles Connell, then Postmaster-General of the Colony. He had not long succeeded to office when the currency of the Colony was changed from "pence" to "cents." The production of a new series of postage stamps was accordingly necessary, and was entrusted by Mr. Connell to the American Bank-note Company. The chief feature of the new stamps was that each bore a different design. On one—the Five Cents—Mr. Connell caused his own portrait to be represented. No sooner had the stamps arrived in New Brunswick than the political opponents of Mr. Connell affected to see in this startling innovation a symptom of an intended despotism that would ultimately turn the Colony into an absolute monarchy, with the Postmaster-General at its head. So the Executive Council advised the Lieutenant-Governor to disapprove the design and substitute another stamp of the same value, having upon it the Queen's head, to the great disgust of Mr. Connell, who thereupon retired into private life. The printer's bill shows that 500,000 of the obnoxious Five Cents stamps had been struck off; but what became of them is not recorded, presumably all but a few sheets were destroyed, as the stamp is now of great rarity."

The examples of history told in postage stamps will provide a little food for reflection for those who are so ready to exclude postage stamp collecting from our public schools. Here we have over and over again evidence of the educational value of postage stamps as historical finger-posts of changes in the form of governments, of the overthrow of monarchies and republics, of the cession of territory, of periods of civil strife, of the development of kingdoms and of republics, of the struggle of pretenders for power, of the passing of crowned heads and the unrest of presidents, of the caprice and the egotism of rulers, and even of the progress of civilization the wide world over.

Of course, the stamp market is not forgotten, and we imagine those commercially-minded individuals who regard stamp collecting as a silly pastime, will open their eyes when they read of the ominous advance in prices of rarities during the last twenty years.

Space forbids our dipping any further into this interesting volume. It cannot fail to contribute materially to the spread of our hobby and to the conversion of the scoffer. It will make an excellent text-book for the beginner, and the name of Mr. E. D. Bacon on the title-page will be a guarantee that from the philatelic point of view the book is sound and reliable.





## British Empire.

**Barbados.**—We illustrate the permanent Jubilee issue chronicled by us in January (p. 14).



**British Central Africa.**—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the 3s. stamp surcharged "One—Penny" in large Roman capitals, in red.

*Adhesive.*

1d. on 3s., green and black; surcharge red.

**British East Africa.**—Our publishers have received the Indian 2½ a. on 4½ a. envelope surcharged "British East Africa" instead of "British East Africa."

*Envelope.*

2½d., in black, on 4½d., orange, error "British."

**British Honduras.**—The *American Journal of Philately* says it has received reliable information that this Colony is to have a 25 c. stamp and an inland postal card of the value of one cent, and that both are to appear in about two months.

**British South Africa.**—The *Monthly Journal* has received copies of the cards chronicled some months ago. They resemble those headed "MASHONALAND," but have a stamp of similar design to the adhesives of 1896, and the heading "RHODESIA." The card is white.

*Post Cards.*

1d., blue; 122×75 mm.  
1½d., red; 140×88     "  
1½d., brownish yellow; 140×88 mm.

**Canada.**—The *Monthly Journal* chronicles a 1 c. post card for general use, a card of the same value to be used for advertisements in the form of pictures, and 1 c. and 3 c. letter cards, all impressed with the design of the new adhesives.

*Post Card.*

1 c., blue-green on buff; 141×87 mm.

*Advertisement Post Card.*

1 c., carmine.

*Letter Cards.*

1 c., black on blue; 140×90 mm.  
3 c., carmine on blue     "



**Cape of Good Hope.**—According to the *London Philatelist* the colour of the 2d. stamp has been changed from ochre to chocolate-brown, presumably to avoid possible confusion with the 1s., now printed in ochre-brown.

*Adhesive.*

2d., chocolate-brown.

**Ceylon.**—The *Monthly Journal* has received the 4 c. stamp in "a bright pink shade, quite different from the 4 c., rose, of 1884." Wmk. and perforation the same.

*Adhesive.*

4 cents, bright pink.

**Gambia.**—According to an official advertisement received for our last number after we had closed up our New Issue list, the new stamps of the stereotype De La Rue pattern will come into use on the 1st of May. On that date all the old stock of embossed stamps that remain on hand will be destroyed. After such a notice there is little likelihood of any remaining to be destroyed, for some enterprising dealer is certain to snap up such good stamps.

**India.**—*Bhopal.*—The publishers of the *Monthly Circular* have received a sheet of 1 anna, red-brown, of the large square type printed on wove paper stained coffee colour, in which the central embossing is absent. The sheet consists of twenty-four stamps in six rows of four, and the stamps are not perforated. There do not seem to be any errors in the lettering "H. H. NAWAB SHAH JAHAN BEGAM," except errors in the letters themselves. In the first and sixteenth the "B" in "NEWAB" is like "H," and in the tenth stamp the last "H" in "SHAH" is not barred.

Further, they have the 2 annas, green, on native paper, perforated 3½, and some 3½, fo



NEW ZEALAND.



NEW ISSUE.



when the holes are 6 to 7 mm. apart from centre to centre even  $\frac{1}{4}$  may be measured.

*Adhesives.*

- 1 anna, red-brown, 24 varieties, no embossed centre ; imperforate.  
2 anna, green ; perforated  $3\frac{1}{2}$ .

*Gwalior.*—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the 1 rupee, India, carmine and green, surcharged in black in native characters.

*Adhesive.*

- 1 rupee, carmine and green ; sur. black.

**Jamaica.**—The *Timbre-Poste* chronicles the 2s. value as now appearing watermarked Crown CA. Our contemporary does not say anything about the design, and we therefore presume it is unchanged ; perf. 14. The "official" stamps have been suppressed since the 1st January last.

*Adhesive.*

- 2s., red-brown ; wmk. CA.

**New South Wales.**—We take the following interesting announcement from the *Australian Philatelist*: "The 'Record Reign' 1d. and  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. dies have been recently engraved on steel, and present several minor variations of type from the original dies, which were of wood. The differences may be briefly described as follows:—1d., Type I.: The first pearl in the crown is not a complete circle; the outer line of shading between the arabesques and the shield is very much lighter than the inner; and the lines of shading in the figures of value are roughly drawn and thicker in the middle than at the ends. 1d., Type II.: The first pearl in the crown is a complete circle; the shading between the arabesques and the shield is equally heavy throughout, and the lines of shading in the figures of value are straight and of equal thickness.  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., Type I.: The ornamental star on the Queen's breast has twelve lines of shading only.  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., Type II.: The star has sixteen lines of shading. There are other minor differences in both values, notably in the profile of the  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., but the points given are sufficient to enable a distinction to be made. The 2d. will probably be re-engraved shortly. The 1d. has been seen with one line of perforation (vertical and horizontal—comb machine) omitted. As imperforate PAIRS could be manufactured from these accidentals with a little clipping, we caution our readers to be on the look-out against such fancy articles."

*Adhesives.*

- 1d., rose ; variety of type.  
 $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., mauve "  
1d., rose ; "part perf." type.

**New Zealand.**—We have received the long-talked-of new issue. The stamps are the work of Messrs. Waterlow, and have been printed by the steel process in the best style. The object of the Colonial Government in bringing them out has been to make use of characteristic designs of the scenery, birds, and vegetation of the islands. The  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamp contains a picture of Aorangi, or Mount Cook,

the highest peak in New Zealand. The 5s. stamp gives a larger and more beautiful representation of the same mountain. The scene on the 1d. stamp is a view across Lake Taupo, the largest lake in the North Island, together with the active volcanoes of Tongariro and Ngaruhoe, which rise near it. The 2d. and the 2s. stamps both give scenes in the famous sounds or fiords of South-Western New Zealand, the view selected for the 2s. stamp being the famous entrance to Milford Haven. The blue  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamp, which, so long as the present postal rates continue, is likely to be that most often seen in England, represents the southern end of Lake Wakatipu, in the South Island, and the snowy heights of Mount Earnslaw rising beyond it. The 4d. and 9d. stamps attempt to depict the Pink and White Terraces destroyed in the eruption of 1885. The 9d. stamp is an exceedingly successful piece of engraving. The 5d. is intended to be a presentation of the lovely Otira Gorge, the principal pass across the Southern Alps. The design of the 3d. stamp gives a pair of sacred huia birds, the feathers of which were worn in the hair of the Maori chiefs alone. On the 6d. stamp appears the well-known apterix, or kiwi, and on the 1s. an exceedingly well-executed pair of kakas, the wild hawk-like parrot of the New Zealand forest. A Maori war-canoe is figured on the 8d. stamp, surrounded by the fronds of a tree-fern and other foliage. All are on white unwatermarked paper, but the perforations show several interesting variations, much after the manner of the Niger Coast stamps.

*Adhesives.*

- $\frac{1}{2}$ d., rect., puce ; perf.  $14\frac{1}{2} \times 15$ .  
1d. ,, light brown, centre blue ; perf. 15.  
2d. ,, lake ; perf.  $14\frac{1}{2}$ .  
 $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., large oblong, pale blue ; perf.  $15 \times 14\frac{1}{2}$ .  
3d., rect., ochre ; perf. 15.  
4d. ,, rose ; perf.  $13\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ .  
5d., long rect., deep brown ; perf.  $13\frac{1}{2}$ .  
6d., rect., yellow-green ; perf. 15.  
8d. ,, deep blue ; perf. 15.  
9d., large oblong, violet ; perf. 15.  
1s., orange ; perf. 15.  
2s., deep green ; perf. 15.  
5s., vermilion ,, 15.

**Straits Settlements.**—*Selangor.*—The *Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste* chronicles the issue of a 3 dollar value of the large type group of elephants design.

*Adhesive.*

- 3 dols., green and bistre.

**St. Vincent.**—Some months since the *American Journal of Philately* announced that the 1s. value had been changed in colour from vermilion to salmon, but it has recently received a supply from the Colony, and finds that no change has taken place in the colour of this value.

**Zanzibar.**—Our publishers have received the  $\frac{1}{2}$  anna, green, Indian envelope, surcharged in black instead of in blue.

*Envelope.*

- $\frac{1}{2}$  a., green ;  $120 \times 94$  mm. ; sur. black.



## Foreign Countries.

**Argentine.**—Mr. Abel Fontaine sends us a 30 centavos, yellow, issued on February 1st last, and informs us that this new value is for the registered letter with return receipt. Until December 31st last the charge for a registered letter with return receipt was 32 centavos. In design it is similar to the current 10 c. Wmk. Rayed Sun. Perf. 12.

*Adhesive.*  
*Return Registration Receipt Stamp.*  
30 centavos, red-brown.

**Bolivia.**—The *Monthly Journal* has received the 20 c. and 50 c. of the type of 1894, printed on thicker paper, and perf. 13 instead of 14.

*Adhesives.*  
20 c., dull blue; perf. 13.  
50 c., lilac

**Chili.**—The *Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal* has received specimens of the new Unpaid stamps. The design, which we shall illustrate in a later number, follows the more general type of Unpaid in having a figure in the centre. The *I. B. J.* has only received three values—2 c., 4 c., and 10 c., all of which are in carmine on white, perf. 13½.

**China.**—We are indebted to Mr. David Benjamin for the 1 cent of the new design engraved and printed by Waterlow. We shall illustrate the stamp later; but we may say now that, whilst entirely redrawn, it resembles the Japanese series which it will displace. This stamp was issued on February 7th last. Mr. Benjamin tells us that the stamps are printed in sheets of 240, divided into 3 rows, each containing 40 panes of 20 stamps each.

*Adhesives.*  
1 cent, red-brown.

**Colombia.**—**Panama.**—The *Metropolitan Philatelist* says two provisional stamps have appeared, the current 10 c. being surcharged "AR—Colon—Colombia" for use as a return receipt stamp, and also "R—Colon" in a circle for registration purposes.

*Adhesives.*  
*Provisional Return Receipt Stamp.*  
10 centavos, black and orange.  
*Provisional Registration Stamp.*  
10 centavos, black and orange.

**Fernando Poo.**—The *Timbre-Poste* chronicles a fresh surcharge similar to the 5 c. on 6 c. chronicled by us in January (p. 15), viz., a 5 c. in an oval ring on 12½ c., brown. 1100 is said to be the limit of this issue.

*Adhesive.*  
5 c., in red, on 12½ c., brown.

**Japan.**—According to the *Philatelic Monthly and World* the *Jomuri Shimbun*, a daily paper of Tokio, announces the issue of a new 10 sen stamp. This stamp is intended to serve as a saving stamp, and will be accepted by any post office in Japan as a saving deposit, bearing interest at the rate of three per cent. per year. At the same time it will be allowed to use these same

stamps for postal purposes, and excepting an inscription denoting these stamps as saving stamps they will look very much like the ordinary 10 sen postage stamps. The decree ordering the issue of these saving stamps mentions particularly that the ordinary current postage stamps will not be accepted by the post offices as saving deposits.

**Persia.**—The *Illustriertes Briefmarken Zeitung* chronicles envelopes with stamps in new colours as follows:—

*Envelopes.*  
5 s., yellow; size 149×97 mm.  
5 s., " " 142×109 mm.  
10 s., blue " "  
12 s., rose " "  
1 k., violet " "

We illustrate the 1 kr. of the new design recently chronicled by us.



**Peru.**—We illustrate the new stamps recently chronicled by us.



**Portugal.** — *Mozambique.* — The *Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal* has received two provisionals which are said to have been issued in December last. The 20 r. of the 1885 type has been surcharged in three lines, in black, "Moçambique—2½—Reis," and the 40 r. of the same type has been surcharged, also in black, "Mocambique—5—Reis."

*Adhesives.*

2½ r. on 20 r., rose; surcharge black.  
5 r. on 40 r., brown

**Roumania.**—The *Monthly Journal* is informed that some sheets of the current 5 bani stamps, Gibbons' Type 21, were found to contain a 25 bani. The remaining stock, after the discovery of this error, is reported to have been burnt.

*Adhesive.*

25 bani, blue; error of colour.

The *Timbre-Poste* says all the current series, from 1 bani to 50 bani, are now perf. 11½.

*Adhesives. Perf. 11½.*

1 bani, chestnut.  
3 " red-brown.  
5 " blue.  
10 " emerald-green.  
15 " rose-red.  
50 " orange.

**Spain.**—*Cuba.*—The *Timbre-Poste* has received the post cards with the stamp of the new adhesive illustrated by us in January (p. 16) as follows:—

*Post Cards.*

5 mils., carmine on buff.  
5+5 mils. " " buff.  
1 c., blue-green on buff.  
1 c.+1 c. " " "  
2 c., dark violet. "  
2 c.+2 c. " " "  
3 c., red-brown.  
3 c.+3 c. " "

*Porto Rico.*—*Le Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste* chronicles a similar set for this Colony.

*Philippine Islands.*—The same journal chronicles a similar set.

Our Monthly Packets of  
New Issues.

No. 1, price One Shilling (postage extra).  
The April Packet contains—

SEVERAL VARIETIES.

No. 2, price Five Shillings (postage extra).  
The April Packet contains—

SEVERAL VARIETIES.

These packets are on sale until April 30th (unless the supply is previously exhausted), and are supplied only to *Subscribers* to the *PHILATELIC RECORD AND STAMP NEWS*. Similar packets will be on sale every month, and may be subscribed for in advance for the year (January to December inclusive), at the following rates: No. 1 packet, 12s., postage extra; No. 2 packet, 60s., postage extra.

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



*The earliest information as to New Issues will be much appreciated by us, and will be duly credited to the correspondent, or firm, sending it. Our foreign correspondents can materially help us in this direction. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and be addressed to the Editor, MR. EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, 28, Birdhurst Rise, Croydon.*







## Philatelic Morality.

MR. CASTLE, in his editorial in the *London Philatelist*, makes mincemeat of Mr. J. W. Scott's sophistry in defence of the Omaha rubbish that a great Government may engage with impunity in the speculative rubbish, whilst such conduct on the part of a small State would be open to grave suspicion. Says Mr. Castle:—

"With all due respect to our friend, 'The Father of American Philately,' a more pernicious and fallacious theory was never broached. Says Mr. Scott in effect—a rich or powerful body has rights to fleece and plunder that are not permissible to others of meaner estate. Our great poet has well said, 'What in a captain's but a choleric word, in the soldier is flat blasphemy.' The United States' Jubilee issues are but choleric, but Guatemala's are blasphemous. Where do the middle Powers come in—Canada to wit? Mr. Scott classes with the United States leading European countries, but it is patent to the world that the leading European Powers have preserved a purity for their postal issues that is in every way worthy of their influence and position."

## Provisional Mosquitos.

SOME folks of the persuasion of those who believe that all sorts and conditions of rubbish should be included in our catalogues, so long as it can be shown that they have passed through the post, have been worrying the Scott Stamp and Coin Co. to catalogue the so-called provisional stamps of the Mosquito Reservation. The Scott Co., however, set to work and investigated the matter for themselves, and they have received the following letter from a correspondent who is "a disinterested party in every particular, and would have no motive in decrying the stamps if there were any good ground for accepting them as a legitimate issue."

"I have taken particular pains to investigate the question concerning the provisional and surcharged postage stamps used in the Mosquito Reservation before and during the annexation to Nicaragua.

"There are still a few parties living in this town who, during the Mosquito Reservation times, held positions as Postmaster, Assistant-Postmaster, and Treasurer. There are also a very few collectors of stamps in this town who have been here before, during and after the annexation of the Reservation, and who are well posted on matters concerning Nicaragua stamps. All of these parties I

have interviewed and carefully investigated their information, and to-day I am fully prepared to give you the following information:—

"Shortly before and during the annexation one of the Commissioners of Nicaragua located here, General A. L., together with an American physician located here, sent for a stamp and commenced to originate surcharged Nicaraguan stamps, only for the purpose of selling such stamps in foreign countries. Through powerful influence this General A. L. had at that time a number of letters with such surcharged stamps passed through the post office here—say, a few hundred at the utmost—till the game was discovered by the National Postmaster-General at Managua, and at once stopped for ever. They even went further and had a stamp made with the picture of the so-called Mosquito Prince Clarence, who is now in banishment in Jamaica, W.I., and they would have circulated such stamps, surcharged with Clarence's picture, if the business had not been stopped in time. I myself have seen such a stamp, and tried to get one for you, but it was impossible, as the party is afraid to get into trouble with the Nicaraguan Government. As I told you already, I do not consider any of these stamps official, and believe them to be frauds."

## Newfoundland Reprints.

IT seems that Newfoundland has been doing a little more reprinting of its stamps. We quote the following explanation from the *American Journal of Philately*:—

"During the process of changing from one issue of stamps to another the Government of Newfoundland appears to have indulged in reprinting and other peculiarities. From information which we have received from a reliable source, it appears that they had on hand a considerable quantity of all but the lower values of the issue which preceded the Cabot stamps, and in order to make them more saleable they hit upon the scheme of reprinting a sufficient number of  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 1, and 2 cent stamps to make up complete sets from  $\frac{1}{2}$  c. to 24 c., the stamps then to be disposed of in sets only. In accordance with this scheme 100,000 each of the three values referred to were printed, and the stamps are now offered in sets as before-mentioned. The difference between the reprints and the stamps which were regularly issued in 1887 and 1890 is very slight, consisting entirely in a slight difference in the texture of the paper and a slight difference in shade, in which particular, however, they match some former printings."



## Railway Letter Fee Stamps.

In the March number of the *Monthly Circular* the Editor returns to the question of the status of Railway Letter Fee Stamps, and this time he votes very strongly in favour of their being regarded as postage stamps. He writes:—

“The Post Office in effect says this: We engage to carry the letter along the particular line of railway, and the addressee may either claim it at the end of the journey, or we will deliver it at the address for 3d., but this must be paid in stamps. This 3d. is, however, divided between us and the Railway Company—1d. to us, and 2d. to the Company—just as in the case of the parcel post, when out of every 10d. we have to pay 5½d. to the Railway Company, but in this case we take the 1d. and leave the sender to pay the 2d. in cash; on which the original order is very precise, the sender must ‘pay to the servant of the Company the sum of 2d. in cash, no more and no less.’

“Now these stamps must be something. The whole question seems to be, What are they? No one, we think, will deny that they are part of the machinery by which the Post Office carries out a special service for the conveyance of single letters. So the registration fee is one by which the Post Office carries out a special service, but in that case the letter never goes out of the hands of the Post Office. In the railway letters the officer of the Railway Company acts as the agent for the Post Office, which deposes it to cancel its own stamp as well as that of the Railway Company.

“We fail to see how they can be regarded in any other light than as postage stamps for a special service, limited, moreover, to such railway companies as the Post Office may allow to act as its agents. The general design of the stamp was not left to the Railway Company. The details may differ, but all have to bear the inscription of ‘Fee for conveyance of single post letters by railway’ and the name of the issuing Company, and therefore dedicated to that particular service. The Post Office gets nothing out of this service, but it loses nothing, as it secures its own postage and leaves the trouble and the cost of conveyance to the public and the Railway Company. It was a clever device of the Clearing Office, and saves a vast amount of trouble.”

The *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* takes an opposite view. It says:—

“Shortly, the answer seems to be that occasion having arisen for the granting of a quicker despatch and delivery of particular letters belonging to anyone desirous of availing himself of such increased facilities which consist of the scheme devised, viz., the permission extended to the Railway Companies to be the common carriers of postal packages from one town to another, subject to such packages being correctly franked with postage labels. We thus see that the postal franking agent

is still the authorized label printed by De La Rue & Co. and issued by the Government. The Railway stamp is a receipt for the railway charges of the companies, as carriers, coupled with an undertaking that they will deliver the postal package, not to the consignee but to the Post Office. What is there in this which places the Railway stamp any higher than a ticket issued by any firm of carriers for the purpose of indicating that the charges for freight have been discharged?”

## A New Cancelling Ink.

ACCORDING to the Washington correspondent of *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* the United States has a new terror for cleaners of used stamps in the nature of a cancelling ink that penetrates the fibre of the stamp itself. He says:—

“The Post Office Department has introduced a new cancelling ink for use in the service. The officials think it is superior to that now in use because of the fact that it neither dries on the pad nor clogs the stamping machine, and penetrates the fibre of the stamp itself to such an extent that it cannot be erased without destroying the surface of the stamp. The use of the new ink will, it is said, result in a considerable saving to the Government, as it will prevent the washing of stamps with a view to their further use as is now done to some extent.”

## The New Canadians.

THE *Weekly Philatelic Era* (U.S.) Canadian correspondent writes:—

“Nothing above the 10 cent value has yet been printed, and I am not sure that even the colours have yet been decided upon. The supply of old stamps of the higher values is, I understand, sufficient for two or three months' consumption at least. The new stamps are all printed in sheets of 100, with the imprint ‘Ottawa,’ and the plate number in the middle of the top of the sheet only. Each value begins with Plate 1, instead of the plates being numbered consecutively, as in the Jubilee issue. I have seen Plate 2 only in the 2 cent value, but probably more than one plate has been used in the 3 cent value.”

## The Dunedin N. Z. Jubilee Abandoned.

THE *Australasian Philatelist* announces that “the Postal Department of New Zealand has declined to authorize the issue of the proposed Jubilee stamps for raising funds for the Dunedin Public Library.”

This will be welcome news to philatelists, and will not fail to raise the hope that they may some day be able to convince all respectable Governments that the wisest policy they can pursue is to issue only such stamps as are required for genuine postal needs.

## Schleswig-Holstein.

In the February instalment of his paper on the stamps of Schleswig-Holstein Mr. Duerst gives us an interesting table of varieties. He writes:—

“ISSUE OF 1ST MARCH, 1864.

“Type of the Danish stamps of the 1853 issue. Value (1¼ schilling crt.) in three lines, surrounded by a wreath of oak leaves in a double frame, the inner spandrels of which being filled with many lines. The inscriptions read as follows:—On the left ‘H.R.Z.G.L.’ (Herzogliche), at the top ‘POST,’ on the right ‘F.R.M.’ (Freimarke), and at the bottom ‘4 R.S.M.’ (4 skilling Reichs Mark or Danish currency). In the four corners posthorns. Printed in colours on white paper and imperforate. Size 19 × 19 mm.

“Before printing the design the paper was covered with a network of invisible undulating lines in a similar manner to those of Prussia (issue 1850–1860), and of the North German Confederation and of Denmark. This network was of course intended to protect the stamps from being imitated, and was printed with a colour of white metallic oxide, which can be made visible by sulphuretted hydrogen, though there is no doubt that stamps found in old archives show this net quite clearly without any further chemical reagent. In the centre of this network a space, forming the letter P, was left blank.

“Two types exist in this issue, each of them in two varieties.

TYPE I. March, 1864.

“The letters are thin and the wavy lines in the spandrels very close.

Variety A.

“H.R.Z.G.L. Letters 8 mm. long, with a full stop after each letter.  
 POST. Letters 6½ mm. long.  
 F.R.M. Letters 6½ mm. long, with a full stop after each letter.  
 4 R.S.M. Letters 7 mm. long, with a full stop after each letter, and the figure ‘4’ is nearly closed.  
 SCHILLING. The ‘H’ has no centre bar; the two ‘I’s’ are dotted, and all the letters are of the same height.

Variety B.

“H. R Z G L Letters 8½ mm. long. The first letter is only punctuated.  
 POST. Letters 6½ mm. long.  
 F.R.M. Letters 6½ mm. long, with a full stop after every letter.  
 4 S.R.M. Letters 7 mm. long, with a full stop after every letter.  
 SCHILLING. The ‘H’ has a centre bar; the ‘I’s’ are without dots; the letter ‘G’ is smaller than the other letters.

TYPE II. May (?), 1864.

“The letters are thick and the wavy lines in the spandrels are wider apart, consequently fewer lines are necessary to fill the spandrels.

Variety A.

“H.R.Z.G.L. Letters 8½ mm. long, with a full stop after each letter.  
 POST. Letters 7 mm. long.  
 F.R.M. Letters 6½ mm. long, with a full stop after each letter.  
 4 S.R.M. Letters 7½ mm. long, with a full stop after each letter, and the figure ‘4’ is open.

SCHILLING. The ‘H’ has a centre bar; the ‘G’ is nearer the wreath than in Type I.; the two ‘I’s’ are dotted, but all the letters are irregular.

Variety B.

“This variety the writer does not possess, but takes the description from Moens.

“HRZGL. Letters 9 mm. long; only the ‘L’ is punctuated.

POST. Letters 7 mm. long.  
 F.R.M. Letters 6½ mm. long; only the ‘M’ is punctuated.

4 S.R.M. Letters 7½ mm. long; only the ‘M’ is punctuated, and the figure ‘4’ is open.

SCHILLING. The ‘H’ has a centre bar; the two ‘I’s’ are not dotted; the ‘G’ is still nearer to the wreath.

“We have, therefore—

“March, 1864. 1¼ sch. crt., blue, pale to dark, bright. Type I. Variety A.

March, 1864. 1¼ sch. crt., blue, bright, milky, greenish. Type I. Variety B.

May (?), 1864. 1¼ sch. crt., blue, dull, bright. Type II. Variety A.

May (?), 1864. 1¼ sch. crt., blue, pale to dark, bright. Type II. Variety B.

“Reprints of this issue do not exist.”

## Stamps of Bergedorf.

NOT having received a copy of the December number of the *Virginia Philatelist*, we quote the following interesting note from the *Monthly Journal*:

“The *Virginia Philatelist* for December contains an article upon the stamps of Bergedorf, which purports to be written by the son of the gentleman who was Postmaster at Bergedorf from 1838 until after the issue of the stamps in 1861. The article contains some statements which, if correct, must settle once for all the *status* of the two rarities—the ½ sch. on *lilac* and the 3 sch. on *red*—by proving them to be only essays or proofs, in colours that were not adopted. According to the history now given, a single sheet of each of the five values was printed off in the first instance, and specimens from these sheets were submitted to the authorities for approval. The colours of the 1 sch., 1½ sch., and 4 sch. were approved, but those of the ½ sch. and 3 sch. were not, and these values were ordered to be printed for issue in *black on blue* and *blue on rose* respectively. Mons. Moens had heard of the preparation of the stamps, had obtained specimens from the trial sheets before they were submitted, and when the proofs of the two values in question were rejected, he asked for and obtained the balance of the proof-sheets, which, according to the writer, were the only original impressions ever struck in *black on lilac* and *black on red*. In Mons. Moens’ history of the stamps of Bergedorf there appears, however, a letter, stated to have been written by the Postmaster himself, in which he says: ‘For the issue of the old stamps, ½ sch., lilac, and 3 sch., black on rose, which had been issued as an experiment, no official notice was published, because it was intended that these stamps should be changed, their colours being difficult to distinguish by candle light.’ We must leave father and son to decide which story is correct.”



## United States : Inverted Centres.

MR. JOHN N. LUFF, who is contributing to our excellent contemporary, the *American Journal of Philately*, a new "History of the Postage Stamps of the United States," does not accept the late Mr. Tiffany's explanation of those interesting errors known as the inverted centres in the 1869 issue. He writes :—

"The stamps which have a part of the design inverted are both rare and interesting. Tiffany's *History of the Postage Stamps of the United States* says in regard to this variety of the 15 cents :—

"The error is not, as is sometimes supposed, an error in printing, but in the plate. Two plates, one for each colour, had to be used. Originally there were 150 stamps, as in the smaller values, but upon the plate for printing the picture it is said one picture was reversed, and the error once discovered the plate was cut down to print only 100 stamps, as stated in the circular. It is probable that no copies with the error were ever circulated."

"The same work says of the 24 cents :—

"There is the same error of this stamp, 'reversed picture,' stated to be from the same cause, a defect in the plate, as for the 15 cents, and the same remarks apply."

"Also of the 30 cents it is stated :—

"There is also an error of this stamp in which the flags are reversed. It is also stated to be an error on the plate, but may be only an error in printing."

"These statements appear to lack confirmation. The records of the contractors show that the plates for the four values which were printed in two colours were originally made with only one hundred designs on each. This smaller size was adopted because of the difficulty of securing good 'registering' when printing with large plates. The official circular of March 1st, 1869, quoted on a previous page, and which was sent out before the stamps were ready for issue, distinctly states, 'The 15 cents and all higher denominations contain 100 stamps on each sheet.'

"The claim that none of the errors were circulated would seem to be fully refuted by the fact that the majority of the existing copies are used.

"The statement that on one of the plates for each value one of the designs was reversed is possibly correct. But it is probable that most of the errors are due to misprinting. It is well known that a man in New York, named Anthony, an agent of the Government for the sale of revenue stamps, and who also sold the then current postage stamps, had an entire sheet of the 15 cents with inverted medallions. One copy was purchased of him and went into the Rasmus collection. The rest of the sheet was returned to the Post Office and exchanged for perfect copies. There is also the celebrated block of four of

the 24 cents in the collection of Mr. William Thorne. Thus, at least a part of the errors are proved to be due to misprinting.

"On the other hand, there is some testimony in support of the claim that one or more of the designs on the various plates were inverted. In the *American Journal of Philately* for December, 1870, page 141, we read :

"We are now enabled to inform our readers and friends of the Press of a little circumstance that has been kept pretty well concealed; but perhaps these few lines may open the eyes of the people who pay the taxes.

"After a few hundred sheets of the 15 and 24 cent stamps of the 1869 issue had been delivered it was discovered that a few stamps on each sheet had the picture inverted in the frames. The Government refused to receive them, and only half sheets of these values were issued. This mistake would have compelled the company to prepare new plates for these values, and, of course, they would not have been paid for them, so they adopted the bright dodge of setting the papers to run down the new issue, so that they would be required to get new plates by the department, which they would be paid for. We all know how well they succeeded; however, to philatelists this makes two interesting varieties which are very scarce."

"In further confirmation of this Mr. J. W. Scott states that at the time attention was first called to the 15 cents with inverted medallion he examined his stock and found half a dozen used copies. Believing it to be an error in the plate he tried to buy at the New York Post Office sheets containing it, but could get only half sheets, which were without it. He then sent money to all offices throughout the country, which he thought might have this value, asking always for full sheets. In some instances his money was returned because the office could only supply half sheets and on other occasions the half sheets were sent. In no case did he secure an entire sheet, and the half sheets supplied to him were always the same half, and without the error. Hence his conclusions as published in the paragraph just quoted from the *American Journal of Philately*.

"With all due respect to such an authority and with full appreciation of the value of this testimony, we cannot unhesitatingly accept these conclusions, since there is much to be said on the other side. Primarily, all plates made by the great bank note companies are subjected to the most searching and microscopical scrutiny by several experts. Plates, which to ordinary eyes would appear perfect, are marked in numerous places for fuller and deeper impressions and other improvements. It is not to be conceived that such a glaring defect as an inverted design would be overlooked or allowed to pass uncorrected. As explained in the number of this *Journal* for October, 1897, page 437, the design could readily be obliterated and a fresh transfer entered in its place. With this simple ex-



pedient at command, it is absurd to think that the contractors continued to produce sheets of stamps of each of which, owing to defects, the Government would accept only one half. In further contradiction of the half sheet theory it must be remembered that the contractors had for the 15 cents four plates for the frames and two for the centres, and for both the 24 and 30 cents two plates for each part. Even should we grant an error in one plate, the others were still available."

### Austrian Italy.

1886. 10 Para on 3 Solda.

MAJOR EVANS, in the *Monthly Journal*, defines the difference between the Constantinople and Vienna print of this surcharge as follows:—

"CONSTANTINOPLE.	"VIENNA.
"Extreme breadth across the middle of the surcharge, 16 mm.	"15 mm. nearly.
"Space between '10' and 'P,' 2 mm.	"1½ mm. nearly.
"The word 'PARA' is above the base line of the '10,' and is 6 mm. in length.	"The word 'PARA' is almost on the base line of the '10,' and is 6¼ mm. in length.
"The Constantinople surcharge is rather rare. Only 2876 stamps of 3 soldi were surcharged, and they were in use for only one single day, viz., September 9, 1886; the next day the Vienna printed surcharge was put in use, and is, of course, very common. In 1888 the 10 para was surcharged and printed in Vienna on the 3 <i>kreuzer</i> stamp. This surcharge is different from either of the above, as the '1' and '0' of the figures '10' are printed further apart, the space between the numerals being ¾ mm., while in the surcharges on the 3 soldi it is less than ½ mm., the whole surcharge measuring barely 16 mm."	

### Official Speculators.

THE *Philatelic Journal of India*, in the course of some excellent editorial remarks in support of the S.S.S.S. movement, hits the nail on the head in the matter of the part played by some officials. It says:—

"To our thinking one of the worst features in the recent speculative epidemic is the part taken by Government officials. It is bad enough when the Government of any particular country descends to such shady methods of raising the wind; but what can we say of the officers of that Government who take advantage of their position and information to traffic on their own account in the illicit trash manufactured by their superiors? Still, one can hardly blame them. For after all they argue, and naturally so, that if their Government speculates in stamps, there is no reason why its subordinates should not do so, and the example set by the superior is not slow to be followed by the inferior."

### Denmark, 1851, 2 sk. Varieties.

THE *London Philatelist* in its February number publishes a paper read before the London Philatelic Society by Mr. Ehrenbach, entitled "Notes on the Danish 2 skilling stamp of 1851." It is a noteworthy contribution to our list of varieties in an early issue, and it is remarkable as heralding discoveries in a stamp issued so long ago as 1851. We quote the salient portion of the paper:—

"There are 100 stamps on the sheet, in ten rows of ten. It has been known now for some time that there were three types of the figure '2' on the sheet. They are as follows: Type I., the '2' is regular; Type II., the foot of the '2' is not joined to the base; Type III., the '2' is similar to Type I., but the left part of the base seems to be joined together at an angle. Besides these types in the figure of value I had already, on comparing my stamps, found minor differences of all kinds, to which, however, I attached very little importance, believing them to be mere vagaries of the printing-press.

"Lately, however, I have been fortunate enough to lay my hands on an entire sheet of Government reprints of this stamp, and on closer inspection, together with our mutual friend, Mr. Gordon Smith, have found that every stamp on the sheet varies to a certain extent.

"In fact, we have been able to spot every single copy of mine on the sheet, which means this stamp can be plated. One stamp even, which shows a big break in the right upper corner, a break which is not on the sheet referred to, and which is due probably to an accident to the plate, can be easily assigned to its correct position.

"There can be no doubt that certain scratches, dots, and marks, etc., are to be found on stamps of the identical position on the sheets, whether they are of early printing or not, and that these differences are by no means accidental or casual.

"It can serve no good purpose to give a tedious description of every minute variety on the sheet, and I will try to enumerate the more salient varieties, leaving you, gentlemen, to seek the further details by the aid of the illustrations which will appear in the *London Philatelist*.

"One can divide at once the 100 stamps in three larger groups according to the types of the figure '2,' and find that of Type II. there are nine on the sheet, viz., Nos. 2, 4, 6, 10, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, whilst of Type III. there are eight or nine, viz., Nos. 20, 24, 30, 36, 40, 86, 88, 90, No. 84 being rather indistinct on my sheet. No. 48 has a big flaw on the foot of the '2,' so as to make it impossible to say to which lot it belongs.

"All the rest are of Type I. A number of stamps then show breaks of more or less importance in the outer frame—*e.g.*, on the right side in Nos. 10, 32, 60, 100; on the left side, 73, 79; and on the top they are visible in 70 and 91.

"A prominent variety is No. 96. In this stamp the second 'L' in 'skilling' is quite distorted, having the appearance of a hook, while in No. 100 the 'R' in 'Rigsbank' is more like a 'K' than anything else: 'G's' formed as they appear in Nos. 3, 5, 53, 55 are quite characteristic of these stamps.

"The scratches, caused probably by the engraver's tools, as they appear in Nos. 1, 26, 42, 43, 49, 73, 74, 93, 99, and others in a smaller degree, are different in every case, and can be found on every copy of the respective numbers. But even these scratches are by no means the only detail by which these stamps can be distinguished from one another.

"I will not go too closely into the matter of minute dots, etc., in the coloured parts of the stamps, but will only further point out how much the lettering, as also the spacing between the letters, in the words 'Rigsbank Skilling' varies, variations which in themselves prove the differences among the stamps.

"On glancing over the numbers as found belonging to the various types of '2' and those which show similarity of some of the letters—e.g., the 'G' referred to above—it would at first sight appear that the plates were constructed of two halves, 1-50 and 51-100, which may be to a certain extent the correct view; but then it is difficult to take this for granted, seeing that the corresponding numbers are by no means identical. In fact, in order to ascertain all these points it would require a much larger quantity of these interesting stamps in pairs and blocks than are known or available. Stamps of the earliest period especially would be desirable—so-called *premières gravures*—because it is quite possible that the plate from which the reprints were taken in 1886 was worn to a certain extent."

### Ceylon, 2 Cents Surcharges.

A CORRESPONDENT of our excellent Indian contemporary the *Philatelic Journal of India*, en route to New Zealand, recently visited Ceylon, and interviewed the famous Mr. Rushbridge. He says:—

"I found this Eurasian gentleman at the Columbia Library, of which he has been the librarian for some years. I asked him to show me some stamps, and saw one of his well-known books, with all varieties of the 2 cents surcharges, of which I asked him to give me what history he could, and from a long conversation this is what I gathered. Using Mr. Rushbridge's own words, as far as I can remember, he stated, 'My father had the sole right from the Government to sell stamps in the Post Office. He purchased stamps direct from the Treasury, being allowed a discount of 5 per cent. This is the rule here; and if over 50 rupees' worth of stamps is purchased at one time the buyer receives a discount of 5 per cent. off face value. As my father purchased very largely, naturally he would

have the best opportunities of securing provisionals, errors, and stamps only in use for a short time. My father kept all the errors; and in 1887, when he died, I became the possessor of all his stock. After his death I kept up the contract for six months, when it was taken over by the Postmaster-General. The "2 cents" on 4 cents, lilac-rose (Gibbons 168), I purchased direct from the Government, but the "2 cents" on 8 cents I do not guarantee, as I purchased them in the streets from the numerous hawkers there are in Colombo. Some time ago Government officials were severely reprimanded for dealing in stamps. I hold a licence to deal in and export stamps, and have sent them to large firms in London, Germany, and America in large numbers. There are numerous error surcharges in stamps, and in envelopes and post cards chiefly, mentioned in Gibbons that neither I nor any other Ceylon collectors have ever seen, and had they existed I must have come across them, as I spend all my holidays in the interior searching for stamps."

Then the correspondent called on the postal officials, and the personal assistant of the Postmaster-General gave him the following information:—

"The stamps were all surcharged in the Government Printing Press. One of the officials who had the supervising of the surcharging was a collector; and though a full enquiry had been made into the numerous mistakes, nothing could be proved against anybody. In this gentleman's opinion some of the errors had undoubtedly been done in the Government Press, but he majority he considered had been 'manufactured in Germany.' The Post Office authorities had tried hard to find out if any hanky-panky had gone on, but they could not discover anything, and were reluctantly forced to let the matter drop. He thought Rushbridge was in the know, but was certain a good many errors had been sold over the Post Office counter."

In the opinion of the correspondent the many varieties of the 2 cents surcharged were done on purpose by the officials, and most collectors will probably consider the safer course to be the rejection of the lot. No collector in his senses has ever been fool enough to believe that even half the changes which were rung on the 2 cents surcharge were genuine errors, and the official system which allowed of such jobbery must have been greatly to blame. The admission that a collector supervised the surcharging will supply most collectors with all the evidence they need as to the character of the errors. Where is the collector to be found who would or could have resisted such a temptation? It was asking too much of poor philatelic human nature. The wonder is that, under the circumstances, any two surcharges on the sheet were alike.





## Amenities of Philatelic Journalism.

OUR gallant friend, the Editor of the *Monthly Journal*, in his February number, is in a pugnacious mood. First, he lays some poor ignoramus across his knees and spansk him for having stated that twenty years ago philately was represented by "two small irregularly published papers of weak interest and meagre circulation." Then he goes for one Jules Bouvez, a contributor to the *American Journal of Philately*, calls him "a similar lot," and soundly bounces him for some aberrations about "complete sets of surcharged stamps," which were "done even from the beginning," and for stating that surcharging ceased "about the year 1860." Again, after making some inquiries about the young Queen of Holland, and being informed, under date of February 8th, by Her Majesty's private secretary, "That Her Majesty has no collection of postage stamps at all, and never had one, and does not wish to see any stamps," he turns round, and with an eye that evidences a desire to spank the lot of us, he "trusts that this authoritative statement will help somewhat to cool such rumours, although he much doubts it, after reading such common misstatements as, first, 'that the Tzar of Russia is a great collector'; and, secondly, that 'Lord Rothschild has purchased the Duke of York's collection.' Both of these statements are, we need hardly say, absolute fabrications."

Steady! Whoa! No swearing!

On the other side of the Atlantic the Editor of the *American Journal of Philately* has been "going for" the gallant major. He says:—

"We read with some amusement in the January number of Stanley Gibbons' *Monthly Journal* that they have heard rumours somewhere of the United States 3 c., 1867, with grill 13 x 16, existing imperforate. The publishers appear to doubt the existence of such specimens, and they presume that the two grills are not *se tenant*. At the time the article was written the publishers had several pairs of these stamps in their possession, and it would appear that the editorial department is not in sympathy with the business division of the firm of Stanley Gibbons, Limited."

Then Mr. C. J. Phillips has been having a fling at Mr. Hagen for placing the Ellison collection, bought by him, in the same category of valuation as the Ayer. And we gather

that friend Hagen has gone to the expense of a phrenological examination of Mr. C. J. P., for he asserts that there are several slates loose, or words to that effect, which we should never have suspected.

Well, well, it is very amusing, and so long as there are no bones broken, and no "sauerkraut malice," it yields a little acceptable variety to our philatelic routine.

## The U.S. 1 c., Green.

THE *Chicago Times-Herald* tells the following good story of the greeting which the first 1 c., green, got at the Chicago Post Office:—

"A green 1-cent stamp on one of the hundreds of thousands of envelopes that are handled daily in the Chicago Post Office was discovered Thursday by one of the clerks in the mailing division, and announcement was immediately made that a counterfeit had been intercepted.

"The only way the stamp differed from the regular issue, which is printed in blue, was in its colour, but it was taken to Superintendent Montgomery's office, and from there hurried to Postmaster Gordon.

"News of the discovery of the supposed counterfeit was telegraphed to the Post Office Department at Washington, and the clerk was complimented on his watchfulness. Yesterday the officials were somewhat chagrined when they received a telegram from Washington notifying the Chicago Post Office that the green 1-cent stamp was perfectly regular, and was one of the large issue recently put out by the Department."

## The Stamps of India.

WE are glad to note that Mr. Stewart-Wilson, who has already done much excellent original philatelic research, promises a new work on India. At the recent annual meeting of the Philatelic Society of India he said, "Since the London Society published its monumental book on India and Ceylon much has been discovered concerning our stamps, and it seems advisable to bring all this old and new material together. This is the case most of all, perhaps, with the first issue printed in India. I have already collected much additional information from official records, and hope to collect still more. It seems to us that a properly edited collection of official records bearing on these stamps, with full notes and consecutive summaries, especially if fully illustrated, would be of the greatest interest and value; and we hope to have this ready during the coming year."



The £ s. d. of Philately.

WE are sometimes told that the rise and fall of market values of the stamps we collect is not philately. That may be. Nevertheless, there is no escaping from the fact that market values are a dominant factor in stamp collecting even for the philatelist who eschews everything that savours of speculation. Touching this ever-green subject of £ s. d., we find a very interesting table of comparison of values in the *Monthly Journal*. In 1891 the late Mr. Gilbert Lockyer indulged in a retrospect on prices, and Mr. C. J. Phillips added thereto a forecast of what prices would probably run to in 1902; and now Mr. W. Phillips, who has been looking into the matter, finds that in almost every case the price has already exceeded the estimated value for 1902.

Here is the table:—

	1892.	1902.	1897.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Baden, 1864, 18 Kreuzers, green ..	8 0	15 0	16 0
Hanover, 1861, 10 gros., green ..	20 0	50 0	80 0
Naples, 1858, 50 gr., lake ..	20 0	45 0	70 0
,, 1860, 1/2 tor., cross, blue ..	90 0	4 6	4 6
Nevis, 1861, 4d., rose, unused ..	20 0	40 0	4 6
,, 6d., grey ..	15 0	20 0	4 5
Oldenburg, 1855, 3/8 sgr., bl. on green	15 0	30 0	50 0
,, 1859, 1/8 gr. ..	80 0	4 8	4 12
,, 2 gr. black on rose ..	20 0	32 0	65 0
,, 3 gr. bl. on yellow ..	24 0	50 0	65 0
Sweden, 1855, 24 sk. bco., red ..	16 0	25 0	35 0
Saxony, 1856, 10 neugr., blue ..	7 6	16 0	17 6
Wurtemberg 1851, 18 kr., violet ..	14 0	20 0	32 0
,, 1858, 18 kr., blue ..	10 0	20 0	40 0
,, 1866, 18 kr., orange ..	14 0	20 0	35 0
Hungary (litho.), 1871, 3 kr., green, unused ..	12 0	15 0	60 0
Schleswig-Holstein, 1850, 1 sch., blue, unused ..	12 6	20 0	25 0
Schleswig-Holstein, 1850, 2 sch., rose, unused ..	25 0	40 0	60 0
Mexico, 1864, eagle, 3 centavos, brown, unused ..	60 0	4 6	4 6
Bermuda, 1875, 1d. on 2d., blue ..	15 0	20 0	20 0
,, 1d. on 3d., yellow ..	6 6	15 0	15 0
,, 1d. on 1s., green ..	6 6	10 0	7 6
,, 3d. on 1s., ..	8 0	12 6	15 0
British Columbia, 1868, 5 c., red ..	4 6	10 6	12 6
,, 10 c., rose ..	25 0	4 4	4 4
Canada, 1857, 1d., rose ..	6 0	15 0	25 0
,, 6d., purple ..	12 0	20 0	35 0
,, 6d., green ..	20 0	40 0	65 0
,, 10d., blue ..	15 0	25 0	35 0
Cape of Good Hope (wood block), 1d., red ..	40 0	4 5	90 0
Cape of Good Hope (wood block), 4d., blue ..	20 0	60 0	45 0
Ceylon, 1857, 1s. 9d., green ..	32 0	50 0	75 0
Great Britain, 1840, 2d., blue, unused ..	40 0	80 0	4 7
,, 1848, 10d., brown ..	15 0	30 0	4 8
,, 1854, 6d., violet ..	28 0	32 0	4 10
Mauritius, 1848, 2d., blue ..	40 0	4 5	4 8
,, 1859, litho., 1d., red ..	40 0	50 0	75 0
,, 1863, 1s., green, unused ..	30 0	50 0	50 0
New Brunswick, 1857, 3d., red ..	6 0	12 0	18 0
,, 6d., yellow ..	20 0	40 0	90 0
,, 1s., violet ..	4 5	4 10	4 20
Newfoundland, 1857, 4d., scarlet, unused ..	50 0	4 6	—
Newfoundland, 1857, 6 1/2d., scarlet, unused ..	70 0	4 8	4 16
Newfoundland, 1857, 1s., scarlet, used ..	4 7 10	4 12	4 26
New South Wales, 1850, 1d., red ..	30 0	40 0	45 0
,, 2d., blue ..	25 0	30 0	40 0
,, 3d., green ..	20 0	50 0	40 0
,, 1852-53, 1d., red ..	7 6	10 0	8 6
,, 6d., brown ..	10 0	30 0	30 0
,, 8d., orange ..	35 0	50 0	70 0
New Zealand, 1855, on blue paper, 1d., red ..	30 0	45 0	50 0

1892. 1902. 1897.  
s. d. s. d. s. d.

New Zealand, 1855, on blue paper, 1s., green ..	35 0	60 0	60 0
Nova Scotia, 1857, 1d., red-brown, unused ..	18 0	30 0	65 0
Nova Scotia, 1857, 1s., violet ..	4 7	4 15	4 22
Queensland, 1861, 1d., lake, unused ..	10 0	20 0	40 0
St. Vincent, 1866, 4d., blue, unused ..	10 0	15 0	40 0
,, 1s., black, ..	20 0	30 0	105 s
,, 1869, 4d., orange ..	8 0	15 0	4 6
,, 1s., brown ..	20 0	30 0	4 12
Saxony, 1850, 3 pf., red ..	80 0	4 10	150 s
Shanghai, 1876, 12 cand., brown ..	30 0	60 0	80 0
South Australia, 1859, 1s., orange ..	5 0	8 6	12 0
Tasmania, 1853, 1d., blue { unused ..	80 0	4 8	4 10
,, { used ..	40 0	70 0	60 0
,, 4d., orange { unused ..	60 0	4 5	90 0
,, { used ..	7 6	17 6	20 0
Tuscany, 1852, 60 craz., red ..	80 0	4 10	4 15
United States, 1869, 24 c., violet and green, unused ..	15 0	30 0	65 0
United States, 1869, 30 c., red and blue, unused ..	12 0	20 0	75 0
United States, 1869, 90 c., red and black, unused ..	40 0	80 0	4 7
Victoria, 1865, 8d., orange, unused ..	12 6	20 0	25 0
,, 1868, 5s., blue on yellow ..	80 0	4 8	4 7
Western Australia, 1855, 2d., red, unused ..	80 0	4 10	4 12
,, used ..	45 0	4 6	70 0
Western Australia, 1855, 6d., bronze, unused ..	4 6	4 15	—
,, used ..	40 0	4 5	70 0
Western Australia, 1855, 1s., brown, unused ..	20 0	40 0	35 0
,, used ..	16 6	25 0	30 0
Western Australia, 1861, 4d., blue, unused ..	12 6	15 0	20 0
Western Australia, 1862, 4d., scarlet ..	10 0	20 0	20 0
,, 6d., purple-brown ..	4 6	15 0	8 6

Postal Matters in Parliament.

THE RE-DIRECTION OF LETTERS.

IN reply to Mr. Kearley (Devonport), on Tuesday, 8th March, 1898, Mr. Hanbury said:—

“Because the new regulations were issued the Postmaster-General did not undertake to provide for the re-direction of letters, book-packets, post cards, and newspapers, for a longer period than 12 months from the date of removal; but since March 1st it has been open to any persons whose letters, book-packets, post cards, and newspapers, have been officially re-directed for 12 months, to apply for an extension of the privilege on prepayment of a fee of £1 1s. a year. The Postmaster-General has not had occasion to consider what period of re-occupation will entitle a person to a renewal of free re-direction, and he would be unwilling to lay down a hard and fast rule on the subject. He does not anticipate any practical difficulty when there has been a *bona fide* re-occupation.”

THE INDIAN POST OFFICE BILL.

IN reply to Mr. MacNeill (Donegal, S.), on Tuesday, 8th March, 1898, Lord G. Hamilton said:—

“Under the Post Office Bill the Governor-General in Council may, on the occurrence of any public emergency, or in the interest of the public safety or tranquillity, direct that any postal article shall be intercepted or detained, or be disposed of, in such manner as the

Governor-General in Council shall direct; and if doubt arises as to the existence of a public emergency, or as to what may be necessary in the interest of the public safety and tranquillity, the certificate of a secretary to the Governor of India, or to a Local Government, is to be conclusive proof on the point. The effect of the clause containing these provisions is to define the powers of the Government of India in respect of postal articles, which are now somewhat indefinite, and to assimilate them to the powers which that Government already possesses under the Act of 1885 in respect of telegrams. I am not prepared to lay on the table of the House a copy of a measure which is under discussion in the Legislative Council; but if it should become law, and if the hon. member will then move for it, I shall make no objection."

#### CANADIAN POSTAL RATES.

IN answer to Mr. Henniker Heaton (Canterbury), on Friday, 11th March, 1898, Mr. Hanbury (Preston) said:—

"The Postmaster-General received from the Canadian Post Office an announcement of its intention to reduce the letter postage to 3 cents—not per letter, but per ounce. He has no knowledge in what form that intention was communicated to the other colonies and dependencies of the Empire. The Postmaster-General explained to the Canadian Post Office that the consent of this country and of the colonies was necessary before Canada could properly reduce her postage on letters to them. There would be some loss of collections on unpaid and insufficiently paid letters which England and the colonies would sustain by the reduction of the rate and the increase of the weight allowed for a single letter, and there might be heavy indirect losses arising from the pressure which the proposed action of Canada would bring to bear on the rest of the Empire to follow in her steps. The principal objection to the proposal, however, is that the isolated action of any one colony must prejudice the consideration of a uniform system throughout the Empire. The Postmaster-General is not aware that several colonies and dependencies of the Empire have assented to Canada's action, nor has he any reason to think that such is the case. There has been a good deal of correspondence between the Imperial and Canadian Post Offices on this subject, and on that of a conference which it is proposed to hold in London to discuss the question of postage rates within the Empire. The Postmaster-General will continue to act in accordance with the decision of her Majesty's Government on the subject."

#### IMPERIAL POSTAL RATES.

Mr. Henniker Heaton (Canterbury), on 21st March, 1898, asked the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, when the proposed conference to discuss Imperial postal rates would be held; and whether he had read the cable message from Australia to the effect that the Australasian Prime Ministers had decided not to introduce 2d. postage to England.

Mr. Hanbury (Preston):—

"It is proposed that the conference on postal rates within the British Empire shall be held next June. The Postmaster-General is aware that, according to a telegram which appeared in *The Times* newspaper on March 14th, the Australian Prime Ministers have decided that they 'could not advise a reduction of postage rates to Great Britain,' which is not quite the same thing as my hon. friend's statement; but he has received no such message from Australia himself."

#### PARCEL POST WITH THE UNITED STATES.

IN answer to Mr. Henniker Heaton on 21st March, 1898, Mr. Hanbury, as representing the Postmaster-General, said:—

"The delay in establishing a parcel post between this country and the United States of America has been due to the reluctance which the Government of the States has displayed to set up such a service. That Government was first approached on the subject in January, 1885; the negotiations have been continued since that time, they were personally renewed by the British delegates at the recent congress at Washington, and there are reasons for hoping that some arrangement may shortly be made which will enable parcels to be exchanged through the British Post Office between this country and the United States."

#### *The Metropolitan Philatelist.*

THE last number to hand of the *Metropolitan Philatelist* completes the eighth annual volume of the journal issued by Mr. John W. Scott, the veteran dealer of New York, who reminds us that nearly thirty years ago he published the first weekly stamp paper. He considers that he was then ahead of the times, but he also believes that in running a monthly he is now behind the times. Consequently, he proposes to turn the *Metropolitan Philatelist* into a weekly.





## Our Beginners' Page.

BY THE EDITOR.

### Mounting the Stamps.

HAVING followed our advice of last month and picked perfect copies, you now want to make the most of your treasures. And let me assure you that there is a world of difference in the manner in which even our most eminent specialists mount their stamps. Some seem to go at their work "all thumbs," and dab their gems on the page with such a lack of neatness that, to the ordinary observer, they scarcely look worth 20s. in the £. Others, again, with much less to show, but with a more cultivated eye for arrangement, display their stamps so beautifully that you cannot fail to admire the *page* as well as the *stamps*. That is the kind of effect to study if you would add to your stamps that value which is given to a worthy picture by a chaste and suitable frame.

Now I am going to take it for granted that you have decided to follow my advice and make your own album and of the size I suggested, *i.e.*, foolscap quarto, thus giving a page with a width of  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches and a length of 8 inches. When you have ruled off a left margin of a couple of inches for copying in our simplified Reference List you will have left, for the display of your stamps, a space of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches by 8 inches; a somewhat narrow and elongated page it will seem at first sight, but you will be surprised as you proceed how it will, nevertheless, lend itself to the neat display of your stamps. By way of illustration let us take the stamps of this month's Reference List and see how they will shape themselves on such a page. You will not probably have secured all the Bermudas right away, but you can substitute any similar size stamps loosely in position on the page to test the effect. I should place the top row of stamps about  $\frac{5}{8}$  of an inch from the top of the page, and the bottom row of stamps about the same distance from the lower margin, and leave a clear space of  $\frac{3}{8}$  of an inch between each stamp, and about  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch between each row. In this arrangement you will get in five rows of stamps. In the first row place the 1d. and 2d., for they are of one type of design. In the second row place the 3d., 6d., and 1s., as they are also of one type, Type II. Then, in the third row, place the three provisionals of "Three Pence." In the fourth row the three provisionals of "One Penny," and in the fifth row the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 4d., as they are a separate issue. On the next page I should

then the 1d., 2d., and 2d. on the second row, and the  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., 3d., and 1s. on the third row, leaving the rest of the page for further issues.

In this way you should, with loose stamps, plan out every page, write in the margin the Reference List of the stamps intended for that page, and leave its appointed space blank for any stamp that you have not yet obtained. This will enable you to see at a glance what you are lacking, and yield you a pleasure and an interest in your work which you can never get from using the mere stereotyped arrangement of a printed album.

### On Hinging the Stamps.

I need scarcely explain that the stamps must not be pasted down on the pages of the Album. That was the way it was done in the early days of collecting, when no attention was paid to watermarks. Now we like to be able to see both the face and the back of each stamp: the face for the design, the back for the watermark. Hence we hinge the stamps to the page, that they may be swung open like a door for inspection on both sides. For the purpose of hinging small gummed pieces of paper, cut somewhat smaller than the stamp, are made and sold at a very cheap rate. Amongst the best hinges are those sold by Messrs. Whitfield King and Co., and advertised in our advertising pages. The usual style of mounting stamps is to hinge at the top, so that when the watermark has to be inspected the stamp has to be turned over upwards. This method, in my opinion, is open to the objection that the stamps, unless carefully laid flat after lifting, are very apt to be caught and creased by a closing page. Therefore I hinge all my stamps, so that the stamp opens in the same way as the leaves of the book, *i.e.*, I hinge on the left side of the stamp. This avoids all risk of the stamps being caught and creased by the closing page, for stamps so hinged close naturally with the closing book. Then, in attaching the mount, wet only a strip of about an eighth of an inch and fix this to the left side of the stamp, and turn it over to make a hinge that will just clear the perforations. The hinges sold by Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. will hold the stamps very firmly, and yet, should it be desirable to change one specimen for a better, or even remount the whole of the stamps on the page, the hinges may be peeled off quite easily without injuring the stamps or even leaving a mark on the page of the Album.



## Bermuda.

The Bermuda Islands were discovered by Juan Bermudez, a Spaniard, in 1522, who was shipwrecked on the group on his way from Spain to Cuba. An English admiral, Sir George Somers, was in 1609 also shipwrecked on the islands, and in 1612 the group was settled as an English possession, being granted to an English company. The group is made up of some 300 or 400 coral rocks and reefs, extending twenty-four miles N.E. to S.W., by twelve miles in breadth. Only fifteen or sixteen are habitable, and the chief islands are Great Bermuda and St. George's. The capital is Hamilton, on the coast of Long Island. The population of the Colony was 15,794 in 1895.

The islands form an isolated group out in the Atlantic some 600 miles from the coast of North Carolina, U.S., and 650 miles north of the Bahamas. Geographically they do not naturally form part of the West Indian archipelago, but they are generally classed with that group. The revenue of the Colony in 1892 was £33,955. Strategically the islands are regarded as a valuable possession, for the harbour of St. George's has space enough to accommodate the whole British navy.

Philatelically, Bermuda is a very small and cheap Colony. It did not commence the issue of postage stamps till 1865, and its first issued stamp can still be had for the outlay of eightpence for an unused copy, and twopence for a used specimen. It is like a few other Colonies, old-fashioned enough to stick to the pence currency, though it has gone so far in the direction of currency reform as to abandon its old sovereign of twelve shillings.

The first series of values was issued in 1865 to 1873, was watermarked Crown C C, and perforated. It consisted of five values, 1d., 2d., 3d., 6d., and 1s., the 1d. and 2d. being of Type I., and the 3d., 6d., and 1s. of Type II.

The 1s. value seems to have been more or less unnecessary, for an official minute dated 21st February, 1874, reads:—"The Council approve of the issue of a portion of the redundant *One Shilling* postage stamps in store as *Threepenny* stamps, with a distinct crossing of 'three' or '3d.', if possible, of a different coloured ink." But as evidently the "redundant stock" of 1s. stamps was not sufficient to answer the requirements of 3d. stamps, some 1d. and 2d. were also surcharged. Hence in 1874 we get a series of surcharges of the words "Three Pence," obliquely from the left bottom to the top right corner, on the 1d., 2d., and 1s. values. Major Evans, in the West Indian work of the London Philatelic Society, gives the numbers of the 1s. stamps surcharged as follows, but

not those of 1d. or 2d. He says:—"The Receiver-General's books show 4500 one shilling stamps converted to *Threepence*, March 12, 1874, the same number on the 20th of the month, and the same again on the 9th May, 1874." That makes a total of 13,500. But Major Evans goes on to say that "of the stamps thus converted 4000 are shown as issued to the Postmaster on the 12th March, 2400 on the 31st March, and 2400 on the 19th May, 1874." This leaves a balance of 4700 unaccounted for of shillings converted. Presumably they were issued, or recourse would not have been also had to the stocks of 1d. and 2d.

In the following year, 1875, there was another Provisional, viz., "One Penny" on 2d., 3d., and 1s. values. Of this surcharge Major Evans writes in the Society's work referred to:—"The Provisional 'One Penny' stamps were made in this latter year, 1875, and it was noted at the time in philatelic magazines as a curious circumstance that the one penny on threepence and the threepence on one penny should have appeared at the same time. The accounts show that 14,500 *One Shilling* stamps were converted to *One Penny* on the 11th March, 1875, 6720 of the same value, and 4800 *Twopence* similarly treated on the 31st of the same month, and 2380 *One Shilling* on the 16th April, 1875; also that fifty sheets (12,000) *Three Pence* stamps were converted to one penny about the same time, though the exact date of this is not given." With these two exceptions of the Provisionals of 1874 and 1875, Bermuda has done no surcharging.

In 1880 two new values were issued, viz.,  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 4d. These were watermarked Crown C C, and perforated as before.

In 1884-93 the watermark of all the stamps was changed to Crown CA, and the 2d. stamp was changed in colour from blue to violet-brown, a 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. value was added, and the 4d. value was omitted.

This, then, is the philatelic history of Bermuda so far as it need be told for the average collector. Its insignificance is due to the fact that, with the exception of a small variety in the type of the surcharge "Three Pence," which in our simplified list we need take no note of, there are no minor varieties to attract the specialist, and few ranges of shades to induce him to store up Bermudas by the page-full. Hence Bermudas are "cheap to-day," and are in strange contrast to the stamps of, say, Gibraltar, whose first issue is twenty years younger, and whose first 6d. at 20s. unused, contrasts with Bermuda's at 1s., and the 1s. at 70s. unused with Bermuda's 1s. at 2s. 6d. It is true the Gibraltar first issue was only a twelvemonth in existence, whereas the Bermudas lasted nearer ten years, and are consequently more plentiful. Still, age is on the side of the Bermudas, but it again is counterbalanced by popularity being on the side of the Gibraltors.

Reference List.

1865-73.

Wmk. Cr. C.C. Perf.



Type I.



Type II.

	Unused.	Used.
	s. d.	s. d.
1d., red, Type I. . . . .	0 8	0 2
2d., blue ,, . . . . .	1 0	0 6
3d., yellow, Type II. . . . .	8 6	2 6
6d., violet ,, . . . . .	1 0	0 9
1s., green ,, . . . . .	2 6	2 0

1874.

*Surcharged "Threepence," in Black.*

	Unused.	Used.
	s. d.	s. d.
3d. on 1d., red, Type I. . . . .	— —	— —
3d. on 2d., blue ,, . . . . .	— —	— —
3d. on 1s., green, Type II. . . . .	30 0	15 0

1875.

*Surcharged "One Penny," in Black.*

	Unused.	Used.
	s. d.	s. d.
1d. on 2d., blue, Type I. . . . .	20 0	15 0
1d. on 3d., yellow, Type II. . . . .	10 0	12 0
1d. on 1s., green ,, . . . . .	7 6	7 0

1880.

Wmk. Cr. C.C. Perf.



Type III.



Type IV.

	Unused.	Used.
	s. d.	s. d.
½d., stone, Type III. . . . .	0 3	0 3
4d., orange-red, Type IV. . . . .	0 9	0 4

1884-93.

Wmk. Cr. C.A. Perf.



Type V.

	Unused.	Used.
	s. d.	s. d.
½d., green, Type III. . . . .	0 1	0 1
1d., red, Type I. . . . .	0 2	0 1
2d., blue ,, . . . . .	1 6	1 6
2d., violet-brown, Type I. . . . .	0 4	0 3
2½d., ultramarine, Type V. . . . .	0 4	0 2
3d., grey, Type II. . . . .	0 5	0 4
1s., brown ,, . . . . .	1 8	1 6

*The prices given in the Reference List are those at which our publishers are prepared to supply the various stamps. They also serve the purpose of showing the relative rarity of the stamps catalogued.*



## Notable Stamps at Auction.

\* Unused. † On original.

BUHL & CO., LTD.	4th March, 1898.	17th March, 1898.
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>7th March, 1898.</i></p> <p>Great Britain, 10s., grey-green, wmk. cross* .. £ 10 0 0</p> <p>Ditto, 5s., rose on bluish, Plate 4* .. 4 4 0</p> <p>Oldenburg, 1859, ½ gr., black on green* .. 4 0 0</p> <p>Russian Levant, 1865, 2 k., brown and blue .. 6 5 0</p> <p>Ditto, 1865, 20 k., blue on rose .. 6 5 0</p> <p>Saxony, 3 pf. † .. 5 0 0</p> <p>Spain, 1851, 2 r. .. 14 0 0</p> <p>Ditto, 1852, 2 r. .. 13 0 0</p> <p>Switzerland, <i>Basle</i>, 2½ r. 4 10 0</p> <p>Ditto, " † .. 5 75 0</p> <p>Ditto, <i>Geneva</i>, 5c. + 5c. † 18 0 0</p> <p>Ditto, <i>Vaud</i>, 4 c. † .. 23 0 0</p> <p>Ditto, <i>Zurich</i>, 4 r., hor. lines, type 4 .. 9 0 0</p> <p>Ditto, <i>Zurich</i>, 4 r., vert. lines, type 5 .. 15 0 0</p> <p>Tuscany, 2 sol., on blue .. 5 5 0</p> <p>Ditto, 60 cr.* .. 11 0 0</p> <p>Ditto, 3 lire .. 32 0 0</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>8th March, 1898.</i></p> <p>Gold Coast, 20s., green and red* .. 10 0 0</p> <p>Lagos, ros., lilac-brown .. 14 0 0</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>9th March, 1898.</i></p> <p>Barbados, rd. on left half of 5s. .. 6 0 0</p> <p>Colombia, <i>Bolívar</i>, 1st issue, 10 c., pale green .. 6 0 0</p> <p>Dominican Republic, 1 r., black on yellow, laid .. 5 10 0</p> <p>Nevis, 6d., grey, litho.* .. 5 0 0</p> <p>Ditto, 6d., green, CA* .. 6 5 0</p> <p>Newfoundland, 6½d., carmine* .. 7 10 0</p> <p>United States, <i>State</i>, 5 dols.* .. 10 0 0</p> <p>Ditto, <i>State</i>, 20 dols.* .. 6 15 0</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WM. HADLOW.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>3rd March, 1898.</i></p> <p>New South Wales, Sydney View, rd., carmine, Plate 2* .. 9 9 0</p> <p>Queensland, 1st issue, 2d., blue† .. 5 5 0</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>21st March, 1898.</i></p> <p>Barbados, rd. on right half of 5s. .. 5 10 0</p> <p>British Honduras, 6d., yellow, CA, 14, hor. pair* .. 6 15 0</p> <p>Canada, 7½d., green* .. 9 15 0</p> <p>Cape of Good Hope, 1s., emerald* .. 4 0 0</p> <p>Ceylon, 4d., rose, imperf. 15 15 0</p> <p>Ditto, 8d., brown, imperf. 15 0 0</p> <p>Ditto, 8d., brown, star 3 12 6</p> <p>Ditto, 32 c., slate, CC, 14 X 12½* .. 3 0 0</p> <p>Great Britain, 2d., deep blue, imperf., no lines* .. 5 0 0</p> <p>Ditto, 2s., brown* .. 5 0 0</p> <p>Nevis, 6d., grey, litho.* .. 6 15 0</p> <p>Newfoundland, 6½d., carmine .. 6 17 6</p> <p>St. Christopher, 6d., olive, CA, hor. strip of 5* .. 5 15 0</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PUTTICK &amp; SIMPSON.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>2nd March, 1898.</i></p> <p>Nevis, 1s., yellow-green, perf. 15* .. 14 2 6</p> <p>Ditto, 6d., grey, litho.* .. 5 7 6</p> <p>Turks Islands, 2½ on 1s., blue, Gibbons Type 10, vert. pair* .. 17 0 0</p> <p>Ditto, 2½ on 1s., prune, same type* .. 5 0 0</p> <p>Victoria, 1861, 3d., blue, on laid* .. 5 2 6</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>25th February, 1898.</i></p> <p>Queensland, 2d., blue, imperf. .. 5 0 0</p> <p>St. Christopher, 4d., blue, CA* .. 4 10 0</p> <p>Victoria, <i>Emblems</i>, 1d., green, no wmk., roul., pair .. 12 0 0</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>10th March, 1898.</i></p> <p>Buenos Ayres, 1st issue, 4 p., scarlet .. 15 0 0</p> <p>Ditto, another darker shade .. 14 0 0</p> <p>Great Britain, 4d., pale carmine, med. garter* .. 11 17 6</p> <p>Ditto, 8d., brown-lilac* .. 4 4 0</p> <p>Spain, 1865, 12 cts., rose and blue, imperf., inverted frame .. 7 10 0</p> <p>Wurtemberg, 1859, 9 kr., carmine, thick paper* .. 8 10 0</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>11th March, 1898.</i></p> <p>Canada, 10d., blue, imperf., thick paper .. 6 15 0</p> <p>Ceylon, 8d., brown, imperf. .. 19 0 0</p> <p>Ditto, 2s., blue, imperf. 7 10 0</p> <p>India, 1st issue, ½ a., red* .. 6 0 0</p> <p>New Brunswick, 6d., yellow* .. 17 10 0</p> <p>Newfoundland, 4d., orange* .. 6 7 6</p> <p>Ditto, 6d.* .. 8 10 0</p> <p>Ditto, 1s., orange .. 18 5 0</p> <p>Ditto, 4d., carmine* .. 17 10 0</p> <p>Ditto, 6½* .. 11 0 0</p> <p>Nova Scotia, 6d., light green* .. 5 17 6</p> <p>St. Vincent, 6d., yellow-green, perf. 16* .. 10 10 0</p> <p>Ditto, 1s., rose, compound perfs.* .. 6 6 0</p>

## Notices.

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

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

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







Vertical and diagonal lines on globe.

TYPE II. (From PLATE II.)



Diagonal lines only on globe.

TYPE III.

TYPE IV.



Diagonal and horizontal lines on globe with faint traces of vertical lines also.



Diagonal and horizontal lines on globe.





BOLIVIA II.

TYPE V.



Horizontal lines only on globe.

TYPE VI.



No lines except those which form shape of globe itself.

VARIETY No. 1.



PLATE I. No. 57.

VARIETY No. 2.



PLATE I. No. 13. †

BOLIVIA III.

VARIETY No. 3.

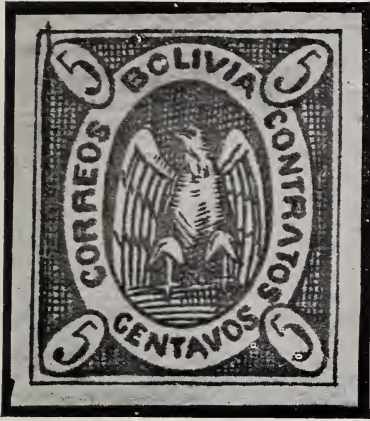


PLATE I. No. 42.

VARIETY No. 4. †



PLATE II. No 15.

VARIETY No. 5.

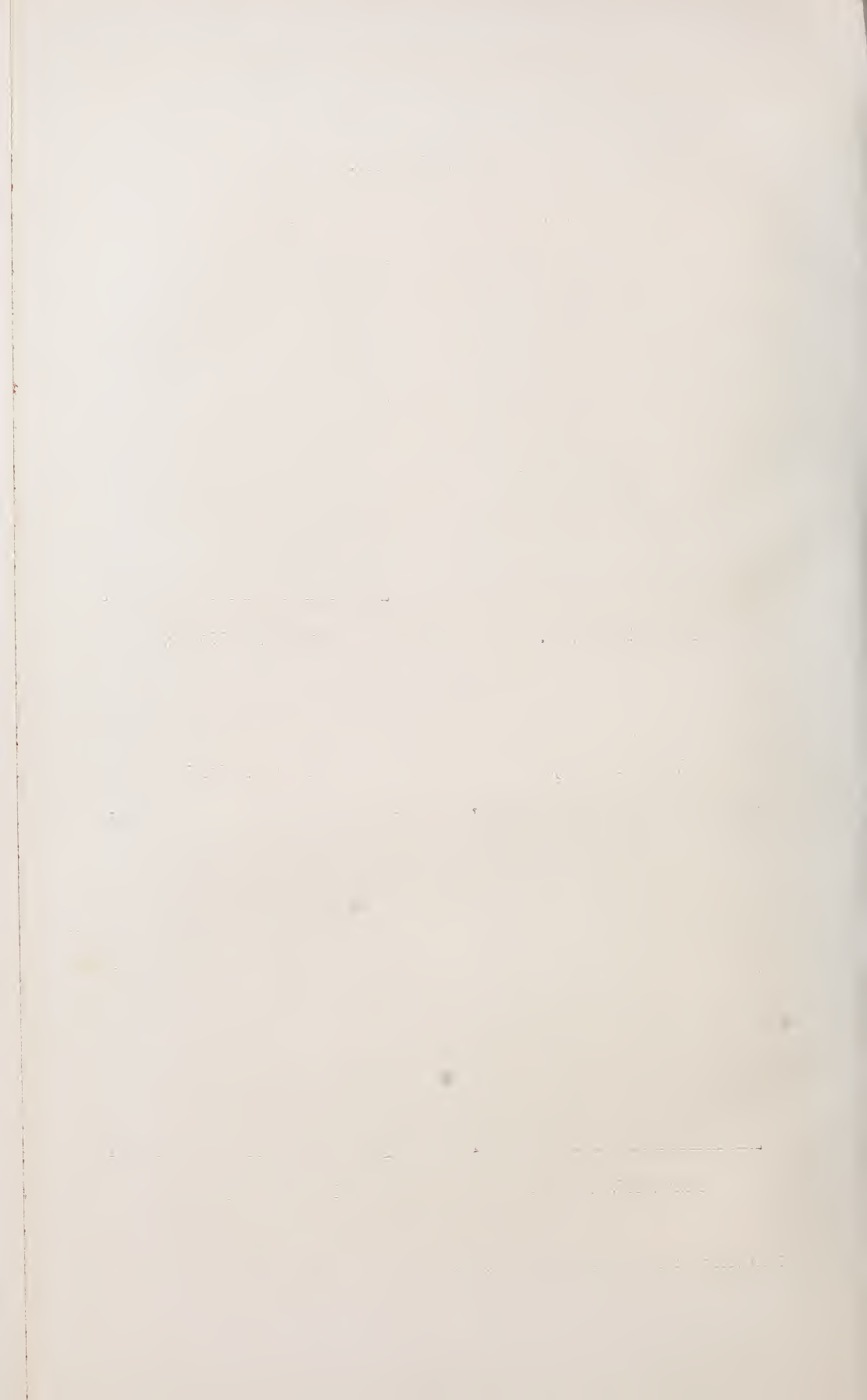


PLATE III. No. 56.

VARIETY No. 6.



PLATE IV. No. 23.





# The Philatelic Record

AND STAMP NEWS.

MAY, 1898.

## Editorial Notes.

**H**OW will the war which has unhappily broken out between the United States and Spain affect stamp collectors? What alterations is it likely to bring about in the stamp catalogue? These are questions which many stamp collectors are asking.

That the war will probably lead to some changes seems to be taken for granted. Already a brisk trade has sprung up in the issues of Cuba and Porto Rico, apparently on the assumption that Spain will probably lose one or both of these colonies, and, if we mistake not, the Philippines may be put into the same boat. Should all three colonies go, Spain will have but one solitary stamp-issuing colony left, namely, Fernando Po, which, being on the West Coast of Africa, is more or less out of danger.

That Cuba will be severed from the rule of Spain may be taken for granted, that is the avowed purpose of the war, and there is every likelihood that the United States will succeed. Then comes the question, What will happen to the island philatelically? As far as one may speculate on the future, stamp collectors may expect to see a provisional government set up at first, with the natural result of a provisional issue, and later on the settled issue of a settled government.

All this goes to show that stamp collectors are, by the very nature of their hobby, drawn into the study of the making of history.

\* \* \*

**Railway Stamps.** THE weight of opinion has undoubtedly been cast, in the discussion which has been going on as to the status of Railway Stamps, in favour of regarding them as postage stamps. Hence the English collectors will have one more burden added to the already almost insurmountable task of collecting English issues.

And now comes the announcement that the London and North Western Railway Company has started a stamp scheme of its own, of issuing stamps for the carriage of parcels. The stamps are to be of 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 6d., 9d., and 1s. values, and are to be *obtainable in any quantities*. Strictly speaking,

these latter claimants to favour will be nothing more nor less than carrier stamps; but for all that they will probably be collected, and the London and North Western Railway Company will be somewhat surprised at the rapid progress of a new source of revenue. Then other companies, especially those of the non-dividend paying class, will suddenly discover the immediate need of Railway Parcel Stamps; and later on the chairmen of the various companies, after referring to the usual increase in third class and the non-productive character of first and second class, will congratulate the shareholders upon having created a new and valuable source of income on the issue of a series of parcel stamps.

\* \* \*

**Trinidad Speculation.** THE latest speculation is, to say the least of it, rather a bare-faced one. The excuse is that Trinidad is terribly anxious to celebrate the 400th anniversary of its discovery by Columbus. Stamp collectors know perfectly well that this excuse of celebration is cant of the most despicable type, and we are surprised to find that Mr. Chamberlain, as Colonial Secretary, has allowed himself to be wheedled into approving such an unblushing postal speculation.

The speculation is fathered by the Governor of the Colony, whose name, strange to say, is to be found on the list of membership of the Philatelic Society of London.

It is curious that the Western Hemisphere should finally signalize its Columbian celebrations by an organized attempt to kick the countrymen of Columbus out of "their sphere of influence."

\* \* \*

**Notable Novelties of the Month.** THE month's new issues contain very little of striking interest. The long-expected issue of the re-engraved series of the Perkins-Bacon design is at last on sale. They are of very limited scope, ranging up to the 8d. value only. We are able to illustrate the new Gambias, but have not yet received any specimens. Queensland has tinkered up another of its values, the 6d., by removing the shading round the head, and putting figures of value in each of the four corners. The Turk has issued a set of stamps to mark his temporary occupation of Thessaly, and to collect backsheesh as he quits the conquered territory. The United States postal authorities have changed the 5 c., brown, into a 5 c., blue.



## How to Collect Bolivian Stamps.

By H. R. OLDFIELD.

(Continued from p. 90.)



IN these hints as to the formation of a representative collection I will deal with the stamps chronologically, and the first is consequently the 1866 issue, of which the 5 centavos stamp must necessarily occupy a considerable place.

The main feature of the design is an eagle with outstretched wings standing upon a hemisphere of curved lines (usually called the globe). The lines on this globe will serve to distinguish the six main types, and speaking generally they coincide with the various printings. Indeed, anyone who is able to secure the six types and the various varieties which I am about to indicate, will have as a matter of fact one or more specimens of all the seven different printings, with very little trouble so far as examining the stamps is concerned. For the sake of convenience I will call these seven printings Plates I. to VII.

The lines forming the globe curve downwards thus :



and upon the globe are to be found short vertical lines, and at the right side diagonal lines and horizontal counter lines thus :



The presence or absence of these lines, and their combination, form the six types before referred to.

*TYPE I.—In this type the globe contains the vertical and the diagonal lines in combination.*

This represents the earliest state of the plate, and this combination is always found on the yellow-green stamps (except No. 12 on the plate). It is also found upon all the other stamps from Plate I., and upon rather more than half of those printed from Plate II. Dealers assume this type to be more valuable than some of the others, and they very often mark the unused stamps at from 4s. to 5s. It is, however, an ordinary or common type, and 3d. is a fair average price for it. Possibly it might be said that from 4d. to 6d. is the value of a fine clear impression, and 3d. for a worn copy, but so far as supply is concerned there should be little (if any) difference in the price. Of course these prices do not apply to the yellow-green shade.



TYPE II.—*In this type only diagonal lines are to be found upon the globe.*

There is one stamp only on Plate I. which presents this feature. It is No. 12 on the plate, and to prevent confusion an illustration will be found on the annexed sheet.

All the other stamps which show only diagonal lines on the globe are from Plate II., and in only some twenty-six out of the seventy-two stamps on Plate II. have the traces of the vertical lines completely disappeared.

Dealers take no account of this peculiarity, and if the copy is somewhat worn they will probably price it from 3d. to 6d. You will not find this variety very plentiful, and it should be worth even at the present time from 3s. 6d. to 5s. These are stamps the value of which is likely to increase.

TYPE III.—When I wrote the paper which is published in the *London Philatelist* for June and July, 1897, I had not found this type, and did not believe it existed, but since then I have found several copies. The peculiarity is that

*In Type III. the globe contains faint traces of the vertical lines, and in addition the diagonal and the counter horizontal lines.*

This variety is only to be found on Plate III. There are very few copies on the plate, and these only exist on the earliest impressions, as they entirely disappear in the later ones. I possess a complete sheet of Plate III. It is a late printing, and none of the stamps show traces of the vertical lines on the globe.

This is another stamp that can probably be obtained at a moderate price, while its real value is certainly not less than 10s.

TYPE IV.—*In this type the diagonal and the counter horizontal lines only are to be seen on the globe.*

These stamps are to be found on Plates III. and IV., and some few copies on Plate V. They are of the normal value of about 3d., unused. Dealers generally mark them at from 3d. to 6d., and they are not likely to increase in value beyond the latter amount.

TYPE V.—*In this type the globe only contains the counter horizontal lines (the vertical and diagonal lines having disappeared).*

There are some few of these stamps upon Plates III. and IV., and they are also to be found on Plates V., VI., and VII. Their value is much the same as Type IV.

TYPE VI.—*In this type the globe is composed solely of the curved lines, with no addition of any kind.*

These are found on Plates VI. and VII., and are almost invariably worn specimens. Dealers usually price them from 3d. to 6d.; their real value is about 2s. 6d.

The above explanations will probably enable anyone to distinguish these six types, of each of which illustrations are annexed.

There are various shades of green in each of the types.

The 5 centavos, lilac, stamps are printed from Plate VII., and, consequently,

specimens may be found of Types V. and VI. There is very little difference in the value. Dealers price the 5 centavos, lilac, unused, at from 24s. to 30s., and used from 20s. to 30s. So far as average copies are concerned, I should put the market prices as follows :

Unused . . . . .	25s. to 30s.
Postmarked . . . . .	20s. to 25s.
Penmarked . . . . .	10s. to 15s.

The shades vary from brown-rose and violet to dull lilac, and it is desirable to have some four or five copies to illustrate these shades.

There is a peculiarity in the lettering of the inscription, contained in the oval band, in consequence of the letter "A," which occurs in three of the four words, being occasionally indicated by means of an inverted "v." In the normal type there is a properly formed and barred "A" in all three of the words "BOLIVIA," "CONTRATOS," and "CENTAVOS." The errors may be found in more than one of the printings, and their comparative rarity is as follows :

1. Neither of the "A"'s in "CONTRATOS" or "CENTAVOS" is barred (this is the rarest).
2. The "A" in "CENTAVOS" is not barred.
3. The "A" in "CONTRATOS" is not barred.

I have not yet seen a stamp where the "A" in "BOLIVIA" is other than correctly barred.

Following the various types, colours, and shades of the 5 centavos stamps, it becomes necessary to secure copies of some of the principal varieties.

These can now be obtained at the ordinary prices, dealers making at present no distinction, and as some of them are exceedingly rare they will be by no means a bad investment, even if obtained from one of the high-pricing dealers.

#### VARIETIES.

No. I.—*There are no feather pinions to the right wing, and two short horizontal lines will be found in the oval band just below the "C" of "CORREOS."*

This variety is No. 57 on the plate, and is only to be found in Plate I. It is necessary to look out for the two short horizontal lines, because there are some stamps in the later printings, more especially from Plate III., where the wing pinions do not show, having disappeared owing to the wear of the plate; but in the genuine variety, which is easily distinguished, the pinions were omitted by mistake (and the error was corrected in Plate II.).

The variety is very rare, more especially in the yellow-green colour. I have only three copies, none of which is in the yellow-green shade. If the slightest demand were to spring up for Bolivian stamps and these varieties, the fair market value would be :

Variety No. I. . . . .	Yellow-green, £2;
Ditto . . . . .	Other shades of green, 15s. to £1;

and even these prices would not represent their real value, the supply being necessarily exceedingly small.

No. II.—*The outer line of the right wing runs into the oval band below, cutting the "s" and touching the "o" of "CENTAVOS."*

This is No. 13 on the plate, and is to be found on Plate I., and also on Plates II., III., and IV., but in these latter, the short line between the "o" and the "s" of "Centavos" is all that is visible.

The variety is equally rare with the preceding in the yellow-green colour, and for the other shades I should be inclined to put the present real value at from 10s. to 15s.

No. III.—*There is a vertical line in the left top corner, passing upwards from the 5 oval and projecting beyond the upper, outer frame of the stamp.*

This is No. 42 on the plate, and is to be found on Plates I., II., III., and IV. The yellow-green colour is rare, while, for the other shades, 7s. 6d. to 10s. would be a fair price.

No. IV.—*There is a diagonal line passing downwards across the white space above the right wing, and cutting the line running upwards from the body of the eagle across the same space. There is also a horizontal line on the right side, crossing the narrow space between the background and the outer rectangular frame.*

This variety is No. 15 on the plate, and is only to be found on Plate II., although there are somewhat similar peculiarities to be found in Plate IV. Its value may be taken at from 5s. to 7s. 6d.

No. V.—*The left wing is badly drawn; the outer line runs up vertically from the bottom, instead of inclining to the right, and so entirely breaks the shape of the wing.*

From the illustration, other peculiarities will be observed, such as the doubling of the inner frame of the inscription label, just above the letters "Cen" of "Centavos," and the absence of nearly all the feather pinions from both wings. This latter omission arises from the wear of the plate and not from an error on the part of the engraver.

This variety is No. 56 on the plate, and is peculiar to Plate III., although traces of the error may be seen in the same stamp on Plate IV. Its present real value is from 10s. to 15s.

No. VI.—*There is a short line passing upwards from the top of right wing into the white space above, and touching the line running upwards from the body of the eagle across the same space.*

This is No. 23 on the plate, and is readily recognizable in the stamps from Plate IV. It is also to be found in Plate V., but is not nearly so distinct. Its value may fairly be put at about 5s.






# The Stamps of Tonga.

By A. F. BASSET HULL.

(Continued from page 93.)

N the libel case *Campbell v. Whitcombe*, previously referred to, Mr. Campbell stated in the witness-box that with reference to the stamps and envelopes making up the sum of \$26,775 3s. 4d., referred to in the report as being unaccounted for by him, the greater portion was obtained to fill orders received from a foreign dealer. *They were never intended to be used as ordinary postage stamps*, but were all obliterated before leaving the Post Office. For this reason, and because of their having been sold at prices far below their face value, they were not entered up in the ordinary way. On one occasion 105,000 stamps were *specially printed* for a German dealer, for which a sum amounting to £200 was paid. There is no doubt that the second lot, entered as received on 18th December, 1891, was this "made for Germany" lot, as the total number of stamps was exactly 105,000.

Then Mr. Campbell also stated that 100,000 stamps were sold at one time to a New South Wales dealer, and many similar transactions were disclosed.

The lot of 11th September, 1888, is thus accounted for, but with regard to the many other transactions spoken of by Mr. Campbell, these must have been very small ones in comparison with the two referred to above. The only other items debited in the *Interim Report* relate to 5760 of the 6d., orange, and 2200 registered envelopes hereinafter referred to, and a lot of the second issue comprising 29,520 stamps.

I am of opinion that the number stated to have been sold to a New South Wales dealer is very much exaggerated. There was no firm doing business of an extent to warrant such a large purchase; besides, the Crawshaw and Thomson transactions account for 1860 stamps, which must have formed a portion of one of the two supplies mentioned, otherwise Mr. Campbell would have been at the loss of the difference between face value and the amount realized. Doubtless the sales to the New South Wales dealer and the other transactions prior to November, 1892 (the date of the second issue), totalled 100,000.

Having shown, therefore, that there is every reason to reject the greater portion of the first issue of Tongan stamps as being unworthy of the consideration of true philatelists, let me endeavour to give some information that may assist students to distinguish between those actually issued for use and those cancelled to order as specimens.

The obliteration found on all of these stamps consists of the name "TONGA" in large block letters, preceded and followed by a short bar, and there are five bars of gradually decreasing length above the name and five below. The obliteration is in black. This, however, is hardly a sufficient test, for doubtless the same cancellor was used for stamps postally used, although I believe that the ring postmark, with name of town and date, was more frequently used on letters. But all the cancelled to order stamps I have been able to examine are perf. 11½.

I think that the combination of the "TONGA" obliteration above described, and the  $11\frac{1}{2}$  gauge of perforation found on any of the first issue, is sufficient to place it under the ban of "cancelled to order," although I am bound to confess that the fact of the surcharged 4d. and 8d. stamps issued in 1891 bearing the  $11\frac{1}{2}$  perforation points to some, at least, of the genuinely used stamps having that gauge.

## II. THE SURCHARGED FOUR PENCE AND EIGHT PENCE.

The next item in Annex B to the *Interim Report* relates to registered envelopes, of which I will treat fully in a subsequent chapter devoted to postal stationery.

Then under date November 10, 1891, the following entry occurs in Column A:

	£	s.	d.
"106 sheets 1d. stamps, surcharged 4d. Increased value £1 per sheet .	750	0	0
28 sheets 2d. stamps, surcharged 8d. Increased value £3 per sheet .	420	0	0."

The Commission of Inquiry safely remark upon this entry: "No Invoices found. N.B.—As these stamps are, so far as appears to the contrary, now entered for the first time, the matter of increased value may be fictitious, and stamps may represent full value of 4d. and 8d."

We have no reason to believe otherwise than that the entry was perfectly honest and straightforward, but evidently someone blundered in making the calculations as to the increased value of the surcharged 4d. stamps. 120 stamps of 1d. raised to 4d. would give an increased value of 30s. per sheet, or a total of \$795. The calculations in the case of the 2d. raised to 8d. are correct.

These surcharged stamps were the 1d., pink, surcharged "FOUR PENCE," and the 2d., purple, surcharged "EIGHT PENCE," both in two lines in black. The 4d. is found both with and without a period after "PENCE," although the former is the scarcer, while the 8d. always has the period. The watermark is N Z and Star, and the perforation  $11\frac{1}{2}$ .

Taking the entry of 106 sheets of the 4d., and 28 of the 8d., as correct, we have a total issue of 12,720 4d. and 3360 8d.

*Vindin's Philatelic Monthly* for August, 1893, stated that there were only 4000 4d. and 2500 2d. issued. These figures are evidently incorrect.

The fact of these stamps being perforated  $11\frac{1}{2}$  leads to one of two conclusions; either (a) that they formed part of the supply purposely obtained for sale to dealers in a cancelled condition, or (b) that some of the earlier supplies obtained for legitimate postal use were perforated  $11\frac{1}{2}$ . This is one of those points upon which further information is to be desired.

## III. THE STAR SURCHARGED 1D. AND 2D.

With a view to prevent fraudulent surcharging of the 1d. and 2d. stamps, a black star was placed in the lower left and upper right angles respectively. I have Mr. Campbell's statement that these "surcharged" stamps were issued on the 23rd November, 1891, and withdrawn on the 10th November, 1892. The perforation of my copies is  $12\frac{1}{2}$ . Varieties of the 1d. have been catalogued with three and four stars, and I have heard of copies with even a larger supply, but have not seen any.

Several writers to recent philatelic papers consider that it is evidently this issue to which Mr. Basil Thomson refers in his book, *The Diversions of a Prime Minister*. Mr. Thomson was commissioned in August, 1890, to set

in order the affairs of the kingdom, which had become considerably disarranged by the dismissal of the Prime Minister, the Honourable and Reverend Shirley Waldeman Baker.

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

I think, however, that from a careful perusal of the paragraph in the light of what I have already shown regarding the surcharged stamps, which did not in any way constitute a *change* in the existing series, but merely represented the provision of new values, it will be readily understood that Mr. Thomson really referred to the 1892 issue, which will be subsequently dealt with.

#### IV.—THE SIXPENCE, ORANGE.

The Appendix to the *Interim Report* contains, under date August 15, 1892, an entry in Column A:

"10,100 orange stamps, 6d. . . . . \$540."

Column B gives the number as 10,080 and the value \$1260, and the deficiency of \$720 is debited to Mr. Campbell.

The latter number is more probably the correct one, as it would contain eighty-four sheets of 120. The amount (\$540) entered by Mr. Campbell would account for thirty-six sheets, which doubtless were set apart for postal use, the remainder being reserved for "cancelled to order" purposes.

This 6d. stamp was of the same type as the first issue of similar value, but it was printed in orange. It appears more probable that the change thus made was due to the confusion of the colours of the 2d., purple, and 6d., blue, when handled at night, than to any philatelic motive.

The watermark was N Z and Star, and the perforation 11½.


In a list of dates of issue furnished by Mr. Campbell prior to his ceasing to hold office, "August 15, 1892," is given as the date of issue of this stamp.

(To be continued.)



## First Issue U.S. Periodicals.

BY ERA, IN *Filatelic Facts and Fallacies*.

N his Report submitted to the Thirty-seventh Congress of the United States, in 1862, Postmaster-General Montgomery Blair called attention to the fact that the estimated loss of revenue from accrued postage on printed matter approximated \$200,000 a year, and that this loss was principally due to the failure of postmasters to collect quarterly, in advance, as required by law, the small amounts due from newspaper subscribers. He recommended that Congress so revise the existing statutes that newspaper postage should be paid by publishers and not collected from subscribers. He noted the fact also that there were three hundred different rates of postage on printed matter, the rates varying in accordance with the distance and the character of the periodical.

In accordance with the recommendation of the Postmaster-General, Senator Collamer, of Vermont, who was Chairman of the Senate Committee on postal affairs, introduced into the Senate, on January 28, 1863, a lengthy Bill which provided for many important changes in postal matters. This Bill passed both Houses of Congress and received the signature of President Lincoln on March 1, 1863. Although the several sections of the Bill were fully discussed, both in the House and the Senate, it is a peculiar fact that nothing was said in debate of the competition of the express companies which were receiving the greater part of the remunerative transportation of printed matter, while the Government received the portions hard to handle, and on which there was little or no profit. This was especially the case with the papers going out of the large cities, as at this time the department insisted on all matter going to the Post Office at destination point, and the agents supplied through the express companies were able, in many cases, to have their papers in their purchasers' hands and read before the office would have the mail distributed.

The sections of this Act relating to newspapers and periodicals were those from the 33rd to the 41st inclusive, the section under which our first newspaper stamps were issued being the 36th.

Section 33 provided that the maximum standard weight for single rate of postage and printed matter should be four ounces.

Section 34 provided that the rate for each four ounces, or fraction thereof, of transient mailable matter, and miscellaneous matter of the third class, should be two cents, to be fully prepaid by stamps.

Section 35 provided postal rates, per quarter, for regular publications, not exceeding the standard weight of four ounces, as follows:—For papers issued weekly, five cents; issued twice a week, ten cents; three times a week, fifteen cents; six times a week, thirty cents; seven times a week, thirty-five cents; and in that proportion, adding one rate for each issue more frequent than once a week, and also adding one rate for each four ounces or fraction thereof exceeding the standard weight of four ounces. Postage on this class of matter was to be paid in advance for the term of not less than three months nor more than twelve months at either the office of mailing or of delivery. The publishers of weekly papers, however, were entitled to send their paper post-free to subscribers within the county of publication.

Section 36 provided for the rate of postage for periodicals published less frequently than once a week.

Section 37 permitted the publishers of papers to enclose with the paper bills of subscription without extra charge.

Section 38 provided that the Postmaster-General might, from time to time, provide by order the rate and terms upon which mail agents might receive and deliver at the mail-car or steamers packages of newspapers and periodicals delivered to them for that purpose by the publishers, or any newsagent in charge thereof, and not received from nor designed for delivery at any Post Office.

Section 39 gave the Postmaster-General authority to prescribe, by regulation, the manner of wrapping all matter not charged with letter postage, and to ascertain whether publishers sent their publications unpaid to other than their regular subscribers.

Section 40 made it the duty of postmasters to examine printed matter to see that there was not enclosed therewith anything which would require a higher rate of postage.

Section 41 gave the Postmaster-General authority to require publishers to make an affidavit that they were not infringing the rules laid down in the preceding sections of this Bill.

It was not until sometime in 1865 that stamps were issued under this Act, the earliest allusions being in Postmaster-General Dennison's Report for 1865:—"New stamps have been adopted of the denominations of 5, 10, and 25 c., for prepaying postage on packages of newspapers forwarded by publishers or news dealers, under the authority of law, whereby a revenue will be secured, hitherto lost to the department."

The exact date of issue has never been settled, and the authorities who are usually recognized seem about evenly divided. The earliest list that I have at hand, that of "Cosmopolitan" (*American Journal of Philately*, June 20, 1871), gives October 1, 1865, as the date of issue. This date is also given by J. W. Scott in his *Revised List*. On the other hand, Moens gives April 1, 1869, as the date, and John K. Tiffany, in his *History of the Postage Stamps of the United States*, follows this, quoting as his authority the Report of Postmaster-General D. M. Key, of Tennessee, for 1878.

In his Report for 1893, Third Assistant Postmaster-General Kerr Craig says, "The issue of these stamps began in the September quarter of 1865, and was terminated about February 1, 1869." This date of ceasing is also given in Postmaster-General John A. Creswell's Report of 1869. The greater number of these stamps are said to have been used at Chicago and Milwaukee. There were 20,140 of the five cent value issued, 215,600 of the ten cent, and 31,488 of the twenty-five cent. When in 1868 the five cent plate was retouched and the broad coloured border removed, 35,420 more were added to the list of the five cent issue.

The description of the stamps as given by the Government is:—"The 5, 10, and 25 c. newspaper and periodical stamps are alike in style, 2 by  $3\frac{3}{4}$  inches (the actual plate impression is  $55 \times 91$  mm.), the denomination being repeated in Arabic and Roman numerals, in the upper corners Arabic, and midway of the sides Roman. The numbers '10' and '5' five-eighths of an inch high (the '10' is 7 mm., while the '5' is 10 mm.), are white faced, while those at the side are the colour of the stamp. On the 25 c. the side figures are also Arabic. The numerals in the upper corners of the 10 and 25 c. stamp are inclined outward, those on the 5 c. are perpendicular."

The letters "v" and "s" appear near the top in horizontal line and immediately beneath the word "Postage" in a line curved downward at each end. Next below this, in the middle of the stamp and surrounded by a border of lathe work, are the several profile medallion portraits in a misty style of engraving. The Washington medallion (5 c. value) is circular,  $1\frac{1}{8}$  inches (29 mm.) in diameter. The Franklin (10 c. value) is an ellipse,  $1\frac{1}{8}$  by  $1\frac{5}{8}$  inches

(34 × 27 mm.), while the Lincoln (25 c. value) is a parallelogram with clipped corners  $\frac{7}{8}$  by  $1\frac{3}{8}$  inches ( $23\frac{1}{2} \times 31$  mm.). Below the tablets are the words representing the denominations and "Newspaper and Periodicals" in three lines. After this reference is made as follows: Sec. 38, Act of Congress approved March 3, 1865. Below the border proper—the heavy white line—at the bottom, in very small type are the words, "National Bank Note Company, New York."

In the original the embossing is quite pronounced, especially on the heavier paper, while it is not noticeable on some of the so-called reprints. Some of the pronounced embossed specimens show colour flaws in the embossing, the same as is noticeable in almost every issue of the envelopes.

When it comes to reprints we strike another snag and again the "doctors disagree." Mr. J. W. Scott positively states (*American Journal of Philately*, March, 1888) that no reprints of the 5 c. blue border were made, and Tiffany says: "As the 5 c. with white border does not appear in the list of specimens or reprints (E. W. Barber's *Circular* of March 27, 1875), the series was not after all complete, and the possessor of this stamp may feel confident of possessing an original." Mr. Luff in a recent article (*American Journal of Philately*, May, 1896) says: "Evidence has lately been supplied from official sources tending to prove that reprints of these stamps were never sold." In the same article he refers to a full set on paper similar to the regular issue, imperforate, which he thinks were the ones prepared to form part of the 1875 specimen sets, but which were never issued. Specimens on the porous paper used by the American Bank Note Company lead us to believe that reprints at least of the 5 c. were made. Tiffany, in speaking of the so-called reprints, says that they lack the "brightness" of the originals. In their various sales Bogert, Albrecht, and the Scott list these "dull" specimens as reprints; but Luff seemed inclined to believe they were remainders of the original printing. Casey in his sale of the Levy Collection lists a set as "supposed to be reprints." On the other hand, Earé, in his *Album Weeds*, says of the reprints: "Almost impossible to detect from the originals. If anything, they have been too carefully worked and the design stands out too clearly, especially in the 10 c.," thus making the heavy specimen the reprints.

The imperforate referred to seem to have been printed in sheets of ten without imprint or plate number, and may have been from a new plate prepared from the original die. As the plates have all been destroyed, it is not likely this can ever be confirmed. The original die still exists, and is in possession of the Bureau of Printing and Engraving. The sheet, as the stamps were originally issued, consisted of twenty stamps with imprint of the National Bank Note Company and plate number, the five cent plate being numbered 38, the ten cent 39, and the twenty-five cent 40.

A counterfeit of the 5 c. blue border was recently noted by C. E. Severn as existing in a Chicago collection. The description given is meagre, and the only distinguishing feature noted is that the counterfeit is shorter by one or two millimetres than the genuine. A full set of lithographed counterfeits exists and is said to have emanated from Frankfort, Germany, and Senf Bros. have put forth a fine *fac-simile* set; but this last is surcharged "falsch," there being no intention on the part of Senf Bros. to deceive or mislead.

The following reference list notes all varieties which I have seen or noticed in various sales. Those with question marks may, or may not, exist or may have been wrongly described.

I. 5 c., coloured border, blue, light blue, dark blue, indigo, chalky blue; blue reprint, American Bank Note Co.; blue reprint, Continental Bank Co. (?); proof, black, die on bond paper; proof, green on India paper; proof, blue on India paper; proof, blue, perforated, India paper; proof, blue, cardboard; proof, scarlet, cardboard; proof, dark green, cardboard; proof, black, cardboard.



II. 10 c., green, blue-green: green, pelure paper; green, Continental reprint (?); green, American reprint (?); proof, brown on bond paper; proof, green, India paper; proof, blue, India paper; proof, green, perforated India paper; proof, green, cardboard; proof, scarlet, cardboard; proof, dark green, cardboard; proof, yellow-green, cardboard; proof, black, cardboard.

III. 25 c., red, carmine-red, orange-red, lake-red (?); red, pelure paper; red, reprint, Continental Co. (?); red, reprint, American Co. (?); proof, green, bond paper; proof, green, India paper; proof, blue, India paper; proof, red, India paper; proof, red, perforated, India paper; proof, red, cardboard; proof, scarlet, cardboard; proof, blue, cardboard; proof, dark green, cardboard; proof, black, cardboard.

IV. 5 c., white border, blue, light blue, dark blue, chalky blue; dark blue, pelure paper; light blue, pelure paper.

Cancelled specimens are not frequently met with. They are never post-marked; but are cancelled with ink, evidently applied with a marking brush. The gradual increase in value of the series is evidenced by the subjoined table of catalogue prices:—

	1876.	1886.	1890.	1892.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1898.
5 c. . . . .	\$ .50	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$8.00	\$10.00	\$12.00	\$17.50	\$20.00
10 c. . . . .	.25	1.00	2.00	3.50	6.00	7.50	7.50	10.00
25 c. . . . .	.50	1.00	2.50	3.50	6.00	7.50	7.50	7.50
5 c., white border . . . . .	.50	.50	.50	1.00	1.50	2.00	2.00	2.50

## Novelties and Discoveries.

### British Empire.

**British Honduras.**—The *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung* has received the new value 25 c. and 1 c. post card. The 25 c. stamp is of the same design as the current set of adhesives, wmk. CA and perf. 14, but the stamp on the post card is of the same design as on the 3 c. post card.

*Adhesive.*

25 c., red-brown, name and value green.

*Post Card.*

1 c., green on buff; 118×74 mm.

**British South Africa.**—The re-engraved set, printed by Waterlows, has at last been issued. The set consists only of the low values, viz., ½d., 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 6d., and 8d., and no higher values are to be issued of what is known as the Perkins Bacon design. Stamps of a new, smaller, and better design by Messrs. Waterlows are ready for issue as soon as this supply of the re-engraved series has been exhausted. As stated when we first chronicled the re-engraving, the most easily distinguished difference is to be found in the ribbons at the base of the shield. In the original Perkins Bacon design the ribbons over the words "JUSTICE" on the left and "FREEDOM" on the right cross the legs of the supporters. In the Waterlow re-engraving the ribbons do not cross the legs of the supporters. Again, in the Waterlow stamp the tip of one of the rose leaves shows above the word "COMMERCE." In the Perkins Bacon design this space is clear. But, alas! whereas in the Perkins

Bacon design, in the grouping of the rose, shamrock, and thistle, we get the lucky four-leaved shamrock, in the Waterlow re-engraving we have only the common three-leaved variety. There are several other little differences. We may add that the re-engraved are perf. 15 instead of 14,

*Adhesives.*

*Re-engraved series.*

- ½d., grey and mauve.
- 1d., vermilion and light green.
- 2d., grey-brown and lilac-pink.
- 3d., red-brown and pale blue.
- 4d., ultramarine and lilac-mauve.
- 6d., purple and pink.
- 8d., green and mauve on buff.

**Ceylon.**—According to *Le Timbre-Poste* the stamp of the news wrapper is now violet-blue instead of reddish violet.

**Gambia.**—We now illustrate the new Gambias, which are of the well-known Seychelles type of bicoloured pattern. They are to be issued on the 1st of May, 1898, and any stock of the old embossed series remaining on



hand by that date is to be destroyed. Wmk. Cr. CA, perf. 14.

<i>Adhesives.</i>			
½d.,	green.		
1d.,	rose.		
2d.,	orange, name and value mauve.		
2½d.,	ultramarine.		
3d.,	magenta, name and value blue.		
4d.,	brown	„	blue.
6d.,	olive-green	„	rose.
1s.,	mauve	„	green.

**New South Wales.**—The *Australian Philatelist* says there is already another gauge of perforation to record in connection with the current 1d. and 2d., both of which are found perf. 12. They were originally perforated by the 11 × 11½ comb machine.

<i>Adhesives.</i>	
1d.,	carmine (Type II.), perf. 12.
2d.,	ultramarine, perf. 12.

**Queensland.**—The *Australian Philatelist* says: “The 6d., with shading removed from

the background, and figures in four corners, has appeared. The pair before us show slight differences in type, and, judging from proofs shown us by Mr. Van Weenen in July last, the plates are made up, as usual, from blocks of four *clichés*, each of which shows slight differences. Our pair also displays further charming defects. On one the Queen has a white spot below the ear, and on the other there is a white patch on the dotted border to the right of the fourth figure ‘6.’ Doubtless these interesting varieties will be known in the future as the ‘Diamond Earring’ and ‘Patch to right of 6’ types!”

*Adhesive.*  
6d., green (2nd Type), wmk. Crown Q, perf. 13.

**Straits Settlements.**—*Perak.*—A stamp of the 25 c. value has been added to the current bi-coloured series.

*Adhesive.*  
25 c., green and carmine.

## Foreign Countries.

**Bolivia.**—*Le Philatliste Francaise* says the current 20 c. and 50 c. are now printed on thick paper, and perforated 13 instead of 14.

<i>Adhesives.</i>	
20 c.,	blue, perf. 13.
50 c.,	lilac „ „

**Brazil.**—*Le Timbre-Poste* announces that new single and reply post cards have been issued.

<i>Post Cards.</i>	
100 reis,	red, green, and black.
100+100 reis,	red, green, and black.

**Chili.**—*Le Collectionneur des Timbres-Poste* has received the new set of unpaids. The stamps are lithographed, and are all on the same sheet as before.

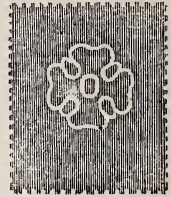
<i>Adhesives.</i>	
<i>Unpaid Letter Stamps.</i>	
1 c.,	rose.
2 c.,	„
4 c.,	„
6 c.,	„
8 c.,	„
10 c.,	„
20 c.,	„

**Colombia.**—*Panama.*—*Le Timbre-Poste* is informed that the 10 centavos has been surcharged “A R Colon,” in black, for use as a registration stamp.

<i>Adhesive.</i>	
<i>Registration Stamp.</i>	
10 c.,	yellow, surcharge black.

**Egypt.**—*Sudan.*—We now illustrate the new stamps which have been issued for use in the Sudan to replace the provisional issue surcharged on current Egyptians. These new stamps are the work of Messrs. De la Rue, and are typographed. They are of a large size, and are printed in sheets of two vertical panes of 60 stamps each. We also illustrate the watermark. The stamps are bicoloured, the framework being in one

colour and the central portion of the design in another colour. Perf. 14.



<i>Adhesives.</i>	
1 m.,	brown, frame carmine.
2 m.,	green „ brown.
3 m.,	mauve „ green.
5 m.,	carmine „ black.
1 p.,	blue „ brown.
2 p.,	black „ blue.
5 p.,	brown „ green.
10 p.,	black „ mauve.

**Hayti.**—*Le Timbre-Poste* chronicles the issue of a series of a new design which we illustrate. The stamps are engraved in *taille douce* by the Compagnie Francaise des Papiers-Monnaie. They are watermarked “R.H.”



<i>Adhesives.</i>	
1 c.,	blue.
2 c.,	rose.
3 c.,	violet.
5 c.,	green.
7 c.,	grey.
20 c.,	yellow.

**Italy.—Eritrea.**—*Le Collectionneur des Timbres-Poste* says the Italian 10 c. post card of 1896 has been surcharged "Colonia Eritrea" in black.

*Post Card.*

10 c., rose on cream, surcharge black.

**Persia.**—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us some further values of the design of the 1 kran, viz., 2, 3, 4, and 5 kran. The *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung* adds two higher values of 10 kran and 50 kran. The stamps are apparently lithographed. Perf.  $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ .



*Adhesives.*

- 2 kran, pink.
- 3 kran, yellow.
- 4 kran, grey.
- 5 kran, green.
- 10 kran, orange-red.
- 50 kran, lilac.

**Roumania.**—The *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* says some sheets of the current 5 b. stamps were found to contain a 25 b. stamp. As soon as discovered the sheets were recalled, but a good many had already been used. It is reported that those recalled will be put up to auction.

The current stamps have all appeared with the perforation  $11\frac{1}{2}$ .

The Postage Dues are now watermarked "PR."

*Adhesive.*

- 25 b., blue, perf.  $13\frac{1}{2}$ , error.
- Prepaid Letter Stamps.*
- 10 b., green, wmk. "PR."
- 30 b. " "

**Siam.**—We are indebted to Mr. Hood Beng for a copy of the 12 atts surcharged "3 atts," which he informs us was issued on the 26th February last.

Mr. Hood Beng also writes: "4 atts on 8 atts, and 6 atts on 8 atts, in the *Standard Catalogue* (Scott Coin Co.) are unknown in Bangkok. Gibbons' *Monthly Journal*, Nov. number, Siam, 4 on 1 att, green, is not correct. It is a great wonder, though, that no such surcharged stamp is used here, and yet they can give the length of the surcharge, colour, &c.!"

*Adhesive.*

3 atts on 12 atts, purple and carmine, surcharge black.

**Spain.**—The Madrid *Filatlico* says the special adhesive stamps issued for franking the correspondence of the Deputies have been discontinued, the Deputies' letters now being franked by an embossed stamp.

**Fernando Po.**—*Le Collectionneur des Timbres-Poste* chronicles a new post card with stamp of the current Spanish type.

*Post Card.*

10 c. de peso, red on yellow.

**Turkey.—Thessaly.**—We are informed that the Turkish Government, "desiring to establish control over the postal revenues of the Grecian territory occupied by its army in Thessaly, intends to issue a set of special stamps to be employed exclusively by the Post Offices in Thessaly." The stamps will be octagonal in shape, and comprise a view of the town of Larissa, from which the Greek army scamped in such hot haste, and bear the inscription in Turkish, "Posts of the Ottoman Empire. Special for Thessaly conquered territories." The set will consist of five values, 10 and 20 paras, and 1, 2, and 5 piastres.

Some say these stamps are only to be in issue for a few days, in which case they may safely be relegated to the rubbish heap, but others assert that they are for general issue.

**United States.**—From Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. we have the 5 c. value changed from brown to blue. This completes the changes of U.S. colours agreed to at the recent Postal Union Congress. Thus we have 1 c., green, 2 c., red, and 5 c., blue.

*Adhesives.*

5 cents, blue.

Mr. P. M. Wolsiefer reports to the *Metro-politan Philatelist* that in looking over about twenty sheets of the new 1 c., green, he found fifteen of them to be wove paper, and five a very distinct laid paper. He selected two sheets of the same plate number (537), and kept a sample of it, wove and laid. The laid lines show up very coarse and plain.

## Our Monthly Packets of New Issues.

No. 1, price One Shilling (postage extra). The May Packet contains 14 varieties all unused, viz.: Cuba, 1898, 1, 2, 3, and 5 m.; Porto Rico, 1898, 1, 2, 3, and 5 m.; Philippines, 1898, 1 and 2 m.; Acores, 1898, 2½ and 5 r.; Niger Coast, ½d., CA; Spain, 1898, War Tax, 5 c.

No. 2, price Five Shillings (postage extra). The May Packet contains 12 varieties, viz.: New Portugal, complete set of 8; Niger Coast, CA, 2d. and 2½d., etc.

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

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





## Trinidad Columbian Rubbish.

THE *Monthly Journal* quotes the following correspondence from the *Port of Spain Gazette* of March 1st, and Major Evans adds: "Sir Hubert Jerningham has evidently yielded to local pressure in this matter, or we should not see a member of the London Philatelic Society at the head of such a questionable scheme."

"[Copy.—No. 463.]

"ON THE 400TH ANNIVERSARY.

"THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY-OF-STATE.

"GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

"22nd December, 1897.

"SIR,—The 31st July, 1898, will be memorable in the annals of Trinidad on account of its being the 400th anniversary of its discovery by Columbus. On that day, in the year 1498, he sighted the Trinity Peaks on the south coast of Trinidad, and at the same time first saw the mainland of the Western Hemisphere.

"2. It is my intention to celebrate this remarkable event during the visit of the North American and West Indian Squadron in February next, on which subject I shall address you in a separate dispatch; but I desire to have a lasting memorial in the issue of a commemorative stamp, in which desire my Executive Council concurs.

"3. The postage for letters between all parts of Her Majesty's Empire is about to be reduced to twopence, so that a new stamp of that value will be required, and I think this new twopence stamp might well be made commemorative of Columbus' discovery of Trinidad.

"4. I propose that 500,000 of this stamp should be sold to the public, after which a 2d. stamp of the ordinary Trinidad pattern will be issued. This commemorative stamp will be used for postage purposes only, so that it may be printed in any colour and of any size. All details I leave to the good taste of the Crown Agents and Messrs. De La Rue and Co.; but I enclose a photograph of a stained glass window which is in the Council Chamber here, the design of which I should wish, if possible, adapted to the purpose. The artist would probably reduce the number of figures and otherwise alter the picture; but I would like the stamp in its main points to follow the design in the window.

"5. It is absolutely necessary that the issue should be in Trinidad by June, 1898, so as to be issued on the 31st July.

"6. I may mention that the proposed celebration and the commemorative stamp is exciting considerable interest; and I beg that

should you approve the proposal, as I sincerely trust you may, the Crown Agents will be at once instructed to take the necessary steps to give it effect.

"I have, etc.,  
(Signed) "HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM,  
"Governor."

"[Copy. Trinidad.—No. 20.]

"THE SECRETARY-OF-STATE TO THE GOVERNOR.

"DOWNING STREET,

"25th January, 1898.

"SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch No. 463 of the 22nd December, respecting a proposed issue of stamps to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the discovery of Trinidad by Columbus.

"Nothing is settled yet with regard to the reduction of the Postal Union unit-rate of postage within the British Empire; but I have not thought it necessary on that account to delay the proposed special issue of 500,000 twopenny stamps to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the discovery of the island. The Crown Agents have accordingly been authorised to comply with your requisition with as little delay as possible.

"I have, etc.,  
(Signed) "J. CHAMBERLAIN."

Such scandalous and pettifogging speculation is unworthy of a British colony, and we are surprised that Mr. Chamberlain has sanctioned it. The desire "to celebrate," of course, is pure unadulterated cant—a paltry and thin excuse.

## Griqualand Reminders.

WE should like to know how far the following statement from the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* is correct:—

"Very few collectors are aware that the 4d., blue, small 'G,' surcharged on the Cape stamps, has been duly issued as a Cape stamp, and exists with postmarks 'Cape Town' and 'Port Elizabeth.' This is accounted for by the fact that when Griqualand West ceased to be administered as a separate colony, but came under the direct control of the Cape Colony, several sheets of the 4d. small 'G' remained in the Post Office, Kimberley, for a number of years, when they were forwarded to the Post Offices at Cape Town and Port Elizabeth for indiscriminate use as Cape stamps. They were used as such from about the month of November, 1889, onwards."

After the style of "Colonial English," these Griquas must be Cape-Griqualand-Capes.

### Railway Fee Stamps.

MAJOR EVANS has plumped for regarding these stamps as postage stamps. In the March number of the *Monthly Journal* he writes :

“The stamps in question are essentially a class by themselves, we know of no other labels of a precisely similar nature ; but that they are postage stamps of some kind we think there can be no doubt. This is also the contention of the editor of *Alfred Smith & Son's Monthly Circular*, who seems to prove his case most conclusively. The theory of the other side appears to be this : The Post Office has the monopoly of the conveyance of letters. There are certain cases, however, in which letters can be conveyed direct by train more expeditiously, or at more frequent intervals, than under the ordinary postal arrangements. To allow the public to avail itself of such means the Post Office permits Railway Companies to convey these letters, upon the condition that the ordinary postage is paid upon them in addition to the railway charge. But this theory is not the correct one. The letters are, as stated upon the stamps themselves, ‘Post Office Letters,’ and the charge for their conveyance is imposed by the Post Office, not by the Railway Companies. That charge is 3d. for each letter, and it is collected by means of two different stamps, because that is the simplest method of dividing the charge between the Post Office and the Company concerned, and avoids all necessity for keeping accounts of the letters transmitted. The Postal Regulations state distinctly that—‘Letters transmitted under the arrangements just described will be deemed to be in all respects letters sent by post. The Railway Companies, in carrying such letters, will act and will be deemed to act solely as agents, and at the sole risk and responsibility of the Postmaster-General.’ This shows beyond all possibility of doubt that the service is a postal one ; the charge is entirely regulated by the Post Office, and, we believe, the design of the stamps was prescribed to some extent by the department. Under these circumstances, it appears to us that these are certainly Post Office stamps of a special nature (as are those impressed upon registration envelopes), and that, inasmuch as they frank letters, they are more entitled to be termed *postage* stamps than are those impressed stamps.”

### Canadian Jubilees and the S.S.S.S.

THE *Monthly Journal* publishes a long rignarole from Mr. Donald A. King in defence of the Canadian Jubilee issues, but it will convince no sane collector that the Canadian Government had any other motive in making the issue than that of pettifogging speculation, pure and simple. Major Evans echoes the opinion of stamp collectors on this side in the following note which he appends to Mr. King's defence :—

“Our own humble opinion is that so-called *postage* stamps, the sale of which required all

this circularizing and regulation, are self-condemned, and that the action of the S.S.S.S. is fully justified. The proper business of a Post Office Department is not to celebrate Jubilees, but to carry letters and sell postage stamps in unlimited quantities to everyone who asks for them. The whole of the above account shows what trouble ensues when the department goes outside its legitimate business, and endeavours to add to its revenues by catering for collectors. Every case of this kind should be, and, we trust, will be, promptly condemned by the S.S.S.S. The action of that Society can have no effect upon Canada or its Government. It is the action of the Canadian Post Office Department that has brought discredit upon the colony.”

### Chili : Unpaid.

A CHILIAN correspondent of the Argentine *Revista* notes varieties in the unpaid stamps of Chili. He says in the issue (1st January, 1895) the paper is somewhat dark in colour and the perforation 11½. This issue consisted of twelve values, all printed on the same sheet. The second issue (1897) comprises only seven values, the higher values being omitted. The paper is somewhat paler, and the perforation is 13½. The values of this second issue are distributed on the plate as shown in the following diagram :

CENTAVOS.

1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20

### Canadians : More Changes.

ACCORDING to the *Metropolitan Philatelist* (U.S.) the new series is to be re-engraved, with alterations. Our contemporary says :

“Much dissatisfaction is expressed by the French-speaking inhabitants of the rural parts at the lack of figures of value on the stamps, the denomination in all cases being printed in English, which they are unable to understand. It has, therefore, been decided to alter the new stamps by removing the maple leaves from the lower corners, and inserting large numerals of value in their place. The space occupied by the head will also be somewhat enlarged, and the value will be placed on a straight band below.”



## Brazilian Postal Speculation.

THE Brazilian Postal Department evidently intends to turn stamp dealer on its own account. We quote from the *American Journal of Philately*:

"Some time ago, the Government of Brazil decided to dispose of its remainders of old issues by selling them to all comers at face value. They adhered to this practice for some months, but, as we are now informed, they have discontinued it, with the idea that they could derive a great deal more money out of the sale of their stamps by handling them in a different manner.

"The Minister of Commerce conceived the idea that a great deal of money might be made out of the old stamps by selling them to collectors at catalogue price, and the Congress at its recent session authorized the minister to adopt this method. No catalogue has been mentioned as a basis, but, no matter which one may be selected, we scarcely think that the returns to the Brazilian treasury will be very great for some years to come.

"We understand from some of the journals published in Brazil that about one-tenth of the stock on hand was sold at face value during the past year, this amounting to quite a sum, as the face value of the entire lot was 1,869,000 milreis, or about \$350,000 in American money."

## U.S. Bisected.

MR. LUFF, in the *American Journal of Philately*, gives the following explanation of the bisected U.S. three cents stamps:—

"The split three cents is an interesting variety. All the copies which are known of this provisional were used by Frank J. Bramhall, Assistant Assessor of the Sixth Division of the Sixth District of Virginia, in mailing, to residents of that division, blank forms for statements of the amount of their income and personal property liable to taxation. These forms were merely folded, endorsed with the name and address of the taxpayer, the date, and the name and office of the official mailing them. Such documents would be carried in the mails as printed matter at the rate of two cents each. Apparently there was a scarcity of two cent stamps, and to overcome the difficulty three cents stamps were bisected. On some of the documents two-thirds of one stamp were used, and on others a third from two different stamps. It is said that several hundred of these provisionals were used, but the finder destroyed the philatelic value of the greater part of them by removing the stamps from the documents. The only copy available at this writing is dated April 2nd, 1870."

## Ionian Islands Stamps.

LAST October (vol. xix., p. 268) we quoted from the *Moniteur du Collectionneur* an article on the stamps of the Ionian Islands. We therefore now quote from the *Monthly Journal* the following criticism of that article:—

"Another curiosity is an article upon the stamps of the Ionian Islands, which has travelled from magazine to magazine. First and foremost we are told of *three plates* being employed, which is ridiculous on the face of it; the stamps having no indication of any value, and differing from one another only in colour, and were of course all printed from the same plate. These plates are stated to have consisted of 150 impressions each; as a matter of fact, the sheets contain 120 stamps only. Full details are given of two distinct printings, differing from one another both in the paper and in the colour of the impression of the two higher values, upon what authority is not stated; but when we find that the 4 oboli stamp of the second edition is stated to have been in *vermilion*, and that some 25,000 copies of the *orange* stamp of that edition were printed upon paper watermarked with the figure '2,' we can only conclude that the writer was drawing upon a too fertile imagination. Finally, we read that in addition to the two printings alluded to above there are 'numerous *reprints*, which it is easy to distinguish from the originals by the tint, which is dull in the re-impressions.' It is curious that none of the recognised authorities upon reprints have ever heard of these. There used to be a tradition that the *blue* stamp existed with the wmk. '1,' but that seems to have been given up, and the *yellow* with the wmk. '2' has never been heard of before—perhaps it is a *reprint*!

"We have examined an entire sheet of the *carmine* stamps in our publishers' stock, and it may be of interest to give a detailed description of it here:—The sheet consists of 120 stamps, in 10 horizontal rows of 12, in one pane measuring 241 × 237½ mm. The wmk. are arranged for this number, so that one figure shows in each stamp, the sheet examined measuring 269 × 262 mm., having the deckle edges all round and no wmk. in the margins. The impressions are very irregularly placed, but there is uniformly a wider space between the horizontal rows than between the stamps in those rows—so that the appearance is that of horizontal *rows*, not vertical. There are several instances in which two stamps are so close together (side by side) that the space between them is filled with colour, the surface of the plate being no doubt cracked or roughened by the impressions being set too close. The three stamps at the right of each horizontal row are on a higher level than the rest, giving somewhat the appearance of a block of ten rows of nine stamps in a row, with a similar block of three in a row joined on to it."





## London Philatelic Exhibition, 1897.

### BALANCE SHEET.

THE Committee of the London Philatelic Exhibition, 1897, has issued the following final and very satisfactory balance sheet:—

<i>Cr.</i>		£	s.	d.
By Donations . . . . .		144	4	6
„ Rent of Stalls from Dealers . . . . .		425	0	0
„ Exhibitors' Rent of Cases and Insurance, &c. . . . .		273	8	10
„ Advertisements in Catalogue . . . . .		187	17	5
„ Sale of Catalogues . . . . .		49	5	3
„ Medals presented . . . . .		50	17	9
„ Admissions and Season Tickets . . . . .		208	14	6
„ Commission on Sales . . . . .		9	8	0
		<u>£1348</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>3</u>

<i>Dr.</i>		£	s.	d.
To Show Cases, Boards, Stalls, and Fittings . . . . .		449	9	8
„ Entertainments . . . . .		41	7	8
„ Insurance . . . . .		120	0	0
„ Cost of Catalogue . . . . .		135	19	9
„ Medals . . . . .		123	1	8
„ Various Incidentals . . . . .		131	6	4
„ Printing, Stationery, and Advertising . . . . .		109	8	1
„ Rent and Lighting . . . . .		124	9	9
„ Honorarium to Secretary . . . . .		105	0	0
„ Accountant's Fees . . . . .		6	6	3
„ Treasurer's Petty Disbursements . . . . .		2	7	1
		<u>£1348</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>3</u>

## Stanley Gibbons, Ltd.

### NEW COMPANY.

THE following is a copy of the circular issued by Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., to those who applied for shares in the proposed new company, and explains the reason why the promoters did not go to allotment:—

“391, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.,  
“March 31st, 1898.

“DEAR SIR OR MADAM,

“The objects for which the new company was incorporated not having been entirely fulfilled, the amounts subscribed have been returned.

“In response to the prospectus a very large sum was subscribed (from many hundreds of applicants), but the directors of the company refused to allot unless the new feature embodied in the prospectus was fully attained—viz., the provision of a large working capital

for the extension of the business, in addition to the discharge of all liabilities, and an adequate cash payment to the vendor.

“The wide publicity given to our firm has already resulted in a great increase of business, and we take this opportunity of tendering our thanks to the large number of customers and friends who have evinced their confidence in the business of Stanley Gibbons, Limited, which will of course continue to be conducted as heretofore.

“We are,  
“Yours faithfully,  
“STANLEY GIBBONS, LTD.”

## Postal Matters in Parliament.

### RAILWAY LETTERS.

MR. HENNIKER HEATON (Canterbury), on April 18th, 1898, asked the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether he was aware that quite recently a gentleman residing at Aldershot, who was not allowed to post a letter with a foreign address on it in the train leaving that town, was compelled to take the train to London in order to get his letter conveyed by the Continental mail; and whether he would order that all letters without exception should be accepted for transmission as railway letters.

Mr. Hanbury (Preston):—

“A letter addressed to a foreign country or to a colony or British possession cannot at present be transmitted as a railway letter. The arrangement with the railway companies applies only to letters addressed to places within the United Kingdom. Foreign and colonial letters have hitherto been excluded from it from the necessity of devising regulations, which can be worked by railway booking clerks with the least risk of error, and with the least interruption to their ordinary duties. For the same reason inland letters, other than those transmissible at the initial rate of postage, are not accepted as railway letters. The consent of the railway companies would have to be obtained before an extension of the arrangement to foreign and colonial letters could take place, and though the Postmaster-General is not at this moment prepared to promise that all letters without exception shall be accepted for transmission as railway letters, he will consider the suggestion of the hon. member. The Postmaster-General's attention had not previously been directed to the case of the gentleman at Aldershot, who had to make the journey to London to post a letter for the Continental mail.”

### PARCELS AND RAILWAY CHARGES.

Mr. Henniker Heaton (Canterbury) on the 25th April, 1898, asked the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether, in the financial year 1896-97, out of a total sum of £1,324,000 received for postage of parcels, £630,000 was the net receipts by the British Post Office, while £694,000, or 55 per cent., was paid over to the railway companies; when and by whom the contracts binding the department to pay this proportion of receipts to the companies were entered into, and when they would expire; and whether he could estimate the sum annually thus paid over and above the sum which would be payable if the department had to pay only the ordinary rates charged to private persons for the conveyance of goods by rail.

Mr. Hanbury (Preston):—

“The amount received from the parcel post during 1896-97 was £1,445,126, not £1,324,000. Of this sum the railway companies received £681,819, not £694,000; and the net receipt by the Post Office was £763,307, not £630,000. The railway companies are paid 55 per cent. on railway-borne parcels only, and not on all parcels, as the question implies. There are no contracts binding the department with the railways in respect of the parcel post. The arrangement was made by Parliament under the Post Office (Parcels) Act, 1882, and lasts till 1904. It is impossible to give the estimate asked for in the third paragraph of the hon. member’s question, because the Post Office charges uniform rates for all distances, and pays the companies 55 per cent. of that charge for parcels carried by them, whereas for the conveyance of parcels by rail private persons have to pay rates varying according to distance.”

### New Zealand: New Issue.

The following circular has been issued from the office of the Agent-General in London:—

“WESTMINSTER CHAMBERS,  
“13, VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, S.W.  
“and April, 1898.

#### “NEW ZEALAND POSTAGE AND REVENUE STAMPS.

##### “NEW ISSUE.

“The above-mentioned stamps, consisting of ½d., 1d., 2d., 2½d., 3d., 4d., 5d., 6d., 8d., 9d., 1s., 2s., and 5s. values, will be on sale at face value at this office on and after the 5th instant. The 1d. stamps are in sheets of 80, and the 5s. in sheets of 60; all the others are in sheets of 120. Dealers taking stamps of a face value of not less than £5 will be allowed 2 per cent. off. Cash payments required before any stamps can be delivered or forwarded. Stamps can only be forwarded by post at the request of the purchaser and solely at his risk. Specimens can be seen at this office. The stamps will be sold in sets containing one of each

value. Orders for a less quantity cannot be executed. Sets will not be broken except when orders are for £5 and over. Applications will be attended to in order of receipt, but as the present supply is limited, no assurance can be given that the stamps required will be delivered or forwarded immediately on receipt of application. The right is reserved, in case the supply is insufficient, to cancel any order, and the amount remitted in such cases will be returned. It is suggested that any cheques or post office orders sent by way of remittance be made payable to the order of the Agent-General for New Zealand. All orders should be addressed to the Agent-General for New Zealand, New Zealand Government Office, 13, Victoria Street, London, S.W.”

### “Welly Much Smiley.”

MR. EDMUND L. SMILEY in his “Talk about New Issues,” in the *Boston Stamp Book*, has the following amusingly ignorant par:—

“There has been a general wail among our British brethren about the recent issue, on the part of the German Government, of the ‘China’ surcharges which I chronicled last month. It seems that our English friends, after their recent capture of Port Arthur, have taken it into their heads that they *own* China, and have deemed it a national insult to Great Britain for the Kaiser to issue the stamps in question. It is probably only a question of time with our English brethren when, by the dexterous use of their famous Bible and sword, they will vindicate their rights, and shut the Kaiser out into the cold, cold world.”

It will seem strange to philatelists on this side that such a respectable paper as the *Boston Stamp Book* should publish such asinine twaddle. Surely Mr. John Luther Kilbon, the editor, must have taken a holiday. Our Russian friends will “welly much smiley” when they read that Great Britain has captured Port Arthur.

### More Railway Stamps.

THE London and North Western Railway Company are introducing a new arrangement in dealing with the payment for carriage of parcels by passenger train to stations on their line, whereby the public are enabled to prepay the charge through to destination by means of stamps, which are to be affixed to the parcels. These stamps can be obtained in any quantities of the value of 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 6d., 9d., and 1s. at the company’s stations or town receiving offices.

The company are also adopting from May 1st a reduced scale of rates for the conveyance of parcels by passenger train, by which the charges for the conveyance of parcels for short distances are lower than those by parcel post, and in the case of longer distances the rates by parcel post will not be exceeded.

# The Philatelic Record

AND STAMP NEWS.

JUNE, 1898.

## Editorial Notes.



R. BACON contributes to the April number of the *London Philatelist* a criticism of a paper recently read before the London Philatelic Society. In an introductory note he writes:—

**Society Papers  
and  
Discussions.** “It seems a pity that in the very few cases where strong dissent is expressed by members after the reading of a paper, a note to this effect is not appended to the paper on its publication in the *London Philatelist*, as otherwise it goes forth to the Philatelic world with all the *éclat* of a paper read before the London Philatelic Society, and it appears as if it had been received by the members without a word of adverse criticism.”

To this Mr. Castle replies in a footnote:—

“We welcome Mr. Bacon’s criticism, but we consider that the proper place for remarks or discussions made upon papers during reading at the meetings of the London Philatelic Society is in the minutes. With the author’s consent such papers appear in the *London Philatelist*, and after their insertion, we apprehend, comes the time for comment and criticism—the course that Mr. Bacon has himself pursued.”

We are somewhat surprised that Mr. Castle should favour such a lame proceeding.

In the journals of our learned societies the discussions which follow the reading of the papers are carefully reported, mostly, of course, in a more or less condensed form; and, in the case of the London Philatelic Society, only those regularly attending the meetings can realize how great is the loss to absent members of the unreported discussions. Generally speaking, of course, even in the premier Society, the member who reads a paper is a specialist, and therefore an authority beyond the reach of ordinary criticism. But there are in the London Philatelic Society many specialists of most countries. Hence there are not infrequently most valuable discussions, in which points of difference are thrashed out in a very thorough manner.

An ordinary common garden variety of an editor would seize upon these discussions as tip-top “copy,” and we have no hesitation in saying, of our own knowledge, that “wrinkles” abound in most of the discussions in the meetings



of the London Philatelic Society, and not unnaturally so, for the men who engage in them are the leading specialists of the day.

Why, then, should all this valuable matter be wasted, or relegated to a back seat in an attenuated form as a brief note in the formal minutes of the Society? In those barren years when the premier Society produces no work to gladden the hearts of its members as evidence that their membership fee yields them twenty shillings to the pound sterling, the addition of the discussions to the papers read might afford some consolation to country members who are unable to be present at the meetings in London.

If trouble or expense stand in the way, then we will gladly remove those obstacles by offering to report the said discussions free for our own pages, and subsequently transfer the valuable copyright in the right of reproduction to the official organ, stipulating only that the source of supply be duly and prominently quoted in the said official organ.

\* \* \*

**St. Helena Stamp Speculations.** ACCORDING to the Manchester *Evening Mail*, St. Helena seems to have succeeded in milking stamp collectors. We quote:—

“The people who laugh at philately as a silly craze forget that it has its uses. Take the case of the isle of St. Helena, which manages to keep its finances straight simply by the sale of old stamps. The Governor, in his last report, says that a much-needed waterworks scheme is to be carried out from the proceeds of the sale of a number of old issues. The island every year plumps upon the philatelic markets of Europe such quantities of these old stamps, that suspicious people are beginning to wonder when the stock will be exhausted. It would, at any rate, be satisfactory to collectors were they to receive the official assurance that the plates had been destroyed.”

Collectors are not likely to receive any such assurance as the destruction of the plates of this or any other issue being printed for sale to them, until they work together for putting an end to all postal speculation.

\* \* \*

**Prospects of the S.S.S.S. Movement.** THERE is no use in disguising the fact that the S.S.S.S. movement is in jeopardy. The attempt to get collectors and dealers to work together utterly failed, because the bird in the hand seemed to be worth a dozen of those in the bush. Hence the dealer quickly returned to the pleasantries of immediate profits. Posterity and the future of stamp collecting might hang themselves, so far as he was concerned. Then the collector tried to run the business alone, and already the reconstructed society seems to have lost the power even to swear at the speculatives as they come and go.

Must we erect a tombstone to the memory of the effort to revive a worthy movement, and place upon it the ominous letters “R.I.P.,” and pass on?

Some day, when the unchecked flood of swindling issues chokes every avenue of legitimate trade, the dealers of to-day will, perhaps, wish they had been more conservative in their views and in their dealings.

The leading collectors, who have headed the movement from the first, can well afford to admit that they were before their time in their effort to save stamp collectors from those who would fatten upon their ignorance and their simplicity.

In the sweet by-and-by even the simplest simpleton of a stamp collector will be able to gather, from the experience of those around him, that there is a vast difference from every point of view—and especially from the *£ s. d.* point of view—between collecting pretty labels, made to gather in fool's pence, and collecting genuine postal issues.

\* \* \*

**Australian Federation:** EVERYTHING that affects the question of Australian Federation affects philatelists, for should the Australian colonies agree to federate with one series of stamps common to all, the event will naturally be a far-reaching one philatelically. The latest news concerning the progress of the movement comes to us in the shape of an editorial in the pages of our excellent little contemporary, the *Australian Philatelist*. The editor says:—

“The deliberations of the Federal Convention have again come to a conclusion, and the Constitution Bill is now ready for submission to the electors of the various colonies. It appears still doubtful whether all five of the deliberating colonies will accept the proposed constitution, although three at least—New South Wales, South Australia, and Tasmania—seem quite contented with its provisions. However, time will show, and we sincerely trust, if only in the interests of philately, that the commonwealth of Australia will be *un fait accompli* by the end of 1898.”

\* \* \*

**Philatelic Humour:** MR. WALTER A. HULL, the Secretary of the Sydney Philatelic Club, seems recently to have gone into training as a philatelic humourist. Here are a few samples of the latest from his good-humoured pen, as contributed to the *Australian Philatelist*:—

“The human race will always collect; it is inherent in them—Noah collected a menagerie.

“In after years men collected soldiers, and, attacking their neighbours, perforated them with arrows or surcharged them with a club.

“Many of the early arrivals in this colony were collectors—they collected other people's property, and were in turn collected by the police.

“They all collect—girls, matrons, youths, men, and grey-haired sires; and all except the last revel in the fact. *They* say that they are collecting for their boys, but we all know what that means.”

\* \* \*

**Philately in Sydney.** PHILATELY does not appear to thrive much in Sydney, for recently a special meeting of the Sydney Philatelic Club was called to consider the following motions:—

“1. That, owing to the difficulty in obtaining a quorum for the monthly general meetings, it is advisable to alter the constitution and rules of the club in such a manner as to resolve it into an exchange club, holding quarterly meetings for the purpose of discussing philatelic subjects and the-exchange of stamps.

“2. That, taking into consideration the little use made of the library, and the heavy expense of its maintenance, the committee be empowered to dispose of it to the members by auction or otherwise, the proceeds to be devoted to furthering the other objects of the club.”

Fortunately, we trust, neither was fully adopted. It was resolved to hold quarterly meetings, and the library is to be retained. Better times, we hope, will yet come to the Sydney Philatelic Club.

\* \* \*

**United States**      SOME time ago the United States postal authorities conceived  
**Periodical**      the peculiar idea of seizing and confiscating all copies of the  
**Seizure.**          periodical stamps, whenever found in the possession of private  
parties, on the ground that those stamps were never sold to the  
public, and therefore presumably must have been obtained in some irregular  
manner. If the authorities had succeeded in their view of matters, no collection  
of U.S. stamps in the States would have been safe from seizure and confis-  
cation.

Fortunately we are enabled to congratulate our fellow-collectors across the sea upon having defeated this idiotic official action. A test case has been raised by seizing some periodical stamps in the possession of Mr. Walter S. Scott, and the action was tried in New York, before Mr. Justice Lacombe and a jury, on the 14th and 15th April, 1898.

In rendering his opinion on the questions of law involved, Judge Lacombe held as follows :—

“1. That newspaper and periodical stamps issued prior to 1874 are presumed to have been lawfully acquired, whether cancelled or uncanceled; and that plaintiff had therefore, very properly, abandoned its claim to possession of these varieties.

“2. That the Government cannot repudiate the sales of ‘reprints’ or ‘specimens’ made by the Third Assistant Postmaster-General. (a) Because there was no law prohibiting such sales; (b) because the Government received and retained the purchase money, and thus waived all irregularities and ratified the sale.

“3. That foreign Governments, members of the ‘Postal Union,’ who have received postage stamps of our Government, in accordance with the terms of the Postal Convention, may sell or give away such stamps to private individuals. Accordingly, the possession of such stamps by dealers and collectors is not presumptive evidence of wrongful acquisition.

“4. That the possession of newspaper and periodical stamps, which bear apparent marks of cancellation, is not presumably unlawful. The simulation of an official cancellation is a simple matter, and, however immoral, is not prohibited by statute. Every man is entitled to the presumption of innocence. Accordingly, if purchase of a cancelled stamp from an officer of the Government is unlawful, then the mere possession of a stamp with apparent cancellation marks must be treated, *prima facie*, as evidence that the marks were imposed by private act and not officially.”





# New Zealand: New Issue, 1898.

By THE EDITOR.

**F**EW, if any, new issues of postage stamps of recent years have created so much genuine philatelic interest as the handsome pictorial series of this year, issued by the colony of New Zealand. For months in advance our curiosity has been excited by announcements that an exceptionally artistic set was in course of preparation, and when it became known that the stamps would be engraved and printed by Messrs. Waterlow, we were naturally on the tip-toe of anticipation. The actual result, as a whole, has fully borne out the general expectation. The series is the most handsome and varied of all the genuine postal issues ever sent out by an English colony, and philatelists can accord it a full and generous welcome, if only for the reason that it is a permanent issue, that it supersedes the preceding issue, and that it is not a commemorative issue made purely for sale to collectors. There is no denying the fact that stamp collectors like pretty stamps—they do; but they very naturally object to pretty labels that do not represent postal needs.

New Zealand is fully justified in the adoption of this beautiful issue, and even if underlying it there is the commercial instinct of a desire to use an issue of postage stamps for the purpose of advertising the colony to the world, it is a most creditable one from every point of view. New Zealand is blessed with a splendid climate and glorious scenery, and much of its future will depend upon the world-wide spread of a knowledge of these facts. Hence it has done well to utilize the correspondence of its people with the outside world for the wider advertisement of its great natural advantages as a colony. Who can inspect these postage stamps, with their exquisite miniature views of lake, mountain, and coast scenery, without being strongly tempted to read further—to know something more of the land that can furnish such lovely bits for the display of the engraver's art as are to be found in Lakes Tango and Ruapehu on the 1d., Lake Wakatipu on the 2½d., Otirâ Gorge on the 5d., Milford Sound on the 2s., and Mount Cook on the 5s.?

From an exclusively philatelic point of view, the series cannot fail to be increasingly full of interest. The engraving represents the high-water mark of the most renowned firm of English engravers. The first supply has been printed by the engravers themselves, after which we shall get the work of the colonial printers, for the plates have been already despatched to the colony; and we need hardly say that, from past experience in the change of printers from the engravers to local workmen, philatelists anticipate the usual crop of interesting varieties—in shade, in paper, in perforation, and in general workmanship. Naturally, such fine engravings, requiring even the most careful manipulation at the hands of English experts, must sorely test the colonial printer, handicapped as he probably will be by inferior facilities in the matter of practical training, machinery, paper, and ink. Hence stamp collectors, who have wisely secured a set of the Waterlow printings, will anticipate with no ordinary interest the differences that will distinguish the London from the colonial printing of these beautiful stamps.

Of course, it would be strange if, in a series of thirteen stamps of such variety of design, all escaped criticism. Most people will be more or less disappointed with the 2d., 4d., and 8d., as being so very much below the others

from an artistic point of view. The 3d. and 1s., with their pairs of native birds, are very pretty; but from a letter recently received from Mr. L. A. Sanderson, the Hon. Secretary-Treasurer of the Philatelic Society of New Zealand, we gather that our friends in the colony "generally are not pleased with the designs, taking them as a whole." "For instance," he adds, "the ½d. and 4d. colours are too weak." Chiefly, however, exception seems to be taken to the selection of the designs because they include two Mount Cooks, two Rotomahana Terraces, and two Milford Sounds. If New Zealanders are ambitious to have a grand artistic series throughout, all equal to the 5d. and 5s., they have only to give Messrs. Waterlow a little more scope and plenty of scenery to choose from, and the weak ones of the series can be readily replaced with something more stately and artistic. From an advertising point of view it certainly is a pity that the 5d. is not the 2½d. The design of the 2½d. is very pretty, but it is not so striking as the 5d.

Already we have a genuine and certainly unintentional *error*. In the 2½d. the word "Wakatipu" was misspelt "Wakitipu." A supply had already been printed off before the *error* was detected, and this supply with the *error* has apparently been sent to the colony, for we hear of no *errors* in the stocks in this country—all we have heard of have come from the colonial supply. As soon as the *error* was discovered a new plate was engraved, and English dealers and collectors have evidently been supplied with printings from the re-engraved plate. In remedying the *error* the engravers have further altered the design in its details. The words "Mt. Earnslaw" have disappeared from the base of the design, and the words "Postage and Revenue" have taken their place; and these words "Postage and Revenue" have therefore been removed from the sky-line, greatly to the improvement of the stamp. Fortunately there seems to be a plentiful supply, so that stamp collectors will be able to secure this interesting *error* at a very nominal figure, if they secure it while it is plentiful, and before it is more or less absorbed, as it will be, into dealers' stocks throughout the world.

There is little as yet to be noted in the way of shades. Engravers do not often make noticeable shades in the straightforward printing of a first supply; but there have evidently been two printings, intentionally different, of the 5d.; one is a dark brown and the other is a brown-lake. The dark brown comes from the home supply, and the brown-lake from the supply sent out to the colony.

Varieties of perforation are plentiful, for perforation is Messrs. Waterlow's one weak point. None of their machines—and they evidently have several—cut such a clear, regular series of holes as the De La Rue machines. Nothing could exceed the clean-cut regularity of the De La Rue perforations. De La Rue stamps can be separated rapidly and even roughly without detracting from the effect of the design in the separated stamp. The Waterlow perforations, on the other hand, are so irregular, that even a carefully-separated stamp is considerably marred by the ragged, irregular edge that bad perforation leaves around the design; and this, in stamps of great artistic merit, such as several of these New Zealand stamps, is a defect that the great firm, whose work is so rapidly and deservedly growing in favour in stamp circles all over the postal world, should certainly set itself to remedy without delay.

The official statement, adopting, strange to say, philatelic phraseology, states that the stamps are perforated 14 to 15. As a matter of fact, the perforations run from 13½ to 16, and within those measurements are numerous combinations, or compound perforations. Apparently a value was partly perforated on one machine and finished off on another; and as the machines are evidently line-machines, we sometimes get a stamp perforated 14½ × 15, and also 15 × 14½. We append a list of the perforations which we have met with thus far, including those given in the *Monthly Journal*.

## VARIETIES OF PERFORATION.

- $\frac{1}{2}$ d., lilac-brown, 16, 15,  $14\frac{1}{2}$ .  
 1d., light brown, blue centre, 16, 15,  $15 \times 14$ ,  $15 \times 14\frac{1}{2}$ .  
 2d., claret,  $16 \times 15\frac{1}{2}$ , 15,  $15 \times 14\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $14\frac{1}{2}$ .  
 $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., Antwerp blue, 15,  $14\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $14\frac{1}{2} \times 15$ , 14.  
 3d., light brown,  $15\frac{1}{2}$ , 15.  
 4d., rose-lake, 15, 14.  
 5d., dark brown, 15,  $15 \times 14\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $14\frac{1}{2}$ .  
 5d., brown-lake, 15,  $14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ .  
 6d., sap-green, 15,  $15 \times 14\frac{1}{2}$ , 14.  
 8d., steel-blue,  $15 \times 14\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $14\frac{1}{2}$ .  
 9d., lilac, 14,  $14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$ .  
 1s., orange-red, 15,  $15 \times 14\frac{1}{2}$ .  
 2s., blue-green, 15,  $15 \times 14\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $14\frac{1}{2}$ .  
 5s., 15,  $15 \times 14\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $14\frac{1}{2} \times 15$ .

To complete the history of this issue up to date, we append, as being valuable for future reference, the official detailed description of the series, given in the *New Zealand Gazette* of 7th April, 1898. For our copy of the *New Zealand Gazette* we are indebted to Mr. L. A. Sanderson.

It will be noted that the *Gazette* fixes the date of the issue as the 5th April, 1898.

## “THE STAMP ACT, 1882.”—NEW ISSUE OF STAMPS.

“HEAD OFFICE, STAMP DEPARTMENT,

“WELLINGTON, 2nd April, 1898.

“It is hereby notified that on the 5th instant new postage and revenue stamps, of the values of  $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., 2d.,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., 3d., 4d., 5d., 6d., 8d., 9d., 1s., 2s., and 5s. respectively, will be issued.

“The following are the designs and colours of the stamps of the new issue:—

“*One Halfpenny (Lilac-brown)*.—View of Mount Cook, in oval frame on shaded background, surmounted by curved inscription in white letters, ‘POSTAGE AND REVENUE,’ and at top, by label with ornamental border containing ‘NEW ZEALAND’ in coloured letters on white ground. Central design is flanked by sprays of ranunculus and celmisia, below which on each side are small oval labels surrounded by scrolls, and bearing figures of value on white ground, the value in words being in straight label at foot.

“*One Penny (Light Brown, with Blue Centre)*.—View of Lake Taupo, with Ruapehu in background, and cabbage-palm in left foreground, surrounded by semicircular labels containing ‘NEW ZEALAND’ in white letters on colour above, and ‘POSTAGE AND REVENUE’ in coloured letters below. Value in words in straight label at foot, broken at each lower corner by square containing figure of value. Ornamented spandrels.

“*Twopence (Wine-red or Claret)*.—View of Pembroke Peak, Milford Sound, surrounded by oval band with inscription in white, ‘NEW ZEALAND POSTAGE AND REVENUE.’ Figure of value at base of design, with ornaments on each side. Value in words at foot, in straight label, full width of stamp. Sides and top of stamp are enclosed by dotted border of Greek design, and ornamented spandrels.

“*Twopence-halfpenny (Antwerp Blue)*.—Oblong (horizontal). View of Mount Earnslaw and head of Lake Wakatipu, with *Phormium tenax*, toitoi, and



cabbage-palms in foreground. Inscription, 'NEW ZEALAND' in white, 'POSTAGE AND REVENUE' in colour, at top of stamp. Value in figures only, enclosed in scroll ornament springing from lower right-hand corner, and bearing name of locality (misspelt 'Wakitipu'). Name 'Mt. Earnslaw' in left-hand lower corner.

"*Threepence (Light Brown)*.—Central design, a pair of huia on branch, surrounded by a circular border, inscribed 'NEW ZEALAND POSTAGE AND REVENUE' in white letters on colour, and broken at lower corners by Egyptian ornamentation. Value in words at bottom, divided in centre by shield of solid colour, with figure '3' in white. Upper spandrels are filled in with similar labels, bearing figures of value placed obliquely.

"*Fourpence (Rose-lake)*.—View of White Terrace, Rotomahana, in oval dotted border, flanked by sprays of tataramoa, and broken at base on each side by bands containing inscription 'POSTAGE,' 'REVENUE.' Name of colony at top of stamp and value in words at foot in straight labels.

"*Fivepence (Brown-lake)*.—Oblong (vertical). View of Otira Gorge, with snow-peak in background. Name in lower right-hand corner; also small circular view of Mount Ruapehu, superimposed upon left foreground. Inscription 'NEW ZEALAND POSTAGE AND REVENUE' at top of stamp, and value in words at base in straight label.

"*Sixpence (Sap-green)*.—Representation of kiwi *regardant*, surmounted by semicircular band of solid colour, bearing words 'NEW ZEALAND' in white letters, and supported by oblique labels, 'POSTAGE,' 'REVENUE,' on left and right respectively. Value in words only at base of stamp in straight label. The corners of the design, which has a distinctive appearance resembling a horseshoe, are filled in with ornamental scroll-work on shaded ground.

"*Eightpence (Steel-blue)*.—Large outline figure '8,' supported by fern-trees and cabbage-palms on shaded background. Within the upper portion of the figure is an Imperial crown, and in the lower portion a view, with native war-canoe over the word 'PENCE' at base of figure. The lower corners of stamp contain circles with figures of value in white, the upper corners being bevelled and filled with scallop ornaments. The words 'NEW ZEALAND POSTAGE AND REVENUE' are inscribed upon the curves of the large figure which forms the central device.

"*Ninepence (Lilac)*.—Oblong (horizontal). View of Pink Terrace, Rotomahana, with tree-fern and nikau-palm at sides. The legend 'POSTAGE AND REVENUE' at base of picture. Value in white figures in coloured circles at each corner. 'NEW ZEALAND' in arched inscription above, and value in words below in straight label; both white letters on colour.

"*One Shilling (Orange-red)*.—Representation of pair of kakas on branch, in colour on white background within fancy frame, having arched label 'POSTAGE' above 'AND REVENUE' below. Name of colony at top of stamp and value in words at bottom in straight labels. Value in figures in circles at lower corners, above the bottom label.

"*Two Shillings (Blue-green)*.—Oblong (horizontal). View of Milford Sound in fancy frame, with title below in label, and clump of cabbage-palms on left-hand side above scrolled circle enclosing value in figures. The words 'NEW ZEALAND POSTAGE AND REVENUE' in white letters at top of stamp.

"*Five Shillings (Vermilion)*.—Oblong (vertical). View of Mount Cook, with name in white label below. Inscription 'NEW ZEALAND POSTAGE AND REVENUE' above, and value in words at foot; white letters on coloured ground.

"All the above stamps are printed on white wove unwatermarked paper, and perforate 14 to 15. The rectangular stamps measure about 18 mm. by 22 mm., and the oblong stamps 33 mm. by 20 mm., or, say,  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. by  $\frac{1}{8}$  in., and  $1\frac{5}{16}$  in. by  $\frac{1}{8}$  in.

"C. A. HICKSON, *Secretary for Stamps.*"

## Some Californian Locals.

BY THE LATE EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.



OUR publishers have recently come across an interesting old letter from Mr. Edward Pemberton offering a customer some Californian Locals at the prices that ruled in those days of twenty years ago. Pemberton's notes, even in this stray letter, show how thoroughly he studied his specimens. He was undoubtedly *facile princeps* as a specialist. Had he lived to our own day he would have been still in the prime of his manhood, for he was born in 1844, and died at the early age of thirty-four, in December, 1878. The first page of the very first number of the *Philatelic Record*, published in February, 1879, contained the notice of his death, and the following page was devoted to his biography. His well-known fondness for American Locals was possibly due to the fact that he was born in America.

We give the letter *in extenso*, with the detailed list of the stamps referred to, all of which is in Pemberton's handwriting.

MY DEAR SIR,

This morning I have received a few Cal. Locals and hasten to forward same to you. No doubt you have some—at least, I know you have—but I want you to exchange any better than your own, and to improve. Notice Pacific horseman are of two types—

1. Pacific Express.
2. Pacific Express Co.  
Die *a*, light shading.  
,, *b*, heavy ,,

I hope some may suit you. I wrote you Monday and Wednesday. I trust you are pleased with the periodicals.

Yours faithfully, EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

May 12th, 1876.

J. L. D. STEWART, ESQ.

Cal. Locals numbered—

	£	s.	d.
1. Tracy & Co., 1853, buff	1	0	0
2. J. Bamber's & Contra Costa Ex., in black, on '53, buff	0	10	0
3. Do. Do. Do. on '57	0	10	0
4. Pacific Express (not Exp. "C <sup>o</sup> "), on 1853, buff	0	10	6
5. Do. Do. Do. white	0	10	6
6. Pacific Ex. C <sup>o</sup> of a type new to me, horse, ground, etc., being heavily shaded	1	0	0
7. Dietz & Nelson, on lemon	0	12	6
8. Do. on orange, with blue V. C. Isl <sup>d</sup> postmark (rare)	0	17	6
9. Langton's Ex., 1st type, thin letters, 1853, buff	1	0	0
10. Do. Do. thick letters	0	10	6
11. Langton's, 2nd type, '64, buff	0	5	0
12. Do. Do. white	0	5	0
13. Bamber's "W. B. Hardy's Office," 1st type, scroll at ends, '64	0	7	6
14. Truman & Co., without the address under label (rare), on '64, buff	0	7	6
15. Do. Do. Do. on '64, white	0	7	6
16 & 17. Pair, Lamping's, on '64, 7/6 each	0	15	0

# The Stamps of Kashmir.

By D. P. MASSON.

From "*The Philatelic Journal of India.*"



It is with the greatest diffidence I venture into print on any philatelic subject, as I am a philatelist of only fifteen months' standing. But most of my attention has been devoted to the stamps of Kashmir, and I cannot but know a few facts about them that may be new to persons who have not taken up this interesting series. I shall write for beginners, like myself, and if I can give them a "liking" for the subject, I shall not have written in vain. I have myself spent many busy, pleasant mornings with those stamps, and I am certain they will prove equally interesting to anybody who devotes a little spare time to their study. If my letters rouse experienced philatelists to criticism, so much the better; the subject will bear a great deal of discussion.

I would venture to begin by recommending my readers to complete their wants in Kashmir stamps as soon as possible, exercising the greatest care against buying forgeries, of which there are many in circulation. A month ago I detected forgeries amongst stamps circulated by a Calcutta dealer; only yesterday, in a cheap set received from a Bombay dealer, seven out of eleven stamps were palpable forgeries. Stamps should be bought subject to a guarantee, and the Philatelic Society of India's experts should be consulted. The original plates have all been publicly destroyed, and I have impressions, taken afterward, which show how thoroughly they were defaced; genuine stamps should therefore gradually become rare, and they should be purchased while they can be picked up at reasonable prices.

I do not feel competent yet to write on the circular and old rectangular, though I have rescued specimens of most of these from the dust-covered correspondence bundles of the Punjab bazaars. I observe that Lieutenant Madden, another enthusiast, has been writing on these in his latest club report, but I am sorry I cannot accept all he says as gospel. I shall take up *Stanley Gibbons' Catalogue* and begin at the end, not only because I know more about the later stamps, but because it will be more easy for beginners to collect these, and gradually going backward with their collection, following me in my notes, in the end fill all the blanks in the album. In their ambition to get complete sets they need not be frightened by the £10 to £40 prices they will find stated opposite certain stamps. "Here in India" they can be picked up far more reasonably, as I know from experience.

Beginning then with the 1878 Service Stamps, on stout white laid paper, I am able to announce a discovery at the outset, and that is the  $\frac{1}{4}$  anna stamp of this kind, which is not catalogued. I have a complete panel, but I believe the stamp is rare.

Then comes the  $\frac{1}{2}$  anna, and an interesting question arises whether Lieutenant Madden was justified in adding a perforated stamp of this class to the catalogue in your issue for September. I believe he did so on the strength of a stamp I sent him, which certainly has all the appearance of being a service stamp; but it has since been submitted to Major E. B. Evans through Stanley Gibbons, and his report is that it "may be a very dark copy of No. 138"—the  $1\frac{1}{2}$  anna, slate-violet, of the same year (1878), and on the same paper. He adds: "I should not like to catalogue a service stamp perforated



on the strength of this copy." It is rank heresy to question the view of so high an authority as Major Evans, still I am unconvinced that he is not over-cautious; my reasons are two-fold—firstly, while I have seen 1 and 2 anna stamps of the 1878, blue, merge into the deepest indigo, and absolutely black, all the  $\frac{1}{2}$  anna stamps I have seen have been decided blues, and generally light blues; secondly, while all the 1878  $\frac{1}{2}$  anna blues at once "run" in water, the perforated stamp referred to, like the other service stamps, is absolutely "fast." Is it not very natural that some service stamps of 1878 should have been perforated as well as ordinary ones of that year's issue? Would the postal authorities grant conveniences to the public that they did not afford to the Government departments? I would leave the question an open one, pending further inquiry, but with a very strong leaning towards the acceptance of the stamp as a genuine service perforation, and so a very interesting discovery.

I must now pause a little to tilt a lance with Lieutenant Madden over this question of perforation. I am sure he will not mind my saying that the description of the perforating machine, given by him in your September issue, was furnished by me. I doubted the correctness of Lieutenant Madden's remarks on perforation in his club report, with the result that I made inquiries, and the perforating machine was discovered in the Accountant-General's Office at Srinagar, Kashmir, by my nephew (a bank agent), who wrote the description quoted. Before the discovery of the machine I wrote to Lieutenant Madden as follows:—

"I think all the perforation was done by a perforating machine, which either was old and blunt, or was a rough, home-made article. The differences in the clearness of the perforations on such a machine would easily be caused by too many sheets being perforated together; those nearest the teeth of the perforator would be clean cut, those behind would be pressed out, but not cut."

But preconceived ideas are hard to get rid of, and I see Lieutenant Madden still writes "perf. 10," of rough "pin-perf.," and of "official and unofficial" perforation. I am now perfectly satisfied that all perforation on Kashmir  $\frac{1}{2}$  anna stamps was done officially, and on the machine described. And I prefer to stick to the description of the catalogue, "rough perf.," as that best describes the process. Pin-perforation is done by sharp needles, whereas I know from inquiry that the "needles" of the Kashmir machine "are blunt, being solid steel wire, cut horizontally, and not in any way sharpened." I have examined several specimens of the perforated stamp, and I am convinced that their appearance bears out the correctness of the theory I ventured to suggest to Lieutenant Madden.

I notice that Stanley Gibbons catalogue a 1 anna ordinary stamp as also perforated. I cannot understand how the anna stamps could be perforated, because they were printed in five rows, each of four stamps, while the  $\frac{1}{2}$  anna sheets were printed in five rows, each of three stamps, and, as shown in your woodcut, the machine was made to perforate only the latter.

The 1 and 2 anna stamps of this series require no comment.

I was fortunate enough to obtain a full panel of the 2 anna stamp bearing the watermark, and I see that the paper used was a laid foolscap, bearing under a scroll "1877" in large open figures.

I am able to add two further stamps to this series, of which I have undoubted specimens, namely, the 4 anna and 8 anna

The 1878 list, on stout laid paper, should therefore run:—

$\frac{1}{4}$ anna, black.	$\frac{3}{8}$ anna, black.	$\frac{1}{2}$ anna, black; perforated (?).
1 anna, black.	2 annas, black.	4 annas, black.      8 annas, black.

I will now say a word or two descriptive of the blocks from which these stamps were printed, and my remarks will apply not only to the issues of 1878, but to all subsequent issues, both ordinary and service, as all were printed from the same blocks throughout.

The  $\frac{1}{4}$  anna stamps were from a plate of fifteen stamps, in five rows of three, with a floral border round the plate about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  mm. wide. The  $\frac{1}{2}$  anna stamp plate was similarly made up of fifteen stamps, with a wide plain border of the colour of the stamp 14 mm. wide on both sides and at the bottom, and only  $4\frac{1}{2}$  mm. wide at the top. The 1 anna plate contained twenty stamps, in five rows of four stamps each, with a floral margin 7 mm. wide. The 2 anna plate contained the same number and arrangement of stamps, and had a similar border. The 4 and 8 anna stamps were printed from one plate—4 anna stamps on the upper half, and 8 anna stamps on the lower half—there being a margin of four dummy (blank) stamps, separated by beading between the two denominations. The plain margin round the block is about 5 mm. wide. I believe the general impression is that the 4 and 8 anna plates were separate, but this is not so. Occasionally 4 and 8 anna service stamps were printed separately as required, only half the plate being used. In the case of ordinary stamps they were of necessity printed separately where the colours of each denomination differed; but part of the dummy stamps, and the beading between these, will be found on all complete sets of eight, showing that only half the plate was being used in printing. There is an extra plate for  $\frac{1}{4}$  anna stamps (No. 19 in *Stanley Gibbons' Catalogue*), the history of which I cannot ascertain. From it twelve stamps were printed, in three rows of four, with a plain border about 4 mm. all round.

The margin or space between the stamps on the plates is as follows:—On the  $\frac{1}{4}$  anna, 1 anna, and 2 anna stamps the space is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 mm. wide, and is plain—not inked, each stamp having a bold border line on the four sides; in the  $\frac{1}{2}$  anna blocks the space is the same, but the line round each stamp is much less defined; in the  $\frac{1}{4}$  anna stamps the width is the same, but the centre is occupied by rough beading to represent perforation, though in some cases the beading is incomplete or almost entirely wanting (I will return to this matter of the beading on  $\frac{1}{2}$  anna stamps when remarking on the ordinary issue). Between the 4 and 8 anna stamps there is no plain space, the stamps being separated by a row of fine beading only—which, as I have already stated, extends across the space between the two denominations on the plate. The special  $\frac{1}{4}$  anna plate was of the type of the 4 and 8 anna ones, but there is no space line or beading between the stamps, the floral corners just meeting, though there is a space (colour of the stamp) between the ovals.

The floral margin to the plates is of some importance in the matter of detecting forgeries. The side stamps of the plate were often used with the border intact; such stamps may, up till now, be taken as absolutely genuine, as no forger has so far taken the trouble to add a border to his stamp. The spaces also similarly help. I have seen forgeries with a width of margin that could not possibly exist on impressions from the genuine plate, while others, instead of being plain or beaded, had a solid border of the colour of the stamp; in both cases the forgery is palpable.

On each stamp there is written, within the inner oval line, in Persian character, the words *Dāk Māhsūl Rāldmrāo Jāmawa Kāshmir*, “postage charge, Government of Jamu and Kashmir,” with the value of the stamp as follows:—

نیم پاد آنه	Nīm pao ana	...	Half-a-quarter anna.
پاد آنه	Pao ána	...	Quarter anna.
نیم آنه	Nim ána	...	Half anna.
یک آنه	Yāk ána	...	Half anna.
دو آنه	Do ána	...	Two annas.
چهار آنه	Chahár ána	...	Four annas.
هشت آنه	Häoht ána	...	Eight annas.

Between the inner and outer oval lines the same words with very little variation are repeated in the Dógrí character, as are also the values, the Maharaja of Kashmir being a Dógra.

As each stamp of every denomination differs more or less from the others of the same plate, a Kashmir collection can hardly be considered full without complete panels, original or reconstructed. This is, no doubt, beyond the aspiration of most collectors, who will be content with one stamp of each kind; but in the 4 anna plate there are two distinct types which should undoubtedly be treated as varieties. I mean those having five dots, in the shape of a cross at the top, and those having only four. The four stamps of the top row and the first two of the lower row belong to the first variety, and the last two stamps of the plate to the latter; the four-dot variety is, therefore, by far the more rare.

Following the *Stanley Gibbons' Catalogue*, I come to the "Service" issue on thin wove and thin laid papers. From 1879, Kashmir stamps were generally printed on thin paper, for the reason that complaints had been made about the difficulty of affixing the thicker stamps to the envelopes, none of the Kashmir stamps being gummed.

Amongst the issue on wove, I find three very distinct papers used, viz., pure white, yellowish, and a dull grey. The grey is the rarest, especially in the higher values; indeed, in the case of four and eight annas stamps, I believe the grey wove is extremely rare. The three papers should undoubtedly form three varieties.

I next come to the quarter-anna stamp of 1887. I have passed many thousands of the common Kashmir stamps through my hands, and I have never seen this stamp used.

The "thin laid paper" issues of 1889-94 require no comment; all I have seen are on yellowish paper.

I now turn to the ordinary issues, and I shall depart from my chosen arrangement so far as to begin with the issues of 1883-94.

The lowest denomination of this issue, the  $\frac{1}{8}$  anna yellow and yellow-brown, will undoubtedly become rare, and the catalogue price of fourpence as compared with threepence for the half-anna reds, is out of all proportion to the number issued of each stamp. The rule for all letters, &c., posted at the British Post Office in Kashmir was that each should be fully stamped with both Indian and Kashmir stamps. But an exception was made in the case of the numerous visitors to the Happy Valley, who paid only half Kashmir value in addition to full Indian value. Thus a letter chargeable with a one-anna stamp under Indian rules should bear the usual Indian anna stamp and the Kashmir half-anna one. The Kashmir stamps were sold by a State official at a small shanty opposite the British Post Office: he was provided with a gum-pot and generally stuck on the stamps himself. A State police guard was always on duty in the verandah of the British Post Office: ostensibly their duties were general, but in reality they were specially to keep an eye that all letters posted bore Kashmir stamps in addition to Indian ones, and that no subjects of the Maharaja posted letters on the half-rate permitted only to visitors. Now, the one-eighth-anna stamp, under the above rules, would generally be used only for *Postcards posted by visitors and their servants*. This at once limited their use: and it must be remembered that the great bulk of the postcards used by visitors would be torn up by their recipients, who would generally be Europeans; and this again limited the number of these stamps available as compared with the issues used in correspondence with natives, seeing the almost invariable custom of the native is to preserve his postcards and letters, the latter in the original envelopes.

The quarter-anna brown is printed in various shades, and is generally found on postcards.

The half-anna blue I have never seen used, and I doubt very much if this issue was not in the nature of an essay or was not printed "for collectors." I



have a panel, which I got from a book of specimen panels that had been kept for reference in a State Treasury.

The half-anna red is printed in many shades. But I have a very interesting discovery to record in this stamp being cut diagonally and used as a quarter-anna stamp. I have seen very few of these, and all were posted at Leh; but I learn that it was not unusual to adopt this practice even at Srinagar, when the native vendor ran short of quarter-anna stamps. Mr. Appleby tells me that he had seen the higher values similarly treated, but the practice was soon prohibited in the case of all denominations.

The one-anna green shows more variety of shade than any other issue. Stanley Gibbons catalogue four shades, but a dozen might be nearer the actual number: they run from the lightest grey up to the deepest green, and an addition of yellow occasionally produces a bronze colour.

The two-anna reds, on yellow and green, need no comment, except that I can testify to the higher catalogue price for the latter being justified. There is a third colour of paper, a greenish yellow.

I come next to the special quarter-anna stamp of 1886. This, like the similar service one, must be very rare *used*. I never saw it on any of the thousands of envelopes that have passed through my hands. I purchased a pair from the sheets of Mr. Weylandt, of Agra, in a Dum-Dum Club packet; they are obliterated, but bear evidence of the obliteration having been done to order by the "obliging postmaster." I have another very interesting pair of these stamps, on thick grey laid native paper, similar to that on which the old circular and rectangular stamps were printed. These "were bought at the Srinagar Post Office about eight or ten years ago" is the certificate I have regarding them, from a thoroughly reliable source. Mr. Gleadow has a used copy on the same paper. I shall be very glad if readers could send me for inspection any of this issue on any paper, *on entires*.

Coming next to the issues on thin laid paper, 1889-94, I am able to add two stamps to the list—the one-anna green and the four-anna green—of which I have undoubted specimens.

I am able to add yet two more stamps to the catalogue, in the quarter-anna brown and four-anna deep green, both on *stout* white laid paper like that used for the 1878 issues. I have a panel of each, taken from the Treasury specimen book above mentioned, but I have never seen these stamps used. These, like all the panels from the specimen book, were cancelled by cross lines in ink, to prevent their being used for any other purpose than as a guide to the Treasury Officer.

In the four-anna greens, Stanley Gibbons catalogue three shades—deep green, pale green and yellow green. To this should be added a fourth, on specially thin and brittle wove paper: the shade is uniformly a lightish olive green, and the impression is equally clear on both sides of the paper, which is not generally the case with the other varieties of the same denomination. This stamp, in a collection, instantly asserts itself as a variety, and it should undoubtedly be so catalogued.

All four-anna greens, genuinely used, are rare, as are also the eight-anna blues. But to secure the genuine article, only stamps on *entires* should be bought, as obliterated-to-order stamps, and stamps from *hundis* (native bills of exchange), are common in comparison. Indeed the catalogue, to be at all complete, should separate fiscally-used stamps from unused and postally-used ones from 1878 onwards.





## British Empire.

**Bechuanaland Protectorate.**—The issue of "Protectorate" Stamps has been revived, as might have been expected. For some time a rumour has been current that British Bechuanaland was to have a new set of specially-designed stamps; but instead of a special stamp of its own, surcharging has once more been resorted to. Hence our receipt of a series of the current English stamps, surcharged "BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE." The new surcharge is in two lines, in sans-serif capitals. The word "BECHUANALAND" measures  $17 \times 2\frac{1}{2}$  mm., and the word "PROTECTORATE"  $16\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$  mm.; and the two lines of surcharge are 1 mm. apart. There are at present only five values, viz.,  $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., 2d., 4d., and 6d.

### Adhesives.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d., vermilion.  
1d., lilac.  
2d., green and red.  
4d., brown and green.  
6d., purple on red.

**Canada.**—The *American Journal of Philately* says "the new series of postage stamps has been surcharged by the addition of one of the ugliest pieces of work that has ever been turned out, in the shape of a 3c. envelope." And if the illustration in the *A.J.P.* is a faithful representation, we must endorse its remark about the ugliness of the design. Within an engine-turned, lace-like framework is a somewhat comical white medallion of the Queen on a coloured ground, and in a curved label of solid colour above is the word "POSTAGE," and below, "THREE CENTS," in white letters. Curved over the top and outside the frame, the outer line being broken at the letters on each side, is the word "CANADA." White paper.

### Envelope.

3 cents, red,  $147 \times 87$  mm.

**Hong Kong.**—We have received a new 1 dollar stamp. It is made by surcharging in black a fresh printing in grey-black of the 96 cents. The surcharge is in the same type as the previous surcharge on the 96 cents; but this time with the addition of Chinese characters on the left border.

A new 10 cents Provisional has also been issued, made by surcharging the 30 cents "10—CENTS" in two lines.

### Adhesives.

10 c. on 30 c., green; *sur. black.*  
1 dol. on 96 c., grey-black; *sur. black.*

**Labuan.**—We have the 12 c. and 18 c. from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., with the position of the surcharge altered in each case. Previously, in each case, the surcharge "LABUAN" obliterated the words of value; in the new arrangement it obliterates, as obviously intended, the words "NORTH BORNEO." Further, in the 12 c. the new surcharge is straight; the previous one was curved.

**Mauritius.**—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the 1 c. in the arms type. Wmk. Cr. C.A. Perf. 14.

### Adhesive.

1 c., lilac, value in blue.

**Newfoundland.**—Our publishers have received the current 3 cents stamp printed on pink wove paper. We have no explanation of this latest change; perhaps it is done to circumvent the forgers, who have been busy in their attempts to forge the recent surcharge of "ONE CENT" on 3 cents.

### Adhesive.

3 cents, mauve; pink paper.

**New South Wales.**—The *Australian Philatelist* announces that, "owing to the colour of the existing 6d. being the same as the 1d., and causing some confusion, it has been decided to change the former stamp to viridine green—a bluish green shade." The *A. P.* adds that the type, paper, and watermark will remain as hitherto. The change dates from May 1st.

**New Zealand.**—Tell it not in Gath! An error has been discovered in one of the stamps of the handsome new set, engraved by Messrs. Waterlow, just issued. A Christchurch correspondent writes to us: "On the  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamp the word 'Wakatipu' is spelt 'Wakitipu.' Therefore the issue of this stamp is to be withdrawn." From later information, embodied on another page in this number, it will be seen that the error has been replaced with a new plate corrected and improved. According to other correspondents, there has been quite a run on the errors in the colony.

### Adhesive.

$2\frac{1}{2}$ d., blue, error: "Wakitipu," for "Wakatipu."

**Queensland.**—According to the *Australian Philatelist*, the ½d. wrapper now appears with altered inscription, in six lines, which reads as follows:—

“This wrapper may only be used for newspapers, or for such documents as are allowed to be sent at the book-rate of postage, and must not enclose any letter or communication of the nature of a letter (whether separate or otherwise). If this rule be infringed, the statutory penalty will be enforced.”

*Wrapper.*

½d., green on manilla.

**South Australia.**—The *Australian Philatelist* notes the 2½d. as now appearing in a deep blue shade. Perf. 13.

*Adhesive.*

2½d., deep blue.

**Straits Settlements.**—*Perak.*—The *American Journal of Philately* has received three values of the Perak stamps of the cur-

rent issue surcharged for use in Pahang, the surcharge used being the name of the state in small type, with capital “P.” It is said that the higher values are also to be surcharged for this state.

*Adhesives.*

10 c., lilac and orange.  
25 c., green and carmine.  
50 c., green and black.

**Tonga.**—According to the *Illustrirtes Briefmarken Journal*, a new registration envelope has appeared here, the design being similar to that of the last issue, except that the value is expressed “4d.” at right and left of the coat of arms, instead of “Four Pence” below the coat of arms.

*Registration Envelope.*

4 p., scarlet, 225 × 100 mm.

**Western Australia.**—The *Australian Philatelist* says the slate-grey 2d. stamp, having been mistaken for the green ½d., is to be altered to orange-yellow when the next supply is indented for.

## Foreign Countries.

**Denmark.**—The *American Journal of Philately* chronicles the 50 öre, perf. 12½, thus completing the set, with the exception of the 25 öre.

*Adhesive.*

50 öre, violet-brown; perf. 12½.

**Egypt.**—We take the following from the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*:—

“We have received from Mr. A. Sempad copies of the Postage Due 2 piastres, surcharged diagonally ‘3 MILLIEMES’ and Arabic characters. This stamp has been specially created by the following Official Circular:—

“According to the arrangements in force, the rate for letters to and from subaltern officers and soldiers of the Egyptian Army in garrisons on the frontier, as well as at Suakim and Tokar, is fixed at 3 millièmes in case of prepayment, and 6 millièmes in the contrary case.

“This arrangement is, consequently, applicable to the soldiers forming part of the Soudan expedition; and, considering these soldiers are very often in places where they cannot obtain postage stamps, it has been decided to collect on letters which are not prepaid the single rate of 3 millièmes, instead of 6 millièmes. In consequence, on every letter duly signed by the Commander of the corps to which the sender belongs, and coming from a part of the Soudan where there is no Post Office, only 3 mil. rate is to be charged. In order to allow of the collection of this rate, the administration is going to have the 2 piastres Unpaid Letter Stamps surcharged “3 MILLIEMES”; but

until they are ready the rate of 3 mils. is to be represented by an Unpaid Letter Stamp of 2 mils., plus the half of a 2 mil. Unpaid Letter Stamp, cut diagonally.”

**Soudan.**—*Le Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste* announces the 1, 2, and 3 mils. and 2 piastres, with the surcharge “SOUDAN” in red, instead of black.

*Adhesives.*

1 mil., brown; red sur.  
2 mils., green “  
3 “ orange “  
2 piast., orange-brown; red sur.

**Germany.**—*Togo.*—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us two further values of German stamps, surcharged “TOGO,” to add to those chronicled by us in March (p. 72), viz., 3 pf. and 50 pf. Perf. 13½ × 14½.

*Adhesives.*

3 pf., green.  
50 pf., brown.

**Hayti.**—According to the *American Journal of Philately*, a new Provisional has just made its appearance, the 20 c. being surcharged for use as a 2 c. The surcharge is the same as that used in 1890 and 1892.

*Adhesive.*

2 c. on 20 c., orange; red sur.

**Iceland.**—The *Monthly Circular* says the perforation of these stamps has commenced to follow that now used in Denmark, as the 5 aur has appeared perforated 12½.

*Adhesive.*

5 aur, green; perf. 12½.



**Peru.**—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. send us the 5 c. and 10 c. of the long rectangular Unpaid Letter Stamps, surcharged diagonally, in black, across the upper half in sans-serif letters, with the word “DÉFICIT,” and the colours changed.

*Unpaid Letter Stamps, surcharged “Déficit.”*  
5 centavos, red.  
10 “ orange.



**Roumania.**—The *Nordisk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift* chronicles the 30 bani, green, Unpaid Letter Stamp, with the watermark “P.R.”

*Adhesive.*  
30 bani, green; wmk. P.R.

**Samoa.**—We have the 2d. from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., changed from orange to yellow.

*Adhesive.*  
2d., yellow.

**Transvaal.**—We hear that the 5s. value has appeared, printed in black, in the same type as the 10s., and also with final “s” omitted from the word “shillings,” but have not yet seen a copy.

**Turkey.**—*Thessaly.*—We have specimens from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. of the Turkish issue for the conquered territory, which we chronicled last month.

We illustrate these octagonal oddities. They are printed on white wove paper, which has the appearance of being tinted in pale pink on the back, or gummed with a tinted gum. The



perforation is curious, and apparently necessitates a blank strip round each stamp; otherwise the perforation would run through the stamps.

These stamps may be a very necessary issue, but we suspect that they are more or less, if not altogether, a mere speculation.

*Adhesives.*

10 paras, green.  
20 “ rose.  
1 piastre, blue.  
2 “ red-brown.  
5 “ lilac.  
10 “ green.

**Venezuela.**—*Le Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste* announces an issue of stamps, to appear on the 1st of May, for the prepayment of official correspondence with foreign countries. The design will consist of the arms of the country, with “VENEZUELA” above and “UNION POSTAL UNIVERSAL” below; on each side the value in figures and “OFFICIAL” in black on the arms. The values are said to be:

*Adhesives.*

5 c., dark green.  
10 c., red.  
25 c., blue.  
50 c., yellow.  
1 bolivar, violet.

## Our Monthly Packets of New Issues.

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

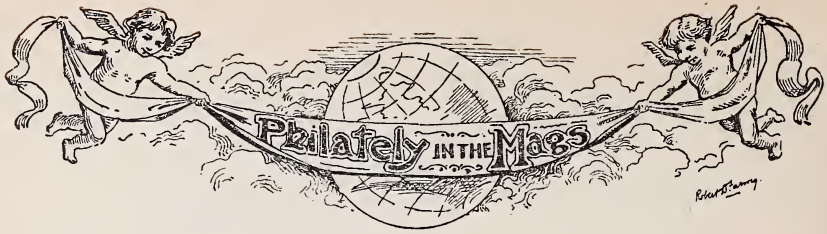
The June Packet contains 8 varieties, viz.: German South-West Africa, 3 pf. and 5 pf.; German China, 5 pf. and 10 pf.; China, 1898, 1 c.; Soudan, 1898, 1 m. and 5 mils.; Newfoundland, 3 c., on pink paper.

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

The June Packet contains 11 varieties, viz.: Thessaly, 1898, 10 and 20 paras, 1, 2, and 5 piastres; German China, 20 pf. and 25 pf.; Peru, 5 c. and 10 c. Unpaid, surcharged “DÉFICIT”; Samoa, 2d., yellow; and New South Wales, 2d., new shade.

These packets are on sale until June 30th (unless the supply is previously exhausted), and are supplied only to *Subscribers* to the PHILATELIC RECORD AND STAMP NEWS. Similar packets will be on sale every month, and may be subscribed for in advance for the year (January to December inclusive), at the following rates: No. 1 packet, 12s., postage extra; No. 2 packet, 60s., postage extra.

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



## Canadian 1868-75 Watermark.

THE watermark on the 1868-75 issue of Canada has been a matter of conjecture. The London Society's work on the *North American Colonies of Great Britain* says, "Some of the stamps on wove paper have been catalogued with a watermark, consisting of various letters. It is probable that these letters are portions of the name of the papermaker, which most likely exists in the margin of the sheets."

But Mr. Donald King, who has commenced in the *Monthly Journal* a series of articles on the Stamps of the Dominion, has reconstructed the watermark as follows:

E. & C. BOTHWELL  
CLUTHA MILLS

He says, "The upper row is about 140 mm. long, the lower about 122 mm., and the distance between the rows  $11\frac{1}{2}$  mm. The watermark will thus fall on twelve stamps in each sheet of one hundred. But it cannot be argued from this that the stamps with watermark are only eight times as rare as those without, as we must take into consideration the proportionately large number of sheets on ordinary unwatermarked paper." Then he passes on to discuss the question whether stamps showing the various letters of this watermark are collectible, and contends that they are.

"Compared with the large number without watermark, they are sufficiently scarce to indicate a provisional use of the paper, and at the same time there are enough of them to show that a considerable number of sheets were printed. I think they occupy much the same position as the New Zealand stamps on blue and white unwatermarked paper. They are on an unofficial paper, used temporarily. If one is collectible and greatly to be desired, why not the other? They are certainly more interesting than the stamps which many collect, showing letters from the margins of sheets whose centres have some other watermark, and how infinitely more interesting than collecting sets of stamps whose sole difference is the variation of half a millimetre in the perforations. I am not carping at things one can see without a microscope. Reasonable differences in perforations I consider worthy of attention, but deliver me from the half millimetres. I feel sure of one thing—specialists will recognize the interesting position of these stamps and collect them. And where the specialists lead the rest of the collecting world will follow. They may

protest against the excesses of specialism, but they will do their best to get the stamps, just the same."

Major Evans expresses his opinion on the question in a footnote. He says, "We feel bound to state that, unless the paper itself is of a different nature from the plain wove, this watermark seems to us to possess no interest whatever. It is evidently entirely unofficial, and it is quite possible that it only occurred in one sheet out of several of identically the same paper."

Except for the purpose of reconstructing the watermark in a complete form, we see no reason whatever for collecting such watermarks. To collect them as separately watermarked stamps would be absurd, for the watermark, as pointed out by Major Evans, is not an official one, but simply an advertisement of the papermaker, and a clue to his name. Specialism has not yet pursued the makers of the various papers to their lairs, and it is to be hoped the task will never be forced upon us.

## A Nandgaon Error.

IN the *Philatelic Journal of India* Mr. G. A. Anderson draws attention to an error in the 1894 issue of Nandgaon. He says: "In the sheets of  $\frac{1}{2}$  anna, green, wavy lines between, the error occurs once in each sheet (the third stamp in the fourth row), and consists in the omission of the final I (a) of áda in the central value inscription, thus—

आ घा      आ घ  
आना      आना

Error.

"This is the only error, I think, in any of the three values of this issue. There are eccentricities, but no real error save this one.

"A curious point about the Nandgaon postal arrangement is that, concurrently with the use of postage stamps, the State postmark was apparently used alone, and carried letters without stamps. I send you such an envelope, which I obtained in May, 1894. Whether the second stamp mark is for postage due or not I cannot make out. Perhaps you will find someone wise enough to say, and also to decipher, if possible, the date of the letter or envelope."



## Denmark 1851 2 sk. Varieties.

IN our April number (p. 104) we quoted from the *London Philatelist* Mr. Ehrenbach's paper on his discoveries of varieties in the 2 sk. of 1851 of Denmark.

But, lo and behold, in the April number of our contemporary, Mr. Bacon sets himself the task of scattering to the four winds the varieties which Mr. Ehrenbach fondly believed he had discovered in the sheet of the 2 sk. He writes:—

"I have had an opportunity of making a careful examination of this very sheet, with the result that I am more convinced than ever that there are no types of this stamp. The discovery of three types of the numeral '2' was said to have been made on the Continent some eighteen months ago, and immediately these so-called types were hunted for by specialists of Denmark in this country, and even found their way into catalogues, without a proper examination of their character being first made. The sheet of reprints incontestably shows that the plate used for the production of the stamps was made in the following way: Ten impressions arranged in five rows of two were first of all taken from the engraved die, and then from this block of ten impressions ten stereotype casts were taken, so that the sheet really consists of ten blocks of ten stamps each, and not, as Mr. Ehrenbach seems to think, of two blocks of fifty. The so-called Types 2 and 3, allowing for printing, always occupy the same position in each block of ten; Type 2, which is by far the more prominent, being number two of the first row of each of the blocks. If what I have said is true—and anyone who examines the sheet can convince himself that this is a fact—then it follows that every stamp on the sheet must be the same in type, and that it is so is, to my mind, beyond question. The so-called Types 2 and 3, and all the other little differences Mr. Ehrenbach points out, owe their origin merely to defects in taking the stereotypes where they are not due to printing, and Types 2 and 3 are really nothing more than broken numerals."

May we add, thus end the varieties in the 2 sk. Denmark of 1851.

And then Mr. Bacon, by way of parting rebuke, adds, "I had hoped that all philatelists, at any rate of the distinction of my friend Mr. Ehrenbach, had long since agreed to give up the collection of such so-called varieties in the case of surcharged stamps as are due to broken letters; but these so-called Types 2 and 3 of the 2 skilling Denmark are of precisely the same nature, for they only show a broken numeral '2,' and his other varieties rest on a similar basis."

Alas! how are the mighty fallen!

But then there is Ye Editor to reckon with, and he, in a footnote, thusly, Samaritan-like, binds up the wounds:—

"Mr. Ehrenbach hardly intended to convey the idea that there were types of all the stamps in the sheet, and certainly not that they should be collected. He argued rather that there were certain marks on each variety that would practically enable anyone to ascertain its position on the sheet—conditions that would apply (as pointed out by the writer at the meeting) to the 6 rappen of Zurich, or the Roumanian issues of 1866-71, all reproduced like the Denmark 2 sk.—in blocks. These two subvarieties, that Mr. Bacon states occur in each block of 10, are certainly distinct and clear, and in our view, as minor varieties, should certainly be accepted and collected by the specialist."

Truly, it is not often that we witness such a trio "going for each other," as the plebeian would say, and therefore it is all the more refreshing to the ordinary philatelic mortal.

U.S. Provisional 1 c. Postage  
Due.

WE quote the following from the Washington correspondent of *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*:—

"The provisional 1 cent due surcharged on half of the 2 cent due is said to be one of the rarest of U.S. stamps. The following letter from the postmaster at Jefferson, Iowa, will explain how they came into use:—

"UNITED STATES POST-OFFICE,

"JEFFERSON, IOWA, Feb. 12, 1898.

"To whom it may concern:

"This is to certify that about the 6th day of October, 1895, my supply of one cent postage due stamps was exhausted. I had made requisition for a new supply and expected them daily, and pending their arrival had a local printer print "Postage Due, 1 cent" on a few of the horizontal halves of the 2 cent due stamps, and these halves I used on matter requiring one cent due stamps until the arrival of the one cent dues.

"Not more than twenty of the stamps were used, as I only had thirty printed and had about a dozen left when the new supply arrived, after which the half stamps were not used.

"I am not a stamp dealer or a collector, know nothing about it, and am not in any way interested in it.

"Yours,

"(Signed) F. R. MCCARTHY,

"Postmaster, Jefferson, Iowa."

"From this letter one can form their own conclusions as to the rarity of these stamps, but it is said that others may exist or will come into existence. I have seen the above provisionals, and consider them a good thing."



## Roumania, 25 b., Error.

THE *London Philatelist* publishes the following particulars concerning the issue of the 25 bani, error, chronicled by us this month:—

“Mr. Castle has received an interesting and apparently genuine *error*, which has lately been issued and subsequently recalled on discovery of the mistake. In printing some sheets of 5 bani stamps the printer inserted a *cliché* of the “25” bani in place of the “5” bani in the sheet, and before the error was noticed some 2000 sheets had been sent out. The error is the third stamp in the third row from the right-hand side of the sheet. The date of the occurrence of this mishap was December, 1897. On application at the various offices to which the sheets had been sent, it was found that 216 sheets out of the 2000 had been sold; but 1784 were reclaimed by the officials, promptly withdrawn, and, we understand, destroyed.

“As we go to press we hear, through the medium of the *D.B.Z.*, that the 1784 sheets—each containing this error, which were recalled by the postal authorities—*will be disposed of at auction or otherwise*. We can hardly credit this astounding news, or that any civilized Government should stoop so low as to obtain money by such means, and trust that the news may be without foundation.”

## Chili Unpays.

LAST month (p. 129) we quoted from the Argentine *Revista* some interesting notes concerning the make-up of the sheets of the Chilean Unpaid Stamps. This month we quote from the *American Journal of Philately* as follows:—

“We have received a shipment of Unpaid Letter Stamps containing entire sheets of both the first issue, in red on dark yellow paper, and the second issue, in carmine on pale yellow paper. The settings for these two issues are entirely different, the first issue containing stamps of all values from 1 centavo to 1 peso, whereas the second contains only stamps from 1 centavo to 20 centavos.

“At the same time, we have received the 100 centavos stamp, which is supposed to have replaced the 1 peso; but, as we have no entire sheet containing this value, we are unable to state positively where it may be found, although the supposition is that it has taken the place of the 1 peso stamp in the old setting.

“The statement made by *Le Timbre-Poste* that the values above 20 centavos are obsolete is no doubt based upon the fact that the second setting contains none of them. However, at the same time that we received the lower values, we have also received all values from 40 centavos up to 1 peso in the old colour. We suppose, therefore, that the original supply of the first printing is sufficient to meet immediate demands, and that the new issue will appear in the higher values as soon as the

present stock has been exhausted. We append herewith diagrams showing the first and second settings.”

## FIRST SETTING.

1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1	1	40	40	40	40	40
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
50	50	50	60	60	60	80	80	1 p.	1 p.

## SECOND SETTING.

1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20

## The Perfs. of Holland.

THOSE who revel in the labyrinthian maze of the perfs. of Holland will find enough food for a year's reflection in an apparently exhaustive article contributed to the *Monthly Journal* by Mr. Gordon Smith, entitled “A Reference List of the Stamps of Holland.” Mr. Gordon Smith characterizes the Handbook issued by the Dutch Society about a year ago as “a most disappointing work.” “Worse than faults of omission are the faults of commission for which this book is responsible. It seems that the authors only condescended to consider *horizontal* perforation, and entirely neglected the vertical, and consequently have placed on record lists of varieties of perforations which are not only inaccurate, but absolutely misleading.” We dare not attempt the impossible task of summarizing this article, lest we should slip by the way and come under the lash of ye Editor. But we may congratulate English collectors of Holland upon having got at last a reliable guide.

Current Russians Printed.

ACCORDING to *Der Briefmarken Sammler*, the following quantities of Russian stamps have been ordered for the current year, namely:

Stamps of 1 kopec . . .	30 million
„ 2 kopecs . . .	34½ „
„ 3 „ . . .	13½ „
„ 4 „ . . .	4½ „
„ 5 „ . . .	4½ „
„ 7 „ . . .	136½ „
„ 10 „ . . .	7 „
„ 14 „ . . .	27 „
Envelopes 7 „ . . .	7 „
Quarter kopec post card forms	18½ „
Post cards of 3 kopecs . . .	47 „
„ 6 „ . . .	1 „

Klondikes at Last!

WE quote the following from the *American Journal of Philately*:—

“The rush to the Klondike has, as might have been expected, resulted in the issue of a special frank by an express company on the Pacific Coast. Mr. H. B. Phillips has sent us a specimen of a 2 c. green envelope, size 6¾ x 3¾ in., with the frank of the Alaska Pacific Express Co. All further information in regard to the envelope in question will be found in the circular which has been issued by the Company on the subject, and which we reproduce herewith.

“ALASKA PACIFIC EXPRESS COMPANY,

“OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER,  
“PORTLAND, OR., *March 18th, 1898.*

“Circular No. 11.

“FRANKED ENVELOPES.

“Owing to the irregular and very unsatisfactory mail service between Portland, Sound Cities, and Alaskan Ports, we have been frequently importuned to carry letters by express. These demands having become so urgent, and being in a position to give the public much better service than is at present afforded by the ordinary mail, we have decided to inaugurate franked letter service. Having complied with the regulations and requirements of the United States Government, we are now prepared to carry letters by express when enclosed in one of our franked envelopes, over all coastwise routes operated by this Company.

“These Government-stamped envelopes are for the transmission by express of letters or papers of no particular value only. Patrons using them must not do so for the purpose of forwarding money or valuables, as it must be understood that this Company does not assume any liability for loss of such letters. We shall always use our best endeavours to forward promptly and deliver carefully any and all such letters, but we do not guarantee safe delivery. If a letter is destined to a point beyond or off our line, it will be carried to the point on our route nearest destination and there deposited in the Post Office.

“The cost of these envelopes will be TEN

CENTS each, in any quantity, and will be found on sale at any and all offices of this Company.

“NOTE: It is understood at present time we are not prepared to carry such letters to interior points in Alaska, but simply to coast offices. Later on, when regular through service is established to Dawson, Circle City, etc., we will then name rates for carrying letters through to all points on the Yukon.

“M. G. HALL,  
“General Manager.”

Demonetization of New South Wales Centennials.

WE quote the following official notice from the *Australian Philatelist* concerning the demonetization of N.S.W. Centennial stamps:

“Postal and Electric Telegraphic Department,  
“General Post Office,  
“SYDNEY, *March 4th, 1898.*

“DEMONETIZATION OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

“With reference to the Gazette notice dated June 14th, 1897, announcing the issue of new postage stamps of 1d., 2d., 2½d., and 5s. denominations in substitution for the stamps of similar denominations then current, and notifying that the stamps to be superseded would only be recognized as valid for the prepayment of postage up to December 31st, 1897, and that from January 1st, 1898, any of such stamps still remaining in the hands of the public might be exchanged at face value for stamps of the new design, it is hereby notified that His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has approved of the revival and extension of the validity of the stamps superseded by the above-mentioned notice until June 30th, 1898.

“Such stamps will be recognized as valid for the prepayment of postage up to June 30th next, and on and after July 1st, 1898, only the 1d., 2d., 2½d., and 5s. stamps issued on June 22nd, 1897, and known as the ‘Record Reign’ stamps, will be recognized as valid as stamps of those respective denominations for the prepayment of postage. After that date, however, on application being made at any Post Office any of the superseded stamps remaining in the hands of the public may be exchanged at face value for stamps of the recognized designs. JOSEPH COOK.”

“Postal and Electric Telegraph Department,  
“General Post Office,  
“SYDNEY, *March 11th, 1898.*

“It is hereby notified that His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has, in accordance with the provisions of the 16th section of the Postage Act, 31 Vic. No. 4, been pleased to approve of the alteration of colour of the existing sixpenny postage stamp from rosine madder to viridine green, as in its present colour it too closely resembles the current one penny stamp—to date from May 1st next. JOSEPH COOK.”



## New Zealand New Issue.

A TELEGRAM from Wellington to a New Zealand paper, dated April 5th, 1898, says:—

"There was a very animated scene at the Central Post Office to-day, a constant stream of people coming and going all day long. The reason for this was the issue of the new stamps. One philatelic friend purchased no fewer than twenty-four sets of each new stamp, and I saw another who takes only a passing interest in philately investing £5 in the new issue. There was quite a boom in twopenny-halfpennies, which, owing to the misspelling of the word "Wakatipu," will shortly be worth more than their face value. Numbers of people bought these simply as an investment. The Post Office would only issue 12s. 6d. worth to one person. This was to prevent the whole issue of this stamp falling into the hands of a few speculators; but such was the demand that the available issue was almost sold out during the day. The sale was quite unprecedented.

"It is not generally known that the idea of the new scenic stamp issue was first discussed by Mr. E. T. Luke, of the Melbourne *Age and Leader*, and your correspondent, who was at that time associated with Mr. Luke in the production of 'Fiord Land.' Mr. Luke subsequently submitted a scheme to the Hons. J. G. Ward and W. P. Reeves. The original scheme was a somewhat bold and original one, and as planned by Mr. Luke would have resulted in a large revenue to the Government, and a profit of about £200 to himself. The Government, however, could not see their way to carry it out in its entirety; but they adopted Mr. Luke's idea of advertising the scenery of the colony, and offered prizes for competitive designs. Mr. Luke, who is a clever designer, worked from photographs taken by himself and your correspondent, and has succeeded in winning several of the principal prizes. Mr. Luke, however, was very wroth with the Cabinet for throwing him over as regards the scheme he formulated while at the same time adopting his main idea."

Another cutting says: "The probability of the new issue of the 2½d. stamp attaining a high value in the philatelic world, owing to the mis-spelt 'Wakitipu,' caused quite a rush of buyers at the Christchurch Post Office. The eager speculators have, however, little chance of making their fortunes, as care is taken to limit as far as possible the number of new stamps sold to any individual to half a sheet."

## Argentine Pesos Printed.

A DUTCH contemporary gives the following numbers printed of the 1, 2, and 5 pesos stamps of Argentine:

1 peso . . . .	46,996
2 pesos . . . .	4,161
5 pesos . . . .	2,263

## Bogus 1867 Bolivian.

THE *Metropolitan Philatelist* publishes the following warning against dangerous counterfeits of the Eagle 1867 issue of Bolivia:—

"Collectors are warned against counterfeits of the Eagle 1867 issue stamps of Bolivia, which, having been obtained by the photolithographic process, are *very dangerous* imitations, being the exact reproduction of the genuine.

"They can be detected by:

"THE PAPER—which is much too white.

"THE COLOURS—which are different and generally too light; the

"5 c. is plum instead of violet.

"10 c. is light brown instead of brown.

"50 c. is lemon instead of yellow.

"50 c. is light blue instead of blue or dark blue.

"100 c. is light green instead of green.

"100 c. is greenish blue instead of blue.

"THE ENGRAVING—which is also much different; the genuine were deeply engraved on copper plates and are showing a heavy set-off which the counterfeits have not, but are so well made that they seem to have it if you do not examine them in the proper light.

"These counterfeits are to be found unused and used, with pen cancellations and different postmarks, the commonest being an oblong red one."

## Thessaly Speculatives Printed.

AN official announcement, published in the *Oriental Advertiser*, says the following are the numbers printed of the new stamps of Thessaly:

10 paras, green . . . .	413,400
20 ,, rose . . . .	413,400
1 piastre, blue . . . .	313,400
2 piastres, orange . . . .	313,400
5 ,, violet . . . .	300,000

All the plates and dies connected with the issue of these stamps have been destroyed in the presence of six Government officials, who have signed a declaration to that effect, all of which fully confirms our suspicions as to the purely speculative character of this rubbish.

## Recent Belgian Reprints.

A QUANTITY of reprints of old Belgian stamps have recently been made by order of the Minister of Posts. They are the 10 and 20 c. of 1849, on thin paper, without watermark; the 1 c., yellow-green, of 1861; the 10, 30, 40 c., and 1 fr., of 1865, the last four being unperforated; and the 1 c., imperf., of 1866, the latter very much like the original, but slightly paler and the paper being slightly thinner.



## Spain: Duration of Early Issues.

*La Timbrologia Española* publishes the following table of the duration of the early issues of Spain:—

- 1 issue. 1 January–31 December, 1850.  
 2 „ 1 „ „ -31 „ 1851.  
 3 „ 1 „ „ -31 „ 1852.  
 4 „ 1 „ „ -31 „ 1853.  
 5 „ 1 „ „ 1854–31 March, 1855.  
 6 „ Madrid  
 3 cuartos, 1 January–14 October, 1854.  
 1 cuarto, 15 October–31 October, 1854.  
 7 issue. 1 April, 1855–15 February, 1860.  
 8 „ 1 February, 1860–31 July, 1862.  
 9 „ 19 cuartos, brown, 14 September, 1861–31 July, 1862.  
 10 issue. 4 cuartos, 26 July, 1862–31 December, 1863. The other five values, 1 August, 1862–28 February, 1864.  
 11 issue. 4 cuartos, 1 January–31 December, 1864. The other five values, 1 March–31 December, 1864.  
 12 issue. 1 January–31 December, 1865.  
 13 issue. 20 centimos de escudo, 1 January–31 July, 1866. The other five values, 1 January–31 December, 1866.  
 14 issue. 2 and 4 cuartos, 1 January–30 June, 1867, 10 and 20 centimos de escudo, 1 January, 1867–31 December, 1868, 12 and 19 cuartos, 1 January, 1867–31 December, 1869.  
 15 issue. 10 milesimas de escudo, 1 July, 1867–31 December, 1869.  
 16 issue. 5 milesimas de escudo, 1 November, 1867–31 December, 1869.  
 17 issue. 1 January–31 December, 1869, together with the 5 and 10 milesimas and the 12 and 19 cuartos.

## Longevity of Stamps.

THE *New York Herald* recently discussed a question of interest to philatelists, under the title of "The Longevity of Stamps." We quote the following:—

"A stamp," says the writer, "cannot last for ever, and under the most favourable conditions used for its preservation it must in time come to an end.

"The paper used in their manufacture is not of the best, and even were it so, this would make but a slight difference.

"The paper used in ancient books is of a far better grade, made by hand and of better material, and more care used in its manufacture, and yet this paper is gradually disappearing from existence. But few books or manuscripts on paper of the 15th century are now in existence. To be sure we see a lot so-called, but they are either on parchment, linen, or some other material.

"The materials used in the manufacture of

paper on which stamps are printed are cotton, rags, straw, wood, and certain grasses. Of course, there are a few exceptions to these, but very few.

"From several specimens of the 1 c., black, of Great Britain before me, I note several that are in fine condition, and look as though they were but a few years old instead of fifty-eight, but come to examine them with a glass the paper shows a tendency of decay and is slightly discoloured.

"Fifty-eight years is not a great length of time, and still even at this age time begins to show its work, and at 500 years from now few of these will be intact. The ink in some instances has a great deal to do with the preservation of a stamp, and also in its destruction, as the chemicals employed in different colours vary as to strength and destructive properties, many acids being used in different colours, and these either help to preserve or destroy the paper as the case may be; for an illustration of this take a look at the original Declaration of Independence, and in some of the signatures the ink has eaten entirely through the paper, and this is only a little over one century old. What will it be when it is ten centuries old, or will it be in existence at that time?

"In spite of the predictions given out from time to time of the earth's coming to an end, it has never happened, and probably never will happen until centuries hence, if it does then; and during this time the stamps in existence at the present time and all past issues will not be in existence in the year 2898, or 1000 years from now, or even in a less length of time."

## Canadian Registration Stamps.

MR. DONALD KING, in the *Monthly Journal*, gives the following information concerning the series of Canadian Registration stamps:—

"When the Dominion joined the Postal Union the series of Registration stamps was issued, and of this the Postmaster-General says:—

"Registration stamps have been issued to be used by the public in prepaying the Registration charges on letters passing within the Dominion, or to the United Kingdom or the United States, each destination being distinguished by a different colour in the stamp, as well as by a variation in the Registration charge and corresponding value of a stamp.

"There is a *red* stamp of the value of *two* cents for prepayment of the Registration charges on letters within the Dominion.

"There is a *green* stamp of the value of *five* cents for prepayment of the Registration charges on letters to the United States.

"There is a *blue* stamp of the value of *eight* cents for prepayment of the Registration charges on letters to the United Kingdom."

## Persian Bogies.

THE *Australian Philatelist* quotes the following information from a Persian correspondent:—

"The 50 kran, green and gold, has not been seen in Persia, excepting by the post office people, who keep it for speculative purposes. None of these stamps are official. In fact, no official stamps have ever been in use in Persia. Some were printed, and are sold by dealers, but they were never in use. The 1882 issue, with a new value surcharged (1885), and bearing the overprint 'OFFICIEL,' were of the regular issue, but the surcharge implied that it was officially done. The varieties of the 1882 issue, surcharged with new value, surrounded with rayed lines, are absolute forgeries. I believe they were invented by a late postmaster for speculative purposes, and were never in circulation."

The Editor of the *A. P.* adds:—

"We have only seen the green and gold 50 kr., with the horizontal line in red ink, and this was officially transmitted to the Postal Union authorities, with the statement that it was intended for official use. *Stanley Gibbons' Catalogue* confirms the statement that the 1882 'official stamps' have never been put in use, but chronicles them nevertheless, and spaces are duly provided for them in the albums! The rayed surcharge things are only provided for in some of the German albums."

## Denmark "Franko."

THE *Monthly Journal* has received a copy of an Official Notice relative to the marking of printed matter with the word "Franko" when the 3 aur stamps were exhausted. The English translation is given as follows:—

"*Reykjavik, November 13, 1897.*

"Dear Sir! On account of the 3 aur post-frimerki stamps being now again quite out of stock at the postoffice, and as the postal government will not issue any more new stamps, all printed matters below a certain weight will now be sent by post without any pasted stamp, the usual yellow stamp being substituted by a black stamp with the word, Franko, placed at the post office on each letter with a back tool, used for this purpose only. I send you this letter by post, and the postal officials will have to provide it with a copy of this new black stamp, just like they do with all other printed matters that are now sent by the post.

"I am, dear Sir, yours truly,

"HANNES THORARENSEN."

## Venezuela Variety.

MR. C. J. PHILLIPS, in his "Notes and News" in the *Monthly Journal*, says, "We have just been shown a very interesting half

sheet of Venezuela stamps, namely, the issue of 1874 with the surcharge in larger letters, 1 real, red, No. 67 in our current Catalogue. The half sheet is composed of 3 panes arranged horizontally, each pane consisting of 50 stamps arranged 5×10, and being inscribed at the bottom '300 Estampillas de á un real. G. J. Araomburn, Lito. Carácas 1875.' The entire sheet would therefore consist of 6 panes, making up the 300 stamps mentioned in the inscription. The left-hand pane has the 5 bottom stamps printed upside-down, thus forming 5 *tête-bêche* pairs in the half sheet. We are not able to say if these varieties would be repeated on the upper half sheet."

## U.S. High Values.

THE Washington correspondent of *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* has a word in defence of the issue of high values of U.S. postage stamps. He writes:—

"Considerable has been written and said about how unnecessary it is for the United States to issue stamps of the denominations of \$2.00 and \$5.00, as stamps of this value are very rarely used. In this I beg to differ, as lately I have seen a great many of both of these values used on part of the original covers, and only yesterday I saw a block of eleven of the \$5.00 values on one cover, and not long ago a block of twenty of the \$2.00 value on one cover, and three or four of each used on one cover is of common occurrence.

"Most of these high value stamps are used on mail sent to Great Britain, but quite a number of them are received at the Treasury here on the heavy mail, containing vouchers, books, etc."

## Current Greek Issues.

THE following letter from Mr. L. L. R. Hausburg, published in the *London Philatelist*, shows the state of matters in Greece so far as current issues are concerned.

"I spent some time investigating the Post Office at Athens, and found a most extraordinary state of affairs. From what I can gather in those journals that haven't been lost in the post on their way to me, the Olympian Games issue is supposed to be still in use; so it is, with the exception of the 1, 5, 20, and 25 lepta. These latter can be bought both perf. and imperf. (Athens print). If you ask for not more than 5 or 10 the clerk gives you perf. stamps; if you want more he doesn't like parting with the perf. ones, which seem precious, but insists on your taking imperf. If you want to frank a letter abroad you must either use stamps face value 30 lepta instead of 25 lepta, or use an ordinary 25 lepta stamp, for which you have to pay 30 lepta at the post office, although the denomination has not been changed. This is on account of the depreciation of the money."





## Madagascar, 1895, Type-set.

THE following, relating to the type-set issue of 1895, has been sent us for publication by Messrs. Ashworth & Co. :—

“These stamps were undoubtedly *not* a speculative issue, though condemned by the S.S.S.S. when not in possession of the facts of the case.

“They were issued to cover cost of postal expenses and protect British letters from interference during the war. All letters had to be delivered, unsealed, to the Post Office, where they were examined by a Malagasy official, and then sealed by one of the members of Her Majesty’s Civil Service.

“COPY OF LETTER.

“HER MAJESTY’S VICE CONSULATE,  
“ANTANANARIVO, *March 24, 1893.*

“GENTLEMEN,—In reply to your letter of 23rd February, I have the honour to inform you that the postage stamps enclosed, which I now return herewith, were authorised by the Malagasy Government, and were used for outgoing letters posted in Antananarivo during the late war.

“I am, Gentlemen,

“Your obedient Servant,

“(Signed) T. P. PORTER,

“*Acting British Vice-Consul.*

“Messrs. H. H. Ashworth & Co.,

“63, Brown Street, Manchester.”

## The “Philatelic Journal of India.”

THE balance-sheet of the Philatelic Society of India sets out separately the receipts and expenditure affecting the production of the excellently-conducted official journal of the Society, the *Philatelic Journal of India*, and shows a loss on the first volume of Rs. 1933. That is so far as actual receipts and payments for the journal are concerned, but we note that the treasurer has a balance in hand on the general account after making allowance for this loss, so that the Society balance is on the right side; and, inasmuch as the journal may probably be largely credited with this result, it can scarcely be said to be run at a loss.

## Stamp Museum Stolen !

THE following newspaper cutting has been sent us, we believe from the *Morning Leader*.

“There is just now among stamp collectors in Italy a sensation which is likely to make itself felt among philatelists all over Europe.

“Some years ago the Italian Minister of Posts and Telegraphs instituted a postal museum which has been fostered by his successors, and the result is that the department prides itself upon possessing a collection almost unique in its variety.

“Two sections from this collection had been sent to the National Exhibition being held in Turin, in connection with the Jubilee of the Italian Constitution. Both sections have been stolen, and there is at present no clue to the thieves. Still less is there any known prospect of recovering the stolen property.

“As any attempt to sell the stolen collections entire would involve certain discovery, they will probably be broken up, and great difficulty will be experienced by honest collectors in preventing some of the stolen specimens from getting among their treasures.”

## The Discount Question.

MR. J. W. SCOTT, the veteran dealer of New York, touching on the big discounts offered by some dealers, says :—

“Dealers are withdrawing their advertisements offering to sell at fifty per cent. discount from catalogue because experience shows that it cannot be done. Certain stamps can still be sold at half catalogue, and different dealers can supply different stamps at this price, but no dealer can fill fifty per cent. of the wants of a fairly advanced collector at this rate. I am not talking of trick orders, for it would be easy enough for me to make out a thousand dollar order of fairly cheap stamps, from which no dealer could supply more than ten per cent. even at full catalogue. The average stamp cannot be sold at a greater reduction than twenty-five per cent., that is, if they are to be disposed of at even a moderate profit. Very few current unused stamps are marked at double face, and allowing ten per cent. for commission, interest and postage, twenty-five per cent. rebate will allow the dealer a lower profit than is obtained in nearly any other branch of trade. Take the despised Seebecks; the wholesale price of these is \$27 per 100 sets; they retail at 50 cents less one quarter, or 37½ cents per set, allowing the dealer a profit of 10 cents, certainly little enough to allow for damaged stamps, broken sets and various losses.

“Of course dealers will continue to offer big discounts, mainly on stamps that have been overpriced, and some genuine bargains on quantities of special stamps that they have acquired at a low price, but the average order cannot be filled at half catalogue price.



"Low tide has been reached and the return is now setting in, and it is my firm belief that prices will be very much higher when the fall trade commences. In fact, I should not be surprised to see a genuine boom set in. Certain it is that it would take very little to start one in the present condition of the market."

### Unofficial Post Cards Abroad.

MR. W. J. STILLMAN writes from Rome to *The Times*: "We in Italy are continually in receipt of supposed post cards, *i.e.*, cards without any official imprint, which are supposed to be post cards in England, but which, with a 1d. stamp, come to us with a surcharge of 3d. People will save their friends' money and tempers by understanding that no card without an official imprint is recognized on the Continent as a 'post card,' but is charged letter postage."

### Cuba, Surcharged "U.S."

DEALERS in the States are looking ahead. One New York dealer, to whom no doubt the wish is father to the thought, has hung up in his window some of the Spanish type of Cuban stamps, which he has had surcharged "U.S."; and these he calls "anticipated American issues." What a rush there would be on the part of patriotic Americans for such an issue! Even Omaha rubbish would be forgotten.

### Brevities.

ANOTHER copy of the 5 c. United States with grille all over the stamp has just been discovered. This is said to be only the second copy known.

IN France a new paper has appeared for collectors of post cards with views of different towns. It is entitled the *Philcartiste*, and is to appear quarterly.

A BELGIAN contemporary announces a new album for collectors of Unpaid Letter Stamps only.

A SPECIAL order was issued in Belgium on February 26th that the 35 centimes stamps of the old issue, without the "Sunday label," are to be withdrawn from circulation. All the stamps of this value in the hands of the Post Office officials are to be returned to the head office within eight days.—*Monthly Journal*.

AN Italian, Albert Borgognini, has been condemned in Brussels to three months' imprisonment and a fine of 52 francs for forging stamps.

IT is announced that M. Victor Robert, of Paris, has bought the famous collection of Baron de Letino Carbonelli, formerly a Minister of the King of Naples. The price was £3000.—*Monthly Journal*.

A "POST OFFICE" MAURITIUS has been found among some old papers in that island, and is under offer to our publishers at the modest (!!) price of £1500.

*Monthly Journal*.

THE *III. B. J.* says that if the Belgium, 10 cent, red-brown, is dipped into a solution made of 25 grammes of shellac dissolved in 100 grammes of pure alcohol, the aniline dye of the stamp will not affect other stamps that happen to be near it in an album.

MR. W. A. WALKER, of Garfield House, Stoke, Devonport, has been elected Hon. Sec. and Treasurer of the Plymouth Philatelic Society in the place of Mr. Miller, who is leaving Plymouth for London.





## Bermuda Stamps.

DEAR SIR,—As you have quoted my name with most flattering frequency in the excellent article on the stamps of Bermuda in your last number, you will, I trust, pardon me for suggesting a few little corrections. The 1d., 2d., 6d., and 1s. stamps of Bermuda are of very similar designs, and as they were issued in 1865 and (the 2d.) in 1866, they should come in the first row of the arrangement proposed on page 109. The 3d. is of distinctly different design, and may well come by itself, having been issued seven years later.

In reference to the provisional 3d. stamps of 1874, it would be well, I think, to give the collectors, for whom your papers are intended, some hint of the fact that it is very doubtful whether any 3d. on 1d., or 3d. on 2d., were ever issued. You enter into a certain amount of detail as to the 3d. on 1s., giving the numbers which I found had been issued to the Post Office on certain dates, and you further argue that the balance must have been issued also, "or recourse would not have been also had to the stocks of 1d. and 2d." But you fail to note that the quantities I quoted were the only lots of that value given out between the date of the authority to convert the 1s. stamps to 3d. and that of the receipt of a further supply of 3d. stamps from England. The surcharged stamps were, no doubt, all issued, but only the three lots which I mentioned could be distinguished in the accounts from the ordinary 3d. stamps. There was then no need for more surcharging, and this, coupled with the facts that no authority seems ever to have been given for converting either 1d. or 2d. to 3d., that these varieties were not heard of until twelve months later (when ordinary 3d. stamps were on hand), and that there was still a supply of 1s. stamps for conversion into 1d. in 1875, is strongly in favour of the contention that the 3d. on the lower values was not a regular issue. The specimens of the 3d. on 1d., which were found later in the treasurer's office, formed, I have no doubt, part of a trial or proof sheet; of the 3d. on 2d. I have never seen a copy with an undoubtedly genuine surcharge. As forgeries of both are not uncommon, it would be well to warn the younger collectors to be careful how they accept copies of these two varieties.

Finally, I would draw your attention to the extraordinary nature of your arguments as to the respective prices of the stamps of Bermuda and Gibraltar. The greater popularity of the latter has little or nothing to do with their higher price; the 6d. of Bermuda, except for

a change of shade which does not come into your list, is the same now as it was more than *thirty-two* years ago, and is naturally quoted at the ordinary price of current stamps of that value; the 1s. also remained unchanged for some twenty-seven years, and is, of course, a common stamp. The 6d. and 1s. of the first issue of Gibraltar were only in use for a little over one year, and their high prices are due to their scarcity.

Yours faithfully,  
EDW. B. EVANS.

April 11th, 1893.

## The Victorian Disease Labels.

SIR,—In your December number, under the above heading, you quote from the remarks of "V and Crown" in the *Australian Philatelist*, and also remark that you "hope, for its own good name and fame, the Victoria Philatelic Society will dissociate itself from all semblance of approval of this scandalous piece of postal jobbery."

I wish to draw the attention of yourself and your readers to the fact that the Philatelic Society of Victoria disapproved of the issue of Victorian Hospital Stamps, and have refused to allow the same on their exchange sheets; and furthermore, as soon as the issue was projected, I wrote officially to the leading philatelic journals giving particulars of the issue, and that the Society disapproved of them. (October issue of your journal.)

In the face of these facts my committee are rather surprised at your notes. As to the statement of "V and Crown," I may state that no Society can be held responsible for the action taken by members individually; and although the suggestion that the stamps be issued was made by Mr. Godfrey, that gentleman did not act for the Society or philatelists, but in his official capacity as President of the Melbourne Hospital, which institution he desired should reap the benefits.

Again, the Society cannot be held responsible because a member designed the stamps in the ordinary course of his business, especially when it is known that the department invited public competition for them.

Assuring you and your readers that the Philatelic Society of Victoria always has and will ever assist Philately, and especially the objects of the S.S.S.S.,

I am, yours, etc.,

D. S. ABRAHAM, *Hon. Sec.*

178, RUSSELL STREET, MELBOURNE,  
10th March, 1893.



## Notable Stamps at Auction.

\* Unused. † On original.

**BUHL & CO., LTD.**  
*26th April, 1898.*  
 Dominican Republic, 1865,\* £ s. d.  
 1 r., black on yellow,  
 laid .. .. . 3 10 0  
 Newfoundland, 6½d., scarlet\* 6 10 0  
 Switzerland, *Zurich*, 4 r.,  
 hor. lines \* .. .. 7 10 0  
 Tuscany, 60 cr.\* .. .. 10 0 0

**WM. HADLOW.**  
*31st March, 1898.*  
 British East Africa, 2 a. on  
 Co.'s stamps, block of 4 6 5 0  
 British South Africa, £10\* 6 0 0  
 Ceylon, 8d., red-brown, im-  
 perf. .. .. . 7 10 0  
 Ditto, 4d., carmine .. 7 10 0  
 Switzerland, 5 c. + 5 c.,  
 severed .. .. . 7 0 0

*1st April, 1898.*  
 Bahamas, 4d., rose, CA 14\* 4 10 0  
 Newfoundland, 6½, carmine\* 8 8 0  
 St. Vincent, 5s., rose, star\* 12 10 0  
 Tobago, 6d., bistre, CA \* 6 17 6

**PLUMRIDGE & CO.**  
*4th April, 1898.*  
 St. Lucia, 1s., black and  
 orange, CA, 14\* .. 4 0 0  
 St. Vincent, 1s., violet-rose,  
 star \* .. .. . 7 0 0  
 Ditto, 1s., claret, star \* 5 0 0  
 Ditto, 1s., vermilion,  
 star, compound perfs.\* 7 0 0  
 Ditto, 5s., rose, star \* .. 13 0 0  
 Ditto, 4d., red-brown,  
 CA, 14 \* .. .. . 5 15 0  
 Virgin Islands, 6d., violet,  
 sheet of 24\* .. .. 4 7 6

*1st May, 1898.*  
 British Guiana, 1862, 4 c.,  
 blue, crossed heart  
 border, roul.\* .. 9 0 0  
 Natal, 1st issue, 1d., blue,  
 strip of 3 † .. .. . 9 0 0  
 New Brunswick, 1s., violet 10 0 0  
 Saxony, 3 pf., red, pair † 14 0 0  
 Switzerland, *Zurich*, 4 r.,  
 hor. lines .. .. . 10 0 0

*7th May, 1898.*  
 Barbados (1d.), blue, no  
 wmk. .. .. . 6 10 0  
 Nova Scotia, 1s., mauve.. 8 5 0

**PUTTICK & SIMPSON.**  
*19th April, 1898.*  
 Mauritius, Post paid, 1d.,  
 orange on yellowish,  
 early state, strip of 3 † 13 0 0  
 New Brunswick, 1s.,  
 mauve .. .. . 14 10 0  
 Newfoundland, 1s., orange 7 10 0  
 Nova Scotia, 1s., purple † 18 0 0  
 Switzerland, *Zurich*, 4 r.,  
 vert. lines, Type 4 .. 12 0 0  
 Ditto, another Type 1 .. 6 5 0  
 Transvaal, 1s., shafts, sheet  
 of 60\* .. .. . 11 10 0  
 United States, *Providence*,  
 entire sheet \* .. .. 10 10 0  
 Buenos Ayres, 4 pesos,  
 scarlet .. .. . 10 0 0

*21st April, 1898.*  
 West. Australia, 1st issue,  
 2d., brown on red .. 8 5 0  
 Ditto, 6d., bronze .. 3 5 0

**VENTOM, BULL, & COOPER.**  
*14th April, 1898.*  
 Mecklenburg-Schwerin, £ s. d.  
 ¼ sch., red \* .. 5 10 0  
 Naples, ½ tor., Arms † .. 13 0 0  
 Spain, 1851, 2 r. .. .. 17 15 0  
 Ditto, 1852, 2 r., pair .. 15 10 0  
 Ditto, 1852, 2 r. .. 7 15 0  
 Switzerland, *Zurich*, 4 r.,  
 vert. lines .. .. . 10 5 0  
 Tuscany, 60 cr., brown-red 7 10 0

*15th April, 1898.*  
 Tasmania, 1862, 2d., green,  
 serrated perfs., pair † 9 10 0  
 United States, Justice, 90c.\* 6 10 0  
 Victoria, 1st issue, 1d., brick-  
 red, block of 14\* .. 37 0 0  
 Ditto, 1857-63, 1d., green,  
 star, roul.\* .. .. 7 10 0

*28th April 1898.*  
 Hawaii, 1853, 5 c., sheet  
 of 20\* .. .. . 7 15 0  
 Ditto, 1853, 13 c., sheet  
 of 20 .. .. . 22 0 0  
 New South Wales, 1860,  
 5s., purple, perf. 12\* 6 15 0

*20th April, 1898.*  
 Queensland, 1881, 10s.,  
 brown, pair .. .. 12 0 0  
 Victoria, 5s., blue, on  
 yellow\* .. .. . 12 5 0

## Notices.

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

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

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



# The Philatelic Record

AND STAMP NEWS.

JULY, 1898.

## Editorial Notes.



UR excellent friend the *Stamp Auction Reporter* in a recent issue indulges in a retrospect of the past auction season, and arrives at the conclusion that the prices realized at auction have been decidedly lower, especially for the more expensive stamps. This it boldly sets down to two causes. It blames the auctioneers for not circulating

their Catalogues earlier, so as to admit of more time for inspection and for the arranging of bids, and it finds fault with the general condition of the specimens offered. Above all it insists upon the fact that the quality of the stamps submitted to public sale is steadily deteriorating. Of those stamps that are "down," West Indians appear to be still suffering a reaction from the "boom" of two or three years ago.

Meanwhile, the *Stamp Auction Reporter* has undertaken, and we hope will continue, its excellent, though very laborious, work of setting out in detail the condition of all single stamps sold at auction. It is the only reliable guide in this direction that we have, and as it is a valuable one from the collector's point of view, we trust its measure of success in its first season will fully justify its continuance for many a season to come.

The deterioration of the condition of stamps is due to natural causes which operate in the case of the dealer's stock book as well as at the auction mart. Stamps that are passing continually from hand to hand, and are being continually thumbed, will show signs of wear, and it is only when the big collection of some wealthy and fastidious collector comes on the market that collectors' stock books and auction sales can boast of irreproachable copies. As a set-off, the average copy can be had at a falling price. Hence the decidedly lower prices which have ruled during the past season. The number of fastidious collectors who can afford to pay for fine copies has no doubt enormously increased during the past few years; *ergo*, fine copies are being more rapidly lifted off the market and locked up in well-known collections. For instance, fine unused old Europeans are scarcely ever met with nowadays at auctions, but if you take an excursion ticket to Brighton you might, if you knew your way about, get a glimpse at a well-known bloater's collection, which would lead you for the moment to imagine that grand copies of the rarest stamps were surprisingly common. Of many countries it may be said that the difficulty of

getting fine copies of the old issues is a decidedly increasing difficulty, and naturally so, for the great specialist will have fine copies, and as he spares neither time, trouble, nor money in securing them, the easy-going collector of limited means has to take what is left on the market. Nevertheless, even for the man of limited means, who keeps his eye open and watches his opportunity, the chance generally comes of getting what he wants on his own terms. In stamp collecting patience and perseverance will not unfrequently achieve more than the well-filled purse.

\* \* \*

**General Collecting in Favour.** ONE of the signs of the times is undoubtedly a tendency to general collecting, but it would be a mistake to suppose that it is a development of general collecting at the expense of specialism. Specialism will always remain of necessity the high-water mark of collecting, for it means the highest grade of collecting, or what may be termed collecting in a scientific manner. Before an ordinary general collector can specialize, he needs to add materially to his sum of philatelic knowledge. Such increase as there has been in general collecting represents rather the tendency of specialists to run, as an addition to their special country, a more or less general collection as well.

And it is an excellent idea from every point of view. It broadens the philatelic sympathies of the otherwise too exclusive specialist, it strengthens the foundations of stamp collecting as a pursuit, and it converts the specialist from a philatelic hermit into a more sociable philatelic being.

Many well-known collectors now run a general collection, specializing certain countries as they can afford time and means. When the specialist is as complete as he can hope to be in his favourite country, he is naturally disappointed at the lack, to him, of things collectible, and as his pursuit of the hobby is the result of a desire to gratify the collecting instinct, it is a wonder that he has not before this taken to general collecting as a relief to his feelings.

\* \* \*

**Novelties of the Month.** OUR chronicle of new issues this month, though not a very extensive one, possesses some features of more than ordinary interest. It includes a 2d. St. Lucia, which is to supplant the 2½d. as the new postal rate abroad, this plucky little colony having taken up and adopted the Canadian proposal to reduce its foreign rate of postage from 2½d. to 2d. What will the Imperial Government, which persuaded the Canadians to hold over their proposal, say to little St. Lucia?

Another issue of peculiar interest is the Gibraltar series, surcharged "Morocco Agencies," for use in the British post offices in Morocco, with indications of impending changes of currency in the stamps of Gibraltar. Further surprises are promised from Newfoundland in the line of royal portraits, and New South Wales is giving us some new perforations.



## How to Collect Bolivian Stamps.

By H. R. OLDFIELD.

(Continued from page 118.)



O. VII.—*There is a diagonal line passing from the background across the space at the top of the right wing, and touching the line running upwards from the body of the eagle across the same space.*

This variety is No. 21 on the plate, and is to be found with equal distinctness on Plates IV. and V. It somewhat resembles variety No. IV., but can easily be distinguished, as may be seen on comparing the illustrations. Its value ought not to be taken at less than 5s. The copies from Plate IV. are much heavier impressions than those from Plate V.

No. VIII.—*The line which should pass from the body of the eagle over the wing is omitted on the right side.*

This is to be found on Plates III., IV., V., VI., and VII.

No. IX.—*There are two parallel lines which cross the open space in the breast of the eagle slanting downwards from left to right; there is also a short horizontal line between the "T" and the "O" of "CONTRATOS," and there are two other lines in the oval band (caused by slips of the engraver's tool), one running horizontally from the top of the "E" of "CENTAVOS" and the other cutting through the "B" and the "O" of "BOLIVIA."*

This variety is to be found on Plates IV. and V., and in the earlier impressions from Plate VI. Its value should be from 5s. to 7s. 6d.

No. X.—*The spelling of the word "BOLIVIA" more nearly resembles "BOIIVIA."*

This is only to be found on Plate V., and its value may be put at 2s. 6d.

No. XI.—*The spelling of the word "BOLIVIA" more nearly resembles "BOUVIA."*

This is a similar variety to No. IX., and is to be found only on Plate No. VI.

No. XII.—*The left wing has become defective, the outline has been renewed with a heavy line, and presents a patched appearance.*

This is to be found on Plates VI. and VII., and consequently in the lilac as well as the green colour. The values may be taken at from 3s. 6d. to 5s. in the green, and from 3os. to 4os. in the lilac colours.

No. XIII.—*Both the wings of the eagle are defective, and broken up in a most extraordinary way.*



No. XIV.—*Three short diagonal lines have been added to the right wing as feather pinions, but have by mistake been placed outside the outline of the wing.*

These two varieties, Nos. XIII. and XIV., are to be found only on Plate VII., and are exceedingly rare both in the green and the lilac colours.

The real value of these varieties cannot well be less than £2 10s. for the lilac, and £3 3s. for the green.

There are many minor varieties in addition to the above, among which may be mentioned :

(a) Copies where there are short lines crossing the white space between the background and the outer rectangular frame at the top and bottom, or sides.

(b) Copies in which one or two of the feather pinions are to be found outside the outline of the right wing.

(c) Copies in which one or other or both of the wings are defective, mostly from Plate V.

(d) A specimen in which there are two short lines (almost dots) in the centre of the white space on the eagle's breast. These are only found on Plates V. and VI. A specimen of each of these is illustrated.

The value of these minor varieties may be taken at from 2s. 6d. to 5s. Further particulars as to these and other varieties can be found in the paper published in *The London Philatelist*, before referred to.

Any collector who can obtain specimens of these types and varieties may congratulate himself on having secured stamps which it will become increasingly difficult to obtain.

The other values of the 1866 issue do not present many difficulties.

*The 10 Centavos Stamps* were printed from a plate containing 78 types, but there are no prominent varieties. Most of the copies are blurred, smudgy, and coarsely executed, but there are a few to be found showing fine workmanship. There is a brown and a black-brown shade, and one of each, with one of the finer specimens, will furnish sufficient for the purposes of a representative collection. In the catalogues the value of the 10 centavos stamp is put at from 40s. to 50s. for the unused, and from 30s. to 45s. for the used copies. I should put the present fair market value :

For finely executed copies, unused . . .	£2 10s. to £3.
For average unused copies . . .	£1 10s.
For postmarked copies . . .	£1 5s.
For penmarked copies . . .	15s. to £1.

*The 50 Centavos Stamps* were printed from a plate containing 30 types, but there are no prominent varieties among them. There are two printings, both from the same plate, and identical save as regards the colours and papers used. The first printing was on thick paper, in colours varying from pale lemon and yellow to orange. There is an orange-red shade, which is rare. The second printing was on thin paper, in a blue colour varying from pale light to very deep. Both printings are rarer used postally.

Catalogue prices are :

Yellow, unused . 2s.	Blue, unused, from 90s. to £5.
Do. used, from 2s. to 15s.	Do. used from 60s. to £7 10s.

BOLIVIA IV.

VARIETY No. 7.



PLATE V. No. 21.

VARIETY No. 8.



PLATE III. No. 59.

VARIETY No. 9.



PLATE V. No. 65.

VARIETY No. 10. †



PLATE V. No. 66.





BOLIVIA V.

VARIETY No. 11. †



PLATE VI. No. 66.

VARIETY No. 12.



PLATE VI. No. 8.

VARIETY No. 13.

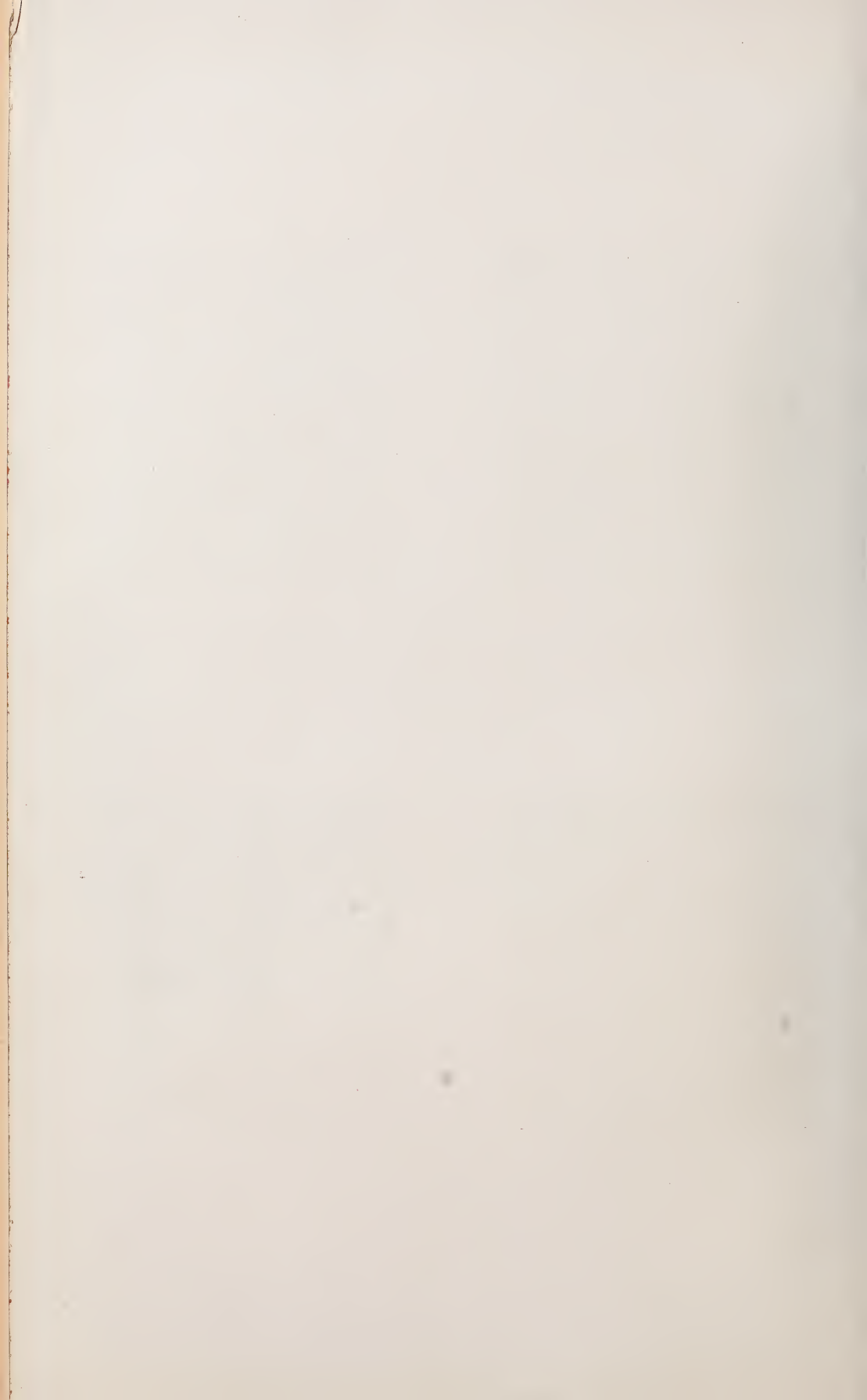


PLATE VII. No. 3.

VARIETY No. 14.



PLATE VII. No. 11.



BOLIVIA VI.

VARIETY "A."



Short line between background and outer frame.

VARIETY "B."



Two feather pinions *outside* right wing.

VARIETY "C."



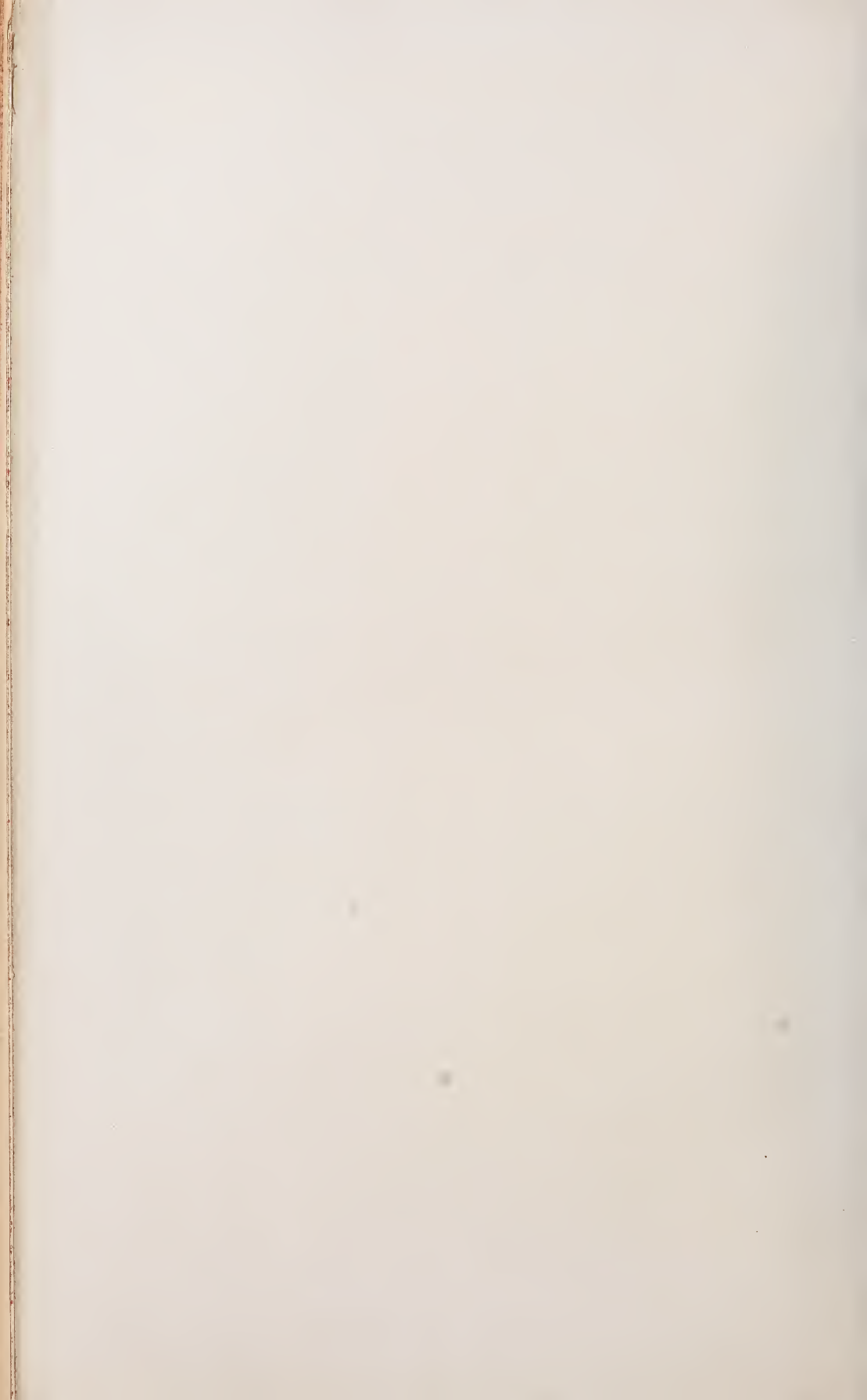
Wing defective.

VARIETY "D."



Two dots in centre of breast.





The yellow stamps would be fairly priced at about 1s. to 1s. 6d. unused (except as regards the brown-orange shade, which is worth much more), about 10s. used postally, and 6d. to 1s. penmarked.

The blue stamps are genuine rarities, but can still be purchased at about £3 10s. for the unused, and less for the used. Those postmarked are worth more than those penmarked. The latter ought not to fetch more than from 40s. to 50s., and are not likely to improve in value so much as the others.

*The 100 Centavos Stamps* are also printed in sheets of 30 types, among which there are not any special varieties. There are two printings :

The first is on thick paper in a dull blue colour ;

The second is on thin paper in a green colour.

I have seen neither colour postmarked, and though I believe they exist, their rarity in such condition is undoubted.

Catalogued prices are :

Blue.—Unused, 4s. ; used, 4s. to 20s.

Green.—Unused, £2 10s. to £5 ; used, 20s. to 65s.

The prices for the blue colour are approximately correct, though I should very much like to get one postmarked at 4s. or even more, while penmarked 1s. would be nearer the value.

The prices for the green colour are absurdly high. 20s. is quite enough for a fine unused copy, while penmarked 7s. 6d. to 10s. is about the price. I should, however, be very pleased to give 20s. for one postally used.

### Second Issue, November, 1867.

These stamps were authorised by decree of 12 March, 1867, but were not delivered until Nov., 1867, this delay being responsible, I believe, for the issue of the 5, 50, and 100 centavos stamps of the previous issue, in the respective colours of lilac, blue, and green.

The new stamps were delivered in Nov., 1867, and the numbers printed were stated to have been :

5 centavos	. 400,000 in green.	50 centavos	. 20,000 in blue.
10 centavos	. 200,000 in red.	100 centavos	. 10,000 in yellow.
	500 centavos	. 2,000 in black.	

The design is mountain scenery, in a central oval, surrounded by a circle containing flags, with 9 stars at foot. The stamp is of rectangular shape, with the value in words at foot, and in figures at each of the top corners.

The catalogue values of these stamps are :

5 centavos, unused	. . . . .	6d. to 8d. ; used	. . . . .	9d. to 10d.
10	„ „	. . . . .	1s. 6d. to 1s. 8d. ; „	. . . . . 1s.
50	„ „	. . . . .	2s. to 3s. ; „	. . . . . 4s.
100	„ „	. . . . .	4s. to 6s. ; „	. . . . . 8s. to 12s.
500	„ „	. . . . .	50s. to 60s. ; „	. . . . . 50s. to £5.

These prices can be fairly checked from the above figures. The 50 and the 100 centavos are probably worth more, and the price of the 500 centavos would rapidly rise if there were any demand for them.

### Third Issue, 1871.

#### FISCAL STAMPS USED AS PROVISIONALS.

These stamps have for design a figure of Justice in a lettered oval, and are inscribed "TRANSACCIONES SOCIALES BOLIVIA." The values are shown in numerals at the four corners of the stamp, which is of rectangular shape.

There are five values—5, 10, 50, 100, and 500 centavos, but it is doubtful whether any values other than the 5 and 10 centavos were used postally.

The catalogue value of the 500 centavos may be taken to be well under the real value. These stamps are not worth collecting unless unused, or used postally.

### Fourth Issue, 1871.

These stamps are similar to the Nov., 1867, issue, with the exception that instead of 9 there are 11 stars, owing to an increase in the number of States composing the Republic.

The issue consists of five values as before, but from a letter which appeared in the number of the *Stamp Collector's Magazine* for November, 1871, it would appear that only the 5, 10, and 100 centavos stamps were in use at that time, the 50 and 500 being still of the 1867 issue.

There is some mystery about these stamps, for there is supposed to have been a Government Decree ordering the destruction of the 100 and 500 centavos stamps, presumably of this issue. In any case the 500 centavos, with 11 stars, is one of the rarest Bolivian stamps, especially in a used condition.

Present catalogue prices are :

5 centavos, unused . . .	6d. ; used . . .	8d.
10 " " . . .	1s. ; " . . .	8d. to 10d.
50 " " . . .	3s. ; " . . .	4s. to 7s. 6d.
100 " " . . .	2s. ; " . . .	8s. to 12s. 6d.
500 " " . . .	£5 to £6 ; " . . .	£7 to £7 10s.

From these prices it would seem probable that remainders had been found of the 100 centavos.

The quoted prices represent fairly accurately the present market values, but the 500 centavos is really worth a figure nearer £10 than £5.





## United States Postage Stamps.

HOW THEY ARE MADE—INTRICATE WORK THAT MUST BE PERFORMED BY SKILFUL HANDS—MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE ENTIRE OPERATION IS POLISHING THE PLATES—HOW THEY ARE GUMMED.

*From the "Washington Star," U.S.*



THE Post Office Department requires annually 40,000,000 sheets, each containing 100 postage stamps.

The printing is done on queer-looking presses, each of which produces 1600 stamps a minute, or about 100,000 an hour. Each press has an endless chain that carries four plates, on which the designs of the stamps are engraved. On each plate 400 stamps are represented. The sheets printed from these plates are intended to be cut into quarters eventually, in which shape they will be sold to the Post Office Department. Each plate is carried by the endless chain first under an ink roller, from which it receives a coating of ink of the proper colour. Then it passes beneath a pad of canvas, which oscillates so as to rub the ink in. Next it pauses for a moment under the hands of a man who polishes the plate.

Finally a sheet of white paper is laid upon the plate, both pass under a roller, and the sheet comes out on the other side 400 printed postage stamps. The plates revolve in a circle, as it were. More accurately speaking, they move around the four sides of a square in a horizontal plane.

While one is being inked another is being rubbed by the canvas, another is being polished, and the fourth is passing under the printing roller. The circuit takes about a minute, during which four sheets of 400 stamps each are printed.

The most important part of the work, requiring the greatest skill, is the polishing. It is done with the bare hands, no other method being equally efficient. The object is to leave exactly enough ink for a good impression and no more. One girl lays the white paper sheets upon the plates, while another young woman removes them as fast as they are printed, and stacks them up in a pile.

This process gives the results of hand-press work. Half a dozen presses working together, each turning out 100,000 stamps an hour, can produce a good many millions in a day. Three hands are required for each press—the printer, who does the polishing, and two girls.

The printer must account for every sheet of blank paper that he received. These sheets are counted in the wetting division before they are delivered to him. After they are printed they are counted before they are sent to the examining division, where they are counted again.

Spoiled sheets are counted as carefully as perfect ones, because they represent money. If lost or stolen they could be used. On each sheet appears the special mark of the printer who turned it out. An allowance of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. is made to him for spoilage.

If he exceeds the allowance he must pay for the extra loss at the actual cost of paper, ink, and labour represented. If the person responsible cannot be found the division which last handled the sheet must pay.

No loophole is left for the loss of a single 1 cent stamp. After being examined the sheets are counted again, and are put between straw boards

under a hydraulic press, to make them lie flat. Thus they are counted more easily, and can be made up into smaller bundles.

After undergoing this process they are counted once more and are sent downstairs to be gummed and perforated. The method of gumming is a novelty, being wholly different from that utilized hitherto in such work.

It is much more rapid and efficient, and before long will doubtless supersede the old plan, which is even now applied to the gumming of cigarette stamps for the internal revenue. The paste is applied to the cigarette stamp by hand with brushes. As fast as they are gummed they are laid sheet by sheet on slatted frames, which are piled in stacks.

The stacks are wheeled on trucks into a room, where they are placed in front of electric fans so that the cool air may dry them. Hot air would accomplish the purposes more quickly, but it would be hard on the work-women. For this reason the slower process is adopted. The new method to be applied to the postage stamps will be an immense improvement in every way.

The machines for this purpose have just been set up. There are two of them exactly alike, and one will do for description. Imagine a wooden box nearly sixty feet long, four feet high, and three feet wide. From end to end runs what might be taken for the skeleton of a trough.

This skeleton projects from the box for a few feet at either extremity. The box is traversed by two endless chains, running side by side, two feet apart. Into one end the sheets of printed stamps are fed one by one. As it is fed into the machine each sheet passes under a roller like the roller of a printing press, to which a gum made of dextrin is slowly supplied.

The sheet takes up a coat of this mucilage on its lower side, and is carried on by the endless chain through the long box. This box is a hot-air box, being heated by steam pipes. At the other end of it the sheets are delivered at the rate of eighteen a minute. Just one minute is required for a sheet to pass through the box, and it is delivered perfectly dry.

The gummed sheets thus delivered are passed over to a long table, where girls pick them up in pairs, and placing the gummed sides together, put them between layers of straw boards. Arranged in this way they are placed under a steam press to flatten them, the mucilage having caused them to curl somewhat.

On coming out of the press they are counted again, and now they go to the perforating machine that makes the pin-holes by which it is rendered easy to tear the stamps apart.

The perforating machine is an arrangement of little wheels revolving parallel to each other, and just far enough apart to make the perforations as one sees them in a sheet of finished stamps fresh bought at the Post Office. After the perforations have been made across the sheet one way by one machine, the sheet must pass through a second machine for the cross perforations.





## British Empire.

**British Central Africa.**—The *American Journal of Philately* illustrates the newest thing in provisionals issued by this colony. It seems to be a B. C. A. Revenue embossed stamp of the type used on cheques. The *A. J. P.* describes it as “rd., vermilion, dark ultramarine frame and inscriptions.”

Mr. Kirkpatrick sends the following official notice to the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly*:—

### “POST OFFICE NOTICE.

“Whereas it is enacted by the Post Office Acts that the Postmaster-General shall have the option of requiring the payment of postage to be made either in money, or by the use of postage stamps, and Whereas Her Majesty's Acting Commissioner and Consul-General has approved of the temporary exercise of this right of choice, Notice is Hereby Given that on and from this date the public will be required to make payment in money for the postage of all correspondence addressed to places within the British Central Africa Protectorate for which penny stamps would ordinarily be used. Provided always that stamps already in the possession of any person shall be accepted in payment of postal charges, and may be affixed to letters in the ordinary way.

“During the time that this arrangement remains in force all unstamped internal correspondence liable to a charge of one penny, should be brought to the Post Office counter, and payment made in cash.

“Postmasters will affix a Token to all letters so presented, as an indication that the postal charges thereon have been paid.

“These tokens are issued for purpose of Departmental administration, and are not for sale to the public: they will be used only for internal correspondence.

“By order,

“(Signed) J. T. GOSLING,

“Acting Postmaster-General.

“GENERAL POST OFFICE, ZOMBA,

“March 11th, 1898.”

The *London Philatelist* says:—“The description of the method adopted by the officials to prevent speculation is somewhat spoilt by the specimen before us retaining its full coating of original gum, although neatly cancelled ‘BLANTYRE—B. C. A.—14 MR.—98’!”

*Adhesive.*

*Provisional.*

rd., vermilion, dark ultramarine frame and inscription.

**British Morocco.**—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. inform us that the following stamps, etc., of Gibraltar, have been surcharged “Morocco Agencies”:—Adhesives, 5 c., 10 c., 20 c., 25 c., 40 c., 50 c., and 1 and 2 pesetas; post cards, 5 c. and 10 c. single, 5+5 c. and 10+10 c. reply; wrappers, 5 c. and 10 c.; and the various sizes of registered envelopes.

The cause of this surcharge, they explain, is that, owing to the depreciation of Spanish money, Gibraltar is about to revert to British currency as formerly, but as, of course, this cannot be done in Morocco, the values in Spanish currency will be used in the British post offices in that country, which are worked as branches of the Gibraltar Post Office, but they are surcharged in order that they may not be sent to Gibraltar to be redeemed. Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. have no definite information as to further new issues, but we expect to see the current Gibraltors surcharged with new values, then a new set in British money, and, finally, a separate set for the Morocco agencies, as they would hardly go on printing the obsolete Gibraltors for surcharging.

The surcharge is in black, in capitals and small letters, and measures as follows:—“Morocco,” 14 mm.; “Agencies,” 14½ mm.; and the two words are 5 mm. apart, measuring from the base of “Morocco” to the tops of the small letters in “Agencies.”

### *Adhesives.*

5 centimos, green.
10    ”    carmine.
20    ”    olive-green and brown.
25    ”    ultramarine.
40    ”    orange-brown.
50    ”    ilic.

1 peseta, bistre and ultramarine.
2    ”    black and carmine.

### *Post Cards.*

5 centimos, green.
5+5    ”    ”    ”
10    ”    ”    carmine.
10+10    ”    ”    ”

### *Wrappers.*

5 centimos, green on buff.
10    ”    carmine on buff.

**Cook Islands.**—Mr. L. A. Sanderson writes the *Australian Philatelist* (31st March): “A new series is being prepared here (Wellington, N.Z.). The design depicts a sea-bird of some description flying over the sea, enclosed in a Greek border. Same design, which is rather poor, for all values. Mr. A. E. Cousins is busy engraving the design at present.”



**Canada.**—A correspondent of the *American Journal of Philately* has seen a proof of the new Canadian stamps. He says the frame is slightly changed and the value in figures is at the bottom on each side of the stamp, in place of the maple leaves.

**Hong Kong.**—Mr. W. J. Gardner, in the *American Journal of Philately*, calls attention to an increase in the size of the Chinese surcharge on the Hong Kong 20 on 30 cents, green. The character was originally 2 mm. in height; this was afterwards enlarged to 2½ mm., and has now been further increased to 3 mm.

**Johore.**—*Le Collectionneur de Timbre-Poste* chronicles three new values of the current type, viz. 10 c., 25 c., and 50 c.

*Adhesives.*  
10 c., green and black.  
25 c., green and violet.  
50 c., green and carmine.

**Newfoundland.**—The *Metropolitan Philatelist* is informed by a St. John's correspondent that "three additional values of the new set may be expected to appear any day. The ½ c. bears the picture of young Prince Edward, eldest son of the Duke of York; the 3 c. has portrait of Princess Victoria Mary of Teck, wife of the Duke of York, and the 5 c. that of the Duke himself. The five stamps of this series thus show four generations of living Royal personages."

**New South Wales.**—We are indebted to Messrs. Smyth and Nicolle, of Sydney, for a copy of the current 6d., changed from carmine to bright blue and green, and issued on the 2nd May last. Wmk. Cr. and NSW; perf. 12.

The publishers of the *Monthly Journal* have recently received supplies of the current 1d., 2d., 2½d., 9d., and 10d., the first three of which are perf. 12 all round, while the other two are perf. 11 × 12. The *M. J.* adds:—"The 10d. was chronicled with this perforation twelve months ago, but the 9d. was then received perf. 12. We have also some varieties of the 2d. of the wood-engraved type of last year, which we note again here, as we do not seem to have given all particulars."

*Adhesives.*

9d. on 10d., red-brown (1897); perf. 11 × 12.  
2d., dull blue (1897) " "  
2d. " " " " 12.  
2d., very deep blue (1897) " "  
1d., rose-red (1898) " "  
2d., pale ultramarine (1898) " "  
2½d., mauve (1897) " "

*Change of colour.*

6d., green; perf. 12.

Mr. Gillies has pointed out to the *Australian Philatelist* that there is a new perforating machine coming into use, gauging 12 × 11½. He has shown the *A. P.* the ½d. and 6d. with the new perforation. We note, however, that the still later production of the 6d. in the new colour, green, is perf. 12.

*Adhesives.*

½d., grey; perf. 12 × 11½.  
6d., rosine-madder; perf. 12 × 11½.

**St. Lucia.**—This colony has taken up and carried out the Canadian proposal to reduce its foreign postal rate from 2½d. to 2d. Consequently, Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a new 2d. stamp, which is to take the place of the 2½d.

*Adhesive.*

2d., ultramarine; name and value in brown.

## Foreign Countries.

**Argentine Republic.**—The *Monthly Journal* has been shown a copy of the 5 c., current type, printed in the exact shade of the 2 c.

*Adhesive.*  
5 c., green, error.

**Belgium.**—*Le Timbre-Poste* chronicles, with much reserve, the 2 c. printed on the watermarked paper of the Railway Stamps.

*Adhesive.*  
2 c., yellow, wmk. Arms.

**Chili.**—We illustrate the new type of the unpaid series chronicled by us in May (p. 126).



**China.**—We illustrate the Waterlow engraving of the first of the re-engraved series chronicled by us in April last (p. 98).



**Holland.**—*Dutch Indies.*—*Der Philatelist* has been informed that, in accordance with an official decree dated February 4th, the following envelopes of the Dutch Indies will be, or have been, surcharged for use as 10 c. envelopes:—

55,000 of 12½ c.	70,000 of 20 c.
20,000 ,, 15 c.	50,000 ,, 25 c.

*Envelopes.*

10, in black, on 12½ c., grey.
10 ,, 15 c., brown.
10 ,, 20 c., blue.
10 ,, 25 c., violet.

**Liberia.**—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the following values, surcharged "O.S." :—1 c., 2 c., 5 c., 10 c., 15 c., 20 c., 25 c., 30 c., and 50 c.

**Samoa.**—The *Australian Philatelist* gives the following perfs. of the latest stamps received from this place.

<i>Adhesives.</i>	
½d., dull purple, <i>perf.</i> 11.	
1d., blue-green	"
1½d., on 2d., blue on orange, <i>perf.</i> 11.	
2d., pale yellow	"
2½d., rose	"
3d., on 2d., black on orange	"
4d., blue	"
5d., vermilion	"
6d., marone	"
1s., rose	"
2s. 6d., mauve	"

**Spain.**—*War Tax Stamps.*—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. send us a strip of these stamps with the following explanation :— "These have been issued with official sanction, but their use is not compulsory, and they do not pay postage. They are on sale at certain post offices in Spain, are placed on the letters in addition to the ordinary postage, and are cancelled in the same manner as the postage stamps, the proceeds of the sale of the stamps being paid to the Government towards the expenses of the war. There is only one denomination, 5 centimos, in five different designs."

They add that "a compulsory War Tax stamp will be issued on July 1st, when the use of these voluntary stamps will probably cease."

**Porto Rico.**—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. inform us that here the Government has issued two compulsory War Tax stamps, viz., the 2 c., red-brown, of 1896, and the 5 c., blue-green, of 1891-93, surcharged in violet with the words "Impuesto de Guerra."

<i>Adhesives.</i>	
<i>Compulsory War Tax Stamps.</i>	
2 c., red-brown.	
5 c., blue-green.	

**Turkey.**—*Thessaly.*—We illustrate the design of the peculiarities chronicled by us in May (p. 127).



**Our Monthly Packets of New Issues.**

No. 1, price One Shilling (postage extra). The July Packet contains 7 varieties, all unused, viz.:—British South Africa, 1898, ½d. and 1d., &c.

No. 2, price Five Shillings (postage extra). The July Packet contains 8 varieties, all unused, viz.:—British South Africa Co., 1898, 2d. and 4d.; Bechuanaland Protectorate, ½d., 1d., and 2d., &c.

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

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

*The earliest information as to New Issues will be much appreciated by us, and will be duly credited to the correspondent, or firm, sending it. Our foreign correspondents can materially help us in this direction. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and be addressed to the Editor, MR. EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, 28, Birdhurst Rise, Croydon.*







## Railway Letter Fee Stamps.

ONCE more we return to the question of the status of Railway Fee stamps. In April last we quoted Dr. Westoby as saying, in the *Monthly Circular*, "We fail to see how they can be regarded in any other light than as postage stamps for a special service." Now he writes, in the *London Philatelist*, that it is "neither a postage stamp nor a railway stamp." But we will quote what he says on the point in full:—

"And now as to the status of the stamp. This is a question for philatelists to determine, and I will simply state my own view of it. According to strict definition, the stamp is not a postage stamp, as it possesses no inherent franking power. This power is only imparted to it when used in conjunction with a Post Office stamp of 1d. It is therefore in an anomalous position, being neither a postage stamp nor a railway stamp, but is part of the machinery by which the Post Office carries out a special service. Had the Post Office itself supplied the railways with stamps of 2d., made something like those from the misappropriated dies, and overprinted them with the name of each company, it would not, in my opinion, have altered the case at all, though it might have done so in the eyes of some. But it did not do so; it left each company free, only prescribing what the general features of the stamp should be. As to the stamp being called a 'Fee,' everything in excess of the actual postage is, in Post Office language, called a fee. Thus the extra 2d. on a registered letter is called a fee, as also are the extra stamps on late letters, and those posted in the trains. I am not in any way advocating the collection of these stamps—this is a matter which must be left to individual taste—but I confess I should prefer collecting stamps whose legitimacy is unquestionable, and whose use is not only recognized, but enjoyed by the Post Office, to illegitimates like some products of the hurry-scurry of 1881-82, that one occasionally finds in collections that appear to aim only at quantity."

The *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* weeps bitter tears over "those writers that have lately done their very best to prove to collectors that these Railway stamps have a philatelic standing," and adds:—

"From the beginning of the boom we were against all the arguments adduced, because we could not consider them of any higher philatelic value than third rate locals like the German locals, and because we clearly foresaw the

consequence of such an ill-starred venture. The matter, as it has been presented by some writers, will undoubtedly influence the railway companies, and the flood of new issues of these stamps will be enormous. We have nothing against collecting these stamps, or German locals, or tram tickets—everybody can collect what he pleases—but we object very strongly to such stamps having the same rank philatelically as postage stamps."

We do not suppose that anyone will care a tinker's blessing whether our contemporary strongly objects to the labels being regarded as postage stamps or not. It is not this or that one's little idiosyncrasies that we want aired, but real arguments *pro* and *con*, and, so far as we have been able to find them, we have placed them before our readers regardless whether we were booming or damning the stamps. And even yet the matter does not seem to us to be settled. How do the authorities regard the stamp?

It is, however, somewhat amusing to note the alarm of the chief apostle of commemorative rubbish posing as an opponent to the exploitation of collectors! We shall next have the old gent. coming out of his own warm quarters to rebuke sinners.

## U.S. 1 c. Provisional Due.

THE following letter, published in *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* of 2nd June, 1898, will be of interest to those who specialize United States issues:—

"Anent the recent discussion of 1 cent stamps, regular issue, used as 'due stamps,' it may interest your readers to know that just now the Fresno Post Office is out of 1 cent due stamps, and is using the current 1 cent, blue, and 1 cent, green, stamps on short-paid mail matter, in lieu of due stamps.

"The last number of the *Weekly* (which I have forwarded to me on my trips through the State) reached me here on Saturday last, duly forwarded from Los Angeles. The wrappers of that and of two or three other papers, also forwarded, I have preserved, so as to be able to show the '1 cent provisional due stamps, used, "on original cover."

"Yours truly,

"E. S. STILSON."

"LOS ANGELES, CAL."

We should like to hear further particulars concerning these "Provisional Postage Due Stamps." In what way are they, when affixed to a letter, distinguished as "Postage Due" stamps?



## U.S. Post Office and the War.

THE *Philatelic Monthly* (U.S.) publishes the following U.S. official decree:—

“Ordered—That, pending the continuance of hostilities between the United States and Spain, no letters, packages, or other mail matter originating in the United States and destined for Spain, or addressed to any Post Office, port, or other places within the jurisdiction of Spain or any of her colonies or dependencies, or to any person residing within the jurisdiction of Spain or her colonies or dependencies, shall be dispatched from the United States to their said destination, nor shall any money order be issued or certified by any Postmaster at any Post Office in the United States payable at any Post Office in Spain or any of her colonies or dependencies. Providing, however, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to authorize the seizure or detention of any closed mails for Spain originating in any other country, or originating in Spain and destined for any other country (nor her colonies or dependencies) while in transit over the territory of the United States.

“That for the purpose of executing the above and foregoing order, Postmasters at the exchange offices of the United States are hereby instructed to return to the writers and senders thereof where the letters or packages contain the return card of the sender, all mail matter or prohibited dispatch as above stated, and when such letters or dispatch do not retain the return card of the writer or sender, such matter must be forwarded to the dead letter office, to be returned to the writers in the ordinary way. And Postmasters at exchange offices are further required to return all money order advices for money orders drawn by any Post Office in the United States upon any Post Office in Spain or her colonies or dependencies.

“This order is hereby made to include all mails originating in the United States for delivery in Spain and her colonies and dependencies from and including Thursday, the 21st day of April, 1898.”

## Mr. Bates' Australians.

“P. E. M.,” the travelling correspondent of the *Philatelic Journal of India*, has visited New Zealand, and writes:—

“At Wellington I had the pleasure of seeing Mr. Bates' superb collection of New Zealand. It is complete; and all the various issues, papers, perfs., watermarks, are shown in countless shades and varieties. A happy idea of this gentleman has been to keep each issue on its originals, showing dates, and it is, I believe, largely due to Mr. Bates' research that the star watermark issue was found to be the first for this colony. Taking the issues in order, the collection contains both unused, used, and on originals, of the star watermark issue on both white and *bleuit*. A strip of eight 1s, on white, being one of the gems of

this lot. The second issue, no watermark, is also complete, both used and unused, on both hard and soft paper. There is a 2d., blue, on original; the paper is as thick as ordinary card, and this, I fancy, must have been a proof, which accidentally got through the post. Another 2d., I noticed, had a very fine serrated perforation, quite distinct from the ordinary one of about 16; this must have been, at least, double that. The serrated perfs. and roulettes were well represented. The pelures were very fine, notably the 3d., lilac, of which Mr. Bates accidentally came across two *struck together*, and it was only when cleaning what he thought an ordinary stamp, that he discovered his fortune. This stamp, I imagine, is one of the rarities of this colony.

“The next issues are represented by unused blocks and pairs, and make a grand display. The various compound perforations are almost complete. The 1s., green, on original, is shown cut in half on both white and blue paper. This provisional was genuinely found necessary by a Postmaster in Otago, who had run out of 6d. values—but, of course, was never authorized by the Post Office. There is a ½d., rose, star and NZ watermark, on blue paper—this stamp is unchronicled; another ½d. on manilla, but of this I have my doubts; several proofs of the current issue, and notably a 2½d. imperf., which is not a proof, but analogous to the 1d., black, V.R. Two sheets, printed in the ordinary way, found their way to the Post Office imperf.; they were never issued. Mr. Bates managed to secure one sheet, while the other rests in the Government collection. The Fiscal Postals are well represented, and make up as fine a collection of the stamps of this colony as it is possible to obtain. While at Wellington, I called on the Secretary, at the General Post Office, and saw the Government collection. It is a general one, and, perhaps, the finest things in it are—two complete sets of the Columbus issue of the United States of America, and a very fine strip of six 1d. vermilion, imperf., pelure on original New Zealand. The collection is not large, but has evidently been cared for. The Government were unfortunate some time ago to lose their old collection in a fire.”

## Zululand Reminders.

WE quote the following from the *Philatelic Era* (U.S.):—

“A letter received here this week from the Postmaster-General of Zululand states that the non-obsolete stamps of that colony are to be sold to the highest bidder as remainders. Natal stamps are now used in Zululand.”

It will be interesting to know what the remainders comprise, probably little else than the recently-issued tricolour series, which, as a consequence, should be cheap for some time to come.

## Continental and American Bank Note, U.S.

IN dealing with the issues of 1879 in his excellent history of the postage stamps of the United States which he is contributing to the *American Journal of Philately*, Mr. J. N. Luff thus particularises the Continental and American Bank Note printings.

"On February 4th, 1879, the Continental Bank Note Co. was consolidated with the American Bank Note Co., under the name of the latter. The contracts of the former company were assumed by the new organization. Subsequent contracts were also secured by the American Bank Note Co., who continued to supply the stamps required by the Post Office Department until January 1st, 1894.

"As has been previously stated, the Continental Bank Note Co. began, about the end of 1878 or beginning of 1879, to use a soft porous paper for their stamps. The American Bank Note Co. continued to use paper of this quality, as it was found to give the best results, especially when steam presses were used. The new company also made use of the plates of its predecessor, as well as the plates of the National Bank Note Co., for the 30 and 90 cents values, and probably some plates of the 10 cents made by the latter company. It is certain that there exist 10 cent stamps which are undoubtedly the work of the American Bank Note Co., and are without the secret mark. It is claimed by some writers that these are from the Continental Bank Note Co.'s plates, from which the secret mark has worn away. In support of this statement, pairs and blocks are reported, on which the mark shows with varying degrees of indistinctness, and is sometimes almost invisible. It is possible that this claim is correct; but there are certain other points about the stamps which are peculiar to the plates of the National Bank Note Co., and which lead the author to believe they are from those plates. The question can only be settled by finding the stamps with marginal imprint or plate number, or by examination of the records of the contractors. It is to be regretted that there is no present prospect that the latter privilege will be granted."

### Re-engraved U.S., 1881-2.

WE further quote from Mr. Luff's article the following excellent description of the peculiarities of the re-engraved series of 1881-2:—

"Either because the dies had become worn from long use, or because it was thought desirable to deepen the lines of the designs, that the wiping of the plates might be made easier and heavier impressions produced, the dies of the one, three, six, and ten cents stamps were re-engraved. This re-engraving did not improve the appearance of the stamps.

Their delicacy and clearness were destroyed, and the impressions from the re-cut designs are heavy, blurred, and uneven. The re-engraved stamps may be distinguished by the following peculiarities:—

"ONE CENT. The vertical lines of the background have been much deepened in the upper part of the stamp, so that in many impressions the background appears to be solid. Lines of shading have been added inside the arabesques in the upper corners. The fine shadings outside the arabesques and at the ends of the upper label have been nearly obliterated by the re-cutting. Mr. Tiffany describes three varieties of this stamp, distinguished principally by the condition of the oval below the bust, as showing either a light spot, a shadow, or a background of uniform solidity. These varieties are not in any way due to differences in engraving, but to the amount of ink on the plate, and perhaps, in some small degree, to the condition of the plate as regards wear.

"THREE CENTS. Vertical lines have been added to the background of the medallion, but they can only be seen on proofs or very clearly-printed copies. The vertical lines of the shield have been deepened, making the shadows of the medallion appear by contrast only about one-half as wide as before. At the bottom the horizontal lines of the background have been deepened, thus obliterating the fine vertical shadings below the ends of the ribbon bearing the value. About 1 mm. below the 'TS' of 'CENTS' a short horizontal dash has been cut.

"SIX CENTS. The horizontal lines of the panel have been re-cut, obscuring the shadings of the edges and of the oval, and giving it a uniformly solid appearance. The vertical lines of the background have also been re-cut. There are now only three of these lines at each side of the panel, where formerly there were four.

"TEN CENTS. The lines of the medallion, the shield, and the background have all been re-cut. In the medallion, the diagonal hatching lines have disappeared. At the left side there were formerly five vertical lines between the medallion and the edge of the shield. There are now but four. The five vertical shadings below the ribbon bearing the value are nearly obliterated by the deepened horizontal lines of the background. The re-engraved die was made from a transfer of the old National die, and so has not the secret mark.

"Mr. Tiffany says the re-engraved stamps began to appear in November, 1882. This date is much too late for at least three values. The *Philatelic Record* reported the one cent in March, 1882, the ten cents in June, and the six cents in November of that year. The change in the three cents was made earlier than in any of the other values, but does not appear to have attracted the attention of any of the philatelic journals. It is stated on excellent authority that the three cents was re-cut in June, 1881, the one cent in July,



1881, the ten cents in March, 1882, and the six cents in May of that year, and that stamps from the new plates were issued to the public about one month later than the date named in each instance."

### Hawaiian Portraits.

As the ordinary catalogue gives no key to the several excellent portraits which are such an interesting feature in Hawaiian postage stamps, we quote the following list from the *Philatelic Era* (U.S.):—

- "Kamehameha I., 25 c., purple.
- Kamehameha III., 1853 issue.
- Kamehameha IV., 2 c., 1864.
- Kamehameha V., 5 c., blue.
- Kalakaua I., 2 c. and 50 c.
- Prince Leluhoko, 12 c., black.
- Minister Kekuanoa, 18 c.
- Queen Liliuokalani, 2 c., 1891.
- Queen Emma, \$1.00.
- Queen Kapiolani, 15 c., red-brown.
- Princess Likelike, 1 c., blue and green.
- Princess Kamamalu, 1 c., violet."

By the way, we note that the *London Philatelist* still speaks of the Hawaiian Islands as having been annexed by the United States, whereas the proposal to annex still remains a proposal, and may never go further, though the present indications are that the war may force the United States into annexation.

### Hong Kong Reminders.

HONG KONG wants to sell its remainders of the obsolete \$1 stamp; but Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, to whom the stock was offered, say:—

"The Crown Agents for the Colonies have asked if we will tender for 240 sheets, each containing 240 stamps of the recently obsolete \$1 Hong Kong stamp. Forty sheets are surcharged in Chinese characters, and 200 sheets are without this surcharge. The Crown Agents state that these stamps have been declared obsolete on account of recent cases of forgery in Hong Kong. They at first stated that no tender under face value would be accepted. Since then they have written to us to know what, in our opinion, is the market value of the stamps, the face value represented being about 57,600 dollars.

"We replied to this that we did not want to purchase such a vast quantity of one kind of stamp unless at the price of waste paper, and that we did not think any firm would be found to take them up unless at a quite nominal price. It is as well, however, to put on record the number of stamps that are in the remainders."

Somehow remainders do not sell well of late. We hear that even the remainders of the embossed Gambias, which were advertised for sale, have been destroyed.

### India "O. H. M. S." Double Surcharge.

A CORRESPONDENT sends the *Philatelic Journal of India* two copies of the current  $\frac{1}{2}$  anna O. H. M. S. with a double overprint. The first appears with the word "On" partly on the upper and partly on the lower stamp, almost at the edge of the corner, the letter "H" is almost in the middle of the stamp, "S" about 3 mm. from the left edge of one stamp, and "M" about the same distance from the right edge of the other. The correspondent says—

"I enclose herewith the first case I have ever come across in this country of a double surcharge, for your inspection and return, as if it is as much a novelty to you as it is to me, you might like to take notice of it. It is easy to note that the first surcharge was the incorrect one, the other has been printed over the first, and I do not suppose that more than one sheet was so done. I regret to say that it was not till three months after they had been in use that I noticed the error, otherwise I might have obtained the remainder of the sheet. As it is, I recovered only seven in all."

The Editor of the *P. J. of I.* adds, "The two which we have seen are on a piece of original, together with a 1 anna O. H. M. S. It is well known that the utmost care is exercised in the printing of this surcharge, and this curious error is undoubtedly a rarity."

### Tuscany 2 soldi.

THE *Revista del Francobollo* explains the rarity of the 2 soldi of Tuscany. We quote from a translation in the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*:—

"The 2 soldi was issued, along with the values of 1 soldo, 2, 4, and 6 crazie, in consequence of a decree of the Tuscan Post Office, dated March 10th, 1851. The said values came into use, though in but a very scanty way, the franking of letters being at first limited to correspondence between Tuscany and the States of the Italian-Austrian Postal Union, on April 1st, 1851.

"To this first issue belong the varieties on blue paper, whereas in the second printing all the values of the series appeared on grey paper, almost white. The 2 soldi on this latter paper is much rarer than in the first, having had a still shorter existence.

"It was, however, soon recognized that the 2 soldi was a value of little or no use, and seeing also that such value, if required, could be made up by two stamps of 1 soldo, or with a 1 crazia (lire 0.07) and 1 quattrino (lire 0.014), new values issued, the first on July 1st, 1851, together with the 9 crazie, and the second on September 1st, 1852, for the postage of newspapers—the value of 2 soldi was suppressed on December 1st, 1852."





## The Newfoundland Provisional.

SOME of our American contemporaries have been pitching into each other over the Newfoundland provisional, some asserting that whole sheets of the rare provisional had been got from the Newfoundland Post Office by Boston dealers, others ridiculing this assertion. Let us suggest an explanation to our friends. Has it ever occurred to them that shrewd dealers who happened to have sheets of the much-needed one cent stamps offered these in exchange for the provisional issue, and that, as it mattered not to the Postmaster which kind of one cent stamps he had so long as he was able to make the most of his supply, he did exchange provisionals for a supply of the stamps of which he had run short? We happen to know that this was done, for we have had a sheet that was so obtained.

## Used English High Values.

OUR German friend of Sauerkraut Alley has been enlightening the world as to the utility of the high values of our English stamps. His amusingly ignorant remark that the £1 and £5 are used for postage "only once in a blue moon" has drawn the following reply from our American contemporary, the *Philatelic Monthly and World* :—

"We know of one lot of over twenty-five of the £5 stamps having been received on mail matter addressed to New York, and we have several times bought large quantities of the £1 stamps which came to this country on mail matter, one purchase having contained over 125 of the £1."

## More Commemoratives, Grenada.

BUT still they come! We have already noted the Trinidad speculation authorized by our Colonial Secretary. Since then Grenada has announced her intention to follow suit. Some antiquarians in the island have discovered that, on the 15th August, 1498, Columbus, after passing through the strait of Boca del Dragon, which separates Trinidad from the mainland of South America, sighted the island of Tobago, and winked at Grenada as he passed. And now that wink is to be commemorated by the issue of a special 2½d. stamp.

## Nevis! New Issues!

HAVE Stanley Gibbons, Limited, received some "strictly private information" concerning the future philatelic possibilities of Nevis? Otherwise, what is the meaning of the extraordinary amount of space provided for further issues of this postally-retired colony in the splendid new edition of the *Imperial Album*? Whilst very few of even the most prolific of our colonies are provided with as much as a page for further issues, Nevis is accorded no less than two whole pages!

## A Philatelic Locust.

REALLY some measures should be taken to protect innocent postal authorities from philatelic locusts. Some time last month a goodly supply of a new issue of stamps for the use of our troops in the Soudan was sent out. Shortly after they were received Mr. Edward Stanley Gibbons swept over the spot, and there was not even a perforation left. Tommy Atkins could not imagine what had become of the blooming things, and even Parliament was puzzled for a time.

## B.C.A. Stamps Stolen in Transit.

THE following official notice from the Acting Postmaster-General of British Central Africa tells its own story of the evident theft of a lot of B.C.A. stamps in transit :—

"GENERAL POST OFFICE, ZOMBA,  
"BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA PROTECTORATE,  
"March 23rd, 1898.

"GENTLEMEN,—I have the honour to transmit the following information with reference to a case of stamps of this Protectorate that has disappeared whilst *en route* from London to this place. The case was last seen at Chinde on or about the 25th of January, when it was stowed on board a barge in the river Zambesi. It afterwards disappeared, and, although it is stated to have been lost overboard, there is no satisfactory evidence that this was so.

"The stamps enclosed were of the 1d., 2d., 4d., 6d., 1s., 2s. 6d., and 4s. issues.

"I shall feel obliged if, in the event of your learning of suspiciously-large transactions in B.C.A. stamps of these values, you will kindly communicate with the Crown Agents for the Colonies, Downing Street, London, and also with me direct.

"I have the honour to be, gentlemen,

"Your obedient servant,

"J. T. GOSLING,

"Acting Postmaster-General."

## Our Beginners' Page.

### British Bechuanaland.

The following particulars concerning British Bechuanaland are abridged from *Hazell's Annual*:—

“British Bechuanaland extends from Cape Colony to the Zambesi, between the Transvaal and Kalahari. The southern portion, from the Griqualand and Transvaal borders to the Molopo river and Ramathlabama Spruit, was in '85 formally annexed by the Imperial Government, and is ruled as a Crown Colony by an Administrator acting under the Governor of Cape Colony. Its area is about 60,000 square miles, and its population about 60,000. The chief towns of the colony are Vryburg, where the administration is centred, Mafeking, and Kuruman. A railway from Kimberley was run to Vryburg in '91, and greatly aided the development of the country. The line was afterwards extended to Mafeking, and in Sept., '95, the directors of the Bechuanaland Railway Company invited subscriptions at par for £900,000, part of £1,300,000 5 per cent. first mortgage debentures for the purpose of carrying on the line to Gaborones and Palapye. A proclamation was issued in '92 altering the title of the Administrator of Bechuanaland to 'Commissioner, Administrator, and Chief Magistrate for the Bechuanaland Protectorate and territories adjacent thereto,' thus including Khama's country and the regions north and west of Khama's. These regions are now, however, by an agreement made in '94, under the administration of the British South African Company. The revenue of the colony amounts to about £50,000 a year, and the expenditure to about £150,000. A body of mounted police maintains order here and in the Protectorate. The limits of the Northern Bechuanaland Protectorate, which has an area of about 160,000 square miles, are:—West of the boundary of the South African Republic as defined by Convention of Feb., 1884, to the 20th meridian of E. longitude, thus including part of Kalahari; north of R. Molopo as far as the 22nd parallel of S. latitude. Khama's country lies to the north of the Bechuanaland Protectorate, in the district which the British South Africa Company was empowered to take over and administer in '94. Khama has since '75 been the chief of the Bamangwato, and is one of the most enlightened native rulers in Africa. The capital of the country was formerly at Shoshong, but is now at Palapye, also called Palachwe, the largest native town in South Africa, where an assistant British Commissioner is stationed.”

The philatelic history of British Bechuanaland is in some respects more or less obscure;

the line of demarcation for the separate use of the Protectorate issues from the general issue has been more observed in the name than in the use of the stamps. According to the London Philatelic Society's book on the South African Colonies, Part I., “the postage stamps issued in the two divisions seem to have been used more or less indiscriminately throughout the whole of the territories.” A year or more since, when it was decided to annex Bechuanaland to Cape Colony, it was expected that there would be no more Bechuanaland stamps, and the remaining stock of stamps was sent to Cape Town. Subsequently they were, however, brought again into use, not in British Bechuanaland, but in the Bechuanaland Protectorate, which is the country to the north of Bechuanaland, extending to the British South Africa Company's boundary. Recently these stamps have been replaced by English stamps surcharged “Bechuanaland Protectorate.”

From the first Bechuanaland has drawn upon other sources for its stamps to save the expense of a special issue. It has thus at different times overprinted stamps of Great Britain and the Cape of Good Hope, and the various changes form a series of more than ordinary interest for the philatelist.

It commenced with a surcharge on the 4d., blue, CC, Cape of Good Hope stamp in 1866. This first issue has long remained at a low price, but it is now getting somewhat scarcer, and should be secured before it yields to the rising tendency of first issues. To collectors of used copies it is interesting to get the stamp with a clearly outlined postmark cancellation. Then followed more Cape stamps, some water-marked CA and some Cabled Anchors. In 1887 the English ½d. was surcharged, and the same year an approach was made to a more special issue by using what is known at Somerset House as the unappropriated die, *i.e.* a die with a blank label on which might be printed the name of any country. A later issue of these stamps in the following year (1888) was further surcharged with the figure of value, as the value in words was apparently not considered to be clear enough. Then followed surcharges on Cape stamps in 1889, 1892, and 1894, again followed in 1891–94 with a series on English stamps with a final printing for British Bechuanaland on the Cape ½d., green.

We have separated the “Protectorate” issues from the general issues, and placed them last, as they show signs of survival. The history of these issues is much on a par with the ordinary Bechuanalands.



## REFERENCE LIST.

Cape of Good Hope Stamps.

Surcharged "British Bechuanaland."

1886.

	Wmk. Cr. C C.		Perf.	Unused.		Used.
	s.	d.		s.	d.	
4d., blue . . . . .	2	0	...	3	0	

1886.

	Wmk. Cr. C A.		Perf.	Unused.		Used.
	s.	d.		s.	d.	
½d., black . . . . .	1	0	...	—	—	
1d., carmine . . . . .	—	—	...	—	—	
3d., claret . . . . .	1	0	...	1	3	

1886.

	Wmk. Cabled Anchor.		Perf.	Unused.		Used.
	s.	d.		s.	d.	
½d., black . . . . .	0	6	...	—	—	
1d., carmine . . . . .	1	0	...	1	0	
2d., ochre . . . . .	1	0	...	0	8	
6d., violet . . . . .	3	0	...	4	0	
1s., green . . . . .	6	0	...	6	0	

1887.

Current English ½d.

Surcharged "British Bechuanaland."

Wmk. Imperial Crown. Perf.

½d., vermilion . . . . .	0	3	...	0	3	
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1887.

"Unappropriated Dies" of Great Britain.

Overprinted "British Bechuanaland, Postage and Revenue."



Type I.



Type II.

Wmk. Orb.

1d., lilac, Type I. . . . .	0	8	...	0	4	
2d., " " . . . . .	0	9	...	0	6	
3d., " " . . . . .	0	9	...	3	0	
4d., " " . . . . .	2	0	...	1	0	
6d., " " . . . . .	6	0	...	1	0	

Wmk. "V.R."

1s., green, Type II. . . . .	4	6	...	1	6	
2s., " " . . . . .	10	0	...	7	0	
2s. 6d., green " . . . . .	10	0	...	10	0	
5s., " " . . . . .	15	0	...	7	6	
10s., " " . . . . .	—	—	...	—	—	

Wmk. Orb.

£1, lilac, Type III. . . . .	65	0	...	35	0	
£5 " " . . . . .	—	—	...	—	—	



Type III.

1888.

Same as preceding, but further surcharged with figures of value.

	Unused.		Used.			
	s.	d.		s.	d.	
1d., lilac, Type I. . . . .	0	6	...	0	6	
2d., " " . . . . .	1	0	...	1	0	
4d., " " . . . . .	10	0	...	10	0	
6d., " " . . . . .	2	6	...	2	0	
1s., " Type II. . . . .	7	6	...	2	0	

1889.

Cape of Good Hope Stamp.

Surcharged "British Bechuanaland," in green.  
Wmk. Cabled Anchor. Perf.

½d., black . . . . .	0	3	...	0	6	
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1889.

Type I. Surcharged "One Half Penny."  
Wmk. Orb. Perf.

½d. on 3d., Type I. . . . .	20	0	...	—	—	
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1892.

Cape of Good Hope Stamps.

Surcharged "British Bechuanaland,"  
vertically, reading upwards.

Wmk. Cabled Anchor.

1d., carmine . . . . .	1	6	...	1	6	
2d., bistre-brown . . . . .	1	6	...	1	6	

1894.

Same surcharge on same stamps, reading  
downwards.

1d., carmine . . . . .	0	9	...	1	0	
2d., bistre-brown . . . . .	0	9	...	1	0	

1891-94.

Current English Stamps.

Surcharged "British Bechuanaland."  
Wmk. Imperial Crown. Perf.

1d., lilac . . . . .	0	3	...	0	3	
2d., green and red . . . . .	1	0	...	0	9	
4d., brown and green . . . . .	2	6	...	2	0	
6d., purple on red . . . . .	2	6	...	2	6	
1s., green . . . . .	6	0	...	7	6	



1897.

Cape of Good Hope Stamp.

*Surcharged "British Bechuanaland,"*  
*Wmk. Cabled Anchor. Perf.*

	Unused.	Used.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
½d., green. . . . .	0 2	—

Bechuanaland Protectorate.

1888.

Current English Stamp.

*Surcharged "British—Protectorate—*  
*Bechuanaland."*

*Wmk. Imperial Crown. Perf.*

½d., vermilion . . . . .	0 4	0 6
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1887-89.

"Unappropriated Dies" of Great Britain.

*Overprinted "British Bechuanaland Postage*  
*and Revenue," and further surcharged*  
*"Protectorate" and figure of value.*  
*Wmk. Orb. Perf.*

1d., lilac, Type I. . . . .	0 6	1 0
2d. " " . . . . .	7 6	5 0
3d. " " . . . . .	17 6	—
4d. " " . . . . .	7 6	7 6
6d. " " . . . . .	3 0	3 0

Same overprint and surcharge, but no figure of value.

*Wmk. "V.R." Perf.*

	Unused.	Used.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
1s., green, Type II. . . . .	8 6	7 6
2s. " " . . . . .	70 0	—
2s. 6d., green " . . . . .	80 0	—
5s. " " . . . . .	100 0	—
10s. " " . . . . .	120 0	—

Current Stamps of Cape of Good Hope.

*Surcharged "Bechuanaland Protectorate"*  
*in green.*

*Wmk. Cabled Anchor.*

½d., black . . . . .	0 3	—
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Current English.

*Surcharged "British—Protectorate—Four-*  
*pence—Bechuanaland."*

*Wmk. Imperial Crown. Perf.*

4d. on ½d., vermilion . . . . .	2 0	2 0
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1898.

Current English Stamps.

*Surcharged "Bechuanaland—Protectorate."*  
*Wmk. Imperial Crown. Perf.*

½d., vermilion . . . . .	0 2	0 2
1d., lilac . . . . .	0 2	0 2
2d., green and red . . . . .	0 4	—
4d., brown and green . . . . .	0 8	—
6d., purple on red . . . . .	1 0	—

*The prices given in the Reference List are those at which our publishers are prepared to supply the various stamps. They also serve the purpose of showing the relative rarity of the stamps catalogued.*





# The Philatelic Record

AND STAMP NEWS.

AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER, 1898.

## Editorial Notes.



THE most important item of the month is the official announcement that a conference of Colonial representatives, presided over by our Postmaster-General, has been held in London, at which it was agreed, on the proposal of the representative of the Dominion of Canada, that a letter postage of one penny per half-ounce shall be established between the United Kingdom, Canada, Newfoundland, the Cape Colony, Natal, and such of the Crown Colonies as may, after communication with and approval of Her Majesty's Government, be willing to adopt it. The date on which the reduction is to take effect will be announced later on. In this arrangement it is feared that the Australian Colonies can take no part at present, but it is not likely that they will stand outside the arrangement if, as anticipated, it becomes general with the other colonies.

Imperial  
Penny Postage  
at last.

Philatelically, the change will have very little effect. The  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 5d. values will not be quite so common as heretofore, but as they will still be required for foreign countries they will remain in use. The reduced rate may lessen the demand for some of the higher values, but it is doubtful if any will be retired as a consequence.

\* \* \*

WE publish on another page the Annual Report of the London Philatelic Society of London. It is not an inspiring document. While other societies are reporting substantial increases of membership, the London Society tables a decrease. It also notes a great and marked falling off in the number of original papers read before the Society; and it once more bids its patient members to "hope on, hope ever" for great works promised, but not yet forthcoming, and some of which are no longer mentioned among the things that may be.

When we think of the splendid work that the premier society has done in days that are gone by, and what it might yet do, we cannot but regret the apathy that seems to be shrivelling up the possibilities of this grand community of great collectors.

\* \* \*



THE editor of the *Boston Stamp Book* should be the best judge of what is suited to the tastes of his readers, but if the style of ignorant and reckless assertion, which is rampant in the writer who deals with the new issues, is an acceptable sample, we can only express our surprise. The writer in question tells us that the recent issue of New Zealand's "was a piece of gigantic jobbery." He says, "Two prints of the stamps have been made, one in London, the other in New Zealand, so that there is one startling die variety on the 2½d., and a wide variance of shades throughout the other values."

There has never been the slightest shadow of authority for the statement of "two prints, one in London, and the other in New Zealand," for the simple reason that the only prints have all been made up to date by Messrs. Waterlow. The story, therefore, is a pure fabrication, of which any respectable journal should be heartily ashamed. The statement that there is a wide variance of shades is also sheer twaddle, for there is only one wide variation of shade, viz., in the 5d. We have specimens of both supplies before us, and find very little variation in the others; in fact, in most of the values the shades are very close, and only such as would arise from one day's printing to another.

Then, basing his opinion upon his own reckless and ignorant assertions, this writer moralizes in this fashion: "This multiplication of collectible varieties of an already high-priced set is dire presumption on the part of the Britishers, and they should not be too enthusiastically encouraged in it."

His charge of jobbery, forsooth, is further based upon the fact that, for the mere convenience of collectors, a small portion of the issue has been left on sale at the New Zealand Agent-General's Office in London. The Agent-General is as much a servant of the New Zealand Government as any one of its post-masters, and he is as much entitled to be used for the sale of the stamps. The discount, amounting to the gigantic sum of 2 per cent., has been allowed to dealers who took large quantities.

If a different printing had been made for London, with obviously intentional varieties, English journals would not have been slow to expose the business; but it is most humiliating to self-respecting philatelists that charges of "jobbery" against the postal authorities of any country or colony should be based by any respectable philatelic journal upon a shameless fabrication.

If scarcely falls within the province of philatelic journalism to take note of the writer's studied insolence to "Britishers," but English collectors, who, as a body, share in the prevailing sympathy of Englishmen with the heroic sacrifices that America is making in her long-provoked struggle with Spain, cannot fail to regret that such a shameless and discordant voice should be heard just now.

\* \* \*

As every reader knows, we are as much opposed to stamps made purely for sale to collectors as anyone can be; but we are even more strongly opposed to the senseless, childish sneering which, in certain quarters, greets almost every new issue. The S.S.S.S. movement in its inception was the genuine outcome of a genuine revolt against the increasing flood of stamps made for the purpose of picking stamp collectors' pockets; but some people seem inclined to use it as a means of ridiculing all and sundry new issues. To such a use we shall offer the most uncompromising and active hostility.

Genuine new issues are the very life-blood of philately. They are a greater stimulus to its continuance than all the wealthy bloating of our great collections; they link the past with the present; they are the direct means of continually recruiting our ranks, and of infusing into our body the enthusiasm of new blood; they appeal especially to the beginner; they are mostly free from the jobbery

and trickery, the mending and patching, the cleaning and touching-up of mysteriously high-priced and suspiciously over-rated old issues.

New issues, it is true, have got into bad company of late, but that is no reason why we should fling a suspicion at every surcharge that is made. If there is presumptive evidence that the surcharge was unnecessary, or could have been easily avoided, then by all means call it in question; but to sneer at all emergency issues simply because they happen to be emergency issues is ridiculous, childish, and foolish, and can only result in undermining the confidence of collectors and working injury to the pursuit of philately.

A popular statesman effectually silenced many of his venomous traducers, who traded on the misquotations of his speeches, by calling for the date and occasion of the speech; and we are inclined to think that if we call for chapter and verse from the traducers of apparently genuine new issues, we shall effectually put a stopper upon their sneering volubility. If necessary, let us try the remedy. A merciless opposition should be meted out to speculative issues, but an equally candid and outspoken opposition should be given to all attempts to fling mud without cause at apparently genuine new issues.

\* \* \*

The S.S.S.S. in extremis. THE S.S.S.S. is *in extremis*. It met quite recently and looked frowningly at a long list of hustling offenders, but it had not enough vitality left in it to utter one single swear. In such a serious state of matters it was decided to urge the father of its being to lay the critical condition of his progeny before a general meeting, to decide whether any stimulants shall be administered in the hope of prolonging life, or whether it shall be allowed to peacefully end its troubled existence. We anticipate that the gathering will be around the death-bed of our once vigorous and would-be friend of philately.

We never had much faith in the manner of its reconstruction. It was all right enough for the worthy bishop, when a clumsy waiter emptied the soup into his lap, to ask a lay brother to say something; but for a society to be formed for the purpose of employing an independent set of other men to do its swearing seemed to us to be an anomaly that could not arouse much enthusiasm amongst collectors, and we are still of opinion that the only effective voice for condemnation will be the collective and approving voice of the various philatelic societies of the country. The condemnation of the best committee in the world will probably be valueless in effect unless it has the moral and material backing of strong and influential societies behind it, who will bind themselves together to give practical effect to its condemnations. Such a combination would quickly put an end to the general sale of philatelic weeds in this country, even without the assistance of dealers, and possibly even in spite of their opposition.

However, under the circumstances, it is, in our humble opinion, the better plan to accept the inevitable, and let the business drop till collectors' eyes are more opened than they are to-day to the dangers of speculative issues. We do not believe in worrying the trade with ineffective condemnations, for they harass dealers, and do not help them to put an end to speculative issues.

It is all very well to say, as some do, Let us publish a black list, and after that let those collect who will. Experience shows us that will never do. It will unsettle dealers and collectors, and settle nothing. It will lead to confusion, friction, and bad language. It will strain the relations between dealers and collectors, and possibly even drive more dealers into the speculative camp. Let us swear effectively, or not at all.


The combined and unmistakable voice of the leading societies would justify, it might even compel, the exclusion of all condemned stamps from the leading catalogues. Nothing short of such an effective condemnation will justify the further prolongation of the life of the S.S.S.S.

## How to Collect Bolivian Stamps.

BY H. R. OLDFIELD.

(Continued from page 166.)

### Fifth Issue, 1878.

 HIS and the previous issue both had long lives, for there was no further change until 1887. The shape is rectangular, divided into two parts by a wavy band containing the words "CORREOS DE BOLIVIA." In the upper half there is an oval medallion containing mountain scenery and framed with flags, while below are the eleven stars. The lower half of the stamp is occupied with an open book, with the value in words below. Figures indicating the value are placed in each of the corners.

This open-book issue consists of four values—5, 10, 20, and 50 centavos. The stamps are all somewhat scarce unused, more especially the 50 centavos, and are likely to increase in value in this state. Of used stamps there is an ample supply; but the postmarks on this issue are varied and interesting, being of numerous shapes and sizes, and printed in many coloured inks. There is a surcharge on this issue which reads as follows:

"ADMON DE CORREOS  
DE  
COCHABBA  
10 CTS.,"

which is to be found, I believe, on all four values, although I have not yet seen it on the 50 centavos. Hitherto I have been unable to ascertain whether the above was a surcharge for a special district or special purpose, or whether it is merely a local postmark.

Cut stamps used to denote half the value of the whole stamp are to be found for the first time in this issue, but only the 10 and 20 centavos would seem to have been so used.

### Sixth Issue, 1887.

The design in this issue reverts to the earlier type of 1871 (eleven stars) with two fresh lower values. It consists of the 1, 2, 5, and 10 centavos, and the stamps are rouletted. They were typographed by the American Bank Note Co., as were also the three previous issues, but the result can scarcely be described as an improvement. There is little to be said about these stamps except that the 10 centavos is moderately scarce unused.



### Seventh Issue, end of 1890.

Similar in design to those of 1887, save that there are nine stars instead of eleven, the stamps being perforated 12 instead of being rouletted. There are seven values—1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50, and 100 centavos—and, with the exception of the 1 centavo, they are all somewhat scarce unused, more particularly the two higher values. The postmarks are as varied and abundant as in the 1878 issue, and cut stamps are also to be found, mostly of the 20 centavos.

### Eighth Issue, 1893.

In September, 1892, almost immediately prior to this eighth issue, a daring and temporarily successful fraud was perpetrated in Bolivian stamps, namely, the production and sale of a new issue, wholly unauthorised and privately printed in Paris. Nothing like it had or has ever been seen among the genuine stamps. The forgeries are rectangular, and the printing runs diagonally across the stamps upwards from left to right. The design (if such it can be called) consists of a circular tube, containing an engine and five carriages, dividing the stamp into two halves. At each end of the tube are figures denoting the supposed value. In the left upper half are the words "CORREOS DE BOLIVIA," and in the right lower half the word "IMPRESSOS," with the value in words below. At the upper left and lower right corners are transverse ovals, also containing the value in figures. The stamps are coarsely lithographed, the values being  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, and 50 centavos, and 1 Boliviano. The fraud was quickly discovered, but not until a substantial sale had been effected.

The 1893 issue were lithographed at "Le Paz," being of similar design to the previous one, save that one of the values (5 centavos) has eleven stars instead of nine. The workmanship is very poor, and shows a great falling-off in every respect. The stamps are perforated 11, and there are five values—1, 2, 5, 10, and 20 centavos. They are to be found imperforate, both vertically and horizontally, but otherwise are not of very much interest.

In the same year some of the fiscal stamps then current are to be found used postally, and surcharged "PROVISORIO, 1893."

### Ninth Issue, 1894.

The stamps of this issue (unfortunately not the latest) were a great improvement on the preceding. The main features of the design are still retained; the central oval contains mountain scenery and is framed with flags, while below the nine stars are still to be found, the whole being surrounded by an oval band divided at the top and bottom by small squares containing the figures of value. Upon a white ground on the left half of the oval band there is printed "CORREOS DE BOLIVIA," and on the right the value in words. There are fancy spandrels in the four corners. There are seven values, ranging from 1 to 100 centavos, as before. Originally these were all printed on thin paper, but later on thick paper was substituted for some of the values, possibly for all. I have seen, however, only the 1, 20, and 50 centavos on thick paper.

### Tenth Issue.

These have only recently appeared. They are long rectangular in shape, the main feature being a portrait in the centre with the name below, the value being shown in figures at the top corners and in words below.

### Interior Stamps.

There remain now to be considered the so-called Interior Stamps, as to the genuineness of which I have grave doubts.

Within a central circle, composed of a single line of dots, there is a pyramid-shaped hill with a smaller hill at its foot, on the left of which is a llama, below being the usual nine stars. On the right of the larger hill is a tree; and on the left, near the top, is the sun, with the word "PORTE" below, and on the right the value in figures. The central circle is on a plain background surrounded by a rectangular frame. A stamp of a very similar design was denounced in 1867 as a forgery. In November, 1871, a vertical strip of eleven of these stamps was sent over from Bolivia, the position of the values in this strip being— $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 1, 1, 1, 1, 2, 2, 4 r., and they were accepted at the time as essays. They were described as badly printed in black on white.

In 1872, in a letter from Valparaiso, these stamps were condemned as shams, and there the matter stands.

I possess a set of these stamps printed in varying shades of blue, two of them being on original letter sheets, one of which is stamped with an official postmark, which is *prima-facie* evidence of its genuineness; but I should be very glad to hear from anyone who can give any assistance towards clearing up the doubt.


### Forgeries.

There have always been lithographed forgeries of Bolivian stamps, but they have been very easy to detect. Quite lately (as has been mentioned in the *Record*) some dangerous forgeries have been put on the market, but with the hints that have already been given there is not much difficulty in detecting them, and if any reader of the *Record* is in doubt as to the genuineness of any stamp, or wishes for further information, I shall be very pleased to answer his or her enquiries to the best of my ability if a stamped addressed envelope is sent for the reply.

H. R. OLDFIELD.



## Imperial Penny Postage.

N important conference, presided over by the Duke of Norfolk (Postmaster-General), was held at the Westminster Palace Hotel on the 5th of July, 1898, at which proposals were submitted for the introduction of Imperial Penny Postage. Among those present were Sir Walter Peace (Agent-General for Natal), Sir David Tennant (Agent-General for the Cape), and most of the representatives of the colonies and other dependencies of the Crown now in this country.

As an outcome of this conference we are requested by the Postmaster-General to state that, as a result of the Imperial conference on postal rates, it has been agreed, on the proposal of the representative of the Dominion of Canada, that letter postage of one penny per half-ounce should be established between the United Kingdom, Canada, Newfoundland, the Cape Colony, Natal, and such of the Crown Colonies as may, after communication with and approval of Her Majesty's Government, be willing to adopt it. The date on which the reduction will come into effect will be announced later on.

The question of a uniform reduced rate for the whole Empire was carefully considered; but it was not found possible to fix upon a rate acceptable to all the Governments concerned. A resolution was, therefore, adopted leaving it to those parts of the Empire which were prepared for penny postage to make the necessary arrangements among themselves.

The *Times* newspaper has always been a strong supporter of Imperial Penny Postage ever since Mr. Henniker Heaton brought the idea within the range of practical politics. We quote in full its able leader on the result of the conference:—

“Galileo was right. The world does move after all, and that with so much energy that it even moves the British Post Office. We publish to-day, on the authority of the Postmaster-General, an announcement that, as the result of the Imperial conference on postal rates, it has been agreed that letter postage of one penny per half-ounce should be established between the United Kingdom, Canada, Newfoundland, the Cape Colony, Natal, and such of the Crown Colonies as may be willing to adopt it. The date on which the reduction will come into effect is to be the subject of a subsequent announcement. It is stated that the question of a uniform reduced rate for the whole Empire was carefully considered, but that it was not found possible to fix upon a rate acceptable to all the Governments concerned. Nothing is said about India; but, as the Postmaster-General of Bengal represented the Indian Government at the conference, and is believed to be favourable to the reform, it may be presumed that India is included. For the present the Australian Colonies stand outside the arrangement, not because of any objection in principle, but merely because they do not see their way to make the sacrifice of revenue which the change would entail. It may be anticipated that they will not long be content to miss a boon which they will see the rest of the Empire enjoying. There is the highest probability, based on much experience, that the loss of revenue which might ensue just at first would very speedily be made good by the stimulation of correspondence. It is not clear



from the official announcement whether the charge upon letters from this country to Australia will be reduced to a penny, even in the absence of a corresponding reduction upon letters coming from Australia to this country. It used to be said that the Australian Colonies would object to such an arrangement because it would force their hands. But now at all events it is clear that, far from entertaining such an objection, they would gladly see letters from home arriving with a penny stamp. The consequent increase in the number of letters received would not force their hands, but would encourage the sending of letters from the Colonies to such an extent as greatly to facilitate the adoption of the penny rate. At present the main difficulty is that the Inland Australian Postage has been raised to twopence. It may be hoped, however, that the Colonies will shortly perceive this to be an unsound and impolitic way of raising money. It would be a matter for regret if this country, by refusing penny postage except on reciprocal terms, were to miss an opportunity of promoting at once a Colonial and an Imperial reform.

"Canada, once more taking the lead in forwarding Imperial interests, has the honour of having proposed the resolution accepted by the postal conference. In postal matters the Dominion has previously shown a strong disposition to liberality, although circumstances have been too strong to allow the realization of all its projects. The support of South Africa was assured from the first, and the advocates of the change feared nothing except the opposition of the postal authorities at home. They are accustomed to shelter themselves behind the Treasury when any proposal is made which threatens a temporary reduction of revenue, though the public, accustomed to Post Office obstruction in other matters, has never taken the defence very seriously. We may probably thank Mr. Chamberlain for having made the question one of Imperial policy, and so brought the requisite pressure to bear on the Post Office. It will be remembered that a year ago, in addressing the Colonial Premiers, he said, 'As far as this country is concerned I believe we should be ready to make any sacrifice of revenue that may be required in order to secure a universal penny post throughout the Empire.' That declaration marked an epoch in the history of the movement. Mr. Henniker Heaton is to be congratulated upon the success which has crowned his long and gallant struggle. He had few supporters to begin with, but he has kept 'pegging away' with unwearied perseverance, and now he has his reward. We may not regard all of his fifty reasons as of equal value, but fifty valuable reasons are not easily mustered for any reform. The main thing is that he had reasons sufficient, and pressed them upon the public and the Post Office with untiring persistency. Imperial Penny Postage is now a fact, though it is not yet universal. Its extension is quite inevitable, and in a very short time everyone will wonder how so salutary a measure came to be delayed so long. Mr. Henniker Heaton will now carry on with increased *prestige* his useful warfare against Post Office red tape, and may hope much from the enlightened assistance of the Duke of Norfolk. We could wish that some other public departments had critics equally assiduous and equally painstaking in getting at facts.

"That Imperial federation which we all desire is not to be brought about by any showy comprehensive scheme. It can be built up only by degrees, upon a basis of solid arrangements to meet real wants and to promote common interests. A cheap Imperial post is such an arrangement, which is worth any amount of sentiment however admirable or of declamation however eloquent. It is the logical complement of the increased facility of communication which we are all agreed in accepting as a potent instrument for bringing together the mother country and the rest of the Empire. Rapid communication is not of much direct use to those who can never afford to cross the ocean—in other words, to the overwhelming majority of the population both at home and in the colonies. For them cheap postal communication is the best attainable means of keeping up that lively intercourse upon which mutual knowledge and

sympathy so largely depend. From this point of view the reduction of Imperial postage to the familiar coin, which even the poor disburse without an undue sense of privation, is an Imperial bond worth far more than it will cost on the most extravagant estimate. As a matter of fact, the cost is largely imaginary. The subsidies upon which the estimates are based are paid for other than merely postal purposes, and will cover a transmission of mails of five times the present amount just as easily as they cover the actual despatches. But long before correspondence increases to that extent the change will produce a substantial increase of revenue to the Post Office."

According to an interview which the *Daily Mail* has had with the Agent-General for New Zealand, the refusal of Australasia to join the scheme has nothing to do with the financial embarrassment of those Colonies, for they have never been in a more flourishing condition than they are now. The reason, it seems, is that as it is impossible for them to afford a penny postage within the Australasian continent, they obviously cannot make their foreign postage cheaper. Victoria has tried a penny rate, but has had to revert to a twopenny rate. In the opinion of the Agent-General, an inter-colonial penny rate of postage will be impossible until the Colonies are more thickly populated.

Sir Henry Norman says the introduction of the penny rate would involve a loss to that Colony of £150,000. In reply, Mr. Henniker Heaton asks Sir Henry if he is aware that the whole postal revenue of that Colony is only £161,726 for letters and newspapers. He further informs Sir Henry that the total number of letters despatched by the Colony to England last year was only 316,000. The application of the penny rate to this batch of correspondence would, therefore, not involve a loss of even £2000. Truly Mr. Henniker Heaton has an effective method of confounding rash opponents of his scheme. But it is somewhat discreditable that men of influence and position should put their names to statements which have no foundation in fact, and which are under the grave suspicion of being intended by someone to mislead the public.

We doubt, however, whether the Australasian Colonies will be able to maintain a charge of 2½d. against a 1d. rate between all other parts of the Empire for any length of time.

The adoption of Imperial Penny Postage will practically put the 2½d. and 5d. values out of use, so far as the British Empire is concerned, but they will still be required for the ordinary postal rate to other countries in the Postal Union. The change, therefore, will make very little difference from a philatelic point of view. Within the Empire we shall see less of the 2½d. and 5d. values, and shall have to get our used copies of those stamps from foreign sources. That is all.



## Australasian Postal Conference.

From "*The Australian Philatelist*."



CONFERENCE of postal and telegraphic representatives from New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, and Tasmania, was held at Hobart in March and April last. Several subjects of interest to philatelists were dealt with, the principal decisions being:—

1. The word "Specimen" is to be placed across all stamps issued to collectors, *i.e.*, gratis, or at a fixed price under face value per set.
2. All postage stamps issued to the Berne Postal Bureau or exchanged between Postal Administrations, shall be obliterated with a date stamp.
3. It being impossible to introduce the universal use of the Reply Postage Stamp without interfering, more or less, with the postal revenue of the countries concerned, the adoption of the scheme cannot be advised.
4. Obliterated stamps may be sent at commercial paper rates within the Colonies, subject to usual packet regulations; but this cannot be done internationally, as the rules of the Universal Postal Union Convention require letter rate to be paid.
5. It is recommended that the Colonies print their postage stamps in the colours stipulated by the Washington Congress, *viz.*:—

2½d. in dark blue.    1d. in red.    ½d. in green.

With regard to recommendations 1 and 2, the debate was as follows:—

### OBLITERATION OF STAMPS.

As to obliteration of stamps issued to collectors, Hon. J. Gavan Duffy said that this matter was becoming somewhat of a nuisance. Many people seemed to be fanatics in regard to collecting stamps, and latterly in Victoria the department had been placing a courtesy postmark upon them. This was done in order that the stamps might not be used for postage purposes by those who obtained them. That did not do away with the philatelic value of the stamps. He thought that a uniform method ought to be adopted by the different Colonies. It should be clearly arranged so that stamps given out for purposes of collection could not be otherwise used. He moved, "This Conference is of opinion that all stamps issued to collectors should be postmarked, so as to prevent them being used for postal purposes."

Hon. J. R. Dickson seconded the motion.

Hon. J. G. Jenkins moved as an amendment, "That the word 'Specimen' should be placed across the stamps issued to collectors."

Hon. Joseph Cook seconded the amendment.

Hon. J. Gavan Duffy said that, as the weight of opinion appeared to be against him, he would withdraw the motion.

The amendment was then put, when the President said that it appeared from the voices that it would be his duty to give a casting vote. He regarded the Post Office as an institution maintained by the Government for postal purposes only, and would therefore vote for the amendment, and declared it carried.

Hon. Joseph Cook moved, "That all postage stamps issued to the Berne Postal Bureau, or between post offices, shall bear an obliteration with the date stamp."

Hon. J. G. Jenkins seconded, and the motion was agreed to.





## British Empire.

**British Bechuanaland.**—According to the *Timbre-Poste* there are three printings of the lately issued surcharge on the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d., green, Cape of Good Hope. The measurements are as follows:—

	1st.	2nd.	3rd.
"British" . . .	7 $\frac{3}{4}$ mm.	7 $\frac{3}{4}$ mm.	8 mm.
"Bechuanaland" .	15 $\frac{1}{4}$ mm.	15 $\frac{1}{4}$ mm.	16 mm.
Distance between the words . . . }	14 mm.	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm.	13 mm.

**Canada.**—The new stamps with figures of value instead of maple leaves in the lower angles are already coming over. The design has apparently been entirely redrawn, for the oval which encloses the portrait has been enlarged, and the portrait itself has been improved, giving the face a more pleasing expression. The head, though still somewhat large for the stamp, is not so crowded. But the space has been secured at the expense of the framework of the design, for the oval now cuts the outer line on all four sides. It seems to us that a much more effective stamp could have been secured by leaving the oval untouched and reducing the portrait to a proper size. As it is, the portrait is imposing, but everything else has the appearance of being crowded out.

### Adhesives.

*Redrawn design with numerals in angles.*

- 1 cent, green.
- 3 cents, rose.

**Mauritius.**—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the 36 cents envelopes in two sizes surcharged "4—Cents" in two lines. Their correspondent informs them that the number issued was 40,000, and that they were all sold out in three hours.

### Envelopes.

- Wove paper. Size 140 x 78 mm.*  
4 cents on 36 c., brown; *sur. black.*
- Wove paper. Size 133 x 106 mm.*  
4 cents on 36 c., brown; *sur. black.*

**Newfoundland.**—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the recently issued 1 c. with head of Her Majesty changed from red to green, in conformity with the Postal Union recommendations. They also inform us that the 2 cents, red, with portrait of the Prince of Wales, will be altered from yellow to red.

The July number of the *American Journal of Philately* adds to the information quoted in our last issue concerning further portraits of the Royal Family on  $\frac{1}{2}$  c., 3 c., and 5 c., that stamps of the values of 4 c. and 6 c. are also to appear later with portraits of other members of the Royal Family. A stamp portrait of the Princess of Wales would certainly be very popular.

**Queensland.**—More varieties from this Colony of postal crudities. Says the *Australian Philatelist*:—

"Mr. Van Weenen has shown us the new 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 3d., with figures in four corners, which will shortly be issued. The 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. has unusually large figures of value, is printed in a light red shade quite different from the previous ones, and is rather more roughly engraved than before. The 3d. has already been described from a proof impression. In addition to these Mr. Van Weenen has an essay for the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. value, but which has been rejected. The design consists of the same head as that on the 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in beaded circle on white background, 'Queensland' in curve reading upwards to left, and 'Halfpenny' reading downwards to right, ' $\frac{1}{2}$ ' in each corner, shape transverse oblong."

### Adhesives.

- 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., light red; wmk. Crown Q; *perf.* 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ .
- 3d., olive-brown " "

**St. Lucia.**—The 2d. stamp chronicled by us last month (p. 170) has had a short life. The *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* says:—

"A Government Notice, dated May 6th, reduced the postage on letters to all Foreign places to 2d. the  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. on and after May 9th. As the consent of the Colonial Secretary was not obtained, a similar notice, dated June 10th, restored the postage to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on and after June 11th. A supply of 2d. stamps was obtained and issued, and we understand from Mr. Proudfoot these have been withdrawn, not, however, before three firms had got the tip, and invested to the tune of £1200, so that with some 150,000 stamps on the market the price should not increase very much."

As Imperial Penny Postage has been adopted, and will probably come into force in St. Lucia, as elsewhere in the Colonies, the 2d. value will be wanted again, and the speculators will once more have burnt their fingers, to the intense delight of all who have not had a finger in the pie. Anyway, there is an abundant supply for all who will be content to wait for the speculators to unload.

**Straits Settlements.**—*Pahang.*—*Le Timbre-Poste* announces the following stamps of Perak surcharged, in black, with the word "Pahang."

- 10 c., violet and yellow; *sur. black.*
- 25 c., green and carmine "
- 25 c., green and black "
- \$1, green "
- \$5, green and blue "

## Foreign Countries.

**Austria.**—The *Monthly Journal* has received quite a pile of the new cards, among which are some complicated varieties. We quote its detailed description *in extenso* :—

"It would appear that two distinct modifications of the inscriptions have taken place, but whether a full set of either exists we cannot say, though we find that some of the bi-lingual and tri-lingual varieties exist in both.

"First, with 'Correspondenz-Karte' in the same type as before, but with the long 'f' and the lettering slightly compressed, so that the words measure about 51 mm., instead of 54 mm. The second line of the heading—where there is more than one—is also in similar type to that previously used for it, and in each case that we have seen there are only two lines to the heading, though in one instance the second line is in two languages. The abbreviated name of the province is given at right below as before, except in the one instance alluded to above, where there are two names given preceded by 'Deutsch.' We quote in the list below the abbreviated names as given upon the cards. Of this series we have the following :—

## Post Cards.

2 kr.,	German,
"	'(Böhm.)'
"	'(Deutsch-Illyr.-Ital.)'
"	'(Slov.)'
2+2 "	German,
"	'(Rum.)'

"Second, with 'Correspondenz-Karte' (still with long 'f') in much smaller type, with ordinary German capital initials, the words measuring 40 mm. in length. The heading in the other languages is, on the other hand, given in larger type, and where there are two other languages the heading is in three lines; the abbreviated name (or names) is now always preceded by 'Deutsch.' Of this series we have :—

## Post Cards.

2 kr.	'(Deutsch-Böhm.)'
"	'(Deutsch-Illyr.-Ital.)'
"	'(Deutsch-Ital.)'
"	'(Deutsch-Poln.-Ruth.)'
"	'(Deutsch-Rum.)'
"	'(Deutsch-Ruth.)'
"	'(Deutsch-Slov.)'
2+2 "	'(Deutsch-Böhm.)'
"	'(Deutsch-Illyr.-Ital.)'
"	'(Deutsch-Ital.)'
"	'(Deutsch-Poln.-Ruth.)'
"	'(Deutsch-Ruth.)'
"	'(Deutsch-Slov.)'

"We have also letter cards, with the German heading in smaller type (28 mm. long instead of 42 mm.), and the other languages in larger type and in two lines where there are two of them :—

## Letter Cards.

3 kr.	'(Deutsch-Böhm.)'
"	'(Deutsch-Ital.)'
"	'(Deutsch-Poln.-Ruth.)'
"	'(Deutsch-Rum.)'
"	'(Deutsch-Slov.)'
5 "	'(Deutsch-Böhm.)'
"	'(Deutsch-Ital.-Illyr.)'
"	'(Deutsch-Poln.-Ruth.)'
"	'(Deutsch-Slov.)'

**Bolivia.**—The *Philatelic Journal of India* has received a curious error of the current 20 centavos, Bolivia, from Mr. E. R. Wetherall, who writes: "I took it off a letter about four months ago from between two of like value, which were not errors." Our contemporary gives a photographic reproduction of the stamp, which shows very clearly the word "Bolivia" engraved "Boliwa."

## Adhesive.

20 c., lake and black, error "Boliwa."

**China.**—The *Monthly Journal* has received a copy of the 2 c. on the 3 c., Revenue stamp, with the surcharge upside down. Our contemporary omits to state which of the three types of the "2 cents" is intended, *i. e.*,

1. Surcharge in one line.
2. Surcharge in two lines.
3. Same, but smaller figures.

Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent of the Waterlow set just issued. The design is the same as the 1 cent. We chronicled the 1 cent in April last, and should add that our copy of the 1 c. is perf. 16, and the  $\frac{1}{2}$  c. is perf. 14.



## Adhesives.

- $\frac{1}{2}$  cent, chocolate; perf. 14.  
1 " red-brown; perf. 16.

**Egypt.**—The *Monthly Journal* has received specimens of the 1 millième with the Soudan surcharge inverted. One sheet of 60 is said to have been found thus among a large quantity.

## Adhesive.

1 mil., brown; sur. inverted.

Mr. Aphonides sends the *Monthly Journal* a copy of the 3 mil. on 2 piastres Unpaid Letter stamp, in which there is a minute error, altering the meaning of one of the Arabic words of the surcharge. Over the third character from the left there should be two dots, and the inscription then commences "el ghirsh" = *the piastre*; in the error there is only one dot, making it read "el farsh" = *the bed*. The difference is evidently a more serious one than would appear at first sight.

**Hayti.**—M. Moens has an entire sheet of the 2 c. surcharged on 20 c., orange, in which are the following varieties :—

1. Double surcharge.
2. Surcharge across two stamps.
3. Surcharged "2 cent" without the "s."
4. Surcharged "deu 2 cents" without the "x."
5. The letters "eu" smaller than on the other stamps.



**Montenegro.**—We have received from Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. the stamps of the current type, with colours changed, and various perf., as follows:—

*Adhesives.*

2 nov.,	blue-green; perf. 11½.
3 "	carmine-red; perf. 10½.
5 "	ochre "
7 "	grey "
10 "	red-lilac "
15 "	claret "
25 "	blue; perf. 11½.

**Peru.**—Messrs. Williams and Co., Peru, inform us that the 1 c. Unpaid, surcharged "Deficit," is now in use, completing the set 1 c. to 1 sol.

**Portugal.**—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. send us a large parcel of new issues for Portugal and her Colonies.

For the mother country we have four new values of the current type—*i.e.*, 65 reis, 115 reis, 130 reis, and 180 reis, necessitated by the depreciation of the currency, the rate for letters to places abroad being now 65 reis per half-ounce, instead of 50 reis, as formerly.

*Adhesives.*

<i>Value surcharged in black.</i>	
65 reis,	slate-blue.
115 "	rose on pink paper.
130 "	brown on buff paper.
180 "	lilac on flesh paper.

**Macao.**—For the Colonies we have a new set of thirteen stamps, somewhat similar in design to the stamps which are to be replaced. The label of value is now in the right-hand top corner, the label for the name of the Colony has rounded instead of square corners, and the ornaments on each side of the name label are altered.

*Adhesives.*

<i>Name and value surcharged in black.</i>		
½ avo,	pearl-grey. 12 avos, carmine.	
1 "	pale red. 13 "	mauve.
2 avos,	pale green. 16 "	blue on pale blue.
2½ "	brown. 24 "	brown on buff.
3 "	lilac. 31 "	mauve on flesh.
4 "	green. 47 "	blue on pink.
8 "	blue.	

**Timor.**—A similar set.

**Guinea.**—Same design, but with value in reis instead of avos.

*Adhesives.*

<i>Name and value surcharged in black.</i>		
2½ reis,	pearl-grey. 75 reis, carmine.	
5 "	pale red. 80 "	mauve.
10 "	pale green. 100 "	blue on pale blue.
15 "	brown. 150 "	brown on buff.
20 "	lilac. 200 "	mauve on flesh.
25 "	green. 300 "	blue on pink.
50 "	blue.	

**Mozambique.**—A similar set.

**Cape Verde.**—A similar set.

**Nyassa.**—The Mozambique set surcharged "Nyassa" in Roman capitals above the name label.

**Spain.**—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. inform us that the Spanish Government has issued a set of "War Tax" stamps. This is a tax imposed to assist in defraying the expenses of the war. The 5 c. stamp is for postal use, and has to be affixed to all inland letters in addition to ordinary stamps for the regular rate of postage; the other values (10,

15, 20, 30, 40, and 50 centimos, 1, 2½, 5, 10, 20, and 40 pesetas) are for fiscal use only. The stamp is simple in design. In the centre is a large oval of solid colour, on which is a large figure "5," and below the abbreviation "cent." for centimos; above, in straight label, "Imp<sup>to</sup> de Guerra," and below "1898-99." All the lettering is in white on ground of solid colour.

*Adhesive.*  
War Tax Stamp. 5 cent., black.

**United States.**—Mr. J. M. Bartels, the well-informed Washington correspondent of the *Weekly Philatelic Era*, says the blue, 5 c., has been found to be too dark, and has now been printed in a very much lighter shade. He adds that "the Department has finally come to the conclusion that the 4 c. is too dark a colour for practical purposes, and this stamp will henceforth be printed in the red-brown colour of the 6 c., which will necessitate a change in this denomination also. The 10 c. will be printed in an entirely new ink owing to the 1 c. being the same colour, but we were unable to ascertain more definite information on this point."

Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a set of the Omaha Exhibition stamps. The framework of each stamp is the same, but each stamp has a different design as a centrepiece. The stamps are very inferior in design and execution to the Columbian series. The stamps are watermarked USPS, and are perf. 12. The colours of the actual stamps do not agree with the official list.

*Adhesives.*

1 c.,	dark green. <i>Marquette on the Mississippi.</i>
2 c.,	copper-red. <i>Farming in the West.</i>
4 c.,	orange. <i>Indian hunting Buffalo.</i>
5 c.,	dark blue. <i>Fremont on the Rocky Mountains.</i>
8 c.,	brown-violet. <i>Troops guarding Train.</i>
10 c.,	slate. <i>Hardships of Emigration.</i>
50 c.,	dark olive. <i>Western Mining Prospector.</i>
\$1,	black. <i>Western Cattle in Storm.</i>
\$2,	orange-brn. <i>Mississippi River Bridge.</i>

## Our Monthly Packets of New Issues.

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

The August Packet contains 6 varieties, viz.: Gibraltar, "Morocco Agencies," 5c., 10c., and 20c.; Borneo, 2c., "Postage Due"; Liberia, 1c. "O.S."; and French Zanzibar, ½ anna, red, on 5c., blue.

The September Packet contains 4 varieties, viz.: New Zealand, 2½d., error Wakitipu, and Bolivia, 5c., 10c., and 20c., 1898.

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

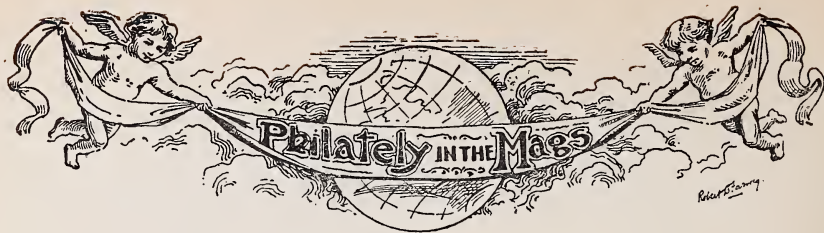
The August Packet contains 5 varieties, viz.: Gibraltar, "Morocco Agencies," 40c. and 50c.; San Marino, 2 lire; Austria, 5 kr., small perf.; and British Central Africa, 1d. on 3/-.

The September Packet contains 8 varieties, viz.: India, 1 rupee on H.M.S., and Montenegro, 1898, complete set of 7, all unused.

These packets are on sale until Sept. 30th (unless the supply is previously exhausted), and are supplied only to *Subscribers* to the PHILATELIC RECORD AND STAMP NEWS. Similar packets will be on sale every month, and may be subscribed for in advance for the year (January to December inclusive), at the following rates: No. 1 packet, 12s., postage extra; No. 2 packet, 60s., postage extra.

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





## Uganda Postal Arrangements.

THE *Monthly Journal* publishes the following extract from a letter published in *The Pioneer of India* for March 11th, describing the postal arrangements in Uganda :—

"I am sorry I cannot send you any B.E.A. stamps. They are not in circulation here, and those you find on our letters have been put on at Mombasa. Our postal regulations are complicated, and are as follows: From Mengo we put on the local stamp, which carries the letter to Kikuya, 400 miles from here, and the limit of our postal union. This is paid for us by the C.M.S. From Kikuya to the coast there is a charge of 3 rs. per pound on each person's mail, payable at the coast from our private account, and at the coast the officials put on the B.E.A. stamp to complete the journey. The local stamps have been designed and printed on the C.M.S. press at Busoga by Mr. Rowling, by special request of the Government."

## Rarities at Turin.

MR. DORNING BECKTON gives, in the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, the following synopsis of the recognized rarities at the recent Turin Exhibition :—

	USED.	UNUSED.
Tuscany, 3 lire	5	1
" 60 crazie	18	2
" 2 soldi	47	2
" 9 crazie on white	19	3
Naples, Trinacria	12	1
" Cross	48	2

## Cashmere, 1883, 4 a.

ACCORDING to *Stamps* (Calcutta), "the 1883 Cashmere, 4 a., green, exists in two types. One with the arrangement of five dots in the upper portion of the circle, and the other with only four dots. In each sheet of 8 two show the latter variety."

## Chili Unpaid.

IN our June number (p. 152) we quoted from the *American Journal of Philately* a diagram showing the setting-up of the various values of the Unpaid Stamps of Chili. In its July number our American contemporary publishes a correction. It says :—

"O *Coleccionador de Sellos* furnishes the missing link in the composition of the plates

of Chilian Unpaid Letter Stamps, and proves that we were in error in our May number in supposing that the 100 centavos stamp had taken the place of the 1 peso stamps in the old setting, assuming that this setting remained unchanged in other respects.

"The Brazilian contemporary referred to now furnishes the composition of the plate containing the 100 centavos stamp, and which will be found to be entirely different from the first setting in which the 1 peso stamp is found.

"We give herewith a diagram of this intermediate setting."

1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
20	20	20	20	40	40	50	60	80	100

## Hayti Provisionals.

THE following, published by the *Post Office* (New York) from a correspondent in Hayti, will throw a little light upon the recent issue of provisionals :—

"I send herewith some other values of the late issue of Haytian stamps. It appears that the contract for these stamps was given by a former Secretary of State for Finances to a party at Cape Haitian, with the understanding that a portion of the issue was to be retained by the contractor in payment. Before the issue arrived the Secretary of State for Finance resigned, and I am informed that the party turned over only the 2 and 5 cents value, with a very small quantity of the 1 and 3 cents, and still less of the 7 and 20 cents, to the postal authorities here. These have been bought up by employees of the Post Office. The above being the case, it is very probable that other provisionals will be issued, and they will in all likelihood be necessary and legitimate."

### U.S. Periodical Stamps.

THE following documents are published by our American contemporaries:—

“Office of the United States Attorney for the Southern District of N. Y.

“NEW YORK, June 13, 1898.

“LEO. ROSENBLATT, Esq., 27, Pine Street, City.

“SIR,—Replying to your enquiry of recent date, I beg to advise you that the Government acquiesces in the decision of the Circuit Court in the case of the United States *v.* The Walter Scott Stamp Co., and no further proceedings in said case on the part of the Government will be taken. The property seized by the United States marshal under the writ of replevin will be returned to you on demand, in pursuance of the direction contained in the judgment entered on April 16th, 1898.

“Respectfully,

“HENRY L. BURNETT,  
“U.S. Attorney.”

Thus ends the celebrated Newspaper Stamp case.

The sequel appears in the following extract:—

“An order has been issued by the Post Office Department at Washington, discontinuing the use and printing of newspaper and periodical stamps on and after July 1. Thereafter the postmasters will collect in money, for which they will give receipts, the postage on second-class mail matter sent in bulk by publishers and newsagents. This postage must be paid in cash, for the order says that ‘no credit is ever to be allowed for newspaper or periodical postage, but for convenience the postmaster may receive from a publisher or newsagent a deposit of sufficient money in advance to pay for more than a single mailing.’ Heretofore publishers and others sending second-class matter in bulk have paid for periodical stamps, which were retained at the Post Office, and pasted in a record book.”

### New Zealand New Issue.

WE quote the following from the *Australian Philatelist*:—

“The *New Zealand Post* says: ‘Further consignments of the new stamps will come to hand by the *Rangatira Waimate*. It is expected that in a few weeks there will be sufficient in hand to meet the public requirements at all Post Offices, and the old issue will be gradually stopped. After a time the work of production will be carried out in the Colony, but certain necessary appliances will have to be imported before such can be done. The old system of surface-printing has to be abandoned, and a process of steel engraving adopted. The quantity of stamps used during a year is almost incredible, those of a penny in value being generally utilized, and of these fully 26,000,000 are printed annually.’ Mr. L. A. Sanderson has favoured us with a statement showing the numbers of each value

ordered by the New Zealand Government from London. It is not known yet whether these quantities have been actually supplied, but doubtless the consignments above referred to will complete the order. The numbers are:—

½d., 6,000,000	5d., 130,000
1d., 13,000,000	6d., 900,000
2d., 6,000,000	8d., 80,000
2½d. (error), 218,000	9d., 80,000
2½d. (2nd type), 300,000	1s., 300,000
3d., 300,000	2s., 70,000
4d., 240,000	5s., 35,000.”

218,000 of the *error* should help this curiosity round at a fairly low figure for some time to come.

### India: First Issue Reprints.

The *Philatelic Journal of India* says:—“We hear that a ‘bundle of sheets’ of the 1894 *fac-simile* reprints of the first issue of India was quite recently found in the street at Calcutta. The way those reprints have got out is mysterious and unpleasant. Calcutta has been full of them for the last two years. We believe that the culprit is a dismissed employee of the Survey Office.”

### Philatelic Society of London.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1897-8.

WE quote the following Annual Report of the London Philatelic Society from the *London Philatelist*:—

In accordance with the practice usually followed at the Annual General Meeting, it is my duty to present a report on the position of the Society, and the work and events of the year which has elapsed since the presentation of my last annual report.

During this period we have lost, by death or resignation, fifteen members, those who have died being Mr. A. F. S. Duro (a member for seventeen years), Mr. E. Geldard, Lieut.-Col. Joseph, Mr. T. Notthafft, and Mr. Hastings E. Wright; while Mr. C. E. Baker, Mr. W. Block, Mr. W. R. Burrell, the Rev. R. T. de Carteret, Mr. E. F. Hubbuck, Mr. W. Krapp, Mr. N. Newton, Mr. T. A. Rance, Mr. W. Strohmayer, and Mr. F. C. Van Duzer, have severed their connection with the Society by resigning their membership. One other member, Mr. Pearson Hill, also tendered his resignation, but has been unanimously re-elected as an honorary member.

Of those who have been taken from our midst by the hand of death, I may perhaps be permitted to refer particularly to Mr. T. Notthafft and Mr. Hastings E. Wright as the most prominent. The former, although owing to his residence in Russia he was unknown to most of us, except by name, was one who could ill be spared from the ranks of philatelists, and eloquent testimony as to his attainments in the pursuit in which we are all so interested, was given by our esteemed colleague Mr. F. Breitfuss, and by our Vice-President, at the meeting at which Mr. Notthafft's death was recorded. Mr. Hastings E. Wright was personally known to nearly all of us, and no words of mine are necessary to bear witness to the high position he had attained in the field of philately, and to the general esteem in which he was held. Up to the moment of his death he was



occupied in the most arduous work for the benefit of the Society, and the fruits of his last labour of love in the interests of his fellow-members will, it is hoped, soon be made public, and will remain in evidence as a memorial of the member whose loss we all so sincerely deplore.

The new members elected during the season which expires with to-night's meeting are twelve in number, viz., Mr. R. H. Beamish, Mr. S. M. Castle, Mr. E. S. Davidson, Mr. G. L. Edwards, Mr. T. Girtin, Mr. C. P. Krauth, Mr. Eliot Levy, Mr. T. E. Madden, Mr. H. G. Palliser, Mr. W. Schwabacher, Mr. A. J. Taylor, and Miss L. Tullis.

The total number borne on our books is now 291, showing a reduction of three as compared with the corresponding number of the previous year. I do not think that this very slight reduction can be regarded as evidence of any decline in interest in the Society. The numbers, having increased so largely in recent years, are naturally more liable to fluctuation than was the case when our roll of membership was comparatively small.

In accordance with the provisions of the Statutes, the question of the business of the past season was considered at the first meeting. It was then decided, for various reasons, to hold the meetings during the season 1897-98 fortnightly, instead of weekly, as had been the practice of the past few years. Sixteen meetings in all (including that of this evening) have accordingly been held. The average attendance of members has been eighteen, a number which compares very favourably with that of previous years.

Papers have been read on six occasions, the subjects being "Railway Stamps used for Letters," by Mr. C. Dendy Marshall; "Notes on the 2 Rigsbank Skilling Stamp of Denmark," by Mr. R. Ehrenbach; "Minor Varieties of United States Stamps," by Mr. S. M. Castle; "Further Notes on the Stamps of Bolivia," by Mr. H. R. Oldfield; "The Dies of Stamps employed for the Registered Envelopes of Great Britain," by Mr. Oliver Firth; and "The Stamps of Holland," by Mr. G. Fraser Melbourn.

Eleven evenings have been mainly devoted to displays, which have been the chief feature of the business of the season. The stamps shown have comprised those of "Great Britain," by Mr. H. J. White; "The Confederate States Government Issues," by Major Evans; "Austria," by Mr. R. Ehrenbach; "France" and the "Cantonal and First Federal Issues of Switzerland," by the Vice-President; "Mauritius," by Mr. W. B. Avery; "Japan," by Mr. T. Wickham Jones; "Colombia and Antioquia States," by Mr. T. W. Hall; and "Holland and the Dutch Colonies," "The Straits Settlements and Native States," by Mr. G. Fraser Melbourn.

In many cases several members have brought their collections of the countries under consideration, and the united display thus afforded has proved of the greatest value and interest. This was notably the case when the stamps of Great Britain were shown, the collections then seen forming together the most complete and valuable assemblage of the stamps of this country which members have ever been privileged to inspect.

On most occasions the member responsible for the display has read carefully-prepared notes on the stamps submitted to the meeting. These attained, in many instances, to the dignity and importance of a well-considered paper, and, with the information and explanation added by other members in the discussion following on the display, have been most instructive and interesting to all who have been fortunate enough to be able to attend the meetings.

Some few years ago it was no uncommon thing to hear it said in certain quarters that, although the Society comprised many advanced philatelists, the members, with a very few notable exceptions, had

no really good collections available for study. The experience of the past season has shown how fallacious is such an idea, the fine collections owned by members which have been brought to light by the introduction of displays, and those shown on the occasion of the reading of papers, being a striking testimony to the vitality of the Society, and to the thorough manner in which the pursuit of philately is followed by its members. This is as it should be, and I trust it always will be in the case of our Society, which is generally recognized as the "Premier" Society.

During the past year there have not been any matters of great importance requiring the serious consideration of the Council. There has consequently been no necessity for so many meetings of the Council as in some previous years, but its members have been always ready to devote their time to the interests of the Society when occasion has required.

The Publication Committee has been fully occupied with the preparations for the publication of the work on the Stamps of Great Britain, by the late Mr. Hastings E. Wright and Mr. A. B. Creeke, jun. The greater part of the manuscript has now passed through the hands of the Committee, and it is hoped that the book may be ready for the printers at an early date. The work has, of necessity, been somewhat further retarded by the death of one of the joint authors, involving the rearrangement of his notes on the enormous mass of details to be dealt with, but it is now being pushed forward to completion as rapidly as is possible.

The Expert Committee still continues to carry on the work entrusted to it, and the services of its members are largely sought by philatelists from all parts of the world. An admirable report of the work and results of this Committee, from its commencement, was presented by Major Evans at the first meeting of the season.

The annual dinner of the Society was held during the period of the London Philatelic Exhibition, and proved a great success. The arrangements, which were in the hands of Messrs. T. Wickham Jones, R. Ehrenbach, C. N. Biggs, and H. R. Oldfield, were admirably carried out, and a most enjoyable evening was spent by a large number of members and friends. The attendance was considerably in excess of the usual numbers, and the Society had the honour of entertaining, amongst the invited guests, the distinguished foreign philatelists who gave their services as judges at the Exhibition.

I had the pleasure in my last report to comment upon the improved financial position of the Society. The accounts for the financial year, with the report of the auditors, will presently be laid before you, and I think it will be found that the improvement has been fully maintained, and that the finances of the Society are in a sound and satisfactory condition, comparing most favourably with the position of previous years.

Following upon the recommendation at the last Annual General Meeting, a scheme has been prepared for dealing with the question of commuted subscriptions, under which all money received from this source is set aside, and, with the income to be derived from its investment, is dealt with in such a manner as will give the Society the full benefit which it ought to derive from the funds provided by life members.

In philatelic circles, outside the immediate sphere of the Society, three events have occurred during the past year to which I may perhaps be allowed to allude, as matters in which our interests have been closely concerned.

Of these, one of the most important was the holding of the London Philatelic Exhibition in July last, and I have only to mention that seventy medals were gained by our members to show how largely the Society was represented in the undertaking. The Exhibition achieved the great success which was anticipated, and



the fact that it has been found possible to hold a Philatelic Exhibition on such a scale without loss, although no expense was spared in the work, is evidence of the ever-increasing interest which is taken in philately by a large section of the British public.

The vexed question of the illustration of stamps has also happily been settled in a manner satisfactory to all concerned. The matter was one of great importance to the Society as affecting the publication of our journal and works of reference, and the thanks of the philatelic community are largely due to the firm of publishers who, by taking a determined but respectful stand when they were attacked by the authorities, and by their judicious negotiations, in which they were backed by the Society, have been able to secure a solution of the difficulties raised, which it is trusted will prevent a recurrence in the future of the fears which were at one time entertained on the subject.

The secession of a number of dealers from the Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps has involved a reconstruction of that Society, under which the practical part of its business is transferred to collectors. The work of deciding as to the stamps to be denounced as speculative or unnecessary has now been undertaken by a special committee of our Society, and I trust that the good work commenced by the Suppression Society may be continued with useful results.

It only remains for me to express my opinion that the satisfactory condition of our Society is a matter for sincere congratulation, and to thank the members for the kindly assistance received at their hands, by which my labours as your Honorary Secretary during the past year have been materially lightened.



### The "Philatelic Journal of India."

IN the May number of the *Philatelic Journal of India* the editors (Messrs. C. F. Larmour and W. Corfield) yield up the editorial management to Mr. C. Stewart-Wilson. The departing editors in their "valedictory" say that "out of over one hundred members not more than six or eight have ever contributed to the pages of the journal," and, they add, "the position is one which it will be impossible for any one individual to bear with composure. The issue of one number finds us absolutely without any copy for the next, and we are perforce compelled to suck the brains of other periodicals as they come to hand in order to find matter for our paper. Such a hand-to-mouth existence is not conducive either to good temper or to good editing. We have tried to show the former, but we have failed in the latter."

Our good friends are much too despondent. They have, in the opinion of philatelists at home, done remarkably well, and given the *Philatelic Journal of India*, even in its few months of life, an excellent title to a front rank position in philatelic journalism.

However, as they have decided to retire, they could not possibly have yielded their trust into better hands than those of Mr. C. Stewart-Wilson, the author of the Philatelic Society of India's excellent work, *British Indian Adhesive Stamps Surcharged for Native States*. Mr. Stewart-Wilson is an enthusiastic philatelist of the painstaking order, and his official position in India entitles us to look forward with more than ordinary pleasure to the results of his editorial labours.

### Real Novelties.

THE Scott Stamp and Coin Co. have evidently secured some rare values of the recently-issued New Zealand, which are quite unknown on this side, and put the error "Wakitipu" entirely in the shade. Here is a list as advertised in a Boston paper, and the prices at which the Scott Co. can supply them:—

12 p.	for	45 cents.
22	"	85 "
52	"	2 dollars.

These *are* the bargains of the year. If Stanley Gibbons got one of these, say the 52 pence, which must be a real gem of the howling rarity persuasion, they would want at least £150 for it. It certainly must be dirt cheap at two dollars.

### Canadian 1868-75 Watermark.

IN quoting in our June number (p. 150) from the *Monthly Journal* Mr. Donald King's reconstruction of the watermark on the Canadian issue of 1868-75, we unintentionally overlooked the fact that Mr. King based his reconstruction upon the original discovery of the watermark by our genial friend Mr. John Luff.

We pride ourselves that no philatelic journal is more scrupulous or painstaking than the *Philatelic Record* in giving credit, by quotation, where credit is due, and, therefore, all the more regret this little slip.

## Guatemala Commemoratives.

SOME dear souls assure us that commemoratives sell like hot cakes despite the anathemas of the S.S.S.S., and one party goes further, and declares that the said anathemas even help to sell the condemned stamps. All this, of course, sensible people take with a very considerable supply of salt, especially when evidence is continually cropping up that the rubbish does *not* sell in the fondly anticipated quantities. The latest straw to show which way the wind is blowing is an advertisement that some millions of Guatemala Commemoratives, not having sold to stamp flats, are now to be tried at public auction.

## Forthcoming Indian Exhibition.

THE Philatelic Society of India announces that it will hold an exhibition of postage stamps in India during the Christmas week of this year. In the prospectus which is issued with the June number of the *Philatelic Journal of India* there is one drastic regulation which will send a shiver down the backs of even the most experienced specialists. The regulation is as follows:—"Forgeries in any exhibit, unless exhibited as such, will disqualify that exhibit from competition." We doubt very much whether any one of our great specialists would care to mount his collection for exhibition in face of such a regulation. We have more than once seen a forger spotted in a great specialist's collection which had in some unaccountable way escaped detection. As we all know to our cost, weeds will creep into the collections of even the most fastidious. More than one specialist's collection in the last great London Exhibition afforded a case in point.

## Australian Official Collections.

WE have already quoted extensively from the chatty and interesting letters sent to the *Philatelic Journal of India* by "T.E.M.," its travelling correspondent. "T. E. M.," writing from New South Wales and Tasmania, speaks highly of the official stamp collections kept by those Colonies, both of which he has inspected. The New South Wales collection easily takes first place in the official collections which he has yet seen. "The stamps are beautifully mounted in several of Gibbons' interchangeable albums. Each set has the year of its issue noted against it, and where proofs or reprints occur such are clearly pointed out by the lettering. Modern issues are almost complete, and there is a fair sprinkling of older and rarer stamps." The Tasmanian collection he considers a very fair one, and next to New South Wales. It is an unused general one mounted in three books, but the stamps are all "tightly gummed down," the authorities being of opinion that if the stamps were hinged they could easily be removed. Both collections have been arranged

by our excellent contributor Mr. A. F. Basset Hull, widely known as a first-class philatelist, and author of the London Philatelic Society's work on the "Stamps of Tasmania."

## Brevities.

THE *Société Française de Timbrologie* has appointed a committee, consisting of Messrs. Bernichon, Erard Le Roy d'Etiolles, Gilis d'Evenans, and A. Coyette, to make arrangements for the Philatelic Exhibition which is to be held in Paris in the year 1900.

THE following two prices from a recent sale in Paris may be interesting: France, 1849, 15 c., unused, 200 francs; France, 1873, error, 10×15, unused, with gum, 402 francs.

IT is announced that from the 1st of July the Turkish Empire will have two sets of stamps—one for inland and one for international use. The first will have inscriptions in Turkish only, and the others in Turkish and French.

MR. ARTHUR MAURY has published a valuable little work on the postmarks and cancellations of France.

THE *Echo de la Timbrologie* warns its readers against used stamps of the 50 reis and 100 reis, Portugal, of the 1853 issue, obliterated with the postmark of 11 bars. These are reprints with forged postmarks, as this obliteration did not come into use until 1855. The reprints of 1862, 1866, and 1868 are also found with the postmark of 10 bars, containing the figure "1" in the centre, which are of the same category, as our contemporary states that this postmark was only used in Lisbon after 1871.

A BRAZILIAN contemporary has been trying to discover how many of the 180, 300, and 600 reis, slanting figure, Brazils, are to be found in the collections in Brazil and South America. The result is only 27, 27, and 19 respectively.

A CURIOUS error has been noticed in the Unpaid Letter Stamps of France in the issues of 1882 and 1894. The "à" in the word "à percevoir" has its proper accent in all the values except the 30 c., where it is missing.

THE 1, 5, 20, and 25 lepta of Greece, of the Olympian Games Series have all been sold out, and have been replaced by the old type. Owing to monetary purposes, the charge for a letter in Greece is now 30 lepta, instead of 25 lepta, and in some cases the 25 lepta stamp is sold for 30 lepta, cash.

THE *Jornal Philatêlico* gives the following particulars of the number of stamps on each sheet of the first issue Brazil: The 30 and 90 reis were printed in sheets of 18 (3 horizontal rows of 6), and the 60 reis was printed in sheets of 24 (4 horizontal rows of 6).

A COMMITTEE of the *Société Française de Timbrologie*, consisting of Messrs. Bernichon, Vervelle, Astruc, Erard d'Etiolles, and Coyette, has been formed for the repression of forgeries, and at its meeting on the 31st May last an important document was drawn up, to be submitted to the Minister of Justice, with a view to making it a punishable offence in France to make or deal in forgeries of any kind of stamps.

THE Philatelic Society of Victoria have secured new premises at Melbourne Chambers, 271, Collins Street, Melbourne, and desire to thank the many donors of books to replace the library destroyed by fire.

## Shakespeare and Philately.

"Dak," whose contributions to Indian philatelic journals we have quoted more than once, has been examining his Shakespeare for references to philately. We cull some of the results of his researches from the April number of the *Philatelic Journal of India*:—

"A CHANCE REMARK.

"'Die I.'—*Troilus & Cressida*, act iv. sc. 4.

"ANOTHER CHANCE REMARK.

"'Die II.'—*Hamlet*, act iii. sc. 2.

"TO ANY DEALER.

"'Then you'll buy 'em to sell again.'  
*Macbeth*, act iv. sc. 2.

"ON A DUPLICATE.

"'Change it, Change it.'  
*All's Well that Ends Well*, act iv. sc. 1.

"ON A PEN-MARKED PROVISIONAL.

"'Mark but the penning of it.'  
*King Lear*, act iv. sc. 6.

"THE PRESIDENCY OF THE LONDON SOCIETY.

"'Possess it, York! For this is thine.'  
*King Henry VI.* (3), act i. sc. 1.

"TO A PANE OF NEW SOUTH WALES 'O.S.'  
OFFICIALS.

"'O, that your face was not so full of O.S.'  
*Love's Labour's Lost*, act v. sc. 2.

"ON SOME EARLY PERKINS BACON  
WATERMARKS.

"'Nine changes of the watery star have  
been.'—*A Winter's Tale*, act i. sc. 2.

"THE NEW S—G—LD. (LATER ON).

"'We will proceed no further in this  
business.'—*Macbeth*, act ii. sc. 7.

"ON SOME LOOSE PARTS OF THE 'P. J. OF G. B.'"

"'They have a good cover, they show well  
outward.'  
*Much Ado About Nothing*, act i. sc. 2."







## Notable Stamps at Auction.

\* Unused. † On original.

BUHL & Co., LTD. <i>30th June, 1898.</i>	CHEVELEY & Co. <i>4th July, 1898. £ s. d.</i>	VENTOM, BULL, & COOPER. <i>16th June, 1898.</i>
Cuba, 1883, 20 c., sur., <span style="float: right;">£ s. d.</span> Gibbons' type 19, horizontal pair, right stamp sur. 10* .. 3 0 0 Western Australia, 6d., gold-bronze† .. 2 17 6 Ditto, 1s., green, CC, imperf.* .. 0 11 0 Ditto, 6d., violet, swan, hor. pair, imperf. .. 0 15 0 Ditto, 4d., rose, similar pair .. 0 13 0	Ceylon, 4d., imperf. .. 6 10 0 Ditto, 8d., imperf. .. 11 10 0 Nova Scotia, 1s., plum .. 7 0 0 PLUMRIDGE & Co. <i>23rd June, 1898.</i> British Bechuanaland, ½d. on 3d.* .. 1 3 0 Nova Scotia, 1s., deep violet .. 10 10 0 Queensland, 1d., Indian red, no wmk. .. 3 12 6 Zululand, 5s., carmine .. 2 2 0	Barbados, 1d. on half 5s., hor. pair (Gibbons' 86 and 88) .. 10 10 0 British Guiana, 1852, 4 c. † 4 17 6 Ceylon, 64 c., perf 14 × 12½ 3 12 6 Great Britain, 2d., no lines, block of 12 .. 8 0 0 Newfoundland, 1s., orange 5 12 6 St. Vincent, 5s., star* .. 12 10 0 Ditto, 4d., bright blue, CA, 14 .. 3 10 0 Tobago, 6d., bistre, CC.. 2 16 0 Ditto, 1d. in MS. on right half of 6d., orange† .. 3 0 0

## Notices.

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

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



# The Philatelic Record

AND STAMP NEWS.

OCTOBER, 1898.

## Editorial Notes.

**M**ANCHESTER intends to show us next year what it can do in the way of a Philatelic Exhibition. It is ambitious enough to believe that it can produce a not unworthy successor to the Great London Show of 1897, and it certainly has the men of energy to do the work thoroughly.

Special efforts are to be made in framing the prospectus to ensure a healthy rivalry amongst medium collectors, and to avoid subjecting this desirable class to the overwhelming competition of the specialist.

**Manchester Philatelic Exhibition, 1899.** The medium collector was most conspicuous by his absence in the London Exhibition, but Manchester is determined to give him a chance of showing what he can do under more encouraging conditions. How to protect the medium collector from the specialist

is, however, confessedly a question on which our Manchester friends are open to suggestions, which should be addressed to Mr. G. F. H. Gibson, Kersal, Manchester, the Hon. Secretary of the Manchester Philatelic Society, under whose auspices the Exhibition will, of course, be held.

The Exhibition will be held in July, and will be open for one week only, as that is deemed ample, and in that time stamps will take no harm.

The business arrangements will be in the hands of an Executive of twenty members of the Manchester Society. A most satisfactory guarantee fund has already been arranged for, and the prospectus will be issued in November next.

\* \* \*

**Another Proposed Philatelic Club for London.** ANOTHER attempt is to be made to establish a Club house for stamp collectors in London. No one will gainsay the need of a good central meeting-place for philatelists in the Metropolis, and not a few hold that, properly managed, it should be a success. The failure of the attempt which was made about two years ago did not court success. There was too much mystery about it. Leading collectors looked askance at it from the first.

This latest attempt has much more promise of success. The prospectus is open-handed. It is put forth by Mr. H. A. McMillan, who has forsaken stamp

dealing for the more tempting profits of Club management. He has taken over and has for some time been running the Imperial Club in Cursitor Street, Chancery Lane, and he now offers in a going concern to make room for this projected Philatelic Club. The Imperial Club is well known to frequenters of the neighbourhood of Chancery Lane. *Ergo* the Central Philatelic Club will not be handicapped at the start with rent, furnishing, and maintenance of expensive Club premises. Mr. McMillan simply says: "Here is plenty of room to spare for a Philatelic Club. We have excellent reading, dining, billiard, card, and committee rooms. We can arrange for auctions galore in our commodious saloon, and for periodical entertainments, lectures by prominent philatelists, and, just by way of variety, we can have 'club' auctions for members only. Pay me the nominal subscription of a guinea a year, and walk in and make yourself at home."

We have dined many a time at the Imperial Club, and can personally speak as to the excellent situation and accommodation now offered. The dining-room is one of the quietest and pleasantest in London.

If the project succeeds, as we heartily trust it will, country and London members will have a common and pleasant meeting-place, for country members will find in the forty bedrooms of the Club a temptation to make the Club their residence while in town. The "Imperial" is most central, being within a few minutes' reach of the rooms of the Philatelic Society of London and of Philatelic Avenue, commonly known as the Strand.

\* \* \*

ON another page we give some particulars of the forthcoming sale of a well-known specialist's collection of the issues of the Transvaal. We cannot lay too much stress on the exceptional opportunity which will be thus afforded for the acquisition of fine specimens of these grand and much undervalued stamps.

Mr. Pearce, who has written up his own catalogue with a specialist's care and knowledge, has also himself lotted the stamps, with the object of catering for the requirements of the medium collector and the specialist. As prices go for Transvaals to-day, both the medium collector and the specialist will, no doubt, pick up many bargains; and should the Transvaal drift back—as many think it must, sooner or later—under the British flag, those who take advantage of this sale will thank us for calling their special attention to this opportunity for a judicious and safe philatelic investment.

\* \* \*

MR. EWEN has been trying to persuade the railway companies to supply their Railway Letter Fee Stamps for sale to collectors. He has failed, and the railway companies are to be congratulated upon their stand in the matter. All the same, we have not the slightest doubt that supplies will be obtained by hook or by crook. At first, Mr. Ewen tells us, the railway companies declined on the ground that the Post Office objected to the sale of the stamps out of the ordinary course. But the Post Office replied, "This question is one in which the Department does not wish to interfere, and it must therefore be left to be dealt with by the various companies concerned."

Then some of the railway companies said they would sell if the others would; and the matter was finally referred to a conference of general managers held at the Clearing House in July, with the result that Mr. Ewen received the following final reply:—"Your letter of 24th ultimo was considered by the Railway Managers at a meeting held here to-day, and, as Chairman, I was



desired to inform you that the conference regret they are unable to see their way to sell the letter stamps in the manner suggested."

We commiserate with Mr. Ewen, and commend his persistence, but, all the same, it is delightfully refreshing to learn that our railway authorities are not to be got at so easily as the presidents of little pettifogging republics.

\* \* \*

PHILATELISTS will regret to read the following announcement  
**Providence.** made by the firm of Bogert and Durbin, of Philadelphia, U.S.,  
**Stamp:** which we copy from the September number of their journal,  
**Reprints.** the *Philatelic Monthly and World*:—

"It is well-known that we are the owners of the original plate from which these stamps were printed.

"We purchased this plate just five years ago, in September, 1893.

"We have now decided to place reprints on the market, and have had same prepared. Although the colour is almost exactly the same as that used for the originals, the paper varies somewhat. As an additional preventive of fraud we have had our name printed on the back of each sheet in the following manner, so that one letter comes on each stamp."

The concluding paragraph about an "additional preventive of fraud" reads somewhat out of place in the announcement of such a transaction. It is to be hoped that the philatelic societies *will* enter a vigorous protest. It will be noted that the colour is to be "almost exactly the same," and the paper only "varies somewhat." Evidently the confusion is to be as complete as the reprinters can make it.

\* \* \*

MR. CASTLE, in the *London Philatelist*, has mapped out the  
**Uncle Sam's** lines of Colonial Empire for our friends across the water. Says  
**Colonial** he:—  
**Empire.**

"The United States will now practically rule the 'Republic' of Cuba, and it is not difficult to foresee, in due process of time and under the influence of the contiguous continent, the practical enrolment of Cuba as one of the 'United States'; but, at any rate, the Cuban stamps with the presentment of Alfonso XIII. will speedily disappear. The absolute cession of Porto Rico to our American cousins, marking an event whose significance to the whole world is hardly yet grasped, inaugurates the foundations of the American Colonial Empire. The cession of an island in the Ladrões, and another in the Philippines (even should the whole group not be acquired by treaty), the annexation of the Hawaiian Islands, and the probable further foothold at Samoa, constitute a fairly respectable start in the foundation of a Colonial Empire."

There are other folks, however, and they are said to be very largely represented in America, who do not take such a rosy view of the possibilities and desirabilities of Colonial Empire from the U.S. standpoint. Anyway, philatelists, to whom the wish is probably father to the thought, will apparently have to learn that, despite the fact that Uncle Sam can be bamboozled into issuing a series for a local exhibition, he is a bit above being made a cat's-paw for the issue of untimely Colonial issues. Uncle Sam is evidently going to make use of his own ordinary stamps until he has quite made up his mind as to whether he will be tempted into what may prove a by no means unmixed blessing in the shape of the nucleus of a Colonial Empire.

## Stray Notes on Transvaals.

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.

### "The Transvaal State."



HAVE more than once commented upon what I regard as the senseless change which some of our catalogues have made in the last year or so, in shifting the catalogue of the stamps of the Transvaal from under the generic and comprehensive heading of "The Transvaal" to the non-comprehensive term of "South African Republic." In this connection a collector has placed in my hands an interesting correspondence which he has had with our Colonial Office. In a summary of some papers recently presented to Parliament the following statement was attributed to Mr. Chamberlain:—"The Articles of the Convention of 1881 were accepted by the Volksraad of the Transvaal State, and those of the Convention of 1884 by the Volksraad of the South African Republic." My correspondent thereupon wrote to Mr. Chamberlain asking when the name "South African Republic" was first officially recognized by the British Government, and if prior to that date the territory had been officially known as the "Transvaal State." To this query he received the following courteous reply, dated 21st February, 1898:—

"In reply to your letter of the 17th inst., I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to inform you that by Article I. of the Pretoria Convention, 1881, the name 'Transvaal State' was given to the territory to which self-government was accorded under certain conditions by that Convention, and that the name 'South African Republic' was recognized in the London Convention, 1884, as you will see from the Parliamentary Paper, C. 3947, of 1884."

So that in reality the Queen's Head stamps, surcharged "Een Penny," "Halve Penny," and "Twee Pence," by the Boers, are not, as we term them, the first stamps of the "Second Republic," but stamps of the "Transvaal State." In other words, instead of three divisions of First Republic, British Occupation, and Second Republic, there should be four divisions for Transvaal stamps, viz., 1, First Republic; 2, British Occupation; 3, Transvaal State; and 4, Second Republic.

As a matter of fact, we specialists of the interesting stamps of the Transvaal have always recognized the period which immediately followed the British Occupation as a sort of postal interregnum, during which the Queen's Head stamps of the British Occupation did duty, surcharged and unsurcharged. Indeed, it will be noted that the Queen's Head stamps were not surcharged by the Boers to indicate a change of Government, but merely to change the values of certain stamps to fill up deficiencies of stock in the lower values. It is only the Dutch wording of the surcharges, viz., "Een," "Halve," and "Twee," which gives a clue to the fact that the surcharging was done by the Boers, and not by the English postal officials.

It is a matter for consideration whether it is worth while, in view of the facts now brought to light, for the Transvaal specialist to classify Queen's Head stamps distinguished by the Dutch surcharges under the separate heading of

the "Transvaal State." It is evident that the "Transvaal State" was in actual existence from 1881 to 1884.

But how comes it that the Boers commenced reprinting from the plates of the first Republic as early as the 20th February, 1883—a twelve-month before they were entitled to style themselves a "Republic"? Presumably this was done in defiance of the restriction in the Convention to the term "Transvaal State."

### Big Transvaal Collection to be Sold.

Next month there will be a couple of grand field-days for those who appreciate the interesting issues of the Transvaal. Mr. Pearce's gold medal collection is to be auctioned. Mr. Pearce has long devoted his exclusive philatelic attention to specializing in the most interesting issues of the Transvaal, and at the London Philatelic Exhibition of 1897 he had the field to himself, and carried off the silver medal of his class and the special gold medal offered for the best collection of the stamps of the Transvaal. From personal knowledge of his splendid collection I can bear witness to the fact that he has been a fastidious collector in the matter of specimens, and that, as a consequence, his collection consists almost solely of picked copies. Those who have long collected Transvaals will know only too well the difficulty of getting those interesting stamps in really fine condition, and when they inspect Mr. Pearce's lots they will understand where many, at least, of the finest copies have been stocked away.

As an old specialist in these stamps, I would urge those who want a grand country to specialize, as well as those who have already taken up Transvaal stamps, to make the most of this opportunity. Such a chance has never before been offered of acquiring fine copies, and may never be repeated, for it must be remembered that of many of the issues of the first Republic only 1200 to 8000 were printed. Consequently these must eventually fail to go round, and take their place amongst the unattainables. At present they are not only attainable, but surprisingly cheap, especially at auctions. The superb condition of Mr. Pearce's stamps will no doubt nerve bidders to comparatively decent prices; nevertheless, I have not the slightest doubt that many stamps which should fetch pounds will be knocked down for as many shillings, and those who understand Transvaals will reap a veritable harvest.

Our advertising pages give full particulars as to time and place of auction, but I may enumerate a few of the "howling rarities":—

1d., black on *pelure* paper.

1d., red on blue, error "TRANSVRAL," unused.

A grand and complete series of red surcharges with "V.R." and "TRANSVAAL" wider apart.

3d., V.R. TRANSVAAL, double surcharge, once in red and once in black, separate and distinct.

And several extremely rare *tête-bêche* pairs.

I may add that in my opinion the 1d., black on *pelure*, on thin translucent paper, as I should term it, is one of the rarest, if not the very rarest, of the stamps of the first Republic. In Mr. Pearce's collection I believe there are two unused copies in superb condition, with full gum. To my knowledge a copy of this rare stamp recently changed hands for £15. Some day it will probably be reckoned cheap at more than double that amount. Outside of the Tapling and Ferrari collections I only know of two other collections which can boast of a copy of this rare stamp.

One feature of the auction of Mr. Pearce's Transvaals will be the careful cataloguing and the judicious manner in which he has himself so lotted the stamps as to preserve their scientific arrangement for the benefit of those who may only just have begun to specialize this country.



## Bolivian Postage Stamps.

By "A BOLIVIAN."



WHILE engaged in the collection of stamps in Bolivia my attention was drawn to a stamp of a peculiar kind which was given to me by a friend. During a conversation with Dr. Buitrage, the Postmaster of Sucre, he mentioned that the first postage stamp was issued in 1858, during President Linares' administration, Dr. Buitrage, his father, holding then the position of Minister of Interior. When I showed him the stamp above-mentioned he at once declared it to be the same as the stamp issued under his father's direction. A few days later I bought several documents from the daughter of a once Notary Public. My curiosity about these stamps was heightened when I found on these documents six of these very stamps, bearing the dates of 1859, 1860, and 1861. I went with my discovery to my intimate friend, Mr. Ernesto Ruck, who had been Secretary of the National Archives for many years. He stated that he himself had instituted an extensive search for the validity of the stamps, but without success. Hearing such a verdict from the very person of all others who should know something about them, I almost decided to let the matter drop, but when I mentioned the facts to a Mr. Thomas Moore, an Englishman, for many years Inspector of the Banco Nacional, he told me that he had seen these stamps on old documents which had been brought to the bank for security. Casius Medina, a Senator and lawyer of reputation, informed me that in 1860 the Bolivian Minister to Paris, Señor Santa Cruz, had made Baron de Rothschild a present of one of these stamps as a great curiosity. Encouraged by these new reports, and taking into confidence one of Sucre's best lawyers, I started anew on the road of discovering the needed decree which would legalize these stamps. Neither the Government, the Congressional Library, the National Archives, nor any private library, have any well-regulated catalogue. The search, however, was rewarded by finding a petition signed by the citizens of the principal towns of Bolivia, calling upon the Government to discard the system of money payment in favour of postage stamps for the transportation of the mails. By a decree of January 19th, 1859, President Linares declared that on and after May 1st, 1859, postage stamps should be used in all the Bolivian post offices. A legal document, however, relating to their issue could not be found. Their existence upon documents and letters proves that they were in actual use from 1859 to 1866.

The first official act of President Malgarejo made it obligatory for all legal documents and all nominations for public offices to have a stamp affixed of a certain value. As that was a year and a half before the stamps of 1866 were ready for use, no further evidence is necessary as to what stamps he referred to. Who made them, the exact date, and when legalized are questions which can only be answered when the missing document has been found.

The stamps known as the Eagle stamps were made for the Government in Cochabamba, under the direction of a Spanish captain named Sugart. They were legalized by a decree of the Government in La Paz, March 12th, 1867.

The Congress of Bolivia authorized the Government, October 8th, 1868, to conclude a contract with the representative of the New York Bank Note

Company for the emission of postage stamps divided into five classes. This contract was signed December 20th, 1868. In the following May the first stamps arrived in Bolivia, and it is said that almost all the one and five dollar values were appropriated (as curiosities?) by the members of the Government.

In the issues of 1866 and 1867 each stamp is so different one from the other, regarding design, colour, even to the paper used and their mode of cancellation, that hardly two specimens are exactly alike. It must be remembered that they were made by unskilled hands, in the crudest possible way, without the aid of machinery. The *fac-simile* was cut in an alloy of copper and lead, the cut fastened in wooden frames in a crude way, and the process of making them was naturally very tedious and slow.

The plates of the emission of 1866 were used in the emission of 1867. These plates were recut more than seventy times, therefore the lines so clearly defined in the first emission had almost, if not altogether, disappeared in the last. There were but two of these plates of each kind; the press was of the most ancient pattern, and the monthly production varied from 3000 to 5000 of all denominations. From the few remaining documents relating to their emission, from information received from Dr. W. Donato Munoz, Minister of State during their time of issue, and from conversations which I had with the wife and brother of the President under whose administration the stamps were made, as well as from other important persons, I learned that the actual emission was very small, probably not more than 40,000 in all. A great number of these stamps were retained by the members of the Government as souvenirs, and are still jealously guarded as great relics. I was shown old documents fairly blazing with them, books, albums, picture frames studded with them in quantities to bewilder any ordinary stamp collector.

The original plates were destroyed in 1870 under the direction of a most reliable and respectable man, in the person of Ernesto Ruck, then Secretary of the National Archives.

Judging from inquiry and from the closest inspection of hundreds of genuine stamps which I have seen upon letters, in the archives in the Custom Houses, and upon hundreds of documents, I am convinced that there never has been any rule followed as to the cancellation. Letters carrying stamps of the same emissions, posted at the same day and almost at the very same hour, were cancelled in many different ways in the same office. For instance, the stamps of 1878 carry almost nine different marks—"Sucre," indicating that there had been so many different seals in use in the Sucre office. The same is also true of the offices of La Paz, Potosi, Cochabamba, Oruro, and Santa Cruz.

The stamps issued in 1870, 1871, and 1884 were intended for Transacciones only, but when the issue of 1869 became scarce these stamps were used for the mail. Their cancellation was effected in various ways; first, in the National Treasury by different seals having the mark "Cancelado," "Provisorio," "Santa Cruz," and "Timbre" upon them; the stroke of a pen was used for others. Amongst more than 2000 envelopes having a fixed stamp, which I bought from the Private Secretary of the President, there were more than 1200 uncanceled ones, the majority not having the seal of the post office from which they were despatched. I was obliged to return them for an official cancellation.

As a rule the cancellation of the Bolivian stamps is abominable; they are daubed and smeared all over, the ink, if any, is badly used and disfigures them all. To my knowledge more than once shoe-blackening has been used. The primitiveness of everything pertaining to the country, the absence of regular mail roads and proper leather bags, the crossing of large rivers, the entire absence of any precaution against bad weather, all these facts work

against obtaining the clean specimen so eagerly sought for by the stamp collector.

Many people before sending their mail to the post office cancel their stamps with the pen to prevent them from being stolen. The Post Office authorities make no objection to this practice.

Sometimes letters bear two different postmarks coming from the same office, therefore a letter will sometimes carry three distinct marks. The seal of the municipality of Sucre, in use during 1866, 1867, and 1868, has also been used for the cancellation of postage stamps. This may easily be accounted for, as the post office was located in the municipal building, the Postmaster being at the same time the City Treasurer.

It appears that no regulations regarding the uses of stamps have been adopted or followed by the Government. Stamps intended for "Timbres and Transacciones" (revenue stamps) have been used for postage of all emissions issued by the Government. In the same manner postage have been used for revenues, generally bearing the mark "Cancellado."

The 1 c. and 2 c. of 1887, and the 1 c. of 1890, bear the mark of "Timbre," blue ink being used for the 1 c. and red for the 2 c. There have also been used for timbre the 2, 3, and 10 c. of 1894, but of these only a few specimens have come to my knowledge.

By a law of Congress, October 29th, 1869, Postmasters were authorized to accept stamps of large denominations cut in half, in case no small denominations were for sale. This should be an interesting fact to stamp collectors, but it has not been mentioned in any catalogue or philatelic newspaper. The 5 c. have been cut to use for 2 c., the 10 c. for 5 c., and the 20 c. for 10 c. This appears in every emission.

## The Stamps of Tonga.

By A. F. BASSET HULL.

(Continued from page 121.)

### V.—THE ISSUE OF 1892.



HE next item in the *Interim Report* relating to adhesive stamps appears under date November 10th, 1892, and is as follows:—

			\$	s.	d.
25,920	stamps, new issue	1d.	540	0	0
25,680	" "	2d.	1070	0	0
25,680	" "	4d.	2140	0	0
25,560	" "	8d.	4260	0	0
25,680	" "	1s.	6420	0	0

These items are repeated in column B, thus showing that they coincided exactly with the invoices found by the Commission of Inquiry. As they were entered in full by Mr. Campbell, there can be little doubt that they were intended for regular postal use, and if any were to be sold "cancelled to order" further supplies would be obtained specially for the purpose.

As I previously remarked, this issue was evidently the one referred to by Mr. Basil Thomson, in his *Diversions of a Prime Minister*. The date of issue is given by the Tongan authorities as that of receipt, viz., November 10th, 1892.

A paragraph in *Vindin's Philatelic Monthly* for August 20th, 1892, gives particulars regarding the preparation of this series, from which we learn that the order for execution of the dies and plates must have been forwarded to New



Zealand about the end of March, 1892. Mr. A. E. Cousins, of Wellington, was entrusted with the task of engraving the dies, upon which he was occupied four months. Two designs were furnished him, the Arms of the kingdom, and a portrait of King George (Tubou) I. The latter he faithfully reproduced for the 2d., 8d., and 1s., and the former was adopted for the 1d. and 4d. values. The arrangement of the framework is very similar for all values, but there are slight variations in the ornaments separating the inscriptions and the shading of parts of the frame which are worth examining. The inscriptions "TONGA. POSTAGE" and "BULEAGA O TONGA" (pronounced Buleanga o Tonga, and meaning Tonga Postage) are common to all. The value in figures is placed in the upper angles of each, and repeated in words in the Tongan language in straight labels at the bottom of the stamps.



These values are:—

- "Peni e taha (One Penny).
- Peni e ua (Two Pence).
- Peni e fa (Four Pence).
- Peni e valu (Eight Pence).
- Silini e taha (One Shilling)."



It will be seen that the words "Peni" and "Silini" are simply the English words spelt as pronounced by the Tongans, who are unable to get over the difficulty of closing a syllable with a consonant. Thus with them Salmon becomes "Samani"; Thomas, "Tamate"; William, "Wiremu"; George, "Jioaji," etc.

Electro-plates were made from Mr. Cousin's dies, and the stamps were printed at the Government Printing Office, Wellington, New Zealand, under the supervision of the New Zealand Postal authorities. The paper used was that with watermark NZ and Star, and the perforation was  $11\frac{1}{2}$ . The plates contain 120 impressions, in two panes of 60 each, in ten horizontal rows of six stamps. The panes are divided by a space of 10 mm. There are no "plate marks" in the margins, as in the case of the first issue.

The colours are:—

- 1d., pink.
- 2d., olive-brown.
- 4d., reddish lake.
- 8d., mauve.
- 1s., sepia.

I have not seen any copies of this issue with the barred "TONGA" cancellation, the ordinary ring postmark containing the name "Nukualofa. Tonga" and date being most frequently met with, though there are sometimes pen or pencil cancellations to be found.

The Commission of Inquiry discovered an invoice dated January 27th, 1893, and noted by Mr. Campbell as received on February 11th following. Mr. Campbell had omitted to enter the particulars of this invoice in his books, but the Commissioners rectified this oversight by entering in column B:—

				\$	s.	d.
8000 stamps at 1d.	.	.	.	125	0	0
5880 ,, ,, 2d.	.	.	.	245	0	0
6000 ,, ,, 4d.	.	.	.	500	0	0
6000 ,, ,, 8d.	.	.	.	1000	0	0
5640 ,, ,, 1s.	.	.	.	1410	0	0

and charged the full face value of \$3280 as a deficit.

My conclusions with regard to the stamps of the first issue, received by Mr. Campbell and not entered in his books, may apply in the case of this

invoice also. Doubtless these, about 6000 of each value, were cancelled to order. It is worthy of remark that only 6000 sets were thus provided, as compared with over 50,000 sets of the first issue.

The numbers of sheets and stamps thus accounted for is:—

	Sheets.			Stamps.		
1d. ... ..	266	...	...	31,920		
2d. ... ..	263	...	...	31,560		
4d. ... ..	264	...	...	31,680		
8d. ... ..	263	...	...	31,560		
1s. ... ..	261	...	...	31,320		

#### VI.—THE PROVISIONAL SERIES OF 1893.

On June 1st, 1893, the rates of postage were assimilated to those of countries in the Postal Union. This change necessitated the provision of at least two new values, viz.,  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. However, while they were about it, the Tongan authorities decided to provide two additional values of 5d. and  $7\frac{1}{2}$ d. to represent double and treble weight letter postage. Orders were sent to Wellington for supplies, the then current stamps to be printed in different colours and overprinted with the new values. It is more than probable that the example of New South Wales in this respect was followed, as the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and  $7\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamps of that colony had just previously been made in the same manner.

Pending the arrival of the new stamps the 1d. stamp cut in two was used provisionally to represent the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. value. I have seen used specimens cut diagonally from left or right, vertically and horizontally, thus producing eight delectable shapes of the provisional stamp.

The overprinted stamps arrived at Nukualofa on August 21st, 1893, and were doubtless "put in commission" at once, as specimens of the  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. value reached Sydney early in September. Mr. Campbell entered upon the invoice in rather a slipshod way. He omitted to mention the denomination of any but the  $7\frac{1}{2}$ d., and made two mistakes in calculating the amounts, one of which, however, counterbalanced the other, so that his total was correct. The Commission of Inquiry put matters straight, and the following is a copy of the two entries:—

		COLUMN A.			COLUMN B.				
			\$	s.	d.		\$	s.	d.
August 21st,									
1893.	15 sheets, surcharged $7\frac{1}{2}$ d.	562	2	0	15 sheets stamps at $7\frac{1}{2}$ d.	562	2	0	
	39 $\frac{1}{2}$ " " "	997	2	0	39 $\frac{1}{2}$ " " "	5d.	987	2	0
	39 $\frac{1}{2}$ " " "	493	3	0	39 $\frac{1}{2}$ " " "	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	493	3	0
	29 $\frac{1}{2}$ " " "	63	3	3	29 $\frac{1}{2}$ " " "	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.	73	3	0

It is remarkable that this is the first entry in which the stamps are given in "sheets," and this is the more noticeable because a calculation will show that the "sheet" contained 240 stamps, whereas the plates contained 120 only.

For this first supply the overprint was in carmine. It was in figures for the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d.,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., and  $7\frac{1}{2}$ d., and in words (two lines) for the 5d. The colours and types chosen for the new stamps, and the numbers of the first supply, were:—

$\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 1d., ultramarine, 7080.  
 $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 2d., bluish green, 9480.  
 5d. on 4d., orange, 9480.  
 $7\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 8d., rose, 3600.

The paper was watermarked NZ and Star, and the perforation was  $12\frac{1}{2}$ .

This was the last entry in the Annex to the *Interim Report*, from which I have extracted so much valuable information, and I am unfortunately unable to furnish any further details as to the numbers printed.

Early in 1894 the colour of the surcharge on the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. was changed to black. The perforation was also altered to 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

#### VII.—“SURCHARGED” PROVISIONALS OF 1894.

Early in June, 1894, two provisional stamps were issued, each bearing the vertical overprint “SURCHARGE” and the value. It might reasonably have been supposed that the word “Surcharge” signified a tax or further sum to be paid, and that the stamps were intended for unpaid or insufficiently prepaid letters. Such, however, was not the case, the word having no special significance, as the stamps were used for ordinary prepayment of letters.

The overprints were “SURCHARGE.—HALF-PENNY” in two lines in black, placed on the 1s., sepia, of November 10th, 1892, and “SURCHARGE.  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d.” in two lines in black on the 8d., mauve, of the same issue.

Later in the same year the same overprints were applied to the 4d., lake, of November 10th, 1892 (“SURCHARGE.—HALF-PENNY,” in blue), and 1s., green, of 1886 (“SURCHARGE.— $2\frac{1}{2}$ d.,” in black).

The stamps to which these overprints were applied were printed from the plates of 120 impressions, and there are two sub-varieties, viz.: (a) “SURCHARGE.,” and (b) “SURCHARGE” without period. The variety (a) is found on the second or right-hand pane on Nos. 6, 18, 30, 48, and 60 of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 1s.; and on Nos. 12, 24, 30, 48, and 60 of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 4d. The variety (b) is found on both types of the  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d.

These provisionals are all printed on the NZ and Star watermarked paper, and are generally perf. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ , but I have the  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 1s., green, perf. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$  × 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Apparently the sheets were sent from Tonga to New Zealand to be overprinted, as occasionally copies are found “skinned.” The sheets having become stuck together, in the process of more or less violent separation some of the stamps were damaged, and I have seen several in this state with complete overprint. I have also seen a block of six of the 4d., four of which bore the overprint, while the other two were innocent of “surcharge.” This error, of course, resulted from misplacement of the sheet in printing.

Supplies of these provisionals were cancelled to order. I have seen entire sheets with original gum, obliterated both with the postmark “F.1. Nukualofa. 20 Sep. 94. 9 a.m.” in circle, and the “TONGA” and bars obliterator.

#### VIII.—“SURCHARGED” PROVISIONALS OF 1895.

About the middle of 1895 another series of provisional stamps was issued, and a new value, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., was added to the list. The whole series of four values was produced from lithographic transfers from the die of the 2d. of November 10th, 1892. The sheet contains 48 impressions in two panes of 24 each, arranged in four horizontal rows of six stamps. A space of 9 mm. is between the panes, and there are no marginal devices.

Printings from the stone were made in pale blue on white wove unwatermarked paper, and the new values were overprinted in red, together with the meaningless addition of the word “SURCHARGE.” The overprint is vertical, reading upwards, and the value is expressed in words for the One Penny, and in figures for the 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., and 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

There is no period after the word “SURCHARGE” except on the  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., and this value has also the error “SURCHARCE.”

The perforation is generally described as 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ , but my specimens all gauge 12 or 12 × 11.

Supplies of this series were cancelled to order.

(To be continued.)



# The Postmaster-General's Report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1898.

*From "The Standard."*



HE report of the Postmaster-General for the year ending March 31st, 1898, issued yesterday, shows that the financial prosperity of the Post Office continues unchecked, though the absolute profit is somewhat lessened by increased expenditure. But it is easy to see that the way is prepared for the eventual recovery of any such encroachment on profits, since an enlarged revenue is assured in the future. In giving the account of 1896-7, a forecast was made by the Duke of Norfolk that, having regard to the concessions granted to the public and the advantages given to the staff, it was not likely that the profit of £3,753,000 then recorded would be equalled in the ensuing year. It happens, however, that the growth of business during 1897-8 has been such as to yield an increase of more than £273,000 in the Postal revenue, and £104,000 in respect to the Telegraph Department. On the other hand, the expenditure of the year has been exceptionally swelled by the recommendations of the Tweedmouth Committee, as well as by the Budget reforms and the rapid growth in the work of the Department, the total expenditure being thus augmented by nearly £713,000, as compared with the previous year. But setting expenditure against revenue, the accounts still show a profit of £3,421,000 on the twelvemonth, if nothing be allowed for interest on the capital created for the purchase of the telegraphs.

While the Department thus reaps its financial reward, the public are reminded that the year has been distinguished by changes in postal and telegraph rates and arrangements, some being devised for the special benefit of residents in rural districts, and others for the general advantage. The reforms referred to were announced in the Budget speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer on April 29th, 1897, and are associated with the Diamond Jubilee of the Queen in the following June. The effect makes itself apparent in the statistics of the report, though a little detracted from by the circumstances that three months of the financial year were subject to the old rates. Nor has it been thought correct to give in all cases, as the average for the whole financial year, the actual return taken in the third week of October, which has hitherto been accepted as the average for the entire period. Higher figures, therefore, than those which now appear will to a certain extent come into the next report. As it is, the figures given show under every head an increased delivery of postal packets of various kinds; newspapers, as usual, exhibiting the least rate of growth. Letters, now amounting to more than two thousand millions in the year, or above fifty for each member of the population, have increased by over six per cent. But the highest rate of increase occurs among post cards, which at one time appeared to enjoy rather a dubious welcome in the official circle. They display an advance of fully seven per cent., the number passing through the post exceeding three hundred and sixty millions. The rate of increase in respect to these open letters was also seven per cent. in the previous year, and the report states that the development is more rapid than in the case of any other class of correspondence. But the letter post is also leaping forward, showing a rate of increase

double that of 1896-7 over the previous year. That letters should thus multiply may be readily accounted for by the Jubilee concessions, whereby the weight allowed to pass for a postage of one penny was raised to four ounces, and the inland sample post was merged in the letter post. In fact, the letter post has tended to supersede the parcel post for light packets. But the parcels, being not far short of 68 millions, have nevertheless increased by more than six per cent. Book packets, circulars, and samples present an enormous total, exceeding 727 millions, and showing an increase of more than four per cent. Newspapers last year were a little under 151 millions. The complete total of all the postal packets delivered during the year exceeded 3318 millions, or eighty-three per head of the population.

### The Parcel Post.

The parcel post is described as having steadily grown in popularity since its establishment in 1883, and the reduction in the postage for all parcels over one pound in weight has accelerated the rate of growth, especially in Scotland and Ireland. There was an increase of ten per cent. during the year in the number of parcels sent to and received from places abroad. According to the Board of Trade returns the value of the goods exported and imported by parcel post last year was nearly £3,200,000, being an increase of more than £400,000 over the previous year. In respect to the express delivery service for letters and other packets considerable progress is reported. Of undelivered letters and other consignments dealt with during the year the number is extraordinary, in the case of book packets exceeding 11,000,000. This is considered due to the fact that large numbers of circulars are addressed every year by a reference to old directories and other sources of obsolete information. There are also people who send letters affording no clue by which they can either be delivered or returned. Letters posted without any address contained property to the value of £4715. The total value of property in letters which had to be opened in the post office amounted to £594,000. Among the altered regulations of the Department is one which allows live bees in suitable boxes to be transmitted by letter or parcel post within the United Kingdom. As an instance of the enormous amount of work devolving on the Department, it is mentioned that the number of bags of mails received at and despatched from the General Post Office on an ordinary week-day reaches the large total of 20,000.

### Universal House Delivery.

Post Office reform last year went to the extent of providing for the delivery of letters by postmen at every house in the kingdom. The work of extending the rural deliveries had been in progress for a considerable time, but last year, in honour of the Diamond Jubilee, universal delivery was undertaken, falling short only of a daily delivery to the more remote houses. It was also explained that the requisite arrangements could not be immediately perfected. There was a rough estimate that the total number of letters to be brought into delivery was sixteen millions a year, but this was found to fall below the mark—a further proof how great was the need for the proposed change. In anticipation of next year's report the Postmaster-General states that up to the end of last July he had sanctioned proposals for the delivery of twenty million letters a year. Reasons why the new system has not been more rapidly carried out are not far to seek, and we are told it is no easy matter to combine in suitable posts the scattered houses which until now have been excluded because of their remoteness from main roads and villages. It is estimated that between Jubilee Day and the end of the financial year 3800 sets of rural posts had been estab-

lished or revised, at an average additional cost of £10 each. The work of extension is being rapidly continued during the current year in all parts of the kingdom, so that the next report may be expected to record the practical completion of the scheme. In connection with the universal house delivery of letters the Postmaster-General has given in the appendix to the report a very interesting history of the rural posts from early times down to the year 1897, adding for the purposes of comparison a statement showing how the same subject is being dealt with in the United States. It is stated that at the beginning of the present century there were no rural or village posts. Letters were conveyed by post to towns, or rather to towns of any considerable size, and were fetched thence by arrangement on behalf of the people living in the surrounding villages. Probably a village generally employed its own messenger, paying in some cases a fixed sum as wages, and in others a penny or more on each letter carried. Sometimes a pauper was employed. In some cases villages, or perhaps only small market towns which were not post towns, received from public funds an "allowance in aid of their post." The first real effort to carry the post into villages was made in 1801, when an Act was passed authorising better arrangements.

### Motor Car Mail Service.

A novel feature in the present report consists in the account of experiments made with motor vans driven by oil, steam, and electricity. An oil motor car, the property of the British Motor Syndicate, was engaged for two separate weeks, in the first instance conveying letter mails between the General Post Office and the South-Western District Office, and on the second occasion between the latter office and Kingston-on-Thames. For the first week there was a nominal charge of 26s., said to be the out-of-pocket expenses of the Syndicate, whereas for the service which the motor car displaced in that week about £6 would have been paid under the contracts, and for the service to Kingston rather more than £5. The work of the motor car was performed satisfactorily, but the experiment was not pursued, as the Syndicate were desirous of constructing a more suitable car. For the next experiment a steam motor car was engaged, the property of a private firm, and the vehicle was employed for six weeks, conveying parcels between London and Redhill. The price charged was £7 a week, compared with an amount ranging from £11 to £14, the estimated cost of a pair-horse van of like capacity. As a rule the journey was performed in from ten to twenty minutes less time than that allowed for a horsed conveyance. An electric motor car, belonging to the Electrical Vehicle Syndicate, was employed on town work for four weeks. One or two accidents of a minor character occurred, giving rise to delays, but in other respects the work was satisfactorily performed. Arrangements have since been made for extended trials, and it is confidently hoped that the results will show that motors can be permanently used with advantage to the mail service.





## Indian "Postal Fiscals" in 1872, and their Consequences.

By C. STEWART-WILSON, in the "*Philatelic Journal of India*."



WHEN, in 1870, the Indian Court Fees Act came into operation, there being no supply of adhesive Court Fee stamps available, permission was given, in a Notification dated 19th March, 1870, to use Foreign Bill adhesive stamps and postage stamps for the purpose after they had been surcharged "Court Fees" by the Superintendent of Stamps. Both in Bombay and Calcutta that officer had an excess supply of Service postage stamps of certain values. Hence it came about that Service postage stamps in Bombay of the value of 1, 2, 4, and 8 annas, and in Calcutta of the last three values, were surcharged "Court Fees" in large quantities. These stamps, being of very small value, had frequently to be used in very large numbers in suits where any considerable amount of money was involved.

In June, 1872, some forged 4 anna postage stamps were detected in the Calcutta General Post Office on a letter posted by the office of the Sheriff of Calcutta. This discovery led in a few weeks to the arrest of a man called Baroda Kanta Halder, who had been supplying Court Fee stamps of his own make for a year or so previous to this. He began by collecting some thousands of unused Service postage stamps of the 2, 4, and 8 anna values. It must be remembered that as long as these stamps were purely Service postage stamps they were of no value to an outsider, as no outsider could use them for postal purposes without the almost certainty of instant detection and punishment. But once surcharged "Court Fees" they became worth their face value. Having collected these stamps, he proceeded to erase the word "Service," as was done in the case of genuine Court Fee stamps, and printed "Court Fees" on them in a manner which closely resembled the original surcharge. It seems quite possible that he might have plied this trade for years without detection had not success made him bolder. He began to extend his business by manipulating cleaned Service postage stamps which had been used postally. Finally he had dies made to produce imitations of the 4 and 8 anna postage stamps. These he surcharged with "Service," which he then scored out, and with "Court Fees." No doubt a good deal of ground bait was required to get these stamps used in the Courts, but once this had been arranged for, and the stamp affixed to the record had been duly punched, the remainder was so well covered with well-executed surcharges that detection was not likely unless the stamp was carefully examined. In this way Baroda got rid of thousands of rupees' worth of his forgeries. On one plaint alone no fewer than 1420 were discovered.

He probably had no intention at first to use his dies for the production of purely postage stamps, but, as he grew bolder, he did issue them unsurcharged for the purpose of sending to Courts for payment of sundry Court charges, and it was no doubt some of these that were found on the Sheriff of Calcutta's letters. Very few indeed seem to have been used postally, for the stamps were far too clumsy imitations to take in anyone except an interested party.

Baroda got seven years for his trouble. His die-maker and assistants in distributing the stamps got sentences varying from two to ten years.

Of course, the use of Service stamps for this purpose was immediately stopped, and the use of adhesive stamps for Court Fee purposes was rigorously confined to cases of real necessity, *i.e.*, when the value on the impressed paper required to be supplemented. Even then the use of the smallest number and the highest possible value of adhesives was insisted on.

But there were other consequences of the case. The Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, expressed his opinion that the current Service postage stamps were very unsafe, as the word "Service" could be cleaned off, and the stamps used as ordinary postage stamps. It was also possible in those days to draw a thick line in ink through the word "Service" and so hide the surcharge. Although the Director-General of the Post Office did not believe that the surcharge could be cleaned off, and Messrs. De La Rue denied the possibility of such an operation, it was thought advisable to discontinue the use of the stamps so surcharged, and to order Service stamps of quite a different design from those used for ordinary postage. The case was finally compromised by the substitution of the letters "On H. M. S." "in the form of a crescent, thus obviating all chance of total erasure by the straight line or lines commonly drawn through ordinary postage stamps as a protection against their removal for the purpose of sale." This new surcharge, which is still current, was sanctioned by the Secretary of State on 12th February, 1874.

These are the facts of the case on which the myth of these so-called "postal fiscals" appears to have risen. While on this matter it may be well to kill the "postal fiscal" fallacy altogether as far as India is concerned. No fiscal stamps, unless surcharged "Postage" by authority, have ever been permitted in India to do postal duty. Most of the fiscal stamps professing to have done postal duty have been taken off covers with the "Postage Due" duly noted on them. In some few cases they have passed by mistake or carelessness on the part of postal officials. But this does not constitute them postage stamps. I have seen a small lithographed advertisement of a popular brand of tobacco used as a stamp by a wag, which passed unchallenged. Yet no one would class it as an "advertisement postal."





## A Historical Geography of the British Colonies.

*A Historical Geography of the British Colonies.* By C. P. Lucas, B.A., of Balliol College, Oxford, and the Colonial Office, London. With Maps. Introductory vol., 142 pp., 7s. 6d. Vol. 1: *European Dependencies, Minor Asiatic Dependencies, and Dependencies in the Indian Ocean*, 191 pp., 5s. Vol. 2: *West Indies*, 343 pp. Vol. 3: *West Africa*, 283 pp., 7s. 6d. Vol. 4: *South and East Africa. Part I: 349 pp.; Part II., 155 pp., 9s. 6d.* Size  $7\frac{1}{2} \times 5$  in. Oxford: At the Clarendon Press.

THE importance of this work to the earnest collector and student of the postal issues of the British Colonies can scarcely be overrated. The volumes enumerated above have already been published. The introductory volume deals with the questions: What is a Colony? Motives of Colonisation; Climate and Race; Modes of Colonising and Kinds of Colonists; Nations that have Colonised; English Colonisation and Changes in the English Colonies during the Nineteenth Century.

In the first three volumes the historical and geographical descriptions follow each other under each colony, but in the fourth volume Mr. Lucas has opened out his work in a more pretentious method; for volume four is really two volumes in one. The first portion deals with the history of the colonies of South and East Africa; and the second portion, with a title-page of its own, and commencing again at page 1, deals with the geography of those colonies. Each colony has its coloured map.

The earnest philatelist, and more particularly the specialist, nowadays generally combines with his study of the postal issues of a country some study of its history and geography. In this Historical Geography of the British Colonies the specialist of colonial issues will find a mass of most interesting and valuable information presented in a popular form. Here we have traced for us the early history and growth of all the stamp-issuing colonies, and its study will probably lead to a somewhat better philatelic grouping of those colonies than the curious medley which at present obtains in philatelic publications and exhibitions.

The following is the grouping adopted so far as Mr. Lucas has dealt with the stamp-issuing colonies:—

EUROPEAN DEPENDENCIES.—Heligoland, Gibraltar, Malta, Cyprus.

MINOR ASIATIC DEPENDENCIES.—Ceylon, Straits Settlements and Native States, Labuan, North Borneo, Hong Kong.

BRITISH DEPENDENCIES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN.—Mauritius, Seychelles.

WEST INDIES.—Bermudas, Bahamas, Jamaica, Leeward Islands, Barbados, Windward Islands, Trinidad and Tobago, British Guiana, British Honduras, Falkland Islands.

WEST AFRICA.—The Gambia, Sierra Leone, Gold Coast, Lagos, Niger Protectorate, St. Helena.

SOUTH AND EAST AFRICA.—Cape Colony, Natal, Zululand, Bechuanaland, Mashonaland, British Central Africa, British East Africa.





## British Empire.

**Bechuanaland Protectorate.**—According to the *Timbre-Poste*, the current 3d. English stamp has been surcharged "Bechuanaland Protectorate" and added to the set chronicled by us in June (p. 147).

*Adhesive.*

3d., brown on yellow.

**British Guiana.**—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. send us a set of five new stamps for this colony of the picturesque or commemorative order. They are all labelled 1897: why, we know not; for 1898 is the anniversary year of Columbus sailing up the mouth of the Orinoco. Perchance it is to celebrate Raleigh's disastrous visit to the colony in search of gold in 1617. Anyway, we trust the set is a permanent issue. It consists of five values: 1 c., 2 c., 5 c., 10 c., and 15 c. The 1 c., 5 c., and 15 c. are large oblong, of the U.S. Columbus style, and are each decorated with a view of "Mount Roraima," 7500 feet, the highest mountain-top in the colony. The 2 c. and 10 c. are of the same size, but with upright design of a view of the celebrated Kaieteur Fall, on the Potaro River. The river flows over a tableland 822 feet into a deep valley below. Its width varies, according to the season, from 240 to 370 feet. For the first 741 feet the water falls perpendicularly in one great white rushing torrent. The greatest height of Niagara is only 164 feet, but its bulk is immensely greater, for the Niagara has a width at the brink of the fall of 4750 feet. The stamps are bicoloured, the central picture being in one colour and the framework in another. The stamps are typographed. Wmk. Crown and CC. Perf. 14.

*Adhesives.*

1 c.	centre blue-black,	frame carmine.
2 c.	" brown	" deep blue.
5 c.	" green	" dark brown.
10 c.	" blue-black	" orange-red.
15 c.	" brown-red	" deep blue.

**Canada.**—The *London Philatelist* chronicles a 10 c. Special Delivery stamp issued on the 1st of July, and quotes the following interesting information concerning the issue from the *Montreal Witness*:—

"The Post Office Department has just concluded arrangements for the inauguration on the first of July of a Special Delivery Service, whereby a letter bearing in addition

to the ordinary postage a Special Delivery stamp of the face value of 10 cents, posted at any Post Office in Canada, and addressed to a city Post Office having now free delivery by letter-carrier, shall be specially and promptly delivered to the person to whom it is addressed within the limits of letter-carrier delivery at any one of the following Post Offices, viz., Halifax, St. John, N.B., Fredericton, Quebec, Montreal, London, Ottawa, Kingston, Toronto, Brantford, Hamilton, Winnipeg, Victoria, and Vancouver. Whilst the delivery of such letters will, for the present, be restricted to the city Post Offices named, they may be mailed at any Post Office in the Dominion. It is expected that by the 1st proximo, or very soon thereafter, Special Delivery stamps will be on sale at all money order Post Offices. The Special Delivery stamp differs materially in design and size from the ordinary series, the dimensions of the engraved work being  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches long by  $\frac{1}{2}$  of an inch wide. The advantage of such a contrast is obvious. The letter to which a Special Delivery stamp is affixed can thus be at once picked out by those handling the mails including it, and its delivery greatly hastened. The design of the Special Delivery Stamp is without any vignette, and consists substantially of a panel across the top containing the words, 'CANADA POST OFFICE,' with a lathe-work border round the other three sides of the stamp. The centre of the stamp is occupied by an oval containing lathe-work, with the word 'TEN' in the centre, and the phrase, 'SPECIAL DELIVERY WITHIN CITY LIMITS,' in a white letter, on a solid panel encircling the word 'TEN.' On each side of the stamp, connecting the oval with the border, is a circle with the numeral '10'; the space between the oval and the border is occupied by ornamental work. At the bottom of the stamp, in the lathe-work border, appears a white panel with the words 'TEN CENTS.' The colour of the stamp is dark green. The regulations relating to first-class matter (inland post) will apply with equal force to Special Delivery letters, the only difference being the special treatment which the latter receive with a view to accelerating their delivery. The object sought by the establishment of special delivery—namely, the special delivery of letters transmitted thereunder—will be much promoted if the senders of all such letters are careful to address them plainly and fully, giving, if possible the street

and number in every case. Such care will serve not only to prevent mistakes, but also to facilitate delivery."

*Adhesive.*  
*Special Delivery Stamp.*  
10 c., green.

**Cape of Good Hope.**—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the 3d. in the colour of stamp surcharged 2½d. in 1891, also the 4d. in the colour of 2½d. of 1892, and our publishers have received a new ½d. stamp in the type of the current 1d. All these are watermarked Cabled Anchor.

*Adhesives.*  
½d., green, wmk. Cabled Anchor.  
3d., magenta " "  
4d., pale sage-green " "

**Cook Islands.**—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us three of the new design of a sea bird flying over the sea with presumably Cook Islands in the distance, enclosed in an octagonal frame, with the word "Cook" above, "Islands" below, "Postage, &c.," on the left side, and "Revenue" on the right. In the corners outside the framework are the figures of value, which are apparently separately printed, as they are much out of position. The stamps are small rectangular in shape. The design and engraving are very mediocre. We understand that Mr. A. E. Cousins has done the engraving. The stamps are printed on NZ small star paper, and are very roughly perforated 11.

*Adhesives.*  
2d., dark brown.  
6d., violet.  
1s., lake.

**Falkland Islands.**—Our contemporaries chronicle two new and higher values, of larger size than the current set, of new design, which we will illustrate in our next issue.

*Adhesives.*  
2s. 6d., deep blue.  
5s., brown-red.

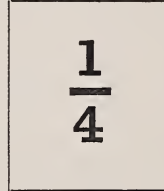
**Gold Coast.**—A series of the De La Rue colonial type of bicoloured stamps has been issued in this colony.

*Adhesives.*  
½d., lilac and green.  
1d., lilac and red.  
2½d., lilac and ultramarine.  
3d., lilac and orange.  
6d., lilac and mauve.  
1s., deep green and black.  
2s., deep green and carmine.

**India.**—The *Philatelic Journal of India* says that "from the 1st October next the so-called 'privileged newspaper' system is to be abolished in India. This system was, in the main, designed to allow newspapers weighing not more than *three* tolas to be posted for one pice, or a quarter of an anna each, the postage for a quarter being payable not by stamps, but *in cash* in advance, and has been a good deal abused in many ways. Newspapers weighing

not more than *four* tolas (nearly 2 ozs.), provided that they have been 'registered' in the Postmaster-General's Office, will, from 1st October, 1898, be entitled to the ¼ anna rate. The term 'newspaper' has now been defined, as in England, so as to exclude price lists, etc., and the postage will be payable by means of postage stamps.

"A supply of ¼ anna postage stamps of the design and colour of the recently obsolete 9 pies stamps is under order from England. As, however, the stamps cannot reach India for about six months, the provisional imitated below will be used from 1st October *pro tem*. The surcharge is in black."



**Newfoundland.**—In June last (page 147) we chronicled the then current 3 c. on pink wove paper. We now learn from the *Philatelic Era* (U.S.) that some two or three years ago a steamer containing a box of these stamps was wrecked, and upon recovery of the box the paper was found to have been changed to pink.

The 1 c. of the new series, with portrait of the Queen, which we chronicled in January last (page 14), has been changed in colour from lake to green, and Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. now send us the 3 cents with portrait of the Princess of Wales, and ½ cent with portrait of the baby Prince Edward of York, in by far the most effective design of the new series yet issued. Perf. 12.

*Adhesives.*  
½ c., sage-green.  
1 c., dark green.  
3 c., orange-brown.

**New Zealand.**—The *Australian Philatelist* says, "This colony has at last issued a stamped registration envelope. The stamp is from a *cliché* of the 3d. of 1874, enclosed in a rectangular lined frame, impressed on the flap. The inscription, "REGISTRATION FEE. THREEPENCE." is printed in two lines at one side on the small size, and "Registration Fee" to left, "Threepence" to right of the stamp on the large size. The flap is round, and folds over on the address side. There is a block "R" in a circle in the left upper corner; in the centre the usual inscriptions, "REGISTERED LETTER. This letter must be given to an officer of the Post Office to be registered, and a receipt obtained for it," in three lines, and an additional instruction, "THE ADDRESS MUST BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE." White paper, linen lined.

*Registration Envelope.*  
3d., blue, 130×mm.  
3d., blue, 295×150 mm.



**Queensland.**—We quote the following from the *Australian Philatelist*:—"Several correspondents have favoured us with specimens of the new illustrated Post Cards. The stamp is of similar type to that of the Letter Card, printed in the right upper corner. The inscriptions on the 1½d. card are:—

"UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE CARTE

"POSTALE, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA.

"The Address only to be written on this side."

crowded up at the top to make room for the 'illustration,' which occupies about two-thirds of the address side. Possibly its size accounts for the usual translation of the French inscription being omitted and the address instructions

being printed in English only. A note in the left lower corner directs the official to 'Date stamp on reverse side,' which is just opposite to the usual practice, and causes the message to be rendered illegible. This change in stamping tactics is doubtless intended to preserve the illustration intact, in order that the recipient may feast his eyes on the beauties of Queensland scenery unmarred by postmarks. The 1d. card is inscribed: 'POST-CARD, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA,' with instructions the same as in the 1½d. card."

*Illustrated Post Cards.*

1d. black on pale buff, 138×90 mm.

1½d., brown " " " "

Various views on the address side.

## Foreign Countries.

**Brazil.**—The *Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal* chronicles two new letter cards, viz., 200 r. and 300 r., which were issued on the 6th June last. In the 200 r., which is for inland use, the inscription in three lines in black reads, "Carta Bilhete—Republica dos E.U. do Brasil—neste lado só o Eudereço." The stamp is the type of the current 200 r. adhesive. On the back there is an illustration of the mint building. In the 300 r., which is intended for international use, the inscription, in two lines in dark blue, reads, "Republica dos E.U. Brasil—Carta bilhete-carte letre." The stamp is in the type of the current 300 r. adhesive. The International Card has also the mint building on the back.

*Letter Cards.*

200 r., orange-red, and black on lilac, 198×93 mm.  
300 r., dark blue on buff, 198×93 mm.

**Ecuador.**—The *Illustriertes Briefmarken Zeitung* chronicles three provisional officials made by surcharging the fiscal stamps of 50 centavos, 20 sucres, and 50 sucres, "Correos—5 cents—official," in three lines, in tall, thin sans-serif type.

*Adhesives.*

5 c. on 50 c., lilac, sur. dark green.  
10 c. on 20 s., orange-red, sur. black.  
20 c. on 50 s., dark green, sur. black.

**Paraguay.**—Mr. F. G. Plate informs us that the 50,000 of the current 40 c. have been surcharged "Provisorio—10—centavos," of which our correspondent sends us a specimen.

*Adhesive.*

10 c. on 40 c., slate-blue.

**Portugal.**—*Angra, Funchal, Ponta Delgada.*—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. inform us that these colonies have each been supplied with the following values, in addition to those chronicled by us last month (p. 193), viz., 65 r., 115 r., 130 r., and 180 r.

*Adhesives.*

65 reis, slate-blue.

115 reis, rose on pink paper.

130 reis, brown on buff paper.

180 reis, lilac on flesh paper.

**Roumania.**—The *Illustriertes Briefmarken Zeitung* chronicles the issue of a new stamp of 40 bani, of the current type of adhesives, to cover the single postage and registration on inland letters, and an unpaid 60 bani, green, of the current type with the wmk. P.R.

*Adhesives.*

40 bani, dark green, unpaid letter stamp.

60 bani, yellow-green, wmk. P.R.

**Transvaal.**—From Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. we have a copy of the 5s. in the current type, but printed in one colour, and really forming one of the 1895 set. The word of value is again in the singular—"shilling."

*Adhesive.*

5s., grey-black.

**United States.**—According to the *Eastern Philatelist*, the United States has issued an army frank stamp, of a similar character to the official penalty envelopes. It is an adhesive, and has no designated value on the face, is perforated 12, light brown in colour, about the size and on the same lines as the ten cents issue of 1869, resembling it in appearance and design. In the centre of the stamp is a shield, the point of which rests on the bottom of the stamp, and from the top and sides are rays running to the edge; in the midst of these rays is an eagle with extended wings above the shield; upon it are the words "Army Frank," below which is a wavy ribbon-like strip extending all the way across the label, with this inscription, "Official Business only."

The *American Journal of Philately*, however, condemns the stamp as the speculation of a collector.



The Bogert and Durbin Co. have purchased a curious combination of carrier stamps recently found in Philadelphia, which they describe as follows:—

“It has two impressions of the well-known types of ‘U. S. P. O.—Prepaid—One Cent—Despatch,’ the large one in red on the upper right corner, and the small one with eagle on top in blue on the upper left corner; the latter had a splendid cancellation of the usual ‘star,’ in red.”

**Uruguay.**—We are indebted to Mr. A. E. L. Westaway for a specimen of a  $\frac{1}{2}$  c. provisional issued on the 26th July. Our correspondent informs us that they are in sheets of 100, and that there are no varieties. This provisional has been provided by surcharging the 1 c., indigo, of 1894, “PROVISIONAL— $\frac{1}{2}$ —CENTSIMO.”

*Adhesive.*

$\frac{1}{2}$  c. on 1 c., indigo, of 1894; *sur. black.*

## Our Monthly Packets of New Issues.

No. 1, price One Shilling (postage extra).  
The October Packet contains—  
*SEVEN VARIETIES*, all unused, viz., Cape of Good Hope,  $\frac{3}{4}$ d., green, new type; Portuguese Indies, new type,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  r.,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  r., 6 r., and 9 r., etc.

No 2, price Five Shillings (postage extra).  
The October Packet contains—  
*ELEVEN VARIETIES*, all unused, viz., Portuguese Indies, new type, 1, 2, and 4 tangas, and complete set of 8 Montenegro “Postage Due.”

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

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



## Great Britain 1854 1d. Die, Retouch.

MR. E. D. BACON has unearthed at Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co.'s some very interesting information concerning Humphrey's retouch of the die of the One Penny Great Britain in 1854. The information is embodied in a letter written to explain a delay in furnishing certain plates, etc., for the Government of New South Wales. We quote the letter from the *London Philatelist*, to which it is contributed by Mr. Bacon:—

“We deeply regret the delay which has taken place, and think you are entitled to know the cause why we have sometimes of late been so wanting in our usual punctuality. When we undertook to supply our home Government with postage stamps we did not anticipate anything like the demand, which began and continued annually to increase, and therefore prepared ourselves with but one original die; but from that one die we have had to prepare and produce over 50,000 engravings on steel. This die experienced no visible deterioration for many years. But about two years since the plates from it showed signs of weakness,

which continued gradually to increase until those that formerly produced 100,000 good impressions latterly gave only 20,000 to 30,000. The time occupied in preparing these plates at first was great; but owing to these causes we have been kept incessantly occupied in their manufacture with the machinery appropriated to that purpose, as it was utterly impossible for the Government to suspend any part of their supply of stamps to the public as required. When we ascertained the origin of this falling off in the productiveness of our plates, and that it was not accidental, which at first we suspected it to be, we obtained permission to prepare another original die similar to the first, but from which we have now secured a sufficient number of flat dies to last for centuries, and these we could easily have done in the former instance, had we supposed it would prove necessary. The plates are now even better than they were at first; but it has taken a long time to meet this extraordinary and unexpected drag upon us, which will, however, cease in two or three weeks, and we can promise the New South Wales 2d. postage plate, with its accompaniments, in three weeks, and the 1d. and 3d. in six weeks from the present time.”

### New Zealand : New Issue.

THE following clipping from the Official Report of the Proceedings of the New Zealand House of Representatives, on the 8th July, 1898, for which we are indebted to Mr. L. A. Sanderson, will be of special interest to philatelists:—

“Mr. Lewis asked the Postmaster-General—(1) whether he intends to issue any more of the 2½d. stamps on which the word ‘Wakatipu’ is wrongly spelled; (2) if it is a fact that the Agent-General disposed of the new stamps in unlimited quantities to the English public, while New Zealand buyers could only purchase to the extent of 12s. 6d.; and (3) if it is true that English buyers were allowed a discount of 2 per cent. on all orders for not less than five pounds’ worth of stamps, while no allowance was made to New Zealand purchasers? Stamp collectors and others felt that they had been subjected to a certain amount of injustice in the course that had been adopted by the Government with reference to the 2½d. stamps containing the word ‘Wakatipu’ wrongly spelt. It was supposed in the first instance that this was an error, and those who were collecting the stamps naturally thought that no more would be issued, and on that assumption the stamps would be bought up largely by stamp collectors. Since then, however, the Government had issued more of the same stamps, containing the error in the spelling. Perhaps it was intentional that the error should have occurred, for the purpose of creating a sale; at all events, the stamps had been reissued with the error, and there were people who would like to know how much further this sort of thing was to go on, and whether they were to use stamps for all time on which the word ‘Wakatipu’ was wrongly spelt. The second question referred to the treatment meted out to buyers of the stamps in this colony and in England. In a journal devoted to stamp-collecting purposes an advertisement appeared, stating that the Agent-General in London had these stamps for sale, and offering inducements to buy. Any quantity could be bought, and on purchases of £5 or upwards a discount of 2 per cent. was allowed, whereas in New Zealand no one could buy more than 12s. 6d. worth at a time. Of course the rule in the colony was broken, because people got their friends to go and buy for them, but it appeared to him that the rule should have been the same in England and the colony.

“Mr. Seddon said of the reserve supply of twenty-five thousand 2½d. ‘error’ stamps held by the Agent-General, twelve thousand five hundred were now on the way from London for sale in the colony. The balance was to be sold in London. He did not think any more should be printed now that the corrected issue had replaced the ‘error.’ It was the case that the Agent-General disposed of the new stamps (except the 2½d. ‘error,’ of which none of the first supply was sold in London) in unlimited quantities,

but it was incorrect that New Zealand buyers could only purchase to the extent of 12s. 6d. No restriction was placed on New Zealand buyers, except in the case of the 2½d. ‘error,’ purchases of which were limited to 12s. 6d., to prevent the stamps falling into the hands of two or three speculators, as there was reason to suppose would otherwise be the case. At some places the sale of other values might have been temporarily restricted owing to the shortness of supplies, but every effort was made to satisfy all legitimate demands. It was true that English buyers of five pounds’ worth of stamps and over were allowed a discount of 2 per cent.; but this was done by the Agent-General without the Postmaster-General’s authority. No such allowance was made in the colony. He had received a request from a London syndicate for ten thousand pounds’ worth of the new stamps if the Government would give 2½ per cent. discount and restrict the sale in London—that was, not to sell to anyone else in that time. He had refused that offer. It was, no doubt, a very tempting one to the Colonial Treasurer; but at the same time he considered he should not put the colony in such a position, and he refused the request. He would have issued no more of the new stamps within the year, but there was a very large number of people in all parts of the colony who said they were not able to get any of these stamps at all, and that even with the restriction of 12s. 6d. worth to each buyer the stamps were getting into the hands of a few persons, who were demanding 500 per cent. on the price they had paid. Under these circumstances, as the demand was general throughout the colony, he thought it was only right to put a stop to the 500-per-cent. request, and to supply the demands of the colonists who wanted the stamps. That was the history of the whole thing, and he thought what he had done would meet with the approval of the House and the country.

“Mr. Monk asked the Postmaster-General if he will direct that the new postage stamps shall have the effigy of the Queen printed on their face, as being more appropriate and significant than the form in which they are now being issued?

“Mr. Seddon said if the honourable gentleman would go into the Post Office and see the way in which the effigy of the beautiful face of our beloved Queen was besmeared by the stamping there, he would come to the conclusion that he (Mr. Seddon) had, that it would be better to reserve her effigy for a better purpose. He did not think having Her Majesty’s face printed on the stamp was at all a test or proof of our loyalty, or went in any way in the direction suggested by the honourable member’s question. Large expense had been incurred in providing plates for the new issue of stamps, and they seemed to be very much admired, and he did not think it advisable to make a change. The old plates would be kept, and no doubt the old stamps would become valuable in a few



years' time. He would recommend the honourable member to get some of the stamps for that specific purpose.

"Mr. Monk was sorry the Minister had not a more Imperial and patriotic feeling in his breast."

These Parliamentary utterances are a little vague as to whether there has been a second printing of the "error." Mr. Sanderson states that the extra supply was merely the balance of the number first ordered from England.

Mr. Sanderson writes in the July number of the *Australian Philatelist* as follows:—

"The error of spelling ('Wakitipu') on the 2½d. stamp was first noticed when a proof of this stamp was exhibited, by permission of the Government, at the Annual Meeting of the Philatelic Society of New Zealand, held on October 15th, 1877. And upon the error being made known to the authorities, instructions were sent by cable to have the error corrected, but it was found that the supply (243,000) ordered of the 2½d. had already been printed by Messrs Waterlow and Sons, Limited, and forwarded intact to New Zealand. A corrected die was afterwards prepared, from which a further supply of 300,000 has since been received.

"So far no reprint of the '2½d. error' has been ordered, as it was found that the Agent-General in London held a reserve stock 25,000 (200 sheets). Half of this stock is to be retained in London for dealers and collectors, and the other half sent out to the colony.

"It is probable that the plates of the ½d., 1d., 2d., 4d., and 9d. will be altered in London, and fresh supplies printed there before sending out the new plates. If possible all will be printed on watermarked paper.

"It is worthy to mention that the official description of the new series of New Zealand stamps was written by Mr. E. G. Pilcher, Vice-President of the Philatelic Society of New Zealand, at the request of the postal authorities."

### Kashmir Reminders.

THE *Philatelic Journal of India* says:—

"An arrangement has been come to between the Kashmir Council and the Rev. Father Simon, Roman Catholic missionary at Baramula, under which the latter will have the exclusive sale of the stock of used and unused Kashmir stamps now in the State Treasury. The stock includes a small quantity of the old circular and rectangular, unused, and a quantity of used and unused later issues—mostly 1883 ordinary and 1880 service. The reverend gentleman was for many years head of a large Philatelic Institution, carried on in London for the benefit of his church. We should like to know whether any of the old circular and rectangular stamps are genuine, or whether they are all reprints."

We wonder! We confess to a very limited faith in "missionary efforts" in this direction.

### Forged English 1s. Stamps.

MESSRS. STANLEY GIBBONS & Co. have created quite a little sensation with an announcement that they have found in their stock a very large number of counterfeits of the one shilling, green, Plate 5. The points of difference between genuine and forged are given as follows:—

"First of all the forgeries are without watermark, whereas the genuine stamps from this plate are always watermarked with a 'Spray of Rose.'

"It would appear that the stamps have been copied by a photographic process, for every line in the original is to be found in the forgeries, but it is in the minute details that the forgery fails to be an exact copy.

"The chief differences to be noted are:—

"FIRST. In the originals the square corners containing the letters are always sharp and clear; in the forgery they have a rounded or blurred appearance in the angles.

"SECOND. In the lace-work just after the 'E' of 'POSTAGE' there is a four-sided space formed by the lines of the lace-work and its curved end; this space in the forgery is nearly twice as large as in the originals.

"A careful comparison of the four-fold enlargements we give above will show other small differences.

"The examination of the forgeries has led us to suppose that the stamps were not copied in complete panes, as only certain *vertical* rows of letters are found.

"We have no doubt that a *very large fraud* on the postal revenue took place in 1872; this could have occurred in only two ways, as far as we can see:—

"First. By the connivance of someone in the telegraph office attached to the Stock Exchange.

"Secondly. By one or more stockbrokers' clerks using these forged stamps in the place of genuine ones.

"Many of these stamps had been on telegraph forms, as the postmark is that of the Stock Exchange Telegraph Office, and shows the date of July 23, 1872. No less than 100 of these forgeries, all used upon the same date, were found in one parcel; and, as the fraud was never discovered, the department may have been robbed to the tune of £5 a day for many months."

### Uruguay Inverted Centre.

THE number of stamps with inverted centres has been increased by one, according to the *Revista de la Soc. Phil., Argentina*. It is the brown-red and black 25 c. stamp of Uruguay of the 1895 issue. It seems that one or at the most two sheets of this stamp with the reversed centre were placed on sale during the first days of the month of May, 1896. All the known copies are cancelled on the 2, 4, 6, and 7 of May.



## Brazil: First Issue.

THE *Monthly Circular*, commenting on a couple of articles which appeared in the *Journal Philatelico* of S. Pauls, Brazil, in May and June last, on the first issue of Brazil, known as the "bull's eye" issue, says:—

"Everyone knows the 'bull's eye' design of a transverse oval about 29 by 26 mm., but how did they manage to make the stamps? It was long before the time when electrotyping was invented or applied to stamp producing. They bear on the face the appearance of having been engraved, but how were the stamps reproduced? Each value appears to come from a common matrix, and we can only suppose that they were laid down on a plate of copper in the same way as those of Belgium. This would be interesting to know, for all that we do know is that they were printed in Rio Janeiro; but the articles to which we have referred mention a fact of which we were not previously aware, that the three values of 30, 60, and 90 reis were all on one and the same plate. They were laid down in 10 horizontal rows of 6; there were three rows of 30, four of 60, and three of 90, making 60 stamps. There was a single-lined rectangular frame surrounding each stamp, touching the oval on the top, sides, and bottom, and between the bottom row of 30 and the top row of 60 was a space of about 12 mm., along the middle of which was a fine horizontal line. A similar space divided the block of 60 from that of 90, and there was also a line between, but a thick one. What has been discovered is principally from the examination of blocks of the values, but so far as it goes it is interesting. We are at a loss, however, to know why the stamp of 90 reis is so much more difficult to find than that of 30, as there were the same number of copies on the sheet. The only way we see of accounting for this is to suppose that the sheets were cut into the respective values after printing, and that when the issue was superseded by that in small numerals the stock of 'bull's eyes' was destroyed."

## Proposed Silk Envelope Stamp.

*La Fronde*, a woman's newspaper in Paris, announces the invention by one of the members of its staff of a most important postal novelty. The inventor has constructed a seamless envelope of silk made stiff and smoothed by a secret process. She has petitioned the Government to be allowed to weave a 15 centimes postage stamp into the material, which she will guarantee as proof against counterfeiters. The novel envelope is intended only for lady correspondents, and will cost too much to ever be a generally used article. It is to be exhibited, however, at the Paris Exposition of 1900.

## Ecuador Stamps to be Burned.

WE take the following translation of a decree published in the official journal of the Republic of Ecuador from *Philatelic Facts and Fancies*, and specially commend the humour of the introductory paragraph:—

"ELOY ALFARO,

"Constitutional President of the Republic.

"In view of the necessity to give the department of the treasury an organization which protects the fiscal interest against certain speculations of the holders of old stamps,

"IT IS DECREED:

"1. That the stock on hand of all stamps, impressed and adhesives, postage and telegraph, which do not belong to the last issue, shall be incinerated.

"2. All dies, numbering dies, and surcharging dies which have been used to make former issues once more valid shall be destroyed.

"3. The incineration of the stamps, as well as the destruction of the dies, shall take place in a public place, and in the presence of the Secretary of State, the Assistant-Secretary of that department, and the chief of the treasury department, which officers shall with their signatures certify to such an act.

"4. The 9th day of the present month shall be fixed for the execution of the above decree, the fulfilment of which is left to the Secretary of State.

"Given in Quito, Capital of the Republic, on the 6th day of May, 1898.

"ELOY ALFARO.

"For the Secretary of State, the Minister of Foreign Affairs,

"Rafael Gomez de la Torre."

## France: 20 c., Blue on Rose.

"THERE was considerable doubt," says the *Philatelic Monthly and World*, U.S., "whether the famous French stamp of 20 centimes, blue on rose, unperforated, of the issue of 1853-1860, ever existed. Mons. Maury now settles the question, and his testimony has much weight, as it comes from a man notoriously denying its existence. He says that up to very recently he firmly believed that the rosy tint seen on some of these stamps was due solely to the contact with rose-coloured blotting-paper placed between the sheets for drying them. After seeing the collection of M. Haro, however, Mons. Maury changed his mind. He says now: 'Well, I have been able to see that the rosy tint must have been printed, for on a block with margins on two sides I have seen that the rose ground-tint projects over the borders of the stamps by at least three millimetres on either side.'"

## Imperf. N.S.W. Diadem Swindle.

MR. HAGEN fills several pages of the July number of the *Australian Philatelist* with what he terms "The Imperf. Diadem Swindle." He thus sets out his discovery and exposure of clever forgeries of rare errors of watermark :—

"The faked watermarks are exceedingly like the original numerals in size and shape, and a great deal of ingenuity is displayed in fixing them up. I find that the genuine stamps have been thinned as fine, if not finer than the Prussian stamps on so-called goldbeater's skin. The stamp, instead of being backed up by one piece of paper as mentioned by Mr. Ackland, has two separate pieces attached to it, both covering the whole of the skinned stamp. Both papers are very white and exceedingly thin, one apparently thinner than the other. In appearance it is fluffy, when torn or rubbed, and soft, something similar to fine Japanese rice paper. The thinnest is attached to the stamp, and on this the watermark is either impressed or cut out. Owing to the genuine paper showing clear where the watermark is outlined, it appears as if the figure was cut out, and the second paper is placed over the lot. The mucilage used in fastening the papers together must be very strong to withstand the boiling for some minutes as applied in England and the soaking I gave it. Although, again, a certain firm sent one to England, which arrived in two pieces, and Mr. Ackland does not speak of leaving the stamp in the water extra long. A brown or dirty gum is placed on the back, thereby adding age to the new paper and destroying the whiteness of it. I had great trouble in separating the papers. The stamps were in water for three hours, and then placed in boiling water; still they would not separate. As it was I was unable to remove the papers intact. After carefully removing the second layer of paper from Mr. Ackland's 2d., and with it all traces of the '8,' I discovered slight traces of the normal watermark on the edge of the stamp, a portion of the thick part of the '2' showing, and part of the tail right away down in the corner of the stamp. I have treated three of the stamps, inclusive of the above 2d., one other being another 2d. from which I have removed the outside thin layer of paper, laying bare the inner paper, exceedingly white, with the figure '8' showing clearly as if outlined in pencil; also with a corner of this paper again removed, showing the genuine paper underneath. The other stamp treated was a 3d. This I have cleaned of all foreign paper, and the normal watermark is clearly seen, being the LARGE CROWN, second type, reversed! The papers removed from the backs of these stamps have been preserved for future reference, as I have still hopes of being able to sheet the fraud home to the fakers, and have them convicted."

Later news tells us that a Japanese engraver and his wife, resident in Sydney, have been arrested and committed for trial in this connection. The charge preferred against the female prisoner was that of having obtained

the sum of £45 from the prosecutor by means of a false pretence, with intent to defraud, and a charge of having, in company, forged and uttered seven postage stamps was preferred against them both. It was alleged that certain stamps of small value, as they were originally, had been "faked" to represent others of great value. The stamps forming the subject of the charge, seven in number, were sold to the dealer for £45, and he almost immediately sent four of them to London, where experts purchased them for £100, failing to detect anything wrong. Two of the others were sold locally for £30.

## An Australian Postmaster's Stamp.

THE *Australian Philatelist* quotes the following from a Brisbane newspaper :—

"Up to 1865, and, in fact, right up to the early seventies, the steam communication between Brisbane and the northern ports was of a very irregular character. As an instance of how this interfered with and harassed business the following incident, which occurred late in the sixties, may prove interesting. Mr. Day, a postmaster stationed at Bowen, running short of stamps, wired to Brisbane for a fresh supply. There happened to be no steamer leaving for Bowen for some days, and to overcome the difficulty the head of the department instructed Mr. Day to manufacture the required stamps himself. This Mr. Day did in the following way: Getting some sheets of foolscap, he covered one side with strong gum. He then cut the paper into little squares about the size of an ordinary postage stamp, and signed each with his name in full. These 'home-made' stamps were issued and used for postage purposes until the coaster arrived with a fresh supply of the official article."

Now we want to hear of real live specimens of those "Day" issues.

## Belgium: First Issue.

"MR. H. KRÖTZSCH, of Leipzig, writes in the *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung* that he was offered a block of four each of the 10 and 20 centimes of the first issue of Belgium stamps, with the watermark framed, in splendid condition, unused, but at a rather high price. This price would have been warranted if there were no other blocks of that kind in the market; he asked the party who offered the stamps for sale about the matter, but he refused to give any further information. Upon investigating the matter elsewhere, it was found that two complete sheets of these scarce stamps were recently found in the estate of a private gentleman in Antwerp, and that a certain dealer had thought best to offer them in small blocks to dealers, without mentioning the extent of his stock, with a view to taking advantage of the high prices paid for them."



## List of Remainders.

AN industrious soul has compiled for the *Virginia Philatelist*, U.S., the following very useful list of Remainders:—

“Antigua.—All stamps of this colony that remained in the authorities’ hands at the time of the consolidation of what are known as the Leeward Islands (Antigua, Dominica, Montserrat, Nevis, St. Christopher, Virgin Islands) were sold to an English dealer in 1892.

Baden.—The 1864-68 issue and the three Land Post stamps are included under this heading, though some authorities claim the latter are reprints.

Bavaria.—1870-76 issue, 1 and 3 kr. Unpaid Letter stamps, also Return Letter stamps.

Bergedorf.—All remainders were sold together with the plates in 1866. The number of remainders was small, and the plates were used for making reprints when the remainders had run out.

Bolivia.—1869-79 issues.

Brazil.—The Brazilian Government is at present disposing of all old stamps on hand at catalogue price, singly or in quantities.

British Bechuanaland.—This colony has lately been consolidated with the Cape of Good Hope, and it is rumoured that the stamps left over have been sold to an English dealer.

British Columbia.—All.

British East Africa.—1890-91 issue.

British Honduras.—1888-91 issues (surcharged ones only).

Brunswick.—1856-66 issues.

Central American Steamship Co.—Full set.

Ceylon.—1 sh. 9d. stamp, 1861, perforated. All stamps surcharged ‘Service.’

Colombia.—1866, 1 peso; 1879-91 issues of Bolivar.

Confederate States of America.—All.

Corea.—1886, 5 and 10 m. The rest of this set are considered remainders by some, but they were never in use at all.

Costa Rica.—1863-89 issues.

Cuba.—1855-70 issues. Were sold pen-marked.

Cyprus.—1880 issue surcharged on English stamps, including cards, envelopes, and wrappers.

Dominica.—See Antigua.

Germany.—Thurn and Taxis, Northern and Southern Districts, North German Confederation. German Empire, 1871-74, Alsace and Lorraine.

Guatemala.—1871-82.

Hamburg.—All. These have also been reprinted.

Heligoland.—1867-73 issues, and the 1, 2, and 3 pfennig of 1875-90. As the blocks went with them they have been reprinted.

Honduras.—1865-78 issues. All the Seebeck issues beginning 1889 now offered unused are really remainders.

Hungary.—3 and 10 kr. envelopes 1871.

India.—There are many native stamps to come under this heading.

Ionian Islands.—Full set.

Italy.—1856-63 issues. Some of these have been reprinted.

Japan.—1871-72 issues.

Liberia.—1870 issue.

Lubeck.—1861-65 issues. Have also been reprinted.

Mauritius.—1849, no value, red, blue, and vermilion; 1859-61, 6d., purple; 1862, 6d.; 1863-77, full set surcharged cancelled.

Mecklenburg-Schwerin.—1856-64 issues.

Mecklenburg-Strelitz.—Full set.

Mexico.—1864-66 issues; 1886-92, 1 centavo to 2 pesos. Porte de Mar stamps.

Modena.—All.

Montserrat.—See Antigua.

Nevis.—See Antigua.

New Brunswick.—1860 issue.

Newfoundland.—1857-63 issues.

Nicaragua.—1862-82. And the Seebeck issues since 1890.

North Borneo.—1886-92. Were sold both unused and cancelled to order.

Nova Scotia.—1860-64, except 5 cents.

Oldenburg.—1862 issue.

Paraguay.—1870, 1 c.; 1884 issues.

Parma.—1859 Provisional Government set.

Peru.—A lot of the provisionals and surcharged stamps were disposed of to the dealers a few years ago. I have not the complete list at hand.

Persia.—1882-83, 5 and 10 francs. Were sold both unused and cancelled to order.

Philippine Islands.—1859-70 issues.

Prince Edward Island.—1865-72 issues.

Prussia.—1861-67 issues.

Roumania.—1862-66 issues.

St. Christopher.—See Antigua.

St. Helena.—2d., yellow, CA; 1 sh., green, C C.

Salvador.—1867-74. And the Seebeck issues of 1890 and later.

Samoa.—1877 issue. The set has been reprinted since the remainders were sold, and a 2d. stamp added to the set.

Saxony.—1863 issue.

Schleswig-Holstein.—1864-66 issues.

Servia.—1866-94 issues.

Spain.—Some of the values of 1854, 1856, 1857, 1860, 1862, 1865, 1869, 1870-72, cancelled with bars.

Stellaland.—1884 issue.

Suez Canal Co.—1868, set of four (?).

Switzerland.—1881, full set. Were all surcharged ‘Ausser Kurs.’

Turkey.—1865-67 issues.

Two Sicilies.—Sicily, 1859 issue. Naples-Sicily, 1861 issue.

Venezuela.—1879-88, various different stamps.

Virgin Islands.—See Antigua.”



## Old Newfoundland Plates Destroyed.

THE *Monthly Journal* quotes the following pleasing news from the *Daily News* of St. John's, Newfoundland:—

"PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.

"The following is published for general information:—

"SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

"June 28th, 1898.

[Copy.]

"OTTAWA,

"May 27th, 1898.

"I hereby certify that I was present with the Auditor-General of Newfoundland (Mr. Berteau) and did see the following plates of Newfoundland Postage Stamps destroyed this day:—

"One plate,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent postage; one plate, 1 cent postage; one plate, 2 cent postage; two plates, 3 cent postage; one plate, 5 cent postage; one plate, 10 cent postage.

"(Signed) G. B. BURLAND,

"President British American Bank Note Co.,  
"Ottawa.

"(Countersigned) F. C. BERTEAU."

An esteemed friend in Newfoundland informs us that the notice refers to the plates of the following stamps, which may, therefore, now be inclined to rise in value, and should be a pretty fair investment at current prices, because, as far as we can ascertain, there are no large remainders of any of them.

1880. 1 c., brown; 2 c., green; 3 c., blue; 5 c., blue.

1887.  $\frac{1}{2}$  c., red; 1 c., green; 2 c., orange; 3 c., brown; 10 c., black.

1890-95.  $\frac{1}{2}$  c., black; 3 c., slate.

## Chinese Local Issues.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Boston Stamp Book* has, in the course of a long sojourn in China, collected a good deal of information concerning the issue of stamps in that part of the world. We quote:—

"Strange as it may seem to some of us who have not studied the stamps of this country, it appears that there was no such thing as a postal service directly sanctioned and maintained by the Chinese Government until January 1st, 1897. In general, the postal business of the empire, exclusive of official correspondence, was in private hands, and managed much as our express companies are at the present time. Back in the 'sixties' an Imperial Maritime Customs was organized, under European and American officers, to collect duty on exports and imports departing and arriving in foreign vessels. Of course, this service had its custom houses at all the treaty ports. Soon after this they found it necessary to establish a mail service for carrying their own business correspondence between the treaty ports; and to reduce the expense

to themselves they carried mail matter for outside parties (at a fairly heavy tariff), but, of course, only to the few treaty ports. The vast interior of China was not touched. This was known as the 'Chinese Imperial Customs Post,' but, strictly speaking, was not a Government affair at all. They made various issues of stamps from time to time, using the candarin as the unit of value (1 candarin is equal to one-hundredth of a tael or Chinese ounce of silver).

"Synchronous with this service there were a number of local municipal posts established. At each of the twenty-odd treaty ports there grew up a foreign community, which to a certain extent was self-governing and independent of the Chinese Government. Many of these established local Post Offices for their own convenience and use, and issued their own stamps, which were practically valueless outside the limits of the community issuing them. Such are the stamps of Chefoo, Chungkin, Hankow, Nanking, Shanghai, and Wuhu, and several others.

"As a matter of fact, practically all of these local stamps, save those of Shanghai and Hankow, were merely issued to sell to stamp collectors, and thereby be a means of raising revenue for municipal purposes. This view is generally taken by those who have been there and studied their customs. All used as unit of value the cent, meaning thereby the hundredth of a Mexican dollar, which until recently was practically the only coin circulating in China."

## What to Specialize: Unused 6d. English?

MR. EWEN is of opinion that "there is nothing like leather," *i.e.*, unused English. In ruminating in his *Weekly Circular* over the vexed question, "What to specialize," he says:—

"A collection of unused British stamps to which only singles or at most pairs are admitted, is as a rule a very uninteresting possession. Those collectors who intend taking up this branch would be well advised to confine their attention at first to one or two values. For instance, a really representative collection of English 6d. stamps, showing the plate numbers in all shades, in pairs, blocks, and panes, with or without margin and control numbers—a collection that in its way would be unique and the envy of all the owner's friends—would be a far more interesting possession than a collection covering all values and issues and containing nothing out of the common. Probably it would be found that the former was the less expensive, although by far the most difficult to get together (apart from price). It is wonderful how long one may unsuccessfully search for some of the *rara aves*, and the long-delayed acquisition of such a specimen gives far more pleasure than that of a dozen easily obtained."

## B.E.A. and Zanzibar Surcharges.

## VIGOROUS PROTEST.

THE *Philatelic Journal of India* publishes a very vigorous protest against some recent surcharges, which we must admit require some explanation at the hands of the authorities. We quote :—

“But, in the face of this, we are now confronted with what appears on the surface to be the purely gratuitous production of provisionals, and we feel that it is quite time to lift up our voice in vigorous protest. We have before us now five values ( $\frac{1}{2}$ , 1,  $4\frac{1}{2}$ , 5, and  $7\frac{1}{2}$  annas) of the current B.E.A. issue surcharged ‘Zanzibar,’ and *precisely the same values* of the current Zanzibar stamps surcharged ‘British East Africa.’ That we find all the old familiar errors of type, etc., goes without saying, but the grossness of the impertinence of the performance fills us with amazement. On the face of it, each country having in store plenty of these denominations saw no immediate opportunity of foisting provisionals on collectors, and so ‘swapped’ in this barefaced way, taking care of course to provide unhappy philatelists with plenty minor varieties so as to make the stock go.

“But that is not all. B.E.A. was also able to lend Zanzibar a supply of its  $2\frac{1}{2}$  annas stamps to be surcharged as above. In return Zanzibar lent B.E.A. its 1 and 3 annas values [it had had at the same time to borrow the 1 anna stamp from B.E.A. !] to be surcharged ‘British East Africa’ in black and ‘ $2\frac{1}{2}$ ’ in red. We say nothing of the folly of surcharging a stamp with a value higher than its face value, but leave our readers to ponder on the inward meaning of such a very odd transaction, as also on the necessity of providing us with an error like ‘ $2\frac{1}{2}$ ’ which we have before us at present.”

## A Water-colour Kashmir Stamp.

MR. D. P. MASSON has sent the *Philatelic Journal of India* a Kashmir half-anna orange water-colour stamp, of the 1883-94 issue, hitherto chronicled only in oils; and he says that other denominations of that issue also must have been printed in water-colour, as a blue 8 anna stamp he was washing entirely faded away! He says the few half-anna orange water-colours he has were all posted at Srinagar, and bear postmarks of March and April, 1890; and from September, 1890, to February, 1891. He thinks they were in occasional use only for a year or so.

## U.S. Periodicals.

It has been stated that since the decision in the Periodical case the U.S. authorities had decided to sell Periodical stamps to collectors; but Mr. J. M. Bartels, the well-informed Washington correspondent of the *Era*, now says :—

“It is improbable that any of the Newspaper and Periodical stamps will ever be sold to the public even at face value. The legal representative of the P.O. Dept. has decided that the Government has no right to sell these stamps at less than face value, which fact now removes this question into the impossibilities.”

## India and Imperial Penny Postage.

THE *Philatelic Journal of India* says :—

“It appears almost as if India were on the verge of a complete change of letter postage rates. If India joins in the Imperial Penny Postage scheme, it will be necessary to reduce our inland rates also. It is not likely that any change would be made in the half-tola for half-an-anna rate. This is a *special* rate, and is the cheapest in the world except for purely local letters. But 1 tola is rather less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz., and it would not do to have a cheaper rate between Calcutta and London than between Calcutta and Howrah. In this connection it may be of interest to put on record that the recent reform of inland letter postage in England was advocated by the Indian Post Office over ten years ago.”

## Exit Las Bela.

ACCORDING to the *Philatelic Journal of India*, “Las Bela, the little barren Baluch State on the Mekran Coast, has given up stamps. There were two issues. Both were lithographed in black by Messrs. Thacker & Co., Bombay, and the type is precisely the same in both. The first transfer was on white wove, 20 stamps in four rows of five. The second was on what is known commercially as “Granite Note Paper,” 20 stamps in five rows of four. There was only one value, viz.,  $\frac{1}{2}$  anna.”

For these and other little philatelic mercies we desire to record our grateful thanks.







## Proposed Philatelic Club for London.

WE have received from Mr. H. A. McMillan an advance copy of the prospectus of a proposed new club for stamp collectors under the title of "The Central Philatelic Club." We give the prospectus in full, and hope it may prove a success, as there is much need of a good centrally-situated meeting-place for all concerned in stamp collecting and dealing.

### PROSPECTUS.

This club for stamp collectors will be inaugurated on September 20th, 1898, and philatelists desirous of joining are invited to at once send in their applications to the Secretary. The club will offer collectors great advantages at a trifling cost, arrangements having been made with the Imperial Club, 3, Cursitor Street, Chancery Lane, E.C., whereby the Central Philatelic Club shares the spacious premises occupied by the former club.

There are reading, dining, billiard, card, and committee-rooms, and the chambers above the club, consisting of forty bedrooms, afford a convenient residence for country members visiting London. Refreshments of every kind are obtainable at the lowest charges consistent with the finest quality.

All the philatelic magazines will be placed in the reading-room, and all obtainable works of reference added to the library.

Arrangements have been made with leading auctioneers to hold their sales in the commodious saloon, and it is proposed to have periodical entertainments, lectures by prominent philatelists, and "Club" auctions, when stamps belonging to members will be sold on reduced terms.

It is hoped by the organizers that the club will become the recognized philatelic centre in London; the subscription has been made very low, so that every collector may be induced to join. Special attention is called to the small affiliation fees charged to members of all the principal philatelic clubs. Affiliated members will rank as ordinary members in every respect. The annual subscription will be £1 1s.; members of affiliated clubs residing within ten miles of Charing Cross, 10s. 6d.; outside that radius, 5s. There will be no entrance fee at present, and the club being "proprietary," members incur no liability beyond their subscription. A list of the affiliated clubs may be obtained from the Secretary.

A month after the inauguration of the club the members will be asked to elect a com-

mittee, *only collectors to be eligible*. The club is promoted entirely by private enterprise, and no dealer is in any way concerned therein.

All communications should be addressed to Mr. H. A. McMillan, Secretary *pro tem.*, Central Philatelic Club, 3, Cursitor Street, London, E.C.

## Manchester Philatelic Society.

### SYLLABUS—SESSION 1898-9.

OUR Manchester friends are the first to send us their programme for the ensuing session. This we print *in extenso*. It will be noted that Manchester intends to have a field-day of its own next year in the shape of an Exhibition.

The programme is an excellent one, full of life and variety. Among other good things it includes a paper on the "Triangular Stamps of the Cape," with a display, by Mr. Vernon Roberts. We trust this indicates a return to the philatelic fold on his part.

1898.

- Sep. 23. The 1899 Exhibition in Manchester.  
W. DORNING BECKTON.  
" 30. Meeting for Discussion and Exchange.  
Oct. 7. The Collection of Minor Varieties.  
G. FRED H. GIBSON.  
" 14. Meeting for Discussion and Exchange.  
" 21. The Stamps of South Australia.  
W. W. MUNN.  
" 28. Meeting for Discussion and Exchange.  
Nov. 4. The Exhibition Prospectus.  
" 11. Exhibition Arrangements.  
" 18. " "  
" 25. " "  
Dec. 2. The Stamps of Baden. G. B. DUERST.  
" 9. Meeting for Discussion and Exchange.  
" 16. The Stamps of France from 1870.  
W. GRUNEWALD.  
" 23. Meeting for Discussion and Exchange.

1899.

- Jan. 6. ANNUAL DINNER, 7 p.m.  
" 13. The Stamps of Venezuela (Part II).  
W. DORNING BECKTON.  
" 20. Meeting for Discussion and Exchange.  
" 27. The Triangular Stamps of the Cape (with Display).  
VERNON ROBERTS.  
Feb. 3. Meeting for Discussion and Exchange.  
" 10. Mulready Envelopes (with Display).  
J. R. HESKETH.  
" 17. Meeting for Discussion and Exchange.  
" 24. Stamp Collector or Philatelist?  
J. J. LEECH.  
Mar. 3. Meeting for Discussion and Exchange.  
" 10. The Seamy Side of Philately.  
J. C. NORTH.  
" 17. Meeting for Discussion and Exchange.  
" 24. The Stamps of the Italian States.  
E. PETRI.  
" 29. Meeting for Discussion and Exchange.  
Apr. 7. Lantern Exhibition. J. H. ABBOTT.  
" 14. Meeting for Discussion and Exchange.  
" 21. Philately as an Education. O. GILLET.  
" 28. Meeting for Discussion and Exchange.



## No Scott Catalogue for 1898.

THE Scott Stamp and Coin Company have decided not to issue any new or revised edition of their Catalogue, as usual, this autumn. They say :—

“The condition of the stamp business during the past year can best be described as one of semi-panic, in which the pressure to sell has at times caused an apparent suspension of the law of supply and demand, as well as a total disregard of the essential element of cost. Dealers who had previously conducted a prosperous business saw themselves compelled to retire from the field, and in the effort to realize upon their holdings were ready to offer large discounts, outbidding their competitors in the struggle for customers.

“The question of cost on such material was finally dropped entirely from view, and it became no unusual occurrence to see unused stamps of current issues sold at far less than their actual cost at the Post Offices. Discounts of 50 and 60, and even 70 per cent. from Catalogue rates have been offered on fair material, the supply, of course, being limited to what the party in question actually had in hand; for, naturally, a dealer offering such discounts was without any hope or intention of replenishing his depleted supplies. We ourselves have maintained rather strictly our limited scale of discounts, refusing under all circumstances to meet this ruinous competition, and preferring to hold for a more favourable time the enormous stock which we have accumulated during the many years of our establishment. We have felt that the quantity of material that could be offered at these large rates of discount was necessarily limited, and that the supply would soon be practically, if not completely, exhausted. At the present moment indications of the correctness of our anticipations are becoming plentiful, and the variety of material offered at large discounts is already on the decrease.

“We have, therefore, decided to continue for the present the use of the 1898 edition of the Catalogue, allowing discounts where we consider it advisable, and strictly adhering to our quotations where, in our judgment, the stamps are fully worth the price and cannot be duplicated on a lower level.

“We expect that the present conditions will have disappeared before the end of the coming season, and we shall, if our anticipations are verified, publish the new edition of our Catalogue in the spring or during the summer of 1899.”

## Sale of the “Eastern Philatelist.”

THE August number of the *Eastern Philatelist* announces that that paper has been sold to B. L. Drew and Company, of 23, Court Street, Boston, Mass., “who will hereafter publish it.” The *Eastern Philatelist* claims to be “the oldest stamp magazine in America.” It is now in its twenty-first volume.

## Curious Postal Addresses.

To some long-suffering stamp collectors and dealers who have been worried by the Indian Post Office (at the instigation of the Customs) beyond endurance, it will be refreshing to note from an article in the *Philatelic Journal of India* that the Indian Post Office has its own peculiar trials and tribulations, and they will feel inclined to forgive much to a Department that has to deal with letters with such addresses as the following :—

1. “To my most respected, fortunate, and God-like mother-in-law; let this letter be placed at the feet of her greatness.” Neither the name nor address of the mother-in-law was given, but the name of the son-in-law was inside the cover.

2. “To the lotus-like feet of my eldest brother, the most fortunate and much-to-be-worshipped Bipin Behari.” No address or post-town.

3. “To the happy Kumadini Baishnabi, at Sibū's house, near Saroda's house.” No post-town.

4. “To the most blessed and fortunate Basi Khan, Calcutta, at Maizuddin's shop.”

5. “Deliver at Siddeswar Das's house, District Cuttack.”

6. “To be delivered, with the help of God, to my father's younger brother Chidambora Vadiyar, through Pakkiri, son of Chakkili Nadiyan, who lives in Phayre Road, Rangoon, sent by Vaidyolingam, of Akyab.”

7. “Deliver this letter in Calcutta, at the Howrah side, at the Stone Ghât, to Raghunath.”

8. “To be received by Golak Chandra Karmokar, sent by Sosi Kumar.” No post-town or address.

9. “To reach Jorawarpur: sent by Gya Lal Kalil and Nanda Lal from Calcutta.”

## The “Australian Philatelist” Changes Hands.

THE following “Publisher's Note” appears in the July issue of the *Australian Philatelist*:—

“Mr. Fred. Hagen desires to inform the subscribers of the journal that he has disposed of his right, title, and interest in the *Australian Philatelist* to Mr. Oscar Schulze, 113, Pitt Street, Sydney. The August number, being the commencement of Vol. V., will inaugurate the new proprietorship.”

Then follows this note from Mr. A. F. Basset Hull to Mr. Hagen :—

“I regret that circumstances prevent me from editing the July number of the *Australian Philatelist*. Will you be good enough to remove my name from the cover, and to publish this communication in the July issue of your journal?”

It is to be hoped that Mr. Basset Hull will resume his editorial pen under the new proprietorship. As a writer he is pre-eminent amongst Australian philatelists.

## The Cape of Good Hope Levies a Duty on Stamps.

A CORRESPONDENT in Cape Town writes to Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., as follows, in reference to a parcel they sent him containing eight packets of postage stamps, 1300 varieties in all:—

"To my astonishment a duty of nine per cent. was demanded on the last parcel. As I could find nothing in the customs tariff book to justify this imposition I paid the amount demanded (6s. 3d.) under protest, and immediately applied to the Collector of Customs for a refund. To this I received a reply that as 'no provision exists in the Customs Union Tariff for the free admission of postage stamps, they are liable to a duty of nine per cent. on their current value at the place whence imported' (!) It will thus be more economical if I order in future *small* quantities at a time, to be sent by *letter* post, as bulky looking packets invite inspection from the customs officials, while letters pass unnoticed."

This is a matter for the Philatelic Societies to take up and see that it is righted.

## Paris Philatelic Exhibition, 1900.

THE Committee of Organization of the Paris Philatelic Exposition of 1900 met on July 19th and passed the following resolutions:—

1. The Exposition will open in Paris in the month of August, 1900.
2. In each category of exhibits there will be formed two distinct classes, the first for collectors, the second for dealers.
3. A Committee of Patrons, comprising prominent philatelists from all over the world, has been constituted.
4. The Committee decided to create a fund for preliminary expenses, and as a guarantee for all the expenses of the Exposition, the total expenses being estimated at about 20,000 francs. This fund was immediately subscribed for by gentlemen present at the meeting.
5. The Committee has decided to organize a grand tombola (a kind of lottery, with stamps as prizes), the income from which is to be, in part, devoted to cover the expenses of the Exposition.

## How Stamps are Cornered.

WE quote the following tit-bit from the *Eastern Philatelist*, U.S., from a contribution by Mr. Paul Esselborn, entitled "Some Foreign Experiences." The writer met Mr. Phillips at Munich during a recent Continental trip, and C. J. P. seems to have opened his heart to his American friend.

"He told me that whenever he wished to corner a stamp, he bought all the good specimens he could find, 'and then,' he continued with a twinkle in his eye, 'I tell all of my friends that such and such a stamp will be scarce. They do the rest.'"

Candid!

## Exit Herman Decker.

HERMAN DECKER, of Hanover, was placed on his trial in June last, on the charge of stealing postage stamps submitted to him for examination. Decker deposed as follows:—

"I have been a stamp dealer since 1891, and as such I occupied myself with examining stamps for a fee. When I had not the time to examine at once the stamps sent to me, I kept them for the most part loose upon my writing-table. I was receiving daily a great number of stamps to be expertized, and it is all the more likely that they became changed with each other, as many of them had to be compared with from twenty to thirty stamps out of my own stock, with a view to determining the genuineness of the stamps in question by means of obliterations. The stamps received by me were packed up and sealed by me after having been examined, while the stamps belonging to my local customers generally remained lying about until the owners fetched them."

The Court, however, found the prisoner guilty, and sentenced him to one month's imprisonment and to the payment of the costs of the trial.

Decker had for years been regarded as one of the most trustworthy philatelic experts on the Continent.

## Summer Business.

SUMMER is the winter of the stamp dealer's discontent. There can be no doubt of that. Some stamp collectors, more enthusiastic than their fellows, profess to do a lot of re-arranging and shading-up in the summer, but, if this peculiar species exist, they are obviously only a select few.

Mr. Sellschopp in his journal, *Philatelic Facts and Fancies*, recommends his fellow-dealers to do as he does in the summer.

"Leave the city with all its excitement and bustle, its terrapin stew and champagne, theatre parties and society affairs alone for a while, and live among the green mountains and clear rivers on cotton tails, wild doves, and good California table claret of last fall at 25 cents a gallon. Don't shuffle stamps under the noses of people that will not look at their collections till fall comes, nor write long articles about the latest blank album which nobody wants to read."

Happy Sellschopp! Who would not, an he could, rusticate in the "green mountains" with thee? But that "Californian table claret" at 25 cents a gallon! Ugh! can it be good?



## Notable Stamps at Auction.

\* Unused. † On original.

	£	s.	d.	
<b>BUHL &amp; CO., LTD.</b>				
<i>14th September, 1898.</i>				
Bavaria, 1 kr., black, 1st issue, double print, pair* .. .. .	3	0	0	
British Guiana, 1851, 4 c., deep blue .. .. .	3	5	0	
British Honduras, 50 c. on 1s., grey, small sur.*	2	6	0	
Canada, 7½d., green, imperf.* .. .. .	8	10	0	
Ditto, 3d., vermilion, perf. 14, pair† .. .. .	2	17	6	
Great Britain, 1855, 6d., lilac, wmk. emblems, imperf., with trial post-mark .. .. .	4	0	0	
Nevis, 6d., grey, litho. ..	8	0	0	
Ditto, 6d., grey, litho.*	7	0	0	
Newfoundland, 6½d., scarlet-vermilion .. .. .	7	0	0	
Ditto, 1s., scarlet-vermilion .. .. .	9	0	0	
Ditto, 2d., scarlet-vermilion .. .. .	3	0	0	
Newfoundland, 6d., scarlet-vermilion, clipped	2	2	0	
Ditto, 4d., orange-vermilion, no gum* ..	3	12	6	
New South Wales, 2d., blue, plate III., pair, nos. 5 and 6 on plate	4	17	6	
Nova Scotia, 6d., yellow-green* .. .. .	3	0	0	
Virgin Islands, 6d., rose, perf. 15* .. .. .	2	15	0	
Zanzibar, on India, 2a. 6p., green, error "Zanzidar" .. .. .	1	7	0	
COLLECTION in Imperial Album, containing, amongst others, a very fine collection of PERSIA, including a large number of scarce early issues, and sets of modern issues unused (including 50 Kran); INDIA; 2 annas, "Service," black and lilac, unused, in mint con-				dition, and a very fine collection of Indian surcharged for Native States, most of the sets being unused and complete; rare BRITISH EAST AFRICAN including 1 anna on ENGLISH and other good Africans: A fine collection of TURKEY, and valuable collections of CASHMERE and AFGHANISTAN; SCINDE DAWK, the rare red, blue, and white stamps in fine condition: scarce Australians, including rare unused Queensland, and other good Colonials, European, etc., several of the high values of various countries being unused, 6464 stamps ..
				75 0 0

## Notices.

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

**Advertisement Rates.**—Price per Insertion, net.

	Single.	3 months.	6 months.	12 months.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Whole Page .....	3 0 0	2 16 0	2 12 6	2 4 0
Half Page.....	1 14 0	1 10 0	1 7 0	1 4 0
Quarter Page ....	1 2 0	1 0 0	0 18 0	0 15 0

*Small Advertisements—5s. per inch, in double column, prepaid.*

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

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



# The Philatelic Record

AND STAMP NEWS.

NOVEMBER, 1898.

## Editorial Notes.



THE most important news of the month is undoubtedly the semi-official announcement that the Virgin Islands will shortly resume the issue of a separate series of postage stamps. At the time that these and other islands of the Leeward group were amalgamated for postal purposes, we expressed our surprise at such an obvious sacrifice of revenue on the part of small colonies with a very restricted income, no small proportion of which was derived from stamps sold to collectors. Therefore we are not at all surprised to hear of the return of one of the group to the list of separate stamp-issuing colonies. And probably this is only a beginning of a general return to the old arrangement. Those who imagined that one stamp for all would make little difference, while it simplified the postal arrangements, knew little of stamp collecting. The stamp collector will probably continue to neglect those countries which issue stamps solely for the purpose of providing revenue out of his pocket; but the Leeward Islands in their separate postal issues were most popular, and few, if any, of their issues ever justified an objection from a purely philatelic point of view. We are generally more than pleased when a few colonies federate, and so lessen the number of stamp-issuing colonies, but there has always been a fondness amongst philatelists for the necessarily limited issues of these little colonies of the West Indies.

Leeward  
Islands  
Postal  
Separation.

\* \* \*

WE regret to record the death of Mr. Harold Frederic, which took place under painful circumstances at Kenley, near Croydon, on October 19th, 1898.

Mr. Harold Frederic was the London correspondent of the *New York Times*, and a novelist of rising reputation. A few years since he made a meteoric appearance as a philatelic writer. He was not a philatelist. He had collected only in a casual way, but his brilliant pen quickly secured him a position as a philatelic writer who knows how to invest even the most trivial stamps with an interest all their own. His incursion into the philatelic arena was, however, as we have said, only of a meteoric character. To

have continued that branch of his work would probably have made too great a demand upon his busy journalistic life. A brilliant journalist may for a while succeed in drawing upon a small stock of philatelic knowledge, but he cannot long satisfy the exacting demands of the philatelic fraternity unless he is himself an experienced philatelist and a profound student.

\* \* \*

THE question is propounded in some of our American con-  
**“Officially Sealed” Labels.** temporaries, Are “officially sealed” labels collectible? Of course, anything is collectible; but when we philatelists ask whether a label is collectible it is obvious we mean its admissibility to the class or rank of postage stamps. As a separate class, “officially sealed” labels are undoubtedly interesting, but they certainly are not postage stamps, not even such near relatives as the railway labels. They are simply gummed paper supplied to officials for officially repairing envelopes or packages damaged in transmission. These labels have printed upon them some design or lettering to distinguish them as official. To catalogue them as postage stamps has always seemed to us utter nonsense, and we are glad to note that Major Evans has, in the September number of the *Monthly Journal*, effectually, and we trust once for all, exposed the absurdity of classing officially sealed labels as postage stamps.

\* \* \*

THERE appear to be blessings in store for stamp collectors in the direction of Central America, which has been so long regarded as a Seebeck nursery. If report speak truly, Honduras, Salvador, and Nicaragua have agreed to amalgamate and form one republic. The representatives of these countries have met and even formulated and signed a constitution, and, according to the latest news, they will elect, in December next, the first President of this precious new republic.

Whilst they were about it they might just as well have included the republic of Guatemala, which has of late fully entitled itself to a place in the amalgamation, for it has been very busy upsetting presidents, cutting throats, and doing other characteristic Central American business.

However, let us be thankful for such mercies as we have in perspective in the decrease of Seebecks from three series to one.



# The Stamps of Tonga.

By A. F. BASSET HULL.

(Continued from page 211.)

## IX.—THE LITHOGRAPHED SERIES OF 1895.

**K**ING GEORGE I. died on the 18th February, 1893, at the age of ninety-six, and George Taufaahau succeeded him without disturbance. The new king took some time about substituting his portrait for that of his father on the stamps. In 1895 an order was sent to Auckland for a series of stamps bearing the young king's portrait. The order was executed at the *Star* Office, Auckland, the stamps being lithographed on white wove paper, unwatermarked. The sheets contain 48 stamps, in two panes of 24 each, arranged in four horizontal rows of six. There is a space of 9 mm. between the panes, and there are no marginal devices. The design consists of a supposititious portrait of King George II., in a small circle inscribed "BULEAGA O TOGA—POSTAGE." The name "TONGA" is above, and the value in figures below, flanked by tropical foliage.

The values and colours are:—

- 1d., grey-green.
- 2½d., pale rose.
- 5d., blue.
- 7½d., yellow.

The perforation is generally 12, but I have had the 5d. perf. 12 × 11 also.

When the stamps arrived King George II. was so dissatisfied with the portrait, which, indeed, is rather a caricature than a likeness, that he ordered the lot to be destroyed. However, there was a very short supply of the previous issue on hand, and pending alterations the obnoxious picture had to go forth to the world. The issue was made on the 16th August, 1895.

The *Star* people made another effort at portraiture, and produced a retouched 2½d. stamp, which was very little improvement on the former one. This was printed in vermilion, and overprinted "HALF-PENNY," "ONE PENNY," and "7½d.," with the familiar but nevertheless meaningless word "SURCHARGE" in each case. The overprint is in black, placed vertically as before, and the 2½d. has the error "SURCHARCE."

These stamps are printed on white wove unwatermarked paper, and are perf. 11½, 12.

Towards the end of 1895 the ½d. stamps ran out, and the grey-green 1d. was bisected diagonally and used for a ½d. value. I have copies used in conjunction with the 6d. yellow, or the 5d. and 1d. of 1895, to represent the 2½d. single letter rate and the 4d. registration free.

## X.—THE ½D. PROVISIONAL OF 1896.

The last provisional stamp issued prior to the advent of the 1897 permanent issue was a most extraordinary object! The surcharged 7½d. on 2d., blue, of 1895, received a further overprint of "VAEUA OE BENI" in black; as if that was not sufficient disfigurement, an additional inscription of "Half-penny" in two lines was *typewritten* across the stamp! The overprint "VAEUA OE BENI" was printed vertically at the side of the stamp, on the right-hand side, reading upwards on the first pane, and on the same side, but reading downwards on the second pane. In the typewritten surcharge, the "H" of "Half" is placed



sometimes above "P" and sometimes above "E" of "Penny." It has been stated that an error "occurred" in typewriting the surcharge, "Halvf" having been written once! This rarity did not reach the hands of any outside Philistine—or rather philatelist!

I have also seen the 1½d. provisional of the same type with the two overprints above described, and am informed that only a "sheet or two" were so favoured.

#### XI.—THE "PERMANENT" SERIES OF 1897.

All the foregoing shoals of surcharges and stamps cancelled to order, as might have been anticipated, brought the issues of Tonga into considerable disrepute amongst earnest philatelists. The complaints made from time to time, and perhaps the slackening demand for supplies for collectors, together with a leaven of good advice, moved the Tongan authorities to determine to put an end to all makeshift issues, and to procure a series large enough in quantity and in denominations to meet all possible demands. Messrs. De La Rue & Co., of London, were selected as the engravers to whom the order should be entrusted; a series of elaborate designs was prepared, and instructions were given to engrave the most beautiful steel plates the firm were capable of producing. This firm nobly executed the order, and on the 1st June, 1897, the new stamps were launched on the philatelic world. The whole of the *Tonga Government Gazette* for 27th May, 1897, was devoted to promulgating the following:—

##### "NOTICE.

"It is hereby notified that on and after Tuesday the 1st day of June 1897 a new series of stamps will be issued by the Tongan Postal Department viz. :—½, 1, 2, 2½, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7½, 10, 1/-, 2/-, 2/6, 5/-, which alone will be available for postal purposes; and on and after the said day viz. 1st June 1897 stamps of all former issues will be withdrawn from circulation and can no longer be used for postal purposes.

"By order of the Premier,

"WILLIAM CAMPBELL, *Postmaster-General.*

"CHIEF POST OFFICE, NUKUALOFA, 27th May, 1897."

Probably the Government printer's supply of type was not very extensive, hence the absence of the "d" after the numerals representing the pence issue. There is a marked want of commas also in the notice, due, doubtless, to the same want of type.

The series certainly is one of the most attractive known, and the execution and colouring leave nothing to be desired. The stamps are of unusually large size, printed from steel plates on white paper, with a watermarked pattern of turtles swimming in different directions. The perforation is 13½. The ½d., 6d., and 2s. 6d. are in one colour, the others being bicoloured. The portrait of King George II. (certainly a much handsomer one than the *Star* production) is appropriated for the 2d., 2½d., 5d., 7½d., 10d., and 1s. The ½d. bears the Arms of the kingdom; the 1d., a spreading breadfruit tree; the 3d., a curious prehistoric, iolitic monument; the 4d., a bunch of breadfruit; the 6d., a cluster of various coral growths; the 2s., a view of the island of Haabai; the 2s. 6d., a parrot, with tropical foliage; and the 5s., a view of Vavau harbour.

The values, expressed in Tongan, and the colours are:—

- ½d., "Vaeua oe peni," dark blue.
- 1d., "Peni e taha," red and black.
- 2d., "Peni e ua," bistre and black.
- 2½d., "Peni e ua mo koga," blue and black.
- 3d., "Peni e tolu," emerald and black.
- 4d., "Peni e fa," lilac and green.
- 5d., "Peni e nima," orange and black.
- 6d., "Peni e ono," vermilion.
- 7½d., "Peni e fitu mo koga," green and black.
- 10d., "Peni e hogofulu," carmine and black.

- 1s., "Silini e taha," brown and black.
- 2s., "Silini e ua," blue and black.
- 2s. 6d., "Silini e ua peni e ono," purple.
- 5s., "Silini e nima," orange and black.

The following *Gazette* notice shows that the new stamps are to be used for revenue as well as postal purposes:—

"NUKUALOFA, TONGA, February 11th, 1898.

"THE LAW RELATING TO RECEIPTS AND STAMPS.

"This enactment has been made to regulate the buying and selling by all who are engaged in transacting business in the Kingdom of Tonga in order therefore that the buyer obtain a receipt from the seller, it is hereby enacted, viz. :—

"If any person has bought goods or anything else from another whether it be a cash transaction, or on credit, the person receiving the money must make out a bill, enumerating all the articles, sold, and also the value, the seller to receipt the account, and attach a Stamp to the same, according to the value of the goods sold, as per following regulation, and the said receipt to be handed over to the buyer—if the value of the goods be

- |    |        |    |         |   |     |                       |
|----|--------|----|---------|---|-----|-----------------------|
| 1. | \$10   | to | \$50    | a | d1  | Stamp to be attached. |
| 2. | \$50   | "  | \$150   | " | d2  | "                     |
| 3. | \$150  | "  | \$500   | " | d3  | "                     |
| 4. | \$500  | "  | \$1000  | " | d6  | "                     |
| 5. | \$1000 | "  | \$2000  | " | 1/- | "                     |
| 6. | \$2000 | "  | \$4000  | " | 2/- | "                     |
| 7. | \$4000 | "  | \$5000  | " | 4%  | "                     |
| 8. | \$5000 | "  | \$10000 | " | 5/- | "                     |

"If anyone commits a breach of this enactment, he will be tried, and if proved a fine of \$100 to \$500 imposed as the Judge may decide, the said fine to go to the Government.

"(The case to be tried in the Police Court summons free of charge the buyer to lay the information.)

"JIOAJI TUBOU II. K."

The Government printer appears to have procured some more "d's" and commas since the last quoted notice, but he has not distributed the latter with much judgment!

I have not seen any of these stamps cancelled to order, but a recent issue of the *Philatelic Journal of India* contains a statement that sheets have been seen, bearing postmarks and full gum—an ominous combination!

XII.—OFFICIAL STAMPS.

On February 13th, 1893, a series of stamps was issued for official use. The series of November 10th, 1892, was printed in bright blue, and overprinted in red with the letters G.F.B. in large capitals. These letters stand for *Gaue faka Buleaga* (pronounced Ngaue fākā Buleanga), signifying Official Postage. The stamps are all watermarked NZ and Star, and are perf. 11½, 12.



1d., 2d., 4d., 8d., and 1s., bright blue and red.

When the Postal Union rates were adopted in June, 1893, and sundry provisional stamps were prepared for ordinary postal use, similar values were provided for official use, and a further denomination was added. The stamps above described were further overprinted with the new values in very large figures in black, the overprints being placed sideways. Watermark and perforation are the same.

- |      |         |                              |
|------|---------|------------------------------|
| ½d.  | on 1d., | bright blue, red, and black. |
| 2½d. | on 2d.  | " " "                        |
| 5d.  | on 4d.  | " " "                        |
| 7½d. | on 8d.  | " " "                        |
| 10d. | on 1s.  | " " "                        |



All these stamps were printed and overprinted in Auckland, New Zealand.

As postmarked copies of these stamps are very scarce, compared with the unused, I do not think that any were cancelled to order.

## Stray Notes on Transvaals.

BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.

### Stamps to be locally printed once more.



It is stated that an Act has passed the Volksraad to transfer the printing of the postage stamps of the South African Republic from Holland to local printers in the Transvaal.

Commencing with the issue of 1885, the postage stamps of the Transvaal have been printed by the Government Printers of Holland, with a fidelity to colour that has left very little room for even minor varieties of shade. The perforation has varied like other stamps from the same establishment, but otherwise there has been a monotonously dead level of sameness and excellence about the work. A few years since, there was an epidemic of surcharges, but otherwise there has been little in the way of variety. When stamps are printed by first-class establishments, varieties are the exception. When the work is done locally, varieties may be said to be the rule.

Despite its manifest drawbacks, I must confess to a partiality for local printing. To my mind a postage stamp is a much more interesting label when it represents the handicraft of the country of its issue. This is particularly the case in the stamps of the Transvaal. The Boers, after a sample sheet or two from the engraver at Mecklenburg, boldly set to work to do their own printing. The result was crude in the extreme, but the fact remains that those early stamps to-day represent the state of the art of printing in those days in the South African Republic. If each country would print its own stamps there would be an added charm to philately. As it is, the few attempts which have been made in this direction are the never-ending theme of our philatelic students. We compare the Perkins Bacon printing of the first issue of Chili with the local production; of the first stamps of the Transvaal with the printing of the Mecklenburg engraver; and we are looking forward with considerable interest to the comparison which we hope to be able to make shortly, between the exquisite printing of Messrs. Waterlow, and the local printing, from the same plates, by the New Zealand Government. But when engraving and printing are both done locally, we reach the acme of philatelic matters for study.

Hence the action of the Transvaal Government in deciding to print its own stamps cannot fail to lend an additional interest to their postal issues. We have not yet heard whether they will print from the current plates, or whether they intend to punctuate the change with an entirely new issue. Probably they will be satisfied to print from the current plates. In this case we may anticipate some curiosities in the printing of the second colour. It requires great nicety of workmanship to print the words of value in the small label to get it so exact as it is required to be, and one would hardly expect to find even now, in the Transvaal, machinery equal to bicolour work of such necessary precision.



### Forgeries.

There seem to be a great many forgeries current on the Continent, and they all apparently emanate from one workshop. Are not collectors sufficiently ubiquitous to unearth this Continental forgery factory? Meanwhile, I may give our Continental friends an infallible guide to the detection of the forgeries to which I refer. In all values but the 3d., and the re-engraved 6d. with the eagle of the 3d., the right-hand end of the flagstaff which crosses the ribbon carrying the motto, at the base of the shield, is, in the *genuine*, a *single thick line*; but, in the *forgery*, it is *double-lined*. All the forgeries that have passed through my hands from collectors on the Continent are easily exposed by this test. As a matter of fact, the stamps of the Transvaal are remarkably free from dangerous forgeries.

### Reprints of the 3d.

Reprints of the 3d. are a thousand times more troublesome than all the forgeries lumped together. There is no doubt the engravers played fast and loose with the 3d. plate. They started the business by supplying dealers with printings from the plate eighteen months before any supplies were sent to the Transvaal itself, and they, or someone for them, have kept up the game ever since. They did not stop short at mere reprintings; they found out the stamp collectors' taste for "freaks," and they produced *tête-bêche* varieties of the 3d., despite the fact that there are no *tête-bêche* stamps on the plate itself. This could easily be done by placing two plates, one up-side-down on top of the other, or by two separate printings. Anyway, collectors may take my word for it, as the possessor of a full sheet from both the 3d. plates, that there is no such thing as a 3d. *tête-bêche* and that therefore any copies they may have are simply "fakes." Even Moens falls into the error of cataloguing the 3d. *tête-bêche*.

### The Big Sale of Transvaals.

In a few days, *i.e.*, on the 22nd and 23rd, we shall have the sale of Mr. Pearce's splendid collection of Transvaals. I have heard whisperings about reserve prices, and so on, but I have never met anyone so obstinately set against reserve prices as Mr. Pearce. He does not seem to realise the wisdom of protecting himself by putting reserves on at least a few of the plums. So that the suggestion which is being promulgated by some busybodies is wide of the mark in this case. On the other hand, I hear of many who are going in for Transvaals, who have never been suspected of any tendency in that direction. Some of our friends who have put their faith in South Americans, would stand much better in Transvaals. The possibilities and probabilities of the Transvaal are admittedly great. Kruger cannot live for ever. He must peg out some day, and when he is under, instead of over the Veldt, there may be many changes that will even affect the status of the postage stamps of the Transvaal; but, if all the presidents of South America were to quit this mortal coil tomorrow, it probably would not alter a perforation or a roulette. In South America, presidents are of the common variety. In the Transvaal, the President is of the "Post Office" Mauritius type, singular and absolutely unique.

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## United States Departmentals.

By JOHN N. LUFF, in the "*American Journal of Philately*."



THE use of stamps by the different departments of the Government was decreed by Act of Congress, approved March 3rd, 1873. The stamps were prepared by order of the Postmaster-General, and their issue, on requisition of the various departments, was commenced on May 24th, 1873. The stamps went into use on July 1st of that year. Their purpose was to abolish the much-abused franking privilege, to show exactly the amount of work performed for the other branches of the Government by the Post Office Department, and to reduce the large annual deficit of that department.

The following extract on the subject of the franking privilege is taken from the *American Journal of Philately* for 1873 (page 109):—

"The second Congress of the United States met in Philadelphia on the 24th of October, 1791. George Washington was President, John Adams was Vice-President, and Jonathan Trumbull was Speaker of the House of Representatives. The first Act passed by this body related 'to certain fisheries of the United States,' and the second was an Act to establish the Post Office and post roads within the United States. This Act contained thirty sections, and was approved February 20th, 1792. Among other things it provided:—

"That the following letters and packets, and no other, shall be received and conveyed by post, free of postage, under such restrictions as are hereinafter provided; that is to say, all letters and packets to or from the President or Vice-President of the United States, and all letters and packets, not exceeding two ounces in weight, to or from any member of the Senate or House of Representatives, the Secretary of the Senate, or Clerk of the House of Representatives, during their actual attendance in any session of Congress, and twenty days after such session. All letters to and from the Secretary of the Treasury and his assistant, Comptroller, Register, and Auditor of the Treasury, the Treasurer, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of War, the commissioners for settling the accounts between the United States and individual states, the Postmaster-General and his assistant; Provided, That no person shall frank or enclose any letter or packet other than his own; but any public letter from the department of the Treasury may be franked by the Secretary of the Treasury, or the Assistant Secretary, or by the Comptroller, Register, Auditor, or Treasurer; and that each person before named shall deliver to the post office every letter or packet enclosed to him, which may be directed to any other person, noting the place from which it came by post, and the usual postage shall be charged thereon."

"This law was altered every few years, and each time large numbers of public officials were added to the free list, till at last the loads of unpaid mail matter so embarrassed the Post Office revenue, that strenuous exertions were made to do away with the whole system, which were happily crowned with success last winter."

The report of the Postmaster-General for 1869 stated that no less than 31,933 persons were authorized to employ the franking privilege, and estimated the annual expense to the Post Office Department for transporting free mail matter to be \$5,000,000.

There appeared to be but one remedy for this abuse, to abolish the franking privilege, and to provide, by means of appropriations, for the payment of postage on all matter sent through the mails by the various departments.

An Act of Congress, intended to effect this reform, was approved January 27th, 1873, and provided :—

“That the franking privilege be hereby abolished from and after the first day of July, Anno Domini 1873, and that henceforth all official correspondence of whatever nature, and other mailable matter sent from or addressed to any officer of the Government or person now authorized to frank such matter, shall be chargeable with the same rates of postage as may be lawfully imposed upon like matter sent by or addressed to other persons. Provided, that no compensation or allowance shall be now or hereafter made to Senators or Members and Delegates of the House of Representatives on account of postage.”

An Act of Congress, approved March 3rd, 1873, appropriated a sum of money estimated to be sufficient for the purchase of postage stamps for the use of the various departments. Section 4 of this Act also provided :—

“That the Postmaster-General shall cause to be prepared a special stamp or stamped envelope to be used only for official mail matter for each of the executive departments, and said stamps and stamped envelopes shall be supplied by a proper officer of said departments to all persons under its direction requiring the same of official use, and all appropriations for postage heretofore made shall no longer be available for said purpose, and all said stamps and stamped envelopes shall be sold or furnished to said several departments or clerks only at the price for which stamps and stamped envelopes of like value are sold at the several post offices.”

The report of the Postmaster-General, dated November 14th, 1873, expresses satisfaction with the results of the new law as far as they were then apparent, *i.e.*, for the first quarter of the fiscal year beginning July 1st, 1873. The report supplies a memorandum of the quantity of stamps issued in that quarter, saying :—

“Section 4 of the Act of March 3, 1873, making it the duty of the Postmaster-General to provide official stamps and stamped envelopes for the several executive departments, has been strictly complied with. The stamps and envelopes furnished have been executed in the highest style of art, and will compare favourably with those of any other country. From July 1st to September 30th of the current year the following varieties, numbers, and values were issued :—

To whom issued.	No. of Denominations.	Number of stamps.	Value.
The Executive . . . . .	5	5,150	\$200.00
The State Department . . . . .	14	60,495	20,749.70
The Treasury Department . . . . .	11	7,842,500	407,000.00
The War Department . . . . .	11	446,500	17,689.00
The Navy Department . . . . .	11	247,230	12,239.00
The Post Office Department . . . . .	10	10,054,660	354,535.00
The Interior Department . . . . .	10	1,058,475	59,171.00
The Department of Justice . . . . .	10	65,400	3,900.00
The Department of Agriculture . . . . .	9	275,000	20,730.00
Making a total of . . . . .	91	20,055,410	896,213.70”

From the report of the Third Assistant Postmaster-General, dated November 1st, 1878, we learn that a large portion of the stamps mentioned in the foregoing table were issued in advance of the date on which the law became operative,



though they were not debited to the various departments until the first quarter of the fiscal year beginning July 1st, 1873, since previous to that date the appropriations for the purchase of the stamps were not available. The following quantities were issued between May 24th and July 1st, 1873:—

The Executive . . . .	4,650
State Department . . . .	60,495
Treasury Department . . . .	6,317,500
War Department . . . .	440,500
Navy Department . . . .	160,830
Post Office Department . . . .	5,510,610
Interior Department . . . .	970,475
Department of Justice . . . .	55,400
Department of Agriculture . . . .	135,000
<hr/>	
Total stamps . . . .	13,665,460
Total value . . . .	\$494,974.70

The report of the Postmaster-General for 1873 also gives the following brief description of the designs and colours of the official stamps:—

“The stamps for the departments other than the Post Office do not differ materially from those for sale to the public, except that each department has its own distinctive colour and legend. The colours are: For the Executive, carmine; State Department, green; Treasury, velvet-brown; War, cochineal-red; Navy, blue; Post Office, black; Interior, vermilion; Department of Justice, purple; and Department of Agriculture, straw-colour.

“In the stamps for the Post Office Department the medallion head gives place to a numeral representing the value, with the words ‘POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT’ above, and the denomination expressed in words below. All the official stamps correspond in denominations with those issued for the public, except in the case of the State Department, for which four of higher value were made for dispatch bags. These four are of the denominations of \$2, \$5, \$10, and \$20 respectively, are of larger size, and printed in two colours, and bear a profile bust of the late Secretary Seward.”

A circular of the Post Office Department, dated May 15th, 1873, calls the attention of postmasters to the repeal of the franking privilege, and to the fact that special stamps and envelopes have been provided for the use of the several departments. The designs and colours are described in language similar to that just quoted from the report of the Postmaster-General. The circular concludes:—

“Postmasters at all offices will be furnished with the official stamps of this department in suitable denominations and amounts as far as they can be supplied. The department will exercise its own discretion in filling requisitions, and will send only in such denominations and amounts as the needs of an office may seem to require. The less important offices, say those at which the money order system has not been established, will need only three cent stamps, but comparatively few offices will require stamps above the denomination of six cents. The higher denominations will be supplied to a few of the larger offices only. Postmasters will combine stamps of the most convenient denominations at hand to meet emergencies for which they may have no single stamp exactly filling the rate required.”

As was said in a previous paragraph, the stamps for the various departments are, with the exception of those for the Post Office Department, not unlike the same values of the general issue which was then current. The series of finely

engraved profile busts, which distinguishes the issues of 1870-73, is retained. The numerals and words of value in the lower part of the stamps are arranged in much the same way as on the corresponding stamps of the regular issue. The features which, aside from the colour, distinguish the set for each particular department are most prominent in the upper part of the stamps, replacing the words "U. S. POSTAGE." The additions to the lower part are usually of less importance. The devices used may be briefly described as follows:—

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.** A panel, curved above the central oval, bears the word "AGRICULTURE." In the upper left corner are "DEPT. OF," and in the upper right corner the letters "U. S." entwined.

**THE EXECUTIVE.** A panel, curved above the oval, bears the word "EXECUTIVE." In the upper corners are respectively "U" and "S" in small circles, surrounded by arabesques. The background is filled with vertical stripes, alternately light and dark, representing the stripes of the national shield.

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.** A broad ribbon, arched above the portrait, is inscribed "DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR." In the upper corners are six-pointed stars, and at right and left in the lower part of the stamps small shields bearing the letters "U" and "S." On the 1, 2, 3, 6, 10, and 30 cent stamps these shields are placed above the ends of the ribbons bearing the value, and on the other four denominations they are in the lower corners.

**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.** The word "JUSTICE" is curved above the central oval, with "DEPT." in the upper left and "OF" in the upper right corner. Six-pointed stars, bearing the letters "U" and "S," occupy the same positions as the small shields on the stamps of the Department of the Interior.

**NAVY DEPARTMENT.** The words "NAVY" and "DEPT." are inscribed diagonally across the upper corners. There is a large star in each upper corner and a smaller one at the middle of each side. The top and sides of the stamps are bordered by a cable. The letters "U" and "S," in small hexagons, are placed as were the same letters on the stamps of the Departments of the Interior and Justice.

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE.** Above the medallion is arched, "DEPT. OF STATE," with foliated ornaments below at each end. Large letters "U" and "S," somewhat distorted, occupy the same positions as on the stamps of the three departments just described. To this set are added four new values: 2, 5, 10, and 20 dollars. These stamps are about twice the size of the lower values, and are alike in design. A large portrait of Wm. H. Seward, printed in black, occupies the central oval, at each side of which are fasces. Above the oval appears, in two lines of large shaded capitals, "DEPARTMENT OF STATE." Small arabesques fill the upper corners. The value, in large white capitals, occupies a straight tablet across the bottom, above each end of which are the letters "U. S. OF A." In the case of the 20 dollars the latter word is abbreviated to "DOLLS."

**TREASURY DEPARTMENT.** The word "TREASURY," in a wavy line, crosses the top of the stamps. Below it, at left and right, are "U. S." and "DEPT." Drapery with fringes and cords ornaments the sides.

**WAR DEPARTMENT.** The letters "U" and "S" occupy the upper corners, and the words "WAR" and "DEPT." are curved beneath them. Elongated national shields appear in the lower part of the stamps, and shadings to represent the folds of the flag at the sides.

**POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.** For this department a special design was adopted. Large numerals with "OFFICIAL" above and "STAMP" below occupy a colourless central oval, above which is curved "POST OFFICE DEPT." The upper spandrels are blank, except for a small round boss. The words and numerals of value are arranged as on the sets for the other departments. The

letters "u" and "s," in small circles, appear above the ends of the ribbons bearing the value on the 1, 2, 3, 6, 10, and 30 cents, at each side of the value on the 24 cents, and in the lower corners on the 12, 15, and 90 cents.

The sizes are: 1 to 90 cents, 20 × 25 mm.; 2 to 20 dollars, 25½ × 39½ mm.

At the time the official stamps came into use the contract for the manufacture of postage stamps was held by the Continental Bank Note Co. Subsequently, through consolidation and new contracts, the work passed into the hands of the American Bank Note Co. We may, therefore, expect to find the official stamps on the characteristic papers of the two companies, *i.e.*, thin hard, ribbed, and double papers for the former, and soft porous paper for the latter. When we examine the stamps we find these anticipations are confirmed. The gum is the same as that used for the regular issue at corresponding dates.



## Stanley Gibbons' Imperial Album.

*The Imperial Postage Stamp Album, with comprehensive Catalogue, illustrated with over 4500 engravings, including a series of the national arms of various countries. Eighth Edition, entirely re-arranged and re-written. Edited by Gordon Smith, M.A. Vol. I. The Postage Stamps of the British Empire. Cloth, 7s. 6d. Vol. II. The Postage Stamps of Foreign Countries. Cloth, 10s. 6d. London: Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, W.C.*

THESE two volumes of the four into which the *Imperial Postage Stamp Album* is to be divided in future are before us, and we have no hesitation in saying that they mark a decided advance in the direction of scientific arrangement and philately made easy. With these splendid volumes as his guide even the tyro could not well go wrong in properly placing his stamps. The *Imperial* has for many years been easily first favourite with English collectors. It has now left all possible competitors far behind.

The excellence of the arrangement which permits of separate albums for the British Empire, for Foreign Countries, for Envelopes, Post Cards, and Wrappers (Vol. III.), and for Locals (Vol. IV.) is in every way eminently satisfactory. The omnivorous general collector can take the lot and welcome. The collector with a partiality for a more circumscribed area can take up any one of the four divisions and be equally thankful.

The arrangement travels a very reasonable distance in the inclusion of all decided and recognized standard varieties, but many minute varieties are wisely omitted. The specialist who uses these albums can easily make provision for the omissions by interleaving here and there where he may find it necessary.

The second volume marks a departure which calls for special mention in the preface, which we quote:—



"In this volume—the second of the present series—are included the Postage Stamps (as well as 'Official,' 'Unpaid,' and other stamps authorised for postage) of all Foreign Countries; but Local Stamps, formerly provided for at the end of the countries to which they belonged, are excluded. To this rule, however, exception has been made in favour of those stamps of a local nature issued directly by the Government, or by Government officials under implied sanction of the authorities.

"Amongst the former may be noted the stamps issued for Madrid, Stockholm, Hamburg (North German Confederation), and the regular issues surcharged for use in Constantinople and Mount Athos, while amongst the latter are included the "Postmasters'" stamps of the United States, which preceded the regular issues, and the Local Stamps created by various Postmasters in the Confederate States to supply the deficiency of regular stamps.

"These stamps are so closely associated with the general public issues (of which they formed part) that they cannot be considered in the same light as those stamps which were issued by private individuals, or even by permission of the Government (as in the case of the Russian locals).

"The Third Volume, which is already in the Press, will be devoted to those Local Stamps not included in the volumes which have preceded it, and which are local not only in their origin, but also in regard to the geographical limits within which they are, or have been, effective for postal purposes.

"An important alteration has been made in the arrangement of many countries by dividing them into groups instead of placing them alphabetically as heretofore. For instance, after Denmark we give Danish West Indies and Iceland; after Germany we place all the old German States; after France all the Consular stamps and those of the French Colonies; after Italy all her States; and so on, following out in all cases the order and arrangement of the last Edition of our priced Catalogue."

We heartily commend these handsome volumes. The most fastidious stamp collectors cannot fail to acknowledge their unquestionable merits. They should be a valuable factor in the direction of popularising stamp collecting. The enthusiastic specialist may be relied upon to follow his own sweet will in the arrangement of his treasures in blank books of all sorts and conditions, from the penny MS. book to the costliest morocco-bound, hand-made-paper volumes, but the average collector prefers to do his stamp collecting with the aid of some such album as the *Imperial*. The specialist's collection can only be appreciated by the philatelist, but a collection arranged in these stately albums would grace any drawing-room and interest even the non-collector.





## British Empire.

**British Central Africa.**—We have before us a copy of the 1d. provisional, chronicled by us in July (p. 169), which varies from the one then chronicled in being perforated. £150 worth of these 1d. provisionals, with embossed cheque stamps, are said to have been printed; and some 50s. worth of these are said to have been initialised on the back by the acting Postmaster-General, J. T. Gosling.

*Adhesive.*

*Provisional.*

1d., vermilion, dark ultramarine frame and inscription;  
*perf.* 12.

**British South Africa.**—The British South Africa Company has commenced the issue of the new series of Waterlow design. They follow very closely the design of the first issue, the chief difference being that the new Waterlow design has figures of value in the upper corners.

*Adhesive.*

1d., lake; *perf.* 15.

**Canada.**—We have from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. two more values to add to the redrawn series with numerals of value in the lower corners.

*Adhesives.*

$\frac{1}{2}$  c., black.  
6 c., brown.

**Fiji.**—The *Monthly Journal* lists the following perforations:—

*Adhesives.*

1896-98. *Current types.*

<i>Perf.</i> 10.	<i>Perf.</i> 12.
$\frac{1}{2}$ d., grey.	1d., black.
1d., black.	2d., green.
2d., green.	<i>Perf.</i> 11.
$2\frac{1}{2}$ d., brown.	$\frac{1}{2}$ d., grey.
4d., dull mauve.	1d., lilac-rose.
<i>Perf.</i> 11 × 10.	2d., green.
$\frac{1}{2}$ d., grey.	$2\frac{1}{2}$ d., brown.
1d., black.	4d., lilac.
4d., lilac.	6d., rose.
5d. on 6d., rose.	1s., pale brown.
5d., blue.	<i>Perf.</i> 12 × 11.
6d., rose.	1d., lilac-rose.
1s., dull brown.	1s., yellow-brown.
<i>Perf.</i> 10 × 12.	<i>Perf.</i> 11 × 12.
1d., black.	1d., lilac-rose.
	2d., green.
	$2\frac{1}{2}$ d., red-brown.

**Gibraltar.**—We have a set of the new series in pence currency from Messrs. Whitfield

King & Co. The  $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., and  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. seem to be reprintings from the plates of 1887, re-touched for the purpose. The 2d., 4d., 6d., and 1s. values are distinguished from the 1887 issue by the words of value in the lower labels being printed in a separate colour.

*Adhesives.*

$\frac{1}{2}$ d., dull green.  
1d., rose.  
2d., brown-lilac, *value in blue.*  
 $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., ultramarine.  
4d., orange-brown, *value in green.*  
6d., lilac, *value in carmine.*  
1s., bistre " "

**India.**—*Bhopal.*—The *Monthly Journal* has received a sheet of 8 a. stamps of this State, which are from a fresh stone. It states that "the design remains unchanged. There are no actual errors of lettering, except that the top stamp on the left shows the 'E' of 'BEGAM' upside down, or hind part before, thus, 'a'; but the whole of the ten types are very much more roughly drawn than before, and the sheet has the appearance of a very defective impression from the previous stone touched up by an artist with an exceedingly shaky hand. The colour is the same curious *greenish black* tint, and the paper the usual rough wove; our sheet is imperforate. The sheet of 1 a. we described last month is, we find, a poor impression, compared with those which came over in 1894. A new plate of this value may be looked for before long."

**Malta.**—The Postmaster-General of Malta has informed Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., that "the issue of new stamps is under consideration, but no information can be given as to date of issue or the number of denominations"; and he adds, "No separate sets for Gozo will be issued."

**New South Wales.**—The publishers of the *Monthly Journal* have received a block of four of the current  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamps, from a pane in which the left-hand vertical row was passed over by the perforating machine (a comb-machine, with a long vertical and short horizontal rows of needles). The right-hand stamps are *perf.* 12 at top, bottom, and right, *imperf.* at left; the left-hand stamps are perforated at the left only.

**Niger Coast.**—We have three new values to add to the current series, *viz.*, 6d., 2s. 6d., and 10s. The portrait of the Queen is the

same as throughout the series, but the surrounding design varies. Wmk. CA.

*Adhesives.*  
6d., red-brown; *perf.* 15.  
2s. 6d., olive-brown; *perf.* 16.  
10s., purple; *perf.* 15.

**Queensland.**—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the 6d. with figures in all four corners. Wmk. Cr. and Q. *Perf.* 13.

*Adhesive.* 6d., green.

**Straits Settlements.**—*Selangor.*—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a new value of the "Tiger" series.

*Adhesive.*  
8 cents, lilac and ultramarine.

**Virgin Islands.**—It is stated on official authority that this colony is again to have its separate series of postage stamps.

## Foreign Countries.

**Argentine Republic.**—The *Monthly Journal* has received the current  $\frac{1}{2}$  c. stamp in a dark blue tint, quite different from any of the earlier varieties of *blue* and *slate-blue*.

*Adhesive.*  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cent, dark blue.

**Belgium.**—The *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* has seen the 50 c. with Sunday label printed in a new colour.

*Adhesive.*  
50 c., grey.

**China.**—We have received three more values of the Waterlow series, viz., 2 c., 5 c., and 10 c. The *Monthly Journal* adds the \$2 and \$5. This series up to date, including the  $\frac{1}{2}$  c. and 1 c. already chronicled, is therefore as follows:—

*Adhesives.*  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cent, chocolate; *perf.* 14.  
1 " red-brown " 16.  
2 cents, lake " 14.  
5 " salmon " 14.  
10 " dark green " 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ .  
\$2, red and yellow " 16.  
\$5, green and rose " 15.

**France.**—*Tunis.*—The *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* says the 20 c., both ordinary and Postage Due, have been issued, and that a 35 c. will also probably be issued.

*Adhesives.*  
20 c., vermilion on green.  
*Postage Due.*  
20 c., vermilion on green.

**Guatemala.**—The *American Journal of Philately* chronicles a number of provisional surcharges on the stamps of the types of 1886. The surcharge reads "1898—1—centavo." In the 1 c. and 6 c. surcharges the figure is slanting, but upright in the 10 cents. *Perf.* 12.

*Adhesives.*  
*Provisionals.*  
1 c. on 25 c., red-orange; black surcharge.  
1 c. " 50 c., sage-green; red " "  
1 c. " 75 c., carmine; black " "  
6 c. " 10 c., red; black " "  
6 c. " 20 c., green; black " "  
6 c. " 100 c., maroon; black " "  
6 c. " 150 c., dark blue; red " "  
6 c. " 200 c., orange; black " "  
10 c. " 20 c., green; red " "

**Holland.**—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. inform us that on Coronation Day (Sept. 6) new stamps of one gulden were issued, but withdrawn a few days later, it is said because Queen Wilhelmina was dissatisfied with her portrait, which makes her look too old. Other stamps of the values of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  and 5 gulden were also prepared, but were not issued. A new design is being prepared for the lower values, and in the meantime the old stamps of one gulden have been re-issued.

*Adhesive.*  
1 gulden, pale green.

**Surinam.**—The authorities in this colony, in order to introduce the remaining values of the new set with the head of the Queen, have, according to the *American Journal of Philately*, surcharged for use as 10 c. stamps all the remaining stock with the head of the King, including the values 12 $\frac{1}{2}$  c., 15 c., 20 c., 25 c., and 50 c. The *A. J. P.* gives the following quantities as the number issued of each value; and we are indebted to Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. for a specimen of each, surcharge black. *Perf.* 12 $\frac{1}{2}$  × 12.

80,000 . . . . .	10 c. on 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.
6,300 . . . . .	10 c. on 15 c.
54,000 . . . . .	10 c. on 20 c.
45,000 . . . . .	10 c. on 25 c.
69,000 . . . . .	10 c. on 30 c.

*Adhesives.*  
10 c. on 15 c., head of King.  
10 c. on 20 c. " "  
10 c. on 25 c. " "  
10 c. on 30 c. " "

**Curaçao.**—The *American Journal of Philately* says the 30 c. and 50 c. Unpaid Letter stamps have now appeared in the new type, thus completing the set.

*Adhesives.*  
*Unpaid Letter Stamps, new type.*  
30 cents, green and black.  
50 " " "

**Honduras.**—The *Metropolitan Philatelist* chronicles a new issue for this country. The new comers bear the Arms of Honduras in centre, with "ESTADO DE HONDURAS" in half circle; in straight line above, "REPUBLICA MAYOR DE C. A."; value in large



numerals below, crossed by "CENTAVOS." The stamps are of poor workmanship and very large size. The *American Journal of Philately* adds a 6 c. value. Size 25 × 35 mm. Perf. 11½.

*Adhesives.*

- 1 centavo, orange.  
2 centavos, very pale blue.  
6 " violet-brown.

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

"Our readers are no doubt aware that there are two distinct varieties of the 10½ perforation of the stamps of this country—the earlier one of 1874, with large holes close together, and a later one (not given in the Catalogue) with small holes wider apart. In a lot of stamps recently imported our publishers have found the following varieties: some perf. 11½, others with the second variety of the 10½ gauge. It may be noted that the Jubilee stamps now come with the new 10½ perforation. Does this denote that they are still being manufactured?"

*Adhesives.*

*Old colours; perf. 10½; small holes.*

- 5 nov., vermilion.  
25 " dull brown.

*Jubilee Stamps; perf. 10½; small holes.*

- 5 nov., vermilion.  
7 " rose.  
10 " indigo; black surcharge.  
10 " " red "  
15 " bistre; black "

*New colours; perf. 11½.*

- 5 nov., orange.  
15 " grey-brown.

*Unpaid Letter Stamps.*

- 1 nov., red; perf. 10½.  
3 " orange; perf. 11½.  
10 " mauve "

**Peru.**—Messrs. Williams & Co., Lima, inform us that on September 27th the 1 c., changed from blue to the Postal Union green, was put into circulation; and that on September 19th orders were sent to New York for 5 and 10 soles stamps (50,000 of each).

*Adhesive.*

- 1 c., green.

**Spain.**—*Porto Rico.*—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a batch of twenty varieties of the recently-issued Provisional War Tax stamps.

*Adhesives.*

*Surcharged "Habilitado," "Para 1898-99."*

- 1 mil., pale brown; surcharge red.  
2 " pale green "  
4 " blue-green "  
1 c. de p., lake-brown "  
2 " red-brown "  
3 " pale brown "  
3 " deep blue. "

- 4 c. de p., black-brown; surcharge red.  
5 " ultramarine "  
6 " lilac "  
8 " pink; surcharge red.  
20 " olive; surcharge red.  
40 " salmon "  
80 " slate-black "

*Surcharged "Impuesto de Guerra."*

- 2 c. de p., violet; surcharge violet.  
2 " brown "  
5 " pale green "

*With additional surcharge.*

"2 cvts." or "5 cvts."

- 1 mil., deep blue; surcharge red-violet.  
1 " violet "  
2 " salmon; surcharge violet.

**United States.**—The *Weekly Philatelic Era* says the following changes are in progress in the regular series:—

*Adhesives.*

- 4 cents, dark red-brown.  
5 " light blue.  
6 " magenta.  
10 " light brown.

**Uruguay.**—This country seems to have run short of ½ centavo stamps, for, in addition to the provisional ½ centavo we chronicled last month, we have now a similar surcharge, "Provisional—½-centavo" in blue on the 1 centavo of the 1895 series.

*Adhesive.*

- ½ c. on 1 c., bistre, of 1895.

## Our Monthly Packets of New Issues.

No. 1, price One Shilling (postage extra). The November Packet contains—*EIGHT VARIETIES*, all unused, viz., United States, 1 c., green, surcharged "I.R." in red, large type, and War Tax (Revenue) ½ c., green; China, 1898 (London print), ½ c. and 2 c.; Canada, 1898, 1 c.; Montenegro, 1898, 2 nov.; New Zealand, 1898, 1d., etc.

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

The November Packet contains—*TEN VARIETIES*, all unused, viz., China, 1898 (London print), 5 c. and 10 c.; Cook Islands, 1898, 2d. and 6d.; Grenada (Jubilee), 2½d., blue; St. Lucia, 2d., blue and red; Chili, Unpaid, 2 c., 4 c., and 10 c., etc.

These packets are on sale until November 30th (unless the supply is previously exhausted), and are supplied only to *Subscribers* to the *PHILATELIC RECORD* and *STAMP NEWS*. Similar packets will be on sale every month, and may be subscribed for in advance for the year (January to December inclusive), at the following rates: No. 1 packet, 12s., postage extra; No. 2 packet, 60s., postage extra.

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



## Is Philately on the Decline?

OUR excellent contemporary the *Philatelic Journal of India* has started an inquiry into the question "Is Philately on the Decline?" First it quotes Mr. Castle's recent editorial on the break in prices which marked the past season, in which he says: "The attractions of philately are established on too firm a basis to be shaken, and it will continue, with necessarily varying phases, long after the present generation has passed away."

Mr. Robert Weidenhagen, in a German paper, represents the Jeremiah of philately. In his opinion "philately has lost, and will go on losing, a very large number of its devotees, and there is already a marked diminution in the interest felt in it." He sums up the forces that make for disintegration as follows:—

- (1) Exaggerated prices in catalogues;
- (2) The speculation fever arising from (1);
- (3) The inundation of commemorative issues;
- (4) Forgeries;
- (5) The attraction of other forms of amusement;
- (6) The attraction of other fields of collecting;
- (7) Too many dealers.

Mr. Theodor Haas' opinion is quoted from the *Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal*. He dissects and analyses Mr. Weidenhagen's statement, and as his contribution is one of the best we have ever read on the subject, we quote our contemporary's translation in full:—

"Although I freely admit, what no philatelist who is in a position to form his own opinion will deny, that philatelic prices have not advanced in Germany since last year (the inevitable consequence of the wave of speculation which swept on from 1893 to 1897), still I cannot believe in any present *retrogression*, especially in the comprehensive sense in which Mr. Weidenhagen takes it, just as I was unable to lay any stress on the prophecy of a general crash in February or March, 1897. Probably the gloomy view of the author is due to the fact that his own town, Hamburg, happens to be the place where the present stagnation in the philatelic trade is most keenly felt. But it is, to say the least of it, bold of him to generalise on the subject of philately on this ground.

"Of the seven points which he indicates as acting unfavourably on philately, I propose to take up the five last to begin with, because some of them have really very little influence one way or the other on the spread of philately, while the influence of the others has been greatly overrated. *Commemorative issues* no

doubt annoy many an earnest collector; but against this it must be remembered that, as soon as they become cheap, beginners and small collectors like to buy them, as they are not dear, and are generally beautifully executed.

"I have very serious doubts whether *forgeries* have any effect at all worth mentioning on philately. We have had forgeries for forty years, and all that time philately has flourished more than any other form of collecting has. The recent forgeries of postmarks on genuine stamps affect fewer and fewer collectors, and may be left out of account. And we must remember on what a scale forgeries are made for collectors of other articles. Take coins, for instance. An expert will tell you that numismatic collections teem with forgeries. In antiques the case is even worse. Imitations, costing hundreds and thousands of pounds, and calculated to take in even the finest experts, have for the last century and more been the terror of antiquarians. Beside these our forged stamps sink into insignificance.

"There can be no doubt that *other forms of amusement*, especially bicycling, have deprived philately of a few followers, specially during the season. But I can see no direct danger to philately from this cause. There is nothing antagonistic in the two. In Paris, for instance, there is a Philatelic Bicycle Club, to which many dealers of universal reputation and prominent collectors belong.

"As for the *attractions of other forms of collecting*, this danger is common to all, and philately may fairly be taken as winning as many from other collecting manias as it loses to them.

"As regards the danger of *too many dealers*, I would point out that dealers properly so-called can never damage our hobby, as their livelihood depends on its continuance. It is only the poachers or 'private dealers,' as Mr. Weidenhagen calls them, that are a source of real danger to us, and the moral is to fight seriously against these black sheep. This is a matter worthy of the attention of the 'Society' or 'Association' for which we are waiting in vain.

"Now I come to the two connected matters (1) and (2) in which I, with Mr. Weidenhagen, recognise a real danger to our science, only I cannot agree with the sequence in which he places them. Instead of 'exaggerated catalogue prices and the speculation fever arising from them,' I should prefer to say '*speculation and the exaggerated prices in the catalogues* to which speculation has given rise.'



For, as a matter of fact, the latter *are* the result of speculation, and not *vice versa*. A glance at the catalogue is convincing that rises of prices have always taken place in the case of stamps held and sought for by speculators (*e.g.*, German States, British West Indies, &c.) :—

“When, seven or eight years ago, quietly at first, but gradually increasing at a terrific pace, speculation in stamps began, it was not the *dealers* only who took part in it. By far the largest percentage of speculators were *collectors*. Collections were made to serve not for amusement, as a welcome recreation in hours of leisure, but as a paying investment. Research and philatelic study were too often not due to love of the subject, but were merely a means to make more profit by the discovery of uncommon varieties, rare shades, &c.

“But speculation was not confined to tried experts, or even to collectors of long standing. Schoolboys and people wholly ignorant of philately were seized with the fever. Their one object was to reap the greatest possible profit in the shortest possible time, and the result was that a time came when everyone wanted to *sell*, everyone turned dealer, and the minority only preferred to remain collectors.

“As a natural consequence, the old secure foundation of philately—the inborn joy of collecting and philatelic study for its own sake—was weakened; and to a great extent a new foundation, called ‘Profit,’ took its place. Up to the beginning of the ‘90’s we collected stamps because we enjoyed doing so, and did so quietly and without hurry. If for any reason we had to sell our collection, we were prepared to put up with some loss, and felt that the pleasure we had had in our collection was worth some money loss.

“But how things changed when speculation began! If the sale of a collection resulted in a *small* gain only, the seller was not to be comforted. No one dreamed of the possibility of a *loss*. It was plain that such an unhealthy state of affairs could not last, and the consequence was not a universal crash, but a fall in prices, which, now that the sellers outnumbered the purchasers, largely affected those dealers whose main business was to sell to other dealers.

“A lull in prices hardly affects a dealer who has a regular *clientèle*, but this is not the case with the petty dealer born of speculation, or with what I call the poaching dealer. Their chance customers fell off, and they had but seldom sufficient capital to weather a lengthened period of depression. The consequence was that they were forced to sell, and that quantities of medium stock and medium collections were thrown on the market by these speculators. It is hardly to be wondered at that many genuine collectors came to the false conclusion that something more than a lull was on, and that in fact philately was on the decline. It was but natural that they should look upon that as a danger which one person acquainted

with the circumstances welcomed as the first sign of recovery.

“What hit the amateur dealers, or poachers, worst was the difficulty of getting rid of their accumulations without considerable reductions of price. But for this, in almost all cases, they were themselves to blame. To begin with, their stock was usually in a bad condition, while there is no demand for anything but faultless specimens; and besides, the value was generally estimated on quite wrong lines. I fancy that Mr. Weidenhagen has fallen into the same error, as he is horrified to find that in many cases not even one-third of catalogue prices was to be had. The reason is not difficult to see. No catalogue gives *nett* prices, for most dealers of standing give 20 to 25 per cent. discount on reasonably large orders for *medium* stamps, besides which *sets* can be had at a considerable reduction, while some of the larger dealers lay themselves out to make collections containing up to 4000 stamps or so for sale. These they sell at about 1000 stamps for £1, 2000 for £6, 3000 for £15, and 4000 for £35. So, in order to correctly estimate the value of a collection, it will not do to reckon the 4000 commonest at more than £35; the rest may be taken at catalogue value, and a discount deducted from the total, so that the purchaser may earn his profit. Before the speculation fever set in these little matters were always reckoned on, but since then no one listens to such things. Now that order is becoming more prevalent, we shall have to accustom ourselves to them again.

“Finally, I should like to indicate the greatest, in fact the fundamental, error into which Mr. Weidenhagen has fallen. It is an error which one sees on many sides, and consists in confusing a *local depression* in the stamp trade with a *universal falling off* in philatelic interest. I take it that, as editor for many years of one of the oldest and best-known philatelic journals, and as a member of one of the largest philatelic firms in the world, my opinion on the present state of philately has some claim to accuracy. My opinion is, as I said before, that the last few months have seen a certain amount of stagnation, the direct consequence of the period of speculation. This stagnation has been felt chiefly in Germany and Austria, and partially in England. On the other hand, other countries, such as Italy and Russia, show no signs of it. In fact, outside Europe many countries, such as India and South America, are showing a large increase of philatelic zeal.

“This being so, it is nonsense to talk of a general falling off of philately. Stamp collecting is a *universal* hobby, and you cannot tell how it is thriving by examining local circumstances only. The general political situation and the condition of trade and industry from time to time are the main factors in determining its condition. In times of prosperity more can be spent on various hobbies, and the recent years of industrial improvement in Germany have shown clearly enough that philately comes in for its share.”



## Gibraltar : Change of Currency.

THE *Monthly Journal* quotes from the *Gibraltar Chronicle and Official Gazette* for September 14th, the following notice as to the change of currency and the issue of stamps with values in "British sterling money," which was to take place on October 1st.



## "GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

"His Excellency the Governor desires to notify for public information that Orders in Council have been approved by Her Majesty making British Sterling Money legal tender in Gibraltar under the conditions of the Coinage Act, 1870.

"It is intended to promulgate these Orders on the 1st proximo, from which date the Order in Council of 1881, regulating the Currency of Gibraltar, will be repealed, but the Spanish Coins specified therein will continue to be legal tender in payment of all engagements entered into before the promulgation of the new Orders in Council.

"From the 1st October, 1898, all postage fees will be payable in British money, and stamps having the duties expressed in Spanish currency will cease to be valid in prepayment of postage in Gibraltar, but those overprinted 'Morocco Agencies' will continue to be valid in the Postal Agencies maintained in Morocco by the Gibraltar Government.

"From the 1st to the 15th day of October next, both days inclusive, unused Postage Stamps having the duties expressed in Spanish currency will be repurchased at the Post Office at their face value, provided that the stamps be not soiled or otherwise damaged, and that they are presented in strips of not less than two.

"The new postage stamps, &c., with sterling duties will be on sale on 1st October, 1898.

"By Command,  
"H. M. JACKSON,  
"Colonial Secretary.

"COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,  
"GIBRALTAR, 14th September, 1898."

## Are "Officially Sealed" Labels Collectible?

SOME good folks appear to be very exercised as to the collectibility of "Officially Sealed" labels. Discussing this question, Major Evans, in the *Monthly Journal*, writes:—

"We all know that some of these labels are adorned with more or less elaborate and interesting devices, and in different countries they appear to be used in rather different ways. In Great Britain, whose Officially Sealed Labels we have never seen either catalogued or provided for in albums, these patches seem to be

applied to all packets that are found to require them, and the date stamp is struck upon the label to show when and where the cover was found open or torn. In other places the "Official Seals" are much more sparingly used, we believe. In Canada we were told that they were only affixed to letters that had been opened unnecessarily in the Post Office; for instance, letters that could not be delivered for any reason, but which bore the address of the sender on the outside, and could therefore be returned unopened. If such a letter as this was opened by mistake at the Dead Letter Office, it was reclosed with one of the Canadian Officially Sealed Labels, to show that it had been opened by proper authority; and we were given to understand that these labels were not used in Canada for ordinary broken packages, and being employed for the special purpose just described, they were not allowed to be given away to collectors. In all cases, however, these labels are used, as their inscriptions denote, for sealing up letters and packets; they denote neither postage nor freedom from postage in any shape or form, and our personal opinion is that they have no claim whatever to be considered *stamps*. We must confess that we do not know what is the correct definition of a *stamp*, but we should be inclined to define it as a label denoting either a sum paid, or a sum to be paid, or that there is nothing to be paid, on the article to which it is attached; thus a postage stamp may denote either postage paid by the sender, postage to be paid by the receiver, or that the letter or packet passes post-free. We have seen it argued that Unpaid Letter or Postage Due stamps are not postage stamps; but surely the charge for transmission is *postage*, whether it be paid by the sender or by the receiver, and naturally different forms of stamps are employed in the two cases. Again, a Special Delivery stamp denotes payment for transmission by a special means, and thus is a postage stamp, in spite of the fact that it may not be available for payment of ordinary postage. It is a little more difficult to find an excuse for including the stamps impressed upon Registration Envelopes. They certainly come within our definition of a *stamp*, and they represent a charge upon letters sent by post; still, that charge is not exactly *postage*, because it is not for transmission, but for insurance. The stamps, however, are *postal*, and ordinary postage stamps can be employed for denoting the very same charge, so it is fair enough, perhaps, to include these in a collection of postage stamps.

"Official stamps carry us a little further. We can hardly reject such stamps as those of Denmark and the Departmental issues of the United States, which have a value expressed upon them, and which are used precisely as ordinary postage stamps are used, representing the actual postal charges upon letters and packages of certain weights, &c. Our own Government Parcels, I. R. Official stamps, &c., come into this same category. Some extreme purists have raised objections to these

stamps, on the ground that they do not denote postage paid, but rather freedom from postage. We doubt, however, whether this is always correct; in some cases we believe the amount represented by the stamps thus used is credited to the postal revenue, and charged against the departments using them. Official stamps which have no value expressed, and which frank an unlimited amount of official matter, certainly occupy a different position; they seem rather to indicate that the packets to which they are affixed are Official, and therefore not chargeable with postage. Still, they seem to come so near to the postage stamp proper, that there is some excuse for their admission.

"The 'Officially Sealed' labels are quite outside any of these classes. They are not stamps, unless we are to admit that any piece of gummed paper with something printed upon it is a stamp. If we admit these, we should admit the Registration Labels—large 'R,' &c.—affixed to registered letters in our own and other countries. All these are Postal Labels, but not stamps. Of course they are collectible by anyone who chooses to collect them, but they have no place in a Stamp Album or Catalogue."

### More Railway Stamps.

THE hysterical attempt that is now being made to boom railway stamps is decidedly amusing to the onlooker. *Apropos* of this matter, the following from the learned pen of the editor of the *Monthly Circular* is much to the point, and may serve as an object lesson to those who are "plunging":—

"Some of the principal railways have lowered their rates on small parcels sent by passenger trains, so as to compete more successfully with the parcel post. On the London and North Western Railway the change took effect on May 1st, and the Company has also determined to issue adhesive stamps for the prepayment of these rates. These are nothing more than carriers' receipts, of about the same philatelic value as omnibus tickets which frank persons, while the railway labels will frank things. We remember very well the attempt that was made many years ago to induce stamp collectors to collect the newspaper adhesive parcel stamps issued by all the principal railways. Some few omnivorous collectors who collected everything that had the look of a franking stamp, were beguiled into collecting these, but the bulk rightly judged that they were not worth collecting, having no postal signification, and the attempt fell flat. We know of no dealer who is still faithful except M. Moens, who, as we see by his catalogue, has still, out of about 400 varieties, some on hand which we should think are rather heavy stock, but these stamps are still sold at some of the principal stations on some lines of railway."

### France: 20 c., Empire, Blue on Rose.

THE publisher of the *Monthly Circular* has the following note on the status of this stamp:—

"Mr. F. Marconnet, writing in the *Echo de la Timbrologie*, brings some conclusive arguments to show that the variety is only an essay.

"In Moens' last catalogue the following varieties of the 20 c. on tinted paper are noted:—

- I. 20 c., blue on greenish, 1855.
- II. 20 c., blue on bluish, 1858.

"M. Marconnet describes them as:—

- I. [Lasting from March, 1855, to end of 1855.]  
20 c., dull blue on greenish.

- 20 c., deep blue " " "

(The two shades are quite distinct.)

"Throughout 1861 the 20 c. was printed on greenish paper, but the difference between the issues of 1855 and 1861 cannot be defined.

- II. [Lasting from 1856 to 1858.]

- 20 c., blue on pale blue.

- " " " grey-blue.

- " " " blue.

- " " " deep greenish blue.

- " " " rose-violet.

- " " " mauve (called 'mauve intense').

"*Note.*—In 1856 the paper was slightly bluish. In 1858 it ranged through the whole scale, from blue to rose-violet.

"Among over 300 colour-combination trial impressions of this issue, the favourite tint for the paper is decidedly *rose*. The 20 c. is found in brown, 'bistre,' grey, olive, and blue on paper of all tints, including the *rose*, and this blue on rose impression was never officially issued. M. Marconnet does not deny that postmarked copies may exist; that, he says, proves nothing. Post Office officials will obliterate almost anything in the shape of a stamp, whether essays, reprints, or what not. He himself has the 80 c. of the same issue, in orange on white, used, on the original letter, and he has often passed these essays through the post for amusement.

"Over and over again he has asked specialist dealers to send him the 20 c., blue on rose, on entire letter, with proofs of genuineness. Invariably it is the 20 c. on rosy violet that has been sent. One gentleman *did* send a 20 c. on rose, but on being pressed, he admitted that he had 'faked up' the letter with an essay. As the essay was worth £2, and the whole was offered for £20, it left a tempting profit.

"M. Maury's description of the border of the stamp only confirms M. Marconnet's contention. It is the *essays* that were printed on 'papier couché,' that is, white paper tinted on the face only. The stamps actually issued on tinted paper were all on 'papier de couleur colorié en pâte,' paper tinted throughout."



## New Zealand : New Issue.

RUMOURS of changes in the recently issued Waterlow series seem to gather force. The latest to hand is from the *Otago Witness*, as follows :—

“The following changes in the other stamps are also to be made as soon as practicable: The design at present in use for the 1d. (Lake Taupo) will be used for the 4d., and the present 4d. design (the White Terraces) for the 1d. This was the original intention, but in some way the designs were confused in London. The new 4d. will be printed in brown and blue tints, which have been so much admired in the present 1d. stamp; but opportunity will be taken to transpose the colours of the new 1d. and 9d. stamps, as being more suitable for the representations of the White and Pink Terraces. Future supplies of all stamps have been ordered to be printed on watermarked paper. The present 1d. design has to be printed in two colours, and is too expensive for a stamp which is used in such large numbers. At the late Postal Congress it was agreed that the colours of the ½d., 1d., and 2½d. stamps of countries within the Postal Union should be uniform. These colours were agreed upon: The ½d., green; 1d., red; 2½d., blue. A bungle has evidently been made here by the authorities, for of the three values the 2½d. is the only one printed in the correct colour. The change in colour to be made of the 1d. and 4d. stamps will bring the 1d. to its correct colour. There will then remain to print the ½d. in green. When this is done we may conclude that the colours will be finally settled—so far as regards these three values. There are only two stamps that have greenish tints—the 6d. is a yellow-green, and the 2s. a blue-green. The latter is a large stamp, and not likely to be confused with the ½d., and so will not need any alteration; but the 6d. might, in a bad light, be taken for the ¾d., and it may be found necessary to find a new colour for the 6d. But why should not these colours have been all arranged when the order was first given?”

## Great Britain : Control Letters.

MR. EWEN, in his *Weekly Circular*, announces that a new Control Letter has made its appearance at last—1d., lilac, letter W. He adds :—

“Sheets of stamps with the new letter have been on sale in Norwood since October 1st. The last letter (V) has been in use since May, 1897. From April, 1884, when the system of lettering the sheets commenced, to the end of 1890—six and a half years—thirteen letters, A to M, were brought into use, each having an average life of six months. Between January, 1891, and June, 1894—three and a half years—five letters were issued, remaining in use on an average eight months. Since July, 1894, five letters only have appeared, W

being the fifth, of which the first remained in use ten months, the second twelve months, the third thirteen months, and the fourth (V) seventeen months. As regards the Control Letters of the halfpenny stamps, sixteen letters have been brought into use, the first fourteen, A to N, having an average life of from six to nine months, whilst letter O was in use seventeen months, and P, still current, was first issued fifteen months ago.”

## Great Britain : Envelope Stamps.

MR. EWEN'S *Weekly Circular* announces that new dies of the sixpenny and shilling Envelope stamps were registered early this year: 6d., Nos. 43 to 48, and 1s., Nos. 16 to 19. “What the latter are required for is” (to him) “a mystery at present, die 14 of the 1s., now current, having been in use eight years, and die 15 being still in reserve. The 6d. dies are of course largely employed in stamping telegram forms. Of the Registration envelope dies, none have been registered since Nos. 37 to 43, in 1893. Die 50 is wrongly given in my No. 6 Catalogue as having been brought into use.”

## Railway Letter Fee Stamps.

As some collectors are apparently “plunging” in these stamps, the following information from Mr. Ewen's *Weekly Circular* will be acceptable to those of our readers who have joined “the crowd” :—

“Ninety-five railway companies have up to the present issued stamps—in this total fifteen railways which have changed their name are counted twice. As three lines changed their printers when requiring a fresh supply of stamps, there may be said to be 98 chief varieties. Of these 98, 31 were produced by Messrs. McCorquodale & Co. (19 at their London establishment and 12 at Glasgow), 15 by Messrs Waterlow & Sons, London; 10 by Messrs. Sealy, Bryers & Walker, Dublin; and 42 by 17 other firms. Of the 98 varieties of stamps, no less than 45 are printed in sheets of 12. The largest sheets contain 60 stamps, and measure 16 × 8½ inches, the smallest sheets having six stamps only. With three exceptions all Railway Letter Post stamps are lithographed, and with one exception on unwatermarked wove paper. In 25 cases the stamps bear black control numbers, Messrs. McCorquodale, London, being responsible for 15 of them. The colour is in all but seven cases green, although by no means uniform in shade. Five issues are in red or pink, and two in blue. All Railway Letter Post stamps are perforated, with the exception of those of Messrs. McCorquodale & Co., London, which are frequently rouletted. The first issue of the London, Chatham & Dover Railway was imperforate, as are also the issues of the East London Railway.”





## The Manchester Exhibition.

THE following is the paper read by the President, Mr. W. Dorning Beckton, at the opening meeting of the 1898-9 Session of the Manchester Philatelic Society:—

“There is no event of national importance that I am aware of calling for a commemorative exhibition of a philatelic nature being held next year, nor, on the other hand, do I see any great calamity in such being the case. It is quite true that a great event has happened this year in the long-proposed system of ocean penny postage in a limited degree having become an accomplished fact, and there is also a scintilla of reason upon which to ground the hope that during the coming year this system may be so extended as to virtually become, that which all Imperialists hope for, an Imperial Penny Post. However, what it seems to me is of far greater importance in considering the position is whether reasons, valid reasons, exist for holding a Philatelic Exhibition next year, whether the time is ripe for one. This is a question which I consider of paramount importance, because, although such exhibitions do an incalculable lot of good to our hobby in stirring up interest among us, in promoting friendly rivalry, and last, but by no means least, in affording philatelists the opportunity of congregating together, exchanging ideas, and cementing friendships, on the other hand an exhibition ill-timed would be doomed to failure, and create a state of affairs which would be infinitely worse than if it had not been held.

“Having these considerations before them, and after very careful consideration, your Committee have unanimously arrived at the conclusion that an International Philatelic Exhibition to be held in Manchester next summer would not be premature. It is quite possible to err, but I feel I am only re-echoing the sentiment not only of this Society, but of our many friends outside this Society, when I say that in this matter I most sincerely trust such will not prove to be the case.

“I should now like to remind you of how it is that the Committee of the Society have been so busy during the recess upon exhibition work. You will all remember the little display amongst the members held at the opening meeting last year, how enthusiastic all were in that display, and how many expressed the desire of holding an exhibition worthy of the Society. It was, however, then considered, and I feel sure rightly considered, too soon after the great Exhibition in London to think of starting another. The seed then sown, however,

grew, and as the result I felt I should not be echoing the voice of the Society if I omitted to mention the question at the annual meeting held in May last. The result was greater than I expected: you one and all took up the matter so warmly, offers of financial help, a most important element, were so freely extended, that the Committee felt it incumbent during the recess to carefully weigh the pros and cons, with the result that it has unanimously decided to recommend you to pass a resolution which will be presently moved, that an International Philatelic Exhibition be held in Manchester next summer, probably in July.

“To assist you in discussing the resolution I may perhaps be permitted to say that time did not allow anything like all well-known philatelists being consulted, and therefore the Committee decided not to approach any in an official capacity; at the same time I was allowed, as your President, to ascertain the opinions of two philatelists whose views always carry with them the greatest weight. The very encouraging letters I received from each of these philatelists warrant you in concluding that the Society will be assisted very materially in their undertaking.

“At the outset the question of the management of the Exhibition received prolonged considerations. It was a question whether the Committee of the Exhibition should assume a national aspect, as in the case of the London Exhibition in 1897, or be an exhibition held under the auspices of the Manchester Philatelic Society, and consequently confined, so far as the management is concerned, to members of the Society. We should very much have liked to have had the advantage of the assistance, the advice, and guidance of those who worked so hard and well in London, yet it was seen that the distance was too great to warrant our asking them to act on the Executive Committee.

“For this reason, and this reason alone, your Committee were forced to the conclusion that the only way was for the Exhibition to be held under the auspices of the Society, and for its members to take upon themselves the burden of the work. It must, however, be quite evident that the executive work cannot be done by the Society as a body, and thus the proper course to adopt is to appoint an Executive Committee of say twenty, who will be responsible to the Society for carrying out the details the Exhibition will involve.

“This Committee will then split themselves up into sub-committees as and when required.

“The Executive Committee will report to the Society from time to time, and each

member of the Society, although not on the Executive Committee, will on such occasions have the opportunity, not only of learning what is being done, but will also be entitled to make such suggestions and criticisms as may seem to him expedient.

"It is with this object in view that, as you will observe from the syllabus, the meetings during November (the month when most of the preliminary arrangements will be made) are devoted to exhibition work.

"On another point, the financial one, the Committee wish it to be understood that the whole of the guarantee fund will be raised amongst the members of the Society, and although they do not wish it to appear that promises of support in this direction from outside would be rejected, yet they trust that any philatelists who are good-natured enough to offer voluntarily to assist in this way will at the same time also pay a tribute to the Society by making a request for election as members. It must be distinctly understood that no one outside the Society will be invited to become a guarantor. There will be no canvassing at all in this way, and if anyone desires to help, let him communicate with our Hon. Secretary, who will, I am sure, attend to his communication with the utmost courtesy.

"I will now pass on to the general scheme of the Exhibition, and in this I am somewhat in a difficulty; for, although the Committee know exactly what they will aim to have, I find it no easy task to convey to you in a few words what that is.

"It is difficult to epitomize a prospectus taken before you, and when the prospectus is not written you will agree it is impossible. For those reasons, I cannot tell you everything, but I can say that the prospectus of the London Exhibition will be the groundwork upon which I suggest the prospectus will be written.

"An endeavour will be made to improve upon that prospectus by promoting greater competition amongst the philatelists in the front rank, and thus securing an exhibition which all taking part in as exhibitors may be proud of. At the same time a scheme will be part of the prospectus whereby the large body of medium collectors will have an opportunity of competing against one another for awards in the same way as the leading philatelists do, but without coming into competition with the latter, against whom it would, of course, be futile for them to exhibit. I have always felt very strongly that the medium collectors are in a most unfortunate position, as they know it is useless to exhibit against the more prominent collectors, and therefore they refrain from exhibiting at all. Now the result of this is that such collectors do not (how can they?) take

the same interest in an exhibition as if they were competing.

"I am satisfied also that amongst the class I have referred to—and it is a very much larger class than the collectors in the front rank—there are many enthusiasts. A little encouragement is only required to make them come prominently forward, which would conduce materially to the welfare of philately.

"What this scheme is I cannot for the moment lay before you. It has been the hardest nut the Committee have had to crack, and I cannot say it is quite cracked yet. A multitude of suggestions have been made. I invite you to make any you can, and I ask here for any your readers can make, which should be addressed, like all other communications concerning the Exhibition, to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. G. F. H. Gibson, Kersal, Manchester.

"Out of these suggestions, I have little hesitation in saying that a scheme will be devised which, although it may not be free from objections, and I have no doubt will be one which from its very nature will be open to criticism, yet at the same time will do more in effecting the object that it has in view than anything which has been attempted heretofore. For that reason, and for that reason alone, I hope to see widespread interest taken in the 1899 Exhibition.

"The Committee you elect to-night will get to work at once, and the prospectus will be submitted for your approval at the meeting on November 4. The following week it will be in collectors' hands, and thus they will be given ample time to digest the prospectus and get their stamps in order.

"Medals, gold, silver, and bronze, will be awarded in the different classes, and, as was the case in London, special medals given by third parties will be accepted by the Society.

"I have thought it better to mention this matter here, as, owing to nothing being said beforehand, in a prior exhibition several who, had they known, would gladly have offered special medals, did not do so.

"I ought to add that several philatelists have already promised to give medals (for special objects named by them), and any others or any society who wish to do the same are asked to intimate their desire to the Hon. Sec. as soon as possible, as it is desirable that the prospectus, which will be printed next month, should contain a list as complete as possible of such special medals.

"The special medals will be the same (except as to inscription) as those given by the Executive Committee of the Exhibition. The plan adopted in London will be followed, namely, the Exhibition Committee will include in their order for medals sufficient extra ones for the specials."





## Universal Private Telegraph Co.'s Stamps.

DEAR SIR,—I notice that I have two varieties of the Universal Private Telegraph Co.'s stamps not mentioned in Gibbons' *Monthly Journal*.

All my 6d. have *blue* control numbers (between 4000 and 4800), whereas Gibbons gives only lilac and green. Of the 1s. I have some with *yellow* control numbers, Gibbons giving only black, lilac, green, red, and brown, making, therefore, at least 9 varieties. There appear to have been 100 sheets of each printed. May I suggest that you publish a list, as far as possible, showing the colours

of the control numbers? That given below is as far as I can give it.

Yours truly,

H. L'ESTRANGE EWEN.

1s.		6d.	
No. of Sheets.	Colour.	No. of Sheets.	Colour.
1	brown	13	(illustrated in Philbrick and Westoby)
4		15	lilac
13		41	blue (illustrated in Gibbons' Catalogue)
20	rose	42	blue
30	lilac		
60	black	44	blue
65	green	45	
90		48	
98	yellow	74	green

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# The Philatelic Record

AND STAMP NEWS.

DECEMBER, 1898.

## Editorial Notes.



WITH this number we relinquish the editorial control of the *Philatelic Record*. For three years we have endeavoured to the best of our ability to produce what should be, from our journalistic point of view, an ideal philatelic journal. Our friends assure us we have largely succeeded. We relinquish the task, but we adhere to our belief in the ideal.

In parting from the *Philatelic Record* it is only right that we **Valedictory** should acknowledge and emphasize the fact that the publishers **Editorial.** have never once interfered with our editorial control of the literary portion of the journal. They have, in this respect, adhered to the best tradition of English philatelic journalism; for our leading journals, despite the fact that they have mostly been owned and published by members of the trade, have been uniformly edited by independent and experienced collectors, who have always had full and free control of the literary portion of the journals committed to their care. We trust this tradition will ever be a characteristic of English philatelic journals.

\* \* \*

**Imperial** THE Imperial Penny Postage rate comes into force on **Penny** Christmas Day, and it is said that most, if not all the Colonies, **Postage.** with the marked exception of the Australians, will come into the arrangement. India, which was doubtful, has already signified her assent to the arrangement. It is to be hoped that before it has been long in operation it will become in reality Imperial in its scope. Indeed, it seems more than probable that the United States will also fall into line, for the course of recent events has materially tended to strengthen the ties that bind the two great English-speaking nations together. The increase in the number of letters which cannot fail to result from so great a cheapening of the rates is relied upon to make good some, at least, of the anticipated loss to revenue. The more sanguine believe that the increase will be so great as to practically wipe out the loss altogether. Should it do so, the impetus that will be given to intercommunication between the Mother Country and the Colonies will be incalculable.

\* \* \*

**The Coming Catalogues and Prices.** WE have had, and still have, a famine in catalogues, but before the end of the year there is to be an end to the cry for up-to-date lists, for we are to have at least two fully equipped and fully illustrated.

New features may be expected in each. English stamps will of course be fully and freely illustrated. But it is in the matter of pricing that our curiosity will anticipate revelations and revolutions. The general belief that most stamps, especially medium stamps, have been overpriced is evidenced by the prevalent advertisement of stamps at "half Gibbons." This kind of advertisement, so ruinous to trade as a whole, and, we should imagine, most galling to the publishers of the depreciated catalogue, it is said is to be effectually snuffed out of existence by such a lowering of prices as will completely turn the tables upon the 50 percenters. If the 50 percenters can buy to sell at a profit after making a reduction of catalogue prices of 50 per cent., it follows that the leading firm can sell at an equally low rate. The injury to trade will arise when the 50 percenters can no longer offer 50 per cent. to their customers. Having been admitted to a half-share in the profits, for a time their pampered customers will not take kindly to an entire stoppage of discounts, and in order to appease the abnormal appetite which he has generated, the 50 percenter will find himself between the devil and the deep sea, between the threatened loss of an artificially created *clientèle* and a serious yielding up of the sweets of profits further reduced at one stroke by 50 per cent. Of course he can and will explain that Gibbons has reduced prices in his new catalogue to such a level that a 50 per cent. discount is no longer possible, and he will be let off so large a discount as 50 per cent.; but the thirst for discounts will remain, and having been inaugurated may be as difficult to get rid of as the discounts in the book trade, which, by the way, began in much the same throat-cutting fashion, and are now a permanent feature in the bookselling trade. Books on which there is no discount hang fire, so, it is possible, the 50 percenters may find their stamps hang fire if they cut off their discounts.



## Stray Notes on Transvaals.

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.

### Status of Officially Issued Forgeries.



WHAT is the status of an officially issued forgery? Those friends who are fond of discussing nice points of philatelic doctrine may take into their earnest consideration and finally settle for us the status of officially issued forgeries. For instance, to give a case in point, the Transvaal, apparently on more than one occasion, no doubt in ignorance, purchased, and subsequently issued for use, some of the Mecklenburg forgeries. Every post office, of course, redeems, *i.e.*, buys back at given discounts, the stamps it issues when presented in strips or sheets in an unused condition. The Transvaal Government, apparently under this arrangement, became possessed of forgeries of the 3d. and 6d. of the first republic, and subsequently issued them, and many of them were undoubtedly used to pay postage, and used in good faith. They were officially sold in ignorance, and therefore in good faith, and were also naturally bought and used by the public in ignorance and good faith. I was myself offered a sheet of the 6d. forgery, which was bought direct from the Post Office in the old days by a well-known collector who had not dreamt of suspecting an official supply; and Mr. Tamsen, in his Transvaal articles in the *Monthly Journal*, says, "In 1880 I purchased several dozen of the 3d., Type II., printed in blue, in the General Post Office in Pretoria, and paid face value for them, and I certainly believed at the time that I had bought genuine errors of impression, and it was only years afterwards that I found out that they must have been of Mecklenburg origin, and of no philatelic value whatever."

The purchase and issue of the 6d. forgery may be forgiven; but it is hard to understand the official purchase of so patent a forgery as a stamp printed in the wrong colour. However, there are the facts. The stamps were forgeries. They were bought by the Post Office, and subsequently issued. Are they official issues and entitled in their used form to a place in a collection? or, are we to set up and adhere to the dictum—once a forgery always a forgery? I certainly vote for their rigorous exclusion, though I shall not fail to preserve a copy or two as curiosities.

The whole business is after all only one of many proofs of the absolute necessity of the encouragement and official recognition of the detective capacities of the earnest philatelist.

### The Sale of Mr. Pearce's Collection.

Mr. Pearce's splendid specialized collection of Transvaals has been scattered far and wide under the auctioneer's hammer. The owner regrets, as every specialist will ever regret, the miserable prices which some of the early, but unrecognized, gems fetched. The specialist who dips deeply into the unwritten history of his treasures learns to prize many stamps which find



no place in the every-day catalogue of the general collector, but which are, nevertheless, the gems of his collection, and must some day be rated, by reason of their real rarity, at their full value. The well-known and well-advertised plums of the collection, however, sold well at advanced prices. The record price of the sale certainly went far to show that Transvaals are at last beginning to be understood and properly valued. The rare yellow-green shilling—the last shilling issued by the first republic—may easily be identified by comparing it with the shilling surcharged under the British occupation. It is surmised that this printing of the shilling by the first republic must have taken place close to the time of the British occupation, that few were issued, and that the remainders, being the bulk of the printing, were surcharged “V.R. TRANSVAAL” by the British authorities. An unsurcharged and unused pair of this shilling brought the record price of £9; not a penny too much, but still a long way in advance of any hitherto recorded price. I am happy to say my collection includes an unused mint pair and a single and several used copies, including a fine roulette and a wide roulette.

Here is a list of the plums and the prices which they brought:—

<i>Lot</i>	FIRST REPUBLIC.	<i>£ s. d.</i>
30.	6d., imperf., <i>tête-bêche</i> pair, unused on previously gummed paper, local print . . . . .	5 0 0
42.	1s., 1870, used, vertical pair, <i>tête-bêche</i> , local print on thick paper . . . . .	7 0 0
99.	1d., 1874, Natal printing, perf. 12½, strip of five, unused . . . . .	5 0 0
174.	1s., yellow-green, pair, imperf., unused . . . . .	9 0 0
BRITISH OCCUPATION.		
186.	3d., “V. R. TRANSVAAL,” red surcharge, wider apart variety, used . . . . .	12 10 0
188.	3d., “V. R. TRANSVAAL,” double surcharge, one in red and one in black . . . . .	19 10 0
199.	1d., red, “V. R. TRANSVAAL,” unused strip of three, the centre stamp being the great rarity with “V. R.” and “TRANSVAAL” printed wider apart . . . . .	13 0 0
200.	A very fine used copy of the same variety . . . . .	8 5 0
232.	6d., blue, imperf., “V. R. TRANSVAAL” wider apart, black surcharge, used . . . . .	7 15 0
233.	6d., same variety, but surcharge inverted . . . . .	9 15 0
239.	1s., yellow-green, “V. R. TRANSVAAL,” red surcharge, a very fine imperf. strip of three, the centre stamp being the wider apart rarity, unused . . . . .	19 0 0
240.	1s., yellow-green, “V. R. TRANSVAAL,” black surcharge, one stamp being the wider apart rarity, unused . . . . .	16 10 0
257.	1s., yellow green, “V. R. TRANSVAAL,” black surcharge, a very fine unused <i>tête-bêche</i> pair with wide roulette on right-hand margin . . . . .	16 0 0
265.	6d., blue on rose, imperf., without surcharge . . . . .	15 0 0
276.	1d., red on blue, imperf., error “Transvral,” stained at top and thinned at back . . . . .	27 0 0
348.	6d., blue on blue, imperf., “V. R. Transvaal,” surcharge inverted, used . . . . .	5 15 0
SECOND REPUBLIC.		
420.	“Halve Penny” on 1s., green, an unused block of four, with surcharge reading upward, one stamp being <i>tête-bêche</i> . . . . .	6 6 0

The most notable record prices are the 1s., yellow-green, already noted, and the 6d., blue on blue, with “V. R. Transvaal” inverted, at £5 15s., and the “Halve Penny” on 1s., *tête-bêche*, at £6 6s. The latter, though a record price, is by no means up to its real value, for there were only 120 in all of this *tête-bêche* variety of the “Halve Penny” on 1s., green. Still, at another sale on the following day a couple of these extremely rare blocks fetched only £3 5s. each—such is ignorance. If collectors will not read the philatelic journals, and note the relative rarity of stamps, they will have only themselves to blame when good chances of securing great rarities slip through their hands.

# International Philatelic Exhibition,

## MANCHESTER, 1899.



E have received an advance copy of the programme of the International Philatelic Exhibition, which it is proposed to hold in Manchester in June next, and have much pleasure in publishing the Rules and Regulations, the grouping of the classes, and the awards.

Our Manchester friends are to be congratulated upon having secured such excellent Rooms for the Exhibition as the Manchester City Art Gallery, which cannot fail to be satisfactory in every respect.

We note also a very commendable extension of the list of prizes to special awards for the various provincial societies, by which provision members of each society will be enabled to compete internationally and, at the same time, locally amongst themselves.

### RULES AND REGULATIONS.

1.—Exhibits in Classes I., II., and III. must be mounted on cards or loose pages. Although no special size of cards or other material is obligatory, it is hoped that exhibitors who mount their stamps specially for the Exhibition will, as far as possible, endeavour to assist the Committee in securing uniformity, for the sake of economising the space at their disposal. This object will be attained by the use of cards of the following sizes, viz., 10 inches by 9 inches, or  $9\frac{5}{8}$  inches by  $11\frac{1}{2}$  inches, and, if desired, cards measuring  $9\frac{1}{2}$  inches by  $11\frac{3}{8}$  inches can be supplied on application to the Secretary at a trifling cost. *The sizes in centimetres will be  $25\frac{1}{2}$  by  $22\frac{3}{4}$ , or  $24\frac{1}{2}$  by  $28\frac{3}{8}$ . The size of the frames will be 40 inches by 36 inches (inside measurement), so that each frame will carry 16 sheets 10 inches by 9 inches, and 12 sheets  $9\frac{5}{8}$  inches by  $11\frac{1}{2}$  inches.*

2.—A charge for space will be made on the following scale :—

For each frame or part of frame occupied in Classes I. and II.	4/-
For each exhibit in Class III.	5/-
For each album or volume shown in Classes IV., V., VI., VIII., and IX.	5/-
For each exhibit in Class X.	5/-
Class XI. Charge will be made according to nature and size of exhibit	minimum charge, 2/6
Class VII. No charge will be made.	

Arrangements have been made by the Committee for insurance against loss by fire or theft of exhibits while in the custody of the Committee, either before or during the continuance of the Exhibition and after the close of the Exhibition, until despatched for return to the owners. An inclusive charge of 2/6 will be made for each £100 insured. Owners of exhibits desiring to insure, and paying the prescribed amount, will have the benefit of the policy effected by the Committee to the extent of the value at which such exhibits are accepted for insurance, but no personal liability is in any event incurred by the Committee in regard to loss.

The charge for space and insurance (if any) will be payable by the exhibitor on sending in his exhibit.

All exhibits will be returned free of charge to their owners, by post or otherwise, but transmission will in all cases be at the sole risk of the owner, insurance in course of transit (if any) being paid by him.

3.—Notice of the nature and extent of the exhibits, with the value for insurance, should be sent to the Secretary as early as possible, *but not later than the 1st May, 1899*, on the accompanying form.





E.—Any two of the following: Antigua, Bermuda, Cook Islands, Dominica, Falkland Islands, Gambia, Gibraltar, Gold Coast, Hong Kong, Ionian Islands, Jamaica, Lagos, Leeward Islands, Malta, Madagascar, Montserrat, North Borneo, Prince Edward Island, St. Christopher, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Tobago, Virgin Islands, Uganda, Zanzibar, Zululand.

*Awards.*—1 Silver and 2 Bronze Medals.

DIVISION 2.—Europe.

A.—Austria, Austrian Italy and Hungary, France and Monaco, Greece, Roumania with Moldo-Wallachia, Russia, Finland, Russian Levant, Livonia, Wenden and Poland, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey.

*Awards.*—1 Gold, 2 Silver, and 1 Bronze Medal.

B.—Germany (any two of the following): Baden, Bavaria, Bergedorf, Bremen, Brunswick, German Confederation and Empire (including Alsace and Lorraine), Hamburg, Hanover, Lübeck, Mecklenburg-Schwerin and Strelitz, Oldenburg, Prussia, Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein, Thurn and Taxis, Wurtemberg, Italy (any two of the following): Italy, Modena, Naples, Papal States, Parma, Romagna, Sardinia, Sicily, Tuscany.

*Awards.*—1 Gold, 1 Silver, and 1 Bronze Medal.

C.—Bulgaria, Southern Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia, Servia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina (any three), Roumania, Russian Locals, Switzerland (including Federals, but excluding the Cantonals, Orts Post and Poste Locale). Germany (any three of the following): Baden, Brunswick, German Confederation and Empire, Alsace and Lorraine, Hanover, Lübeck, Mecklenburg-Schwerin and Strelitz, Prussia, Thurn and Taxis. Italy (any three of the following): Italy, Papal States, Parma, Romagna, Sardinia, San Marino, Sicily, Eritrea.

*Awards.*—2 Silver and 1 Bronze Medal.

D.—Belgium, Denmark and Iceland, Holland, Luxemburg, Norway, Portugal, Sweden.

*Awards.*—2 Silver and 1 Bronze Medal.

DIVISION 3.—Asia and Africa.

A.—Afghanistan, Japan, Philippine Islands, Portuguese Indies, Transvaal.

*Awards.*—1 Gold and 1 Silver Medal.

B.—Azores and Madeira, Egypt and Suez Canal, New Republic, Persia, Shanghai and China (no locals).

*Awards.*—1 Silver and 1 Bronze Medal.

C.—Any four French Colonies or Possessions, any four Portuguese Colonies or Possessions, Orange Free State and Swaziland. Any four of the following:—Congo, Liberia, Dutch Indies, Sarawak, Siam, Corea, Formosa, German Colonies.

*Awards.*—2 Bronze Medals.

DIVISION 4.—America.

A.—Brazil, Buenos Ayres, Bolivia, Colombian Republic (including various States), Hawaii, Mexico (including locals), Peru and Pacific Steam Navigation Co., San Domingo.

*Awards.*—1 Gold, 2 Silver, and 1 Bronze Medal.

B.—Confederate States of America (including Postmaster stamps), United States of America (including Postmaster stamps), United States Locals.

*Awards.*—1 Gold and 1 Silver Medal.

C.—Argentine Confederation and Republic, Chili, Cuba, Porto Rico and Fernando Poo, Uruguay, Venezuela and La Guaira, Hawaii, from 1864, and Tonga. Any two of the following: Corrientes and Cordoba, Costa Rica, Curaçao and Surinam, Danish West Indies, Ecuador, Hayti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Salvador, Guatemala, Paraguay, Samoa.

*Awards.*—1 Silver and 2 Bronze Medals.

DIVISION 5.

A.—Any three countries in Europe.

B.—Any three countries in Asia or Africa.

C.—Any three British Colonies or Possessions in Australia, North America, or Asia.

D.—Any three British Colonies, Protectorates, or Possessions in Europe, Africa, or West Indies.

E.—Any three countries in America or elsewhere, and not coming within the definition of sub-divisions A, B, C, D.

*Awards.*—1 Bronze Medal in each sub-division.

N.B.—Division 5 is not intended for the advanced specialist, and no one who has gained a medal at the Exhibition in London in 1897 is eligible to compete.

## CLASS III.

## For Collections of Rare Stamps.

DIVISION 1.—Each exhibit to consist of not less than 75, nor more than 100.  
 Division 2.—" " " " not more than 50 stamps, and each stamp in Division 2 not to exceed catalogue (Stanley Gibbons) value of £2 each.

*Awards.*—DIVISION 1.—1 Gold and 1 Silver Medal.

" " 2.—1 Silver and 1 Bronze Medal.

N.B.—In Division 1, pairs or blocks of the same stamp will be counted as one; where blocks or pairs are shown, however, the total exhibit must not contain more than 200 stamps (each stamp in the block for this purpose being counted separately).

## CLASS IV.

Will consist of entire General Collections of Postal Adhesives, with or without Envelopes, Post Cards, &c., in albums or volumes, not less than 10 countries to be shown in any exhibit in Divisions 1, 2, and 3.

DIVISION 1.—Without limit as to number.

*Awards.*—1 Gold and 1 Silver Medal.

DIVISION 2.—Total number not to exceed 10,000.

*Awards.*—1 Silver and 1 Bronze Medal.

DIVISION 3.—Total number not to exceed 5,000.

*Awards.*—2 Bronze Medals.

DIVISION 4.—Collections of British Railway Stamps.

*Award.*—1 Bronze Medal.

DIVISION 5.—Special Collections of a single Country.

*Awards.*—1 Silver and 1 Bronze Medal.

DIVISION 6.—Special Collections of any three of the British Colonies, all of whose stamps are obsolete at the date of this prospectus.

*Award.*—1 Silver Medal.

DIVISION 7.—Special Group Collections.

N.B.—In the grouping of Collections in Division 7, regard must be paid to considerations of either a Geographical, Historical, or Political character.

*Award.*—1 Silver Medal.

## CLASS V.

DIVISION 1.—For Collections of entire Envelopes and Wrappers, one or more of the Countries or combination of Countries enumerated below:—

Austria, Hungary, and Lombardy, Great Britain, Germany and all States, Mauritius, Russia, Finland and Poland, United States of America.

DIVISION 2.—Not less than three of any Countries not enumerated in Division 1.

*Awards.*—DIVISION 1.—1 Gold and 1 Silver Medal.

" " 2.—1 Silver and 1 Bronze Medal.

## CLASS VI.

Will consist of Collections of entire Post Cards and Letter Cards.

DIVISION 1.—One or more of the Countries or combinations of Countries enumerated below.

Russia and Finland, Germany and all States, Jamaica, Barbados and Trinidad, Japan, Luxemburg, Belgium, Mexico, Roumania, Spain and Colonies.

DIVISION 2.—Not less than three of any Countries not enumerated in Division 1.

*Awards.*—DIVISION 1.—1 Silver and 1 Bronze Medal.

" " 2.—1 Bronze Medal.

CLASS VII.

For Exhibits by Stamp Engravers and Manufacturers of Postage Stamps and Telegraph Stamps.

N.B.—Stamps shown by any person, firm, or company, in this Class must be limited to specimens of their own work, and may comprise Stamps as issued, Proofs, or Essays, or all three.

*Awards.*—2 Silver Medals with Diplomas.

CLASS VIII.

For Philatelic Literature and Works.

DIVISION 1.—Current Philatelic Journals Exhibited by the Publishers.

„ 2.—Philatelic Works published since 31st October, 1890, and shown by the Publishers.

N.B.—In the case of serial publications in Division 1, *the last volume published only to be shown.*

*Awards.*—DIVISION 1.—2 Bronze Medals with Diplomas.

„ 2.— „ „ „ „

CLASS IX.

For Albums, &c.

DIVISION, 1.—The most suitable Album or Book for a special collection.

„ 2.— „ „ „ „ general „

*Awards.*—DIVISION 1.—2 Bronze Medals with Diplomas.

„ 2.— „ „ „ „

CLASS X.

For Philatelic Accessories and Appliances for use by Collectors.

*Awards.*—2 Diplomas.

CLASS XI.

Special arrangement of Stamps, Stamps on Original Letter Sheets or Envelopes, Proofs, Essays, Curiosities, and Objects of Interest in connection with Philately and the Postal Service (including engravings).

*Awards.*—2 Bronze Medals.

A SPECIAL GOLD MEDAL, being the Grand Prize of the Exhibition, will be given for the most meritorious exhibit of Adhesive Postage Stamps shown in the Exhibition.

No exhibitor can take more than one prize in each class (exclusive of Special Prizes) except in Class II., in which Class not more than two prizes may be taken by one exhibitor.

The Judges shall be at liberty to withhold any prize if from insufficiency of competition, or for any other reason, they shall think that it should not be awarded.

THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL PRIZES WILL ALSO BE AWARDED :

MANCHESTER PHILATELIC SOCIETY.—1 Gold and 1 Silver Medal for the two best exhibits in Class II. shown by a Philatelist resident out of the British Isles.

1 Silver Medal to the Society whose members figure most numerous in the list of exhibitors.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.—1 Gold Medal for the finest Special Collection of any one country, having regard to the difficulty in forming it, apart from the monetary value.

1 Silver Medal for the best Special or General Collection shown by a lady.

HERTS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.—1 Silver Medal for the best exhibit by a member of the Herts Philatelic Society in Class II.



- LEEDS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.—1 Silver Medal for the best exhibit shown by a member of the Leeds Philatelic Society.
- Mr. H. A. STAMFORD (President of the SHEFFIELD PHILATELIC SOCIETY).—1 Silver Medal for the best exhibit shown by a member of the Sheffield Philatelic Society.
- Mr. W. T. WILSON (President of the BIRMINGHAM PHILATELIC SOCIETY).—1 Silver and one Bronze Medal for the two best exhibits shown by a member of the Birmingham Philatelic Society.
- Mr. J. H. ABBOT.—1 Silver Medal for the best exhibit from Scotland.  
1 Silver Medal for the best exhibit from Ireland.
- Mr. W. DORNING BECKTON (President of the MANCHESTER PHILATELIC SOCIETY).—1 Gold Medal for the most meritorious exhibit amongst those which have gained a Silver Medal in the open competition in Class II.  
1 Silver Medal for the most meritorious exhibit amongst those which have gained a Bronze Medal in the open competition in Class II.
- Mr. WILLIAM BROWN.—1 Silver and 1 Bronze Medal for the two best collections of stamps issued since 1890, and shown in Class IV., Division 3.
- Mr. J. E. HEGINBOTTOM, B.A.—One Gold Medal for the best exhibit of West Indies.  
One Silver Medal for the best exhibit in Class IV., shown by an exhibitor under 21.
- Mr. W. H. PECKITT.—One Gold and one Silver Medal for the two most meritorious exhibits, regard being paid primarily to the question of condition, in Class III.  
One Gold and one Silver Medal for the two most meritorious exhibits in Class I.
- Mr. ERNEST PETRI.—1 Silver and 1 Bronze Medal for the two best exhibits shown by a lady resident within a radius of 15 miles from the Manchester Royal Exchange.
- Messrs. STANLEY GIBBONS, Ltd.—1 Gold and 1 Silver Medal for the two best collections of Australian Stamps.  
1 Silver and 1 Bronze Medal for the two best collections shown by a youth under 21 in Class IV., in an album of English manufacture.
- Mr. VERNON ROBERTS.—1 Gold Medal for the best exhibit shown in Class II., Division 1.  
1 Silver Medal for the best exhibit of St. Lucia.  
1 Silver Medal for the best exhibit from Wales.
- Mr. GEORGE H. CALLF.—1 Silver Medal for the best exhibit of Sydney Views.
- Mr. ADOLF. ROSENBERG.—1 Silver Medal for the best exhibit shown by a German resident in Germany.
- Mr. THOMAS BECKTON.—1 Silver Medal for the best exhibit by a member of the Manchester Philatelic Society failing to obtain a Medal in the open competition.  
1 Silver Medal for the best exhibit in Class II., Division 5.
- Mr. ARTHUR H. HARRISON.—1 Silver Medal for the best collection of either Sweden, Norway, or Denmark and Iceland, shown in Class II., Division 2, D, by an exhibitor resident in any of these countries.
- Mr. G. FRED. H. GIBSON.—1 Silver Medal for the best exhibit in Classes I. or II., shown by a member of a Provincial Philatelic Society (Manchester excluded).
- Mr. D. OSTARA.—1 Silver Medal for the most meritorious exhibit of Adhesives on entire shown in Class IV.
- Mr. G. B. DUERST.—1 Silver and 1 Bronze Medal for the two best exhibits shown by an exhibitor resident within a radius of 20 miles of the Manchester Royal Exchange, and not a member of the Manchester Philatelic Society.

2 Silver and 2 Bronze Medals will be placed at the disposal of the Judges, to award all or any as they think fit to exhibitors whose exhibits display the most Philatelic knowledge, regard being had to individual research.

Any further Special Medals which may be offered to and accepted by the Executive Committee will be published in the *London Philatelist*.



# Sydney Views : Collectible Varieties.

By M. P. CASTLE.

*From the "London Philatelist."*

IT is striking testimony to the attractions of the Australian stamps that they should so firmly maintain their hold upon our affections. Although "the old order changeth," there are now in this country alone many enthusiastic specialists of the stamps of Oceania, some confining their attention to one country, but the majority "taking all Australia." I have on several occasions been approached by collectors of the latter stamp for advice as to the scope of their collecting, *i.e.*, where they should draw the line as to varieties.

Despite bushels of sound advice, the specialist is often apt to accumulate according to his opportunity, and to discard nothing, with the result that in the long-run he has many duplicates and many blanks. In order to avoid this, the man who intends to spread his energies over so wide a group as Australia would do wisely to look ahead and lay down his foundations on the bed rock of finiteness. In my humble judgment those Australian collectors who wish to achieve the last-named and difficult quality would do well to discard plating.

Everything concerning the plates of New South Wales and Tasmania has been learnt, and even in Victoria there is nothing momentous to be unearthed, although much is yet unexplained. There is, however, no real necessity for our would-be "finite" Australian specialist to take all these type varieties, as an autotype or photograph of each plate can be placed at the end of the respective volumes for reference, etc.

The difficulty of "drawing the line" does not, however, end here, as there are certain long-recognized varieties on some plates, the non-possession of which would constitute a defect in the eyes of the critic—or of the Exhibition jury. In the case of Victoria, Issue 1, the value omitted is a stamp that should be taken—when it can be got! In Queensland, South Australia, New Zealand, West Australia, and Tasmania the type sub-varieties are also but few in number.

It is in New South Wales that the chief difficulty occurs. In the Laureated series there are some six or eight salient variations from the remaining specimens on the plate that have been long dignified as errors, while on the registered plates there is no specimen strikingly at variance with its compeers. As regards the all-important first issue, there are really but seven errors of importance, *e.g.* :—

- |      |            |  |
|------|------------|--|
| 1d., | Plate II., | hill unshaded.                             |
| "    | "          | " no clouds.                               |
| 2d., | " I.,      | background of <i>all</i> diagonal strokes. |
| "    | " II.,     | "CREVIT" omitted.                          |
| "    | "          | " pick and shovel omitted.                 |
| "    | " III.     | (first retouch), fan with 6 segments.      |
| "    | "          | (second " ) " " " "                        |

There is assuredly no necessity or advantage—to the Australian specialist—in collecting each of these varieties on the different papers. The absurdity of this is shown in Scott's *Catalogue for Advanced Collectors*, where by listing each variety on each kind of paper no less than 137 varieties of Sydneys are listed. In Stanley Gibbons' *Catalogue* (1897), by avoiding this repetition, the list is compressed to 43 varieties, and in this same firm's new *Imperial Album*, which appeals, however, to the general collector, the total is diminished to about 24.

In "drawing the line" (for the Australian specialist), however, there are two further considerations, *e.g.*, the paper employed and the colours used, and it is because these two elements are so important in connection with the Sydney Views that I have advised our friends to aim at *the real completeness of a specimen of each printing*, and not to attempt the impossible task of recruiting types on the different papers. In those early days of colonial printing the mixing of the colours and the selection of the paper presented the greatest variety, hence the gathering together of these will be found to afford the fullest interest.

I append a list of the several papers employed and of the shades found thereon, which was compiled some time back from my own collection and observation, and afterwards submitted to competent experts. From this list, which may be deemed fairly inclusive, it will be seen that all the distinct shades on all the paper varieties can be compassed in about 90 specimens, and if to these be added the seven (or, say, ten) "errors" of type, it will be seen that to the patient specialist the horizon of *completeness* in Sydney Views is bounded by the acquisition of about one hundred specimens. Q.E.F.

## ISSUE I. OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

### SYNOPSIS OF SHADES AND PAPERS.

#### 1d. Plate I.

- A. *Paper—soft, yellowish wove.*  
Pale carmine-red. Full carmine-red. Lake-red (shades). Bright brick-red.  
Bright brownish red. Dull lake. Rose to pink. Brownish red.
- B. *Paper—hard, closely ribbed, bluish to almost white.*  
Dull brownish red. Lake-red. Dull pink.
- C. *Paper—hard, bluish.*  
Dull pink (shades). Reddish pink. Brownish red.  
Bright red (the only specimen I have seen of this value).

#### 1d. Plate II.

- A. *Paper—hard, yellowish.*  
Vermilion. Bright red. Orange-vermilion. Brownish red.
- B. *Paper—hard, bluish.*  
Crimson-lake. Brownish lake.
- C. *Paper—blued on both sides.*  
Dull pink. Dull brownish pink.
- D. *Paper—hard, dull greyish.*  
Rich lake (generally known by the expression "gooseberry," which faithfully represents the shade).
- E. *Paper—grey.*  
Dull red. Dull brownish red.
- F. *Paper—bluish to yellowish, laid (or ribbed) horizontally.*  
Deep crimson. Crimson-lake. Warm brownish red. Dark red. Bright red.



## 2d. Plate I.

*Paper—soft, medium, thick, and yellowish.*

*Early impressions (showing full details, etc).*

Greyish blue. Pale blue. Indigo-blue. Violet-blue.

Prussian blue (very rarely seen in this condition of plate).

*As preceding, but plate more worn.*

Dull blue. Greyish blue (pale to full). Prussian blue.

*The later worn specimens also include:—*

Dark greyish blue. Light blue. Blue. Prussian blue.

## 2d. Plate I. (retouch).

*Paper—as last.*

Pale blue. Milky blue. Prussian blue. Blue.

## 2d. Plate II.

*Paper—as last.*

*Early impressions showing full clouds and details.*

Pale milky blue. Pale blue. Deep chalky blue. Bright blue.

Dark blue. Prussian blue.

*As preceding, but more yellowish.*

Blue. Blue-violet (light to dark).

*As preceding, but with plate gradually becoming more worn.*

(a) Dull blue. Bright blue. Prussian blue.

*Paper—hard (occasionally showing narrow vertical ribbing).*

(b) Dull blue. Bright blue. Prussian blue.

## 2d. Plate III.

A. *Paper—hard and greyish.*

Ultramarine (this is a very scarce variety, and I do not remember seeing a specimen other than in my own collection). Lilac-blue. Pale to full blue (shades).

B. *Paper—rather harder; and impressions showing less distinctly.*

Deep bright blue. Deep lilac-blue.

## 2d. Plate III. (first retouch).

*Paper—hard, blue to grey.*

Dark slaty blue. Rich dark blue. Prussian blue. Deep ultramarine. Violet-blue.

*Paper—laid (or ribbed) vertically, and yellowish.*

Dullish blue (shades).

## 2d. Plate III. (second retouch).

*Paper—hard, grey.*

Violet-blue (shades), as last.

*Paper—laid (or ribbed) vertically.*

Violet-blue (shades).

## 3d.

*Paper—hard, bluish.*

Bright green. Dull green. Apple-green. Full green. Brownish green.

*Paper—soft, yellowish wove.*

Slightly bluish green. Green. Deep apple-green. Myrtle-green (shades). (Rare.)

*Paper—soft, bluish to greyish.*

Emerald-green. Dull brownish green. Pale green.

*Paper—horizontally laid (or ribbed).*

Yellowish green. Dull green.

*Paper—as last, but bluish.*

Pale yellowish green. (Extremely rare; only one or two copies known.)



## British Empire.

**British Central Africa.**—The *London Philatelist* says that several hundred copies of the Provisional 1d. Internal Revenue stamp were initialled by the postmaster of British Central Africa to prevent forgery, but, says the *L.P.*, "the operation proving irksome, was suspended." We understand about £150 worth, face value, of these stamps were issued. Some of the stamps were officially perforated at Zomba. The *L.P.* adds that it is rumoured that the entire current issue is to receive some surcharge ("V.R." suggested) in order to frustrate any attempt to dispose of the case of stamps said to have been stolen in transit.

**British East Africa.**—The *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* has seen the 1 a., Zanzibar, Sultan's head, with the surcharge "British—East—Africa" in red instead of black.

**Canada.**—Report says that the Dominion intends to mark the inauguration of Imperial Penny Postage with a special postage stamp. The *Outlook* Ottawa correspondent writes:—

"Mr. Mulock, the Postmaster-General, has chosen the new inaugurating stamp. It is in the form of a miniature map of the world distinguishing British possessions and illustrating the relative vastness of the empire, in which Canada, of course, plays a prominent part."

A postage stamp even of the large plaster type, which "distinguishes British possessions and illustrates the vastness of the empire," will indeed be a *multum in parvo*, and probably the less said the better in anticipation of the realisation of such an apparently absurd idea for a design on such a small engraving as a postage stamp needs to be.

**Gibraltar.**—*Morocco Agencies.*—The *M. J.* says that on one stamp in each sheet of some

(probably all) of the values surcharged "Morocco—Agencies," the "A" of the second word has no cross bar, but is like an inverted "V." The stamp is No. 36 on the right-hand pane, and the *M. J.* understands the stamps were overprinted in half sheets, 120 at a time.

**Queensland.**—The *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* chronicles the 4d. value with figures in all four corners.

*Adhesive.*  
4d., yellow.

**St. Vincent.**—On the 1st of January the old, and much admired, Perkins Bacon design will give place to a new series, presumably of the stereotyped De la Rue caste.

**Uganda.**—The *Timbre-Poste* announces and illustrates a new and specially designed regular issue for this Protectorate. The stamps are evidently the work of Messrs. De la Rue, and have a close resemblance to the current issue of British East Africa. On a shield in the centre is a portrait of Her Majesty. In a label crossing the upper part of the shield are the words "Uganda Protectorate"; below the shield the words "Postage—Revenue," one word on either side, and at the bottom of the stamp, in a white label, the words of value. There are no figures of value. There are two types, one of the regulation small size for the lower values up to 8 annas, and a larger size for the rupee values. The small stamps are watermarked CA and the larger series CC. Perf. 14.

*Adhesives.*

1 a., carmine.  
2 a., lilac-brown.  
3 a., grey.  
4 a., deep green.  
8 a., olive.  
1 r., ultramarine.  
5 r., brown.

## Foreign Countries.

**Austria.**—*Hungary.*—According to the *Monthly Journal* "a new watermark has been introduced here. Instead of interlaced ovals (34×39 mm.), with the letters 'kr' in the centre, we find ovals, 44×48 mm., overlapping to a smaller extent, and with the

Hungarian Crown in the centre. It seems to take a block of six stamps—two horizontal rows of three—to show the new watermark; the old one might come into a block of four. The specimens before us show the watermark sideways in both cases."

The *M.J.* has received the following values with the new watermark; all except the 1 kr., orange, have the figures in black:—

Adhesives.	
1 (kr.)	black.
3	green.
5	rose.
10	blue.
20	grey.
24	puce and red.
30	olive-green and brown.
Newspaper Stamps.	
1 (kr.)	orange; imperf.

**Belgium.**—The 50 c. with the Sunday label has been issued in a grey colour.

Adhesive.	
50 c.	grey.

**Hawaii.**—The U.S. postal authorities, so ready to issue special stamps for local exhibitions, are resisting all temptations in the direction of colonial issues for its recently-acquired outer-world possessions, probably for the reason that it does not want to frighten home politicians into a too sudden recognition of the reality that they are committed to over-sea expansion. Meanwhile the *American Journal of Philately* informs us that "Postmaster-General Emory Smith has issued an order directing that Hawaiian postage stamps shall be recognized at their face value for the prepayment of postage on all articles mailed in Hawaii, whether addressed for delivery in the United States or elsewhere."

**Hayti.**—The *Monthly Journal* chronicles a new series of which we have received a sample. The 4 c., 5 c., and 15 c. bear the Arms of the Republic; the other values show the head of the President (Simon Law). There is also a small set of unpaid labels with numerals in the centre. The stamps are well engraved, and are the work of the American Bank Note Co., of New York. In a circle in the upper half of the stamp is a full-face portrait of President Simon Law; the lower half of the design is filled in with cannon mounted on gun carriages, shells, anchor, drum, flags, and other warlike paraphernalia. There are figures of value in all four corners.

Adhesives.	
1 c.	blue.
2 c.	orange.
3 c.	orange.
4 c.	red.
5 c.	carmine.
6 c.	deep blue.
7 c.	grey.
15 c.	olive.
20 c.	black.
§1.	violet.

Unpaid Letter Stamps.	
2 c.	deep blue.
5 c.	bistre.
10 c.	orange.
50 c.	black.

**Holland.**—We learn that the recently-issued one gulden stamp has not been withdrawn as stated by us last month. The report was probably started by some shrewd speculator with the view to making a haul.

**Mexico.**—*Mekcel's Weekly* announces that some of the current stamps come on a new paper without watermark. The 3 c. has

not appeared on paper with the RM and Eagle, but it has been printed on the old "CORREOS EUM" paper sideways. All are perforated 12.

Adhesives.	
3 c.	brown, wmk. sideways.
1 c.	green on greyish, no wmk.
2 c.	carmine " "
3 c.	brown " "
5 c.	blue " "

**Samoa.**—Messrs. Sellschopp write:—"After the death of King Malietoa it was deemed advisable to withdraw the old 2½d. stamps with his picture, and the Postmaster had a lot of the 1s. provisionally surcharged 2½d. From entire sheets we find that the surcharging has been done by hand, every stamp being surcharged singly." The 1s. stamp is surcharged in two lines "Surcharged—2½d."

Adhesive.	
2½d.	in black, on 1s., rose.

**Servia.**—According to the *Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal*, the granite paper of the current issue is being changed to thick white wove paper. So far the following values are signalled on thick white wove:—

Adhesives.	
15 paras.	green.
10 paras.	rose.
Unpaid Letter Stamp.	
20 paras.	red-brown.

**Switzerland.**—The *Monthly Journal* has received the 3 c. Unpaid Letter Stamp in olive-green, with the numeral in carmine.

Adhesive	
Unpaid Letter Stamp.	
3 c.	olive-green and carmine.

## Our Monthly Packets of New Issues.

No. 1, price One Shilling (postage extra).  
The December Packet contains—  
*EIGHT VARIETIES*, all unused, viz., Newfoundland, ½ c.; British Guiana, 1 c. and 2 c.; Hayti, 2 c.; Uruguay, ½ c. on 1 c., ochre; United States, 1c.; Omaha, etc.

No 2, price Five Shillings (postage extra).  
The December Packet contains—  
*SEVERAL VARIETIES*, all unused, including Victoria, 1½d.; Trinidad, 2½d.; Paraguay, 10 c. on 40 c.; Newfoundland, 3 c., etc.

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

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





## India $\frac{1}{4}$ a. Provisional.

THE *Philatelic Journal of India* says:—

“The reason why the 6 anna stamp was not used for the purpose of the new provisional is easily explained. The Post Office required 8 million 3 pie stamps to go on with, and had only  $1\frac{1}{2}$  million of the old 6 anna stamp in stock. The only other stamp, which is hardly ever used now, is the  $1\frac{1}{2}$  anna value, but of this only a little over  $\frac{1}{2}$  million were available.”

## More “Post Office” Mauritius.

THE *Monthly Journal* tells us that:—

“Two more of these stamps have been found in a sugar broker’s office in Bombay, and have been brought to London by the owner, who is now offering them on every side for sale at the absurd and ridiculous price of £2500 for the two. Both stamps are the 1d., red, and they are both on one envelope, cancelled, partly, with a circular postmark, and partly with the words ‘Insufficiently prepaid.’ Up to the time of going to press the owner has not found anyone silly enough to pay such a preposterous price, or to make any offer anywhere near the price that he wants.”

Coming from the publishers of the *Monthly Journal*, this vigorous protest against “absurd prices” is most entertaining.

## British Central Africa.

“INTERNAL POSTAGE” PROVISIONAL.

AN unsigned article appears in the *London Philatelist* which smacks of the official. The Editor says it “emanates from an excellent authority.” The description of the production of the “Internal Postage” provisional is interesting. The writer says the loss of the case of stamps, of which we have heard so much, “caused the Postal Authorities in British Central Africa to run out of the 1d. blue stamp, and to meet the demand the Postmaster-General decided to surcharge the 3s. green stamp. He selected this stamp for the reason that it was no longer being used for the collection of the Hut Tax, an embossed stamp being now used for that purpose. When his stock of 3s. stamps gave out, and sufficient time had not elapsed for the arrival from England of a second supply of the original blue penny stamp, the only thing to be done was to print a temporary stamp locally, and this was done by printing on small sheets of paper twenty-four squares of

blue lines, with the two words ‘Internal Postage’ in each square. These squares were then passed one at a time through a die press, which embossed a red oval stamp of the value of one penny, ordinarily used for cheques. These stamps were not sold over the counter to the public. Letters had to be brought to the Post Office, the cost of postage paid, and the stamp was stuck on by the Postmaster, so that in no case was an unused stamp issued to the public. Further, when attempts were made by certain people to obtain numbers of these stamps by sending, say, sixty letters all addressed to one person at one place, the attempt was promptly defeated by the Postmaster tying all the letters into one bundle and affixing a 5s. stamp.”

We are further assured by this (shall we say?) official, who is far too modest to put his name to his official puff, that the British Central African Protectorate is under the control of the Foreign Office, and that postally it is like good Cæsar’s wife, beyond suspicion.

## British Postal Fiscals.

MAJOR EVANS, in the *Monthly Journal*, has a very interesting and newsy editorial on the use of British Fiscals for postage. He tells us that the laxity, which for a long time prevailed in the Post Offices of this country in regard to the postal use of certain kinds of fiscal stamps, has at last come to an end, and he goes on to explain that:—

“The stamps which it was intended by the Acts of 1881 and 1882 should become available for postal, as well as for fiscal, purposes, were apparently only those which bore the inscription ‘Inland Revenue,’ and if those Acts had stated that fact in so many words a great deal of trouble and confusion would have been avoided. The language was, however, fairly explicit, as it stated that only ‘adhesive stamps, not appropriated by any word or words on the face of them to any particular description of instrument,’ were affected by those Acts, and it should therefore have been sufficiently evident that stamps inscribed ‘RECEIPT,’ ‘DRAFT,’ or ‘DRAFT PAYABLE ON DEMAND, OR RECEIPT’ did not become available for postage, any more than stamps inscribed ‘FOREIGN BILL,’ ‘CUSTOMS,’ &c. The first of the two Acts had reference to Penny stamps alone, and we can only suppose that, as the general public usually termed the Penny ‘Inland Revenue’ stamp a *receipt* stamp, all kinds of *receipt* stamps were looked upon as equally available

for postal use; and it is an undoubted fact that all these stamps were so regarded, not only by the public—especially by the philatelic public—but also by the officers of the Post Office, and that the latter Department, either through ignorance of the real meaning of the Act, or from a desire not to interpret that meaning too strictly, made no effort to prevent their use for franking purposes. It is for this reason that the Penny stamps of 1853 to 1860 have been classed in the catalogues as *Fiscal Stamps authorized for Postal Use*, whilst that title, strictly speaking, only applies to the stamps of 1862 to 1881. Now the authorities appear to have decided to enforce the letter of the law, and we can hardly blame them for so doing, as it is clearly an inconvenience to have so many varieties of Penny stamps available for postal use; the stamps are not demonetized—they can still be used on *receipts* or *drafts*, but not on letters. This, however, places the stamps in question—the *Id.*, *blue*, RECEIPT; the *Id.*, *brown*, DRAFT; and the *Id.*, *lilac*, DRAFT or RECEIPT—in a somewhat anomalous position from a philatelic point of view. We cannot say that their postal use was ever legally authorized, and yet we can point to the fact that such use was tacitly permitted for several years. During those years unused copies were practically available for postage, and we are inclined to think that unused copies are still admissible into a collection of Postage Stamps, although they originally made their way there under false pretences.”

### British East Africa MS. Surcharges.

WE have lately had a great many of these MS. surcharges offered for sale in our London auctions, and not a few have wondered from whence they were obtained. Mr. J. Godinho, in a contribution to our excellent contemporary the *Philatelic Journal of India*, now supplies the much-needed explanation. We quote his article *in extenso*. It will probably put an end to the further sale of these stamps at fancy prices.

“Towards the end of last January a Parsee, who had served in one of the offices of the British East Africa Protectorate, returned to Bombay and exhibited for sale about eighty of the MS. surcharges of 1891; viz.,  $\frac{1}{2}$  anna on 2 annas,  $\frac{1}{2}$  anna on 3 annas, and 1 anna on 4 annas. The stamps were all pasted on quarter sheets of foolscap paper about half an inch apart from one another, and in most instances were neatly postmarked with the Mombassa postal obliteration of 1891. Two dealers were eager to secure the prize, and after much haggling the entire lot was given to a co-religionist of the owner for a figure between 400 and 500 rupees. These stamps being unpriced in catalogues were offered at prohibitive rates. Collectors in India shrink from such purchases till they know whether the tone of the market is steady. In order to bring them prominently before the philatelic

public, a few were sent to the London auctioneers, who, towards the second fortnight of March, describing them as *penmarked and medium postmarked*, sold them at prices ranging from £2 to £3 each. These prices realised at auction sales, and reproduced in philatelic journals all over the world, are followed as guides, and quoted as authorities by dealers in their transactions with collectors. Thus a way was paved for their disposal, and a good many of the eighty were sold in India at prices ranging from 25 to 40 rupees each. Recently I had occasion to examine five of these stamps, all of the MS. surcharge type of 1 anna on 4 annas, brown—No. 32 of Stanley Gibbons' Catalogue. These five are the last remnants of the lot. My inspection of them convinced me that the stamps are genuine, as also the MS. surcharges. But each one of these stamps has been *fiscally* used. This fact is borne out by the pen cancellation, while the few continuous letters appearing on the face of the stamps are indicative of Indian signatures, and, in some cases, are component parts of such words as are never written across the face of a stamp used on a letter. All these stamps have been removed from bills or some such documents, and have been pasted on quarter sheets of foolscap, and then postmarked with the obliteration stamp of Mombassa in use in 1891. To a true philatelist this postmark is a fraud: it is not a guarantee of a stamp having done its duty postally, and this being so, the prices paid are quite ridiculous. Their present owner, on hearing my views on these labels, was candid enough to admit their accuracy.”

### U.S. (?) Provisionals.

THE *Post Office*, N.Y., raises a curious point in relation to the official notice of the United States postal authorities authorizing the continued use of Hawaii stamps. Says the *Post Office*:—

“The publishers of this notice do not seem to be aware of its great significance from a philatelic standpoint. The Hawaiian Islands are now, and have been for some months, part and parcel of the United States, and when the Postmaster-General authorizes the use of a certain stamp or stamps in any part of the United States these stamps become an issue of the United States, even though only used in one locality; for this reason the stamps now current in the Hawaiian Islands, viz., the 1894 issue, 1 c., yellow, 2 c., brown, 5 c., rose, 10 c., green, 12 c., blue, and 25 c., blue, have become in reality provisional United States stamps, and are such whether used or unused. Of course they are far more interesting in a used condition, especially if the cancellation bears a date subsequent to October 26th, on which date authority was given for their use, but are also collectible as Provisional United States stamps, *unused*, as they are good for their face value in prepayment of postage in a part of the United States.”



## Is Philately on the Decline?

LAST month (p. 248) we quoted largely from the *Philatelic Journal of India* on the question which it has started, "Is Philately on the Decline?" In the October issue of our contemporary, Mr. C. F. Larmour, under the editorial mandate, gives his opinion, and he votes "no." He believes the ardour to be in no way diminished, and with the return of better times the pursuit will, he believes, be taken up with increased enthusiasm. He regards the "slump" as the natural result of "the hothouse process of forcing up prices." Mr. Larmour anathematizes the speculator as a factor in the depressed market, and condemns fashion in collecting. The auctions, too, come in for their share of blame. Still, he contends that even "the fall in prices in some classes of stamps is by no means an indication that Philately is on the decline. If it proves anything at all it proves that the philatelist has rebelled against the impositions of the speculator, "and if," adds Mr. Larmour, "the result be the withdrawal from our ranks of this class of collectors, then I say with all confidence, that the gain to our pastime will be incalculable." To which every true philatelist will say "Amen," for no one can attend our stamp auctions without noting these parasites snapping up stuff right and left to hoard away for a rise, and now that there has come a fall instead of a rise these gentry are unloading in hot haste for fear a worse fate may befall them than 50 per cent. under catalogue.

## Collectibility of War Tax Stamps.

THE *Post Office*, N.Y., has raised the question of the collectibility, from a purely philatelic point of view, of the War Tax stamps of Spain. It says:—

"Mr. J. M. Andreini has always maintained that inasmuch as letters without these stamps were detained and the addressees notified as in the case of unstamped letters, therefore these stamps were postage stamps. We admit that this is a strong point, but not sufficiently so to prove them postage stamps. To our view the point to be decided seems to be, whether this additional tax was paid to the Post Office Department, or whether it was paid to some other department corresponding to our Internal Revenue Bureau, in which case the Post Office Department was merely the agent for the collection of this tax. An examination of the original decree ought to settle this matter. In the meanwhile we have no doubt but that a great many collectors will continue to collect these *War Tax Stamps*, and we shall regard them as such until such time as it is definitely settled that this extra charge accrued to the postal authorities."

We are inclined to regard them as postage stamps. It is true they were issued for the

raising of revenue for other than postal purposes, but that is taking a too strict view of matters, for in this country the profits of our Post Office, which run into millions sterling, are ultimately applied to non-postal purposes. The ultimate destination of the money can scarcely determine the point, for, as Mr. Andreini points out, the letters were required by the *Post Office* to be stamped with the War Tax stamps; they were therefore made part of the payment for postal conveyance. That the Post Office subsequently turned over that portion of its revenue to some other department does not seem to us to destroy the postal character of the stamps.

## Stamps Worth Full Catalogue.

MR. W. O. WYLLIE has published in the *Boston Stamp Book* a list of stamps which, in face of the prevalence of the offers of 50 per cent. off catalogue prices, he considers worth full catalogue. Such a list is open to all kinds of criticism; probably most of the stamps enumerated could be got somewhere for half catalogue, still, the position really is, Are the stamps to be had generally in the open market at less than full catalogue? Other correspondents send supplementary lists. We append a couple of these lists.

Mr. Gardner B. Kennedy's list:—

Argentine Republic, 1878, 16 c., green.  
Austria, 1858-59, 2 kr., yellow; 1861, 2 kr., yellow; 3 kr., green; 1854, 2 kr., yellow; 3 kr., green.  
Belgium, 1883, 25 c., blue; newspaper, 1863, 1 c., green.  
Brazil, 1878, 80 reis, lake.  
Bulgaria, unpaid letter, 1884, 50s., blue; 1886, 50s., blue.  
Chili, 1867, 2 c., black; 1877, 2 c., orange.  
Danish West Indies, 1873-96, 7 c., lilac and orange; 12 c., green and lilac.  
Denmark, 1864-66, 3 sk., violet; 1870, 3s., lilac and grey; 16s., green and grey; 5s., carmine and blue; and 100s., orange and grey.  
Egypt, 1879-82, 10 pa., pink; 10 pa., lilac.  
France, 1870-71, 10 c., bistre on yellowish; 1876, Type I., 1 c., 4 c., and 10 c., green on greenish; 1877-78, 5 francs, violet.  
Hayti, 1881, 3 c., bistre.  
Iceland, 1882-92, 40 aur, violet.  
Mauritius, 1860-62, 1 sh., green; 1865-72, 1 sh., blue.

Mr. Howard K. Sanderson's list:—

British Columbia, 1868, 1 dollar, green, perf. 14.  
Bavaria, 6 kr., broken circle.  
Belgium, any first issue, watermarked.  
Lagos, 1885-86, 2d., grey.  
England, 12 pia., Levant.  
Netherlands, 1891-94, 1 gulden, lilac.  
Persia, 1881, 25 c., green.  
Russia, 1868-79, 3 kr., deep green and black.  
Tobago, 1880, ½d., brown-violet; 1d., brown.  
Dutch Indies, 1864, 10 c., carmine; 1868, 10 c., carmine.



## Newfoundlands since 1880.

MR. GEORGE S. MCKEARIN, who has often been asked why he does not prepare and publish a complete list of all the stamps of Newfoundland issued since 1880 according to his classification of dates, shades, printings, &c., replies in the *Weekly Philatelic Era* as follows, and adds some interesting information which we quote :—

“Until I receive information I desire on several, to me, rather perplexing minor points, I do not feel competent to offer such a list which would be as correct and reliable as I would wish. Before very long, however, I hope to prepare and offer for the use of collectors some such list.

“While the many and distinct shades of some of the late Newfoundland issues have afforded me a delightful and interesting field of study, I am well aware that many collectors do not pay any attention to shades, and may be confused somewhat, by the listing of so many varieties, as to which are merely shades and which distinct issues of the same type. In connection with this let me state that of the 3 c. type A 23 there are four distinct varieties which are worthy of being listed in the catalogues, generally collected, and which cannot possibly be considered shades of the same stamp. They are:—

- 3 c., slate, 1890.
- 3 c., lilac-grey, 1894.
- 3 c., lilac, 1896.
- 3 c., violet-brown, 1896.

“Of the 1 c., green, there are also four equally distinct varieties, viz. :—

- 1 c., grey-green, 1887-88.
- 1 c., green, 1888-94.
- 1 c., yellow-green, 1894.
- 1 c., pale yellow-green, reissue, 1897.

“It should be borne in mind that the 3 c., lilac-grey, and 1 c., yellow-green, were not reissues. There has never been a reissue of the 3 c. type A23, and the only reissue of the 1 c., green, is the pale yellow-green stamp which was placed on sale about last November, and very closely resembles the yellow-green original. The dates which I have given above for the 1 c., green and yellow-green, are only approximate. The other dates I am quite sure of.”

We shall look forward with considerable interest to the publication of Mr. McKearin's complete list.

## Madagascar Issues.

WE quote from the *American Journal of Philately* the following translation from the *Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal* :—

“After the appearance of the issue of 1896, the remainders of the three separate issues for the dependencies of the big island, Sainte-Marie de Madagascar, Nossi Bê and Diego Suarez, were sent, as we read in Governor General Gallieni's order of July 10th, 1898

(printed in the *Echo de la Timbrologie*), to Tananarivo and Tamatave, to be ‘cremated’ January 14th, 1898, in accordance with the decision of the Minister.

“However, for some reason unknown to us, several sheets from each district were retained on the day of the burning, June 25th, and that has proved to be a veritable stroke of luck for the post office. It seems that the stock of the 1896 issue was exhausted and the new shipment from Paris had not yet arrived; as the public had no sympathy with the department's troubles, but continued merrily with its correspondence, Gallieni, from the quarterdeck of the *Pérouse*, ordered the Superintendent of Posts and Telegraphs to use, temporarily, for all postal matter, the stamps of the three small districts, which had so luckily escaped cremation.

“As nothing is mentioned in the order as to a surcharge which these stamps (again taken into favour for a short time) are to receive, they will probably be used, in short order, just as they are; the contrary may nevertheless just as well be the case. The collector-world will, however, not long be in ignorance as to this particular.”

## Great Britain : Official Stamps.

MR. EWEN wants to know, don'tcherknow, why the blank the Official stamps issued for the use of Government Departments are not allowed to be sold for the use of stamp dealers. The ordinary man in the street would naturally infer that stamps issued for use by Government Departments were very properly, and in their natural course, confined to those departments. It is simple downright bunkum on the part of a stamp dealer to raise the question of their sale to the public as though the public had a right to something which was being held back. However, Mr. Ewen has started to worry the Government Departments, and has received from the Inland Revenue and from the Home Office of Works respectively :—

“In reply to your letter of the 13th inst., I am directed by the Board of Inland Revenue to inform you that there are serious objections to the sale to any section of the public of the stamps overprinted ‘I.R. Official’ and ‘Government Parcels.’

“In these circumstances the Board are unable to hold any likelihood of a modification of the existing regulations in regard to the issue of such stamps.”

“In reply to your letter of the 13th inst., I am directed by the First Commissioner of Her Majesty's Works, etc., to acquaint you that the Board cannot see any reason why they should depart from the rule under which the sale of their Official stamps is not allowed.”

But Mr. Ewen thinks “it is unfortunate that the letters give no clue as to the nature of the ‘serious objections.’ The second letter seems to challenge collectors to put their case more strongly before the Board of Works.

In any case it is incomprehensible why this latter department should have gone out of its way to order the destruction of the 'O.W. Official' stamps. As a natural result these stamps have attained a considerable rarity, and most of the specimens in the hands of collectors have escaped, owing to a heavy postmark rendering the overprint difficult to see."

No wonder some officials regard "those stamp fellows" as little more than "half baked."

### Forged Egyptian Stamps.

THE *Monthly Journal* quotes the following interesting information from *Le Phare à Alexandria* :—

"June 15th, 1898.

"The police of our town, having been advised that false Egyptian stamps had been for some time put into circulation at Alexandria, took steps in the matter, and succeeded in discovering the workshop whence they came.

"They told the Italian Consulate, as the forger could lay an appeal to that place.

"The Consul appointed M. Nacouz, first interpreter, who worked in the workshop situated in the Rue Mahmoud, and Falaki a court of enquiry, with the aid of Harington Bey, Chief of the Police, Major Treves, and some members of the local police.

"Several hundreds of old postage stamps of Egypt were found, and a stone engraved with the stamp of the first issue.

"The imitation is so perfect that a careful examination is necessary for finding out the deception.

"The stamps of the first issue are upon official paper, which the forger obtained by the favour of an accomplice. The forged stamps were sold to philatelists. It is about two years since this forger carried out his work by the aid of some apprentices. He will be prosecuted for roguery, because he has deceived buyers as to the quality and genuineness of the objects sold to them. This is the first time that there has been any question of issuing forged postage stamps in Egypt."

"August 10th, 1898.

"On the complaint of the local police, an Italian subject, Sebastiano Giorgiani, who made imitations of old Egyptian postage stamps, was arrested.

"On Friday he appeared before the Consular Tribunal, presided over by M. le Consul Romano. After an animated debate he was acquitted.

"The Court considered that there was no forgery, as the imitations were not intended to be used for franking letters.

"The offence of cheating has not been proved against the accused; in fact, he stated that he sold the stamps under the title of 'imitations' to collectors, and that he committed no deception.

"None of the persons to whom he sold the stamps have complained against him.

"Under these circumstances no article in the Italian law would permit the tribunal to condemn the prisoner.

"Immediately after the judgment Sebastiano Giorgiani took the necessary steps to get back the stamps that had been seized on the order of the Consular authorities."

### 1898-99 Issue of Spanish Colonies.

THE *Madrid Filatelico* publishes the following list of the quantities of the Boy-King issue (1898-99) sent from Spain to the various colonies, compiled from official sources :—

	Cuba.	Puerto Rico.	Philippines.
1 milésima	1,000,000	800,000	900,000
2 "	800,000	600,000	700,000
3 "	500,000	400,000	400,000
4 "	50,000	30,000	50,000
5 "	1,400,000	400,000	600,000
1 centavo	1,000,000	300,000	500,000
2 centavos	800,000	400,000	500,000
3 "	7,000,000	3,000,000	4,000,000
4 "	20,000	20,000	20,000
5 "	300,000	200,000	200,000
6 "	1,000,000	400,000	100,000
8 "	150,000	100,000	500,000
10 "	200,000	100,000	100,000
15 "	150,000	100,000	100,000
20 "	200,000	100,000	100,000
40 "	80,000	40,000	60,000
60 "	60,000	30,000	50,000
80 "	40,000	20,000	40,000
1 peso	20,000	10,000	50,000
2 pesos	10,000	5,000	20,000

### Chili : Provisional Due Stamps.

CHILIAN specialists who cannot read the Spanish *Anales* of the Santiago Philatelic Society will be grateful to Mr. Andreini for his translation of Mr. Lara's paper on the Postage Due stamps of Chili, which, fully illustrated, is now appearing in the *American Journal of Philately*. In connection with these Postage Due stamps Messrs. Morgenthau, publishers of the *Post Office*, N.Y., have made a discovery which has been submitted to Mr. Andreini, who has consequently written the Santiago Society as follows :—

"In the paper on 'Postage Due Stamps of Chile,' which Mr. Lara published in the *Annals* of your Society, and which I had the honour to translate into English, at the request of Mr. Calman, of the Scott Stamp & Coin Co., in whose monthly, *The American Journal of Philately*, it is now being published, it is stated that the sheets of the first Provisional Due stamps consisted of sixty-four stamps of nine different values.

"Messrs. J. C. Morgenthau & Co., of this city, have just shown me a series of nine values of said issue, which appears to prove that there



must exist sheets with another arrangement. This series, though partly severed, offers undoubted proof of its having been stamped in this form :

10 c., 2 c., 4 c., 6 c., 8 c., 16 c., 20 c., 30 c., 40 c.

The three first stamps are unsevered—the stamping of the 8 c. and the 30 c. goes beyond the square of each, its oval being partly stamped on the oval of the next stamp, while the last four values are in two unsevered

pairs—thus making a strip of the total nine values of the set with perfect perforations and small margins to right and left.

“The types agree exactly with the types of the first series shown in Mr. Wiedman’s article.

“Messrs. Morgenthau obtained this set from the estate of the late Henry Gremmel, and I understand that Mr. Gremmel’s correspondent in Valparaiso was a Mr. Köhne.

“All of which I have the honour to place before you for consideration.”



### The Album Question.

MR. WILMOT CORFIELD opens upon the old, old question of a suitable album in the pages of the *Philatelic Journal of India*. Says he :—

“To all collectors an album or series of albums is a necessity, and the blindness of the philatelic publisher as a class is therefore all the more remarkable.

“The state of things so long prevailing is, perhaps, largely due to the fact that most of the philatelic magazines of influence are in the hands of the trade. It is surprising how unanimous these serials are in rightly condemning speculative issues that drain the collector’s resources and tend to drive him out of his love for stamps, and equally surprising how unanimous they are in their conspiracy of silence concerning the grave demerits of certain albums that do more than anything probably to drive both recruits and veterans from the philatelic ranks. The silence of the trade is understandable, but that of the societies is not so. The ventilation of the album question is worthy of the careful consideration of all society editors, for as soon as the trade realizes what general collectors really want, the best album possible for generalists will be placed upon the market.”

Surely Mr. Corfield must have been Rip Van Winking, or he would have noted during the last few years many articles and other references to the album question. He seems to assume that the philatelic publisher, because he does not produce just the kind of album needed by Mr. Wilmot Corfield, is particularly blind. The philatelic publisher is, however, a trader, and to assume that, as a trader, he obstinately refuses to make and sell the kind of album that is most needed and most in

demand is a patent absurdity. The philatelic publisher probably knows his business as well as Mr. Corfield. Then again, the assertion that most of the philatelic magazines of influence are in the hands of the trade, and that they *therefore* preserve a conspiracy of silence, is amusing.

In August, 1896, we printed in the *Philatelic Record* a suggestion of our own for a permanent printed album, and set out the page in a diagram. Mr. Wilmot Corfield himself commented on our suggestion, and we gladly published his letter. We have never received a single letter on the album question to which we have refused insertion. The assertion, therefore, that there is a conspiracy of silence is rendered ridiculous by the fact that we readily published the only communication we have ever received from Mr. Corfield or anyone else on the matter.

### Duplicate Books.

HERE is a capital idea for home-made duplicate stock books contributed by Mr. Waldo S. Hartsough to *Mekeel’s Weekly Stamp News*:—

“I take a sheet of heavy paper and sew strips of transparent paper about an inch wide across the sheet on a sewing machine, leaving about an inch between each strip. Then sew up and down the sheet to divide it into pockets the size required. In this way one’s stamps can be seen, and are not mutilated by the stamp hinges. This is especially good for unused and rare stamps.”

One might sew these transparent strips on the pages of a movable leaf album, or persuade one’s better half to do the work, for a male man is apt to perforate his fingers when he plays on a sewing machine.



## Stamp Faking in Antigua.

WE quote the following from the *Monthly Journal*, and received by that journal from its Antigua correspondent. As a specimen of police bungling it is almost incredible.

"On the 15th of September the case of Regina v. Fenton was tried before the Circuit Court at St. John's, with some startling results. Although it is well known that a great many of the obsolete stamps of the various Leeward Islands Colonies had been tampered with, and although the opinion of an expert had been asked by the police authorities with regard to a brazen forgery of the Dominica rd. on 1s. and some suspicious postmarked Virgin Islands varieties, to the surprise of most people an indictment was entered against Fenton for 'having made a *thing*—to wit, a die to imitate *part* of a stamp published in the colony to commemorate her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee!' After all the task of bringing the forgers of postmarks and surcharges of valuable stamps to justice, here was a single charge for the imitation of the Leeward Islands Jubilee trash of 1897.

"That there have been lots of faked stamps passed off on collectors, local and foreign, as well as on English firms, there can be no doubt. That the utter failure of the Government to bring the forger or forgers to justice is the fault of the police authorities, can be easily understood from the way in which the search was conducted. I will now give you a short report of the case. Although the stamp forged was utter trash, I think the case highly interesting.

"Sergeant-Major Brooks, of the Leeward Islands police force, said that he arrested the prisoner, and produced the following articles which he found on his premises. (A) Stamp album. (B) Stamp album. (C) Stamp catalogue. (D) An envelope containing stamps. (E) A package of papers. On June 15th, about two weeks after the arrest of the prisoner, Captain Luscombe, the inspector of police, handed him several boxes, among which was a tin box marked 'L.' (This tin box contained the *thing*, a small wooden knob with a rubber stamp attached, the exact counterfeit of the 'Jubilee' overprint.)

"Cross-examined by Mr. H. B. Moore, for the defence, the witness said that these boxes and the tin box he did not see until the 15th June; they had been all the time at the inspector's private residence, and not in the custody of the police.

"Mr. Kenneth McDonald: 'I am assistant to the Government analyst and employed in the laboratory. Accused was employed there as general attendant. On the 2nd June I received instructions to search the part of the office where defendant works. He had been sent out. I found a cigarette box (L) on a shelf in the laboratory under a counter, where accused occupies his seat. I opened the box and found several dies and stamps, among them the counterfeit die of the Jubilee issue (identified). I gave the box the same day to Captain

Luscombe. I know that accused is a maker of rubber stamps. I also know that he deals in postage stamps.'

"In his cross-examination the witness stated that Fenton was sent to the Colonial Secretary's office with an envelope containing a blank sheet of paper. This was in order that the clerks there should detain him while the search was carried out. He further said: '*No one was present when I searched. There was no search by the police. I am not a member of the secret service department. Fenton was not present when I passed the things over to Captain Luscombe. I never said in Fenton's presence that I had found anything.*'

"On being asked how he was sure that the Jubilee 'thing' was in the box when he found it, and how he noticed that above all the others—including an 'A 91' (the postmark of the Virgin Islands)—witness said it was 'a striking die.'

"The Postmaster, Mr. Alfred Elridge, swore to the Jubilee issue. (He seemed quite unconscious of the number of collectors who have sworn *at* it!) He described the steel die, made and sent out from England for the purpose of overprinting the Leeward Islands issue to commemorate the Jubilee. He produced the genuine Jubilee 'thing' and the die, which had been defaced, and in the witness-box he converted the ordinary issue into the Jubilee issue, using the bogus die. The two were passed round, and the forgery pronounced to be an extremely clever one by Judge and jury.

"Other witnesses for the prosecution were called, who proved that Fenton was a skilled maker of indiarubber handstamps.

"For the defence it was urged that there was no evidence to connect the prisoner with the die.

"The Judge, in summing up, remarked that he had never seen a more clumsily conducted search. The police had done all they could to give the prisoner a good defence.

"The jury returned a verdict of 'Not Guilty,' and the prisoner was discharged.

"The Attorney-General gave notice that he would present a further indictment against the accused, but nothing further has been heard of it."

"Two young men, Martin and Knight, were accused in connection with this case of 'obtaining security under false pretences'—presumably they were accused of having 'sold' the German Company, to whom a lot of these faked stamps were sent, and also his Excellency the Governor, who had invested in several and different varieties of these local productions. At all events, when the Court resumed sitting a *nolle pros.* was entered, and the two enterprising natives discharged.

"It is generally thought that a far different complexion would have adorned this latter case if his Excellency had been put into the witness-box, but perhaps it was *infra dig.*!

"On the whole stamp collectors here are very disgusted at the hopeless breakdown of the case for the Crown."

## Imperial Penny Postage and U.S.

A *Times* telegram from Philadelphia, dated October 18th, 1898, says :—

“Mr. J. A. Merritt, Assistant Postmaster-General, in his annual report recommends immediate negotiations with England, France, and Germany for ocean penny postage. He says that England will probably agree. The reduction of ocean postage would not require the action of Congress, the Postmaster-General having powers to carry it into effect.”

A later telegram from Washington has put a damper upon this excellent proposal. We are told that the Postmaster-General, Mr. Smith, in his report on the suggestion says :—

“Much could be said for the scheme, but the conditions under which the United States approach its treatment differ from those prevailing in other countries, which have a short land transit, while ours is often greater than the ocean distance. Considering the area covered, our rate is lower than that of other nations. The immediate contemplation of so marked a change, however desirable in itself, would be premature.”

We fancy Mr. Postmaster-General Smith will have convinced impartial persons that he has failed to grasp the situation, and has been too anxious to snub a subordinate for daring to take the wind out of his sails by making such an ambitious proposal.

## St. Helena Reminders.

WE are indebted to Mr. J. H. Roskilly for the following cutting from the *St. Helena Guardian* :—

“SIR,—Mr. Morrice, in a letter to last week's *Guardian*, seemed to infer that the solvency of the Colony depended upon a sum of £8447, the value of certain obsolete stamps.

“These stamps are, of course, only valuable from a philatelic point of view; but unfortunately the conditions of their sale are such as to prohibit any philatelist from purchasing them.

“An intending purchaser, if he wants to obtain say a 2½d. and a 5s. specimen to complete his collection, cannot do so unless he buys all the 2½d. and 5s. stamps of this kind held by the Colonial Agents; and as there are over a hundred thousand of some of the smaller values, it follows that a considerable sum would have to be spent to obtain the stamps from this source.

“Now, although stamp collectors are generally described as mad, their madness would

hardly reach the degree of paying hundreds of pounds for a stamp which they could purchase from a stamp dealer for a few pence.

“There remain the large stamp dealers to consider. These stamps have been in the hands of the Colonial Agents for a number of years, and it is presumed that stamp dealers were informed or ascertained that these stamps were for sale; if so, they have been singularly slow in buying them up.

“Messrs. Stanley Gibbons (a large stamp dealing company in London) charge the following prices for the stamps in an unused condition :—

	s.	d.
½d., green . . . . .	0	2
1½d., red and green . . . . .	0	4
2d., yellow . . . . .	0	9
2½d., blue . . . . .	0	9
3d., lilac . . . . .	1	0
4d., sepia . . . . .	1	6
6d., grey . . . . .	1	6
1s., yellow-green . . . . .	2	6
5s., orange . . . . .	12	6

“If the Colony or Colonial Office, whoever has the final say in the matter, were to sell these stamps in detail, or appoint an agent to sell them at face value, giving him a percentage on the amount sold, it is more than probable that a large amount would be bought by the mad stamp-collecting public, and the asset of £8447 would not be such a farce as it is at present.

“Believe me,

“Yours faithfully,

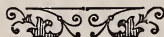
“ONE OF THE MAD ONES.”

## Stamp-built Cathedrals.

M. LE CHANOINE DE ROY, the head of the Seminary at Liège, has acquainted the Paris correspondent of the *Morning Post* with some of the marvellous results obtained by the collection of old postage stamps. Since the movement was started seven years ago 300,000,000 stamps have been collected, which realized 50,000 fr. With a portion of this sum the Belgium Missionaries have been able to establish and thoroughly organize five Christian villages on the Congo. The collection of stamps is to be continued, and the proceeds will be devoted to erecting a Cathedral at Leopardsville, in the Congo Free State.

## List of Reminders.

IN our October number we credited a “List of Reminders,” which we quoted, to the *Virginia Philatelist*. We should have credited the matter to the *International Philatelist*, the breezy little paper conducted by Mr. H. C. Beardsley.





### Persia 50 Kran, Used.

DEAR SIR,—In the *Philatelic Record* for June last (page 156) I have just seen an extract from the *Australian Philatelist* to the effect that the 50 kran, Persian, green and gold, is not known postally used. It may interest you to know that I have a copy of that stamp, postally used, on piece of original. I received it from a brother who resides in Persia in July last year, who told me that he procured it at the G.P.O. in Teheran, and paid about 10s. 6d. for it. As he paid about 21s. at the same time and place for an unused copy of the same stamp, it does not look as if

the other had been postmarked for speculative purposes!

I remember that my brother informed me in a previous letter that these high value stamps were frequently bought and placed *inside* letters or parcels to prevent robbery, there being many persons in Persia apparently who know their worth. I am writing this week to ask my brother if he knows the circumstances under which this stamp was postmarked, and shall be pleased to let you know the result.

I remain, yours faithfully,  
WALTER JENKS.

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