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The Stamp-Collector's Magazine.

DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF EAST INDIA POSTAGE STAMPS.

BY COLONEL G. B. MAINWARING, B.S.C.

[THE value of this authentic record, compiled by Col. Mainwaring, at Darjeeling, in 1871, from official sources, can hardly be overstated. It not only places us in possession of a complete list of all the stamps issued, with a statement of the circumstances which accompanied their emission, but also reveals to us the existence of the following hitherto unknown types, namely: No. 1, No. 2, *black*, Nos. 4 and 5; and confirms the long-current report of the intended issue of an 8 anna red and blue (No. 8). Our best thanks are due to the gallant author for communication of this interesting list, and we do not doubt but that our readers will be equally gratified at its publication.—ED. S. C. M.]

No. 1.—HALF-ANNA.

Lion trippant under palm-tree, on plain coloured oblong disk, open lace border, oblong, value below in words.

It was not until about thirteen years after the first introduction in England of stamps for the payment of postage on letters that Government decided on their employment in India. In 1853 postage stamps were ordered to be prepared in the Calcutta Mint, and there the afore-described handsome stamp was designed and made. It was doomed, however, never to come into use; delay occurring in cutting the steel die,*

* This expensive and highly artistic hand-cut die was broken up and destroyed with other dies and plates at the Mint in 1867.

the then Governor-general, Lord Dalhousie, became impatient and sent to the Surveyor-general's office to know if stamps could not be prepared there more speedily. Accordingly, rough and hurried engravings were made on copper-plate, from which stamps of the following designs were struck off and issued to the post-office, thus :

1854.

No. 2.—HALF-ANNA—*Black, Red, Blue.*



Queen Victoria, profile, diadem crowned, head to left, on plain coloured disk, lined border, with seven arches on each side, Maltese cross in upper corners; above, "India;" below, value.

Black.

The above stamp was first printed in black, and sent to the post-office for distribution, but before it was issued to the public, it was discovered that a large packet of the stamps had been purloined; to prevent these stamps being used, the remainder were withdrawn, and the stamp was re-issued in

Red.

The supply of vermilion running short, these red stamps (after only a few had been issued to the public) were also called in, and the stamp was printed in

Blue;

and this has remained the distinguishing colour of the half-anna stamp to the present day. This stamp was followed by

No. 3.—ONE-ANNA—*Red.*

Same design as No. 2 (a supply of colour having been obtained).

No. 4.—TWO-ANNAS.

Head of Queen to left in octagonal disk, plain ground, marginal border, with columned sides; above, "India;" below, value.

Green.

No. 5.—TWO-ANNAS.

Same design in plain circular disk, rectangular border, Greek marginal sides, cross in upper corners; above, "India;" below, value.

Green

Neither of these two latter stamps was issued to the public. They were superseded by the following:

No. 6.—TWO-ANNAS—*Green.*

Head of Queen to left, with diadem, plain coloured disk, interlaced bordered sides; above, "India;" below, value.

The above stamp was printed in and issued from the Mint, where the steel die was engraved; this die was destroyed, along with that of No. 1, in 1867.

No. 7.—FOUR-ANNAS—*Red and Blue.*

Profile of Queen as in No. 2, printed in blue, on plain white circular disk, in red octagonal border; above, "India;" below, value.

No. 8.—EIGHT-ANNAS.

Design same as No. 7, only the colours reversed; *i.e.*, head red, border blue.

This stamp was never officially issued, only a few copies having been printed; the plate from which the impressions were taken was mislaid and never recovered.

1855.

In 1855 new stamps were issued from England, engraved by Messrs. De La Rue & Company in London, and printed under the supervision of an officer of the Revenue Department.

These stamps are executed with perfect finish, and in the highest style of steel engravings.

SECOND SERIES.

No. 9.

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| a.—Half-anna, | blue. |
| b.—One-anna, | brown. |
| c.—Two-annas, | green. |
| d.—Four-annas, | black and grey. |
| e.—Eight-annas, | rose. |

Head of Queen to left, diadem crowned, on fine lined coloured oval disk, within rectangular border, laced corners, inscribed, in oval band, "East India Postage" and value; paper *not* watermarked; perforated; rectangular.

No. 10.—TWO-ANNAS—*Pink.*

Same stamp as No. 9 *c.*, of which very few were issued; the similarity of the original colour (green) to the half-anna blue occasioned it to be changed to pink. The selection of pink for this stamp was a mistake, as the colour bore a resemblance to the 8 annas rose. Like its predecessor, therefore, it had but a very short reign; one set only being issued. It was succeeded by

No. 11.—TWO-ANNAS—*Yellow.*

Same design as No. 9 *c.* and No. 10.

1857.

No. 12.—*Envelope Stamps.*a.—CIRCULAR HALF-ANNA—*Blue.*

Embossed head of Queen to left, on smooth coloured circular disk, with reticulated circular border, inscribed above "India Postage;" below, in curved band, value. The stamp is printed on white paper with *oblique* lined watermarks.

b.—CIRCULAR ONE-ANNA—*Brown.*

Same design, on smooth blue paper.

The above two envelopes bear on the flaps, for a closing seal, a circular embossed impression of a lion trippant under palm-tree.

1857.

No. 13.—*Note Paper with Envelope Flaps.*CIRCULAR HALF-ANNA—*Blue.*

Same as No. 12 *a*, stamped on white note paper, the watermarks running *vertically* with the stamp.

This note paper, like the envelopes above described, bears on the flap, for a closing seal, a circular embossed impression of a lion trippant under palm-tree. The weight of each sheet was one-quarter of a *tola* (little more than one-tenth of an ounce), that being the former unit of weight for letters. It was found to be saleable with difficulty, and now that the unit of weight for letters has been raised to half a *tola*, there is no demand for it. The first supply, now almost exhausted, will not, it is believed, be renewed.

1860.

No. 14.—EIGHT-PIES—*Lilac.*

Head and disk, as in No. 9 series, in oval,



within an octagonal frame, with interlaced, vertically lined spandrels; coloured bands on sides, bearing the inscription, "East India Postage;" above and below are white bands, floret capped, with inscription of value, "Eight Pies;" octagonal.

This stamp was specially required for the prepayment of soldiers' half-ounce letters to the United Kingdom and British Colonies, the postage chargeable on which is fixed by Act of Parliament at one penny each, equivalent to eight pies in Indian currency. It is now used also in combination with other stamps for various foreign post rates.

1864.

No. 15.—RECTANGULAR FOUR-ANNAS—*Green.*

Same stamps as No. 9 *d*. For the same reason that the English penny black stamp was changed to red—viz., on account of the indistinctness of the marks when the stamp was obliterated with black ink—was No. 9 *d* black altered into green; and also, in the latter case, for the further reason that an imitation of the stamp had been attempted

by photography. Likewise on this account the blank marginal space on all the sheets of stamps was subsequently printed with an ornamental border, as the blank paper had been made use of to photograph upon.

1865.

The paper of this series of stamps was modified, each stamp having a watermark impression of an elephant's head. They may, therefore, be recorded as—

THIRD SERIES.

No. 16.

Same design as No. 9.

<i>a.</i> —Half-anna,	blue	} Watermarked with elephant's head.
<i>b.</i> —One-anna,	brown	
<i>c.</i> —Two-annas,	orange	
<i>d.</i> —Four-annas,	green	
<i>e.</i> —Eight-annas,	rose	

1866.

No. 17.—SERVICE STAMPS.

The above series was utilized for service letters, to be used by all public officers, except such as were authorised to frank.

<i>a.</i> —Half-anna,	blue.
<i>b.</i> —One-anna,	brown.
<i>c.</i> —Two-annas,	orange.
<i>d.</i> —Four-annas,	green.
<i>e.</i> —Eight-annas,	rose.

The word "Service" printed across in black ink—

- 1st, in small letters; subsequently,
- 2nd, in large letters.

No. 18.—*Provisional.*

Profile of Queen to left in coloured circle.

*a.*—TWO-ANNAS—*Lilac.*

Externally reticulated, with pearl border at sides; printed across in *black* ink; above, "Service;" below, value.

b.—TWO-ANNAS—*Lilac.*

The same stamp as No. 18 *a*, with words printed across in *green* ink; above, "Service;" below, value.

Nos. 18 *a* and 18 *b* are revenue stamps cut down for postage use.

No. 19.—*Provisional.*

a.—SIX-ANNAS—*Lilac.*



Profile of Queen, diademed, to left in dotted circle, with broad curved bands above and below enclosing value, "six annas;" triangular ornaments in corners. The word "Postage" surcharged in green ink in upper part of stamp.

b.—SIX-ANNAS—*Lilac.*

Same stamp as 19 *a*, but cut smaller; "Postage," in green, printed larger.

The above are revenue stamps cut down for postage use.

No. 20.—FOUR-ANNAS—*Green.*



Profile of Queen to left, diadem crowned, on lined disk in beaded circle, with curved labels, bearing inscription "East India Postage" and value; external ground reticulated, and truncated angles; watermarked with elephant's head.

This was a stamp of entirely new and distinctive form, superseding No. 15, the colour of the latter (green) having been found insufficient to ensure its distinction from the half-anna blue stamp.

1867

No. 21.—SIX-ANNAS AND EIGHT-PIES—*Slate.*



Profile of Queen with diadem to left in lined octagonal disk, surrounded by inscription "East India Postage" and value in solid band. Watermarked with elephant's head.

This stamp was obtained at a time when the postage chargeable on letters for the United Kingdom, *viâ* Marsilles, was six annas eight pies. It is

now of comparatively little use, and will probably be replaced by a stamp of the value of six annas.

1868.

No. 22.—*Service Stamps.*

SIX-ANNAS AND EIGHT-PIES—*Slate.*

The preceding stamp was added to the list of service stamps (No. 17), the word "Service" being printed across in black ink.

No. 23.—EIGHT-ANNAS—*Rose.*

An alteration in the eight-anna rose (No. 16 *e*) appeared; the diadem being different; the head closer to the oval band; the ear not so conspicuous, &c.

No. 24.—*Provisional.*

HALF-ANNA—*Lilac.*



Diademed head of Queen to left in lined circular disk, with double circular bands, outer band inscribed both above and below "Government of India;" on inner band "Receipt, Bill, or Draft;" inscription, surcharged in green

ink on the inscribed circle, "Service Postage;" watermark, crown; large rectangular.



No. 25.—*Provisional.*

TWO-ANNAS—*Lilac.*

Diademed profile of Queen to left on lined ground in beaded circle; with tessellated ground above and below, over which, printed in green ink, are the words "Service Postage;" the value, "two annas," in broad white curved bands at both ends; large rectangular.

No. 26.—*Provisional.*

FOUR-ANNAS—*Lilac.*

Head of Queen with diadem to left on lined ground in serrated circle; above and below, square diaper disks containing value, with large interlaced loops at sides. Surcharged inscription in green ink; above, "Service;" below, "Postage."



No. 27.—*Provisional.*

EIGHT-ANNAS—*Lilac.*



Profile of Queen with diadem to left in lined beaded circle, within a lined octagonal frame; above and below solid square disks containing value; back ground of tessellated and serrated pattern; on reticulated band at upper end the word "Foreign;" over square disks surcharged inscription in green ink "Service Postage."

Nos. 24, 25, 26, and 27 are, like Nos. 18 and 19, improvised from

revenue stamps to perform temporary postal duty.

1871.

No. 28.—*Envelope Stamps.*

a.—HALF-ANNA—*Blue.*

Same design, &c., as No. 12 a, but paper thicker.

b.—ONE-ANNA—*Brown.*

Same design, &c., as No. 12 b, but paper thicker and distinctly watermarked.

The thicker paper of these two envelopes was rendered desirable by the doubling, in April, 1869, of the limits of weight for the several rates of letter postage.

A CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE HISTORY OF THE STAMPS OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "THE STAMPS OF BRITISH GUIANA."

THE importance of accurate information as to the dates, engraving, mode of production, and other details concerning the issues of our colonies is so obvious, the sources whence this information is to be derived are so difficult to discover, and so liable to be lost, that the compiler of the following notes feels no apology is needed for their somewhat disjointed form.

Aided by the kindness of friends who have freely communicated the results of their researches, by an unlooked-for access to public documents, and by certain official memoranda and returns, he has been enabled to collate the following materials, which are, it is believed, for the first time made public; and he desires to state that where the information has not been taken from official papers, every precaution has been adopted to verify all that is stated as matter of fact, so that it may be implicitly relied on. Suppositions or conclusions are put forward as such; each reader must judge for himself of their justness, or the reverse.

1838.—The first stamp ever produced and issued was at Sydney in this year. It is the

One penny cover, embossed in plain relief. M. Moens erroneously gives the date 1848. The writer possesses a specimen post-marked 11th October, 1843. The authority to the post-master of Sydney to issue a cover franking this value, will be found in the *Government Gazette* for 1838.



1849.—A. View of Sydney; legend, *Sic fortis Etruria crevit*; value, one penny; red.

Engraved in the colony on copper. 40 stamps on the plate, each separately engraved, showing, consequently, slight variations in each stamp.

B. View of Sydney; value, twopence; blue.

Similarly engraved; like number of stamps on the plate, with slight variations between them. *Probably* two plates of this value were originally engraved, one (the earlier?) with *vertical* lines in the filling of the spandrels; the other with *horizontal* lines.



In the information given mention is made of a twopence *green*, and of a threepence brown, and also *pink*, in addition to the ordinary colours. The brown, judging from such specimens as the writer has seen, is a colour which *might* be produced from the green; it is impossible to treat it, however, as nonexistent, or as merely changed in hue. The green twopence has not hitherto been seen or described; there are *bluish green* twopences (vertical lines) which might have been printed originally as green. The reason for choosing to print in both green and blue, especially when the colour green was appropriated to the value threepence, is not apparent. The threepence pink is quite unknown. Inasmuch as from the source of information these colours no doubt all existed, the writer supposes they were proofs. It is noteworthy that Mount Brown chronicles them in his catalogue, first edition, (1862, p. 35), as stamps, and continues to do so till, in the fifth edition (1864), he only mentions the threepence brown.

1851.—Head of Queen Victoria (profile to left), crowned with a wreath of laurel.

One penny, red, various shades.

Twopence, blue, " "

Engraved on steel; 50 stamps on the plate, with minute variations between each, due to their being separately engraved. The plate of the one penny was engraved by John Carmichael, Kent-street, North Sydney,

C. View of Sydney; value, threepence; green.

Also engraved on copper, with 40 separately engraved stamps to the plate. It is not known to the compiler who engraved these three values; but the plates of the penny and twopence were renewed and retouched at a later stage; when is not precisely indicated.

and approved by the post-office authorities in December, 1851. The plate of the twopence was engraved by H. C. Jervis, Pitt-street, Sydney. There were five rows vertically, with ten stamps in each row, to the plate. (This applies to all plates of the colony containing fifty stamps.) These stamps are stated, in the government returns, to have been printed on blue and on white paper. The first plate of the twopence is believed to be that of the variety with the star ornaments in the upper angles; a second plate was put in hand directly the former was completed. Carmichael engraved this latter; it is of the common type, with Maltese crosses at the upper angles.

1852.—Similar design to foregoing.

Threepence, green.

Sixpence, brown.

Engraved on steel, both by Carmichael; 50 stamps on the plate. Two plates of the sixpence were engraved, one with the lines of the background coarser than in the other; the latter is Carmichael's own work. The authority to him to proceed with the plates of the sixpence is dated 16th March, 1852. The writer has reason to believe that the plate of the sixpence with the coarser lined background is the work of H. C. Jervis; but is unable to



adduce any proof, beyond the general appearance of the work, in favour of his idea, and the fact that Carmichael, when pressed, is known to have employed Jervis to do a portion of the work entrusted to him. There does not appear to be any trace of the separate engraving of the plates of the twopence, on which are the varieties with the stars in the upper angles, and of the sixpence with coarse background. They are evidently the handiwork of Jervis. Further inquiries are in course respecting this variety of the twopence, which is larger in size than any other of the series; but it is not deemed expedient to retard the appearance of this paper pending the result.

1853.—Similar design to foregoing.
Eightpence, orange-yellow.

Engraved on steel—50 stamps on the plate—by H. C. Jervis.

1853.—Registered stamp; value (sixpence) not denoted.

Engraved on steel; 50 stamps on each plate.



Name of engraver not given. They were produced in England, by the firm of Perkins, Bacon, & Co., in whose hands the plates still remained in December, 1870. The first issued were printed in blue and red; then followed those in blue and orange.

1853.—Laureated profile of Queen Victoria to the left.

Twopence, blue.

On 8th August, 1853, authority was given to H. C. Jervis to engrave another plate of this value, which he did, on *copper*, 50 stamps to the plate. This plate was afterwards used for printing on paper watermarked with the figure of value; stamps from it on the unwatermarked paper can, therefore, be readily distinguished from the steel-engraved stamps before described.

1854.—In the *Government Gazette* of 31st January, 1854, it was notified that in future all stamps would be printed on paper bearing a watermark. By February, 1854, a new plate of the one penny was ready; it was engraved on copper by Carmichael, and

contained 50 stamps, all separately engraved, as in former instances. The one penny and twopence values were, in the month of February, 1854, printed and issued on paper watermarked with double-lined figure of value.

1854.—Large square die, containing profile of Queen Victoria to left, with diadem,



enclosed in a circular band, inscribed NEW SOUTH WALES, with fleur-de-lis ornaments. Dies produced in England by Perkins, Bacon, & Co., multiplied in soft steel, afterwards hardened by patent process;

100 stamps to each plate. Values:—

Fivepence, green (hexagonal frame).

Sixpence, various shades of brown and lilac (hexagonal frame).

Eightpence, yellow, orange (octagonal frame).

One shilling, red, rose (octagonal frame).

Printed on paper watermarked with double lined figures of value.

1856.—Profile of Queen Victoria, with diadem to left, POSTAGE in arched lines over the head.

Values:—

One penny, orange, red.

Twopence, blue.

Threepence, green.

Patent hardened steel plates;

120 stamps on each plate.

Produced by Perkins, Bacon, & Co.



1861.—Circular stamp; profile of Queen Victoria to left, with a gothic crown. Value:—

Five shillings, deep lilac.



Produced by De La Rue & Co., London. Die of patent hardened steel; 50 stamps on the plate. Printed on paper with figure of value in watermark, and perforated 12, according to the present system of notation; afterwards, 13.

1862.—Head of Queen Victoria to left; NEW SOUTH WALES in arched scroll over head. Value:—

Twopence, light blue.

Produced by De La Rue & Co.; electrotyped; 240 stamps on the plate. Printed on paper variously watermarked, and afterwards plain; perforated, first 14, then 13.



1864.—Head of Queen Victoria, diademed, to left in oval band, inscribed NEW SOUTH WALES above, ONE PENNY below. Value:—



One penny, red.

Produced by De La Rue & Co.; electrotyped; 240 stamps on the plate. Printed

on ordinary, and also on variously watermarked papers; and perforated, first 14, afterwards 13.

1867.—Head of Queen Victoria, diademed, to left in upright diamond frame. Value:—

Fourpence, brick-red.

Produced by De La Rue & Co.; electrotyped; 120 stamps on the plate. Printed on watermarked paper; perforated 13.



Like head, in oval inscribed band, within a hexagon. Value:—

Sixpence, lilac, mauve.

Like head, in circle. Value:—

Tenpence, lilac.



Both produced by De La Rue & Co.; electrotyped; 120 stamps on the plate. Printed on watermarked paper; perforated 13.

The perforation of stamps by machine was introduced into New South Wales in 1860.

NEWSPAPER WRAPPERS.

1864.—Head of Queen Victoria to left in oval in white relief; four stars around. Value:—

One penny, red.

Steel die; 8 on the sheet. Produced by the firm of De La Rue & Co.



1865.—Surface-printed stamp, similar to the one penny of 1864. Value:—

One penny, red.

Electrotyped; 8 on the sheet.

Here these notes must for the present rest. The varieties of colour, paper, watermark, and perforation will hereafter engage our attention. The compiler expressly disclaims any other object in the present paper than that of contributing these materials in the hope they will prove of some utility to any future historian of the stamps of this colony.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

THE customary New Year's feast of novelties bids fair this time to be but coldly furnished forth with items of subordinate interest. We have *not* to announce the accession of Khiva to the list of stamp-issuing states, nor to chronicle a first series for Madagascar, so we must content ourselves with retailing such information as we possess. Perhaps, however, our readers will not be sorry to find that there is a temporary lack of novelties, for the number of collectable emissions has of late been constantly increasing to an almost puzzling extent, and although the most prominent "signs" of all new comers are generally noted by the chroniclers at the time of their appearance, there are doubtless a great many varieties of recent date which would repay a close investigation. With this brief preface we must address ourselves to the work in hand.

HELIGOLAND.—By the kindness of the island postmaster, we are in possession of a specimen of another new value—the $\frac{3}{4}$

schilling,—printed like the rest of the series in a combination of the heraldic colours—red, white, and green. The upper and lower borders are in green, the side borders and disk in carmine-rose, and the spandrels, as in the other recently issued values, are desitute of ornament. The postmaster informs us that the supply of the $\frac{1}{4}$ schg. with green border was struck off by error by the imperial printing-office at Berlin, and that only a small number of them remain; it is, therefore, probable that specimens of this variety will soon attain a respectable degree of rarity.

VICTORIA.—Annexed is the engraving of the new twopence promised in our preceding number. For the benefit of fresh subscribers, we may state that it is printed in bright mauve, and watermarked Vandercrown. Our Brighton contemporary mentions having seen the “current” ninepenny, —by which, however, he evidently means the now obsolete surcharged tenpence—with this peculiarity, that, in addition to the blue surcharge of *ninepence*, the TE and CE of the original value, left uncovered by that word, are defaced by a pair of crimson blotches.

UNITED STATES.—The design of the four stamps for the Department of State, described last month, is hererepresented. The



wood-cut, though a good one, of necessity falls far short of depicting the excellence of the original. The four values are \$2, \$5, \$10, and \$20, all of them printed in green, with central oval and portrait in black. The Belgian journal notices an

obliterated unperforated 3 cents adhesive, and states that the issue of a 2 cent post card is reported as among the probabilities.

Of the one cent card two varieties now exist, distinguishable by difference in water-

mark and in the shade of the card. Both are watermarked with the letters U. S. P. O. D., grouped so as to form a kind of monogram. The initials, P. O. D., are “tall and thin,” and the initials, U. S., are “short and stout;” the latter are extended across the former, and the *tout ensemble* has the look of a word-puzzle. In the first issued cards the watermark covers the greater part of the surface, the letters P. O. D. are $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height, the extreme width of the watermark is $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches. In the second emission, P. O. D. measures only $1\frac{3}{10}$ in. in height, and the extreme width of the watermark is a trifle under 2 inches. Thus it will be seen that, roughly speaking, the watermark in the second issue is only half the size of that of the first; and as the successive imprints of the mark on the sheet of cards of this second issue almost touch each other, it results that each card shows one complete watermark, and portions of two others. The second card is of a lighter tint than the first, and the impression is also in a lighter shade of brown. “A London Collector,” whom we have to thank for communication of a specimen of the second issue, speaks of it as being of a different type, but we fail to detect any variation in the design. We have also received from the same quarter specimens of the current three cents, struck in a remarkably deep shade of chrome-green, forming a striking contrast to the earlier copies of this value. All the specimens are not of an equally intense hue, but they all differ widely from the stamps of the first *tirage*, and unquestionably belong to a second “edition.”



SPAIN.—We are now able to give engravings of the types of the two Spanish double-card stamps referred to in our last.

That with the bust of the republic is found on the half which is to be used by the person who first sends the card; the other is on the half on which the receiver writes his reply. The frames, of which sections are given in our illustrations, are likewise of different patterns, and both are distinct from the frame on the single card. By a decree of the 8th November last, the issue of the cards for public use was fixed for the 1st December; and punctually to time they made their appearance, as is proved by a specimen which has been communicated to us, bearing the postmark of that date. On the card as issued the word TARJETA is correctly spelt, owing, as it appears, to Don M. P. de Figueroa having pointed out that the original spelling, TARGETA, was wrong; and besides this, a full stop has been added after the word ESPANOLA. Specimens of the trial edition, with the misspelt word, are likely now to become very scarce. The post-office decree above referred to enacts that upon the emission of the government cards private post cards are not to be allowed to circulate. This regulation gives a *coup-de-grace* to a number of hybrid individuals, among which are Don M. P. de Figueroa's cards, with their sarcastic allusion to government individuals, and also a peculiar type, hailing from Barcelona, and described in the last number of *Le Timbre-Poste*. This latter bears a design similar to that on the Mulready envelopes, but Britannia is replaced by the god of commerce scattering books; and in the background are represented those useful postal servants which played but a very inferior part when Mulready sketched his allegory—the locomotive and the steamboat; besides these, the elephant and sundry personages are represented; a square is allotted for the stamp, and beneath it is a lion *couchant*. This interesting and apparently *bonâ-fide* production is certainly worth collecting as a curiosity. The other private emissions of Barcelona and Madrid are plainly got up, but as the forerunners of the government issue, they at least merit passing attention.

FRANCE.—The Marquis de L——— has kindly forwarded for notice a reversed 4

centime laureated French empire stamp; technically termed a *tête-bêche*. We may mention, for the benefit of beginners, that this variety is produced by the insertion of one of the casts wrong side up in the frame, so that, relatively to the surrounding stamps, the stamp is upside down. In order to show this accidental variety, it is necessary that the *tête-bêche* should be preserved by the side of its neighbour. The two stamps should be cut out together from the sheet, and of course must not be separated from each other, or the wonder ceases, for the *tête-bêche* derives its value simply from the position in which it lies relatively to the other stamps. The 4 centime anomaly has not yet been noticed, and in our own collection we have a *tête-bêche* variety of the 10 centime, brown on rose, which also, we believe, has hitherto escaped attention.

FRENCH COLONIES.—The gentleman who communicated the 4 centime stamp referred to in the preceding paragraph also informs us that the 1 c. olive-green, and 30 c. chocolate, of the current French series, have been issued unperforated for colonial service.

HOLLAND.—Thanks to Mr. C. van Rinsum, we are able to include in our list of novelties a pair of interesting post cards, which have reached us just at the moment of going to press. In a letter from that gentleman, which arrived at the beginning of the month, he details the new arrangements between Holland and Belgium, under which the exchange of post cards is to take effect; and in another he now sends us specimens of the special cards, which were issued on the 15th ult. by the Dutch post-office, in virtue of the convention. They consist of a double or reply-paid card, and a single ditto. The frame is that of the cards for home use, and the inscriptions are the same, namely, the word BRIEFKAART, followed, on the reply-paid pair, by ANTWOORD BETAALD on the first half, and VOORUITBETAALD ANTWOORD on the second half; but the word AAN at the commencement of the first, and TE at the commencement of the fourth dotted line, are suppressed. The stamp in the upper right corner is an impression of the 5 cent

adhesive. The stamp, frame, and inscriptions are printed in bright blue on buff, which has a very good effect. The cards are of the same size as those for interior correspondence, but a trifle stouter; the reply-paid card is folded in the same manner; and there is nothing to betoken the exceptional service for which they are destined. They may claim high rank among the post card types for their neatness and delicacy, and fitly head the list, which we trust will soon be a lengthy one, of international cards.

MEXICO.—Simultaneously with Mr. van Rinsum's letter we have received a copy of Messrs. J. W. Scott & Co.'s journal, *The Exchange and Market*, in the philatelic columns of which we find a description of a new emission for the Mexican Republic, engraved by the American Bank Note Company. From the really well executed illustration which accompanies the letterpress, we note that the design consists of the profile of that notable personage, the *curé* Hidalgo, in a solid oval. The value (10 centavos) is expressed no less than seven times on the stamp; namely, on either side of the portrait in small octagons; above the portrait, by the Roman numeral X, in an oval; and in the four corners. The numeral X intersects the inscription CORREOS MEXICO, and the value in words occupies a flowing label beneath the central oval. The style of the stamp shows a certain geometrical severity, but the effect, it is needless to say, is infinitely superior to that of all preceding types, except the one engraved some ten years ago by the same company, and, as it appears, never paid for. The denomination (10 centavos) is a new one; our contemporary does not give its colour, nor mention the other values. We presume the new series, however, will shortly see the light.

HUNGARY.—Among abandoned projects must be numbered the issue of a one kr. post card for local correspondence. The card was to have made its appearance on the 1st November last, but the decree fell through.

THE SECRET MARKS ON THE STAMPS OF PERU.

(READ BEFORE THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, DEC. 6, 1873.)

BY FENTONIA.

With additions subsequently made by the authoress, which are indicated by being placed between brackets.

IN offering a few remarks on the stamps of Peru, I do not for a moment venture to imagine that I can bring forward anything new to an experienced assembly like the present. It is rather to suggest a subject for discussion, and to elicit the opinion of members present, that I have undertaken the task.

In the year 1865 M. Moens published, in *Le Timbre-Poste*, a very interesting article on these stamps, and a few months later I find that, without having read, and (to the best of my recollection) without having even heard of it, I contributed an article of my own on these stamps to our, then, only English stamp magazine. I notice that both M. Moens and myself were at that time of opinion that the larger stamps were the first issued—the mistake doubtless arising from their being the first to reach Europe on letters; the smaller series being (it is now well known) superseded within the twelvemonth by the larger series, up to which period Peruvian stamps were probably only used for inland postage.

A strong argument in favour of this theory—even if it were not supported by official data published in *Le Timbre-Poste* of February, 1871, and transferred, in English, to the pages of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for April in the same year—is, that one never meets with a worn impression of this series; while of the larger type, used certainly during the whole of the years 1859 and 1860, and, I think, probably also during the latter part of 1858, there exist a number of worn specimens, so much so, that in my own album I arrange them as two distinct varieties.

I now come to the minute points to which I wish particularly to draw your attention, viz., the secret marks said to be discoverable on these Peruvian stamps.

M. Moens, quoting from the second article of the Postal Decree, which states that

"the *un dinero*, the *un peseta*, and the *demi peso*, would bear secret marks whereby to verify their authenticity," goes on to say: "We have searched from corner to corner and back again with our magnifier, without finding anything special." Nevertheless, I believe they are there.

First, let me define what I mean by an engraver's mark. An engraver's secret mark ought to be either one without which the design would be complete in itself, and yet which, when added, does not disturb the harmony of that design; or else the secret mark should be such a trifling variation of some not very prominent part of the design as would not attract the general eye, and yet would be unmistakably distinct to the initiated. I believe one or other species of this secret mark is to be found on every genuine specimen of the five stamps, constituting the first two issues. To begin with the larger pair, as being the simplest to explain.

The *un dinero*, blue.—In the left-hand upper corner, at the intersection of the inner double lines, occurs a dot of the same colour as the stamp; or it may, in other words, be described as having the minute square formed by the intersecting lines, which is white in the three normal corners, filled in with colour in that one left-hand upper corner. The same may be observed on the *una peseta* stamp, only the dot is in the right-hand upper corner, instead of the left.

This, I think, solves the mystery of the secret marks as regards this issue, which mystery seems at one time to have so puzzled M. Moens, that (as he states in *Le Timbre-Poste*) he thought of offering a year's subscription to his magazine as a reward for its discovery.

The secret marks on the smaller and earlier series are less distinct, and consequently, being found probably not to answer (see the notice in Moens's article of the blue *dinero* having been forged), were superseded by the simpler ones I have just described.

The *una peseta*.—In the left-hand lower corner, the wavy lines forming the spandrels cease to be regular about the tenth of an inch from the left lower side, and are replaced by a sort of *marqueterie* pattern, like minute blocks geometrically placed edgeways.

The *un dinero*.—This stamp being the most generally used, seems to have been



the only one worth forging. It is, therefore, more carefully protected by secret marks. The lettering of value is most curiously arranged, being alternately one letter on lower line, and then two a line

higher. For instance, U on first line, ND a line higher, I on lower line, NE higher, R on lower line, and O higher; the whole of these letters being the same level above. Secondly, immediately below the lettering, and within the outer line, are a pair of fine lines, forming an inner border on that side only, and making nine fine lines, instead of eight, as on the other three sides. Thirdly, at the right-hand lower corner, the point of the spandrel is slightly shortened, in order to admit of an additional fine line, jutting out and passing close to the O of DINERO, resembling somewhat the prong of a fork.

The *medio peso*.—The secret mark on this stamp occurs only in the lower border, the lowest fine line of which, instead of joining the border line on the right side, turns up by the side of the S of CORREOS, nearly if not quite to the top of the letter, forming a double line on that side, as far as it goes.

In the cornucopia on white ground series, I have failed to discover any secret mark, unless the fact of the cornucopia being on white were considered a sufficient mark of itself. Neither can I perceive any on the pair of the ordinary type; but on the "broken" or disunited zigzag *un dinero*, and its companion the white flag *una peseta*, I think we again find a secret mark. It occurs this time in the right-hand border. In the *un dinero* the fourth line from the outside, in its downward course, breaks off half way through CORREOS, leaving a flaw as it were in the border, a sort of *daylight*

appearing between the lines; while in the *una peseta* the same occurs in the fourth line from the *inside*, and in the upper, instead of the lower part of the same border.

[In the course of the discussion which ensued, the Vice-President remarked that the discovery that these specimens bear secret marks which the ordinary series do not possess, tends to settle the hitherto doubtful point as to whether they were accidental variations of the same stamp in consequence of wear, or whether they were different and probably successive issues, which, if these marks be accepted as correctly described, must be the case.]

Though M. Moens has been credibly informed that secret marks are also to be found on the various issues of the embossed stamps, I must confess to have hitherto been entirely baffled in the most patient and persevering search for them.

[I have since had an opportunity of examining a number of the 5 centavos "Chorrillos" stamps; and on the best specimens I fancy I detect two initials on the point of the scroll in the left lower corner, something like c. H. or c 5, but so indistinctly executed, that "I should not

be surprised to hear" that it is all pure imagination on my part.]

M. Moens also mentions a variety of the *un dinero* red, with centre reversed, expressing, however, a doubt whether the immaculate Lecocq machine could commit such an error. I have never seen one; but I have in my own collection the *una peseta* red, cornucopia on white, cancelled by a date stamp, the *centre* of which is reversed, an *erreur d'impression*, if such may be so called, which among the many thousands of post-marks of various countries that I have examined, I have never before met with. May not a description of this error, of which there are no doubt several in existence, have passed *verbally* from one to another, till it assumed the form reported by M. Moens? I think it quite possible, and if so, the maligned Lecocq machine may still be pronounced incapable of error.

[The llama *dos centavos* is really so ugly and so badly executed, that I have not taken the trouble to examine it closely. Being in value about a quarter of a *dinero*, there is an allusive fitness in adopting one quarter of the Peruvian shield for its device, which redeems it from utter contempt. Let

us hope it is only a provisional issue by way of experimenting on cheap postage (equivalent, I believe, to our halfpenny postage), and that if found to answer, it will speedily be replaced by a design more worthy such an important republic.

[I did not include the 1866, *tri-llama*, interregnum series, because M. Moens does

not challenge their secret marks; but I believe they are equally so protected. In the 5 centavos and 10 centavos a dot occurs over the last letter of PERU; and in the 20 centavos the two dots at each end of the

upper label are alternately triangular and circular, a variation seldom used even by skilled engravers, except for the purpose of authenticity.]



MEETING OF THE PHILATELICAL SOCIETY, LONDON.

THE first meeting of the Society after the recess was held on Saturday, December 6th, at the chambers of the Vice-President, Lamb Building, Temple, at half-past three, p.m. The attendance was good, and among those present we observed "Fentonia," the Vice-President, Dr. Viner, "H. O. W.," Mr. de Ysasi, Mr. de Joannis, and several other members of the Society, and visitors. In the absence of the President, who was out of town, the Vice-President took the chair.

On the minutes of the last meeting being called for, Dr. Viner explained that the Hon. Secretary had accompanied the expedition to the Gold Coast, and, leaving suddenly, had omitted to forward the minute-

book. In the enforced absence of the minutes, the meeting proceeded to the business of the day, which was to hear a paper by "Fentonia" on the secret marks on the stamps of Peru. The members—having been previously requested—brought their collections of Peru; the President forwarded his for examination; and thus there was ample opportunity to test the discoveries which "Fentonia" had to announce. The reading of the paper was closely followed by reference to the specimens before the meeting. Our readers will find this paper *in extenso* in another portion of our columns. At the conclusion of the paper, which was received with applause, considerable discussion followed; the general impression appeared to be that "Fentonia" had fully established the existence of the marks discovered by her, and it was unanimously admitted that the prevailing classification—which places the largest size stamps as the earliest issued—is erroneous. In the collection of the President a brilliant, unused specimen of the half-peso yellow, and a fine used copy of the half-peso *rose*, were much admired, as were like specimens in the collection of the Vice-President. In each collection was a used copy of the half-peso, of a deep buff-yellow—a shade which appears to be produced by the exposure to air, consequent on the use of the stamp: all the used copies were found darker than those which were unused. It was also noticed that the hue of the *half-peso rose* is of an entirely different colour to that of any red or rose stamp of Peru, which fact appears to militate somewhat against the theory that it was printed in this colour in error.

A specimen of the exceedingly rare original Pacific Steam Navigation Company's stamp, blue, value one real, and postmarked CALLAO, as well as ancient obliterated copies of the blue one real and deep red-brown two reales of this series, in the collection of the Vice-President, attracted considerable attention. These stamps are printed on thick paper, and are blued by the gum, the red-brown being identical in colour with the red-brown Britannia, no value indicated, of Barbados and Trinidad, on the so-called blue paper, and the blue presenting a creamy look,

altogether different from the reprints so commonly seen.

At the conclusion of the discussion, a vote of thanks to "Fentonia," for her able and interesting paper, was moved by the Vice-President, and carried by acclamation. In the course of his remarks the Vice-President called attention to the fact, that on the issues of many countries the artists had appended their initials, as identifying their work; as, for instance, the w.w. (William Wyon) under the neck of the embossed head of the Queen in the 1d. envelopes of Great Britain; the b. in the French stamps engraved by Albert Barre; the c.w. (Charles Wiener) in the Portuguese stamps; and the g. to be found on the series of arms of Naples. He further observed that, besides this there was another and distinct class of marks, bearing a close analogy to those described by "Fentonia," and which probably existed on more stamps than was suspected; that this field of observation was comparatively untrodden, and presented new and wide ground to the explorer. It had long been known that certain quasi secret marks had been employed on the engravings of the stamps of Great Britain, and that these marks varied on different plates of the same stamp: as an instance might be noted the small hair lines in the four angular spaces containing the letters, at the corners of the 6d. stamp, No. 4 plate (issue 1863, with small letters in angles). These stamps did not bear any small numbers upon them; hence, perhaps, the reason of the hair marks, which were also to be found on the plates of the 9d. and 1s., both plates No. 3, of that issue. Again, in some plates of the 3d. a dot was to be seen in the angle of the curve on each side of the ornament in the centre of the stamp; and in the 4d. one or more fine vertical lines at each end of the bottom tablet marked the different plates. These researches might be infinitely extended, and would, now that attention has been drawn to the subject, probably engage the leisure of many philatelists.

The meeting then proceeded to examine the remarkable collection of Spain and her colonies formed by Mr. de Ysasi, which is

not only surpassingly rich in adhesive stamps, both used and unused, but possesses a unique series of all the marks applied by hand which frank postal matter; many very curious devices, hitherto undescribed, were exhibited.

This highly interesting meeting broke up about six o'clock, having accorded a vote of thanks to the Vice-President for the use of his chambers. The day was one to be noted in the Society's annals, as the first occasion when their meetings were graced by the presence of ladies. The next meeting of the Society will be held at the same place, at three o'clock, p.m., precisely, on Saturday, the 3rd of January, 1874, when we are desired to state all visitors interested in the Society's proceedings will be received on presenting their cards. The subject will be "The Stamps of Mexico," especially Guadalajara. Members are requested to bring their collections.

NOTES ON CERTAIN UNITED STATES LOCALS.

BY AMATEUR.

In the December number of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* an old correspondent, "Fentonia," is seeking information on several points arising out of Mr. Atlee's description of the well-known trio of large square Philadelphia locals, issued by D. O. Blood & Co., and her own specimens.

The doubts and questions of so respected a contributor merit attention; and the object of the present paper is to attempt to clear up the difficulty, and afford to all a clear test of the genuine nature, or reverse, of the specimens they examine.

First, then, taking genuine stamps, let it be premised that there are three *varieties*. Mr. Atlee calls them, inappropriately, *types*, and speaks of three dies; whereas there is but *one* die, and from it all three varieties have been made, the only alteration being in the lettering on the stamp. The varieties may be classed, as Mr. Atlee arranges them, according to the legend on the face of the stamp, viz. :—

I.—CITY DESPATCH POST. PAID.

II.—D. O. BLOOD & Co.'s CITY DESPATCH
POST. PAID.

III.—D. O. BLOOD & Co.'s CITY DESPATCH.
PAID.

It should be prominently remarked that the word is spelt *DESPATCH*, with *e*, in all genuine copies; not *dispatch*, with *i*, as Mr. Atlee and the wood-cut. (*S. C. M.*, vol. ix., p. 162) both give it. This is a very ready test to detect a forgery.

On the house nearest the left side of the stamp, under the upper row of windows, is this lettering, *C. SINCLAIR*, without *s* final, in one line (in deeply printed copies there is a shading which looks somewhat like an *s*, but close examination under a good glass shows it is not); and below, in the next line, *LITHOGRAPHER*, which ends at the angle of the house. On the next house are letters, apparently continuing and reading *CHE*.

The building in the centre is the Merchants' Exchange of Philadelphia; on the more backward of the two houses, on the right of the centre building, at the gable end, looking, till one closely scans them, like the uppermost tier of windows, are the letters *LEDG*, being (it is presumed) part of the word *Ledger*—the name of that old established newspaper in the city, the *Philadelphia Ledger*. On the building, to the extreme right, and on which the acrobat's left foot takes its rest, and immediately under the last right-hand window but one of the lower tier, is the word *SUN* in *very plain letters*.

The stamp is surrounded by a double-lined frame; and in every copy the writer has seen the inner vertical lines at the sides are continued straight downwards, cutting through the outer lines of the horizontal frame beneath.

The inscription is underneath this double-lined frame. It is very clearly printed; a good eye can readily decipher it. It runs *LITH OF WAGNER & MCGUIGAN, 100, CHESNUT ST.* At the right angle is *SCHMIDT*.

From the foregoing it will be seen Mr. Atlee was not entirely correct. *Street* is *st.*, and not given at length; *lithograph* is not fully apparent, the word commences with the second letter. Now it may safely be said that no copy is genuine which has

not the above imprints; but the more salient feature is *absolute identity of the die* in all varieties, and discrepancies only in the lettering and inscriptions on the stamp.

Let us now proceed to consider those which Fentonia refers to: she has specimens of varieties I. and II., on which she reads the imprint as

LITH AT WAGNERS (six letters indistinct),
100, CHESTNUT ST.;

but if a clear copy be looked at, it reads

LITH OF WAGNER M^{re} G (indistinct), 100
CHESNUT ST.

There is not space in the illegible part for the UGAN of the original; there is no "&" before M^{re}; M^{re} is rendered Mr.; there is no comma after GUIGAN, nor any after 100, as in the true stamp; and the 100 is crowded, instead of being well spaced out.

On looking at the stamp itself, *despatch* is spelt DISPATCH, I for e; none of the lettering on the houses is to be found, except ITHOGRAPH; SINCLAIR, in lieu of being very clear, is an unmeaning, undecipherable set of lines; and all through there are many differences, hard to enumerate, and not worth while describing, as everyone can most decisively judge by the presence or absence of the foregoing inscriptions.

Fentonia's types I. and II. are lithograph forgeries, not very common; the writer acquired a pair of them in December, 1862, when forged local stamps came over, and no genuine copies were known as standards to judge them by. This very pair was lent to Mr. Mount Brown, who catalogued them in all his editions.

There remains to consider what Fentonia calls her "type III." This is, as she will observe, coarser in look, in drawing, and execution, than the others; but, like them, it is an absolute impostor. Like them, on the bag *DESPATCH* is misrendered *dispatch*. Unlike the genuine, the imprint reads plain enough, T. SINCLAIR'S LITH. The man's right toe points up, instead of downwards; his form is too clumsy. The whole design is too rough and heavy to bear a moment's comparison with the real stamp.

The result is that Fentonia describes with wonted accuracy three indubitable forgeries, all which can be detected by the *indicia* above

detailed, by which also the genuine stamps can be recognised. The latter are of extreme rarity: there are not half-a-dozen copies known to exist on this side of the Atlantic, putting all three varieties together. No *reprints* from the genuine die are known. While originals remain thus scarce, all should be on their guard against deception; and the soundest advice the writer can give is, buy nothing as genuine, unless you can get it compared side by side with an undoubtedly authentic example, or have the guarantee of a perfectly responsible seller. The worth, in commerce, of a genuine copy is from eight to ten pounds sterling, a sum too serious to be hazarded for a worthless forgery, and too substantial to permit of any honest dealer selling the real stamp at a figure which would tempt that easy prey, a bargain hunter.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

MR. DE YSASI; A LONDON COLLECTOR; LE MARQUIS DE L——; MR. C. VAN RINSUM.—To these gentlemen our best thanks are due for the various items of intelligence communicated by them.

MR. C. VAN RINSUM, Amsterdam.—Our publishers have occasionally found among their stock of 1865 Brunswick a sheet or two of unperforated stamps, and we are of opinion that, by some means or other, they have accidentally escaped the rouletting machine. This may be the case with your one groschen rose.

INCOGNITO informs us that the word OER on the Danish West Indian stamps, of which we could not guess the meaning, signifies *Islands*, the entire inscription, therefore, reads DANISH WEST INDIAN ISLANDS.—The unperforated laureated French stamps, we believe, were never used in France, but were struck off to satisfy the desire of some influential collectors.

H. H., Newham, Truro.—(1) Both the thick and thin paper Indian envelopes are collectable. See the interesting monograph on the Indian stamps in the present number. (2) We have not seen any Spanish Republic stamps with a circular piece punched out of the centre, and cannot explain the reason for this mutilation; perhaps Don M. P. de Figueroa can help us. (3) For a catalogue of fiscal, railway, and telegraph stamps you had better apply to M. J. B. Moens, Brussels.

G. E. D., Weymouth, says he heartily agrees with what Mr. Killick observes of English envelopes. Collectors who cannot afford to buy them at dealers' prices must be content to *believe* in them, as they can never see them. He considers himself very fortunate in having lately received the 1½d. pink and 2d. blue, and adds, "Even the 1½d. adhesive is rarely to be obtained out of our great cities, and ninety-nine postmasters out of a hundred would probably think you mad if you ventured to assert the existence of our 2/- and 5/- adhesives. For this, however, there would be more excuse, as the values are rarely used."—He saw, some years ago, an undoubted Bergeudorf ½ sch. lilac with what appeared to be a Bremen obliteration mark.

ON THE PROVISIONAL ISSUES OF
GUADALAJARA.

(READ BEFORE THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, JAN. 3, 1874.)

THE stamps of Guadalajara constitute a series by themselves in the annals of philately. That a town, one among many, in the interior of a large country like Mexico, should issue its own stamps, of a design peculiar to itself, to frank postage to all parts, as well domestic as foreign, and this at a time when legal governmental issues

were in full course through the rest of the country, nay, even in the very town itself, is a fact well known to those whose attention has been directed to the history of postal matters; but which may truly be affirmed to be unique in their knowledge, and to the uninitiated must appear inexplicable, if not incredible. The records of our science, however, are full of instances which at first sight are strange: they yield to patient investigation, and furnish results valuable alike to the historian and to the chronicler of postal issues.

In bringing before this Society the following remarks on the subject of discussion, I must crave the indulgence always accorded to the efforts of a pioneer. So far as my information extends, no article treating of these stamps has appeared in any of the journals devoted to philatelic literature, except that in *Le Timbre-Poste* (vol. viii., p. 92) certain forgeries were described. Much, therefore, which may hereafter be advanced must be regarded as tentative only, and the mere expression of my individual opinion.

The first notice to be found of the special issue for Guadalajara was in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for May, 1867 (vol. v., p. 74), where, under the head of "Newly-issued or Inedited Stamps," the following observations occur:—

MEXICO.—A correspondent most obligingly sends us some specimens of a new stamp, *provisional*, as he calls it, issued by the liberal party at Guadalajara. He vouches for their authenticity, saying the copies forwarded were taken from letters delivered by post at Zacatécas. The

specimens are of the rudest; a plain circular black line, enclosing a space rather larger than a sixpence; within, the value in reales in small roman type, and the year 1867, while round the inner edge are the words, in thick black letters, FRANCO EN GUADALAJARA; the F of franco is somewhat like an E, having traces of the lowest limb of the latter letter. They are adhesive, unperforated, printed in black on plain paper, and as under:—

1 real, blue, light blue.

2 ,, white, green.

4 ,, white.

Two of the copies we saw were obliterated by a two-lined mark, shaped like an irregular ellipse, having a wreath inside.

Our strong impression is that these stamps are pure deceptions, notwithstanding our correspondent's voucher. The very selection of colours would indicate as much; for if, as supposed, a hurried provisional issue, why two colours for one value, especially as they were both printed from the same type? Their appearance, too, is generally highly suspicious, and, to those familiar with forged stamps, eminently suggestive. On testing them by the postmark, the ellipse shows the mark of a stamp of far too great size to be thus employed, and on comparing the two postmarked copies, the curve of the ellipse in the one totally differs from that of the other, and the wreath altogether varies also! To our mind this is decisive against the new comers, but before expressing more than a strong present opinion against them, we wait further information. They have a strong case to make out to establish their claims to be ranked as genuine.

The editor, it will be seen, receives the new comers with distrust, not altogether unnatural when the stamps are attentively regarded, and judged by their appearance only.

It will be remembered by all that at the period of the issue before us (1867), the Empire, under Maximilian, had for some years been established in Mexico; had possession of the seat and offices of government, and had issued the series bearing the eagle in 1864, followed by the lithographed and engraved heads of the Emperor in 1866.

The Republic never entirely ceased to be a government existing *de facto*. In some part or other of the country, Juarez had maintained his hold on certain districts, notably at Monterey, where the stamps (head of Hidalgo), engraved by the American Bank Note Company, of New York, were issued by Juarez, and current for a short time. (I may remark, perhaps, *en passant*, that this issue is sometimes, and with presumable accuracy, stated to have taken place when the head-quarters of Juarez and his party were actually at Paso del Norte, a town on the Rio Bravo del Norte, near the confines of Texas, where



Juarez had retired before the Imperialist forces, and to be near his American friends and sympathisers.) At this period, Guadalajara was held by the Imperialists, and the eagle series was in use at the post-office there.

The system at that time adopted in the distributing department of the Mexican post-office was, that each stamp should bear, by a surcharge, the year of issue to the branch office whence the public was to procure it; and that the several batches to the various post-offices in the country should each bear their consecutive consignment number in the year. Besides this, the name of the office of issue was also placed on each individual stamp before it was issued to the public. Of the eagle series, produced and issued under the Empire in 1864, batches stamped 146, 167, and 243—1864, were sent to Guadalajara; in 1865, parcels numbered 24 and 92—1865 were consigned there; in 1866, as may be seen plainly on specimens before the meeting, the numbers were 20, 51, and 92—1866. Very likely, in 1864, and also in 1865, stamps issued at Guadalajara with other numbers may be found; the above, in 1864 and 1865, I have merely noted as instances; but in 1866 I have discovered none but those bearing the above, nor have I been successful in finding any for the years 1867 or 1868. This latter omission has no significance, as the eagles were certainly not generally distributed after 1866, and there was always laxity in carrying out the above system. Sets can be found with and without names of the issuing towns, with and without numbering and date, and altogether without surcharge, in almost every possible combination.

The general idea is, that this system answered the double purpose of a check on the *employés* at the head office as to the distribution, and on the local office as to the issue. Whatever may have been its object, the latest issue of eagles to Guadalajara I can trace was that numbered 92, in 1866. It took place early in the year: one of the specimens before us is obliterated April, 1866;—how long before the stock thus sent was exhausted is matter of speculation, in the absence of official records. This we

know, that towards the end of the year, the Juarez party, who had been advancing southwards all the autumn, arrived at Guadalajara, and obtained possession of the town. The series of 1866, head of the Emperor Maximilian to the left, had made its appearance in the spring of 1866, first lithographed, afterwards (later in the same year) engraved. An issue of the former type, marked 12—1866, was made to the post-office of Zacatécas, which might lead to the inference that there was an issue, in 1866, of these stamps to Guadalajara, but for the fact, that the Juarists were strong in the districts round it from June, 1866, and had acquired that town before they obtained Zacatécas. I believe no issue of the stamps, head of Maximilian, was made to Guadalajara, for the reason presently mentioned.

The eagle stamps in use, in 1866, at Guadalajara were obliterated by a circular handstamp, formed of a single-lined ring, inscribed within, round the circle, in block or Egyptian characters, FRANCO EN GUADALAJARA, with the date in the centre in three lines of moveable types. The F is not perfectly formed: it looks like an E, with the bottom limb partly removed, so as to leave clear traces of its former presence. Moens and Mahé describe it in the stamps as if it were an E, making the word read *Eranco*. This is as much beyond the truth one way, as to call it an F would be inaccurate the other: it is a mongrel sort of letter.

The state of this part of the country was greatly disturbed in the summer of 1866; and when the Juarist faction got possession of the town, towards the end of that year, it seems tolerably certain they would not themselves procure the stamps with the Emperor's head, although the remainder of the eagles might be used without objection. When they were exhausted, the need arose for new stamps, and the ingenuity of those who had to supply the requirement could devise no better expedient than that of utilising the obliterating mark in use, making a new arrangement of moveable types in the centre, to express the year of issue and value, and producing a new obliterating stamp, for use in lieu of that thus appropriated. The postmaster at

Guadalajara, at this time, was Don Guadalupe Montenegro. He appears to have had the provisional stamps struck off and issued, without having obtained any authority from the President of the Republic, Don Juarez, who is stated to have commenced legal proceedings against him for this act. The postmaster was able, of course, to ensure currency in his own office to his own issue, and this was all that was intended or desired. I have heard that the result of this appeal to the law by Juarez was the conviction of the postmaster.

Hence the famous provisional issues of this town, current, more or less, during the years 1867 and 1868. Again I may pause to remark that the history of parties and dynasties, sometimes even of nations and races, is legibly written on such ephemeral creations as postage stamps; the refinements and necessities of civilization and intercourse, as thus exemplified, form a delicate gauge of the material prosperity of a kingdom, and of the stability of its government.

The stamps may conveniently be considered under the heads of design; paper,—including watermark; perforation; and obliteration.

First, then, of Design.

This has already been described, and is the old obliterating handstamp, the only variations being in the central filling up. The die is the same throughout, both 1867 and 1868: the circular legend consequently never alters. Of values there are five, viz.: $\frac{1}{2}$ real, 1 real, 2 reales, 4 reales, and 1 peso; obviously, therefore, each of these required a fresh setting-up of the central part. These, issued in 1867, comprehended all five values, in all of which but the *medio* the designation of currency was expressed. That stamp bears simply MEDIO in small Roman capitals (not giving any denomination whether real or peso), and the date 1867. The one real has two types, distinguishable by the *one* being rendered, respectively, *un* and *Un*; the variety *un* is found in all the varieties on wove paper, and on them alone. Moens catalogues *Un* real *vert* (Mahé's *vert d'eau*), on wove, with a capital *U*. This type on green wove is

singular: all varieties on watermarked papers are of the *Un* type—so far as my experience extends, it is restricted to them. The two reales was also twice set up: the first set has the bottom limb of the 2 on a line with reales, the *s* of which is a little higher than the other letters; in the later set, the 2 is elevated above the line, has a dot after it, and the second *E* of REALES is perceptibly above all the other letters. Of the 4 reales, there are two types, distinguishable by the presence or absence of a dot or stop after the figure 4. Of the one peso, there are two types; one variety has the word *un* small letters, the other has *Un* with a capital.

There are thus, except of the *medio*, two distinct types, at least, in all the other values of 1867. In the series on *papier quadrillé* occurs the so-called 1867, error of date—L for 1. Moens catalogues this, and a specimen is in my collection on the table; but if we look at the *Un* peso of this set, the same thing appears: the right lower base of the figure 1 prints, the left does not—it is a mere flaw of the printing, not an error in the type setting. With the single exception of a capital or small *u* in the word *un*, all the letters and all the figures in the central part used in 1867 are the same; the sole variations being due to different setting-up of the type, and punctuation.

In the 1868 set there are but two values, viz.: 1 real and 2 reales. Of these the one has *un* real in small letters; and an error has the letters of the word reversed, reading *nu* very plainly. This is on thick green laid paper, and a clear copy will be seen on sheet 4 of my specimens on the table. There are also two types of the 2 reales: one with the figure 2 upside down, as given by Moens. This I never yet met with. The letters and figures used in the centre part of the 1868 values are, with the necessary variations of the final 7 to 8 in 1868, the same: variations are due entirely to type setting and punctuation, as in those of the former year.

Thus there appear to have been two clear settings-up and varieties of each type (except the $\frac{1}{2}$ real) in each year.

The "error" 1863 is due to imperfect printing of the figure 8, and is not a typographical error. The "error" 1869 I never saw, but believe it to be of the same description; these are merely examples badly struck, *mal venus*, as the French say.

The stamps were printed by hand, separately, on plain white wove paper, at first imperforate, but adhesive; and were at first affixed, I am told, *in the post-office*, and not delivered in sale to the public till some little interval. After a short time it was found desirable to rule off the sheets of paper on which the stamps were to be struck into squares, so as to guide the eye of the stamper where the die was to fall, or to guide in severing them. Accordingly, we find pencil squares, with sides measuring, as nearly as may be, $1\frac{1}{8}$ inch, clearly visible on many of the full-margined copies before us. This ruling was done *after* the paper was gummed.

RAMBLES AT HOME AND ABROAD.

BY QUELQU'UN.

IN the month of February last we indulged in a ramble, having for its object to induce collectors to concentrate their energies on the collection of postage stamps, rather than to fritter them away in collecting together anything that could be called a stamp, however absurd its purpose was. We do not find fault with the collection of such things; but we find fault with the mixing up the collection of such things with that of postage stamps. We like to see one thing done well, rather than half-a-dozen things done indifferently well. Dr. Magnus, in his reply to our suggestion that the collection of railway tickets would be as instructive as that of tobacco wrappers, card stamps, bung and physic labels, and such like, grows quite pleasant, and says, in effect, those English people have no right to talk if we like to collect such things, for they collect anything, no matter how ridiculous it is: they even collect pictures of birds and animals, ships' crests, and eccentric monograms!*

* That little imp, the printer's devil, has lately made the editor of a contemporary promise us a rather eccentric monogram of United States official stamps.

We resided some years in France, and we certainly failed to see that the *mania colligendi* was confined to the English, though we did find that there existed amongst the French people a considerable love of novelty and change; perhaps with them postage stamps are getting a little worn out, then down with them, and up with the fiscals.

It is not everyone, however, who, like the doctor, has either the talent or the money to make a methodical collection of stamps in general. The doctor seems to make a very simple definition of what is a stamp, and what is not. According to him, a stamp is a stamp; it must be called a stamp, for a man would be fit for a mad-house who should go into a post-office and ask for a postage ticket, or into a railway station and ask for a railway stamp.* We are not answerable for the number of meanings which the French word *timbre* may be capable of bearing; but, in truth, the administration here has never called adhesive stamps anything but *labels*. They are not, strictly speaking, stamps, and we are quite submissive enough to own that they have never been termed tickets, unless those railway parcel labels, catalogued by M. Regnard, may not fitly be called tickets.

The author of a monograph on "The Fiscal Stamps of France," which has recently appeared in the *Gazette des Timbres*, and who is also the author of the papers on "The Formation of a Methodical Collection of Stamps," referred to in our February ramble, now alters the definition of a stamp previously given by him, and insists so much on the analogy between a postage and a fiscal stamp, that one would almost be led to believe them to be the same thing under a different appellation. A postage stamp is a stamp; a fiscal stamp is a stamp: therefore, a postage stamp is a fiscal stamp. A false syllogism, our Oxford friends will say, and so say we, who only owe our education to the sister university; but we will give the author's own words, and then our readers will be able to form their own opinion of French logic.

In a scientific point of view, a postage stamp and a fiscal

* [We may refer our readers to the observations on this point at page 129 of our last volume.—Ed.]

stamp both present the essential characteristic of constituting a sort of special paper money, which the administration manufactures, and delivers to the public for the payment of a tax or an impost. It would seem, then, that the collection of fiscal stamps ought to be regarded by serious amateurs with the same favour as the collection of postage stamps. . . . The very object of an adhesive stamp is, that it is destined to be delivered by the administration, at the full amount of its nominal value, to whoever wishes to use it, and so be given back to the administration in payment of the impost at par by whoever is the holder. *It is created for the purpose of being put in circulation.* It thus constitutes a sort of paper money *sui generis*, for a limited and special purpose. It must not be confounded, without doubt, with paper money properly so called, and, for example, with a bank note, the object of which is to supply, optionally and sometimes obligatorily, the place of cash for every description of payment; but it may, like paper money, circulate from one hand to another, and it even replaces cash in the payment of the tax to which it is applicable, between the individual who has to pay and the administration. It possesses this feature to such a degree that, beyond its legal destination, it serves as paper money for small sums. It is thus that we daily see persons in business indicating to their customers, in their advertisements, the sending of postage stamps as an easy and economical means of payment.

It is, lastly, because the adhesive stamp presents a triple interest, historic, administrative, and artistic, that the idea of collecting them has arisen. In all these points of view the fiscal stamp differs in nothing from the postage stamp. Both differ, on the other hand, immensely from the documents, journals, and tickets, to which they would wrongly liken the fiscal stamps. Let us conclude, then, in repeating, that in a scientific point of view fiscal stamps present the same features as postage stamps: that they doubtless constitute, in the class of adhesives, a special subdivision, but barring this distinction, they form part of the same group, and are only one of the categories of the same class; and consequently, apart from the personal preferences of a collector, and consulting the principles only of this branch of numismatics, the collection of fiscal stamps must take its place side by side with the collection of postage and telegraph stamps.

This peroration almost takes one's breath away. We have sought in vain for any argument; postage stamps and fiscal stamps are mixed about with true thimble-rig dexterity, and we get into that sort of maze we remember to have experienced in boyish days, when we endeavoured to trace out the relationship between Jack and John, on the hypothesis of Jack's father being John's son. One common feature, however, appears to be much relied upon, as it is printed in italics—that both postage stamps and fiscal stamps are created to be put into circulation. This condition, then, excludes all such stamps, fiscal and postage, as are not issued to the public, but are affixed by the administration, and cancelled by it after being affixed. Again, they both constitute

a sort of paper money, but, to our ideas, of a very inconvertible kind, save in those countries where the post-office is kind enough to buy back its stamps at a discount. The same favour does not seem to be extended to fiscal stamps, and we have never heard of any tradesman offering to receive payment in Common Law or Chancery stamps. We would recommend the author to read the paper reprinted in the first volume of this magazine (page 19) from *All the Year Round*, and he will there see that, in the opinion of the writer of that paper, a postage stamp was much superior to paper money, and was almost as good as a restaurant ticket in that respect. The real fact is, that a large number of fiscal stamps are created only for the purpose of facilitating the government book-keeping, or why should a "search stamp," available at Doctors' Commons, be useless at Serjeants' Inn? As we said before, we find no fault with collectors of anything—a collection of no-matter-what is, to a certain extent, interesting,—but we look on the collection of postage stamps as we would on the collection of oil-paintings to form a gallery, and we do not see that we are to be told to fill it up with water-colours and engravings, simply because they are all pictures, neither are we bound to admit every wretched caricature that we meet with.

Before closing this part of our ramble, we would offer one word of apology to the editor of *The Philatelist* for the observation we made in our February ramble. We stated that we regretted to see an *indication* of some uncertainty whether or not he might *become* an advocate of fiscal stamp collecting. In reply, he says, "We are accused in some of our contemporaries of advocating the collection of such impressions. The head and front of our offending consists in merely mentioning the fact that some philatelists include them in their collections in a supplementary album. The editor of a newspaper may as well be said to recommend highway robbery or murder because he chronicles such occurrences."

We perfectly agree with him so far; but suppose the editor, after relating some

highway robbery, were to go on to say, as our friend the editor did: "We abstain from any opinion on the propriety, or otherwise, of thus extending our field of research, meaning simply to chronicle the fact at present, and reserve," &c., we should be inclined to say that the editor's opinion of *meum* and *tuum* did not appear to be of a very fixed nature.

In turning over a somewhat voluminous English correspondence, which fell into our hands, we have stumbled upon a few things some of which seem worth the chronicling. We found a large number of sheets with the envelope stamp on Dickinson paper, but only during the years 1844 and 1845. We have an envelope on Dickinson paper of the small size, the die of which is dated 1860, but we also found envelopes of the same size on plain paper, the die being dated 1858, leading us to the supposition that the authorities at Somerset House used up some remnants of the Dickinson paper, subsequently to the date of the employment of plain paper.

We further found a large number of letters stamped with a variety of "Penny Post" stamps. It would seem that for some time after the commencement of the penny postage certain outlying districts still retained their penny posts, which had originally been established for the conveyance of the correspondence to and from the towns through which the mail passed. A letter now goes from the Land's End to John o' Groat's for the like sum. All honour be to such men as Rowland Hill and George Stephenson, who brought about, and discovered the means of carrying into effect, a revolution which, taking its rise in England, has gradually travelled through Europe, and embraced the whole civilised world.

CONCERNING THE FIRST SPANISH POST CARD.

THE Spanish post card has been the object of criticism both at home and abroad. Under his accustomed *nom de plume* of "Dr. Thebussem," our learned contributor,

Don Pardo de Figueroa, has replied to the objections which have been raised, and, very appropriately, has had his reply printed on the back of the inculpatated card. Thus the five hundred copies struck off by Dr. Thebussem carry their justification on their back.

The doctor first addresses himself to the task of answering the objection of the philatelic press, that the design of the impressed stamp is copied from that of the current Belgian, arms series; and disposes of it by stating that the Madrid engraver has had it in hand ever since 1869. From this the doctor deduces that the Belgian design is really a copy of the Spanish, an argument which is hardly tenable, unless it can be proved that the design was communicated by the Madrid engraver to his *confère* at Brussels. Failing such proof, however, the Madrid artist is entitled to the credit of priority of conception; whilst the curious fact remains that two types, presenting many striking points of similarity, were imagined almost simultaneously by the engravers of two different countries.

Passing from this subject, the learned doctor easily refutes a series of hypercritical objections advanced by his compatriots. The presence of the bust of the Republic on the impressed stamp, coupled with the word *ESPAÑA* in the lower margin, is held by the fault-finders sufficient to indicate the form of government, and render unnecessary the inscription *REPUBLIC ESPAÑOLA*; to which the doctor replies, that the repetition does no harm. The formula *Sr. D*— is attacked, as there may be persons to whom it does not apply. Says the doctor, Run your pen through it. There is not room enough for a long address. Write smaller, replies the doctor. The marginal inscription is ambiguous, say the cavillers: it gives rise to this and that interpretation. These are sophistries, answers our contributor: the inscription is in ringing Castilian, which Cervantes might envy. Last comes the objection, that the sender of a post card is required to sign his name to the communication he writes on it, a formality not exacted in other countries. With a fine stroke of irony, Dr. Thebussem replies, If

the signature were optional, how could the government prosecute those who might conspire by means of anonymous cards, and how could it maintain the peace of the country? And with this the learned doctor concludes a publication which, in the fullest sense of the word, is a postal one.

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. XXXIII.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

Lubeck.

THE first series of the Lubeck stamps made its appearance on the 1st January, 1859.



The design is a neat one, but as the stamps are lithographed, the counterfeit manufacturers have been able to produce very effective and, consequently, dangerous imitations. The forgeries are generally post-marked with three or four

lightly struck bars, and as they have obtained an unusually wide acceptance, I think I cannot do better than subjoin an extract from *The Philatelist* of 1871, giving the distinctive points of the genuine stamps, that those of my readers who may already possess specimens of the first series, may be able to test them, and that those who do not may be on their guard.* This

* $\frac{1}{2}$ schg.—Eagle's right beak does not go against the wing. The bird does not touch the label in any place. There is no period after SCHILLING. The lines by which the figures are divided are very fine, and the figures themselves are small.

1 schg.—Eagle very much like the one upon the genuine $\frac{1}{2}$ sch., but the right-hand head is more flattened, and, consequently, shapeless. EIN is in letters of the same size as those used in the words following it.

2 schg.—Eagle's left beak touches the wing, and the right one nearly so; there are no dots between the heads and wings. Over the u a dieresis of very small solid dots.

2½ schg.—Eagle's left claw is at some little distance from the inscribed riband. No full-stop after any of the words. All the fractional figures are very small, and the strokes dividing them nearly indistinct. The topmost of the three dashes under the upright stroke upon the left-hand is merely a dot.

4 schg.—The third segment of eagle's right wing touches the riband. There are either four or five dots (but only three are clearly formed) in the hollow between the beak and wing, and those not together, but dispersed. P in POSTMARKE almost touches the fold of the band.

is the more necessary, as all five values were produced from separate matrix-stones, and differ in various minor details from each other.

Two editions of this type are stated to exist,—one with a kind of watermark, or indentation, consisting of a number of small rosettes; the other without watermark. The latter was the first to appear; the water-marked edition being issued in 1862. The existence of the rosette marks was discovered in 1866 by M. Moens, who states that they disappear when the gum at the back of the stamps is dissolved. I have never had the good fortune to meet with any gummed individuals of the dissolving-watermark set; but the authority of M. Moens, backed by that of M. Berger-Levrault, is a sufficient reason for its acceptance. My readers may, perhaps, be able to discover copies among their own collections. The low prices at which specimens are offered by their Belgian discoverer, proves that they are not rare.* The colours are as follows:

	1859.	1862.
	(Plain backs.)	(Flower pattern.)
$\frac{1}{2}$ sch.,	lilac.	lilac.
1	orange, yellow.	orange.
2	brown.	red-brown, dark brown.
2½	lake.	rose.
4	dark green.	bright, deep, and yellow-green.

Besides the above, there exists a curious anomaly, which is found in both sets—a 2 schg. brown, with the value in words, *two and a half schilling* (ZWEI EIN HALB), on the lateral scrolls. The printing of the 2½ schg. in brown could be easily explained as a mere printer's error, but the contradiction between the figure and the inscription of value is curious, and can only have resulted from some strange oversight on the designer's part.

A new series was issued on the 1st July, 1863, which forms a striking contrast in design, execution, and printing to its pre-

* [We do not know whether M. Moens has altered his opinion since 1866, but he now includes in his catalogue the series with *petites fleurs* in watermark, and we have ourselves seen sheets un gummed, in which the watermark in the paper is very distinct.—ED.]

decessor. It is modelled on the Prussian type of 1861, and the praise of a certain prim correctness can hardly be denied it. The arms are in white relief, and the lettering and figure of value sunken. The spelling of the name of the city is changed from LUBECK to LUBECK, and

the latter form is maintained in the subsequent emissions. The colours are bright, and so regular was the impression, that no colour varieties are known. The five varieties are as follows:—

$\frac{1}{2}$ schg.,	green,	} perforated.
1	vermillion,	
2	rose,	
$2\frac{1}{2}$	ultramarine,	
4	bistre,	

In the following year (May, 1864), the series was supplemented by the issue of another lithographed stamp—the $1\frac{1}{4}$ schilling brown. The design is finely drawn, and in its general disposition is copied from the engraved type, but the extremely wide border is an objectionable feature, and the absence of perforation—the division between the stamps being indicated by a simple coloured line—is also a drawback, at least from a utilitarian point of view.



The list of adhesives winds up with the rather ornate, but not unpleasing, $1\frac{1}{2}$ schilling lilac, issued in 1866. This stamp shows a modification of the 1863 design; the oval frame is enclosed in an octagon, which sets it off; and the corners are filled

in with a light ground pattern.

ENVELOPES.

Only one series, properly so called, was issued; but it is subdivided into first emission,—stamp struck in left upper corner (1863); and second emission,—stamp struck

in right upper corner (1865); and in 1866 the number of values was recruited by the addition of the $1\frac{1}{2}$ schg. The other values are those of the 1863 set. The $1\frac{1}{4}$ schg. is not represented. The colours are almost identical with those of the corresponding adhesives; there is, however, one rare shade, the lilac-blue $2\frac{1}{2}$ schg. (to left), which was discovered after the suppression of the series. Secondary varieties also arise out of a difference in the microscopic inscription above the stamp in the second emission. All the values exist with the word SCHILLING in this inscription written without a final E; and two of them, the 2 schg. and 4 schg., likewise have the word *with* the final E added; of the two denominations just named the variety showing the added letter is the commonest. The $1\frac{1}{2}$ schg. differs from the adhesives only in the absence of the lace pattern outside the octagon, which, on the envelope, would have been unnecessary.

All the Lubeck stamps were withdrawn at the close of the year 1867, when the postal service was taken over by the Prussian government.

CORRIGENDA.

HUNGARY.—In describing the stamps of this country, the very simplicity of the subject led me unfortunately into a serious omission (for which my sincerest apologies are due to my readers)—that of the envelope series and newspaper wrappers. Let me then here state that the envelope stamps are of the *lithographed* adhesive type, and are struck in the following colours:—

3 kr.,	green.
5	dull rose, carmine-rose.
10	bright and pale blue.
15	bistre and dark bistre.

The newspaper wrapper bears an impression from the 2 kr. die, struck to the left of the wrapper, in orange.

THE UNITED STATES OFFICIAL STAMPS.—The departments are constantly in receipt of letters from stamp collectors throughout the country, enclosing money and requesting to be furnished with sets of the new department postage stamps. The requests have to be refused, as there is no lawful authority allowing such use to be made of the stamps, and the money is returned to the senders.—*New York Herald*.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED
STAMPS.

SPAIN.—This country is again an exhibitor in the “new issue” department, and the design by which it is represented is at least entitled to “honourable mention” for neatness. The stamp, of which we give an illustration, bears, instead of the well-known word CORREOS, the inscription IMPUESTO DE GUERRA, signifying, literally, impost of war or war-tax, and represents a uniform extra postal rate of 5 cent de peseta on all letters, except those which are posted and delivered in one and the same town. The mere fact that the change is made expressly for the purpose of supplying funds towards the prosecution of the war, does not rob the stamp of its postal character. The same purpose might have been gained, but at a greater expense of time and labour, by the simple surcharging of the existing postage stamps, and it would have been no part of our business, in that case, to inquire how the extra revenue thus obtained was applied. In Italy, ten years ago, the letter rate was raised from 15 c. to 20 c., to assist in meeting a deficiency in the general revenue; and for a similar reason an advance was made in France just after the war. We have thought it as well to anticipate, in the foregoing remarks, the objections which might be raised to the reception of the new Spanish stamp, on the ground that it represents a tax and not a postal charge; and trust our readers will not consider we have wasted our space. This latest addition to the already long list of Spanish issues is printed in black on thinish white paper, perforated; the armorial bearings are those which were in use during the interregnum. The emission was authorised by a decree of the 2nd October, 1873; and New Year’s Day was fixed for the issue. The stamp must be put on every letter which circulates beyond the limits of the town in which it originates, but not on post cards, nor on correspondence for and from abroad. The decree gives directions



for the issue of another war stamp, value 10 c. de peseta; but the latter is, no doubt, intended to supplement the fiscal stamps.

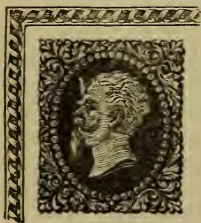
In the *Revista de Correos* for December, Don M. P. de Figueroa gives a *résumé* of the philatelic-legal acts of the year, among which he includes a circular of the General Deputation of the Seignory of Vizcaya (the Carlist administration), dated the 22nd November, 1873, organizing the service in that province and in Alava, Guipuzcoa, and Navarre. The second article reads thus: “Prepayment shall be obligatory by means of a seal or common stamp, which will be sold to the public in the offices and posts which shall be established by the respective Deputations and the Royal Administrative Junta of Navarre, at the price of one *real de vellon* (copper real).” Respecting this decree the learned author observes, that the articles are drafted in a remarkably minute and intelligent manner, and that it is curious that there is nothing in the paragraph above quoted to identify the “common stamp” referred to with that known to philatelists as the Don Carlos stamp. The presumption, he adds, is in favour of its indicating a forthcoming emission. The circular is dated from Durango, and bears sundry signatures. It was copied into a Bilbao paper, *La Guerra*, whence it was extracted by Don M. P. de Figueroa. In contrast with his argument that the decree refers to a projected issue, must be placed M. Moens statement that he has received a specimen of the known type (with the accent over the N in Spain) value 1 rl., obliterated with a lozenge in the centre of three rows of dots, disposed also in the form of a lozenge, and bearing a circular postmark inscribed VILLA RL. (Royal Town) DE ZUMARRAGA GUIPUZCOA, 13th December, whence our Belgian *confrère* concludes that the authenticity of this long-disputed issue is now determined.

HOLLAND.—Another variety of the ordinary post card for home use has made its appearance. It would seem that the stock of the last issued 2½ cents has been exhausted, and, pending the preparation of a fresh supply, recourse has been had to the earliest *unstamped* card, with four line inscription at the bottom. On this card, in the usual place,

has been printed the $2\frac{1}{2}$ cent stamp (arms in beaded circle; NEDERLAND above, value below) which figures on the ordinary card; but as it is struck in reddish lilac, and the frame is in mauve, the contrast afforded by the two shades evidences the provisional character of the issue. Prior to its emission the unstamped cards were sold with an adhesive $2\frac{1}{2}$ c. affixed to them.

The 50 cents of the adhesive series, of which the issue was begun more than eighteen months ago, was to make its appearance on the 1st ult. As to the 25 c., the supply has not yet been printed.

ITALY.—The Italian post cards, the emission of which has been alternately decreed,



countermanded, and re-decreed, made their appearance on New Year's Day, or, to speak "by the card," on the 31st December, 1873. The post-office authorities, foreseeing that people would like to make use of the

cards to convey their seasonable wishes to their friends, obtained leave to issue them a day in advance, and no doubt the accruing profit to the state justified their application. The design, we feel sure, will be pronounced an elegant one. It is a reminder of the essays which made their appearance some twelve years back, and is, no doubt, like them, of native origin. It will be remarked that the stamp does not bear any indication of value, and this for a very good reason. The same design serves for the single and for the reply-paid card; and whilst the price of the single card is 10 centimes, the price of the double is only 15 centimes. This reduction in price for the latter is another of the many innovations which have resulted from the introduction of post cards. Compared with our own and some other countries, the cost of the single card is high, but still it is only half the Italian letter rate, and it is, at any rate, lower than that of the French cards. Furthermore, it will be noticed that, unlike the French, there are no special cards for local correspondence. The single and double cards differ from each

other only in their inscriptions, and in the tint of the cards themselves. The former is in brown on buff, and is inscribed CARTOLINA POSTALE, DIECI CENTESIMI. The latter is in brown on rose, with the first half inscribed CARTOLINA POSTALE, CON RISPOSTA PAGETA, QUINDICI CENTESIMI; and the second simply RISPOSTA. Under the inscriptions is the shield of Savoy, surmounted by a crown; and in the left lower corner the usual letter-press, indicating that the address only must be written on the front; and in the right upper corner, a circle for the postmark. The stamp itself, as will be seen from our engraving, is to left.

We have just received from an esteemed correspondent a series of the current issue of the stamps for this country, of the values of 1 c., 2 c., 5 c., 10 c., 20 c., 40 c., 60 c., and 2 lire, surcharged, in black, with the word ESTERO (foreign);—this inscription being printed in ordinary Roman capitals, in an inverted arc. Six of these values differ slightly from the Italian stamps proper in not having the corner ornaments; and the remaining two (the 5 c. and 2 lire) have the pattern in angles so altered as to present a more open appearance. We are informed that this issue was made under the authority of the Italian government, at the commencement of the present year, for the purpose of prepaying the postage of letters from foreign ports on the Mediterranean to Italy.

TOLIMA.—Quoting here from *Le Timbre-poste*, we have to chronicle the discovery of a specimen of the known primitive type



with two faults: EE., instead of EE., and CORROC for CORREOS. M. Moens refers also to our remarks on the 15 c. Tolima stamp described by us in a re-

cent number. He seems to think that we set ourselves up as the champions of that stamp. Such is not the case. We merely described a specimen which was sent to us still attached to the original envelope, and side by side with a genuine Antioquian 5 c., and as the two stamps were obliterated with one and the same postmark, we argued that if the postmark were genuine, the Tolima

stamp must also be so. To this M. Moens opposes the fact stated by us, that the number of stars is not the same on the two values of the doubtful type, and that neither number agrees with that found on all the other Granadine stamps; he also asks why the arms should differ on this Tolima design, and of what use would be such a value as 15 c., seeing that it is unknown in the country. These objections are not in themselves fatal to the authenticity of a stamp which M. Moens himself takes care now to say he does not condemn, but they are undoubtedly worthy to be weighed in the scale against the favourable evidence which fell into our hands; and we leave them for our readers' consideration.

DUTCH EAST INDIES.—A consignment of the following new values and post cards has recently been sent out to Java:—

1 cent	greenish grey.
15 "	brownish bistre.
25 "	violet.
2½ florins	head green, frame violet.

UNPAID LETTER STAMPS.

5 cents	yellow on white.
10 "	green on yellow.
20 "	green on blue.

The ordinary adhesives are of the type already in use, and the unpaid-letter stamps resemble in all points those of the mother-country.

The post cards are divided into single and reply-paid, all of the same general design. The ordinary card has the 5 cent adhesive type in the right upper corner, BRIEFKAART in the centre, the Malay inscription KARTOE POS (post card) in front of the stamp, and the translation in Javanese to the left on the same line; under the stamp, ALAMAT (address), and the Javanese equivalent at the other end; and in the centre, on the same line, ADRES in Dutch. The reply-paid cards have in addition, outside the frame, ANTWOORD BETAALD on the first half, and VOORUITBETAALD ANTWOORD on the second, with, in each case, the Malay and Javanese translations. There were three essays prepared for each type, differing among themselves only in the pattern of the frames, and the characters of the letter-press. The adopted type of the ordinary card has a

border resembling that on the current Belgian, and the frame of the reply-paid card shows a pattern formed of a plait on coloured ground. The reply-paid opens from the right, like the Dutch cards. Both cards are printed in violet on buff.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.—*Saratoff* (Saratoff).—



The annexed type is another of those described by us in our "July list," and it corresponds in every respect with our description, except in so far as regards the date, which had been changed from 1869 to 1871. The impression is struck in blue

on thin white paper.

Dnieprovsk or *Aleschky* (Taurida).—This design was also mentioned in the initial list above referred to. The inscriptions are

divided in the following manner. In the upper margin, RURAL STAMP; in the lower, OF THE DISTRICT OF DNEI-PROVSK (abbreviated); and in the centre, FOR LETTERS 5 KOP. It is



printed in plain black on white. M. Moens says that the town of Dnieprovsk is situated at the mouth of the Dnieper, was founded in 1711, and is inhabited by the Cossacks. It is now called Aleschky, by which name it is designated on all the maps, but the administration has, nevertheless, made use of the primitive denomination.

Nolinsk (Katka).—A new type, resembling in its general dispositions type No. 4 (represented in our vol. xi., page 120), has just made its appearance.

It is struck in black on dark red, glazed paper, and as it is but a rough typographic composition, there are as many varieties as stamps in a sheet.

These changes offer very little interest, for if *Le Timbre-poste* be correctly informed, as it no doubt is, they originate with the printer, and have no special signification.

Fatejh (Koursk).—If further proof were



necessary of the primitive nature of the district postal service in out-of-the-way parts, after the example given in the preceding paragraph, it could be adduced in the fact, that at Fatejh the rural postmaster makes use of all kinds of envelopes indifferently. Thus M. Moens catalogues no less than eighteen varieties in all on white wove, —greyish white wove, white laid, very thin white laid, pinkish white laid, and white wove, coloured on the inside; and this for two values, blue (4 kop.) and red (6 kop.) The colour of the stamp alone indicates the value: the texture, shape, and tint of the envelopes are immaterial. The colours of the stamps, as may be supposed, also vary considerably. Thus we have blue, pale blue, bright blue, and dark blue, pale and bright vermilion, and brick-red.

Toropetz (Pskoff).—In contradistinction to the practice in Fatejh, at *Toropetz* the size of the envelope indicates the value. Those which measure $14\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ centimetres are sold at 6 kopeks, of which one kop. represents the cost of the envelope, and the other five the rate. Those measuring $11\frac{1}{2} \times 18$ centimetres are sold at 11 kop., of which, in like manner, 1 kop. goes to pay for the cost of the envelope, and, as it is cut out by hand, the price is certainly not too high.

EGYPT.—The intelligence that a new series of adhesives is shortly to be issued will be received with unmixed pleasure by collectors, and they will *not* be surprised to learn that the preparation of the forthcoming type was decided on as soon as the present hideous emission saw the light.

TASMANIA.—Quite a change has come over the current penny stamp. Originally issued in carmine-rose, and clearly printed, it now makes its appearance in a thick dull red, and is so badly printed that the profile in the centre is hardly more than an unsightly blotch.

TURKEY.—Our Belgian contemporary has found some unperforated 10 paras brown and 20 p. green among a lot of used stamps, and he notices that the 5 piastre, perf. 7, is now printed "milky" blue, greenish grey, and greyish blue.

VICTORIA.—Our Brighton contemporary has official authority for stating that a half-

penny adhesive is on the point of being issued for this colony, to supersede the strangely contrived provisional in present use.

SWITZERLAND.—The 5 centime Swiss post card has just changed its colour from rose to chocolate, possibly because the latter is a near approach to the colour of the corresponding adhesive.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

BY AMATEUR.

SPANISH ANTILLES.—This seems rather a fanciful title, used as we are in England to confound all the stamps of the Western Spanish Colonies under the head of Cuba, the tendency of which is to make us almost lose sight of Puerto Rico. This result is one no longer to be apprehended among careful philatelists, because it has become necessary to make a very substantial distinction: the last named island alone rejoices in the provisional issues, *i.e.*, those of 1868 and 1869, head of Queen Isabella I. to the left, surcharged *HABILITADO POR LA NACION*. Cuba has *never* thus surcharged its stamps, the common classification which assigns the stamps thus utilized for the Republic equally to Cuba and Puerto Rico is erroneous: *all stamps so marked are of Puerto Rico origin solely*. The Republic was not proclaimed in Cuba till after the series of stamps of the colonies issued by it was ready for use. Puerto Rico authorities were in advance of the more western isle, and not only proclaimed the Republic but issued the surcharged stamps, following in this respect the example set by the mother-country.

The sets of 1868 and 1869 (5 c., 10 c., 20 c., and 40 c.) each are to be found thus surcharged, and as they are somewhat rare already, future collectors will find them difficulties in their way.

My object in calling attention to this subject is because a very deceptive surcharged set of the 1869 issue—5 c. rose, 10 c. brown, 20 c. orange, and 40 c. lilac—all genuine stamps, lies before me, *but the surcharge is false*. It may be useful to point out a ready method of detecting the criminals. In the genuine provisionals, the

words of the middle line, POR LA, lie very apparently nearer to the word NACION than to the word HABILITADO. In these falsifications, POR LA is placed exactly in the middle, and is as far from the upper as from the lower word.

For a second test (which comparison renders much more certain to apply), in the false the first and last words are in larger type; notably HABILITADO.

For a final test, the originals have a stop after NACION; the false have none.

The source whence these come is calculated to inspire confidence; there can be little doubt they were surcharged in Madrid, the type and style being *identical* with that used to surcharge some of the Spanish stamps, which are properly enough thus marked, probably by the very same types and setting up as that which has been, I think, *improperly* used thus to mark some sheets of the colonials which had not been exported. If this view of mine be correct, a very curious incident has been detected,—a *genuine* stamp, imprinted with a *genuine* surcharge, and yet a *falsified* result, the component parts each *genuine separately*, but in a combination which is not possible.

This set will remain among the curiosities of stamp collectors, which seems appropriate enough, as their wants or desires unquestionably led to its manufacture.

Stamps with lined back-grounds.—

M. Moens, in his catalogue, describes Austria, 1870, same issue as 1867, head to right on *solid* back ground, as also existing in the 5 kr., 10 kr., and 15 kr. values on back ground formed of lined squares (*fond quadrillé*).

After giving the French series of 1869, laureated head of Emperor on *solid* back-ground (*fond uni*), he names—in 1870 the same type (30 c.) on *fond ligné horizontale-ment*.

Now, all these stamps are plate printed from metal dies; and it is inconceivable that such cross-hatched ground-work could be employed: no engraver would think of it, and no reason seems to exist for making it. These varieties, too, are not very common; I, therefore, sought an explanation of

the difference,—*which really exists*,—in the printing operations, and think I have found it. The secret lies in the inking process; when the roller is not fully inked, it leaves traces of the cloth fabric, with which its outer surface is covered, on the plate; the ink only fills up the interstices in the cloth, and the lines of warp or woof, or, in *fond quadrillé*, of both, are plainly left; the plate, thus imperfectly inked, renders an accurate impression on the paper, and hence the varieties in question.

They are, therefore, simply due to imperfect inking; whether collectable or not, must depend on the taste of each individual. It is, however, decidedly wrong to class them as varieties of, or rank them on a par with, errors in the dies.

THE PHILATELICAL SOCIETY, LONDON.

THE second meeting of the season took place at Mr. Philbrick's chambers, Lamb Building, Temple, on Saturday, 3rd January, at 3 p.m. Sir Daniel Cooper, Bart., President, in the chair.

The subject for discussion was the stamps of Guadalajara (*not Guatemala*, as the editor of the *Philatelist* erroneously announced), and the members brought their entire collections of Mexico to the meeting.

The attendance was numerous, and the interest keen, notwithstanding that the papers read were long. We were glad to notice that the after discussion was not of so desultory a nature as sometimes it has been; and we think there is an evident improvement in the plan of restricting it more to the immediate subject in hand, than of letting it ramble. Let us rectify an error, which crept into our report of the last meeting: one noticed by the respected Secretary, viz., that no *strangers* were present at the former meeting,—the plan on which the Society has reconstructed itself being to recognise all fellow-workers.

The proceedings of the day began by "H. O. W." reading a Reference List for Mexico, which was designed for these columns. The Vice-President then read his essay on "The Provisional Stamps of

Guadalajara," a part of which appears in our issue of this month; the rest will follow.

After the papers were read, a cordial vote of thanks was passed to the writers for their pains. A general comparison of the stamps on the table then ensued.

In the course of this examination it was remarked that the 4 reales (head of Hidalgo) black on yellow, with Gothic lettering, was not to be found in any collection, and no one present had seen a copy. Moens catalogues it, but whether from hearsay or not is impossible to say. Copies of this stamp, *not* surcharged in Gothic, came over on letters with other stamps surcharged in Gothic, during the currency of the latter series.

Of the stamps of Guadalajara, nothing appeared which was unnoticed in the Vice-President's paper, except that the present issue are sometimes obliterated with the old round mark which served for the stamps of 1867 and 1868. The President showed a finely postmarked pair of the 12 cents blue with this obliteration on them.

Before the meeting adjourned (to 31st January, at the same place and hour), some discussion took place as to the subject for next meeting; but ultimately Col. Mainwaring's paper on British India, in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for January, 1874, decided the meeting to make that country the subject of a special research, in the hope that some of the hitherto undescribed rarities enumerated in that paper may be unearthed. Any of our readers possessing such are invited to communicate the fact to our editor.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

The Philatelic Catalogue. By EDWARD L. PEMBERTON. Part I. Dawlish: James R. Grant & Co.

THE first part of this valuable work is before us, and we lose no time in informing our readers of the fact of its issue; but beyond stating that it is admirably printed and arranged, we cannot attempt any criticism of its contents, for we have not had sufficient time to go through them carefully; and an

incomplete notice, based on a hurried glance through the book, would be unjust both to the author and to our readers. Next month we purpose giving an analysis of the issued part, and we cannot better indicate our appreciation of its importance than by expressing the hope that every reader will be able to follow our observations, copy in hand.

The Imperial Postage Stamp Album and Catalogue. Illustrated. By E. S. GIBBONS. London: H. F. Kirkman; Plymouth: Stanley Gibbons & Co.

WE have here, in a very effectively got up and profusely illustrated volume, a new competitor for favour, the appearance of which is one among many signs that the taste for stamp collecting is on the increase.

The plan on which this album is executed is after that first adopted by Lallier, viz., a catalogue for reference on the left page, and ruled spaces for the stamps on the right page. To assist the beginner, many illustrations are added, which will prevent error in placing the specimens in their positions; some of these engravings, however (*e.g.*, that on page 196, of the unattainable essays of Dutch Guiana), will certainly tend rather to puzzle the collector. The album is brought down to the present time, including issues so late as the new set of Bolivar. Another novel feature is, that spaces for post cards, to be collected entire, are left. We do not quite see why these should have the *pas* of envelopes, which in this album must be cut and fitted to the spaces left for them; but the step is in the right direction, and the beginner who has used an album like this to commence with, will be able to act on his own judgment in his succeeding volume.

We are somewhat at a loss to comprehend the principle, if any there be, by which some post cards are to be collected, and others are entirely ignored. Thus in Austria and Austrian Italy three species of cards only are provided for, and no mention made of those of Ruthenia, Bohemia, or the Polish or Slave provinces.

If we turn to British Guiana, the first series, and the oblongs of 1856, are alto-

gether omitted; the arrangement in Hayti (p. 278) is somewhat confused, owing, in part, to a misprint of UN for UN, and in part to the system of ignoring paper and watermarks on which this album is conceived.

But, on the whole, it strikes us as fairly executed, and quite sufficient for a tyro to begin upon. The illustrations of arms are good (they have a strong resemblance to those in Alwin Zschiesche's German Stamp Album, which latter could hardly have been "specially prepared" for Mr. Gibbons's book); the price is reasonable; and among the various albums planned in this style, we think this new comer has a claim to its share of the patronage of the public.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

A POST-OFFICE STORY.—It is reported at St. Martin's-le-Grand that one Saturday afternoon, about two o'clock, one of the cerberis stationed about the entrance of the great ones of the post-office espied a little gentleman in a suit of rusty black, evidently looking for something which he could not find. Being accosted, he seemed overcome with the magnificence of the uniformed messenger, but at last, recovering his self-possession, he intimated that he would have conference with the Secretary, Mr. Tilley. "What!" exclaimed the messenger, supposing from his appearance and manner that the speaker was on a missing-letter errand, "What, see Mr. Tilley on a Saturday afternoon after 1, p.m! I tell you what; it can't be done. You'd better come on Monday morning." The stranger said that he would rather see him now. The messenger was determined to guard, if necessary, his chief's sanctum. At last the little gentleman said, "At least, tell Mr. Tilley I am here." "But I don't know who you are," said the messenger. "A pretty mess I should get into agoing into the Secretary, and a-saying, 'He's outside, and wants to come in.' Why it's as much as my place is worth. However, you can leave your card, and maybe he'll give you an appointment." "I haven't got a card," replied the besieger. "Well, come into my room, and write your name on a bit of paper." On this the two went into the porter's room, and the messenger received a piece of paper bearing the words, "Dr. Lyon Playfair, Postmaster-General." The messenger has since recovered from his astonishment, but remembers nothing that transpired during the rest of that day.—*Civil Service Review.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE AUSTRIAN JOURNAL-TAX STAMPS.

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

DEAR SIR,—I beg to offer a few remarks about the square Austrian journal stamps. Every account I have seen of these stamps agrees in stating that they were, and are still, used as a tax on foreign newspapers entering the Austrian dominions. Having noticed several of these stamps obliterated by being printed over in the

same manner as the French journal stamps, I am led to infer that either they are also used as a tax on home journals, as well as foreign, or that they are allowed to frank the Austrian journals through the post.

If the latter supposition be correct, these often condemned, but generally admitted, stamps have as much right in a postage-stamp album as any others issued for postal purposes.

I do not see how the stamps can be obliterated, as stated, by the Austrian officials; it must have been done when the journal was printed.

Perhaps some collector can explain this, to me, rather puzzling anomaly.

Yours respectfully,
Nether Heath, Alston. WM. VIPOND.

THE SECRET MARKS ON THE PERUVIAN STAMPS.

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

DEAR SIR,—In the January number of the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, I find a very interesting article by "Fentonia," on the subject of the "Secret Marks on the Stamps of Peru," which has led me to examine closely the few stamps of that country which I possess.

I find that, in the 1836 or Llama series, the 5 centavos possesses a not very conspicuous dot over the last letter of Peru, but the 10 centavos and 20 centavos possess what appears to me to be an accent over that letter, as apparent as that over the *e* in CORREOS, which is entirely omitted in the 5 centavos.

In the article on the stamps of New South Wales, I would beg to point out, that no mention is made of the threepence green, laureated profile, watermarked with numeral of value.

I remain, yours truly,
Plymouth. CHETH.

[We have received a letter respecting the Peruvian secret marks, couched in almost identical terms, from another correspondent, who signs himself "Dot," and a third, under the signature E. W. S., calls our attention to the fact that "Fentonia" does not give the same test for the 20 c. (llama) as for the two others. On referring to the article, we find that the reference to the 20 c. is not quite so clear as could be wished; we cannot think that so practised an observer as Fentonia could have passed over such comparatively prominent marks as the accents over the *e* of CORREOS and the *u* of PERU, in both the 10 c. and the 20 c., and yet, in her reference to the latter value, that lady speaks merely of a variation in the shape of "the two dots at each end of the upper labels." We think some further explanation on this point is desirable, the more so, as we are not quite clear as to the ornaments described as "the two dots."—Ed.]

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

SIR,—I regret to find that on reading over my article on this subject, I have inadvertently committed an unaccountable blunder in the last paragraph, relative to the 20 centavos of the triple llama set of 1866. The sentence, which in its present form is incomprehensible, should have run thus:—

"In the 5 centavos and 10 centavos a dot occurs over the last letter of Peru, as also in the 20 centavos, which has besides a second dot over the *e* of CORREOS; all being

more triangular than circular, a variation seldom used even by skilled engravers, except for the purpose of authenticity."

I hope that every one possessing the magazine, will at once, for the honour of philately, draw their pen through the two erroneous lines, and not allow such an egregious error to go down to posterity. A close inspection of the 10 centavos proves—what I had not before observed—that it also has the second dot.

Clifton.

FENTONIA.

OBSOLETE ENGLISH NEWSPAPER STAMPS.

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

DEAR SIR.—Perhaps the following notes may be of some use to your correspondent, "Claverhouse." I have in my collection at present five newspaper stamps, which I cut some eight or nine years ago from old papers. They are of the value of $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and 2d., and were, I believe, partly postal and partly represented a duty. *a* and *d* are worth noticing for their values.

(a). Red on white, crown, &c., in mantle, as described by you, ONE HALFPENNY.

(b). ONE PENNY red, similar to above. These were handstamped to all appearance, but the following were probably printed with the paper.

(c). ONE PENNY, black on white, value in centre of oblong oval, surrounded by foliage, crown above and scroll below. Letter and numeral at sides of crown. Round the frame run the words ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS; NEWSPAPER below.

(d). Oblong with arched top, NEWSPAPER surmounted by crown, foliage, &c.; above, name; below, THREE HALFPENCE. Black on white.

(e). Oblong hexagon. TWO PENCE in centre of wreath, &c. Above, name; below, NEWSPAPER. Black on white.

I am told there was a $\frac{1}{2}$ d. black on white, but I have never met with it. How is it that these earlier newspaper stamps appear to be almost ignored by collectors and by compilers of catalogues? Surely they have as much claim on us as many eagerly sought after foreign stamps of a similar nature. I do not think the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. ever passed the post alone.

Trusting that some older collector will kindly give us the benefit of his experience in this matter.

I beg to remain, dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

G. E. D.

Weymouth.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

MR. C. VAN R., Amsterdam.—We are greatly obliged for communication of the provisional 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. post card, and for the other information contained in your letter.

M. S., Alexandria.—We are much obliged for the Italian "estero" stamps, which had not before come under our notice. You will find them referred to in this number.

C. H. C., New York.—Supposing the proof we sent of your article has failed to reach you, we have forwarded a duplicate, and hope you will let us have it at your earliest convenience.

MR. DE YSASI.—Accept our best thanks for the specimens of the Spanish war-tax stamps, of which you will observe we give an engraving, and also for the other information contained in your obliging communications.

INCOGNITO says he has just seen a green 5 skilling of Sweden of the current type; is not our friend mis-

taken in the value?—As for the alleged German stamp, of an entirely new type, we cannot chronicle it on the slender data he gives.

V. C., Bournemouth.—The "Ocean postage" design you refer to formed part of the design of an envelope, got up in the Mulready style, by a now extinct society, which advocated the adoption of a penny rate for letters between Great Britain and America.

J. O. KERSLAKE, Glasgow.—You will best aid the cause of Philately by supporting and recommending *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* and kindred publications: for if philatelists cease to possess a medium of communication, there will be no rallying-point to which they can look for assistance in their pursuit.

E. W. S.—On first reading your inquiry it was our impression that a careful forgery of the $\frac{1}{2}$ peso yellow of Peru had been described a couple of years since in our pages, but on referring we find we are mistaken. If you could secure a copy of the counterfeit you mention we should esteem it a favour if you would send it to us for description.

ANTI PALE-AND-POORIST, Hastings.—We are greatly obliged to you for the kind expressions contained in your letter, and the suggestions it contains are a gratifying evidence of their sincerity, but no good purpose could be gained by publishing them. Were we to do so, we should merit the reproach of acting in a hostile and ungenerous manner.

MISS H. VERNON, Leeds.—The book about which you inquire is entitled *The Illustrated Catalogue of Postage Stamps*, by Dr. J. E. Gray, of the British Museum. The fifth edition (1870) has for some time been exhausted, but the publishers have lately announced a new and improved edition, to be issued in eight monthly parts. Perhaps this will serve your purpose.

W. H. S., Cardiff.—writes that he possesses a 3 cent brown Shanghai, first issue, postmarked with a circular band, and the words SHANGHAI LOCAL P. O. inside the band, stamped in blue ink. He has also the 15 c. Réunion, postmarked in block letters, s. c. H. He wishes to know the meaning of these letters. Is our correspondent assured of the *bona-fide* character of these stamps?

C. S. A. W., Southsea.—The collection of colour varieties has frequently formed the subject of discussion; but, whilst no general rule can be arrived at, the feeling of collectors appears to be that circumspection should be used in admitting such varieties. They cannot be wholly excluded, and it is for each individual philatelist to judge to what extent he will admit them. Persons who intend to form a limited collection will only insert very distinct shades; whilst others, who wish to have illustrations of every phase in a stamp's history, will collect specimens exemplifying every gradation of shade, whether the varieties thus created be due to accident, or not.

G. H. H.—The navy series of the U. S. departmental series consists of the following values:—

1 cent, 2 c., 3 c., 6 c., 7 c., 10 c., 12 c., 15 c., 24 c.,
30 c., and 90 c.,

all printed in blue. We will not contest that the cord represented on these navy stamps is really intended to represent a length of rope-cable, but we think some more prominent symbol might have been adopted.—On again examining our copy of the 5 c. Nicaragua on white, which is from the same source as the specimens you saw, we could only find a few faint traces of clouds to the right of the tree; possibly they come out with more or less clearness on different specimens, in proportion to the amount of ink on the *cliché* from which they are taken.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED
STAMPS.

SWEDEN.—A series of official stamps, of somewhat unusual aspect, has just made its appearance. At the moment of writing we are uncertain whether our engraver will succeed in getting ready an illustration of the type in time to accompany the present notice. We, therefore, deem it as well to

mention that these stamps are transverse oblong in shape, and in their general appearance resemble fiscals. The

arms of Sweden, with supporters and crown, are represented in the centre of an uncoloured transverse oval, broken at the sides by two upright oval disks, with figure of value in centre, and inscription, TJENSTE FRIMARKE, round the edge. Above the arms is the word SVERIGE; and below, the value in words. The spandrels are filled in with a dotted ground, and a single-lined frame encloses the whole. The stamps are printed in colour on white and perforated. The values, taken from a set very kindly communicated to us by a valued correspondent, are as follows:—

3 öre,	light brown.
5 „	„ green.
6 „	lavender.
12 „	blue.
20 „	vermilion.
24 „	light orange.
30 „	dark brown.
50 „	pale rose.
1 krona,	blue and brown.

The *krona* is the advanced guard of the new currency. It supersedes the rix-daler, and is printed after the fashion of the Helsingfors. The upper half, above a line drawn from the lower left to the upper right corner, is blue; and the lower half, brown. The series came out on the 1st January, and on the same day, as we are informed by a correspondent at Stockholm, a set of unpaid letter stamps was issued, inscribed LOSEN

(to pay), and consisting of the following values:—

1 öre,	black.
3 „	rose.
5 „	dark brown.
6 „	orange-yellow.
12 „	red.
20 „	blue.
24 „	lilac.
30 „	pale green.
50 „	light brown.

What the design of these latter stamps is, our contributor does not state.

NATAL.—Specimens of the three values of the new issue, prepared in the *ateliers* of Messrs. De La Rue & Co., have been shown us by the courtesy of a private friend. They are

One penny	deep rose,
Threepence	light blue,
Sixpence	mauve-purple;

all printed on thin, highly surfaced paper, watermarked cc. crown, and perforated 14. The designs differ slightly, but all bear the well known head of Queen Victoria to the left, with a fresh crown by way of variety; the jewels and balls are elevated on points somewhat like those in a viscount's coronet; we are not particularly struck with the alteration as being an improvement.

In the penny the head is in a pearled circle, flattened at the sides; in the threepence, the head is in a very elongated upright oval; each of these has NATAL POSTAGE at the top in a straight line, the value beneath. The flatness of the oval in the threepence leaves room for lateral side borders of the common Greek or key pattern. The sixpence has the head in an oval band, carrying NATAL POSTAGE and the value, all inscribed in a hexagon, which gives a strong resemblance to the current sixpence of New South Wales.

Execution, perfect; design, passable: the quintessence of pretty mediocrity seems to characterize these stamps, as most of those from Bunhill Row. When will Messrs. De La Rue be able to shake off the traditions of the past, and produce something artistic in design, with some power in it, if originality be hopeless?

ITALY.—It appears that certain speculators in Italy have for some time past been turning

to account, in a curious way, the depreciation of the currency there. They have been buying postage stamps in Italy with the paper money in forced circulation there, and selling them again for cash in the foreign towns in which the Italian post-office has established branches. As one result of this manœuvre, the branch offices have found the sale of their stock of stamps considerably lessened; so, to put a check on the practice, a set of stamps, of a special type, is to be issued as soon as possible. Meanwhile, the stamps now current in Italy are still to be employed; but those intended for use at the foreign branches will be surcharged in black with the word *ESTERO* (foreign), as described in our last number, at page 26, and only the stamps so surcharged will be accepted in payment of postage.

Another series, says a correspondent of *Le Timbre-Poste*, appears on the horizon. The Italian Finance Minister, in a recent budget speech, proposed to abolish the franking privilege now exercised by deputies, senators, and government officials, adding, "As to the government offices, the abolition of the franking system in them may be arrived at by means of special postage stamps."

Lastly, a stamp has been issued which forms another addition to the numerous class of stamps of which the collection is optional. It is attached to a little book containing ten tickets; is of large size, bears the usual profile of the king in the centre, and is



inscribed *BIGLIETTI DI RICOGNIZIONE POSTALE*, which may be roughly rendered as "Personal Identity Tickets." The explanation of this issue is as follows. In Italy, as in France, all registered letters must be delivered

to the person to whom they are addressed; it is not sufficient for the postman to leave them at the house. If the recipient is not there when the postman calls, he must go to the office to claim his letter, or wait until the postman

comes again. To business men the delay which thus frequently arises is very vexatious, and the government has hit upon a plan for remedying it, which at the same time brings in some much needed grist to the state mill. It consists in the issue of little books, each containing ten numbered tickets. The possessor, when he knows or expects that a registered letter has come for him, tears out one of the tickets, and gives it to his messenger, who, against the simple presentation of the ticket at the office, obtains possession of the letter, and the liability of the post-office entirely ceases with the delivery to such messenger. The little books are sold at a franc each, and the stamp is on the cover; its facial value is 10 centimes, but whether that is charged in addition, or is included in the price of the book, our Belgian contemporary saith not. The stamp is adhesive, perforated, and coloured deep golden yellow. It is, after all, only a collateral relation of the postage stamp, and claims attention, if at all, as a postal curiosity.

FRANCE.—It is rumoured that new post cards, with impressed stamp, are to make their appearance. The information is sent us by a generally well-informed correspondent, but we are bound to say we have met with no confirmation of it in the French newspapers, which are usually well posted on such matters. It was stated some time since that the post cards had not answered the expectations formed of them, and that they had been extensively used by anonymous slanderers, hence it was suggested that they should be withdrawn. As to the means of annoyance they offer to evil-disposed persons, that is inseparable from the system, but the petty persecution of which they may be made the medium has generally been found to die out after the novelty of the thing had worn off. That the cards should not have been a financial success is not astonishing, seeing that their high price operates as a restriction on their use. The deputy at whose instigation they were first issued recently proposed, in the National Assembly, to reduce the rate to 5 c. and 10 c., respectively, but his suggestion was negatived; and it may be that the postal authorities, after the decision thus given in

favour of the maintenance of the existing prices, have felt authorised to supersede the present provisional cards by the cards with impressed stamp to which reference is made above.

Since writing the above, we have seen an extract from one of the Paris papers in *L'Ami des Timbres*, whence it appears that it is in contemplation to issue special envelopes for the use of the non-commissioned officers of the French army. They would bear the inscription CORRESPONDANCE MILITAIRE, and would be sold exclusively, and at a reduced price, by the regimental quartermaster. It is not said whether the envelopes would bear an impressed stamp. Perhaps this intelligence has given rise to the rumour respecting the post cards.

Whilst under this heading, we may mention that we possess a cleverly contrived envelope, so cut and folded as to conceal an inside sheet attached to it, of which one side is blank, and the other has advertisements on it. It bears on the outside a 15 c. adhesive, on which is indented a monogram, consisting of the patentees' initials. The envelope is sold in Paris at one-third of the facial value of the stamp—the sellers recouping themselves the other two-thirds of the price, plus the cost of the envelope, and getting a profit into the bargain, out of the charge they make for the advertisements.

SWITZERLAND—*Belalp*.—A local stamp, similar in character to the Rigi and Maderanerthal labels, was issued last year for this locality; and the correspondent who has favoured us with a specimen accompanied it with the following information:



The Belalp is a lofty alp (in the strict sense), situated about 3½ hours walking from Brieg, in the valley of the Rhone, and in the Canton of Valais, in Switzerland. On it an enterprising German, from Wurtemberg, Klingele by name, opened a small inn, in 1860, which has steadily increased in popularity since then. The only mode of access to this inn from Brieg is by a somewhat rough mule path, and the letters are brought up every day by a little donkey. To defray the expenses of this donkey express, Herr Klingele, last year, issued this stamp.

It is put on every letter or newspaper which is sent down, or which comes up, and is imitated from, and, of course, precisely analogous to, the Rigi-Kaltbad stamp. The tax is 5 centimes. The view on the stamp represents the inn with a view of the Gross-Aletsch-Gletscher, which

streams just below it, and in the back ground are distant mountains,—the Eggisch horn, Oberaar horn, &c.

I am in the habit of spending great part of the summer at this inn, which is 7,130 feet above the level of the sea, and is the centre of numerous fine expeditions, besides commanding from the windows a view of Monte Leone, the Simplon road, the Fletschhorn, Mischabel-hörner, Monte Rosa, Matterhorn, Weisshorn, &c., &c.

I can, of course, guarantee the genuine character of this stamp, having known Klingele several years, and used the stamp myself last summer, when it was first issued. I would have written before, but for press of work.

Oxford.

W. A. B. COOLIDGE.

To this we need only add that the stamp is printed a rich violet on white, is unperforated, and that no cancelling mark is used for it; some other means being, we presume, adopted to prevent the stamps being made to serve twice.

SPAIN.—A correspondent of *Le Timbre-Poste* states that the Carlists started a regular postal service on New Year's Day. This is no doubt in conformity with the decree we published last month, and it agrees with the statements made in the telegrams from Spain published in the daily papers at the beginning of last month. The stamp of the known type, profile of Don Carlos, is the one in use, and our contemporary's correspondent now says, it was engraved at Bayonne. He chronicles three varieties of it:—1st. Without accent over n, ordinary paper; 2nd, ditto, thick paper; 3rd, with accent, thick paper. But if the service was only organised on the 1st January, how is it that the stamps were known so long before, and how was it that M. Moens received obliterated copies? In spite of all the proofs which have been brought forward in favour of the Carlist stamps, we know there are some collectors, whose opinions are entitled to great respect, who are not disposed to pin their faith to them, and who are even inclined to think that there has been some "wire-pulling" in connection with them. Probably, as there is now a regularly conducted Carlist postal service, the stamps will become commoner and better known.

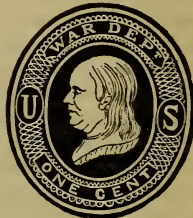
We referred in our last month's number to the issue of the war-tax stamps; one of them, the 5 c. black, for letters; the other, a 10 c. blue, for revenue transactions. A friend of ours has, however, sent us an envelope

received from Spain, on which the postage of 50 centimos is made up by an ordinary 40 c., in conjunction with a 10 c. blue war stamp; this would seem to show that the war-tax stamps may be used for ordinary postage. The same correspondent sends us a double Spanish post card, inscribed *TARGETA*, instead of *Tarjeta*, on both halves; a striking variety, seeing that the mistake has been corrected on the ordinary card.

SHANGHAI.—The unstamped cards issued by the local post having, we presume, proved a success, the authorities have replaced them by an issue of stamped cards. The latter have the 1 candreen stamp in the right upper corner. Across the front run the words SHANGHAI LOCAL POST CARD; under which is a Chinese inscription, and below that the usual inscription THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE. Two faint lines crossing the card divide the stamp and inscriptions from the place reserved for the address. The frame is composed of three straight lines; and the angles are filled in with bows. The whole is printed in pale lilac on stout white card. The 1 cand. stamp in the upper corner appears to be an impression from a used cast, as the outer line, and some of the framework above the inscription SHANGHAI P. O. are gone; and in the lower right corner the frame is again broken. The card is of small size, and there is nothing on the back of it. We have to thank Messrs. Stanley Gibbons & Co. for communication of an early copy of this interesting emission from the borders of the celestial land.

BAVARIA.—We have just received specimens of a post card and newspaper wrapper, both recently issued, and both bearing an impressed 1 kreuzer green, which differs from the ordinary type now in circulation, in having a post-horn, instead of a numeral, in the disks in the upper angles. The card is of medium size, straw coloured, and tolerably thick. The stamp is in the *right* upper corner, and across the card are the words *KONIGREICH BAYERN*; the Bavarian arms being intercalated between them. Below comes *POSTKARTE* in German text, then half-a-dozen lines for the address, and below them a quantity of letter-press. The back is blank.

The embossed design comes out very well on the card. The wrapper, like most of the German bands, is narrow, and not very stout. A green line runs along top and bottom, and the stamp is struck near the right end.



UNITED STATES.—We are now able to give engravings of another brace of types of departmental stamps. The War Department envelopes simply bear the ordinary type with altered inscription; the series of adhesives for the Executive is, like all the others, composed of the medallions of the ordinary set in a specially designed frame. Our illustration represents the 10 cents, which, with the other "Executive" values, is printed in carmine.

A correspondent says that he has seen a 7 cent adhesive, head of Stanton, with legend cancelled, and surcharged 20 c., after the fashion of the provisional 20 c. Italian. Can any of our readers explain this anomaly?

MEXICO.—We learn from the *American Journal of Philately* that the values and colours of the projected series for Mexico will be as follow:—

5 centavos,	brown.
10	black.
25	blue.
50	green.
1 dollar,	carmine.

Nothing has yet been seen on this side of the Atlantic of the stamps themselves.

GERMAN EMPIRE.—The surcharging of the 2½ gr. and 9 kr. brown, to which we referred in our last volume, has been effected. Perhaps not unconnected with the circumstances which led to this surcharging, is the avowed intention of the German authorities to issue a fresh series of stamps, with numeral, instead of arms, in the centre, on New Year's Day, 1875.

LUXEMBURG.—New post cards are on the point of being issued for this duchy. The type is at present under discussion, and the design most in favour is one which resembles that of the 5 c. Uruguay; it shows the arms in the centre of a large figure five, 5 centimes being the adopted rate. The stamp will be in the right upper angle. There will also be reply-paid cards.

NEW ZEALAND.—The editor of *The Philatelist* states that he has seen a pair of current scarlet twopennies printed, probably by inadvertence, on the N. Z. paper.

CANADA.—Our new Brunswick contemporary, *The Stamp-Collector's Chronicle*, says that the 1 cent card now in use in Canada appeared on the 1st October, 1873, in a bright sky-blue, which contrasts most favourably with the dull blue of the former issue.

SIERRA LEONE.—The Marquis de L— writes us that he has had information of the issue of a sixpenny stamp of the new type, colour orange. *The Philatelist* notices sundry minor changes of shade in the other values.

SAN SALVADOR.—Our above-quoted correspondent states that he has just seen a pale blue medio-real.

MADEIRA.—The 100 reis of the new type, colour pale lilac, has made its appearance; only the 240 r. is now required to complete the set.

DENMARK.—The current 8 sk. brown, and 4 sk. and 16 sk. official, have been found unperforated.

ON THE PROVISIONAL ISSUES OF GUADALAJARA.—II.

(READ BEFORE THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, JAN. 3, 1874.)

Continued from page 20.

Paper.—At first, common white wove was used for all values: no other paper has four separate values of an issue on it, as the subjoined table shows at a glance. It was soon obvious to the post-office authorities, that the values might be advantageously denoted by employing coloured paper. Ordinary coloured fancy writing papers were procured, and on these the changes have been rung in a bewildering manner, per-

haps because no sufficient supply of any one kind was to be had. I think, however, we may call green the normal colour of the 1 real, as of the ten varieties of paper it is found on, half are green. In like manner, we may fairly say rose is the normal colour of the 2 reales, as of the twenty various papers on which it is eight are rose, and but five only green; of the 4 reales, the ruling colour is slate-grey or lilac, which carries six out of nine of them; the one peso is found only on lilac of two shades, one bluish or true lilac, the other redder (*Lie de vin.*)

The 1 real 1867 stamp on yellow wove is the sole variety known on that coloured paper, and indeed my specimen is the only one I ever heard of; it came from an old American collection. My own belief is that the paper has been artificially coloured since the stamp was printed: but this is mere supposition. There is a look about the grain of the paper which suggests a false colouring. M. Moens shares my view, but there is doubt enough to justify the retention of the specimen, and its classification as a variety.

The papers themselves vary much in thickness, make, and watermark. We get plain coloured papers, wove, *papier quadrillé*, i.e., cut into small squares by vertical and horizontal lines crossing at right angles; the same, with each alternate vertical line omitted, forming oblong rectangles (this variety of paper is peculiar to the 1 real 1867); *papier vergé batonné*, i.e., laid paper, with ruled lines for writing in the watermark; paper with these lines, *but not laid*, *papier batonné*; and paper laid, *without these ruled lines*, *papier vergé*. In addition, the laid papers used in 1868 were much thicker than those of 1867, the lines visible in the substance being fewer, broader, and wider apart, and sometimes almost approaching wavy lines, or *papier nuagé*. It would be uninteresting to do more than refer to the subjoined table, in which I have collated such materials as I had, and made a full list of the varieties found on the various kinds of paper.

The conclusion I draw from these facts is, that, though leading colours were chosen,

the supply of paper at hand to meet the want was limited; that recourse was had to the ordinary fancy coloured writing papers, so much more in vogue abroad than with us; an inference justified by the varieties of style, make, and colour found, and by the somewhat curious fact, that many specimens show at the sides the gilt edge of the sheet of paper on which they were struck. Several may be remarked here to-day.

Thirdly, *Perforation*.—The first stamps were imperforate; there is an indistinct assertion (*S. C. M.*, vol. v., p. 138, Sept., 1867), from San Francisco, that "they were first received *perforated square*." This is clearly erroneous, if intended of the issue; specimens may, perhaps, have been rouletted by private hands in straight lines, so to make square stamps, but this is mere supposition. The official perforation was by a circular steel hand-punch, cutting a row of dents circular wise round the stamp, and effecting a *perçage en pointe*; the only other circular stamp I know of mechanically cut round is the administrative or official stamp of Bremen, the edge of which is festooned or scalloped; some essays of Italy are cut in like fashion. There were at least two punches employed in Guadalajara: one cut 39 dents to the circle; the other, 42: the *medio real* perforated in my collection is cut by the former; the pair of 2 reales next it in the line, by the latter, as also is the 1 peso. The specimens here showing adjoining stamps on the sheet, one punched out, and one intact, leave it needless for me to add further explanation, or to do more than call attention to the irregularities in cutting into the edges which so primitive a method entailed. It will be seen, several sheets were punched at once.

There remain to notice the obliterating marks. When the former die was appropriated to make the stamp itself, a new obliterating mark was necessary; several appear to have got into the service: one, which I take to be the first, is simple: two laurel wreaths, inclining to each other, and forming a circle. This is seen on the 2 reales 1867, on white paper, before us; this copy is one which arrived in England in May, 1867. Another mark is a long flat-

tened oval; the outer rim formed by *one* thick, the inner by *two* thinner lines, leaving a band between, in which will be found FRANGUEDDO above, GUADALAJARA below; an ornament of laurel leaves fills each end. The third and last mark I shall describe shows a sort of lover's knot or interlaced double-lined figure of eight, very neat and effective for its purpose; it does not *disfigure*, but does *obliterate*. We are veritable goths in this respect here in England, and might take a lesson, if not from the remote west, yet from some of our European neighbours, with advantage; notably the Belgians, who use a beautifully clear stamp.

It will be seen that generally these stamps have no date in the obliteration; but many of those marked with the flattened oval have such, as may be seen here to-day.

As may be imagined, from the nature of the provisional stamps of Guadalajara, they are rare, and becoming scarcer; indeed, to fill the *lacunæ* in one's collection is a matter of great difficulty, and requiring patience and time.

As to comparative degrees of rarity, the *medio real*, and the *un peso* 1867, are almost unattainable, the latter especially so. I entirely disagree with the editor of the *S. C. M.* (vol. ix., p. 124, 1871), where he rates the *Un peso* as *unattainable*. He probably means *un*, but that he talks of it being on *papier quadrillé*; of this variety, of which he speaks, I know some eight or nine copies were received here. That which he calls *the* rarity, *par excellence*, 4 reales, 1867, on blue (*qq.*, grey) *batonné* (*qq.*, *vergé batonné*), may be seen imperforate and perforate in my sets, and, though not common, is not so rare as the *medio*. My idea is, the *un peso* on *lie de vin* wove paper, and the *medio real perforate*, are the two least attainable: the former is virtually impossible.

Forgeries.—The prices commanded by these stamps were a strong incentive to fraudulent imitations, hence forgeries might well be expected, if not desired. In September, 1870, a set of four stamps, a so-called issue of 1867, *second type*, came to this country. Specimens were sent to me, and I so thoroughly distrusted them, that I requested

the publishers of the *S. C. M.* to insert the notice of them, which appears in vol. viii., p. 154, October, 1870, in these words:—

MEXICO: *Guadalajara*.—We received early last month a set of four stamps of this town, under the description of "1867 issue, second type." They consisted of:—

Un real	grey-blue,
2 reales	white,
"	pale green,
"	pink,

and were all fresh, clean specimens, good margins cut square, and with the adhesive matter on their backs. The paper in all of them was plain wove, without lines or watermarks of any kind.

As this was the first intimation we had of such a thing as a *second type* of 1867, we somewhat carefully scrutinized them. The chief difference between it and those now so well known, appears in the lettering of value in the centre, but the surrounding words, FRANCO EN GUADALAJARA, are different. It has long been noticed that the F of the first word has, in the olden set, a defective piece at the bottom, giving the idea of an E altered since the letter was cast in the foundry, and that the alteration was clumsily done; so much so, that we have seen catalogues give these stamps with *Eranco*, for *Franco*, but in these new comes the defect seems exaggerated and very different—more fashioned, and (to borrow a French word, for which an equivalent is not at hand) *intentionné*, than in our older friend. The printing, too, seems to have been effected so as to leave marks of fine cloth or muslin intervening between the inking roller and the die, and in several other minute, yet indescribable particulars, there is strong dissimilarity.

No traces of the square pencil-markings, which are found on all old stamps with large margins like these, are to be met with. The gum is new looking, but yellowish, and altogether these stamps by no means fill us with confidence.

As at present advised, we are not disposed in their favour. Remembering, however, that we were equally guarded and cautious about the original Guadalajara, as to which there is no shadow of a doubt, we reserve to ourselves full right to place this second issue of 1867 in its proper position, when lapse of time and further information enable us to form our judgment with greater certainty.

Any of our friends who can tell us why a second type for 1867 should now appear, and be heard of for the first time, and whether any indubitably postmarked copies are known, will confer a service. The only postmarked copies we could accept as entirely satisfactory, would be those from private hands, which never could have been foisted on the market with a *griffe de complaisance*, given (for a consideration) by a post-office official to an enterprising dealer.

I offer no apology for reproducing my remarks, to which I can add nothing, and from which I can withdraw nothing. I believe their effect, here at least, stopped any profit being realised by the forgers. M. Moens, in *Le Timbre-Poste*, in the article alluded to at the beginning of this paper, strongly expressed the same opinion, and gave a critical analysis, by which detection is made easy. It is superfluous to add, that time

shows these to be, as was supposed, indubitable impostors. Mr. Pemberton makes some characteristic and pungent remarks, well worth reading, on the same subject. They will be found in the *S. C. M.* (vol. ix., page 28, 1871). In the summer of 1873, series of 2 reales, 1868, in fifteen varieties, were offered for sale by a Paris dealer. These also are falsifications, of presumably French origin. It would be profitless to analyze the points of difference, but the thickness of the impression, and generally different appearance from genuine specimens of the 1867 issue, will be apparent at once to the experienced collectors now present.

The strongest collections formed in England in these stamps are those of our president, of Mr. Image, and of the late Mr. Pauwels—a collection, I regret to say, which has left this country. My own comprises upwards of 60 specimens, some two or three of these are duplicates. Abroad, that of our *confière*, "A Parisian Amateur," is by far the richest of any I know; Baron A. de Rothschild and Dr. Magnus each has a fine series, and M. Albis is, I understand, strong in them. It is from the American collections we must look for more help, especially those made in San Francisco or the neighbourhood, where exceptional facilities for correspondence with this part of Mexico were enjoyed. The European stamp dealers have nearly explored the country; and I fear not much is left for the future discoverer of varieties. This, however, does remain, to investigate the records at Guadalajara and at the Mexican head office; to obtain what official information may be found there; to find the proceedings in the lawsuit raised by Juarez against the postmaster, the allegations in which cannot fail to be highly interesting, as well as beyond all doubt authentic. If any lover of the science, whose taste and circumstances favour him in this respect, is able to make these inquiries on the spot, I may venture to express the hope that a reference to the proceedings of this day will afford light and guidance to assist his researches.

[For Table of Papers see next page.]

TABLE OF THE DIFFERENT PAPERS
ON WHICH
THE PROVISIONAL STAMPS OF GUADALAJARA HAVE BEEN PRINTED.

	1867 ISSUE.					1868 ISSUE.	
	Medio Real.	Un Real.	2 Reales.	4 Reales.	Un Peso.	1 Real.	2 Reales.
<i>A. On plain wove white paper</i>	1	1	1	1	„	„	„
(<i>Papier uni.</i>) yellow paper	„	1	„	„	„	„	„
green (shades)	„	1	1	„	„	1	„
blue (shades)	„	1	„	„	„	„	„
lilac and <i>lie de vin</i> ..	„	„	1	„	1	„	1
rose (shades)	„	„	1	1	„	„	1
slate-grey	„	„	„	1	„	„	„
<i>B. On paper watermarked in squares.</i>							
(<i>Papier quadrillé.</i>) slate-grey paper	„	1	„	1	„	„	„
green „ 	„	„	1	„	„	„	„
rose „ 	„	„	1	„	„	„	„
blue-green „ 	„	„	1	„	„	„	„
lilac „ 	„	„	„	1	1	„	1
<i>C. On laid paper lined for writing.</i>							
(<i>Papier vergé batonné.</i>) green paper	„	1	1	„	„	1	„
rose „ 	„	„	1	1	„	„	1
slate-grey „ 	„	„	„	1	„	„	„
lilac „ 	„	„	„	„	1	„	1
<i>D. On paper lined for writing, otherwise plain.</i>							
(<i>Papier batonné.</i>) slate-grey paper	„	1	„	„	„	„	„
rose „ 	„	„	1	1	„	„	„
lilac „ 	„	„	„	„	1	„	1
<i>E. On laid paper.</i>							
(<i>Papier vergé.</i>) green paper	„	„	1	„	„	1	„
rose „ 	„	„	1	„	„	„	1
lilac „ 	„	„	„	1	„	„	1

A REFERENCE LIST OF THE STAMPS OF MEXICO.

BY H. O. W.

THE stamps of Mexico are so well known to every collector, that a paper on the stamps themselves, their origin, history, and dates of issue would be a work of supererogation. The object of this paper is merely to give a complete reference list of the stamps of this country known up to the present date. The great difficulty we have found is to name correctly the colours and shades of the stamps comprising each issue, and also to know where to draw the line as to shades. But whenever two or more colours or shades are given, our readers may be sure that they are distinct ones and worthy of collection. Some colours will be found followed by a small v ; of these slight shades exist, though not sufficiently distinct to be catalogued. Before proceeding to enumerate the stamps, it would be, perhaps, as well to briefly notice some of their chief characteristics, which are paper, perforation, and surcharging.

Paper.—There are two sorts of paper used—white and coloured—both unwatermarked, the substance being about the same, except in the provisionals of 1867, colour on white, where some of the paper used is thin, and watermarked R.P.S. in large Italian capitals.

Perforation.—The stamps of every issue, except those of 1864, issued by Juarez, are imperforate, although those of the two last are also found perforated, or rather, we should say, punctured.

Surcharging.—The stamps of the first three issues have a surcharging in black of the name of the state or town at which they were sold. Those issued since have generally a date and number as well as the name. The stamps were, we believe, issued by the head office without surcharge; hence sets of each issue, except the lithographed Maximilians, are to be found unused and unsurcharged. The surcharging was put on afterwards at the different post-offices before being sold to the public. A few stamps are to be found postmarked, without any surcharge, but they are very rare and probably due to accident. In our reference list we have subdivided each issue into those with surcharge (A) and

those without (B), as sometimes a particular shade is found in one and not in the other; but we would not for an instant recommend the collection of sets of each, nor would we that of full sets of the different kinds of surcharging. We would suggest trying to get each value in every set with a different surcharge. We are not quite sure as to the precise date that stamps were first issued in Mexico, but we think somewhere towards the close of 1856 they were as follows:—



I.—Portrait of Hidalgo to left, in oval lined disk: CORREOS MEXICO at top, in embellished frame; value below. Rect., col. imp., on white paper.

<i>A. With Surcharging.</i>	<i>B. Without Surcharging.</i>
$\frac{1}{2}$ r. Blue.	$\frac{1}{2}$ r. Blue.
Pale blue.	Pale blue.
Dark blue.	Dark blue.
1 r. Yellow.	1 r. Yellow.
Pale yellow.	Pale orange.
Orange-yellow.	Orange.
Orange. <i>v</i> .	
2 r. Emerald green.	2 r. Dark green.
Light green.	Green.
Dark green.	Pale yellow-green.
Yellow-green.	
Pale ditto.	
Sea-green.	
Light ditto.	
4 r. Red.	4 r. Red.
Light red.	Pale brick-red.
8 r. Violet.	8 r. Violet.
Pale violet.	Red-violet.
Red-violet.	
Dull red-violet.	

II.—Same as I. Black impressions on coloured paper.

(1861.) A.	B.
$\frac{1}{2}$ r. Black on fawn.	$\frac{1}{2}$ r. Black on fawn.
Pale black on fawn.	Pale black on fawn.
1 r. Black on green.	1 r. Black on green.
Black on yellow-green.	Black on yellow-green.
	Black on <i>rose</i> (error).
2 r. Black on rose.	2 r. Black on rose.
Pale black on rose.	Pale black on rose.
4 r. Black on yellow.	4 r. Black on yellow.
Pale black on yellow.	Pale black on yellow.
8 r. Black on brown.	8 r. Black on brown.
	Pale black on brown.

III.—Same as II.

(1863.) A. AND B.
4 r. Red on yellow.
Violet-red on yellow.
8 r. Green on brown.



IV.—Design somewhat similar to I., but more finely engraved. Col. imp., rect., perf. 12.

(1864.)

UN REAL,	Red.
DOS REALES,	Blue, light blue.
CUATRO REALES,	Brown. v.
UN PESO,	Black.

These stamps were engraved by the American Bank Note Company, and were issued by Juarez, at Monterey. The genuine used ones generally have the name MONTEREY surcharged at the side, though we have seen the *un real* without surcharge, and postmarked FRANCO across the stamp. There exists a set of proofs in the normal colours imperforate on thin paper. We have also seen proofs of the *cuatro reales* printed in green, black, blue, red, and deep yellow.



V.—Crowned eagle on cactus, holding a snake in its beak, within an oval band, containing the words CORREOS MEXICO at top: value below. Star in each corner. Col. imp., rect.

(1864-6) A.

B.

TRES CENTAVOS.

(1865.) Reddish brown.

(1866.) Brown. v.

MEDIO REAL.

(1864.) Puce. v.

Rosy lilac.

Reddish lilac.

Violet-brown. v.

(1865.) Lilac.

Pale lilac.

(1866.) Pearl-grey.

UN REAL.

(1864.) Dull Prussian

blue. v.

Sky-blue.

(1865.) Pale sky-blue.

Greenish blue.

(1866.) Blue.

Light blue.

Very bright blue. v.

DOS REALES.

(1864.) Canary-yellow.

Orange-yellow. v.

(1865.) Pale yellow.

Orange-yellow.

(1866.) Orange.

Yellow.

CUATRO REALES.

Dark green.

Green.

Brown.

Warm brown (laid p.)

Rosy lilac. v.

Violet-brown.

Lilac.

Pale lilac.

Pearl-grey.

Dull Prussian blue.

Sky blue.

Blue.

Dark blue.

Very bright blue.

Canary-yellow.

Orange-yellow.

Pale yellow.

Yellow.

Orange. v.

Green.

Yellow-green.

(1865.) Light green.
Yellow-green.
Pale yellow-green.
OCHO REALES.
(1864.) Bright red. v.
(1866.) Dull red.

Pale yellow-green.

Bright red. v.

Dull red.

Brick-red.



VI.—Profile of Maximilian to left on solid disk, surrounded by oval band containing IMPERIO MEXICANO and the value. Col. imp., rect., lithographed.

(1866.) 7 centavos,

Pearl-grey.

Pale lilac.

Very faint lilac.

Brown-lilac.

Blackish grey.

Light blue.

Blue.

Bright blue.

Very dark blue.

Lemon.

Orange-yellow. v.

Orange.

Green.

Light green.

Yellow-green.

Pale ditto.

13 c,

25 c.,

50 c.,

VII.—Same as VI., but engraved.

A.

B.

7 c. Mauve.

Pale mauve.

13 c. Blue.

Pale blue.

Bright blue.

25 c. Orange-yellow.

Orange.

Brownish yellow.

50 c. Green.

7 c. Mauve.

Pale mauve.

Purple.

13 c. Blue.

25 c. Orange-yellow.

Orange.

50 c. Green.

Pale green.

VIII.—Provisional issue. Same as I., surcharged (MEXICO), in gothic type; those on *pelure* paper are watermarked R.P.S.

(1867-8). (1). On *pelure* paper.

$\frac{1}{2}$ r. Greenish grey.

Green.

1 r. Blue.

Light blue.

2 r. Light green.

Green. (Imp. and perf.)

4 r. Rosy pink.

Red. (White p. thicker).

(2). On coloured paper.

$\frac{1}{2}$ r. Black on fawn.

1 r. Black on green.

2 r. Black on rose.

4 r. Red on yellow. v.

Black on yellow.

8 r. Black on brown. v.

Green on brown.



IX.—Provisional issue, used in Guadalajara. Single lined circle, with inscription within (FRANCO EN GUADALAJARA); value and date in centre. Black imp., on coloured paper.

(1867).	$\frac{1}{2}$ real,	White.
	1 r.	White.
		Blue.
		Green.
	2 r.	White.
		Sea-green.
		Yellow-green.
		Rose.
		Magenta.
	4 r.	White.
		Bluish.
		Rose.
	1 peso,	Purple.
(1868).	1 r.	Green.
	2 r.	Rose.
		Purple.

These stamps are found on a variety of papers; some on wove, others on laid, *batonné*, *quadrillé*, and *vergé-batonné*. Some are also perforated, or rather punched out, with 42 and 39 dents. For list of varieties, we refer our readers to the paper on Guadalajara, in another part of these columns.

X.—Portrait of Juarez in lined circular disk. MEXICO at top, and value below: star in each angle; rect.



- (1838). (1). Imperforate. Surcharge in Roman type.
- | | |
|--------|--------------------------|
| 6 c. | Black on fawn. |
| 12 c. | Green. |
| | Bluish green. |
| 25 c. | Blue on rose. v. |
| 85 c. | Blue on rose. (error). |
| 50 c. | Black on yellow. v. |
| 100 c. | Black on brown. |
| | Brown on brown. (error). |
| 110 c. | Black on brown. (error). |
- (2). Perf. 19, with and without Gothic surcharge.
- | | |
|--------|------------------|
| 6 c. | Black on fawn. |
| 12 c. | Black on green. |
| 50 c. | Black on yellow. |
| 25 c. | Blue on rose. |
| 100 c. | Black on brown |
- (3). Punctured 14½.
- | | |
|--------|------------------|
| 6 c. | Black on fawn. |
| 12 c. | Black on green. |
| 25 c. | Blue on rose. |
| 50 c. | Black on yellow. |
| 100 c. | Black on brown. |
- Brown on brown. (error).

As a rule the Roman type is the characteristic of the imperforates, and the Gothic of the perforates; though occasionally they are to be found *vice versâ*, viz., imperf., with Gothic, and perforated, with Roman inscription. These varieties are uncommon, and probably due to accident. Some collectors make a set with and without dot after the value. This variety is not worthy of collection, as it is only due to error in setting up the type, as you frequently find in pairs of any value, one stamp with a dot, and the other without.

XI.—Head of Hidalgo in an oval, within a rectangular frame: CORREOS at top; MEXICO at bottom. Value in words at the sides. Star in each angle. Col. imp., rect.



- (1). Imperforate. Inscription in Roman type.

(1872).	6 c.	Green.
		Light green.
		Blue-green.
	12 c.	Blue.
		Light blue.
		Sky-blue.
	25 c.	Red.
		Rosy red.
	50 c.	Yellow.
	100 c.	Lilac.

- (2). Punctured 14½. Surcharged MEXICO in an arch.

6 c.	Green.
	Yellow-green.
12 c.	Blue.
	Light blue
25 c.	Red. v.
	Rosy red.
50 c.	Yellow.
	Pale yellow.
	Lemon-yellow.
100 c.	Lilac.
	Violet.
	Reddish lilac.

There exists a set of these stamps perforated, and surcharged MEXICO at the *side* in Gothic type. These were the first that came over, and are now very scarce.

IN SAXONY a letter-carrier not long since brought back a parcel to the "dead-lung" office, with the notification, "Party addressed hung himself half-a-year ago. Present whereabouts not known."

A NOVEL LETTER-BOX.—In the Indian section of the Viennese Exhibition was to be seen a stuffed tiger, ingeniously got up as a letter-box, and under the animal's half-open mouth was a placard, inscribed "Shut at four o'clock p.m."—the feeding time in the Zoological gardens.

THE PHILATELICAL SOCIETY,
LONDON.

THE third meeting of the season was held on January 31st, at the same hour and place as the preceding; the subject chosen for discussion being Col. Mainwaring's Descriptive List of Indian Stamps, which had appeared in the January number of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*. Some new associates were introduced, and a few minor topics discussed; after which the Vice-President proceeded to take the several issues chronicled in the paper in question *seriatim*. He remarked that No. 1 (half-anna; lion and palm-tree) was stated to have been made, though never used, but that the writer merely implied its actual existence, and that he himself, with all the opportunities he had had of examining most of the choicest collections known, had never seen a specimen, neither had any of the gentlemen present at the meeting. He hoped this notice might call forth fuller information from some source, official or otherwise, respecting this earliest of the Indian issues.

The speaker then passed on to No. 2, the half anna of 1854, concerning which the Colonel evidently suffered one to suppose that the black, red, and blue individuals were consecutively printed from the same die; whereas the contrary was well known, the first and last being identical, the red one varying altogether in type. The Colonel's use of the word "printed" would seem to imply that these stamps were engraved, while, in reality, they were lithographed, as facially shown on the complete sheets.

Nothing needed notice regarding the well-known red 1 anna, No. 3; but no one present having ever had a sight of Nos. 4 or 5, they lay in the same category as No. 1. Nos. 6 and 7, and No. 8, type of No. 7, but colours reversed, were too well-known to require attention.

Proceeding to De La Rue's designs, emitted in 1855, the Vice-President observed that the tint of the paper on which they were printed was not noted by the writer of the article under review, and that three values—the 1 anna, 4 annas, and 8 annas—were always catalogued as existent on blue

paper, whereas the known specimens of the first named were but doubtful. Individuals existed apparently so printed, but on close examination they had all proved to have been artificially created.

The remainder of the stamps described did not (with one exception to be noticed presently) need comment, because they were all easily procurable. It was remarked that the seal impression on the flaps of the envelopes was probably of like design with the first stamp for India quoted above. The half-anna envelope on yellow paper, was unchronicled, its issue not having taken place when the Colonel compiled his article. The exception alluded to is the provisional service stamp, No. 18 *b*. This, though rare, is found in most collections of importance in its normal state, viz., lilac with *black* surcharge, but is stated by the Colonel to be also surcharged in *green*. It was known in this state to no one present at the meeting, and collectors are earnestly requested to apprise the secretary should any be fortunate enough to possess it.

In one of the collections present a copy of the 4 annas, head blue, border red, with the head inverted, was noticed. This variety does not appear to have been catalogued, but we have seen several specimens.

After these observations, an exquisitely executed imitation of the black V.R. English, from Leipsic, was examined and condemned. Collectors are warned against accepting this falsity.

Mr. H. A. de Joannis then proposed that the first part of Mr. Pemberton's catalogue should form the subject of discussion at the next meeting, which was fixed for Saturday, the 28th of February, at the same hour and place. The stamps described in the first number are to be shown and compared, as far as time will allow, and members are desired to bring their collections, which, however modest, frequently contain unnoticed varieties of an interesting character.

The meeting numerically equalled the last, and separated much gratified with the intellectual treat enjoyed from the discussion and inspection of the choice collections on view for illustrating the accompanying commentaries.

EXTRACTS FROM MY PRIVATE
NOTE BOOK.—II.

BY C. H. COSTER.

THE ONE CENT CONFEDERATE STAMP.—The die of this stamp has passed through three distinct stages, and although the differences are so minute as to be quite indescribable, a close examination proves their existence.

First stage.—Messrs. De La Rue & Co., having received an urgent order to prepare and send forward a supply with the least possible delay, hastened to engrave the block, and, while it was still in an unfinished state, struck off a quantity of the stamps, sending one lot forward by a vessel which came to grief, and a second lot to St. Thomas, for trans-shipment, but as the "Yankee" cruisers were "thick as mosquitoes," the stamps in question remained in St. Thomas until the war was over, when, so far as I can learn, they were sold to sundry ardent philatelists.

Second stage.—Having thus, as they supposed, satisfied all immediate demands, Messrs. De La Rue partially finished the design, and then printed a further instalment therefrom, but these too, it appears, perished on the briny deep, although it is possible that some few sheets safely reached their journey's end.

Third stage.—After this the engraving was entirely finished, and a third batch was printed, and some were safely landed in America, but about this time the unsatisfactory financial condition of the Confederacy put a rather abrupt termination to Messrs. De La Rue's operations. Otherwise, it is impossible to say to how much more retouching this delectable specimen of the engraver's art would have been subjected.

In *The Philatelic Journal* (page 27) is noticed a specimen of this stamp, cancelled RICHMOND, and perforated 13. I have before me at present a similarly perforated copy, but cancelled SAVANNAH.

Now, the fact that this stamp is from the block in its *first* state (which never reached the Confederacy) would be in itself sufficient to condemn the cancellation, and, for that matter, the perforation also. But more than this, a close inspection will show the

obliterating mark to be regularly *printed* on, and not *handstruck* at all. The deception is thus at once made evident, and Mr. Philbrick (to whom I am greatly indebted for the information contained in this article) informs me that the manipulation on the copies cancelled RICHMOND is equally apparent.

I do not believe that a single specimen of the one cent Confederate stamp was ever used, either perforate or imperforate; but shall, of course, be pleased to learn (either privately or through the pages of the philatelic press) anything which other collectors may be able to bring forward in support of contrary conclusions.

PERFORATED STAMPS OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES.—In the early part of the late war, Mr. Offut (the Assistant Postmaster-General) ordered from Messrs. De La Rue & Co. a perforating machine, and on its arrival in Richmond, he applied it to a few sheets of each value, for the purpose of seeing "how the thing worked." Although the department never formally adopted this improvement, a few specimens of the stamps so manipulated appear to have passed through the post-office, and thence to the albums of collectors. All the stamps perforated by Mr. Offut were on the scale of $12\frac{1}{2}$ holes per two centimetres, and of the following values of the second series:—

2 cents,	rose.
5 "	blue.
10 "	blue.
20 "	green.

Mr. Pemberton some time ago noticed a 10 cents perforated on the scale of 13; but all such as have ever come under my inspection have turned out to be bogus.

I also find a 10 cents perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$ chronicled by M. Moens, but in the absence of any proofs as to its character, it should be treated with suspicion.

ROULETET STAMPS OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES.—Undoubtedly genuine specimens of the

5 cents	blue,	} 1st issue,
5 "	green,	
10 "	blue,	

exist, and probably owe their origin to the enterprise of some postmaster, who thus

separated them for his own convenience, as was the case in several French towns during the late war with Germany.

UNIONTOWN.—This stamp was noticed and illustrated by Mr. Brown, in the last number of the *Curiosity Cabinet*. I have now to chronicle a second variety, which differs from the first in many particulars, especially in the ornaments between C.S.A. and POSTAGE, which in the one consist of loops, and in the other of lines, so intersecting each other as to form a number of small diamonds.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

The Illustrated Catalogue of Postage Stamps.

By Dr. J. E. GRAY, of the British Museum.
Revised and Corrected by OVERY TAYLOR.
Sixth Edition. Part I. London: E. Marlborough & Co.; Bath: Alfred Smith & Co.

THE title of this work carries us back to the early days of stamp collecting. The name of the original author lent dignity to a pursuit which, from the unscientific manner in which it was then conducted, half deserved the gibes and sneers of journals in want of a sensation. The first edition of Dr. Gray's Catalogue is now a curiosity. Its descendant bears only that distant family resemblance to the original which it owes to its size; all else has changed, under the able manipulation of its present editor, who is fully alive to the requirements of the time, and, it is evident, has done his best to meet them. In the early editions appeared descriptions of a number of interesting English essays, which formed the *pièce de resistance* of the work; and in the fourth edition the essays of other countries were catalogued at length. A clean sweep of them all was made in the fifth edition, and they are not likely to reappear in the sixth. In their place we find engravings of every postage stamp type, clear and accurate descriptions and lists of all the varieties, and frequent lucid notes, which purchasers of the work will find of great assistance and interest. The new edition is to come out in parts, and our own opinion of them is formed from a perusal of advance sheets of the first, which comprises the European countries from Austria to

Great Britain inclusive. The printing is of the excellence which we may fairly say is characteristic of all the works brought out under our publishers' auspices. The catalogue looks all the better for having an unusually broad margin, which leaves room for manuscript additions, and the engravings enliven the appearance of the pages. In the notes we perceive the practised hand of the author of the "Papers for Beginners." Those which accompany the list of the various Moldavian issues will be found specially useful, and the small slices of information which intersect the text take off from the dryness inseparable from a work of this kind.

Need we say that we cordially commend the new edition of Dr. Gray's Catalogue to our readers? The low price at which the parts are to be published places them within the reach of all; and when we state that each part consists of sixty-four pages, no complaint will be made that enough is not given for the money.

The Philatelic Catalogue. By EDWARD L. PEMBERTON. Illustrated. Dawlish: James R. Grant & Co.

[SECOND NOTICE.]

WE promised in our last to give in the present number a detailed notice of the first part of Mr. Pemberton's catalogue, but we find the task is more difficult than we had expected, from the fact that there are so many things to be observed on which we have not space to comment, and yet can hardly omit. However, in this dilemma, we can only repeat our recommendation to our readers, to satisfy themselves of the value of the work by buying and perusing it themselves.

One of its distinctive features, to which reference has already been made, is the plates of illustrations taken by the heliotype process, which reproduces most faithfully every detail in the stamp represented. The plates in the first part do not, at a first glance, offer the attractive appearance we had anticipated; but though the general effect does not come up to our expectations,—the work having, as we are informed, been

entrusted to careless hands,—yet, when we come to examine the stamps in detail, we find them, with few exceptions, marvellously and minutely faithful. The exceptions arise out of difficulties occasioned by colours which do not take well, but that might be got over, as we have suggested, by first dyeing the stamps black.

Going now into the body of the work, we find that, in the first place, the types are defined and the normal colours given; then follow the varieties; and the list of a country's emissions is closed, when necessary, by a paragraph headed "Remarks."

These remarks are of great assistance. In them rival conjectures on moot points are discussed, and the author gives his opinion, which, as the expression of a matured judgment, is entitled to respect.

The varieties are catalogued with great precision and clearness. Thus we find three distinct sets of the Belgian 1865 series noticed under the following headings:—

"London print. M. 14., *glacé paper*."

"Brussels print, 1865. M. 14., *glacé paper*."

"Brussels print, 1867. M. 15., thick paper."

The two later series are distinguishable by a difference both in paper and perforation, as well as by the imperfection of the impression. We give this just as one example among many. An example of another advance in cataloguing occurs in the list of Belgian emissions; it is that of marking the issue of stamps which form the continuation or completion of a series begun at some previous date. Thus Mr. Pemberton arranges the third issue as follows:—

First portion—Nov. 1, 1865.

30 cent. brown, 1 fr. lilac.

Second portion—Jan. 1, 1866.

10 cent. grey, 20 c. blue, 40 c. rose.

Third portion—Journal stamp, June 1, 1866.

1 centime, grey.

Fourth portion—Journal stamp, Sept. 1, 1866.

2 centimes, blue.

Fifth portion—Journal stamp, Jan. 1, 1867.

5 centimes, brown.

All this takes up room, but it renders the list very clear, and is of much assistance in

learning the history of any given series. And here we halt for the present in our review. We shall have occasion to refer again to the catalogue in our next, and trust we shall then be in receipt of the second part, which, as yet, is not to hand.

Collectors must not be surprised at some delay taking place in the issue of the parts. The original advertisement thereof should have included the saving clause, "Weather permitting;" for the sun's good pleasure must be considered in obtaining the heliotypes; and Phœbus at this time of the year is not always in a smiling mood.

The foregoing observations we may well supplement by the following notice of the catalogue, from the pen of one of our foremost philatelists, which reached us too late for insertion last month.

We have received the first number of the new catalogue, by Mr. Pemberton, which, as the title states, is to comprise "A Complete Catalogue of Postage Stamps, and Postal Envelopes and Cards, with Voluminous Notes of Reprints, Forgeries, and every Subject of Interest, with upwards of 1100 Heliotype Illustrations."

This long expected work is announced as to be completed in eight monthly parts; the first of which, now before us, contains in a strictly alphabetical arrangement, from Alsace-Lorraine to Bolivia, and is ornamented with three plates, comprising every variety of die referred to in the text. These illustrations being taken direct from genuine stamps, cannot fail to be the surest of guides to the amateur: the process (heliotype) is tolerably well known as having been adopted in Mr. Plimsoll's book—*Our Seamen: an Appeal*,—but we were unprepared to find it so successfully applied to stamps. The plates are wonderfully good, considering the difficulties of the task, though stamps printed in mauve or lilac do not answer so well as other colours: (see plate 1, No. 25, Argentine Republic, 1873, 1 centavo mauve), which somewhat mars the effect of the plate.

The catalogue itself is a work we cannot pretend to review, at all events until it is

completed: but we may say, from what we see of the part before us, it is worthy of the reputation of its author: who, even in a catalogue, contrives, *more suo*, to be original and striking in his remarks.

Were it otherwise, we should hardly recognise Mr. Pemberton, any more than we should associate Dr. Magnus with anything concise: the originality of the one and the diffuseness of the other are distinguishing points in our two great authorities, English and French.

We trust Mr. Pemberton will accept a hint we offer in all kindness, that *over elaboration* is a mistake; the plan he lays down is quite full enough to meet all reasonable requirements.

The notes should not be the battle-ground of controversy on disputed points, but clear and condensed statements of the state of the authorities up to the time of publication.

We predict that if the present standard be kept up, this catalogue will be the most valuable storehouse of philatelic knowledge hitherto produced, and be a lasting monument of the skill and knowledge of the compiler.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

UNITED STATES POST CARDS.—Thirty-one million cards were issued during the fiscal year which ended on 30th June last.

NEWS FROM SPAIN.—One of the provisions of an organic postal law, passed on the 27th of May last, was that the postal *employés* throughout Spain should hold their offices for life, somewhat on the same tenure as our English judges; but the government which was formed in January, has cancelled that provision; and the great majority of the officials being ignorant and uncultivated, and quite incapable of performing the delicate functions devolving on them. Probably this is the first step towards a reform of the *personnel*; but we may have to wait a long time for the second. An elaborate and exhaustive monograph on the Spanish post cards—private and official—from the pen of our learned correspondent, Don M. P. de Figueroa, appeared in Nos. 323 and 324 of *El Gobierno*, an influential daily paper, published at Madrid. All the private issues are described; the more notable varieties have already been mentioned in these pages. Undoubtedly the most interesting is the one issued by the author himself, and we learn from his article that it was noticed at length in a Lisbon journal by a member of the Portuguese parliament, who took occasion to advocate the issue of cards for circulation between Spain and Portugal—an idea which will probably bear fruit sooner or later. We regret that our limited space prevents our giving a more detailed notice at present of Don M. P. de Figueroa's interesting compilation.

THE NEW PARLIAMENT.—The part played by the post office in the forwarding and delivery of the election writs, and the formalities which accompany their re-

ception at St. Martin's-le-Grand are thus described by the *Daily News*:—"The writs of summons being issued are delivered by the Lord Chancellor, or his deputy, to the messenger or pursuivant of the Great Seal, who takes them to the General Post-office in London, and delivers them to the Postmaster, or his deputy, who gives an acknowledgment for them in writing, setting forth the time of delivery. A duplicate of this acknowledgment, signed by the postmaster and the messenger, is left in the Postmaster's hands. Each writ is then despatched by the next post, under cover and free of cost, addressed to the returning officer of the proper borough or county, with directions to the local postmaster to deliver them to the officer, who makes and signs a memorandum of the day and hour on which the writ has been received. This memorandum is also signed by the postmaster. It is then transmitted by him, by the first or second post, to the Postmaster-General, who makes an entry of it in a book kept for that purpose. The memorandum itself is filed, together with the duplicate acknowledgment of the receipt of the writ at the General Post-office, and both are kept for inspection or production should they be called for. After the receipt of this writ by the returning officer or his deputy, he is required to endorse upon the back of the writ the day on which he received it.

"Writs directed to the Sheriffs of London, or to the Sheriff of Middlesex, or to returning officers holding their offices within London, Westminster, or Southwark, or five miles thereof, are not sent by post, but are carried by the messenger or pursuivant of the Great Seal to the offices in question."

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

ETONIA.—We regret we cannot find room for your further contribution on Errors of Watermark.

G. H. H., Timperley.—We should like to see your variety of the $\frac{1}{2}$ schilling Heligoland with profile colour-shaded; our impression is, that it was accidental. The inversion of colours of the $\frac{1}{2}$ schilling was a printer's mistake.

A. S.—If you will turn to the tenth vol. of the *S. C. M.*, you will find on page 76 a notice of the watermark of the current Fiji stamps, which consists, as you correctly state, of the words *PAID POSTAGE* across the sheet, so disposed that each of the ten stamps in the middle row gets a letter.

MR. MAX JOSEPH, Gablonz.—Although—as you will have noticed—your information concerning the Spanish stamps, was forestalled from other sources, we are none the less obliged to you for your kind intention in communicating it.—The Swiss Post Mandats we do not chronicle, as we do not think philatelists are in favour of collecting them, and in doubtful matters we apprehend it is not our province to anticipate the possible formation of an opinion by the philatelic public in their favour.

H. H., Newham, Truro.—1. You had better arrange the stamps chronologically in series.—2. Yes. The Sandwich Island stamp to which you refer, and those of the Argentine Republic, were both printed by one of the New York Bank Note Companies, but we do not remember which.—3. The large sized English post cards would pay for keeping, though it is unlikely that they will ever become rare.—4. We are obliged for the Mysore green 1 anna revenue stamp; it is curious that the state of Mysore should not have postage as well as fiscal stamps. Your specimen of the latter is decidedly worth keeping.—5. We cannot give the precise date of issue of the telegraph card; probably, however, it came out on the 1st January, 1872.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

SWEDEN.—In our last we gave a list of the values of a series of unpaid-letter stamps, inscribed *LOSEN*, with the design of which we were then unacquainted. By the kindness of a Stockholm correspondent, we are now able to annex a representation of the type, which it will be observed is characterised by extreme simplicity. In size it is identical with the ordinary postage stamps, and resembles them to a certain extent in design; but the angles, instead of being filled with a Greek pattern, are ornamented with rosettes. In addition to the values given in the preceding number, there is a

1 (*en*) krona, blue and brown.



NATAL.—Herewith we give engravings of the three new postage stamps for this colony, described at length in our last. We presume that the current shilling lilac, if not withdrawn in favour of an entirely fresh design, will have its present inscription taken out, and fresh inscriptions, including the word *POSTAGE*, put in their place.



NEW ZEALAND.—Some thirteen months ago illustrations of the six values of the new series of postage stamps, taken from proofs, appeared in these pages. The stamps themselves are now in use, and our publishers have received a supply of them direct from Auckland. The colours are as follow:—

One penny, lilac.
Twopence, carmine-rose.

Threepence, dark brown.
Fourpence, reddish brown.
Sixpence, Prussian blue.
One shilling, chrome-green.

The watermark is a combination of the two patterns in use on the old series, and consists of the letters *n. z.* across the upper part, and a five-pointed star in the lower part of the stamp. Unlike most of Messrs. De La Rue's productions, these designs are printed on unsurfaced paper, which rather mars their effect, particularly when found, as on the fourpence, in conjunction with an ineffective colour. The perforations also are rough and uneven, and it is difficult to separate the stamps so as to get a clean edge.

SIERRA LEONE.—We are now able to confirm from personal knowledge the report mentioned on p. 186 of the last volume, of the issue of a twopenny stamp, of which the colour is more accurately described as magenta than as "violet-red." The design is the same as that of the four others.

SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC.—A new six-penny envelope has just been received for this country, the stamp on which is none other than the threepenny, with the original word *drei* (three), in white on colour, effaced, and *zes* (six), in coloured letters on white, substituted for it; a similar substitution having been effected in respect of the two corner numerals, as shown in our illustration. Why, with a design inscribed sixpence already in hand, recourse should have been had to the threepence, is more than we can understand.



GREAT BRITAIN.—Sundry modifications have been introduced into the design of the current sixpenny. Simultaneously with a change in the corner letters and plate numbers from white on colour to colour on white, the disks containing the plate numbers have been placed on either side of the portrait, in the middle of the white frame, and intersecting the hexagon. Their vacant place in the lower spandrels has been filled by rosettes, similar to those in the upper spandrels; and it should be remarked that the

rosettes are larger than those in the first stamp of the type, the light brown sixpence. The lettering of the inscriptions is thinner, and there is a greater space than formerly between the outer frame, the top and bottom lines respectively, and the outer margin. In short, it is evident that all outside the central hexagon has been re-engraved or retouched.

SPAIN.—It now appears that the 10 c. de peseta war-tax stamp, blue, originally intended for use as a supplementary fiscal, is, rightly or wrongly, employed as a supplementary postage stamp. Our publishers have received a letter from Madrid prepaid with an ordinary ultramarine 50 c. and a blue 10 c., yet we were told, on good authority, which even now we do not question, that letters for foreign parts were exempted from the operation of the war tax. Perhaps the fact is that people hardly know what stamps they are expected to put on in addition to those required for the ordinary postage, and being unaware of the limitation of the war-tax stamps to home letters, think themselves bound to put them on their letters to foreign countries. In the absence of positive information, they may not un-naturally argue that, as the extra charge is 5 c. de peseta for home letters, it must be 10 c. de peseta for letters which pay a much higher rate of postage.

Our scepticism with respect to the authenticity of the Carlist stamps has been dissipated by the receipt of the genuine used specimens referred to by Mr. de Joannis in the communication from him which we print in our "Correspondence" section. They prepaid letters which were posted and delivered within the district round Bilbao, which is, and for some time past has been, in the possession of the Carlist forces; and the correspondent to whom the letter which elicited a reply was sent is a near relative of Mr. de Joannis himself. The stamps are of the variety showing the *tulle* over the letter *x* in *España*. The specimens which have unquestionably done duty are of a light blue; whilst the copy on linear paper—which Mr. de Joannis suggests has been obligingly obliterated for a "consideration"—is several shades darker, and the postmark is in black

ink, and has not indented the paper. All the stamps are on a thick surfaced paper, and are unperforated.

In the last number of *Le Timbre-Poste* appeared an engraving of a frank stamp, handstruck on letters from the Carlist army. It contains the arms of Spain minus the golden fleece and collar, but plus a kind of full moon in the centre of the shield. They are surmounted by the royal crown, and enclosed in a large oval, inscribed EJERCITO REAL. BATALLON CAZADORES DEL CID; the whole struck in blue ink. Similar frank stamps, with various inscriptions, are issued by the Council of War of Guipuzcoa, by military commanders, and by royal juntas.

From our valued correspondent, Don M. P. de Figueroa, we have received the explanation of the existence of Spanish stamps, with a hole punched out. He refers us to his excellent list of Spanish postal laws, a large part of which we have already transferred to these pages, in which we find a decree of the 19th June, 1873, ordaining that certain stamps shall be first marked with a cross in ink, and afterwards punched at the head office; they may then be put on unpaid or insufficiently stamped letters from abroad by the postmen, and will serve as vouchers for the amounts claimed by the latter. In other words, if we rightly understand the decree, they serve as *chiffre-taxe* stamps for unpaid letters from abroad, but their employment must be limited, for even Don M. P. de Figueroa does not speak of having seen any specimens, and he thinks that the one referred to by the correspondent to whom we replied must have been abstracted from the post-office.

SWITZERLAND.—From a correspondent at Lausanne we have received a specimen of the 5 c. envelope in chocolate, and of the 5 c. adhesive in a similar but not identical shade. The current post card is also printed in chocolate, and we learn from *Le Timbre-Poste*, that the two newspaper bands—2 c. and 5 c.—are both printed in bistre. Lastly, a correspondent sends us the 2 centime adhesive in bistre. We are not surprised at the final abandonment of silver-grey as the colour of the 2 centimes, but cannot understand why the adhesive and wrapper of that

value should be printed in shades which so closely approach those of the 5 c. envelopes, wrapper, and adhesives. The correspondent last referred to has it on good authority that double post cards, of a total value of 10 centimes for home use, and a single 10 c. post card for circulation between Switzerland and Austria, are on the point of being introduced.

WURTEMBERG.—The Wurtemberg post-office undertakes, like other German post-offices, the carriage of parcels of light weight, and the consignment-notes bear the annexed stamp surrounded by a cordon, printed in relief in upper right corner, on yellow card, with black inscriptions. We take it



that this modification of the postage stamp proper is hardly entitled to rank with the postal issues. On and after the 1st July, says our Belgian contemporary, the 1 kr. and 3 kr. envelopes will cease to bear an oblique inscription; as to the 6 kr. and 9 kr. envelopes, it is a long time since any were struck off, and it is not intended to continue these values in circulation after the exhaustion of the present stock.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.—*Tchern* (Toula).—The Tchern stamp is issued in two colours, viz., blue on yellowish white, and black on dull white.

Pereslav-Wallesski (Vladimir).—The extreme simplicity of this newly-discovered stamp renders description and comment alike unnecessary. Suffice it to say that it is struck in black on green paper. The word *Wallesski* signifies "beyond the forest," and is added to distinguish the stamp-issuing district from another Pereslav in the same government.

Dnieproffsk (Taurida).—The design of the sides of this stamp has been changed; they are now larger, and the impression is on thin laid paper.

Novgorod (Novgorod).—We referred last

year to the reported issue of stamps from a new die, which proves to be a fact. The chief differences are an abbreviation of the inscription in the upper margin consequent on an increase in the size of the lettering, smaller crown, larger shield, and a diminution in the size of the lower inscriptions.

Riasan (Riasar).—The current types of the 2 kop., printed in gold, are used as unpaid-letter stamps.

Schutzk (Tamboff).—The design has been redrawn; the horseshoe inscription now touches the upper part of the frame, and the head of the figure 3 is rounded, instead of flat. A re-engraved 5 kop. stamp also exists.

Kiriloff (Novgorod).—The 2 kop. is now printed in dark blue and light blue (instead of in black as formerly) on red-brown.

Kadnikoff (Vologda).—The 3 kop. stamp is roughly handstamped in blue on yellowish white, bright blue on white, and pale and bright ultramarine on bluish white.

Kosoletz (Tchernigoff).—A new stamp—3 kop. bronze—has appeared with inscription in oblong.

Perejaslav (Poltava).—There has been a change in the type of the 3 kop. The new comer is a square stamp with value in circle, struck in black on buff.

Tichvin (Novgorod).—The old inscribed oblong has been superseded by an equally ugly type, value 5 kop., struck in blue, and consisting of a figure in oval with value in centre. Its primitive character may be judged from the fact that there are fifteen variations of type.

Melitopol.—The 3 kop., now printed from a fresh typographic transfer, does not look at all like the early copies, and differs from them in shades. It is at present found in blue, pale blue, and very dark blue.

All the foregoing information respecting the Russian locals is copied from the pages of our Brussels contemporary.

JAPAN.—From the same source we get a report, of which we hope to receive the confirmation, to the effect that post cards are already in use in Japan, and have been for some months past.

GRIQUALAND.—*The Philatelist* confirms the report of an emission for this territory,



stating that the order for the stamps was sent to England in June last, and that—very appropriately, considering the special product of the place—the design is *diamond-shaped*.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

We have accumulated arrears of contemporary publications to glean from, and the *embarras de richesses* from which we are suffering is heightened by the arrival of new publications and old friends in a new guise. To these we must give the preference.

Le Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste is to all intents and purposes a new periodical. It is edited by our old friend M. Maury, and arranged on a new plan. The editor candidly says he has no time to write an ornamental framework to his descriptions of stamps, and therefore will confine himself to giving a dry list of facts in geographico-alphabetical order. We do not admire his plan, for we think that a rough, undressed catalogue does not do justice to the stamps. The readers of a magazine desire to have their attention directed to the prominent peculiarities of a type, and the circumstances accompanying its issue. M. Maury himself so far recognises this necessity, that he replaces the ordinary commentaries by explanatory notes, and in the last number of *Le Collectionneur* the tendency of those notes towards expansion is remarkable. The publication is up to time, but we do not find any quotable information in it.

Illustrirtes Briefmarken-Journal is a magazine published at Leipzig by Messrs. Werninck & Co. It is excellently got up, and the letter-press is in Roman type, instead of in confusing German text. We observe that all the recent issues are fully described, and many of them illustrated, the engravings being decidedly above the ordinary level of the German magazines. The articles look interesting, but we regret that our acquaintance with German is all too slight to permit of our profiting by their contents.

L'Ami des Timbres is a magazine published by M. Roussin, of Paris. It consists of four pages of descriptive matter, and four pages of price catalogue. Fiscal stamps

occupy a large share of the editor's attention, but we are bound to say that postage stamps are not neglected. This new comer is well printed, and illustrated.

The American Journal of Philately comes before us in an altered shape, and with an ornamental wrapper, the design on which, whilst far from being unattractive, has the drawback of not showing up the title with sufficient clearness. The matter—in so far, at any rate, as that which relates to postage stamps is concerned—is excellent; as to the fiscal portion of the journal, and it is a considerable one, we have nothing to say. The January number opens with a brief list of new issues, followed by an article entitled “Our Philatelic Contemporaries,” in which the contents of the other journals are summarised with much effect. Then comes the first instalment of a history of Berford's California Express, whence it appears that Mr. Berford, some twenty years ago, carried letters between New York and San Francisco at lower rates than the government. This article is well worth reading, and we look forward with interest to the continuation. “Stamp Collecting in the Future,” a homily on the duties of philatelists, which contains much good advice, succeeds the “Berford” paper, and is brought to a close in this number, of which the remaining contents do not call for comment. Under the editorship of Mr. Joseph Casey, the *A. J. P.* appears to have taken a fresh lease of life, and, recognising its increasing seriousness and the elevation of its aims, we wish it every success.

La Posta Mondiale for February is to hand, and contains some good reading. To this, and to many other journals in search of new matter for their columns, the fiscal stamps are a mine of wealth; how far, however, they carry their readers with them is another question. In the postage stamp section of *La Posta* we find a discussion in progress as to the propriety of admitting official stamps, a correspondent arguing that only labels issued to the public, and used in prepaying postage, should be accepted, whilst the editor retorts that the word *franco bollo* means a stamp which franks, and not merely a stamp which represents a charge

for postage—the essence lying in the franking power *per se*, and not in the prepaying power. Leaving this subject, we note that the once famous Garibaldi stamp was made by a certain Signor Andreis, of Milan, and used by him as an advertisement label. It is needless to add that it never had any postal value.

The Stamp-Collector's Chronicle, Sept. to Dec., 1873, dated from St. John's. "September" has just reached us. The issue of the number was, it appears, delayed in order to give the editor time to test the value of certain specimens of the New Brunswick shilling stamp and Connell essay sent to him from New York. On comparing the copies of the shilling with undoubted originals, he found so many minor differences, that he at once taxed the senders with selling stamps as genuine which they knew to be forged. The latter replied that the stamps were reprints, but this also our contemporary proves to be untrue, as the dies are in the possession of the authorities, and have never been reprinted from. As to the Connell essay, though that certainly has been reprinted, the editor of the *Chronicle* has no doubt that the specimens offered him were simply counterfeits. The remaining contents of the number do not call for special attention, but we observe in this, as in other magazines, a tendency to enlarge, *ad nauseam*, on the method to be employed in mounting stamps, and other kindred subjects which are now getting threadbare.

Le Timbre-Poste.—The December number contains a short notice of the so-called Jerusalem stamp, of which the true character has since been ascertained. France has no post-office at Jerusalem, but the letters originating in that town are delivered at the French Express Company's office to be forwarded on to Jaffa, where there is a French post-office; and the blue stamp applied at the company's office in Jerusalem, indicates that the cost of conveyance to Jaffa (20 centimes) has been received. The Schaumbourg-Lippe stamp, it appears from a notice in this number, is more administrative than postal. The government of that principality has acquired, by "treaty No. 8," the right of sending duly sealed official corre-

spondence through the post at one-third of the ordinary rates, and on the letters the number of the treaty and the name of the forwarding office must appear; the indication of these particulars on an adhesive label saves the trouble of writing them on the envelopes, and that is all. An elaborate monograph on the stamps of Parma, based on official documents, continues its course through the December number, and is brought to a termination in that of February. We have not yet had time to give this article the attention it requires, but will do so, and "report progress." The January number contains some interesting observations on the forged stamps of Moldavia. A fresh batch has come on the market, and the better to catch the unwary, they are all obliterated, but fortunately the precaution adopted by the forgers has its weak point. The obliteration consists of the words GALATZ, 1 AUG., 1855 (in blue); but the year is never found in the true postmarks, and what is more, the stamps were not issued until November, 1858, and, therefore, none can exist with an 1855 cancellation; thus, these forgeries carry their condemnation on their faces. M. Moens a long time since stated that the Jassy post-office had counterfeited its own stamps, and sold them as genuine; he has now discovered that that dishonest speculation was carried on by Mr. Roseblum, an *ex-employé* at the Jassy post-office, who pretends that he received his stamps from an *ex-postmaster*, M. Paratinkiewize. Probably, these new counterfeits are nothing but a fresh series of Roseblum varieties. The January number concludes with an article by Dr. Magnus on the Transvaal envelopes, which the editor of *Le Timbre-Poste*, in a foot-note, declares he has always considered as a private speculation of the postmaster. It is only fair to the latter to say that he has already met that assertion by a formal denial, and a declaration that the envelopes were kept on sale and used at Potchefstroom.

The February number of our Belgian contemporary is noticeable principally for a short article on the first Hawaiian stamps, by M. Ph. de Ferrari, which we purpose reproducing in our columns, and to which, there-

fore, we need not now refer. The number closes with an analysis, by Dr. Magnus, of some dangerous counterfeits of the first Shanghais. The March issue of *Le Timbre-Poste* is entirely occupied with the chronicle of novelties and a notice of new publications. Perhaps we may here notice that, in accordance with previous announcements, M. Moens has brought out a well-printed monthly periodical, called *Le Timbre-Fiscal*, edited by Dr. Magnus, and arranged on the same plan as *Le Timbre-Poste*, to which it is intended to be a companion. In the second number we find the Spanish war-tax stamps noticed as a revenue issue, without any reference to the exclusively postal employment of the lower value.

The Philatelist, though last is certainly not least in our list of publications. If we have less to say about it than of the rest, it is because it marches in a parallel line with the *S. C. M.*, and we find in its columns the articles read before the Philatelic Society, and the reports of the proceedings of that society, which appeared contemporaneously in our own. The Spud Papers are decidedly the distinctive feature of our Brighton *confère*, and they are uniformly written with great perspicuity. We only regret that space will not admit of our quoting from them, as usual, in the present review.

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. XXXIV.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.
EUROPE.

Luxemburg.

THE stamps of the first Luxemburg series used to puzzle collectors in the good old days, as the editor of this magazine amusingly related in the second volume. A portrait resembling that on the old Dutch stamps was found in conjunction with the evidently French denomination DIX CENTIMES, and again the same portrait, printed in red, was found surmounting an inscription which was no less certainly German—UN SILBER GROSCHEN. The portrait was that of the King of Holland, and the stamps came from his Grand Duchy of Luxemburg. The Grand Duchy was French in sentiment, and

the French language was the chosen one throughout its territory; but it formed part of that German Confederation which the war of 1866 ultimately dissolved, and its postal issues were partially subjected to the regulations in force in the Confederation. In these facts lay the explanation of the anomalies connected with the first Luxemburg stamps, which perplexed collectors who at that time were groping their way to the light.

The name of Luxemburg is a tolerably familiar one, yet there are probably not many persons who could give any definite account of the territory to which it applies. The editor of the *S. C. M.* was justified in including it years ago among the "Little-known Stamp Countries," of which he gave "Sketches;" and if space would permit I could quote from his sketch of Luxemburg a great many interesting particulars respecting the town and duchy. Suffice it, however, to say that the present Grand Duchy, whence we get our stamps, is a small state, ruled by the King of Holland, containing an area of about 2500 square miles, situate between Belgium proper, France, and Rhenish Prussia. The rest of the old duchy—by far the greater part of it, in fact—was allotted to Belgium when that kingdom was established, and has since formed an integral part of it, under the name of the province of Luxemburg. This arrangement, after years of diplomatic fencing, was confirmed by the Treaty of London, signed in April, 1839.

Both the duchy and the town frequently formed a bone of contention between the higher powers. The town—formerly the most strongly fortified town in Europe, except Gibraltar, and called by the Romans City of Light, or *Lucis Burgum* (whence its present name)—became the object of general attention after the war of 1866. Neither France nor Prussia would agree to the fortress being occupied by other soldiers than its own; and finally, through the mediation of the Earl of Derby—then Lord Stanley—the dispute was settled by the demolition of the fortifications. Since then little has been heard of Luxemburg, which has been quietly governed by its Royal Grand Duke,

and no longer forms part of the German Confederation.

The history of its stamps was lucidly related a couple of years since in *Le Timbre-Poste* by a contributor dating from the city of Luxemburg, who evidently possessed full and authentic information respecting them. From this source we learn that the first step towards the issue of stamps was the entry of the Grand Duchy into the German Postal Union, which took effect from the 1st January, 1852, in virtue of a convention signed on the 6th December of the previous year. One of the regulations of that union was that prepayment throughout the states included in it should be effected by means of postage stamps; and in compliance therewith, the two values forming the first Luxemburg series were issued on the 15th September, 1852. Their employment was at first optional, but was rendered obligatory by a law of the 30th November, 1852, and they remained in use until the beginning of the year 1860.

The type of the first series is here represented. It was engraved in *taille-douce* on steel, and printed on white laid paper, watermarked with the letter *W*,—the initial of the Grand Duke's Christian name. The design was the work of a Luxemburg engraver, Mr. Barth, who, before commencing it, visited the *ateliers* of his Belgian colleagues, for the purpose of acquainting himself with the system of postage-stamp printing in vogue there. Finding that the Belgian stamps were engraved on steel, he decided on engraving the Luxemburg stamps in the same manner; and as the Belgian stamps were watermarked, it was deemed best to watermark the Luxemburg stamps. But steel engraving and watermarked paper cost dear. The inaugural expenses amounted to nearly £500, and the cost of working off the yearly supply of stamps came to the considerable sum of £24 (!), besides other minor outlays; the government, therefore, decided on choosing some cheaper process when it became necessary to create fresh denomina-



tions, and hence it is that the 10 centimes and one silbergroschen are the sole representatives of the first type.

Of these two stamps the former represented the minimum postage on letters circulating in the interior of the Grand Duchy; and the latter, the minimum postage on letters to other states of the postal union. These rates, it will be admitted, were by no means extravagant. The 10 centimes exists in only two shades—black and greyish black; but the collector seeking for colour-varieties can find half-a-dozen in connection with the 1 s.gr., which, originally issued in red-brown, subsequently made its appearance in red, brick-red, rose, pale rose, and flesh. The successive changes no doubt mark successive annual supplies, but being evidently unintentional, a beginner's purpose will be answered by collecting only the two extreme shades.

The issue of additional values for the prepayment of heavy letters was authorised by a law of the 2nd December, 1858, and thereupon the post-office received tenders for the engraving of the designs from various Luxemburg firms, and from a M. Dressler, a type-founder, at Frankfort-on-Maine, whose propositions were accepted. The second type was his work, and he certainly deserves credit for it. It has little in common with the ordinary German style, but is characterized rather by a certain French lightness and elegance.



It is, perhaps, not surprising that some difficulty was at the outset experienced in finding a printer to do justice to it. The first who tried his hand on it—a Luxemburg man—struck off some ineffective proofs of the 30 c. in brownish lilac, on watermarked paper; and ultimately recourse was had to a Frankfort printer, M. Naumann, who has ever since held the contract, and under whose superintendence the third type was subsequently produced.

The first of the new stamps to appear was the 30 c., brownish lilac, which was issued on the 29th September, 1859. On that date notice was given, that as the

supply of stamps of the first series became exhausted, they would be replaced by the 10 c. blue and $12\frac{1}{2}$ c. rose of the new type; it should be, therefore, considered as the official date of issue of the two latter values. On the 20th October, 1859, the emission of three other values, the 25 c., $37\frac{1}{2}$ c., and 40 c., was announced. These, with the 10 c. and $12\frac{1}{2}$ c., form the unperforated issue of the second series, and are catalogued thus:—

10 centimes,	dark blue, light blue.
$12\frac{1}{2}$ "	rose.
25 "	light brown.
$37\frac{1}{2}$ "	green.
40 "	yellowish orange.

The $12\frac{1}{2}$ c., 25 c., and $37\frac{1}{2}$ c., are the respective equivalents of 1 silbergroschen, 2 sgr., and 3 sgr.; and in July, 1865, the Prussian government, as the head of the Postal Union, requested the Grand Ducal Post-office to alter the colours of the two latter values to blue and brown, so as to bring them into accord with the corresponding stamps in the emissions of the other states. This was done, but not all at once. The 25 centimes blue was issued at the end of 1865, and simultaneously the 10 c. made its appearance in lilac, the change of colour being necessary to prevent confusion. The $37\frac{1}{2}$ c. brown, however, was not put in circulation until December, 1866, the supply of the green $37\frac{1}{2}$ c. having lasted until then. All the new values were issued perforated on lines of colour. This method of perforation is very simple; all that is necessary being, if I mistake not, to insert thin plates with a serrated edge between the casts of the stamps, the edges to come up just above the level of the surface of the casts; then, when the press is worked, the same stroke which imprints the design on the sheet forces the sheet down on the rows of teeth between the casts, and it is instantaneously perforated.

The 10 centimes, since its change of colour, has been issued in several more or less distinct shades. It is found in lilac (1865), reddish lilac (1868), and lilac-slate (1871). The other values have varied but little. In 1867 a new denomination made its *début*,—the 20 centimes, brown; and in 1873 a provisional 1 franc was issued,

formed by surcharging the $37\frac{1}{2}$ c. bistre, a value which is no longer required, with the words UN FRANC in black.

At some future date, when 90,000 provisional one franc stamps have been issued, a new type is to be emitted, but the circulation of this value must be extremely restricted, if applicants for a supply are told at the chief office, as a friend of mine recently was told, that no such thing as a one franc stamp exists!

There are two trifling errors of impression to be noted in connection with this series. Nearly all the 10 centime stamps have the value written *centimes*, and on two per cent of the $37\frac{1}{2}$ c. it is written *centines*. The perforated issue of the series reads as follows:—

10 centimes,	lilac, reddish lilac, lilac-slate.
$12\frac{1}{2}$ "	bright rose.
20 "	dark brown, light brown.
25 "	blue.
30 "	reddish lilac.
$37\frac{1}{2}$ "	pale bistre.
40 "	orange-vermilion.
1 franc,	pale bistre.

JOURNAL STAMPS.

The third type, which is special to the stamps for journals, circulars, &c., was issued on the 3rd Nov., 1860, and originally consisted of the 2 c. black, and 4 c. yellow, to which was added, on the 1st January, 1863, the 1 c. buff. Their design is as pretty in its way as the designs of the second type. They are models of a certain dainty neatness. There have been frequent accidental changes in the shade of the stamps, but no official change, except in respect of the 4 c., which was issued in *green* in August, 1871.

The unperforated varieties are the—

1 c. buff, 2 c. black, 4 c. yellow, yellow-ochre.

Of the perforated varieties, the 1 centime is the only one which is perforated on lines of colour. It was so issued for the first time in May, 1868, and is found in red-brown, orange, brownish red, yellow, and (according to our authority) vermilion.



The 2 c. black was line-pierced in October, 1867, and the 4 c. yellow in October, 1868, the latter stamp being found in yellow, yellow-ochre, and orange-yellow.

POST CARDS.

Unstamped post cards, of various sizes, some with French, and others with German inscriptions, have been issued. The first made their appearance in 1870.

The French cards are pale buff; and the German, dark brown and pale buff. There is said to be a stamped post card now "on the stocks," and some details of it were given in a recent number of this magazine.

THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF THE UNITED STATES.

PROCESS OF MANUFACTURE.—SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTS.—GOVERNMENTAL INSPECTION.

(From "*The New York Evening Post*.")

THE process of manufacturing postage stamps, although carried on in New York for many years, is but little known outside the limited circle of people engaged in the work. The little postage stamp, from the moment it is printed, has a par value in money according to the figures upon its face, and therefore the manufacture is guarded zealously by those engaged in the work and by the Post-office Department. Under such circumstances it is not strange that the details are generally unknown and therefore very interesting.

The contract for manufacturing stamps was formerly held by the National Bank Note Company, and the work was all done in the attic of the Cooper Union. Within a year past, the contract has been acquired by the Continental Bank Note Company, and now all the postage stamps of the United States government are made by that concern.

The plates from which the stamps are printed are made at the engraving department of the company, at the corner of Liberty and Greenwich streets; but the entire work of printing and issuing the finished productions is done in the company's spacious rooms, which occupy the entire sixth story of the Equitable Building, on the corner of Broadway and Cedar-street.

PROCESS OF MANUFACTURE.

The superintendent of the department is Mr. Charles F. Steel, and he has under his direction a large force of skilled workmen and young women, many of whom have become very expert in their various duties. The printing is done in a similar way to that of the bank notes, and ten presses are in constant use. Each press requires the services of a helper, as he is called, who inks or rolls the plates, a printer or skilled workman, who receives it from the assistant and cleans it of its superfluous ink, and otherwise prepares it for the press, and a girl who handles the paper to be printed. The rapid manner in which one of these expert printers clears a plate of its overloading of ink is surprising. The most expert of these workmen will print two thousand sheets per day.

From the hands of the printers the sheets go to the drying-room, where they are subjected to steam heat. They are then gummed by hand. When subjected to this process the sheets are placed upon a block, and held in position by an iron frame which covers the blank edges and leaves the back of the stamps clear and ready for the gum. The gum is then applied with a large brush. This work is also performed by young women. The gummed sheets are then placed in racks, upon supports made of twine, through which the air has free circulation, and by this means are speedily dried. In drying the gum no artificial heat is required. The gum which is applied is bought in the form of a powder, and is prepared for use in huge copper kettles by steam heat.

After the sheets are gummed and thoroughly dried they are placed between highly polished Bristol boards, and subjected to a heavy pressure in one of Hoe's six-hundred-ton hydraulic presses. This process gives them the polished appearance which all the finished work bears. Up to this stage the stamps appear in sheets of two hundred to a leaf. They now are divided or cut in two by young women, who use huge shears for the purpose. These young women also become very expert in their business, and will each cut ten thousand sheets a day and rarely make a mistake in their rapid work.

From this counter, or work-bench, the sheets are passed to the perforating machines. These machines were invented by the company, and all who use the government stamps know that they do their work thoroughly. Five of these machines are in use, and require two girls as attendants—one as a feeder, and another to receive the perforated sheets as they pass through. As the sheets are of irregular size, two different sized machines are required to complete the work. Each of these machines is of ten thousand-sheet capacity per day. After being perforated the sheets are counted, and placed in the safe in readiness for delivery.

THE PLATES.

The number of stamps now in use is one hundred and three. Ninety-two new stamps were required for the different departments of the government on account of the abolition of the franking privilege. Twenty-six thousand sheets, of one hundred stamps each, are printed daily, and it may readily be conceived that this enormous amount of work involves a corresponding wear and tear of plates. A plate is estimated to print about forty thousand sheets in good order, after which it needs retouching by the engraver; but the company prefers to cancel worn plates and substitute new ones in their place.

For printing the ordinary postage stamps the number of plates kept in daily use is as follows:—Ten plates for the 3 cent stamps, four plates each for the one and 2 cent stamps, two plates for the 6 cent stamps, and one plate for each of the higher denominations. The inks for printing these stamps are all made by the company.

THE SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTS.

The number of stamps used annually is about six hundred and fifty millions, and their average value to the people who use them is \$18,000,000. This is exclusive of stamped envelopes and postal cards. The system of accounts used in the manufacture is the invention of Mr. Steel, who has had charge of the business for seventeen years, from a period before the stamps were perforated, and before prepayment of postage was compulsory; and the checks to prevent

error and fraud are so perfect, that during the last twelve years, with a delivery of 5,000,000,000, or \$150,000,000 in value, there has not been a discrepancy of one dollar.

The paper is counted by three different persons before going to the printer, and when returned is again compared, and so on through every process which it undergoes. Each printer's work has the number of his plate printed on every sheet, and thus through the whole course it is kept separate from every other man's work which may be in progress, until it is finished and deposited in the safe. When the paper is given out there is positive evidence that the quantity is correct, and it must tally in every handling. The paper is of a very fine quality, and is made expressly for this purpose; requiring great care in the weight and sizing to bear the strain put upon it in perforating, gumming, and printing.

The safe where it is finally deposited is a fire and burglar-proof room, capable of holding two hundred millions of stamps. The contractors are required to keep on hand at all times a reserve supply of one hundred and fifty million stamps.

SUPPLYING THE POST-OFFICES.

There are about thirty-five thousand post-offices in the United States, all of which are supplied directly from the manufactory upon orders received daily from Washington. As a rule, the principal offices are supplied quarterly. New York city, however, orders about once a month. An average order from this office is 3,500,000 stamps. The daily orders from the department sometimes amount to 13,000,000. A bill accompanies every package, and all the packages go through the post-office the same as registered letters; and although some requisitions are for the supply of twelve or thirteen hundred offices, they are always filled the day after their receipt. The safety with which these valuable packages are transmitted through the mails is wonderful. It was said in a report of a Postmaster-General, published some years ago, that out of fifteen million dollars worth of stamps sent to post-offices during the year, the total losses amounted

to only thirty-one dollars. This small percentage of loss is the more remarkable when it is remembered that in many of the far western states and territories the mail-bags are carried on horseback, and often are hung up in the woods to await the coming of some dilatory carrier on a branch route.

REPORTS TO THE DEPARTMENT.

Five regular reports are transmitted weekly to Washington, showing the number of stamps printed, finished, spoiled, and deposited of the various denominations and departments, with a statement of the amount and condition of stock, finished and unfinished, on hand. The government agent is Mr. D. M. Boyd, who has held this position for twelve years, and who is thoroughly conversant with the business. His duties are to guard the government's interest, and to see that the company fulfil the requirements of their contract. The orders of the department are received through him, and the stamps are delivered to him by the contractors, and his receipt is taken for them.

All spoiled work is also counted and burned by him in the presence of an officer of the Bank Note Company. The spoiled work includes every sheet which is defective even in one stamp, and every imperfection which may be found in the stock in passing from hand to hand causes its return to the office and condemnation. The percentage of loss in this respect is very small.

EXAMINATION OF ACCOUNTS.

In addition to the presence of a government agent, the Postmaster-General appoints at irregular times a commissioner to visit the works, and make an examination of the accounts and stock on hand and report. Mr. Hazen, of Washington, has generally conducted these examinations. His coming is entirely unknown to the company, and during his investigations he takes the keys of the safe, and has entire charge of the establishment. The postage stamps, stamped envelopes, and postal cards are under the supervision of the Third Assistant Postmaster-General, E. W. Barber.

THE OPERATIVES.

A majority of the operatives are women,

and some of them have been engaged in this business from eight to twelve years, and are very expert. For instance, in perforating, every sheet has to be guided separately through the machine, and with the greatest accuracy, to prevent them from running irregularly, and consequently being spoiled; and yet one girl will perforate ten thousand sheets a day, and not spoil more than one hundred. An expert will count twelve thousand sheets an hour.

In the course of manufacture the stamps are counted twelve or fourteen times; and if at any stage the count falls short of the ticket which accompanies the work, it cannot pass any further until the error is corrected. This rule not only applies to sheets, but also to any part of a sheet. In no event is a person allowed to pass a sheet where any part of it is missing.

HUMOURS OF POST-OFFICE NAMES.

BY JAMES M. COMLY.

THE poverty of the American mind in inventing names for post-offices is a national grievance. We have been amused, in looking over the list of post-offices in the United States, by the frequent recurrence of favourite names, which have sometimes a significance, and sometimes none at all. It is reasonable to suppose that there would be a desire to compliment favourite public men by naming towns for them. We are not surprised to find that Washington has 39 post-offices named after him; Warren, 40; Scott, 26; Taylor about the same number, to say nothing of 16 Buena Vistas; Grant, 38; Sherman, 21; Sheridan, 15; Clinton, 47; Colfax, 13; Cresswell, 9; and so on. Though why there should be 20 Butlers we shall not undertake to say. It is only a slim compliment to the discoverer of the country, and as little as we could do for him, after Vespucci stole the name of the whole country, to call 54 offices after him; and certainly it was no more than right that the author of *Childe Harold* should be complimented by 11 Byrons. If there are 21 Columbus, and 33 more named for Columbus in one shape or another, Dayton could not

possibly get along with less than 20. And, speaking of peace in the family, it is perfectly proper to call 27 post-offices by the name of "Concord," in order to secure that favourite old family luxury. So, also, we have 19 Bethels. But why should we have 20 Burlingtons; or 26 Berlins; 55 beginning with Brown, 60 beginning with Brook, and 61 with Buck? The national bird is rather shabbily treated in having but 48 "Eagles," while there are 60 "Elks." In view of the prevalence of games which are not understood, it is not a large misuse of the word "Green" to attach it to 221 post-offices. And, since we are on the subject of green, the word "Forest" seems peculiarly appropriate for Western towns, unless they happen to be on the prairie—so 53 is small enough a number for them. In the same line of thought, we have 110 "Fort" something-or-other; and 111 "Fair" places; 119 "Pleasant" in one way or another; and 628 begin with the appropriate descriptive term "New." The points of the compass are not forgotten—414 places are "East" something; 519 "North"; 396 "South"; and 581 "West." By this happy thought the poverty-stricken intellect is enabled to multiply indefinitely all the other names which have gone before, even without drawing on such reserves as "Middle," "Upper," "Lower," and the like. If it were not for these last, nothing could save us from such fiction as "Southeast by South" Columbus, and "East Southeast" Columbus, and so on until we had completely "boxed the compass." Another resource is to tack on "C. H." The seasons are very unequally treated. There are 17 places named after "Summer"; 149 after "Spring"; 21 after "Fall," nearly all of which are named after falling water rather than the season; and Winter has but 12, including all that are named after old man Winter. The timbers are better treated. Walnut has 41; Oak 148; and so on. The Saints have 198 places called for them—the sinners none at all. There are only eight post-offices beginning with X, and they are all Xenia. There are 56 beginning with Q, of which 16 are "Quincy" and 8 "Quaker." California is ahead of all other States in the odd names—

as, for example; "Bulliona," "Yankee Hill," "Angel's Camp," "Copperopolis," "Railroad Flat," "Point of Timber," "Happy Camp," "Fair Play," "Grizzly Flats," "Indian Diggings," "Slippery Ford," "Zem Zem," "Rough and Ready," "You Bet," "Grizzly Bear House," "Yankee Jim's," and so on, leaving out the quaint and curious Spanish names. The readers of Bret Harte's latest story, in "Scribner," will hardly be prepared to hear that its location, "Fiddletown," is a *bona-fide* California post-office.

Of all the post-offices, there are very few that are singular in the use of their names. One is reasonably sure of being unique under the name of Quonochontaug (Rhode Island), though even the name of Comly has a post-office in Pennsylvania, the emoluments of which are put down in the Blue Book at the princely sum of twelve dollars per annum. After this no one can feel safe. At the most unexpected moment some desperate cross-roads may seize upon his name for a post-office.—*American Paper.*

THE FRENCH POST CARD.

THE first complete list of these cards has just appeared in the opening part of the new edition of Dr. Gray's Catalogue, and we believe we are rendering our readers a service in reproducing it.

It is due to Dr. Magnus to say that the annexed arrangement is based on the one which he gave last year in *Le Timbre-Poste*, but the editor of Dr Gray's catalogue has not deemed it necessary to include in his list varieties which arise from the presence or absence of an inscription within the ruled space prepared for the stamp.

The two types No. 1 were set up in the national printing-office, in accordance with instructions given by the postmaster-general. The 10 c. cards were originally prepared to receive two 5 c. stamps, and the intention was acted on in respect of the first supplies, but, probably on account of the time lost in sticking two stamps on each card—for the cards *must* be stamped by the officials before being delivered to the public—a new 10 c. adhesive, brown on rose, was printed to supersede their employment.

I. For circulation in the same town.

Border Type, 1.

1st Type. 10 c.



- a. On white card.
5 c. and 5 c., green;
10 centimes, brown on
rose.
- b. On buff card, with price
printed across the
front.
10 centimes, brown
on rose.

2nd Type. 10 c.

*Border Type, 2.*

- On white card.
10 centimes, brown on
rose.

3rd Type. 10 c.

*Border Type, 3.*

- On buff card.
10 centimes, brown
on rose; 5 c. and 5 c.,
green.

II. For circulation from one town to another.

Border Type, 1.

1st Type. 15 c.



- a. On white and on bluish
card.
15 centimes, cinnamon.
- b. On white card, with
price printed across
the front.
15 centimes, cinnamon.

2nd Type. 15 c.

*Border Type, 2.*

- On white card.
15 centimes, cinnamon.

Border Type, 3.

3rd Type. 15 c.



- a. On white card.
15 centimes, cinnamon.
- b. On white card, with
price printed across
front.
15 centimes, cinnamon.

Hence, it results that cards with places for two 5 c. stamps are found bearing a 10 c. instead. When fresh supplies of the card were printed, a single compartment to receive the 10 c. stamp was substituted for the original pair, and the words *PRIX 10 CENTIMES*, in prominent type, were printed across the front of the cards. The value of the 15 c. was expressed on the fresh supplies in a similar manner. Referring to the above list, we have to mention that all the 10 c. cards of Type 1, variety *a.*, have places for two stamps, and those of variety *b.* have a place for one stamp only.

The two types No. 2 were produced in a private printing-office about the same time as types No. 1. One single supply would appear to have been struck off, and probably these types will, in course of time, become considerably rarer than the others. On them the value is not stated across the front.

As to the types No. 3, Dr. Magnus seems

to lean to the belief that they are likewise from some private printing-office. The value is printed across the front of these cards, but in less prominent type.

THE PHILATELICAL SOCIETY, LONDON.

A MEETING was held at the chambers of the Vice-President on Saturday, Feb. 28th, agreeably to notice. The stamps of Antigua and Antioquia were exhibited. M. H. A. de Joannis showed a complete set of the former according to catalogue, and also a set belonging to "A London Collector," who notices that the earliest issue is watermarked star with one point up, the issue of 1867-70 with a star with two points up, and that of 1873 with a cc & crown.

The President exhibited complete sets of Antioquia. The members agreed that the issue of 1869 is incorrectly termed on *yellow*

paper; whether toned or soiled is a moot point. M. de Joannis showed his own sets and those of "A London Collector." A stamp in the former (1 peso carmine) was remarked bearing date 1872, repeated above and below name of town.

The meeting was adjourned till March 14, at 2.30 p.m., at Dr. Viner's, 34, Denbigh-street, when the stamps of Alsace, Angola, the Argentines, and the Azores, were examined with Mr. Pemberton's catalogue. In Alsace, M. de Joannis's sets were complete, wanting two specimens only, viz., the 10 c. *olive*, which nobody had ever seen of that shade, nor anything approaching to it, and the 20 c., net with points down; this was shown by two other members.

The same gentleman produced also the three types of post cards, including a used example of the first type. He then showed a very fine set of Angolas, including the 50 reis green, in two shades, on smooth white paper, put as a query in catalogue. Nobody possessed the 5 reis black on rough white paper.

Among M. de Joannis's Argentines were a very fine pair (uncut) of 5 c. rose second issue Republic, unwatermarked and unperforated, postmarked *Buenos Ayres* within single line circle; and a 15 c. deep blue, also *used*, unwatermarked, and unperforated, of the issue of 1867; also no less than seventeen varieties of postmarks on the 5 c. red, some of them very much resembling the United States postmarks.

M. de Joannis concluded by showing four uncut pairs of the 20 reis, 50 r., 80 r., and 100 r. Azores, unused and *unperforated*; also a 50 r. and a 100 r. *used*. This issue is not mentioned in *The Philatelic Catalogue*.

The next meeting was fixed for Saturday, April 4th, at the same hour and place. The stamps of Austria to be examined and compared.

A RUSSIAN POSTMAN TWENTY YEARS AGO.

BY GEORGE AUGUSTUS SALA.

THE postman was one of the fiercest little men, with one of the fiercest and largest cocked-hats, I ever saw. His face was yellow

in the bony and livid in the fleshy parts; and the huge moustache lying on his upper lip looked like a leech bound to suck away at him for evermore for some misdeeds of the Promethean kind.

This Russian postman: don't let me forget his sword, with its rusty leather scabbard and its brazen hilt, which seemed designed like Hudibras's, to hold bread and cheese; and not omitting, again, the half dozen little tin-pot crosses and medals attached by dirty scraps of particoloured ribbon to his breast; for this brave had "served," and had only failed to obtain a commission because he was not "born." This *attaché* of St. Sergius-le-Grand, if that highly respectable saint can be accepted as a Muscovite equivalent for our St. Martin of Aldersgate, used to come clattering down the Cadetten-Linie on a shaggy little pony, scattering the pigeons, and confounding the vagrant curs. You know the tremendous stir at a review, when a chief, for no earthly purpose that I know of, save to display his horsemanship and to put himself and his charger out of breath, sets off, at a tearing gallop, from one extremity of the line to the other: the cock-feathers in the hats of his staff flying out behind them like foam from the driving waters. Well: the furious charge of a general on Plumstead Marshes was something like the pace of the Russian postman. If he had had many letters to deliver on his way, he would have been compelled to modify the ardour of his wild career; but it always seemed to me that nineteen-twentieths of the Cadetten-Linie were taken up by dead walls, painted a glaring yellow, and that the remaining twentieth was occupied by the house where I resided. It was a very impressive spectacle to see him bring up the little pony short before the gate of the hotel, dismount, look proudly around, caress the ever-sucking leech on his lip—as for twisting the ends of it, the vampire would never have permitted such a liberty—and beckon to some passing Ivan Ivanovitch, with a ragged beard and caftan, to hold his steed, or in default of any prowling Ivan being in the way, attach his pony's bridle to the palisades. It was a grand sound to hear him thundering—he was a little man, but

he *did* thunder—up the stone stairs, the brass tip of his sword-scabard bumping against his spurs, and his spurs clanking against the stones, and the gloves hanging from a steel ring in his belt, playing rub-a-dub-dub on the leather pouch which held his letters for delivery—*my* letters, my newspapers, when they hadn't been confiscated—with all the interesting paragraphs neatly daubed out with black paint by the censor. And when this martial postman handed you a letter, you treated him to liquor, and gave him copecks. All this kind of thing is altered, I suppose, by this time in Russia. I have seen the lowest order of police functionary—and the martial postman was first cousin to a *polizei*—seize Ivan Ivanovitch, if he offended him, by his ragged head, and beat him with his sword-belt about the mouth until he made it bleed. Whereas, in these degenerate days, I am told, a Russian gentleman who wears epaulettes, or a sword, is not allowed so much as to pull a droschky-driver's ears, or kick him in the small of the back, if he turn to the left instead of the right. Decidedly, the times are as much out of joint as a broken marionette.—*Under the Sun.*

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

A SOUTH-WESTERN MAN recently forwarded to Washington eight mutilated three-cent postage stamps, and modestly asked the Postmaster-General to either send him good ones in return, or "make it right" by giving him an appointment of some kind.

AN UNEXPECTED RESUSCITATION.—A strange story reaches the *Homeward Mail* from India. It will be remembered that the steamer *Dhoolia* was wrecked in the Red Sea. Among the wreckage, sold for a mere song, was a box, supposed to contain nothing valuable, but afterwards discovered by Egyptians to contain damaged Indian postage stamps to the value of about four laes of rupees (£40,000). The stamps had been manufactured in England for the Indian post-office, and sent out as cargo with no proper description or declaration of value. These stamps are finding their way into India through various channels; they would be no loss to the country if at the bottom of the ocean, but, being found and sold, are likely to cost the government of India little short of £40,000.

THE ST. PETERSBURG POSTE RESTANTE IN 1856 was one of the oddest institutions imaginable. It was a prudent course to take your landlord, or some Russian friend, with you, to vouch for your respectability. In any case, you were bound to produce your passport, or rather your "permission to sojourn," which had been granted to you—on your paying for it—when the police at Count Orloff's had sequestered your Foreign-office passport. When

divers functionaries were quite satisfied that you were not a forger of rouble notes, or an incendiary, or an agent for the sale of M. Herzen's *Kolokol*, their suspicions gave way to the most unbounded confidence. You were ushered into a large room; a sack of letters from every quarter of the globe was bundled out upon the table; and you were politely invited to try if you could make out anything that looked as though it belonged to you. I am afraid that, as a rule, I did *not* obtain the property to which I was entitled, and somebody else had helped himself to that which belonged to me. I wonder who got my letters, and read them, or are they still mouldering in the Petropolitan Poste Restante?—*G. A. Sala.*

POSTS AT THE DIAMOND FIELDS.—There are government post-offices at the principal places on the Fields (Klip Drift, New Rush, and Du Toit's Pan), which are conducted exactly the same as those in Cape Colony, the same rates of postage are charged, and money-orders are issued on all parts of the colony and the United Kingdom at the same charge. No special stamps are yet issued for Griqualand, those of the Cape being used at present; but as the governments of the two are now different, probably a special issue will be made for the former, though no steps have as yet been taken in that direction. Bi-weekly mails run between the colonies and the fields, conveyed by contractors in the usual manner of South Africa—a cart and four. A weekly mail is also despatched from Klip Drift to places further up in the interior, and there is a daily one between the three above-mentioned places.

In addition to the government post-offices, there are, at both New Rush and Du Toit's Pan, what are called "Natal and Free State Post-Offices." These are the property of private persons, and are simply agencies for forwarding and receiving letters to and from a post-office on the borders of the Orange Free State. Most Natal letters pass through this office, as it is the quickest way of sending them; and the proprietors of the agency charge a monthly subscription of two shillings and sixpence, which entitles the subscriber to send and receive as many letters as he pleases; non-subscribers have to pay sixpence for each letter sent or received through the agency. The stamp required on letters to any part of Natal or the Orange Free State by this means is 6d. O. F. S. The reason for the establishment of this agency was, that letters sent through the government office would have to pay 4d. Colonial and 6d. Orange State, which is the rate paid in colonial towns, as there is no postal convention between the two countries.—*Communicated by Mr. E. L. Pemberton.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

ANTIGUA STAMPS.

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

DEAR SIR,—I notice that at the meeting of the Philatelic Society of February 28th, when the Antigua stamps were under discussion, "A London Collector" noticed that the earlier issue shows a watermark of the star (which is a six printed one) with one point upwards, while the issue of 1867-70 shows the star with two points up; that is, in the latter case the single point is in the transverse direction. I quite agree with "A London Collector" that this is a general rule, but still it is not universally correct. The copies which I have of the 1d. orange-vernilion on thick paper all show the star with the one point up.

I am, yours sincerely,

A PARISIEN COLLECTOR.

GENUINE USED COPIES OF THE DON CARLOS
POSTAGE STAMPS.

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

DEAR SIR,—I have just received six used Don Carlos stamps, three of which are on the *original* envelope. This trio has done duty between Algorta, a little town situated at the mouth of the Nervion, and Baracaldo, a small village on the left bank of the same river. The distance between these two places is about three miles; the letter was a single one, for which 3 reales, or 7½d., have been charged. The other trio has prepaid the answer. Each stamp is obliterated twice in blue ink. The obliteration on the Spanish stamps only shows the usual central lozenge and dots; on the enclosed, all the dots are as many holes, or dents. The stamps are of a lighter blue than the single copy I also enclose; this specimen, although postmarked, has, I believe, never done duty: it is printed on blue lined paper. Some obliging post-office clerk has very likely, for a "consideration," postmarked a whole sheet for some enterprising dealer.

A handstamp is struck on the flap of the envelope. My friends not being collectors, have unfortunately cut off the flap.

I am promised, by next mail, full information concerning these interesting labels, genuine obliterated copies of which will soon become scarce.

I remain, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

H. A. DE JOANNIS.

London, W.

NEWSPAPER AND PENNY POST STAMPS
PRIOR TO 1840.

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

DEAR SIR,—In writing of the obsolete English newspaper stamps in the last number of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, G. E. D. asks, "How is it that these earlier newspaper stamps appear to be almost ignored by collectors and by compilers of catalogues?" In my opinion, the chief reason is their unsightliness. Had they been adhesives, or prettier looking stamps, they would probably have been admitted without a scruple; their claims being equally as good as several that are. I look upon them with a good deal of favour myself; at the same time I acknowledge that Mr. O. Taylor is quite right when he styles them "The relics of an obsolete system," but as relics they are well worth preserving, as the forerunners and pioneers of the regular postage stamp. In a few years they will probably be like the early Moldavians, which Mr. Taylor characterises as philatelic mammoths and dodos. I have all the varieties mentioned by G. E. D., except the oblong hexagon twopence, also the three following:—

1. Red on white, crown and heraldic flowers, in a mantle. Three half-pence.
2. Rich brown on white, crown, &c., in mantle. Four-pence. Heraldic flowers larger.
3. Red on white, crown, &c., in mantle. Fourpence, DISCOUNT on left side; 20 PER CENT. on right.

The penny and twopenny posts I also look upon with the same kindly feeling; whatever they were, they evidently continued for some time after the introduction of the postage stamp in 1840.

I have an envelope bearing a handstamped impression, WHIMPLE PENNY POST in black, also on the same envelope EXETER, FE. 1 1841 PY. POST, in red.

Can any one give the history of the penny posts previous to 1840, and the date when they ceased to exist?
Yours respectfully,

Nether Hearth, Alston.

WM. VIPOND.

[Our impression is, that it is too late in the day to advocate the collection of the newspaper and penny post stamps. The general disposition of collectors is, to take 1840 as the starting-point, and this resolve is surely dictated by expediency. If once we open the door to hybrid emissions of "pre-historic" times, we shall have more than enough to do to chronicle them, and they are likely to evoke, at best, only a languid interest.—ED.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A. S. sends us a 5 para Turkish, printed in a dull greenish grey. This is one of the varieties we noticed in our January number.

H. A. LONGTON.—Accept our best thanks for the various items of information kindly communicated by you during the past month.

A. BERNSTEIN, Brighton.—Dr. Gray's Catalogue is now being published in serial form. Part II. is ready this day; Part III. on May 1st.

G. H. H., Altrincham.—We think the shading on the profile of your Heligoland stamp must be entirely accidental.—Many thanks for the remaining contents of your letter.

A. T. NORTON, Shrewsbury.—In reply to your inquiry respecting the second part of *The Philatelic Catalogue*, we can only refer you to Messrs. Grant & Co., of Dawlish. Our publishers (Alfred Smith & Co.), are not in any way connected with the publication of this work.

Mr. W. W. LATHBURY, Scarborough, and Miss Hopkins, Bath, each sends us a small sheet of "stamps" which has been received from C. T. Robinson, Garnet Hill Street, Glasgow. With three or four exceptions, the whole of them are worthless imitations. Collectors will do well to note this.

A. H. L., London.—We decidedly prefer Moens's album, although it has spaces for telegraph stamps. We believe M. Moens has published a separate album for fiscals. His postage-stamp album does not contain spaces for post cards. It is dated 1874, and is quite up to time. We hope in our next to review it.

Dor, Lausanne, suggests that the penny fiscal and sixpenny postage stamp of New South Wales, both printed in lilac, are liable to give rise to the same confusion as the corresponding English stamps were found in 1868 to occasion; and in support of her suggestion, she says she has received a postmarked penny fiscal, which had come over from the colony on the same envelope with a fourpenny postage stamp.—To this correspondent we are indebted for a portion of the information respecting Switzerland given in the present number.

E. H.—We cannot give any explanation concerning your 7c. (Stanton) U. S. stamp with surcharged value, 20c. We referred to it in our last number, with a view to eliciting information. The penny and twopenny handstamp posts were no doubt used in connection with the town and district postal service. As we understand it, prior to the institution of the present system, letters posted and delivered in the same town, paid one penny; and letters posted and delivered in the same district, paid twopenny postage, the town and district service being quite distinct from the *through* postal service, which was performed by the mail-coaches.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED
STAMPS.

VICTORIA.—The information we recently received, to the effect that it was intended to issue a new halfpenny stamp to supersede the provisional of that value which made its appearance last year, proves to have been correct. Thanks to the kindness of a gentleman connected with the Treasury of Melbourne, we are able to present herewith an engraving of the curious type which has been adopted, and is now in use. It is, at any rate, an original conception, and may lay claim to be the smallest upright rectangular stamp in existence. We should imagine that obliterated specimens must show an undesirable amount of postmark, for the stamp is so small that a mere section of the postmark will suffice to cover it. It is printed in pink on white, watermarked with a double-lined letter V placed lengthwise, instead of across the stamp, and is perforated.



AUSTRIA.—We have received from a Viennese correspondent an adhesive stamp and two envelopes, which he says are to be issued specially for "office correspondence." We should have had no hesitation in rendering this as "official correspondence," but the stamps bear the name of the capital on them, and appear to be intended exclusively for use there, besides which our correspondent states that their circulation is to commence on the day of the opening of the new Town Hall, another evidence of their local connection with the city of Vienna. What purpose they are really intended to serve we cannot quite make out; and, as possibly the engraving of the type may not be received in time for insertion in this number, we will proceed to describe the design. The centre consists of



a dotted oval, containing the Austrian crowned two-headed eagle, surcharged with a pointed shield bearing a Latin cross, which completely covers its body. The oval is en-

closed in a square frame, inscribed COM. FREIMARKE D. ST. WIEN, in coloured letters; the space between being filled in with a lined ground, and in the four corners are the letters F. M. C. W. The adhesive is on rather thin white paper, is unperforated, and coloured a bright lake. The value is 3 kreuzers. Of the envelopes, one measures about 5 in. x 5½ in.; the other is some thirteen inches in length and 5 in. in breadth. The former bears a 3 kr. stamp of the same design and colour as the adhesive, struck in the right upper corner; the latter has two 3 kr. stamps struck side by side in the right upper corner; but whilst the outer stamp is of nearly the same shade as the adhesive, the inner one is printed a deep violet. This printing of two stamps of the same value, and struck side by side, in different colours, has an odd look about it, and in fact the omission, as a whole, has rather a peculiar appearance. We await further information respecting its character and employment.

NEW GRANADA.—A valued correspondent has sent us the original of the annexed engraving. The design is characterised by greater boldness and freshness than many of its predecessors, and it is better executed; the nine stars, for instance, are not mere blotches, but are distinct and shapely. The engraver, however, seems to have allowed a fantastic whim to get the better of him, when he placed the Roman numeral X in a curve on the scroll on either side of the circle in such a position that it looks more like a St. Andrew's cross than a number. In colour the new 10 c. is a deep violet. Probably it is one of the stamps of a new series issued at the beginning of the year, of which the other members will soon turn up.



CONFEDERATE STATES.—*The Philatelist* for April contains an engraving of a design said to have been prepared for issue in 1861, consisting of a flag composed of three transverse and one upright band, with a circlet of stars in the latter, in an oval; C. S. OF A. POSTAGE above, in coloured letters, on an arched label; TEN CENTS below, in white

letters; numerals in upper corner; the whole forming, with the connecting ornaments, an upright rectangle. "When the plate was ready," says the correspondent, "and a few stamps had been printed, the flag was changed to stars and bars, and, as a matter of course, the type was not issued." The idea is an ingenious one, and might well serve to "float" a less plausible stamp, but we decline to believe in it. All the circumstances connected with the Confederate official issues were detailed by the Confederate deputy-postmaster in these pages in 1867. He speaks of the difficulty of finding engravers and tools, and he speaks of the issue of the known stamps, but he does not enter into the charming episode of the abortive design. The stamp sent to our contemporary is "one of a few found amongst a lot of old papers in a box saved from the great fire which burnt all the postage-stamp plates, when Richmond was evacuated in 1865." Was the box opened after the fire, to ascertain whether its contents were uninjured?—or was it put aside without further ado, and not touched until, by a providential hazard, "a Richmond correspondent" was led to examine it nine years afterwards? Would any stamp-collector like to secure a specimen, "one of the few," thus discovered? No doubt, for a mere trifle—say a dozen guineas—his wish can be gratified. Seriously, we trust no one will be "taken in" by this abominable hoax; and we hasten to acquit our contemporary from the barest suspicion of a share in it. Probably, indeed, as an experienced philatelist, he had his doubts about it, for he abstains from advancing any opinion on the stamp. He simply tells the tale as it was told to him—quoting verbatim from the Richmond correspondent's letter,—and inserting the engraving in order that, in the interests of philately, investigation might be made into the matter.

LUXEMBURG.—Pending the preparation of stamped post cards, fresh unstamped ones have been issued, with borders which have no overpowering pretensions to be ornamental. Three are known, two of which are for the cards with German inscriptions; and a third is for the card with French legend. The German cards are of

orange-yellow tint, and their French companion is a yellow one.

GUATEMALA.—We are indebted to our valued contributor, "A Parisian Collector,"



for a sight of the *un peso* first noticed last year. His copy is printed in orange, and not in yellow. The design is the same as that of the once suspected 4 reales mauve, and an inspection of it discloses the fact that the ornament on

the top of the scroll, which was undistinguishable on our specimen of the 4 rls., whence the annexed engraving was taken, is a bird with a remarkably long tail—possibly intended for a bird of paradise. The cause of the issue of the 4 rls. is now cleared up. The Guatemalans found they could not get on with the decimal currency, so they decided on abandoning it; and one of the first steps taken after this determination to return to the old denominations of reales and pesos, was the issue of the 4 reales mauve. Since then the 5 c., 10 c., and 20 c. stamps have been transformed, by simply re-setting the inscription of value into $\frac{1}{2}$ rl., 1 rl., and 2 reales stamps, respectively, and the one centavo has been similarly metamorphosed, but we are not informed what new denomination it now represents. The colours and designs remain unchanged. Specimens of the $\frac{1}{2}$ rl., 1 rl., and 2 rl. values have just been received.

SWEDE.—The correspondent mentioned in the preceding paragraph has communicated to us the two official Swedish post cards. One design does for both. On the right-hand side is a post-horn, enclosing a figure of value as on the Norwegian stamps; above is the word SVERIGE, and the value in words. On the left-hand are the arms, and an inscription between, in two lines, consisting of the title OFFICIAL POST CARD, and the notice, THIS SIDE IS RESERVED FOR THE ADDRESS. Below this inscription comes the usual ruling for the address. The whole is enclosed in an ornamented frame. The values are—

6 öre	dull mauve.
10 „	red.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.—*Tichvin* (Novgorod).—The type we referred to last month is here represented. It is said by its original describer, M. Moens, to be engraved in a very primitive style, and to be characterised by some remarkable orthographical lapses and blunders, which give rise to no less than fifteen varieties,



that being, in fact, the number of stamps on the sheet. The first issue for the Philippines, and those of Mauritius and New Caledonia, are said to be *chefs-d'œuvre* beside the new Tichvinite. Their author does not know how to trace the letters; some are reversed, others inverted, and others, again, omitted altogether. Evidently, the schoolmaster is wanted at Tichvin, not only for the rising generation, but also for the artistic leaven of the population. The stamps which evidence his absence are printed in half-a-dozen shades of blue, from pale to dark, and thence to indigo.

Perejaslav (Poltava).—The annexed stamp was, like the preceding, cursorily described in our last. It is fairly printed in black on buff, and has a business-like, though certainly not an attractive, look.



Shadrinsk (Perm).—This is one of the designs which was first noticed in our "July list," but which it has been reserved for M. Moens to re-discover. The stamp described by our St. Petersburg correspondent was printed in black, whilst the one which has been unearthed by the Brussels editor is in blue, but both are of the same value. The impression is a very poor one, and combines with the imperfect drawing to render it a difficult task even to a naturalist to decide to what species the animal represented in the oval belongs. However, M. Moens states that he is informed Shadrinsk is noted for its furs, in which the choice furs of Siberia are displayed in quantities, and his correspondent

informs him that the creature drawn on the stamp is intended for a fox.

Dnieprovsk (Taurida).—The stamp mentioned in our last, and differing from its predecessor only in the lateral ornaments, is reproduced herewith. It is struck in black and in grey, on thin white laid paper.



Koseletz (Tchernigoff).—The stamp here represented supersedes the square type, which, according to M. Moens, was issued in 1867. Like the latter it is printed in bronze, and resembles its forerunner also in having the letter *к* within the figure 3.



Atkarsk (Saratoff).—A new value has been received by M. Moens, a 3 kop. black on white, of the same design as the 2 kop. black, which it probably supersedes.

CUBA.—The Amadeus set has at length been deposited in favour of the 1871 design, the date on which has been altered to 1874. Three values only have been heard of up to the present time, viz.:—25 cent de peseta, ultramarine; 50 c. de p., lilac; and 12½ c. de p., of which the colour is not known. The new stamps have the usual perforations. They have been on duty since New Year's Day.



OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

The Philatelist.—The April number is distinguished by fulness, both material and essential. It consists of sixteen pages, instead of the usual twelve, and they are all occupied with readable and instructive articles. Of the opening chronicle little need be said, except that it contains notice of a newly-discovered, and, we must be allowed to say, apocryphal Confederate stamp, to which we refer elsewhere. The remaining items in the list of novelties were noticed

simultaneously by us in our last impression. In the "Philatelic Press" we observe an allusion to the collection of fiscals made in a quarto volume in 1772, by John Burke, Esq., Receiver-General in the stamp-office at Dublin, and this fact is referred to as having been recently discovered by Dr. Magnus; but if the editor of *The Philatelist* will turn to *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* (vol. ii., p. 44), he will there find the circumstance related at length.

Following the notice of that "Press," the very existence of which is probably ignored outside of philatelic circles, comes an exhaustive reference list of the current Turkish stamps, compiled by Mr. J. Livada, of Constantinople, and comprising no less than 109 colour varieties. To this succeeds a report of the Philatelic Society's proceedings, and then comes another instalment of the "Spud Papers," written by Mr. Earée, which treats of, and maltreats, the forgeries of Bavaria and Antigua. The Rev. R. B. Earée opens his analysis on the Bavaria 1 kreuzer with the following rather depressing observations.

I am afraid I shall not be able to give very satisfactory tests to distinguish the forgery now to be commented upon, as the design of the original has been very carefully copied. I cannot help thinking that the forgers have lately adopted a different and better plan with regard to their lithographic imitations. Formerly, there were very great and striking differences in the design of the forgeries, as compared with the genuine stamps,—but, within the last few months, the designs of the forgeries have been, in all their salient points, almost identical with the designs of the real and authentic emissions. I therefore fancy that Messrs. Spiro Gebrüder have begun to be very particular in their lithographic transfers.

The 1 kreuzer Bavaria has always been rather a hard nut to crack. It has been asserted that two dies exist, which in itself would be rather a confusing circumstance; and such an authority as Mr. Pemberton says, that whilst the oldest and finest copies are undoubtedly typographs, he is not quite decided but that some specimens which show great wear of the dies are lithographic impressions. At any rate the forgeries, however carefully done, are lithographs, and those described by Mr. Earée are printed in *very* black ink on *very* white paper. From this peculiarity the best test is drawn,—namely, the intense blackness of the labels, especially of that bearing the word EIN,

which, being a short word, allows more of the label to be seen. With regard to the Antigua forgeries, nothing short of the reverend author's entire analysis would render clear the points of difference; but it may be mentioned, that whilst all the genuine stamps bear a postmark consisting of lines forming an oval, with a numeral or numerals in the centre, the forgeries are postmarked with a rectangle of dots somewhat larger than the stamps. This distinction can easily be borne in mind, and is an available one, as all the forgeries are postmarked.

After the dissection of forgeries comes an editorial review of a number of manuscripts, sent in in competition for a prize offered for the best essay on mounting post cards. Some of the competitors suggest gumming down—an indefensible method; others, the fastening of the cards by means of slips of paper folded into zigzag, which would give three or four extra thicknesses of paper; others, again, propose a leafless album cover, with guards to which the cards should be attached. Again, five of the eight essayists recommend the plan adopted for fixing drawings in albums, viz., cutting diagonal slits at the four angles of a space on the page of the same size as the card, and thus enframing it; but that would spoil the look of the cards. Another correspondent suggests the piercing of two holes at the top and two at the bottom of the page, running some narrow elastic through them, and slipping the cards under the elastic; but then the page must be very thick to resist the strength of the elastic; otherwise, the leaves would curl up whenever opened, and a book of thick cardboard leaves would be unwieldy and expensive. Lastly, the Rev. R. B. Earée proposes—and to his proposition the prize is awarded as the most feasible one—that the same plan should be adopted for cards as that now in general use for the mounting stamps. This mode consists in the application along the top of the back of the post card of a narrow slip of gummed paper, which is then turned down and fastened to the album, forming in fact a hinge. Such an arrangement would permit of the examination of the back, as well as the front of the card, and the only precaution to be taken is

that of choosing a paper for the hinge sufficiently stout to bear the weight of the cards. We certainly agree with our contemporary in his award, and believe that the system of which he approves will recommend itself for general adoption. The subject itself being a new one, we have deemed it worth while to give a brief analysis of the various proposals made by the essayists. The remaining contents of the number do not call for special notice.

Le Timbre-Poste.—The current issue contains a number of short but interesting articles, the first of which has a description of the forgeries of the current Granadine “cubiertas” or vignettes. Among the distinctive points of the 25 c. is the omission of the inscription LIT DE AYALA I MEDRANO—BOGOTA, 1865, which appears on the genuine outside the lower margin of the frame; whilst for the 50 c. a test is offered in the number of lines contained in the place reserved for a written inscription, which is eighty-two in the genuine, and ninety in the forgery.

“The Treffenberg Stamp” is the title of an account of the well-known proposal made in 1823, in the Swedish Diet by Lieutenant de Treffenberg, for the adoption of stamped envelopes for the prepayment of postage. The franking covers were to represent all the various letter rates, which were then calculated on a scale based on weight and distance combined. Their employment would supersede the payment of postage in money, and the keeping of postage accounts with certain large houses. The cover was to be of the size of a sheet of writing paper, with two stamps,—one uncoloured, the other black,—both bearing the denomination of value and a symbolical figure difficult to imitate, and placed so that the address must partially cover and obliterate them. Sheets of reduced size would be issued to be annexed to large packets, which the ordinary envelopes would be too small to cover or too weak to hold, and such sheets would also be used for payment by the receiver for unpaid or insufficiently prepaid letters. The sheets would be sold by certain specified officials. Persons living in the country would require to have agents in the nearest town, to whom

the arrival of their unpaid letters at the post-office would be signified; such agents would have to pay the postage and send on the letters, and country labourers would have to arrange with their landlords for the withdrawal of their letters by the agents of the latter. These embarrassing provisions were among the chief reasons given by the diet for the rejection of the project, but another motive was the difficulty of issuing envelopes to meet all possible combinations of the then complicated postal rates. The lieutenant's idea was substantially a good one, but was only practicable in conjunction with a simple tariff, such as that which was adopted in England when stamps were first issued. Still, we are glad, even at this late period of the day, to possess the details of a scheme which has been so frequently referred to, as the prototype of Rowland Hill's system.

In the next article the Venezuelan school stamps come to the surface again, after two years of complete oblivion, and the editor of *Le Timbre-Poste* breaks a lance in their favour. The inscription, ESCUELAS, signifies schools, and our contemporary argues that, as the government encourages by every means in its power the spread of education,—notably by making the teaching gratuitous,—it may also have accorded a reduction on the ordinary rate of postage on the students' letters. The editor has received a specimen of the “Escuelas,” together with two of the current postage stamps—the half and one real—and finds that both the postage and the school stamp are marked with two black lines crossing the surface, and repeated at intervals of one-fifth of an inch. He also observes that the school stamp has a portion of the arms of Venezuela, in relief, on the back—a precaution which he thinks would not have been adopted in respect of a stamp simply used in the course of instruction as an aid to the teaching of the postal system. This is our contemporary's case, and we must content ourselves with simply stating it, only observing that it does not present anything like sufficient *prima-facie* evidence to warrant the admission of the stamp, but that it shows the necessity for further inquiry as to its character.

From a short article succeeding that on the Venezuelan stamps, we learn that the unit of the new Japanese currency is the *yen*, which is divided into 100 parts called *sens*, which again are sub-divided into ten parts called *rins*. The following are the coins:—

2, 5, 10, and 20	<i>yen</i> .
1, 5, 10, 20,	50 <i>sen</i> .
1, 5	<i>rin</i> .

Thus it appears that the current $\frac{1}{2}$ sen stamp equals 5 rin, which value exists as a coin; but there are no 2 sen or 4 sen pieces. It is rather surprising, that there should be no 2 sen coin, seeing that that value is about the equivalent of the penny.

The April number of *Le Timbre-Poste* closes with a paragraph on the stamps of the St. Lucia Steam Conveyance Company, to which we refer elsewhere; and a communication with reference to the Carlist stamps, in reply to some observations of M. Mahé. Altogether, it is one of the best numbers we have seen for some time past.

The American Journal of Philately.—We briefly referred in our last to the history of the Berford stamps, of which the publication was commenced in the January number of this journal. The February and March numbers are now before us, containing the continuation and conclusion of the narrative, which is certainly an interesting one. The statement, however, in the introductory paragraphs, that Berford's Express was "one of the *causes célèbres* of its time"—which we understood to mean that the legality of the Express was actually made the subject of an important judicial investigation—is not borne out by the sequel. The question was never in fact brought before the courts, but the establishment of the Express gave rise to some undignified action on the part of the post-office, and hastened a reform in the postal rates. The Berford California Express, it appears, was started about 1849, and first attracted attention in 1851, when it was found that the post-office department was paying a very high contract price for the carriage of the mails, and yet was unable to secure such safety, regularity, or dispatch in the delivery, as distinguished the Express service. The rates by the latter were only

half the amount of those charged by the government, and the Express mails left New York two days later than the U. S. mails. On June 16th, 1851, Mr. Berford reduced his rate for the carriage of letters to San Francisco and the neighbouring towns to three cents, and made proportionally low charges for letters for the Mexican ports, China, Hong-Kong, the Sandwich Islands, Peru, Bolivia, &c. He also gave notice that periodicals would be carried at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ cents per ounce. These were substantial advantages, and they were accompanied by the issue of stamps of the following values:—

3 cents	black,
10	purple,
25	red,

of which our contemporary gives the design. Then it was that the post-office took umbrage at Mr. Berford's alleged infringement of its monopoly. His letter-trunks were seized and opened by the custom-house, but were ultimately returned to him, and a warm controversy sprung up between Mr. Berford and the department. Mr. Berford maintained that he was not debarred from carrying letters over the high seas by vessels other than those employed to carry the U. S. mails, and gave chapter and verse for his argument. He furthermore challenged the post-office to attack him in court, but no proceedings were taken. His action, however, resulted in a lowering of the rates, and thus, we presume—for the fact is not openly stated by our contemporary,—led to his being driven off the course. The stamps referred to above show a large figure in the centre, crossed by the word "California;" above is the inscription BERFORD & CO'S EXPRESS, the word TO is just above the figure, and NO. 2, ASTOR HOUSE, N. Y., below—all in a transverse oval, with serrated outer edge. Before they were issued, handstamped franks of somewhat similar design were employed, and are noticed on p. 127 of our tenth vol. The set of stamps described by the *A. J. P.*, was found by its editor in Mr. Berford's scrap-book, and it appears that a fourth value, 6 cents green, also exists. How many were printed, or how many used, our contemporary has been unable to ascertain, but of their genuine character there can be

no doubt, and they are more interesting than the general run of locals, from the fact that their emission forced the government to adopt a lower tariff.

The remaining portions of the February and March numbers of the *A. J. P.* are not specially noticeable. "The History of Postage Stamps, *Alphabetically considered*," is the nonsensical title of a paper which, to judge by the opening instalments, is likely to be of real use. It is lucidly written, with an evident knowledge of the subject, and should do much to popularise the study of stamps on the other side of the Atlantic.

The Curiosity Hunter is still in the land of the living. A few pages in the double number before us are devoted to philately, but the subject is treated in the superficial style which is natural to a journal which treats of everything in general, and nothing in particular. We are told, for instance, that in America the majority of collectors care very little about varieties, because they look upon philately as a pastime rather than an elaborate and complicated science. But if that is true, if they do not care about the stamps, except to play with, why do they go to the trouble of putting them in a book? If philately is a game, why not learn to play it well?

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. XXXV.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

Malta.

THE solitary Maltese stamp has now been in existence for more than thirteen years. Its emission was decided on in the early part of 1860. The execution of the design was entrusted to De La Rue and Co., and a government notice, dated the 10th November, 1860, fixed its emission for the 1st December of that year.



The type will compare favourably with some of the more pretentious productions of the celebrated stamp manufacturers. It has remained unchanged ever since, and the varieties are derived entirely from differ-

ences in shade of colour and paper. The first issue or edition was printed in dull buff on white unwatermarked paper; but in 1862, according to a Maltese collector, some sheets were delivered of a *bluish* paper; the second issue, which appeared in the year 1863 was watermarked with c.c. and crown, and the third, dating from 1864, was printed in light orange on the watermarked paper. The bluish variety is probably an accidental one, and some assert that it is due simply to the action of the gum, but the other varieties are no doubt of official origin and worthy of collection.

The stamp is issued to prepay the postage of letters between the islands of Malta and Gozo and the thickly inhabited villages of the former which possess a daily mail service. The postage on letters for England or other countries is paid in English stamps, which are obliterated with a large capital M. Some unwatermarked English large-letter sixpenny were accidentally sent out to Malta and used there; they are consequently classed by continental collectors with the Maltese stamps. There seems to be no likelihood of the isolated halfpenny label being joined by any fresh values, and as the postage cannot well be reduced below the amount indicated on the stamp, there would be but little advantage in issuing even a post card. The busy little Mediterranean naval station is but poorly represented.

Mecklenburg-Schwerin.

Collectors whose experience extends over a dozen years or so, will remember the ardent desire then displayed to obtain specimens of the "mite" Mecklenburg. The stamp drew attention by its ridiculous smallness, and before stamp importing had become a trade the "mite" was tolerably scarce, and had its value. The idea of issuing a subdivisible stamp—of which Brunswick also furnishes an example—was a curious one, and perhaps had something to recommend it of which we are not aware, but it did not make much way. Possibly, objections arose to the circulation of stamps which had been drawn and quartered. Be that as it may, the Mecklenburg label be-

came well known at a time when other less peculiar but more valuable stamps attracted but slight notice.



The 1st July, 1856, was the date of issue of the first Mecklenburgs. The series consisted of the following values :

$\frac{1}{4}$	schilling (printed in fours),	pink.
$\frac{3}{4}$	„	yellow.
5	„	brown.

The four $\frac{1}{4}$ schg. stamps printed together represented a $\frac{1}{4}$ schg. stamp, and in the envelope series there is an intermediate value, a $1\frac{1}{2}$ schg. ; hence, by calculating the changes which may be rung on the four-quarter stamp, and including the envelopes, we get a series composed of $\frac{1}{4}$ schg., $\frac{1}{2}$ schg., $\frac{3}{4}$ schg., 1 schg., $1\frac{1}{2}$ schg., 3 schg., and 5 schg. stamps.

The designs of the stamps do not call for comment, but it may be mentioned that the bull's head which forms the arms of the Grand Duchy is also found on the shield of the Mecklenburg-Strelitz stamps. In the first $\frac{1}{4}$ schg. the ground on which the bull's head is drawn is filled with a dotted pattern, but in 1865 the groundwork was done away with, and the stamp reissued as it is represented on the above engraving.

The issue of perforated stamps took place in 1864, and was made the occasion for a change in the colour of the 5 schg., from blue to brown, to bring it into accord with the stamps of equivalent values issued by other states of the postal union. The 1864 issue reads thus :—

$\frac{1}{4}$	schg. (dotted ground)	pink.
$\frac{3}{4}$	schg.	yellow.
5	schg.	brown.

In 1865 the $\frac{1}{4}$ schg. on plain ground, alluded to above, was issued, and was perforated like its predecessor. Lastly, in 1866, a new value, 2 schg. reddish lilac (perf.), made its appearance, and the series continued in circulation until the 1st January, 1868.

ENVELOPES.

The envelopes are a decidedly handsome and well engraved series. They were issued on the same day as the adhesives—the 1st July, 1856,—and consisted of the following values :

1	schilling,	red.
$1\frac{1}{2}$	„	green.
3	„	yellow.
3	„	orange.
5	„	blue.



In 1860 the same stamps were reissued with the diagonal inscription, which traverses the envelope, printed in smaller type. The difference which marks the two editions is clearly perceptible, and when a collector can secure specimens of both, it is worth while to do so. The colour of the 5 schg. was altered from blue to bistre in 1864, to match the adhesive, and in 1866 a 2 schg. lilac was issued, which was intended to replace the $1\frac{1}{2}$ schg. The post-office, however, sold out its stock of the latter value by affixing two adhesive $\frac{1}{4}$ schg. by the side of the embossed stamp, and then selling the envelope as a 2 schg. one.

Mecklenburg-Strelitz.

The series issued for use in this Grand Duchy may be very briefly dismissed. The date of its emission was the 1st October, 1864, and like the stamps of Mecklenburg-Schwerin and many other of the minor German states, its suppression—resulting from the incorporation of the Duchy in the North German Confederation—took effect on the 1st January, 1868. The values and colours were as follows :—



Rectangular.	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{1}{4} \text{ sgr.} \\ \frac{1}{3} \text{ „} \\ 1 \text{ schilling} \end{array} \right.$	orange.
		green.
		mauve.
Octagonal.	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1 \text{ sgr.} \\ 2 \text{ „} \\ 3 \text{ „} \end{array} \right.$	rose.
		blue.
		stone.

There were also three envelopes—1 sgr.,

2 sgr., and 3 sgr.,—the stamps on which are identical in design and colour with the adhesives of the corresponding values. All the adhesives are line-pierced. It is a noticeable circumstance, that whilst the arms on the stamps of the two Mecklenburgs are identical, the currency in which the values are expressed is not. This is a striking illustration of the diversity of the old German coinage. In Mecklenburg-Schwerin the denominations are all in *schilling*; in Mecklenburg-Strelitz, with one exception, they are all in *silbergroschen*. What may have been the special service intended to be performed by the solitary *schilling* stamp of the Strelitz series has never been stated.



Modena.

From the somewhat prim and formal German stamps, with no history worth naming, it is a relief to turn to the more interesting and irregular issues of the Italian state. It was on the 1st of January, 1852, that the Duchy of Modena was endowed with postage stamps of the annexed design, and of the



following values:—

5 centesimi	green.
10 "	violet.
25 "	pale ochre.
40 "	blue.
1 lira	white.

The impression was in black on coloured paper for the first four stamps, and on white for the fifth. The latter is further distinguished from the rest by being watermarked with a letter A. Some hint of the old paternal style of government is found in the inscription *POSTE ESTENSI*, which means "Post of the House of Este," and may be taken to signify that the post was considered as a kind of appanage of the reigning house. The design is not executed in the highest style of art, and it would appear from the number of varieties exemplifying printer's errors, that the inscription as well as the

value was formed of movable types, and composed more than once during the currency of the stamps. Thus we find that all the values exist with *poste* misprinted *posie*. The errors in the value are well-known; varieties are found with one or other of the following combinations to represent the word *CENT*, viz.,—*cent, cenl, ent, cnet, ccnt, cebt, ce ≈ t, cetu, clnt, &c.* As the series has been reprinted, the suspicion has arisen that the reprinters have fabricated some of these "errors;" but in any case their philatelic value is really slight, for they simply establish the fact that the printers were careless.

During the seven years in which the series was current, some slight variations naturally occurred in the shade of the paper employed; two colour-varieties of the 5 c., 15 c., and 40 c., may be with propriety distinguished. As to the 10 c., for a reason which will be hereafter explained, the colour was altered from violet to rose in 1853, and at one time specimens of the violet 10 c. which, as will be observed, had but a short circulation, were not easily procurable, but now-a-days it is scarcely less common than the other values.

JOURNAL-TAX STAMPS.

On the 9th August, 1852, a treaty was entered into between Austria, Parma, and Modena, by which the two latter powers agreed to impose a tax of 9 centesimi on all political journals originating out of the territories of the other contracting parties, and brought into the country through the post.



Parma commenced to collect the tax by means of a stamp struck on the journals themselves, a system it soon had to abandon. In Modena, however, on the 1st February, 1853, the collection was effected by the apposition of a 9 c. adhesive stamp, of the same design as the ordinary postage stamps, but with the letters *B. G.* (*Bollo Giornale*) prefixed to the denomination. A year afterwards, a second variety was issued, with the letters *B. G.* of smaller size. Specimens of the small-letter type are common, but the large-letter *B. G.* is of considerable rarity,

owing no doubt to its brief circulation. Both varieties are printed on violet paper—the tint originally selected for the ordinary 10 c. adhesive. In the new edition of Dr. Gray's catalogue, through a misunderstanding, the two B. G. stamps are catalogued as "Newspaper," instead of "Newspaper Tax" stamps.

In 1859, according to the generally accepted statement, the B. G. stamps were succeeded by the square type here represented, and of which the inscription signifies "Gazette Tax." The cause of the issue must no doubt be found in the increase of the tax from 9 centesimi to 10 centesimi. This stamp was not destined to have a long circulation, for in the course of a year the local government was "obliterated" by a peaceful revolution, and its issues gave place to those of the provisional government.



PROVISIONAL SERIES.

Although, if I recollect aright, the revolution took place in July, the old stamps did not give place to the new issue of the annexed type until the 15th October, 1859. Apparently the interval was occupied in selecting and engraving the design and printing the supply. The Savoy arms clearly indicate the change which had been wrought in the direction of affairs, and, as historic mementoes, the Modenese provisionals are superior to those of Parma. Their colours and values are:

5 centesimi	green.
15 "	brown.
20 "	lilac.
40 "	rose.
80 "	orange.

Probably the postal tariffs were reformed at the same time, the 20 c. being made to replace the 25 c., and the 80 c. to replace the old 1 lira. The provisional stamps are printed in colour on white, a very easy mode of distinguishing them from the series which their issue superseded. Some "printer's errors" are quoted in connection with them,

but it is quite possible that they are peculiar to the reprints.

The exact date of suppression of the provisional stamps has not been stated, but it probably occurred in 1861-2, and since then the Italian stamps have been used in the quondam duchy.

THE "ESCUELAS" STAMP OF VENEZUELA.

Partly translated from *Le Timbre-Poste*, with remarks
BY FENTONIA.

M. MOENS has just disinterred this most uninteresting stamp from its deserved obscurity. In an article devoted exclusively to the subject, he begins by acknowledging that *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* was the first to draw attention to it in February, 1872. M. Moens goes on to say that the only published information then



obtained was given by *The Philatetical Journal* of the same month, which stated that it was *then* anything but a novelty, and was, in fact, a "College stamp," used in the Venezuelan "schools" (in Spanish, *escuelas*) simply for the teaching of youth the whole business of the despatch, carrying, and receipt of letters, &c.

Notwithstanding this assertion of its comparative antiquity, M. Moens has never seen one until now! It is engraved on thin yellow paper, and on the back appears part of the armorial bearings of Venezuela. The fact of being printed on such paper supplies sufficient conviction to M. Moens's mind that the stamp is a government issue. He says, "We know, on good authority, that the Venezuelan government does what it can to promote education. With this object students are not required to pay for their *minerval* (viz., food for the mind, which it is presumed can be given in infinitesimal quantities, while food for the body has to be paid for, not being perhaps so easily reducible as regards quantity and quality). They are only bound to procure such books as are necessary, the price of which, however, is five or six times more than in Europe—the

government paying for teachers, school-buildings, &c.

"Might not the stamp under discussion have been issued with a view to favour these schools by a reduction on the postage of letters received and sent by the students? It is far from being impossible.

"*L'Ami des Timbres* asserts in the February number that the stamp serves to pay a tax on schools, but we think this must be a mistake.

"On the back of the stamp in our own possession we perceive a portion of the arms of Venezuela, which would scarcely be required for a stamp which had no more important object in view than to teach the postal system to a set of schoolboys.

"Moreover, our specimen is obliterated by two black lines, as are also a half real and a one real received at the same time, with a quantity of others, direct from Caraccas. We admit that the proofs we have to offer are but small, but meanwhile, till we obtain further information from Venezuela, we think them rather favourable than otherwise.

"We make no remark on the bust represented. It is quite unknown to us."

M. Moens would have done better, had he taken some notice of the foot-note appended to the description of the stamp in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, in which the editor mentions having received, some years since, a very similar stamp from M. Moens, purporting to be a Belgian essay.

From all this *pro* and *con*. it seems probable that the stamp is neither more nor less than a very insignificant revenue stamp, to be relegated to the host of fiscals, which our continental neighbours are trying so hard to promote to an equality with *bonâ-fide* postage stamps.

THE FIRST SERIES OF HAWAIIAN STAMPS.

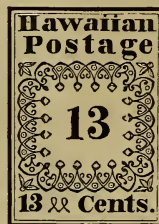
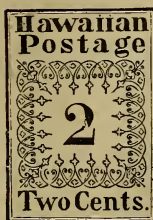
Translated from LE TIMBRE-POSTE.

DEAR SIR,—When you sent me the interesting articles on the Sandwich Islands stamps, published in *Le Timbre-Poste* in 1865, you were good enough to ask me to

supply a lacuna in their history, the stamps of the first series having been badly classified, and the majority of them omitted. In point of fact that lacuna was inevitable at the time when the above-mentioned articles were written, for it was hardly three months before that the 13 cents blue had been spoken of for the first time at Paris, and the other stamps of that series, which are still so rare, were utterly unknown on the philatelic markets of Europe.

In *Le Timbre-Poste* for 1865 (February number) the 13 cents blue is set down as a provisional stamp, issued in consequence of the non-arrival of the supply of the 13 cents red, head of King Kamehameha, at a date posterior to that of the emission of the 5 cents blue (head). That was an error which no catalogue-compiler of the present day would repeat. Everyone, in fact, knows that the stamps with figure in ornamental frame were issued at Honolulu in 1852: they were executed in the island itself, and the original series consisted of three stamps, viz.,

2 cents	blue.
5	"
13	"



All these stamps bear in the upper part the words HAWAIIAN POSTAGE in two lines; in the centre is a figure indicating the value, enclosed in a fancy frame, and below is the denomination in full. The number is expressed in words in the margin of two lower values, and in figures in the margin of the 13 cents; in the latter the figure 13 is separated from the word CENTS by two flourishes forming a kind of *M* in italics.

The American journals affirm that all the stamps on the sheet were separately drawn, like those of the first issues of Bolivia, Luzon, and Mauritius. It has not been possible for me to verify the statement,

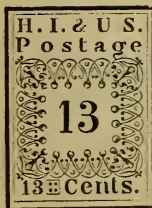
which the native origin of the stamps renders probable, as I have never met with two unsevered copies. I am, however, inclined to believe that the American journals are right, and that there were as many types as there were stamps on the sheet. Careful examination, indeed, reveals the fact that the stamps were set up from printer's types, and there is every reason to suppose that successive compositions took place.

The greater proportion of the stamps of this first series are printed in pale sky blue; I may, however, select for mention two varieties of shade exemplified by copies in my own album, viz. :

5 cents greenish blue.
13 ,, dark blue.

The stamp most frequently met with is the 13 cents; the 5 c. is much rarer. As to the 2 cents, up to the present year it had remained a myth; and if even its existence was suspected, there was nothing to confirm the suspicion beyond the mean black vignettes on yellow paper, so well known to amateurs; this 2 cents is incontestably one of the rarest of all stamps, rivalling in this respect the first issue of British Guiana and the Reunions.

The exhaustion of the stock of the 13 cents blue, of which only a small number of sheets had been struck off, gave rise towards the end of 1852 to the creation of a new type. It resembles its predecessor as far as the centre and the frame are concerned, but above the frame it bears the inscription H. I. & U. S. POSTAGE (instead of "Hawaiian Postage"), that is to say,



Hawaiian Isles and United States postage. In reality, of the 13 cents postage the American post-office received 8 cents, and the Hawaiian post-office 5 cents, and this decomposition is indicated on the 13 cents (head of King), which shortly afterwards succeeded the stamp we are now discussing. In the lower margin of the stamp the italic flourishes, which in the first type invade the figure 13, are replaced by two thick square dots one above the other.

Several obliterations are met with on the first Hawaiian stamps; the most frequent is the circle with seven parallel bars. Sometimes the parallel bars are made to form a lozenge-shaped obliteration, and on other copies cancellation has been effected by a circular postmark containing the name of the office in red, followed by the words POSTAGE PAID. Lastly, our copy, unfortunately much mutilated, of the 13 cents, 2nd type (H. I. & U. S. POSTAGE) shows a large lozenge formed of thick black dots, each of which is in itself a small lozenge.

Such, Sir, are the particulars which I can offer you respecting the Hawaiian stamps. I hope you will be kind enough to receive them, insignificant though they may be.

PH. DE FERRARI.

THE RECORDS OF THE ENGLISH POST-OFFICE IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

[PILLAR BOXES PROPOSED—THE FIRST CROSS-POST—ESTABLISHMENT OF A LOCAL POST AT DUBLIN—FRANKING PRIVILEGES OF POSTAL OFFICIALS]

WHILE by an Act of the twelfth year of Charles II. the post-office was made a monopoly, yet carriers were allowed to carry and deliver such letters as concerned their goods. As no authority was given to the Postmaster-General to search their goods and seize any letters which did not relate to them, it is easy to conceive that a great deal of illegal correspondence was carried on by their agency to the injury of the revenue. Two ingenious gentlemen formed a plan for lessening in some degree this evil. In their petition to the Treasury they begin by stating,—

That divers carriers, drivers of stage coaches, carts, waggons, and pack-horses, and several haglers and others, under colour of their respective employments, make collections of letters, and carry, recarry, and deliver the same for hire, and by that means the revenue of the post-office is much prejudiced, and many dangerous correspondings preserved, and many seditious pamphlets or libels dispersed, to the great endangering of their Majesties' peace. The mail carriers presume to outgo their carts, waggons, and pack-horses, and do deliver such letters before their carts, waggons, and packs do arrive, contrary to the known laws of this kingdom. Your petitioners humbly propose, therefore, that a deputation be granted to them to collect, demand, and receive on their Majesties' behalf of all such stage coaches, &c., all such letters as shall be by them conveyed to the cities of London and Westminster and suburbs thereof. That for the

ends aforesaid, your petitioners desire leave to erect and set up stands for receipt of such letters in the outparts of the said cities, and that your said petitioners may put the laws in execution against such offenders.

In payment of their services they ask for two-thirds of the postage that may be levied. The Postmasters-General by no means approve this proposal, and nothing more is heard of it. They state a little later on that they had proposed "that a proclamation might be issued out prohibiting the illegal collection of letters, and to order a strict prosecution of the offenders thereupon;" but this had not been done, "lest it should be an occasion of complaint or dissatisfaction in their Majesties' subjects." The Government of William was not so firmly settled that it could venture on all occasions even to enforce the law. The Postmasters-General sensibly remark "that such a prosecution and settling of regular posts so as to make it easier and safer to the subject to send by the post than carriers, coachmen, &c., which we take care to do as opportunity offers, would in a great measure prevent this illegal practice." At the same time they recommend that "the doubts and defects observed in the Act be laid before the Parliament at their next meeting in order to have the same explained or amended."

Not long after this, in the same year, 1696, the Postmasters-General strike a great blow at the carriers by establishing a post between Exeter and Bristol. Up to this date all letters between these two towns had passed by way of London. When the postal system was first established, all England had been divided into six roads, as it was called, which met in London. There were no cross posts, so that every letter which passed from a town on one of these roads to a town on another had to pass through the central office. The establishment of any cross post would at first cause a loss to the revenue, for, as the Postmasters-General, in their letter to the Treasury, remark, "We must observe to your lordships that all such letters as are now sent by the post betwixt Bristol and Exeter pay double postage—viz., first to London, and then to the place to which they are directed; but by the setting up this new post there will be only paid single post, which will be a diminution to

the revenue, but considering the tediousness and charge of the conveyance now used, there are few letters sent this way." The change was made, and a post was established between Bristol and Exeter twice a week, to do the distance in twenty-four hours at the charge of £259 10s. a year. In three years and a half from that time this post produced "about £250 per annum neat (*sic*) profit." Emboldened by their success, they resolved to extend this cross post to Shrewsbury, "where there are two persons that make it their business to collect and disperse letters, and make a considerable advantage by it," and from Shrewsbury to Chester. After this cross post had been established a year and a half, there was some thought of abandoning it, for while in that time it had cost £658, it had brought in only £502. It is certainly a very curious fact, that 170 years ago, the postage both ways between such towns as Bristol, Gloucester, Tewkesbury, Worcester, Kidderminster, Shrewsbury, and Chester, not to mention the less important places, should not in eighteen months have amounted to more than £502.

In 1703 there is a curious petition to the Queen from Eliza, Countess Dowager of Thanet. This petition "humbly showeth, that your petitioner's joynter (*sic*) lying in the county of Kent, where the taxes are always very heavy laid, was during the last war, considerably reduced below what your petitioner had ever known it, and consequently was herself brought to greater straits than she was immediately aware of, which taxes, being now again necessarily renewed for the support of this present war, and your petitioner calling to mind with great duty and thankfulness your Majesty's gracious expressions towards her upon this and other occasions, does most humbly beseech your Majesty to grant unto her the erecting a penny packet-office in Dublin and ten or twelve miles round it, which she is informed will be of use and advantage to your Majesty's subjects in those parts, and to give your petitioner a lease of the said office for such term of years and at such a moderate yearly crown rent as your Majesty shall judge fit and reasonable." The petition seems to have been granted.

We have already stated that in the middle of last century part of the pay of the clerks of the roads was derived from the privilege they had of franking newspapers. We find from a document of the year 1696, that "upon the first establishing of the post-office these clerks had had the privilege of sending gazettes and some other prints free." The Postmasters-General go on to remark that "the office hath considerably increased since we came into the present juncture of affairs by the frequent and long sessions of Parliament, and the war, wherein the greatest part of this side of the world is engaged, hath occasioned peoples (*sic*) being more desirous of news than formerly." Though the perquisites of these clerks had increased by the greater demand for newspapers, yet their labour had increased no less, so that no proposal is made for depriving them of their privilege of franking. It is not at first sight quite clear what the frequent and long sessions of Parliament have to do with the increase of correspondence. As, however, the privilege of franking letters was only enjoyed by the members "during the respective sessions, and for forty days before, and forty days after such session," no doubt the number of letters sent through the post greatly depended on the frequency and the length of the sessions. In the year of the Restoration, as we read in the Parliamentary History in the debate on the post-office bill, "Sir Walter Erle delivered a proviso for the letters of all members of Parliament to go free during their sitting. Sir Heneage Finch said it was a poor mendicant proviso, and below the honour of the house. The question being called for, the Speaker was unwilling to put it, saying he was ashamed of it; nevertheless the proviso was carried, and made part of the bill."—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Alfred Smith & Co.'s Descriptive Price Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of All Nations. London: E. Marlborough & Co.; Bath: Alfred Smith & Co.

WE do not doubt but that our publishers' catalogue is a very successful work from a

business point of view, for nothing can more favourably impress an intending purchaser than the neatness, the orderly arrangement, and the philatelic knowledge by which it is marked. Equally little do we doubt but that there is a direct loss on every copy sold, and therefore, after taking into account the indirect benefit which results to its authors, we still maintain that for its publication they deserve well of the philatelic community. Among the minor philatelic works it takes a very prominent place, for it is the indispensable adjunct of magazine articles and analytical catalogues. The number of stamps is now so large that no collector, however well placed, can hope to obtain more than a small percentage of his specimens by the medium of exchange, and when the necessity arises for an outlay it is well for purposes of reference to have on hand this, the latest catalogue of an old-established and well-known house.

It is not very long since we reviewed the nineteenth edition of Messrs. Alfred Smith & Co.'s catalogue. The twentieth edition does not differ from its predecessor in arrangement, but it contains four more pages, representing an addition to the list of over five hundred stamps. This increase is spread throughout the work, but nearly a fourth of it is due to the inclusion of the United States departmental stamps. The various post cards are catalogued in greater detail, and new issues are everywhere inserted in their proper order. Divers recently issued or discovered stamps, which were simply entered in the last edition *pour mémoire*, as the French say, without any price being indicated for them, are priced in the new edition,—a proof that they have become more plentiful in the interval. Thus we find the once-suspected Ecuador stamps are now to be had at reasonable figures, as are also the sets for Curaçoa, Surinam, and New Zealand.

On the other hand, we notice that no reference whatever is made to the American and Hamburg locals. The omission is a laudable one; for though much may be said in favour of the policy of cataloguing everything, and leaving purchasers to select for themselves, it is much better not to touch the unclean things at all. Really genuine

copies of the United States locals are sufficiently rare to be matter for private and specific sale; as to the common forgeries and reprints, they are worthless, and therefore the sale of them should be discouraged. It is useless to mention the great rarities, and it is impolitic to refer to the counterfeits in a printed catalogue.

The new edition, like its predecessors, is illustrated by four sheets of alternately black and coloured engravings, on toned paper, which help to enliven it, and are not devoid of instructive power. The greater thickness of the book as compared with the nineteenth edition, is not due solely to the four additional pages, but also to the employment of a much stouter paper. It is altogether an excellent publication, and as the speedy exhaustion of No. 19 demonstrates that during the past twelvemonth the demand for stamps has been sustained, we trust that the early appearance of No. 21 will in like manner prove that in the present year of grace the trade has flourished, for the prosperity of the stamp commerce is the surest evidence that philately itself is not on the wane.

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Albums for Postage Stamps (Juvenile Series), Nos. 1 and 2. The Mulready Postage-Stamp Album, No. 1. London: E. Marlborough & Co.; Brighton: Stafford Smith & Co.

THESE three albums, though differing in title, are equally intended for use by young collectors. The "Juvenile" album, No. 1, is sold at sixpence; No. 2, at a shilling; and the Mulready, at two shillings. Within their limited space no attempt at completeness can be made, but they are well adapted for the purpose for which they are issued. Our young friends who have just made up their mind to begin collecting would do well to start with one of these albums, in which to form the nucleus of a collection. They will not take too long to fill, and will afford an opportunity for exercise in the art of handling and mounting stamps, things which, after all, it requires a certain amount of care to do properly. The publishers would do well to insert on the fly-leaf a

brief series of instructions to something like the following effect:—

1. Do not cut away the margins of your stamps, nor clip round the oval envelopes.
2. Do not gum your stamps down to the page, but fasten them to it with a hinge of thin paper.
3. Read the philatelic magazines.
4. Do not be deceived by the tempting advertisements of dealers in forged stamps, who offer rarities for next to nothing.
5. Whenever a dealer sends you stamps "on inspection," and offers to allow a discount on your purchases, be sure that the stamps are forgeries, and abstain from buying them.

If such recommendations as these were inserted in albums which find their way among schoolboys, they would powerfully assist in the spread of correct notions about collecting, and at the same time deal a home blow to the trade in counterfeits.

To resume: the above albums are well got up; the paper is good, and the covers, especially those of the Mulready, are attractively embellished; the latter also has the names of the countries printed on each page. To maturer philatelists, these albums would be very serviceable for the reception of duplicates, or for supplementary collections of postmarks, &c.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

THE NEW KING OF THE SANDWICH ISLANDS.—According to telegrams from San Francisco, published by *The New York Herald* of the 19th ult., Prince Kalakua has been elected King of the Sandwich Islands, to succeed King Lunalilo. When the result of the election was made known a serious riot occurred. A mob of Queen Emma's adherents attacked the House of Assembly, beat several of its members—one of whom has since died—tore up seats and desks, when they were dispersed by a body of American and English marines who were landed to restore order. Prince David Kalakua, who has thus proved the successful candidate for the throne, though not of the Royal Kamehameha stock, was in rank fully equal to the late King. He is about forty years old, and has held many high offices of State. He was a member of the House of Nobles, and at one time chamberlain to Kamehameha V. Intellectually he is said to be very much inferior to his predecessor, Lunalilo, and far less qualified to perform the duties of a ruler. His Majesty received a "good common-school education." He is identified with what is called the party of reaction; he is firmly opposed to any interference with the

independence of the kingdom, and, consequently, is against annexation to the United States. This fact makes him popular with the natives, and also with the great body of foreign residents. Kalakua is descended from the celebrated Keiwiki-Wilkou, one of whose privileges was to have lighted torches carried before him in daytime. His grandfather, Kainahawa, had the misfortune to poison his wife in 1841 and "expiated his offence on the gallows," or was, in plain English, hanged for murder. Kamaeha III., who was on terms of intimate friendship with the murderer, was rather reluctant to allow the sentence to be carried out, but Captain Wilkes, who happened to be at the island at the time with the vessels of the United States Exploring Expedition, having been consulted, the result of the gallant officer's opinion was that the law was allowed to take its course. King David Kalakua is married to the widow of the uncle of Queen Emma, but has no children, and is considered peculiar in his habits.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MEXICAN STAMPS.

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

DEAR SIR,—In the March number of this magazine we were favoured with a reference list of the stamps of Mexico. The magistral article on the stamps of Guadalupe, which was completed in the same number, exhausted completely all the learning on these stamps, so that that portion of the "reference list" which related to these stamps is entirely superseded. Still, there are some discoveries new to me, and possibly to others, which this list has now chronicled, and for these we ought to be thankful. One of the principal is the existence in the issue on coloured paper in 1867-8 of the 4 reales black on yellow, surcharged "Mexico" in Gothic type. The author of the paper has, of course, seen it, or he would not chronicle it, but its existence was previously in doubt. The same remarks also apply to the 3 centavos eagle series, which the author of the paper has seen surcharged with 1865 and 1866.

The author of the paper has mentioned the watermark of the series 1867 on *pelure* paper; why has he omitted that of the series of 1872?

In stating his rule as to the Roman type being the characteristic of the unperforated in the 1868 series, and the Gothic that of the perforated, I cannot but think that a more accurate statement would have been that this Roman type was, as a rule, applied to stamps issued in the country towns, which are seldom perforated, while the Gothic was applied to the stamps issued in Mexico. I write from recollection, but I cannot call to mind having ever seen a Gothic inscription other than "Mexico," except "Morelia."

However, if it is only to establish the existence of the *tres centavos*, surcharged, and the 4 reales black on yellow of 1867, with Gothic surcharges, the thanks of philatelists are due to the author of the paper.

Yours truly,
W.

THE DON CARLOS STAMPS AGAIN.

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

DEAR SIR,—I have just received (April 18th) No. 8 of *La Gazette des Timbres*, due April 1st. It is very considerate of the editor of the said *Gazette* not to have made April fools of its subscribers by sending that num-

ber, *when due*; but at pages 57 and 58 I read an article concerning the Don Carlos stamps, which again raises doubt as to their genuineness. I am very sorry for "*l'un des grands timbrophiles espagnols, le mieux renseigné sur les timbres de son pays*," but it seems to me that he is not very well informed. Had the editor of *La Gazette* read my letter in the April number of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, he would have been able to ascertain which way the *vegetable* grew. I wrote *proofs in hand*; the Spanish gentleman could not have done.

There is no regular postal service established in the provinces temporarily under Carlist rule or *misrule*; but there is a postal service. The stamps with likeness of Don Carlos VII. ought to be called war-tax stamps, for they are nothing but a tax, or better, an imposition; if the Spanish 5 cent. black is to be collected as a postal, the Don Carlos certainly is to be placed side by side, for both have been issued under similar circumstances and for the same purpose. The *amateur très-analyste*, quoted by *La Gazette*, cannot possibly have seen correct likenesses of either Don Carlos or Santa Cruz. I beg to enclose photographs of both, and you will own that the stamp resembles Don Carlos greatly, and Santa Cruz not at all.

The editor of *La Gazette* is surprised at two things: 1st, that only one value is used. A war-tax stamp is only meant to last for a time; one value is quite sufficient for all purposes. People anxious to correspond with their friends do not mind paying the tax; they may grumble, but pay they must. If the letter weighs two, three, or four times the weight of a single letter, two, three, or four stamps are affixed;—this is done very often in England, where there are stamps of twelve different values.

2ndly, that such a quantity of these stamps should be in the market. Why not? I should say that is nothing but natural. Don Carlos prefers by far getting his money without trouble, by selling these labels, than with the trouble of carrying the letters on which they are affixed.

In conclusion, if I, an amateur of limited means, have been able to obtain *in time of war*, a genuine envelope bearing the Don Carlos stamps, duly obliterated and having undoubtedly done duty, how is it that, *in time of peace*, M. Moens has not yet been able to produce a single Russian local used and postmarked in any way? In all justice to philatelists this ought to be done. There is certainly much more room for doubting the postal character of the Russian locals than that of the Don Carlos.

I have no doubt the Spanish gentleman is well informed about the stamps *de son pays*; but the Don Carlos stamps are not Spanish stamps; no one would think of calling the so-called Alsace and Lorraine, *French stamps*.

With apologies for having taken up so much of your space.

I remain, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

London, W.

H. A. DE JOANNIS.

[It appears to us that there is no need, in defence of the Carlist stamps, to throw a slur on the Russian locals. We do not see the necessity of going fully into the question of the difficulty of procuring postmarked specimens at present, but unless our correspondent is prepared to argue that our St. Petersburg correspondent, M. Moens, ourselves, and others, are either the concoctors, or the dupes, of some vast and cleverly contrived conspiracy, we cannot see how he can argue that the Russian locals are open to doubt.—ED.]

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—No. XXXVI.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

Norway.

No one has ever written a paper on the officially-issued Norwegian stamps, probably for the simple reason that there is very little indeed to say about them. This would be a sufficient motive for my passing them over, were it not that the plan on which these papers are based forbids the entire omission of any country, however unchequered may be the history of its stamps.

The emissions of Norway form a not unpleasing array. They exemplify the three principal classes of stamp design,—the national arms, the effigy of the Sovereign, and the numeral of value. They are fairly engraved, and the arms series may lay some claim to delicate execution.

The first issue, which took place in 1854, was confined to a single value, of which the type is annexed—

4 skilling, blue.



This stamp has that old-fashioned appearance which characterises many first issues. Although it was in use only a couple of years, it has never been rare, and, wonderful to relate, no colour varieties or sub-types are known.

In 1856 the "head" series saw the light. The portrait of the king is a striking one, and there is something rather French in the pose. The impressions are uniformly clear, and the paper is of a stoutish texture. The four values, which are as follow,

2 skilling, orange,
3 ,, lilac,
4 ,, blue,
8 ,, dull lake,



make a good show. Of the 2 skg. there is a comparatively scarce pale yellow variety, and two shades of the 4 sk. may be noted.

King Oscar died in 1859, but the stamps

bearing his effigy were, nevertheless, continued in use until 1863, when they were in part superseded by the third type. In that year the new



4 skilling, blue,
8 ,, pale rose,

of the annexed design, with a fresh value, the

24 skilling, brown,

were issued. A couple of years elapsed before the emission of the new

2 skilling, yellow,

—of which two fairly distinct shades may be noted,—and it was not until 1866 that the

3 skilling, lilac

put in its appearance.

Hardly had the series been completed by the latter value, than it was superseded (in 1867) by a fourth type, differing from its predecessor principally in the repetition of the figure of value on either side of the abbreviation SKILL., and further varied by the employment of a ground of vertical lines, instead of the former diaper pattern. No explanation of the cause of the change of type has ever been given, and it can only be conjectured that it was made because the figure of value in the 1863 series was not judged to be sufficiently prominent. The values of the 1867 issue are as follow:—



2 skillings, orange-yellow.
3 ,, lilac.
4 ,, blue.
8 ,, rose (two shades).

The series was completed in 1863 by the emission of a

1 skilling, greyish black.

The 24 sk. of the 1863 type was allowed to remain in use, either because its employment was more limited, or it was considered not to possess the same defect as its companions.

In 1872-3 the present series was issued.

Its type seems to some extent to have been modelled on that of the current Danish. The alliance between particular colours and denominations, which was maintained through three successive series, has been dissolved in this, the fourth. The 2 skilling, which for six-



teen years had been identified with yellow, comes out in blue; the 3 skg., in lieu of the old-established lilac, is in carmine; the 4 skg. exchanges its ancient blue livery for a deep violet; and even the interloping 1 skg. doffs the sombre coat of black, which it had worn since 1867, and reappears in a brilliant green. The 7 skg., deep brown, is a new value, which has presumably superseded the 8 skg. As to the 24 skg., it appears to be an extinct denomination.

ENVELOPES AND POST CARDS.

The revolution in the colour and design of the adhesives above referred to was accompanied by two important innovations. Envelopes and post cards were issued. The design of the adhesives did duty for both. Of the envelopes there are two values, the 3 skg. carmine (1872), and 2 skg. blue (1873). The post card (issued in 1872) is a buff one, neatly bordered, and plainly inscribed; in the upper right angle it bears the impress of the 3 skg. in carmine,

LOCAL POSTAGE STAMPS.

The Norwegian locals are noticed in every catalogue, and compartments are allotted for them in every album; *argal*, they must be entitled to respect; and so I think they are, to a certain extent, but I do not think that they deserve to be considered as a very important class of stamps. I believe the offices whence the stamps are issued do really occupy themselves with the delivery of letters, but I cannot help fancying that the stamps are the ornamental adjuncts to the business, and that their use is optional; nor should I be surprised to find that the letter-carriers are more frequently employed as messengers, or, in other words, *commissionnaires*. It is to be desired that some clearer

account than has hitherto been furnished should be given of the way in which these "by-posts" are worked. It is said that their business is the house-to-house delivery of letters which arrive by the post, but have they the monopoly of such delivery?—and is it entrusted to them as a matter of course? If so, I can understand the putting on of the local stamps, and the collection of the amount they represent from the receiver of the letter, though in such case I should have thought that they would have been cancelled, and that the cancelled stamps would have been nearly as common as the ordinary Norwegian adhesives, whereas, in fact, a cancelled copy has never been seen. If, on the other hand, the offices confine themselves to the delivery of letters to persons who have given them authority to claim the letters on their behalf, then there is really no need of any local stamps at all, unless as a simple check on the number of deliveries. As Norway is not so far away as Venezuela, let us hope that these comments will elicit, from some well-informed correspondent of the magazines, an explanation of the scope and working of the local Norwegian offices. Meanwhile, let us proceed to examine these emissions, reserving the question of their relative value to some future time.

BERGEN.

This stamp was issued in 1866, and was only used for about half-a-year, as the office was not patronised by the public. Such was the information furnished by a Bergen correspondent of a foreign journal in 1868. The stamp was not known in philatelic circles until a year after its suppression, and yet at the present time, to judge by the price at which it is quoted by the principal dealers, it is quite common. When the correspondent above referred to was first appealed to, the very fact of the issue of the stamp had so completely passed out of his memory, that he denied that it had been in use, and it was not until some time afterwards that he recollected its employment. It might have been supposed that a stamp



which enjoyed such a brief currency, would have been extremely rare, but though the name of the founder of the local post has been lost, his works live after him.

On the 1st July, 1868, the abandoned local service was recommenced, I presume, by a fresh administration, and the annexed stamp, printed in black on rose, was issued. That this stamp was really in use I have good reason to believe, having myself obtained a specimen of it from an acquaintance



living in Bergen, who obtained it at the office. It continued in service until 1870, when the current type made its appearance. Both the second and third types were issued perforated. It is said that they also exist unperforated, but if this be true, it is not important.

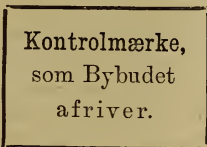
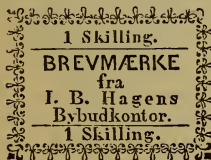


DRAMMEN.

The first of the Drammen stamps was issued in 1868 by some unknown person. It was of the annexed type, and was printed in violet on blue. Shortly after its issue the post was transferred to its present director, Mr. J. B. Hagens, who, to signalise the change in the proprietorship, caused the stamp to be printed in



blue on white. After a time it was superseded by the type-set production here represented, of which there were two values



—1 skg. black on yellow, and 2 skg. black on dark rose. The inscription on the right-hand half signifies "Counterfoil, to be detached by the town messenger." Upon its

being found that the counterfoil was useless, it was suppressed, and fresh supplies of the 1 skg. and 2 skg. stamps were struck off without it.

In 1869, the type-printed stamps were definitively abandoned, and the first design was reissued in blue on rose, accompanied by a lithographed 2 skg. lilac, of the annexed type. Of the latter a fresh supply was struck off in 1870, in yellow-green. Both the lilac and the green 2 skg. were issued unperforated and rouletted. In 1872, the design of the 2 skg. was redrawn on a rather larger scale, and a new emission then took place in blue on white, rose, and yellow paper.



If my readers have followed this brief recapitulation, they will have noticed that not less than fourteen varieties of Drammen stamps may be counted. These changes have been rung on the two solitary values—1 skg. and 2 skg.—which are necessary for the local service; the 1 skg. for circulars, &c., and the two skg. for sealed letters. Decidedly, in the matter of stamp designs, Mr. Hagens is fond of changes; let us hope they do him good.

DRONTHEIM.

The Drontheim post, though last in alphabetical order, was first in point of time. It was in 1865 that the stamp here represented was issued by Mr. G. F. Krogh, the director of the local service, whose initials form the monogram in the centre. The value, which is unindicated, is 1 skilling. This stamp would appear to have been uninter-



ruptedly in use from 1865 until 1872, when Mr. Krogh made over his undertaking to the firm of BRÆKSTAD AND CO. The new postal agents brought out a fresh type, bearing their name and a figure of value; and issued three denominations, viz., $\frac{1}{2}$ skilling, blue; 1 skg., rose; and 2 skg., green.



Oldenburg.

The early issues of Oldenburg are remarkable for their neatness and finish. They have the same kind of artistic primness as their Hanoverian contemporaries. There is the same combination, at any rate in the first series, of the useful numeral of value with the decorative coat of arms; and there is the same peculiarity noticeable in them as in many of the other old German stamps,—they are rigidly rectangular. Whatever vagaries of ornamentation may be allowed in the centre of the German stamps of ante-Prussian days, their exterior border is always composed of a neatly ruled double-lined rectangle. Other stamps might take oval, octagonal, hexagonal, or sinuous-edged frames, the German engravers stuck fast to their four-sided ideal; and it must be admitted that their productions are not lacking in a certain grave and well-balanced appropriateness. The first Oldenburg type is an example in point. The arms are very carefully and clearly drawn, though on a small scale; the shield, containing the value is fancifully designed; and the scroll, which frames it on three sides, falls in graceful folds; whilst the



subordinate foliate ornaments and shading relieve and harmonise with the prominent features. The repetition of the value in three different forms is one of the peculiarities of this series. The central denomination is a fractional one, as on the first Hanoverian; on the right-hand side is its equivalent in *silber-groschen*, and on its left its equivalent in *groschen*,—an inferior and apparently strictly local coin, of which seventy-two went to the thaler. This description applies to three values of the series; the fifth and lowest, the $\frac{1}{3}$ sgr. green, has the equivalent denomination, 4 *schw.*,—an abbreviation of the word *schwarz*,—inscribed on each of the lateral scrolls. The “*schwarz*,” a coin probably unknown out of Oldenburg, is about equal to a *centime*.

The $\frac{1}{30}$ th. blue, $\frac{1}{15}$ th. rose, and $\frac{1}{10}$ th. yellow, were issued in 1851 or 1852; the $\frac{1}{3}$ sgr. green in 1855. The three former

values are tolerably common in an obliterated state, and the $\frac{1}{30}$ th. and $\frac{1}{3}$ sgr. unused are not rare, but the rose and yellow are very difficult to obtain in an “immaculate” condition. The yellow is found in two shades, bright and pale, and there is a variety of the blue with a thick dash above the *a* in thaler.

The second Oldenburg type made its appearance in 1858, according to M. Moens; in 1860, according to Berger-Levrault, whose date I prefer. A change in the currency was probably the motive for the change in type, for it is not to be supposed that the “*groschen*” on the second series is the same coin as that to which reference is made on the first.

The emission of 1860 was in black on colour, and consisted of

$\frac{1}{3}$ silbergroschen	green.
1 groschen	blue.
2 ”	rose.
3 ”	yellow.

In 1861 it was superseded by a similar design in colour on white, as follows:—

$\frac{1}{4}$ silbergroschen	orange.
$\frac{1}{3}$ ”	green.
$\frac{1}{2}$ ”	brown.
1 groschen	blue.
2 ”	rose.
3 ”	yellow.

The stamps of these two issues, with one or two exceptions, are not easily procurable, and, indeed, the 3 groschen is rarely to be had, except on the break-up of an old collection. The prices at which they are quoted in dealers’ lists do not give an idea of their scarcity, which their short circulation fully explains. Whenever a chance occurs for filling up a vacancy in either of these emissions at a reasonable figure, it should be taken advantage of. There are no colour varieties in the 1860 issue, but the 1861 stamps were printed in a rather thick ink, and two distinct shades can be made out for the $\frac{1}{3}$ gr., $\frac{1}{2}$ gr., 1 gr., and 3 gr. The $\frac{1}{3}$ gr. is also found with the word *drittel* misspelt in two different ways, and OLDENBURG written



Oldeiburg; the latter fault is repeated on the 3 gr.

The differences between the second and third types, though not striking at first sight, are really considerable. In the third issue the crown is as large again as that in the second; the arms and crown are on a solid coloured ground, and the ends of the scrolls, on which the value is inscribed, fill the place, which in the second type is occupied by the handle-like ornaments. Taken altogether, the third type is less correctly designed, and less pleasing, than its predecessor.

In 1862, the Oldenburg stamps donned the Prussian uniform. The series issued in that year ranks with the other Berlin-invented types. The type consists simply of an inscribed oval border enclosing the Oldenburg arms. Perhaps it looks a trifle prettier than some of its fellows, but it is evidently one of the family. Its five values are



$\frac{1}{3}$	groschen,	green.
$\frac{1}{2}$	”	orange.
1	”	rose
2	”	ultramarine.
3	”	bistre.

They are commoner and cheaper now than when they were in use.

ENVELOPES.

The envelope series was brought out in 1860. There were two issues of the same type, distinguished by simultaneous changes in the colour of the values, and in the position of the stamps. In the first issue they were struck on the left upper corner, and in the second issue, which took place in 1862, in the right



upper corner. The values and colours are as follow:—

1860.	$\frac{1}{2}$ gr. brown; 1 gr. blue; 2 gr. rose;
	3 gr. yellow.
1862.	$\frac{1}{2}$ gr. orange; 1 gr. rose; 2 gr. blue;
	3 gr. bistre.

The specimens of the first issue are by no means common, especially uncut; but the values of the second are more come-at-able.

It only remains to be added, that the $\frac{1}{2}$ sgr. and the 1 sgr. of 1860 are each found in two opposite shades, both of which should be collected.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

SPAIN.—The long-suspected Carlist stamp, whose authenticity has at length been demonstrated, has just received a companion, or perhaps a successor, in the shape of the annexed type.* We are indebted to Don M. P. de Figueroa for communication of the specimen whence our engraving was taken. He accompanied it with a cutting from *La Imprenta*, a Barcelona paper of the 19th April, which reads as follows:—

“In consequence of the orders issued by the Carlists in the mountain districts prohibiting the circulation of letters which do not bear the stamp of their king, a number of letters reached our post-office yesterday on which, side by side with the legitimate stamp, was affixed that of the Carlists. It consists of the bust of Don Carlos in profile; above is inscribed *Dios Patria Rey*; below CORREOS 16 MS. VX, and on the sides ANO DE 1874, CATALUNA. It is of a red colour, and coarsely lithographed. As might have been supposed, the letters have been detained in the post-office.”

It is worthy of note, that whilst the first stamp was inscribed simply FRANQUEO, the new-comer bears the word CORREOS. The former word might be understood simply to mean that the letter had been, so to speak, *visée*. The stamp might be supposed to have operated as a kind of passport for the letter to which it was attached—the view advocated by a correspondent in our last. The term CORREOS implies something more than that; it indicates the existence of

* [We regret to have to inform our readers that the engraving which should have illustrated this paragraph has been lost, with a number of others, on its way from the engravers to the office of our publishers. The stamp, however, will be re-engraved for our next number.—ED.]

a postal service. How far, however, the inscription is authorised by the event is another question.

The value of the stamp is 16 copper *maravedis*. We regret that we are without positive information as to the value of the maravedi, a coin of which the very name has a curiously antique twang, but our impression is that it is very low, and it may be that this new denomination is intended only for the prepayment of postage over short distances. The word *Cataluna*, perhaps, indicates that the circulation of the stamp is confined to the province of Catalonia.

The date of issue is pretty closely fixed by the above extract, which speaks of the arrival of letters bearing the Carlist stamps "yesterday," which would be the 18th of April. That the partisans of Charles VII. are in earnest in insisting on the employment of the newly-issued label, is evident from the following telegram, which no doubt refers to it.

BARCELONA, April 25th.

At Vendrell, Villafranca, and Calaf, the Carlists have burnt all letters passing through the post unstamped with the effigy of Don Carlos.

This telegram curiously confirms the fact of the existence of the new type, of which the genuineness and the actual currency appear to us to be fully established.

There are strong rumours, appearing to be well founded, of a new Republican issue for this country.

AUSTRIA.—The design described in our last turns out to be a rejected essay for a local Viennese emission. There seemed to us to be something suspicious about it, and whilst we did not feel justified in condemning it offhand, we still thought it necessary to refer to it with considerable reserve. The specimens we described were sent to our publishers by Mr. Friedl, of Vienna, who it appears was the person by whom the forged "cubiertas" of New Granada, to which we recently alluded, were put on the market. He offers the Vienna series as early copies of the adopted type, whereas only one thing is certain at present, and that is that they, at any rate, have been rejected. The commune of Vienna, says M. Moens, to whom the credit of exposing the fraud is due, has for some time past been

negotiating with the postal department for permission to send its public correspondence free, and it proposes to issue official stamps of its own for such correspondence. Up to the present time nothing has been decided, although it is evident that the commune would not have gone so far as to examine the designs submitted to it, and come to a definitive decision in respect of at least one of them, unless it were tolerably certain of the ultimate concession of the franking privilege. We may then, it would seem, look forward to the probability of an issue of genuine "local officials" at no distant date; meanwhile we cannot do better than pass sentence of perpetual banishment on the pretender noticed in our last.

CABUL.—On page 188 of the last volume of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* will be found an extract from Messrs. Grant & Co.'s circular, describing a set of five stamps "stated to have been issued by the Ameer of Cabul" early in the year 1873. *The Philatelist* for May contains an engraving of the design of the highest value, and the editor mentions that he has received specimens of four denominations from Mr. W. Lincoln. Our contemporary does not mention Messrs. Grant & Co.'s description, which evidently

refers to the same stamps, but speaks of them as if they had never before been heard of.

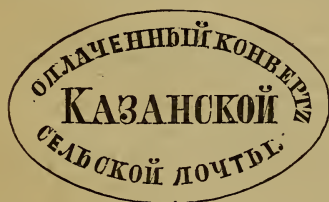
What may be their real worth no one seems to know. Messrs. Grant, in the words quoted above, announce them as stamps

"stated to have been issued." The editor of *The Philatelist* has "no data other than the well-known character of their sponsor, whom he believes to be incapable of knowingly foisting bogus things on the public," an opinion in which we may say, *en passant*, we fully coincide. But our contemporary does not say that Mr. Lincoln himself is convinced of their authenticity, or in a position to guarantee it, and perhaps that gentleman has simply communicated the stamps as curi-



osities of uncertain character. We, for our part, will not pretend to sit in judgment on them, but, as aids towards forming an opinion, we may inquire, whether any postal service exists in Cabul; and also, whether the tiger's head, which puts in a shadowy appearance in the centre of the stamp, is an emblem or armorial bearing special to Cabul. It behoves us, after our Pahlunpoor experience, to be very cautious in accepting stamps purporting to have been issued by remote Indian principalities. Let us also remember that the first specimen of the Cashmere stamps which made their appearance on this side were obliterated, whilst the Cabul designs are all, so far as appears from the descriptions, unobliterated. They come, moreover, in *sets*; Messrs. Grant were shown five values; Mr. Lincoln has received four. The former consisted of 1 anna, 2 annas, and 4 annas, black on white, and 8 annas and 1 rupee, *maroon*, on "thin paper" (*gy.*, white); the four are made up of 1 anna and 4 annas, black on white, and 8 annas and 1 rupee, *mauve*, on yellowish paper. Hence it will be seen that the 8 annas and 1 rupee exist both in mauve and maroon. If the stamps be a genuine emission, they are decidedly an interesting one, and it will not be long before we receive fuller details concerning their employment. On the other hand, if a fraud, they are a carefully contrived one, but, in such case, their career will be a short and an unprofitable one.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.—*Kazan* (Kazan).—The annexed type is another of those described in

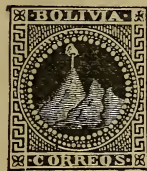


our "July list." Mons. Moens has been making up his account, and he finds that all the stamps in that list have been illustrated, except the first types of Cherson, Pavlograd, Atkarsk, and Saratoff, 1869. He asks us to appeal to our St. Petersburg correspondent, and obtain from him specimens of those stamps, in order that by their reproduction the history of the Russian locals to the present day

may be rendered complete. We willingly transmit our *confrère's* request, and trust that ere long the "missing links" will be supplied.

The Kazan stamp above engraved is an exceedingly plain affair. It is struck in blue on the flap of the envelope, and is inscribed PAID ENVELOPE OF THE RURAL POST. For better security this envelope is countersigned on the lower flaps in the following terms:—"Member of the Rural Administration of the District of Kazan. (Signed) Horodetzki." We should almost imagine that the envelope was for official correspondence only, and this view would be supported by the difficulty M. Moens's contributor had in obtaining a specimen. The envelope is of wove greyish white paper,—6 in. × 5 in., and no value is indicated on it.

BOLIVIA.—From time to time we get intelligence of the existence of certain mysterious Bolivian proofs or essays. Our engraving represents a design which was discovered so long since as 1867, and at once condemned. At the end of 1871 a strip of eleven stamps, of a similar but not identical design, reached this country, and was described at the time in these pages. It came from a Bolivian government official. Fresh specimens of this second type have just been received by *The Philatelist* from a correspondent who procured them direct from the town of Cobija in Bolivia. The



frame, background, and inscription are those of the design above represented, but instead of the mountains and cap of Liberty, the second type shows a large mountain, sun rising to left, llama in front, stars below, PORTE to the left, and value to the right of the mountain. All the values— $\frac{1}{2}$ real, 1 real, 2 reales, and 4 reales—are printed on a strip of paper cut vertically. Our contemporary's correspondent does not state that these stamps are in use, but vouches for their authenticity, and the editor of *The Philatelist* concludes that they are essays. If so, they are very tantalizing ones. It is most strange that whilst the stamps themselves are forthcoming, no ex-

planation of the circumstances under which they were produced can be obtained. Our correspondent received the specimens he wrote about in 1871, as above stated, from a government official in Bolivia, and yet, for aught that appears to the contrary, he has never troubled to ask that obliging official where he procured them, nor when they were printed. In the same way *The Philatelist's* contributor "vouches for the authenticity of his copies," and yet gives only the name of the town in which they were obtained. Surely it is in the power of one or other of the gentlemen referred to to get some positive information about the stamps. We do not question their character, but are not satisfied—nor will philatelists in general be satisfied—with the simple knowledge that they exist.

TURKEY.—The stamps specially used for the local service of Constantinople are now surcharged in dark blue and in red, as well as in black. The 10 paras bistre and violet, and the 20 paras and 1 piastre brown, of the unpaid-letter series are found with both blue and red surcharge, the 1 piastre yellow with the blue only. Each differently coloured surcharge, says *Le Timbre-Poste*, is a different type; notably the blue one is round, instead of oval. This would seem to indicate that each colour emanates from a different office.

HELIGOLAND.—We are informed that the 1st October, 1873, was the date of issue of the postal card with border.

CHILE.—Our Valparaiso [correspondent writes as follows:—

Three more varieties of the 5 c. envelope have been issued. They differ from the previous ones in size, and in the paper, which is much thinner. I enclose a specimen of the smallest size; the other two are equivalent to the 10 c. and 20 c. respectively. The 2 c. has not been, and I suppose never will be, issued.

The size of the specimen received is $4\frac{3}{8}$ in. \times $2\frac{7}{8}$ in., the colour violet on buff.

HUNGARY.—It is stated by *L'Ami des Timbres* that a new emission bearing the Hungarian arms, in place of the Emperor of Austria's effigy, is contemplated for this kingdom.

MEXICO.—*The American Journal of Philately* announces the early issue of a series of envelopes corresponding in colours and values

with the new engraved adhesives, and bearing the effigy of Hidalgo in an oval.

CORRIENTES.—We learn from *Le Timbre-Poste* that some fancy reprints of the Corrientes (no value indicated) have just made their appearance. He has already received an impression in black on lilac-rose paper, and another in black on dark blue. We trust that collectors will not allow themselves to be imposed on by these specious copies.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—It is said that the star watermarked threepence (black surcharge) has been seen with the words TOO LATE struck diagonally across it in black, Trinidad fashion.

RAMBLES AT HOME AND ABROAD.

BY QUELQU'UN.

THE letter which appeared last month in this magazine from Mr. de Joannis, ought to settle most persons' minds on the question of the authenticity or non-authenticity of the Don Carlos one real blue stamps. Still, the attack upon them has been so hot, that we find doubts remaining in the minds of even some of the first philatelists of the day. Many of the objections advanced by the editor of *La Gazette des Timbres* have been disposed of by Mr. de Joannis's letter, and it may seem like slaying a dead man to say more on the subject; but as one or two points not touched upon by that gentleman have been relied upon as proofs of the stamps being humbugs, we think it may not be unprofitable to notice them.

On the first appearance of the stamps a fatal blot was remarked—the absence of a circumflex over the *n* in *España*. Shortly afterwards they appeared with a circumflex, the error having been corrected. This was explained by M. de Saint-Saud, from whom M. Moens in July last obtained the first copy, by saying that the stamp was engraved in Bayonne, and printed first on ordinary paper, and then on thick paper as at present; that two transfers were made, the first of which was printed off on the ordinary paper, the second on the thick paper, and that the error was corrected on the second transfer. It is now found that obliterated copies of

the stamp without the circumflex are rare. Out of at least 200 obliterated stamps, only one copy was found without the circumflex, and this was on thick paper.

No fair argument can, we think, be derived from the fact that large numbers of unobliterated copies were obtained before the appearance of any obliterated copies, and probably even before their actual employ, certainly long before their authorised and established use. We know, however, the source from whence the principal supplies came, and are satisfied that it was a *legitimate* one in more senses than one, unless the whole issue was a swindle on the part of Don Carlos himself.

It is clear from the circulars quoted in the February number of this magazine, and in the May number of *Le Timbre-Poste*, that the objection grounded on the value being expressed in *reales* is worthless. The first of these circulars is dated from Durango, near Bilbao, the 22nd November, 1873, and organises a postal service in the Basque provinces and Navarre. The second circular is dated from Elizondo, the Carlist headquarters in Navarre, December 13th, 1873, and establishes a postal service from the 1st of January along certain lines of road, and to Bayonne, for foreign letters. From the postmarks on the envelopes which are found with the blue 1 real Don Carlos stamp, it is clear that these two circulars have reference to this stamp, and not to any prospective issue.

But we have not found that the use of this stamp has extended beyond the Basque provinces and Navarre. Towards the end of April last a telegram appeared in some of the London papers, dated from Barcelona, stating that at several points letters falling into the hands of the Carlists, not bearing the stamps of Don Carlos, were immediately destroyed. May there not, therefore, be two stamps of Don Carlos—one doing duty in the Basque provinces and Navarre, and the other in Catalonia? Is this latter the pink stamp whose advent is already announced?*

Another question has, however, been

mooted by Mr. de Joannis in his letter. After habitating the Carlist stamps, which were first brought into notice by M. Moens, he goes on to say, "In conclusion, if I, an amateur of limited means, have been able to obtain, *in time of war*, a genuine envelope bearing the Don Carlos stamp duly obliterated, and having undoubtedly done duty, how is it that *in time of peace* M. Moens has not yet been able to produce a single Russian local *used and postmarked in any way*? In all justice to philatelists this ought to be done. There is certainly much more room for doubting the postal character of the Russian locals, than that of the Don Carlos."

What is the meaning of this? Is it an attempt to discredit the Russian locals, and to place them on a footing of equality with the Hamburg locals and Dresden "express" stamps? Because, if so, we may, we think, congratulate the editor of *La Gazette des Timbres* in having found a champion for whom he has long been looking in vain. If, on the other hand, it is intended as an attack on M. Moens, it is not our purpose to take up his defence. If he think fit so to do, he is perfectly able to defend himself, and it will be found that he can bark and bite too. We do not pretend to set up his infallibility, but from long knowledge of him during years of collecting, he is, in our opinion, entirely incapable of cultivating such vegetables as M. de Joannis refers to in his letter, and if by chance such a plant should make its appearance in his garden, he would be the first to root it out effectually the moment its appearance was recognised by him.

But why call on M. Moens to produce "genuine obliterated copies" of the Russian locals? What has he to do with them more than others? He was not the Christopher Columbus of these stamps. He did not discover the mine, though since it has been discovered he has worked it more energetically than his fellows. If our readers will take the trouble to refer to page 124 of this magazine for the past year, they will there find that the first stamp brought under the notice of collectors was the original 5 kop. Bogorodsk blue, sent to the proprietors of this magazine, that this copy was "obliter-

* [Our contributor's guess is a right one, as will be seen by reference to our article on newly-issued stamps.—Ed.]

ated, and was one of the few used Russian locals which have made their way over here." This copy served for the engraving given in the July number for 1869, but previously to this, *Le Timbre-Poste*, in its June number, had stated that further information must be awaited before its admission into the great family. In a paper read before the Philatelic Society, on the 29th of May, 1869, Mr. Hayns, brought before the society this same stamp, and stated that he knew of only two specimens then in England, both of which were obtained from the wife of the governor of one of the cities of the north of Russia.

In the same July number of this magazine, in which appeared the engraving of the Bogorodsk stamp, an engraving appeared of a second local, that for Borovitchi. This was engraved from a stamp obliterated by a penmark, and sent to a collector in Paris by a clerk in the Russian post-office, who had himself detached it from the letter. Another copy of this stamp, also obliterated with a penmark resembling an initial, is to be found in the collection of M. de Ferrari.

We can accumulate instances of the existence of stamps of other localities, obliterated, some by penmarks, others by handstamps. The stamp for Soummy, which served as the type for the engraving given in this magazine, was an obliterated copy supplied by Mr. Hayns; and the 1 kop. blue, the only one we believe which is known, is an obliterated copy now in the possession of a collector at Hamburg. We have seen the Valdai and the Skopin obliterated. The Woltschansk, which served for the engraving, and is now in the hands of a collector of Rome, who received it from a friend in Russia, was obliterated so heavily with a handstamp bearing the name of the town, as to lead to the belief, at first, that the stamp belonged to Wolynska.

We close our ramble with one or two words to young collectors.

In the first place, do not run away with the notion that a stamp is a humbug or, what the French call a *carotte*, because unobliterated copies are plentiful, and obliterated ones unattainable. For example, the stamps for the Ionian Islands were very

common unobliterated, but we were years before we found a set obliterated whose parentage was above suspicion. But let our readers turn to a letter which appeared in this magazine for last year, page 176, and to the reply at page 191.

Again, do not be satisfied that a stamp has served the purpose of franking a letter merely because you find it obliterated, nor indulge in the idea that there must be some wonderful interchange of postal relations between two countries, because you find the stamp of one country bearing the obliterating mark of another. A dealer once showed us the engraving of a Wenden stamp that had been cut from one of the catalogues, and forwarded to Russia for the purpose of showing the issue he required. The pattern was returned to him stuck on the outside of the envelope containing the stamps he asked for, and obliterated with the Russian obliterating stamp. The French post-offices generally obliterate everything that they find on the face of a letter which resembles a postage stamp. We have seen an hotel label stuck on the left-hand corner of a letter duly obliterated, and we afterwards tried whether an English penny stamp would undergo obliteration; we found that it did, though it had no part in franking the letter, like the stamp mentioned in vol. xi., p. 151 of this magazine.

Lastly, when the value of a stamp is dependent on its obliteration, carefully examine in what the obliteration consists, the more so, if there be any inconsistency in the obliteration; and in the case of pen-and-ink obliterations, if taken alone, require a pedigree as accurate as if you were purchasing a race-horse.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

The Philatelist.—Our contemporary's *carte* for May is made up of the usual appetising items. The article on "Recent and Undescribed Emissions" comes first, and in due order is succeeded by "The Philatelic Press," "The Spud Papers," and a lengthy report of the Philatelic Society's April meeting.

Writing on the new sub-type of the English sixpenny, the editor remarks that the

minute numerals in the different denominations prove the larger number of certain values employed in proportion to that of others. The sixpenny is now numbered 13, the fourpenny bears the same, the threepenny shows 12 only, the twopenny has 14. While the little-used ninepenny is marked 4 only, the modern halfpenny has already reached 10, and the universal penny of the latest issue is marked 143.

We observe from the editor's observations under the head of Spain, that Mr. de Joannis's specimens have convinced him, as they did us, of the genuineness of the Carlist stamp.

The "Spud Paper" for May is occupied with descriptions of forgeries of the rectangular stamps of the Cape of Good Hope and the 5 franc French. The former are so badly done that only very young collectors can be deceived by them, but the French stamp is more carefully got up. It is, however, only the *tout ensemble* which is deceptive; the details exhibit wide divergencies; the lettering is thick and clumsy, the Greek border ditto, and there is no cedilla to the c in FRANÇAIS; the perforation, moreover, is ragged, coarse, and imperfect.

Among the postal scraps we notice an item communicated by the Rajah of Sarawak, to the effect that the first Sarawak stamps were issued in the spring of 1869, and on the arrival of the stamps now current there the surplus stock of the former issue was burned, only a few specimens being retained: such being the case, the first "Sarawakians" ought to go up in price.

L'Ami des Timbres for April 20 is exclusively occupied with a chronicle of new postal and fiscal issues. Among the postal items we notice a reference to a letter posted at Marseilles during the war, which bore a fanciful handstamped device, consisting of a Phrygian bonnet in the centre of an inscribed circle; but, to use a common expression, we cannot see the sense of it. It is with a slightly malicious satisfaction, that we notice that the collectors of fiscal stamps have been to some extent "sold" by a reported issue of municipal fiscals for the town of Catania, in Italy. It would seem that local duty stamps are quite the rage at

present, and especially those issued by various Italian towns. A Leghorn speculator, M. Torres, saw his way to a good investment in connection with this passion for fiscals. He got up a design and sent it to the town council of Catania, with a suggestion that they should collect their duties in future by stamps. The secretary replied that they would think it over, but without waiting for his final decision M. Torres sent out a lot of *soi-disant* Catanian fiscals to the dealers, and now they are being returned on his hands.

Le Timbre-Poste.—The list of new issues in the May number is a brief one, and consequently leaves place for a greater number of miscellaneous articles, two of which are devoted to Spanish issues. There is in the first place a verbatim copy of the Carlist decree of the 15th December, 1873, of which we gave the purport some months back; and, secondly, there is a paper on certain pretended accidental errors in the Spanish post cards, which is very useful. The double cards are now found with the word *Tajjeta* spelt *Targeta*, like the first 5 c.; and in M. Moens's opinion they have been got up merely with a view to dupe collectors. The short paper on the Communal Stamp of Vienna has been referred to in our article on novelties. The remaining article in the number before us consists of a further instalment of Dr. Magnus's comprehensive monograph on stamped envelopes, in which the learned doctor treats of the issues of Transvaal and Mauritius, and of the unofficial and probably worthless essays for Egypt.

The American Journal of Philately for the 20th April opens with the second half of the article on the stamps of Guadalajara, by the Vice-President of the Philatelic Society; then follows the continuation of Omega's useful paper on the Argentine Stamps; and to that succeeds the opening chapter of an article, by Mr. C. H. Coster, on "The United States Locals and their History," which promises to be of greater value than any previous article on the same subject. It is copiously illustrated with very accurate engravings. "Newly-Issued Stamps" and "Our Philatelic Contem-

poraries" are the next articles; and then comes a letter by "F. C. de M.," to the effect that he has ascertained that the portrait on the 60 c. Argentine stamp is that of Juan de Posadas and not *Gervasio de Posadas*, as given by us. The latter is the name of the present postmaster, and *The American Journal of Philately* thinks the correction important, lest people should run off with the idea that the 60 c. was a kind of South American "Connell," but in our list it will be found that *Gervacio Antonio de Posadas* was named in 1814 First Supreme Director of the Republic of the United Provinces of La Plata, so that it is hardly possible to make a mistake. On this weak peg our contemporary hangs a page of commentary; and inveighs against his English *confrères* with vigour, declaring that they will not acknowledge their indebtedness to American publications, citing a phrase from *The Philatelist* in proof. We have no need to defend our Brighton contemporary, but we should be glad if *The American Journal of Philately* could point out a single instance in which we have profited by the information contained in its pages; and if that journal does not allude to us—as, in fact, it hardly can—it would be much fairer to put its attack into more precise terms. In any case, our American contemporary is hardly acting prudently in throwing the first stone, for we have repeatedly had to call attention to the unblushing manner in which articles are reprinted in his pages with little or no acknowledgment whatever.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Album Illustré pour Timbres-Poste et Télégraphie. By J. B. MOENS. Tenth Edition, 1874. Brussels: J. B. Moens.

COMPARISONS are, perhaps, odious, but we must frankly avow a decided preference for the Moens album over that of the late M. Lallier. In all essential points the former is much superior to the latter; and in giving expression to our judgment in the matter we are not assuming to lead public opinion, we are simply following it; for the best proof of the extensive popularity ac-

quired by Moens's album is afforded by the speedy exhaustion of the ninth edition, and the consequent issue of its successor.*

From 434 pages, the new edition springs to 467; and the 780 engravings of the ninth have received a reinforcement of 320 in the tenth. These are eloquent facts, and the idea they give of the fulness of the work is borne out by an examination of the contents in detail. Thus we find that for the Russian local stamps no less than 116 spaces are allotted. The Hungarian page has compartments for thirty stamps, and the requirements of the Moldo-Wallachian issues are met by an allotment of over eighty squares.

From these examples it will be seen that the album is compiled on such a comprehensive plan as to suffice for the wants of all classes of collectors, save that small percentage whose acquisitions necessitate the employment of blank books. The catalogue in English and French, which runs through the work, facing the pages to which its descriptions refer, is concise, but clear and complete, and coupled with the accompanying engravings it forms a sure guide and preceptor to the novice.

There is but one feature in the new album which merits anything like positive disapproval, and that is the encouragement given to the reprehensible practice of collecting merely the stamps on the post cards, and not the entire cards. The spaces reserved for the cards are not more than an inch-and-a-quarter square, and if they are to be filled, it can only be with fractions of the cards for which they are intended. We can understand, if we do not admire, the system of cutting out the stamps of envelopes. Those who follow it can, at any rate, plead that the rest of the envelope is simply so much blank, and generally uninteresting, paper, but the veriest tyro can hardly be blind to the fact that the impressed stamp alone cannot adequately represent the entire post card. The idea of cutting out the one cent stamp from the Newfoundland card, and

* In justice to Lallier's album, we must mention that a new edition, from which fiscals are excluded, has been issued; this new edition may be, and we hope is, free from the faults which characterised its predecessors.

throwing the rest away, is simply ridiculous, and it would have been better to have omitted the post cards altogether, than suggest such a mutilation.

This much said, our sole indictment against the book is disposed of. Our review would not have been an honest one had we not presented it, and we trust it will lead to an amendment in the next edition. It is not a blemish of such importance as to affect the value of the work; for the collector is perfectly free to use the post card squares for adhesives, and keep his cards in a separate book. Moreover, it is to our mind pretty well compensated for by the total exclusion of the Hamburg locals. As no space is left for them, the semi-recognition they have hitherto enjoyed ceases, and it is to be hoped that these homeless humbugs will now be consigned to the limbo of forgotten things. They have been fairly crowded out of the album by more respectable tenants, and our only regret is that they have been countenanced so long.

We cannot pretend to dwell on the contents of the work in detail. The author's name is a guarantee for substantial accuracy, and it is backed by the reputation the album itself has gained in the course of a ten years' existence. It might be possible to point out an omission here and a redundancy there—we do not assert that it is so—but the worth of such a work as the one under review is not affected by such minute flaws as are visible only to the hypercritical eye. Suffice it to say, that, taken altogether, Mons. Moens's album is entitled to rank as the most complete and the best arranged that has hitherto been produced, and we heartily recommend it to our friends.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

POST CARDS BETWEEN BELGIUM AND SWITZERLAND.—A supplementary clause has been added to the Postal Treaty concluded between Switzerland and Belgium in 1872, introducing the use of post cards between those two countries, at a charge of 15 centimes. The new regulation will probably come into force on the 1st of June.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.—May 14.—*International Post Cards*.—In reply to Mr. Seely, Lord J. Manners said a telegram was received on the 20th July last from the Postmaster-general of the United States, proposing that post cards should be permitted to be sent from one country to the other for a total postage of 1d., or 2 cents

each. Post cards were transmitted between Germany and the United States at a postage of two cents or one groschen each.

THE STAMPS OF SARAWAK.—Both series of stamps were produced by Messrs. Maclure and Macdonald, 37, Walbrook, E. C. The former issue was made in June, 1868, and put into circulation in the spring of 1869. On the arrival in Sarawak of the stamps (made in September, 1870), which are now current, the surplus stock of the former issue was burned, a few specimens only being retained.—*The Philatelist*.

DEATH OF A STAMP ENGRAVER.—M. Matraire, the engraver of the Sardinian stamps, to whom are due the first four series of postage stamps and the first revenue and passport issues, died at Turin early in March. All his stamps are compound impressions, lithographed and embossed. He asserted that impressions in white relief possessed certain peculiarities, which rendered easy the detection of forgeries at first glance. One thing, however, is certain, and that is, that their poverty rendered them unworthy of a country enjoying such an artistic reputation as Italy, and that the productions of Messrs. De La Rue and his pupils in the Turin manufactory replaced them with advantage.—*Le Timbre-Fiscal*.

SENDING A SILK DRESS BY POST.—A Cornish paper states that a woman brought a large bundle to a post-office in the mining district, saying she wanted to send that to California. On being asked whether she had any idea of the cost of such a mode of transit, she explained that the parcel must go by post whatever the expense might be. A Cornish miner, she said, had promised his wife or sweetheart a real good English black silk dress, and a handsome white feather, and, knowing that the Yankees overhaul commercial packages chargeable with duty to the detriment of their contents, he insisted on this mode of conveyance. It only remained, therefore, to repack the dress in the most convenient form, and to plaster the parcel with fifteen of the big five-shilling stamps (the highest value issued), and by this time, no doubt, the generous miner has redeemed his promise.

DECAYED POSTMEN.—We perceive that a society has been established for the relief of the widows and children of decayed postmen. We have heard of decayed teeth and decayed cheese, but a decayed postman is an article we have never yet encountered. The individual who brings us our letters is certainly running to seed, as far as his wardrobe is concerned, but he gives no symptoms of personal decay, at least at present. A postman in ruins, must, we should think, have a very picturesque appearance. Whether Jenkins comes under the denomination of a "decayed postman," is, however, a question. His offspring, if he has any, must be certainly objects of the deepest commiseration. If our mite can be of any use, the Secretary of the Society may apply for it at the Punch Office.—*Punch*.

CARLIST POSTAGE STAMPS.—The Spanish government, in view of the increased marauding of the Carlists, has established a line of steamers on the Mediterranean coast, to run from Barcelona to Valencia. The Carlists some days ago sent a communication to the post-office directors in Catalonia, warning them that all letters sent after the 15th of April not bearing the Carlos VII. postage stamp, would be seized and burned. People thought this only Carlist bravado, and laughed at the idea. But it has proved no joke, and the trains have been stopped and the correspondence burned just as was threatened. Yesterday the train from Cullaf was stopped, and both official and private correspondence burned. Among other papers of

importance a packet containing 70,000 dollars in Government securities was also consigned to the flames.—*The Echo.*

TRYING EXPERIMENTS.—A philatelic friend of ours experimented on our native post officials, to see if they would pass anything like a stamp, in the same manner with the Spanish postmasters. The consequence is, that we have a penny English diagonally divided, and affixed to a letter, with an interval of at least one-tenth of an inch between the portions, and another quartered and stuck on so as to present the appearance of the current Spanish journal stamps, or long disused Brunswick or Mecklenburg four-quarter groschen! We confess to some surprise that these queer-looking articles were not surcharged with double postage, because it would be easy to cut off clean portions of cancelled specimens, and affix them in a similar way. The official who passed them was not so particular as the idiot who charged double for a post card we sent a friend, labelling it—"Containing information of the nature of a letter!"—*The Philatelist.*

TESTING THE SAGACITY OF THE POST-OFFICE.—A correspondent of *The Times* makes public the result of an experiment he tried with a view of testing the powers of the post-office clerks. He wrote a post card to a friend, and wrote both the contents and address in shorthand. Within three hours of posting, the gentleman to whom it was addressed received the card, the address having been translated in red ink. The writer was considerably gratified at finding that the post-office would take the trouble to decipher shorthand, but he determined to try the experiment a second time, to see if it would have the same result. This time he wrote a letter, and, having sealed the envelope, he addressed it in shorthand to himself. By return of post he received his letter in perfect safety, the envelope had not been opened, and, more still, there was no mark of any kind on the envelope, except the usual postmark and his shorthand writing. This involved, of course, a knowledge of shorthand not only by the sorting-clerk, but also by the letter-carrier. The system of shorthand used was Pitman's phonography.

NOTICE OF ISSUE OF THE NEW ZEALAND STAMPS.—The following is a copy of the official notice of the issue of the new series, published in the government journal at Auckland. It fixes the date of emission, and gives us the official denomination of the colours:—

New Issue of Postage Stamps.—General Post Office, Wellington, 22nd December, 1873.—It is hereby notified, that, on the first of January next, a new issue of New Zealand Postage Stamps, of the denominations of One Penny, Twopence, Threepence, Fourpence, Sixpence, and One Shilling, will be made. The following are the designs and colours of the Postage Stamps of the new issue:—

One Penny.

Queen's Head, on an oval ground, printed in Mauve.

Twopence.

Queen's Head, in dotted circle, printed in Crimson Lake.

Threepence.

Queen's Head, in circle, printed in Sepia Brown.

Fourpence.

Queen's Head, on a square ground, printed in Indian Red

Sixpence.

Queen's Head, in circle and hexagon, printed in Blue.

One Shilling.

Queen's Head, on an oval ground, printed in green.

The Halfpenny Postage Stamp is not changed.

By order of the Postmaster-General, W. GRAY, (for the Secretary).

THE FOUNDATION OF THE SOUTH AMERICAN REPUBLICS.—The history of the old Spanish colonies in South America shows that on the 19th April, 1810, a revolution broke out in Caracas, as the result of the events which took place in Spain at that period. The insurgents established a provisional junta charged with the duty of protecting the rights of Ferdinand VII. Smitten with the desire to perpetuate their own power, those improvised legislators on the 5th July, 1811, proclaimed the independence of the old Spanish captaincy of Venezuela. The movement spread to the neighbouring captaincy of New Granada, and to the other Spanish possessions in America. The struggle lasted ten years. It is well known that general Bolivar was one of the principal actors in the war of independence. It was in December, 1819, that out of two of the old captaincies was constituted the republic of Colombia, formed of three great divisions, with Caracas, Bogota, and Quita as the chief towns. But intestine disorders and revolutions, such as those which still so frequently occur in South America, were not slow in developing themselves. In 1829, the triumph of the Federalists over the Unitarians led to the splitting up of the republic of Colombia into three independent states, viz., Venezuela, New Granada, and Ecuador. Bolivar, who had just resigned his powers into the hands of the last assembly, died on the 17th December, 1830. It seems singular to us that his effigy should not have been represented on any stamp, notwithstanding that several regions have received his name. It is true he was accused of aspiring to play the rôle of a tyrant—an accusation lightly launched in all ages against energetic rulers by envious republicans.—*Le Timbre Fiscal.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

BADLY-PRINTED ENGLISH STAMPS.

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

SIR,—The recently-issued 1d. and 2d. Tasmanian are certainly hideous specimens of printing, but they are not alone. I have recently seen one or two 3d. English newspaper-band stamps (printed for the Midland Railway Company, on their own paper apparently) which are smudged and blotched in a most disgraceful manner. Perhaps their being on private paper may account for the defect, as the authorities would not care to make good spoiled sheets. The colour, too, is peculiar, almost blue-green, whilst the recently-issued official bands are more of a yellow-green than those which first appeared.

Yours truly,

H. II

Alli in chàm.

THE BERFORD EXPRESS STAMPS.

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

DEAR SIR,—You may be interested to learn, with reference to the Berford stamps mentioned at p. 70, that a copy of the 10 cents lilac has been in my possession at least since 1864, and perhaps a year or two earlier. It was procured (probably by exchange) in one of the northern states of the United States of America. I had never seen it catalogued before, but had no idea that it was unknown, or I should have sent it for your inspection. The fact that it has been so long in my possession proves that it is probably genuine; or if a counterfeit, that it is not one of very recent date.

Yours truly,

W. A. B. C.

Oxford.

THE ANNEXATION OF FIJI.

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

DEAR SIR,—I see that my vaticination concerning the Fiji Islands, after lying dormant for more than two years, is at last likely to come to pass. In an article on "British Packet Agencies," which appeared in *The Philatelic Journal* for February, 1872, and which was reprinted in your magazine for September of the same year, I mentioned the probability of those islands being annexed to our crown. To give you my words on the subject, I said: "With regard to Fiji, is it possible that this emission of stamps, inspected as it was by our consul (and packet-agent), points to an intended future annexation of the said islands by our government? It may be,—*quien sabe?*"

A paragraph in *The Standard* for April 29 tends to show that I was not very far out in my reckoning. The paragraph is as follows:—

"THE FIJI ISLANDS.—*Melbourne, April 28.* The commissioners sent to the Fiji Islands have conditionally accepted their annexation to the British Empire. A provisional government under the British consul is administering the country until the cession is formally accepted by the home government."

I take some little credit for the correctness of my prophecy, because at the time when I wrote it the general opinion in Europe was that the islands would be taken under the protection either of the United States or of Germany.

My chief object in writing this note is to suggest that it is more than probable that we shall very shortly have a new issue of stamps for the Fiji Islands. I only hope that, if the engraving of these stamps be entrusted to our English artists (which is very likely), we may have the pleasure of seeing more original designs than we are usually favoured with in the stamps of our crown colonies.

Yours truly,

Walter Belchamp, *Sudbury.* ROBERT B. EAREE.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

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

DEAR SIR,—ANTIGUA WATERMARK.—If you can afford me room I would beg to observe, in answer to your respected correspondent, "A Parisian Collector," that whilst feeling flattered at his "quite agreeing" with me, I fancy he somewhat knocks my theory on the head by saying, "But still it is not universally correct."

My opinion respecting the watermark is, that the *one* point up *points* to the earlier issue.

At the time I first expressed this opinion I had never come across any vermilion with one point, though since I have (and indeed from your publishers); but I think they must have been "in stock" some time, for I have been in the habit of receiving stamps direct from the West Indies, and have by me a quantity, including a great many from Antigua, mixed (*i.e.*, star, as well as crown and cc. watermark), collected in a Jamaica office, where newspapers and periodicals from Antigua are regularly taken in, so that I am convinced *these* star watermarked are those which immediately preceded the crown and cc.; among them I found no *one*-pointed copies. This, coupled with the fact of my never having seen a '62 issued penny with two points, determined my singling this out as part and parcel of the change—(of issue?).

At any rate, (1) whether there were any '62 with two points; (2) whether there were two plates for watermark; or, (3) whether the stars were *turned* (as the

President of "The Philatelic Society" informs us is usual when cleaning the plates or when they get worn), or not, the star no doubt supports my theory so far as to show that the change marks an epoch, if not an issue, for the two varieties do not seem to have been in use together—*i.e.*, the *one* and the *two* pointed star,—else how is it "A Parisian Collector" had never seen a *two* pointed vermilion, and I never, until quite recently, a *one* pointed one? Surely, if in use at the same time, one or other of us would have met with one among the lot different from the majority. I am of opinion—and shall continue to be, unless I hear of a '62 penny violet-rose with two points—that for *that* issue only one plate was in use, and that subsequently *two* were used alternately.

For the benefit of lovers of variety I may as well add that in my collection of Antigua, shown at the Philatelic Society, there was a 1d. first issue with *inverted* watermark.

AUSTRIA.—In *The Philatelic Catalogue* Mr. Pemberton mentions a 15 centes K.F. as a rare variety. Now I have not been able to find any, either in my collection or those I have lately had sent me to look through, that at all convince me of the existence of such an error or variety. I have several that at first sight look like K.F., and also K.E., but which turn out to be nothing but impressions from an imperfect die; for one can through a microscope distinctly trace the K, though the colouring is so faint as not to show to the naked eye; but what anyone without the aid of a glass can see, and what I wonder should have escaped the scrutinizing glance of Mr. Pemberton, is that all these defective K's belong to a different type. The 5 of 15 in this case is some distance off the upper border line, whereas in all specimens having perfect K.K. the top of the 5 *touches*. Let us call those with K.F. type I, and those with K.K. type II, because the stamps with 5 *not* touching are among those which bear the *earliest* postmark (indeed I have only found them marked '50, not even '51); whereas all perfect K.K. and touching 5 are of more recent date.

There are also many minor varieties Mr. Pemberton does not mention, probably thinking them too trifling, such as the presence or absence of a little *dot* after the word "Post" in all values, and watermarks, &c., hardly worthy of notice, else we should have varieties "*sans fin.*"

Of the varieties on ribbed paper I have the only two I ever saw, viz., 15 c. and 30 c., and consider them far rarer than type I., to which type, however, my ribbed 15 c. belongs.

Apologizing for so lengthy a trespass on your valuable space,

I remain, dear Sir,

Yours sincerely,

A LONDON COLLECTOR.

ST. LOUIS AND GUADALAJARA.

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

SIR,—I send you the advertisement of *The Missouri Republican* of Nov. 5, 1845, of which you have given a translation from the French (vol. xi., p. 104). As Mr. Tiffany has already translated the advertisement from English into French for *Le Timbre-Poste*, it may be interesting to you to have the exact wording of the article as it reads in the St. Louis newspaper.

"LETTER STAMPS.—Mr. Wymer, postmaster, has prepared a set of letter stamps, or rather marks, to put upon letters, indicating that the postage has been paid. In this he has copied after the plans adopted by the postmasters in New York and other cities. These stamps are engraved

to represent the Missouri coat of arms, and are for five and ten cents. They are so prepared that they may be stuck upon a letter, like a wafer, and will prove a great convenience to merchants and all those having many letters to send, postpaid, as it saves all trouble of paying at the post-office. They will be sold at the same rate they are sold in the East, viz., sixteen 5 c. stamps and eight 10 c. stamps for a dollar. We would recommend merchants and others to give them a trial."

As you say, "Mr. Tiffany makes short work of the objections originally mooted by M. Albis in *Le Timbro-philie*," I bow and submit to the verdict based on the important document due to the patient researches and industry of Mr. Tiffany, who at last has found out the truth about those stamps. However, allow me to say that my doubts as to the genuineness of those stamps were fully authorised by the conflicting opinions given, first by the engraver and then by persons interested, more or less, in the sale of the 2 c., 5 c., 10 c., and 20 c. But for me, I think I may say, it is very doubtful if the advertisement in *The Missouri Republican* would have ever been exhumed, which shows not only the existence of the 5 c. and 10 c., but also the spurious character of the 2 c., and of the famous "gem" 20 c. St. Louis.

In your February number (vol. xii., p. 18) Mr. F. A. Philbrick, in a very interesting article "On the Provisional Issues of Guadalajara," says, "I believe no issue of the stamps, head of Maximilian, was made to Guadalajara." This is a mistake; I possess in my collection both series of 1866, head of the Emperor Maximilian, lithographed and engraved, issued at Guadalajara, numbered 75 and 109. The republican troops of President Juarez did not enter the town of Guadalajara until sometime in January, 1867.

Another error is the reading of the obliteration as FRANQUEDO, which is not a Spanish word; it is FRANQUEADO. The number of obliterating marks for Guadalajara should be increased. One consists of two ellipses cutting each other, and so making a sort of half band above and below, and inscribed thus, FRANQUEADO above, the word EN in the middle of the obliterating mark, enclosed in a lover's knot, and GUADALAJARA below. Another is an oval, not so flat as the one described by Mr. Philbrick, with the words CORREOS above, and GUADALAJARA below; in the middle, the date, comprising day, month, and year; an ornament of laurel leaves fills each end. I have, besides, a rectangular obliteration, but I cannot read it. Finally, the old circular handstamp, FRANCO EN GUADALAJARA, with the imperfect F looking like an E, is still used now, February, 1874.

Very truly yours,

Cambridge, Massachusetts.

ALBIS.

[We draw attention to this letter from M. Albis as of extreme value, proving, among other things, the use of the free discussion our columns afford on points of philatelic interest.

Collectors' doubts and fears may now be deemed finally set at rest on the subject of the St. Louis stamps. There exist two values, and two only, viz. :—

5 cents,
10 cents,

which may be classed with the New York Post-Office Stamps, and other like issues, where the sagacity of *M. Berger-Levrault* and other compilers had placed them before the official information was disintegrated.

The spurious character of the 20 c., which, it will be remembered, Mr. Philbrick always discredited, is now established; and the mythical 2c. will probably never make its appearance.

M. Albis adds a fact to our knowledge, that the 1866 series, heads of Maximilian, both lithographed and engraved, were issued to, and bear the inscription, GUADALAJARA.

The collection of M. Albis is exceptionally rich in Mexico: and we are glad to be able to make the above addition to our stock of philatelic lore from his treasures.

The obliterating marks spoken of by M. Albis apply to Guadalajara generally, and not exclusively to the provisional issues, of which alone Mr. Philbrick's paper intended to treat. We await with pleasure the promised communication as to the Juarez issue at Monterey, and express our obligations and those of our readers to M. Albis for his interesting and instructive communication.—Ed.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A. S., Demerara.—We are obliged for information that the word *øer* on the Danish West Indian stamps means "islands."

G. H. HURST, Salford.—Your Confederate 10 c., St. Lucia Id., and Turks Island Id. are genuine stamps; but the remaining five are counterfeits, and, consequently, worthless.

Mr. A. BLOKZEYL, Rotterdam.—Accept our thanks for the Javanese post cards, described at length on p. 27 of our February number. We should be glad to have the unpaid-letter stamps, and also the new adhesives, for the same possession.

R. C. M., Carlisle.—The Montenegro stamps are not quite so mythical as you imply. Our publishers have lately received complete sets; and in our opinion they are a very desirable addition to a collection. The design is a neat one, and the colours are well chosen.

W. H. R., Cardiff.—We believe only a few days intervened between the first and second series of the Bergedorf stamps. The former was issued Nov. 1, 1861, and the latter, Nov. 10 the same year. Mr. Pemberton, in Part I. of *The Philatelic Catalogue*, gives 1862 as that of the first, and 1865 for the second series; but we suppose the latter date is a clerical error, as the preceding note nullifies this statement.

H. H. Newham, Truro.—Information recently received leads us to think that for once Don M. P. de Figueroa must have been mistaken when he suggested that the punched Spanish stamps were for unpaid letters. It would appear that they are used for telegraphic purposes, though of this we are not certain. As your copy is not inkmarked, it, at any rate, can hardly be one of those to which our contributor alluded.

F. D., South Croydon.—We have already noticed the fact that the 10 c. blue Spanish war stamp is used, and in fact intended for, commercial documents.—We are aware that the country formerly called New Granada is now termed the United States of Colombia, but though this is the official designation it is not the one by which the states in question are best known. It was simply by a slip of the pen that Colombia was written Columbia in the instance you are good enough to point out.

H. L. R., Nottingham.—The Azores, although 800 miles from Portugal, belong geographically to Europe, and their stamps should be classed under that continent. We are aware that in Dr. Gray's Catalogue they were, by an oversight, included in Africa; but if you will refer to Part I. of the *present* edition, you will find them among the European countries. In some Catalogues we have seen them under the head of America! Java, Sarawak, and the Philippines are in Oceania.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED
STAMPS.

MEXICO.—The series of stamps announced in advance some few months ago is now in actual circulation. We have received obliterated specimens of two values, the 10 centavos black and 25 c. blue (of both of which we annex engravings), and uncanceled copies of the three remaining denominations, viz., 5 c., 50 c., and 100 c.



The latter reached us very late this month, and we must defer our illustrations of them until our next. All five values are finely engraved and well printed. We find in them the delicacy of execution to which we are accustomed in the works of the New York Bank Note Companies, but the originality and boldness of conception which usually characterise their productions are absent. The 10 c. is tolerably successful: the other values are poorly designed. Our readers can judge in part from our engraving of the 25 c. of the degree in which our criticism is justified; to our mind there is nothing forcible or elegant about it. The 5 centavos has the bust displayed on a fancy frame, similar to that of the 25 centavos, and the inscriptions are disposed much in the same manner; but from the four angles of the frame start four slanting labels with curved ends, like tombstones, containing the figure of value. The 50 c. and 100 c. both show the same profile as the 10 c., in the centre of a lined oval. In the former value the oval is set low down in a heavy scrolled frame; above it is an oval disk with figure of value, and on either side is a circle on which the figure is repeated. An inordinate space intervenes between the central disk and the exterior frame, which is filled in with an

engine-turned pattern. The inscription, CORREOS MEXICO, follows the contour of the upper part of the oval, and the value is in a waved label below. The 100 c. is a trifle more symmetrical. The oval is surrounded by an open-patterned frame, intersected, however, at the angles by diagonal labels bearing the figure of the value, somewhat after the fashion of the 5 c. Of the inscriptions, the word CORREOS occupies the upper margin, MEXICO is in a curve below the oval, and the value in words forms the lower margin. The stamps are disfigured by handstruck surcharges, similar to those on the old issues. Four of our five values show the word MEXICO in Roman capitals in an arch, struck in black just above the portrait, and the figures 1—74 in the lower part of the stamp; on the remaining value (the 10 c.) we find only the figures 27—74. The surcharges are done in the country, and are so carelessly impressed as to be on some of the stamps almost illegible, added to which the portraits are injured by black ink-marks from the handstamp. An old correspondent, now in Mexico, writes us that the new series is printed in Mexico, the government having sent a man to New York to learn how to print them, and procure the necessary machinery. We cannot help thinking that he has been misinformed as to the printing of the stamps in the country. It is quite possible that the government may intend to have future supplies struck off at Mexico, but we can with difficulty believe that the specimens before us have been fabricated elsewhere than in New York. The examples of Belgium and Greece have familiarised us with the results obtained when inexperienced hands are employed in working highly-finished dies, and it is scarcely possible that the person sent by the Mexican government to New York cannot merely have himself acquired in the course of a few months all the secrets of the art, but also have imparted them with such entire success to his subordinates in Mexico as to place the Mexican printing-office in a single day on a level with that of New York. When the native impressions see the light we are confident that they will be found inferior in many respects to those we have just received,

and that it will become requisite to distinguish two distinct series.

The values and colours of the stamps are as follow :—

5 (<i>cinco</i>)	centavos	light brown.
10 (<i>diez</i>)	„	black.
25 (<i>veinticinco</i>)	„	light blue.
50 (<i>cincuenta</i>)	„	dark green.
100 (<i>cien</i>)	„	pinkish red.

In addition to the adhesives two envelopes have made their appearance

10 centavos	green.
25 „	dark blue

The design of the stamps is a large oval, with a solid ground of colour. The profile bust of the *curé* Hidalgo is struck on white relief in the centre; the oval border is composed of two lines, between which run the inscriptions—CORREOS MEXICO above, and the value below,—and it is intersected on either side by a transverse octagon of greater width than itself, bearing the numeral of value; inscriptions, border, and figures are all in white. The design is simple and by no means ineffective, but it would be better if the head, &c., were in sharper relief. Like the adhesives, the envelope stamps are surcharged with the name of the issuing state. The word MEXICO on our specimens is found, in the 10 c. above the bust, and in the 25 c. outside the stamp just above the outer edge. The envelopes are of laid paper; and facing the stamp, in the left upper corner, are the figures 5174, which signify office No. 51, year 1874.

SPAIN.—It may be remarked, as a general rule, that when a country is in a disturbed condition frequent changes occur in its postal emissions as government succeeds government, and new men and measures come to the surface. Thus, during the Franco-German war the French issues assumed an abnormal importance; just after the Austro-Italian war a host of provisionals cropped up; and during the American civil war the various Confederate emissions formed the theme of many an article in the philatelic press. The same phenomenon may be remarked in respect of Spain. In the quietest of times—in the palmy days of good Queen Isabella—the issue of a fresh

series was a yearly occurrence, and it was always safe to prophesy that with the regularity of Christmas itself a new type was coming. But now changes are effected every few months, and as everything is in a provisional state it is not possible to adopt a design which would indicate the preference of Spanish rulers for any definite form of government. Old types, which, like weather-beaten veterans, have seen service in the four quarters of the globe, are dragged out of the lumber-room and furbished up to do postal duty in the mother-country, and thus it happens that, after recalling into active service the design originally engraved for Cuba and at present used in the Philippines, recourse is now had to the type of a Philippine judicial stamp, to meet the “long-felt want” of a new series of postage stamps for Spain.



The annexed design is that on which the choice of the Spanish administration has fallen. The seated figure in the centre was appropriate enough to a label intended to represent judicial fees, but it is singularly misplaced in the centre of a postage stamp; were the draped lady represented brandishing the sword, with the scales lying idle by her side, she would more truly figure forth the present state of a country in which fighting has brought trade to a stand-still. Thus much for the symbolical value of the design. As to the inscriptions, it is hardly necessary to say that they have been altered to suit the circumstance of the emission, and that the date—1874—has been added. The values of the forthcoming series are as follow :—

$\frac{1}{4}$ cent de peseta	green.
2 „	yellow.
5 „	purple.
10 „	blue.
20 „	green.
25 „	brown.
40 „	violet.
20 „	peruvian (?)
1 peseta	green.
4 „	carmine.
10 „	black.

Our Brussels contemporary has up to the

present time seen only a proof of the 10 c. struck in the adopted colour. It will be observed that there is only one single type for the high and the low values. This may lead to confusion between the 1 peseta and the 20 centimos.

The Carlist stamp—of which the engraving intended for last month was so unfortunately lost in transit—is here represented. Its



authenticity is unquestionable, although it appears it was not issued by order of Don Carlos himself, but by the Catalonian Junta. *Le Timbre-Poste* looks upon it as partaking more of the nature of a war-tax stamp than of a stamp actually pre-

paying postage, but we are far from certain that its inference is correct. The word CORREOS shows that it was, at any rate, issued as a postage stamp.

MAURITIUS.—The last quoted authority announces that it has just met with one of the first penny stamps (native printed) of a brownish-black colour, in lieu of red, and postmarked 17TH AUGUST, 1859. We are strongly inclined to believe that the stamp was originally a red one, and that the change in colour is due solely to the action of time and the air. Such transformations may frequently be noticed in bright red stamps.

The ninepenny green has, it appears, been suppressed, and that in a very summary fashion. "The government," says a correspondent of *Le Timbre-Poste*, "having had an account taken of the number of stamps held in reserve at the Treasury, decided that there were too many ninepenny and five-shilling stamps, a large number of them were therefore burnt; a certain quantity of the 5/- and of the 9d. grey (probably *lilac*) were preserved. All the green ninepennies were destroyed."

PHILIPPINES.—We have received from Luzon a stamp of a new series, of the type originally designed for Cuba and now used in Spain—allegorical figure with arm resting on shield. It has the word FILIPINAS above in coloured letters, and CORREOS in white letters at sides; the value is 62 c. de peseta; the colour, carmine. Probably other values exist. Of the Amadeus stamps it appears

that the following were the only ones actually in use:—

12 c. de peseta	rose.
16 "	blue.
62 "	mauve.
1 p. 25 c.	bistre.

The rest were proofs.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.—*Borisoglebsk* (Tamboff).

—The stamp here represented was brought to light by a German journal, the *Illustrirtes Briefmarken*. It is embossed on a blue ground. The hive and bees in the upper half of the shield are the well-known bearings of the government of Tamboff; the three



sacks of grain in the lower half are no doubt the "arms" of the district itself, and tend to show that the region which has such an unlovely name is a fertile and prosperous one. The inscription signifies RURAL POST OF BORISOGLEBSK; the value is 3 kop.

Borovilehi (Novgorod).—We have just received from a Russian correspondent specimens of a new stamp for this district, of which we shall be able to give an engraving next month. The familiar armorial bearings—sun and canal-lock—occupy a circle bordered by inscriptions in the centre of an upright rectangular frame, inscribed on all four sides. The design is struck in black on yellow paper, but the ground within the rectangle, above and below the circle, is coloured red. The value is not expressed in figures, and we are driven to suppose it to be 5 kopecs.

Belozersk (Novgorod).—From the same correspondent we have received a specimen of the 1871 stamp roughly struck (as usual) in pale black on pink paper. This may be either intended to supersede the 3 kop. black on white, or to be used for unpaid letters.



Werchnie Dnieproffsk (Ekaterinoslav).—M. Moens states that the 4 kop. blue is now

surcharged with the word *YNABA* in *relief*, probably as an additional guarantee.

Aleksundria (Cherson).—A new stamp, with indication of value, has been issued, of which the reproduction is adjourned to the next number.

Shadrinsk (Perm).—The stamp with fox in centre is now printed in rose, but it does not follow that the blue and black impressions are obsolete. The rose stamps may be for the unpaid letters.

Cherson (Cherson).—The annexed type has been re-engraved, and the new edition, whilst it closely follows the old in its *ensemble*, differs from it in detail. The horseman, says M. Moens, is bigger, and, instead of leaning over the horse's neck, is upright; the portfolio he carries, containing the letters, can



be distinguished; the circle is formed of a single line, instead of two; the stamp is half a millimetre wider, and the words and figures are a trifle larger. It is printed, as before, in red and black.

JAPAN.—Post cards—or substitutes for them—are now employed in Japan, and it was reserved to the correspondent of an *unphilatelic* magazine—*The Printer's Register*—to discover them. He writes as follows:—

I purchased some of the Japanese substitutes for postal cards the other day. I could only obtain specimens of the $\frac{1}{2}$ sen ones, those for local news, *i.e.*, available only for despatch from one part of a town to another, the supply of the 1 sen denomination being exhausted. These articles are not cards, but pieces of foreign paper about six-and-a-half inches long by six inches wide when open. They are folded down the middle, and on one of the outer sides is printed in colours a fac-simile of the ordinary postage stamp of a similar denomination. The stamped side is intended for the address, and is embellished with a border of foreign design, printed in red; one of the inner sides is similarly ornamented, and crossed with lines also printed in red; the remaining two sides are blank.

It is stated, but on what authority we know not, that stamped envelopes have also been issued. There is nothing improbable in the report, for the Japanese are evidently not doing things by halves.

BARBADOS.—The halfpenny green and one penny blue, without indications of value, have at length been withdrawn, to make way for

successors *with* values indicated, and otherwise identical with the sixpenny and shilling stamps. The new-comers are watermarked with a large star and perforated. The colour of the penny is bright blue; of the halfpenny, dark chrome-green. The latter value, we are informed by our Barbados correspondent, was issued on the 16th May. As to the fourpence with value added, it appears that the island authorities have deferred ordering a supply from England, as they still have sufficient of the current type.

MONTENEGRO.—Our publishers have just received sets of these stamps. The colours and values were correctly announced when first the type was noticed, but we repeat them here for reference sake:—



2 soldi	yellow.
3 "	green.
5 "	rose.
7 "	mauve.
10 "	blue.
15 "	bistre.
25 "	violet-brown.

HELIGOLAND.—In consequence of the adoption of the new German coinage in this island, the emission of a fresh series of stamps has been decided on, and will take place on New Year's Day. The post-office has, it appears, been defrauded by the employment of forged stamps manufactured at Berlin, and the island authorities are having search made for the forgers. Young collectors are defrauded by forgeries manufactured at Hamburg, and we should be glad if the island authorities would take note of the fact, and call on Messrs. Spiro Brothers on their way to Berlin.

SIERRA LEONE.—In our March number, on the authority of a valued correspondent, we announced the issue of a sixpence orange. He now writes us to say that he was mistaken as to the value. The stamp he saw was a *threepence* printed in orange, instead of pale yellow as formerly.

FRANCE.—The 15 centimes with enlarged figure of value was officially issued about the middle of May, but is only now beginning to circulate freely. The numerals are not very prominent, for the figure 1 being a mere straight line does not show up much.

The colour is precisely the same as that of the preceding 15 c.

SWITZERLAND.—The dove watermark on the envelopes has at length given place to a large figure of value nearly two inches in height. The 5 c. reddish chocolate is the first to show this alteration, which the evident depreciation of the dove watermark has no doubt rendered necessary.

PORTUGAL.—It is expected, says the Brussels journal, that a 2 reis stamp for newspaper postage will shortly make its appearance, and that, in consequence of a convention between Portugal and Germany, international post cards will shortly be issued by the former country, which up to the present time has not emitted any for home postage.

VICTORIA.—Like our Brighton contemporary, we described the new halfpenny from a single specimen watermarked v, but now find that the complete watermark consists of a crown and letter v, of which the crown falls on one stamp, and the letter on its companion, so that two unsevered copies are necessary to exemplify the watermark. Our contemporary speaks of the letter as being a c; this must be a clerical error.

DUTCH EAST INDIES.—The Marquis de L— writes us that he has met with a one cent olive-green (of the same shade as that of France), from which it would appear that the stamps sent out to Java at the beginning of the year are now doing duty.

DANISH WEST INDIES.—The series prepared for these colonies is now in circulation. Our publishers have received supplies.

CONCERNING THE RUSSIAN LOCALS.

IN the May number of our New York contemporary, *The American Journal of Philately*, we find an article which the editor of that paper entitles "A Challenge." We will quote the opening paragraph of this remarkable article *verbatim* for our readers' edification. It will be a sufficient specimen of the tone in which it is written.

In a worthy attempt to prove the genuine character of the Don Carlos stamp, *H. A. de Joannis*, of London, does think it a little singular that a specimen or specimens "used and postmarked in any way" of the Russian Locals has never been obtained. We shall take up his

half-timid inquiry, and challenge our contemporary, *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, to prove the authenticity and official use of these labels, which we do by boldly denouncing them as humbugs.

These words are intended to be of momentous import. Our contemporary, when writing them, had determined on simultaneously striking a home-blow and an attitude. There is something terribly stern in his manner of throwing down the gauntlet; his words seem like a vigorous paraphrase of Macbeth's defiance—"Come on, Macduff,"—and the whole philatelic world is summoned to watch the onslaught.

Apparently, the editor of the *A. J. P.* is under the impression that his "denunciation" of the Russian locals is sufficient to place their character in doubt, and render necessary its vindication, even though "myriads of yards of red tape" may have (as he says) to be consumed to that effect. But before a gentleman presumes to sit as supreme arbiter in philatelic matters, he should satisfy himself that his standing among collectors is such as to entitle him to require his *confrères* to produce before him such proof as he may deem sufficient of the genuineness of the stamps in which they have ventured to believe. Now, we have positively nothing to say against the editor of the *A. J. P.*; we are even ready to admit that the tone of his journal has on the whole been raised since he assumed the management of it; but it is only a short year ago that he came before the philatelic world, and proceeded to occupy the editorial chair, and really it appears to us that he has hardly acquired sufficient experience to warrant him in putting himself forward as the "denouncer" of stamps to which collectors who have been engaged in the study of philately for many years have pinned their faith. We are sorry to appear rude to our contemporary, but a self-appointed judge must expect to have his capacity roughly questioned, and admitting, for the purposes of argument, that some people have their doubts about the Russian locals, we must be permitted to ask whether the editor of the *A. J. P.* supposes that, in the event of our proving their genuineness to his satisfaction, the stamp-collecting fraternity would accept his decision in their favour

as conclusive. We, for our own part, are unable to find that his philatelic antecedents are such as would entitle collectors to give any special weight to the expression of his prejudices for or against the stamps in question.

However, we are willing to give all possible publicity to the fact that he does not believe in them, and trust that he will be satisfied with this modified homage to his authority. We allude to the disbelief as being that of the editor personally, for it would seem there is some one else engaged on the staff of the *A. J. P.* who views the Russian locals with a friendlier eye, else how account for this peculiar paragraph:—

RUSSIAN LOCALS—If we have not chronicled any of the curious impressions lately, it is not because we do not pin our faith upon them, but rather because we have no pins to do the pinning. In other words, we do not care to describe or illustrate a stamp the inscription on which is unknown. We have no Russian dictionary,—and if we had would hesitate to use it, lest we might commit a similar unpardonable blunder as [*sic*] that we have noticed elsewhere. Granting the Russian locals are authentic—although it is a little singular postmarked specimens are unknown—they are very interesting labels, and may tend to open up a mine of worldly knowledge, philological, geographical, and historical. The time is not far off when we shall undertake a lucid explanation and illustration of these locals; until then we must content ourselves with the knowledge that they are to be found among the hundreds [*sic*], that they are continually coming to the surface, and, to conclude, that they belong to that sort of things which n—n—nobody knows anything a—a—about.

Without stopping to comment on the peculiar composition of this paragraph, let us just observe, in explanation of the opening sentence, that up to the end of the year 1872 the *A. J. P.* published engravings (finely coloured) and descriptions of the Russian local stamps as they appeared, and uttered not a word in their disparagement. In one of the numbers for that year the then editor (Mr. Turner, we believe) declared it to be his intention to give an explanatory and complete list of the locals, whilst complaining that the rapid increase in their number rendered the task of compiling it a difficult one. The present editor, or the anonymous contributor of the above paragraph, also promises a “lucid explanation” of these locals, though he avows in a preceding sentence that he does not care to chronicle stamps of which he knows so little, and finishes by declaring that they are

things which no one knows anything about. Evidently the writer will have to coach up a great deal before he will be in a fit state to give a “lucid explanation” of anything appertaining to the Russian locals, and he places himself in a curious dilemma. Either he knows nothing about them one way or the other, in which case his doubts as to their genuineness have no more value than the doubts of any other collector in an equally uninformed state; or he does know enough about them to be “lucid” over them, if he choose; and, if so, it is a pity he did not disclose his knowledge to his own editor, in order to prevent him from rushing into print with a denial of their authenticity. If, really, this paragraph was written by the editor of the *A. J. P.*, then the transition from the cautiously expressed doubt involved in the remark that “it is a little singular postmarked specimens are unknown,” to that belligerent sentence in which he “boldly denounces them as humbugs,” is a very remarkable one.

Perhaps the explanation may be found in the conjecture, that between the time of writing the article on “Newly-issued Stamps” and the eventful moment when he penned his solemn challenge, he had received the letter from Moscow, to which in the challenge article he makes allusion. That letter is the only peg on which he hangs his belief. It is from a friend living in Moscow, not a special correspondent, “but a gentleman of business cares and necessities domiciled in Moscow, and therefore full of interest in all movements concerning the Russian administration.” A gentleman who not only “lives” at Moscow, but is “domiciled” there, may perhaps be able to give evidence worth taking in this matter, but why the mere fact of his being a man of business cares and necessities should be a special reason for his taking great interest in the Russian administration, is more than we can make out. We should have thought that the pressure of business cares would have necessitated a postponement of the study of the Russian governmental system. It is true that a few lines lower down he is spoken of incidentally as being “attached to the court,” but in what manner we are left to

find out. Perhaps the "attachment" is of a sentimental kind; it would almost appear so from a subsequent paragraph of his letter, which we shall quote verbatim. However that may be, we are told that "living in Moscow, where there are several kinds reported of these locals, he could not find any." This is not very astonishing, seeing that there are no locals there, and we are not aware that any one ever said there were. There are locals used in certain districts of the government of Moscow, and from one of them, that of Bogorodsk, there came in 1869 the first Russian local ever met with, and, furthermore, that local stamp *was* obliterated.

To return: the gentleman who lives and is domiciled at Moscow writes:

Russia is the most perfect despotism in the world, a most beautiful evidence of the work of centralization. Everything must go to St. Petersburg; everything must come from St. Petersburg. St. Petersburg is the centre of this immense despotism, and is too jealous of her rule and her power to permit even the shadow of them to fall beyond the limits of her city. Under Russian rule these locals you speak of as having the governmental sanction must be an improbability—aye, even an impossibility. A village, a city, or a province looks to St. Petersburg; there she receives what she needs; but St. Petersburg manages the post, and will permit no tampering on the part of local functionaries.

Now, this is really nothing but arrant nonsense. The gentleman who lives, &c., may be a very intelligent man, but he has fallen into the pernicious habit of generalizing—a habit very common among persons who have been "domiciled" for a few years in a foreign country, and who, though they have never penetrated below the surface, assume the right to dogmatise about the country's institutions and manners. This gentleman appears to know nothing of the fundamental legislative reforms effected since the year 1864, knows nothing of the provincial and district councils, and talks about every village looking to St. Petersburg for what it wants. Imagine a village, or even a town, in the south of Russia, thousands of miles from the capital, taking instructions from the Home Minister in every trifling matter. The thing is absurd in itself. Of what use would be the governors of the thirty odd provinces into which European Russia is divided? Are their residences mere posts on the great road to

the capital, and is their duty confined to the transmission of a perpetual stream of correspondence setting in to and from St. Petersburg? It is hardly necessary, however, to argue the point, for it is self-evident, and our contemporary can easily ascertain, if he will take the trouble to read up Russian history during the last ten years, that his correspondent has written some very fine sentences with nothing in them.

That that correspondent should not have been able to unearth a Russian local stamp is not very surprising, when we find that even postal officials themselves have denied the existence of stamps which were passing through their office at the very time. We remember that some years ago a person who applied for a two-shilling postage stamp at the Dublin post-office, was positively assured that no such a value had been issued. And we may fancy the intelligent Russian "living and domiciled" in Dublin, and knowing all about English institutions, writing home to his friend, the editor of the Moscow journal of philately, that the reported issue of a two-shilling English stamp was an improbability, if not an impossibility.

Well, our contemporary of New York has come out like the Cardinal of Rheims, and cursed the Russian locals with candle, with bell, and with book, but it strikes us that not one of these locals will be a penny the worse for the anathema. He has very kindly applauded M. de Joannis for impugning their authenticity, and it will perhaps surprise him that this very M. de Joannis, according to the June *Philatelist*, produced at the May meeting of the London Philatelic Society "three *used* Russian locals which had been sent him by M. Moens. These locals are for the towns of Borovitch, (1st issue), Valdai, and Skopin. The first is cancelled by an initial, the second by two penstrokes diagonally, and the third by a Russian inscription in block letters." In our last number, some other obliterated stamps were spoken of, and the matter in general treated of, by a collector whose experience is probably even greater than that of our contemporary's editor. Perhaps these facts may help him to prepare his forthcoming "lucid explanation;" and if he will

refer to the last volume of this magazine, he will find therein a translation of the original imperial decrees of 1870, by which the establishment of local posts was legalised and their functions regulated. If he still remain incredulous, his only resource will be to reiterate the expression of his doubts in the *A. J. P.*, and no one will attempt to convince him against his will. For our part, after having carefully studied them from the time of their first appearance, we are quite satisfied of their genuineness, and we do not think philatelists on this side of the water will have their faith in them much shaken by the denunciations of the *A. J. P.*, or the emphatic assertions of the gentleman who lives and is domiciled at Moscow.

LA GAZETTE DES TIMBRES.

We have not had an opportunity of noticing this journal since last October. Accidental circumstances, to which it is needless to refer, deprived us of the pleasure of scanning its pages, and when a few days since we received the complete series of numbers from July last, we lost no time in digesting their contents. We are glad to find that M. Mahé's journal shows no signs of decay, and from the bulk of interesting matter we take (in commercial language) two or three samples for our readers.

THE "POST-OFFICE" MAURITIUS STAMPS.—Mons. Mahé, having inquired of a lady client whether she could procure him any more of these stamps, received the following reply from her: "I have entirely given up the hope of being able to meet with those rarities which I had the honour of discovering. I believe there are only eleven known specimens of the *post-office* variety, namely, six blues and five reds. Of the eleven, nine at one time belonged to me, and I know where the other two came from. Mr. * * * had six or seven of them in all. I sold him five. The four remaining copies are in the collection of one of my customers, and consist of a used and an unused specimen of each of the two values. The used copy of the twopence affords the means of rectifying an error as to the date of issue which has been committed by Dr. Magnus, Messrs. Moens

and Maury, and yourself. The twopence of which I speak was obliterated in Mauritius with a handstamp bearing the word PAID, and again, on its arrival in France, with a red date-stamp on which can be clearly seen the date 2 JANVIER, 1848." Hitherto it has been supposed the "post-office" stamps were issued in 1850 or 1851, and it may not be out of place to mention that the stamps bearing that inscription are considered as essays, of which a few copies passed through the post unperceived.

THE CAMP OF CONLIE.—During the Franco-German war the Breton levies were assembled at this camp, and it appears that a post card was got up for the use of the soldiers by a printer at Rennes. It was a highly embellished work of art, and bore the following inscription: *War of 1870-1: Souvenir of the National Defence.—Family, Honour, Country, Liberty, &c.* Cannons, flags, and scrolls, and branches of oak and laurel entered into the design. Whether the card was ever used by those for whom it was issued is not said.

THE FIRST MECKLENBURG-SCHWERIN ENVELOPES.—Much astonishment was expressed at the suddenness with which uncut copies of the old envelopes of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, large inscriptions, became rare immediately after their withdrawal. The cause is in part explained by one of M. Mahé's correspondents at Rostock, who writes as follows on the subject: "When the issue of 1856, *large-letter inscriptions*, was suppressed, a gentleman here—a chemist and amateur—bought all the remaining stock (which, as he has himself told me, was very large). The stamps were cancelled with a red or blue pencil before they were delivered to him. To facilitate the sale or exchange of specimens, he judged fit to cut out the stamps, that the volume and weight might be less. He himself possesses only cut copies in his own collection. He served all his stock in the same way, except a very few copies, and not being able to get rid of them he used them to wrap up his drugs with! You will exclaim with me, Sacrilege!!"

OBLITERATED REPRINTS.—"It is our duty to point out a new trap laid to catch the philatelic public. We refer to the appear-

ance of obliterated copies of the Austrian Mercuries, yellow, rose, and red, and the journal-tax stamps, 4 kr. red and brown. The Mercuries are 1873 *reprints* and the journal-tax stamps are reprints of the present year. They are all obliterated by a round handstamp containing the words ZEITUNGS EXPED. WIEN. in a circle, and in the centre such dates as $\frac{1}{5}$, $\frac{2}{6}$, $\frac{2}{9}$, and so on *ad infinitum*, the changes of date being easily effected as the handstamp is provided with an automatic apparatus for the purpose. The stamps are nearly always attached to fragments of journals, which seem to have been soaked to give them an old look. The subterfuge is a poor one; still, the passion of certain collectors for *obliterated stamps at any price* might render them the dupes of this speculation. They would, therefore, do well to take note of the facts, and examine the shades of the stamps which differ in essential points from those of the real originals; they should also give their attention to the white tint and comparative thinness of the paper of the stamps. Lastly, in the journal-tax stamps, the obliteration-maker, who kept economy in view in engraving only a single postmark, has thereby furnished, either through forgetfulness or ignorance, a means of detecting his stamps. The 4 *kreuzer red* bears the same GERMAN obliteration as the 4 kr. brown. Now, everyone knows that the 4 kr. red, which was exclusively employed in the Italian provinces of the Austrian empire, was always obliterated with an *Italian* inscription.

In its notices of new issues the *Gazette* has been fully up to the mark. We observe that it has taken up a position resolutely hostile to the Don Carlos stamps, but its opinion respecting them has, perhaps, been modified since by the fresh evidences of their authenticity which have been produced. On the other hand the *Gazette* champions with enthusiasm the stamps of the St Lucia Conveyance Co., and produces some proof of their genuineness. Still, we think that less ambiguous evidence is necessary to set the doubts of collectors at rest, and we purpose endeavouring to ascertain the true character of the stamps ourselves.

Of the Spanish post cards our contem-

porary had early and special information, and he gives engravings of the accepted types. It appears that a Parisian engraver last year prepared an incomplete design for the cards by order of Senor Pi y Margall, but the plate fell into the hands of the Carlists.

A considerable portion of the *Gazette* is taken up with notices of fiscal stamps, and their original defender—a gentleman signing himself P. B.—endeavours to put them on a level with postage stamps, on the ground that they are put in circulation and used like paper money. But this, as we once before pointed out, is a sophistical argument, inasmuch as although fiscals have a facial value, they do *not* in point of fact pass from hand to hand like postage stamps. No one thinks of making remittances in bill stamps, in the stamps which represent court fees, nor in bills-of-lading stamps, whilst postage stamps find their way everywhere, their employment being universal, and the facilities for disposing of them unlimited. It is not by any mere accident that postage stamps are exchangeable and fiscals practically are not. The difference between the two classes is a fundamental one; postage stamps pay for a service voluntarily performed by the state (and performed sometimes at a positive loss), whilst the fiscal stamps pay charges imposed by the state for which the individual payer gets no tangible consideration whatever.

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—XXXVII.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

Parma.

A GLANCE at the emissions of Parma carries us back to the time when Italy was a "geographical expression," and the country was divided into half-a-dozen unimportant states. Among these states were the duchies of Modena, Tuscany, and Parma, which were all governed by rulers of Austrian "proclivities," who managed to rub along in a mild despotic manner, and are still regretted by the shopkeepers of their respective capitals who benefited by the presence of a royal court. In politics and in administrative matters they took their cue from Austria,

and hence it is not surprising that when that country adopted the system of cheap postage, with its corollary in the shape of postage stamps, the three duchies should have been desirous of copying her example. An Austro-Italian postal league was consequently inaugurated by a convention between Austria and Tuscany, signed at Florence on the 5th November, 1850, which received the adhesion of the Duchess of Parma on the 17th September, 1851.

The act of the 17th Sept., 1851, stipulates, among other things, that the postage stamps to be issued shall be of the following values: 5 centesimi, 10 c., 15 c., 25 c., and 40 c.; and by a notice dated the 7th March, 1852, the Parmesan postmaster, M. Dentone, fixes the 1st June as the date of emission, and gives the colours of the five denominations. Thus, then, we have the date of issue of the first series and the values of which it was composed clearly ascertained. The 5 c., 15 c., and 25 c. were printed in colour on white, and the 10 c. and 40 c. in black on colour. Until a recent period it was supposed that the two latter values were issued alone at a subsequent date, but the researches of a well-informed correspondent of *Le Timbre-Poste*, who has brought to light the official documents treating of the emission, has proved the conjecture to be erroneous. And here let me take advantage of the opportunity to express my indebtedness to the author of the monograph published in the Brussels journal, as the present paper is founded almost exclusively on it.

The first Parmesan type is here represented. The Duchess of Parma was a Spanish Bourbon, hence the fleur-de-lis which forms the central device. The abbreviated inscription in the upper margin signifies STATI PARMENSIS. The colours are as



follow:—

5 centes.	pale yellow, dark yellow.	} on white.
15 „	red, pale red.	
25 „	red-brown.	
10 „	black.	
40 „	dark blue.	

In the year 1856 the 5 c., 15 c., and 25 c. were issued in black on colour. No official notices have been found by which the exact date of the emission can be fixed, nor is it known for what reason the change in the mode of impression was made. The colours are as follow:—

5 centesimi	yellow, greenish yellow.
15 „	rose.
25 „	violet.

The first stamp of the second type, the 25 c. brown, is believed to have been issued in July, 1857; it was followed in January, 1858, by the 40 c. bright blue, and the series was completed by the emission of the 15 centes. vermilion in March, 1859. These dates have been fixed as approximately correct after an examination of an official table showing the quantities of stamps printed from 1855 to 1859, and taking into account the corroborative evidence supplied by obliterated specimens, and the personal recollections of M. Moens's correspondent.

The 15 centes. had a very brief currency, for on the 30th April, 1859, a few weeks after its emission, the Duchess of Parma quitted her states in consequence of the outbreak of the revolution which resulted in the absorption of Parma into the Italian kingdom, and on the 1st August the series was formally suppressed. Obliterated copies of the 15 c. are scarce, and the 40 c. is not often to be met with postmarked, but reprints or remainders of the three values of this series, as also of the 5 c. and 10 c. of the preceding type, black on colour, are to be had for a song. As to the three stamps of the first series in colour on white, they have not been reprinted, and of them unused copies are far from common, whilst even used specimens of the 5 c. and 25 c. possess a certain value.

So much for the old ducal stamps for the prepayment of postage; but there were other stamps issued contemporaneously, which require to be noticed. I refer to the

JOURNAL-TAX STAMPS.

They were first issued pursuant to a treaty of the 9th August, 1852, by which the

states of Parma and Modena bound themselves to adopt the Austrian system of taxing foreign political journals. A subsequent notice fixed the amount of the tax at 9 centesimi, and 1st February, 1853, as the date for its introduction. By the terms of this notice the stamp which this ordonnance rendered necessary was to be struck on the first page of the journal. The correspondent above referred to has resuscitated the design, which consists of two concentric circles, between which runs the inscription GAZZETTE ESTERE (foreign journals) PARMA. In the centre is the Parmesan shield and crown in outline, and below the shield the value CENT 9. This stamp was handstruck in black, and was used from the 1st February to the 13th April, 1853. On that date adhesive stamps were introduced for the collection of the tax. They were of the annexed well-known type, which subsequently served for the provisional postage stamps. The single value, 9 centesimi, was struck in black, at first on greyish blue, and afterwards on a deeper blue.



On the 31st October, 1857, the treaty with Austria expired, and in anticipation of its expiry a decree was issued on the 8th of the same month, reducing the tax on journals from nine centesimi to six centesimi. The 6 centes. journal stamp, struck in black on dark rose, made its appearance in consequence on the 1st November, and continued in use until the annexation. On the 9th June, 1859, the Bourbon rule finally ceased, and the Sardinian government appointed Count Pallieri as provisional administrator of the duchy. The latter having ascertained from the different post-offices that the tax on the journals was a vexatious one, abolished it on the 6th July, 1859.

Both the journal-tax stamps are common enough unused, but used copies are not priced in the catalogues. There are some misprint varieties of each.

Provisional Series of Postage Stamps.

Count Pallieri applied to the Turin post-office on the 26th June, 1859, for a supply of Sardinian postage stamps, and a small

quantity was at once sent. They were issued to the public on the 25th July, and the stock being soon exhausted, a fresh application was made on the 2nd August, which was refused, probably for political reasons. On the 8th August, Count Pallieri addressed a proclamation to the people of Parma informing them of his intention to withdraw and leave them to themselves, but it appears that the threat was only a feint. He remained, but as no Sardinian stamps could be had, and things were in a provisional state, it was deemed advisable to have recourse to the type of the old journal-tax stamps, with its simple inscription, STATI PARMENSI, which compromised nobody. A supply was struck off in colour on white, and issued without formal notice between the 16th and the 27th August. The values were those of the Sardinian stamps, which had enjoyed a brief fortnight's currency, viz. :—

5	centesimi	yellowish green, bluish green.
10	„	brown.
20	„	blue, pale blue, dark blue.
40	„	vermilion, red-brown.
80	„	olive-yellow, yellow, orange, deep orange.

They remained in use until the end of April, 1860, although the Sardinian stamps were formally introduced on the 12th January, of that year.

Misprint varieties are to be found among them as among their predecessors. All the values, except the 80 centes., are common unused, though not many years back they were considered as rarities. The specimens now-a-days offered for sale must, if we accept the statement of M. Moens's correspondent (and he certainly appears to be fully informed), form part of the surplus stock or "remainder" in the Parma post-office; for he distinctly says that "None of the old Parmesan stamps have ever been reprinted. After an inventory of the plates had been taken by Count Barals they were all packed up, and subsequently sent off to the Finance Minister at Turin." To this, indeed, it may be objected that stamps which have even been engraved in Turin, under the eye of the Finance Minister have been reprinted. The fact that the plates were sent to Turin does

not appear to me to be conclusive, and certainly if there have been no reprints taken of the stamps of Parma, the surplus stock of some of the values must have been enormous.

SPANISH PHILATELICO-LEGAL CHRONOLOGY.

BY DON M. P. DE FIGUEROA.

(Continued from vol. xi., page 162.)

1857.

14th October.—When, in virtue of the regulations of the 11th and 22nd August, 1856, a functionary receives an official letter, and cannot give up the envelope in justification with the post-office, he shall give a memorandum of the amount paid, and that shall be kept in the accounts and serve as a discharge.

1858.

1st July.—That the stamps on certain packages of trinkets, of which the circulation through the post is permitted, shall be obliterated with a pen-and-ink cross.

7th October.—That in the principal post-offices, and in certain secondary offices, the postage stamps shall be obliterated on and after the 15th of that month with a stamp bearing a rotation number, and shall be obliterated in all other offices by means of the date-stamp. Black ink must be employed in cancelling the stamps. [The postmarks with rotation number were those with two concentric circles, within which the number of the post-office was repeated five times. This is the only known official document treating of postmarks.]

1859.

7th February.—That after the recent notification of the existence of false stamps, careful examination should be made of the stamps passing through each office, and that the investigation should be pursued whenever the first glance inspires a doubt.

5th May.—That letters returned to the senders in consequence of their omission to comply with the regulations, shall be carried free under the stamp of the Director-General.

9th and 19th November.—That letters from the army engaged in Africa, which bear the

date-stamp of that army, shall be allowed to circulate without being prepaid; no postage whatever shall be charged on single letters, and the rate on double ones shall be collected from the recipient.

25th November.—That post-offices which do not possess the special handstamp (referred to in the order of the 7th October, 1858), obliterating the frank stamps, shall cancel with the ordinary date-stamp.

15th December.—That the letters for the army in Africa shall be sent on to their destination, even when they do not bear a frank stamp.

1860.

17th January.—Gives notice of the variation in the design of the stamps to be used on and after the 1st February of that year. Their values are 2 cuartos, 4 cuartos, 12 cuartos, 1 real and 2 reales.

1st June.—Refers to the franking and registration of certain documents with official stamps.

18th November.—Forbids the private sale of stamps, and renders the same a transgression of the laws against dealing in contraband articles.

18th November.—Refers to the allowance of a discount of four per 100 on certain surplus stamps.

1861.

Nothing.

1862.

11th and 26th February, and 10th March.—That letters for or from persons serving in the army employed in Mexico shall be carried free.

18th May.—That letters bearing 50-centimo receipt stamps, instead of postage stamps, shall be treated as unpaid.

27th May.—That packages which appear to contain used postage stamps should be carefully examined and opened, as it is believed that by means of such stamps it is intended to perpetrate a fraud on a large scale against the state.

1st July.—That various counterfeits of the existing postage stamps having been detected, the new four-cuarto stamps will be issued on the 16th of this month.

18th July.—That on the 1st August, the

circulation of the following new stamps will commence:—2 cuartos, 12 cuartos, 19 cuartos; 1 real and 2 reales.

19th December.—Gives notice of the discovery of a forgery of the four-cuarto stamp, and describes the differences between the counterfeit and the original.

1863.

18th July.—That the postage of newspapers shall not be received in money, but shall be prepaid in stamps, which shall be obliterated by the post-office clerk in the presence of the person who delivers them.

16th and 26th September.—That correspondence addressed by officials possessing the franking privilege, to corporations and functionaries who do not possess it, shall be delivered free, whatever may be its weight; and that provincial and municipal corporations communicating with the state authorities, must prepay their correspondence at the ordinary postal rates.

24th September.—Approves the issue of 30,000 one-real stamps printed in the Philippines, by order of the Finance Superintendent of those islands, to meet the requirements of the exterior correspondence.

24th December.—That on the 1st January, 1864, new four-cuarto stamps will be put on sale, and the existing 4 c. stamps withdrawn.

1864.

20th February.—That on the 1st March, new stamps of the value of 2 cuartos, 12 cuartos, 19 cuartos, 1 real and 2 reales, respectively, will be issued.

27th February.—That single letters from the army in Santo Domingo, which arrive unpaid, shall be delivered free whenever they bear a stamp with the legend *Ejercito de Operaciones de Santo Domingo*.

22nd and 31st May.—That the postage on journals or printed matter for abroad, which is now paid in money, shall in future be paid in postage stamps representing the amount, which must be put on and obliterated in the office with a pen-and-ink cross.

2nd September.—That letters from the Philippines shall not be detained when they are prepaid with the provisional stamps made there (see Decree of 24th September, 1863),

or with those subsequently printed in the peninsula.

12th September.—That the punched stamps from telegraph certificates shall be sent to the chief office, packed in white paper, and classified.

10th November.—That the Finance Superintendent of the Philippines is ordered to maintain in circulation the postage stamps of 1 real and 2 reales *plata fuerte* of the issue of 1855-56; that this order is approved of, and that consequently letters from those islands may be accepted which are prepaid with the stamps referred to, viz., 1 real green, bust to right, hair curled, no crown; 2 reales brick, same type.*

19th November.—Notice of the discovery of forged 4 c. stamps in the Albacete post-office, and description of the test points of the forgery.

31st December.—That the use of new stamps of the values of 2 cuartos, 4 cuartos, 12 cuartos, and 19 cuartos, and 1 real and 2 reales, respectively, will commence on the 1st January, 1865.

1865.

11th February.—Information is requested from all the post-offices with reference to the collation of statistics of the employment of forged and cleaned stamps.

11th April.—That the 2 cuartos, 12 cuartos, and 19 cuartos, and 1 real and 2 reales stamps, which will be delivered out to the provinces, will be perforated like the 4 cuartos; that this need not prevent the previous unperforated supply from being used up.

30th November.—That black printing-ink shall be used to obliterate the postage stamps, and that all the postage stamps will be changed in 1866.

22nd December.—That a set of the stamps intended for use in 1866 be sent to all the principal colonial post-offices, as specimens and for comparison with forgeries.

* We must admit we can only understand this notice on this supposition, that it refers to the intention of the Philippines Superintendent to reissue the stamps of the 1855-6 (or rather 1854-5) type in the colours mentioned—an intention which certainly cannot have been carried out.

30th December.—During the first week of the year 1866, the stamps of the 1865 series shall be admitted in prepayment of postage.

1866.

30th June.—That letters for the interior prepaid with false stamps shall be treated as unpaid, the motive to be noted on the envelope.

4th July.—That on and after the 1st of August, the employment of stamps for official correspondence shall cease, and the authorities entitled to frank shall note the weight of the letter on the envelope. [This class of stamps had been in use for twelve years, the first series having been created in 1854.]

20th July.—That the existing stamps of the denomination of 20 centimos de escudo will be withdrawn from circulation, and be replaced on the 1st August by others of the same value, resembling in design the stamps of 1864.

20th December.—That a fresh series of postage stamps will be issued for the service of the year 1867, and specimens will be sent to all the post offices for reference, and to permit of the detection of forgeries.

1867.

Nothing.

THE PHILATELICAL SOCIETY, LONDON.

A MEETING of the Philatelic Society was held, on June 13th, at Dr. Viner's, 34, Denbigh Street, when the stamps of Bergeedorf, Bermuda, Bolivar, and Bolivia, were exhibited and compared.

In the former country the President was the only possessor of genuine copies of the first issue. Very insidious forgeries of both issues were shown by one of the members. The President pointed out that, in all genuine stamps, the two towers do not touch at top; the tip of the eagle's wing touches the middle of a circle; the four claws are distinct and far apart; the post-horn is well shaped, and just touches the tip of the tail; the beak is opened, and at some distance from the wing; the loop-hole on the lower part of the tower is very distinct, and formed by a round dot surrounded by a

clear circle. The forgeries fail in most of the above points; those exhibited were all *duly* postmarked by four parallel black lines.

In Bolivar and Bolivia the President's collection was again the most complete, wanting only the 100 centavos green, second issue, of the latter country.

The 100 centavos of the 3rd and 4th issues were of two shades, viz., orange and orange-red, but nothing approaching *yellow*. Mr. de Ysasi showed a 10 c. red, eleven stars, post-marked 9 OCTRE, 1869, to show that the date of issue cannot be 1871, as given by *The Philatelic Catalogue*. The same gentleman had also in his collection the 5 c. black and 10 c. green, figure of Justice, *used*. Mr. de Ysasi had received the above three stamps from J. P. Cregoe, Esq., of Falmouth.

Several other novelties were exhibited by Dr. Viner, Messrs. de Ysasi, Breiffuss, and de Joannis.

The next meeting will be held on the 4th of July, at 2. 30, at the residence of Mr. de Ysasi, 39, Brondesbury Villas, Kilburn. N. W. The stamps of Bremen and Brazil will form the subject of study.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A FEW REMARKS ON RECENT CORRESPONDENCE.

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

DEAR SIR,—I fear that the loose way in which I wrote the few words on the stamps of Antigua, which appeared in your number for April last, have given rise to a misapprehension on the part of your correspondent, "A London Collector." I quite agree with him that prior to the issue of the 1d. and 6d., between 1867-70, the star had one point up. Though some persons may be inclined to think that it can be of little moment whether one point was up or two points up, yet the observation of "A London Collector" is very valuable from this point of view—that it serves to determine whether a 6d. green belongs to an epoch prior to 1867, or to the subsequent issue. With respect to the 1d. it is clear—as he and I have both met with stamps of the orange-vermilion shade with one and two points up—that the change took place during their reign. Will he, however, allow me to tell him a little story which appeared some time ago in one of the Paris newspapers? It was to the following effect. A party of savants, after partaking of a *déjeuner* with a friend at one of those cockney villas which abound in the outskirts of Paris, and are dignified by the name of a *maison de campagne*,—where the proprietor spends his summer, and fancies he is in the country,—strolled into the garden to take their coffee and cigars. One of the party called attention to a phenomenon he had just noticed. On putting his hand on one of those reflecting balls, so common an ornament in these suburban gardens, he found that the side on which the sun's rays were then

falling directly was cooler than the side immediately opposite. This fact, having been duly verified by the other savants, gave rise to considerable discussion as to how it was to be accounted for. Professor Moonraker gave it as his opinion that the rays of heat from the sun falling on the convex surface of the ball, passed through it, and were concentrated on the inner concave side. This theory was pooh-poohed by Professor Stumper, who declared that it was absurd to suppose for a moment that the rays would pass through, and that the only rational theory was that the rays fell on the ground and were thence reflected on the side of the ball nearest to the ground. It would be useless to mention other theories propounded by other professors equally learned, but each ventured his opinions, almost all differing from one another. At last the host asked the gardener whether he had ever noticed the circumstance before. "Don't know as how I have," was the reply; "but as I found the top side very hot a little while ago, I turned the ball over."

Now, "A London Collector" has evidently been submitting a case on the sidereal difficulties of the Antigua stamps to the savants; for he comes down with a wonderful theory of the President of the Philatetical Society about twisting the stars. In fact, the President differs *toto calo* from "A London Collector;" for the former evidently regards the stars as being of a planetary kind, while the latter, regarding them as fixed, gets out of the difficulty by suggesting two sets of stars, one with one point up, and the other with two points up. Now, if these gentlemen had themselves either examined the stamps in sheets, or had applied to a dealer who had done so, they would have found that all the earlier issues were printed lengthwise of the paper; but about 1867 or 1868 the mode of printing was changed, and they were printed crosswise of the paper, the stars consequently appeared with two points up, instead of two points on the sides.

I should be sorry to appear to question any theory advanced by the President of the Philatetical Society, but I may confess that I do not understand what is meant about turning the stars, "as is usual when cleaning the plates, or when they get worn." Is it only when we are dealing with the stars that they get half a turn? for I think I should have a difficulty in discovering an English penny stamp with a recumbent crown. The presence of a watermark in the paper is simply due to a design worked into the web of the wire network over which the pulp passes, or on which it spreads itself when in a liquid state. The paper used for the Antigua stamps is a hand-made paper, with a series of stars, as the design of the watermark, enclosed in a framework of five or six lines, and the words POSTAGE (if I remember rightly) in this border. Why many of these colonial stamps should be printed as carelessly as they are, it is difficult to say. How few of the later printed Antiguas have their stars in the centre! and I have found specimens wholly printed on the borders of lines, and others bearing portions of the watermarked lettering of the border.

I entirely agree with "A London Collector" in his remarks on the so-called variety in the 15 centes. Austria, that the P is not an error, but is simply a misshapen K. How it could be anything else it would be very difficult to conceive. The whole tribe of the *kreuzer* and *centesimi* series are from the same matrix. The only movable parts are the values, and the very fact of the 5 being in a different position in the imperfect K's to what it is in the subsequently printed perfect ones, is to my mind a proof that a fresh die was used, and the value set up afresh.

The 45 centes. on ribbed paper is not uncommonly met with, but the 5 and 10 centes on ribbed paper are not

known to me, except through the medium of *The Philatetical Catalogue*.

As a general rule stamp collectors have had a considerable amount of ridicule to put up with. *The Times*, in mentioning the sale by auction of postage stamps, which occurred some two years ago, headed the paragraph with the words, "The height of human folly." For my own part, I care nothing about such remarks; and I am willing to range myself either among the old boys or the young boys, if it is thought that riper years should not indulge in such fancies; though I do not see wherein the possessor of a rare postage stamp is a whit more foolish than the possessor of some black-letter tract, which is neither useful nor ornamental, and the sole enjoyment of which must exist in its possession; but there is one thing that I confess to be a sore point, and this is to be lectured on one's gullibility, especially when this affects one's pocket. It was not pleasant in the years 1868 and 1869, after having, at considerable trouble and expense, succeeded in completing a set of 5 c. and 10 c. St. Louis, to find a gentleman, writing under the name of "Albis," in a most magisterial tone of dictation denouncing these stamps as Bostonian forgeries, and being only worth *cinq centimes ou un demi-penny*, besides heaping all the abuse he could upon the heads of a trio of conspirators,—Messrs. Philbrick, Pemberton, and Alfred Smith,—who he appeared to connect with what he called the Boston forgers. It is, therefore, some gratification to find that he has at length duly signed his recantation, and with the amiable zeal of a convert now heaps coals of fire on the heads of his adversaries by supplying additional evidence of the authenticity of these stamps, if such was wanting.

"Albis" is right as to the issue of Maximilian stamps to Guadalajara. I enclose you two specimens, one lithographed and the other engraved; the lithographed one marked 24—1866, and the engraved one 109—1866; but you will observe that neither of them is obliterated with the stamp which served for the manufacture of the celebrated provisional series. Up to the present time this stamp has, to my knowledge, only been seen as an obliterating mark on some very few specimens of the eagle type dated in 1866.

I am, dear sir,
Yours truly,
A PARISIAN COLLECTOR.

THE ST. LOUIS TWENTY CENTS.

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

DEAR SIR,—I see that you consider "collectors' doubts and fears may now be deemed finally set at rest," since "the spurious character of the 20 c. is now established." Might I ask, How do you establish the spurious nature of this same 20 c.? A newspaper-cutting giving the history of the introduction of 5 c. and 10 c. stamps can hardly be your ground for saying that the 20 c. is spurious, since a 20 c., or other value, might be issued subsequently, and still be genuine. It would be a poor compliment to your sagacity to say, that it is hardly likely you would make a deduction on such grounds as an original chronicle or decree, containing no mention of a stamp issued at a date long subsequent. You might as well argue (though, as I know you do not so argue in this case, it is almost idle for me to mention it) that the ninepenny English is "spurious," because the original decree (to use the word in its postal official sense) made no mention of such a value. But of course, as the spurious nature of the 20 cent St. Louis is established, according to your last

impression, it will interest many who have read your numbers with due diligence to learn definitely by what means it was established, since nothing conclusive can be gathered (I speak for myself) from your past volumes. Assertion is not proof by any means. I have a strong opinion in this matter, and always have had, and if you will show me *how* the spurious nature of the 20 c. St. Louis is (*i.e.*, already) established, I shall be very much indebted. On the other hand, I may say that if the spuriousness of the 20 c. is already established, there are not more than four genuine 5 c. and 10 c. St. Louis stamps known in England, and those rest where they have been for very many years.

Of the 2 c. St. Louis I have no knowledge, and every probability is certainly against such a value; but since the spurious nature of the 20 c. is established, we may assume that the 2 c. will never appear.

Respecting Maximilian Mexican surcharged GUADALAJARA, I have a very distinct recollection (of which I can offer no proof, however, at the present time), that, when I received my large lot of the Guadalajara provisionals, unused, in 1870, I also had four 13 c. indigo, lithographed, surcharged GUADALAJARA at sides, but as I only went by memory, I did not write to you about it, though I communicated my recollections to Mr. Philbrick.

You were good enough to point out in your last number what *The Philatelist* had overlooked, that they had already chronicled the Cabul from me (without acknowledgment), though it was illustrated in May by the editor as something entirely new. The discrepancies between their description and mine of the colours of the 8 annas and 1 rupee, might be easily reconciled had you seen the originals. My description of the colour as maroon is perhaps nearer than their mauve; the latter my specimens certainly were not, but they were of an indescribable tint, which I thought maroon, as a somewhat wide tint, would conveniently embrace. You might almost call it the *brun-violet* of the French, but it has more of a red-plum colour.

The remarks of your correspondent, "A London Collector," on the K. F. variety of the 15 centes. Austrian Italy go a little nearer to the truth than some other remarks I have read on the same subject. I am perfectly aware that the F is but a broken K, but I termed it the K. F. variety for the sake of easy distinction, it being undoubtedly the first edition of the issue of that value. The position of the word CENTES., the position of s of CENTES., the break in the frame, and other things, prove it to be different with later impressions. Though but slight, it is another step in the history of the stamps, and more worthy of attention than the CORROS error on the 1857 Spain, which (despite a distinct assertion to the contrary in the *May Philatelist*) is nothing more nor less than a blocked-up letter E, and nothing can make it more or less. For fear that the hypercritical should say that my "assertion is not proof," I would ask how it is that some sheets of the 1 real do show it plainly, *some indistinctly*, and most of them not at all? All stamps reproduced by lithography are subject to such fillings up, and all stamps, too, which are not printed with great care from steel plates. There are few countries in which I could not show unchronicled "errors." This "filling up," at times, will quite alter the appearance of a stamp, and really puzzle one at first as to the genuineness of the specimen; notice the Cubans of 1857, as well as the Spanish of the same year; indeed, every stamp which has an immense circulation will be found to exhibit flaws and variations (apparent), if you only get together a sufficient variety of specimens. But I am leaving the Austrian-Italy of 1850: the ribbed paper are undoubtedly rare, but

there is the 3 kr. red, on *laid* paper (Austria), which is far rarer. The minor varieties of which your correspondent speaks, are of the "blocked-up" or "broken-down" genus, neither of which could I possibly notice. They did not seem to me to prove separate prints, like the K. F., so I did not trouble about them, as there was a perfect sufficiency without them in all conscience! The 15 centes. and 3J centes., on ribbed paper, have long been known, and all are certainly uncommon; the other values are much rarer, my specimens of 5 centes. and 10 centes. being, perhaps, unique. It may be interesting to some of your readers to know, that I have good reason to believe that this ribbing of the paper was more general than is usually imagined, but in general was so slight that after a specimen has had a few years wear and tear there is nothing left of the ribs; I imagine that it was effected after the printing and gumming of the sheets. I also believe that there are other things to be discovered about the 1850 series for Austria. What is the meaning of the watermark found in very rough toned papers? I also believe that there will be found ultimately the explanation of a peculiar impressed *burelé* in the substance of the paper used for certain specimens of the 1850 series; I have noticed it on the backs very often, but it seems due alone to pressure, and is difficult to fix in any way. It is many years since I first observed it on the 1 kr.; it seems a mass of curling lines: there may be a pattern, but it is so difficult even to see that I should not care to say what I think about it.

Yours truly,

Dawlish.

E. L. PEMBERTON.

[Our talented correspondent puts us a question to which the reply is not difficult. We establish the spurious nature of the 20 c. Saint Louis by the following:—

1. It is *not* mentioned in the official documents: the 5 c. and 10 c. are.
2. The value 20 c. paid no rate of postage chargeable in respect of the service for which the other values were almost necessarily created.
3. In no case of local stamps issued at this period is there a value of 20 c. issued.
4. The specimens of 20 c. we have seen are all evidently altered from a 5 c. stamp (the die being in an *intermediate state*), and the alteration is effected by scraping, or otherwise removing, the figure 5; and then with India ink, or some other deep black fluid, inserting the figures 20. This thinning, or abrasion, of the paper is palpable on every specimen we have met with.

It is not the mere circumstance of any *one* of these matters *alone* (though the last would, in our eyes, be enough to condemn), but their *concurrence*, which leads us to our conclusion.

Mr. Pemberton seems to rely on the fact that many 5 c. are about in collections printed from the die in a *later* state of the plate than those from which the 20 c. are manufactured. This we are quite aware of.

The fair inference in our judgment is, either that a certain lot of specimens of the 5 c. were doctored by the same manipulator, *or* that (possibly "*and*" might be used for "*or*") these impressions of the later state of the dies are reprints, the plates having fallen into the hands of some enterprising individual. Mr. Pemberton hardly shows his usual cogency when he says, that *if* the 20 c. be deemed spurious, then very few genuine 5 c. and 10 c. exist in England, and uses this as an argument to prove the 20 c. is genuine. At least he must admit it goes as far to demonstrate that these 5 c. and 10 c. are, at best, reprints.—Ed.]

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—XXXVIII.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.
EUROPE.

Portugal.

FROM a beginner's point of view the Portuguese stamps are not free from certain difficulties. The variations of type, consisting in the position of the profile, and the curled or uncurled locks which adorn it, are puzzling things to one whose knowledge of stamps in general dates back only a few months; and inattentive collectors, whose acquaintance with the contents of their albums extends over a longer period, are apt to confound the current series with its immediate predecessor. Yet, in fact, all that is needed in order to understand the Portuguese issues is the exercise of very ordinary powers of observation. The first series, that with Donna Maria's profile, is at once recognisable. In the second we get the portrait of her successor, Pedro V., to right; in the third, that of the reigning king, Luis, to left. The values are the same (with one exception) in all three series, and each value, throughout the three series, keeps the frame originally allotted to it. The three subjoined engravings are illustrations of the three successive types.



1st Type.
(Donna Maria).



2nd Type.
(Pedro V.)



3rd Type.
(Luis I.)

The following values and normal colours run through them all:—

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5 reis	brown.
25 „	blue.
50 „	green.
100 „	lilac.

Added to which there is a 25 reis rose in the second, and an additional value—10 reis, orange-yellow—in the third series. To these types—identical as to the frame and differing as to the portrait—succeeded two others, which are practically identical as to the portrait, but differ only in the frame, as will be seen from these engravings:—



4th type.
(Luis I.)



5th type.
(Luis I.)

The fifth type differs chiefly from the fourth in that the labels above and below the portrait are prolonged to the outer margin. It differs also in secondary details; the shape of the white labels at the sides is changed, the letters below the portrait are suppressed, and the background is formed of simple vertical lines instead of a trellis-pattern. The values and normal colours of these two series are the same, viz:—

5 reis	black.
10 „	yellow.
20 „	ochre.
25 „	rose.
50 „	green.
80 „	orange.
100 „	lilac.
120 „	blue.
240 „	mauve.

Having thus contrasted the various series, and placed before the reader their salient points, let me now take them *seriatim* for the purpose of noticing their several peculiarities, choosing for my guide, as far as possible, the admirable and exhaustive article on the "Stamps of Portugal," by the Rev. R. B. Earée, which appeared in the last volume of this magazine.

FIRST SERIES.—Issued in 1853.—The two higher values vary but slightly in shade, and present no admissible colour varieties. They are scarce in a postmarked state, and would seem to have been but slightly employed. The 5 reis runs from moderately dark chocolate to yellowish brown; the 25 reis from very pale chalky blue to a dark dull blue, verging on indigo. The 5 reis is *almost* a rarity, whilst the 25 r. is certainly a common stamp. The former was used for newspaper postage, at a time when newspapers were not so cheap or so extensively patronised as at present; the latter represented the minimum rate for letters from one part of the country to the other, and great numbers have been preserved on the epistles they franked. The design was furnished by an engraver who rejoiced in the sounding name of Francesco de Borges Freire, and his initials—F. B. F.—are found on the section of the neck of the bust. It was struck in high relief, like the design of succeeding issues, on a paper which was much too thin to receive it, and consequently many specimens are found with the paper cut through by the die. However, there is this to be said in favour of the system of embossing, that it rendered forgery practically impossible: whilst Spain was compelled to change its type annually, in order to checkmate the stamp forgers, Portugal never had to call in a single stamp in order to counteract the circulation of counterfeit; and it must be said of the first type, at any rate, that, from an artistic point of view, it had some claim to be considered effective. That fine old lady—Donna Maria—has a right regal aspect on the stamps. In 1864 the entire series was reprinted in a very careful manner. The reprints are distinguished by the white gura with which they are backed, that of the originals being brown. The colours are all of the lighter shades, viz.: 5 reis, yellowish brown; 25 reis, chalky blue; 50 reis, bright yellow-green; and 100 reis, rather pale lilac. Originals of all except the 5 reis are scarce, and used copies are generally obliterated in such an out-and-out way that really, as far as appearance goes, the reprints are preferable.

SECOND SERIES.—Issued in 1855.—Although

the frames of the stamps of the second and third series are, respectively, identical with those of the stamps of the first, it must not be supposed that they were struck from the same dies. On the contrary, fresh dies were cut, the designs each time being copied from those first adopted; and of the correctness of this statement a superficial examination will suffice to satisfy the reader. The second series was engraved by de Borges Freire, and his initials appear on the bust, but in sunken letters, whilst on the first type they were embossed. The king is represented with *straight* hair, which *partially covers the ear*, as in the above engraving. No less than five typical varieties of the 5 reis are found, showing that five different drawings of the frame must have been made. The description of the distinguishing points of the five types will be found at p. 123 of the last volume. Collectors who happen to get hold of any number of 5 reis stamps would do well to compare them carefully together, with a view to discover the varieties. The colours of the two lower values, of which, of course, a larger number must have been struck than of the higher denominations, vary considerably, the 5 reis ranging from dark chocolate to yellowish brown, and the 25 reis from chalky blue to dark royal blue. The 50 reis and 100 reis give no marked colour varieties.

In 1856 an important modification was effected in this type. The 5 reis and 25 reis stamps were entirely re-engraved, and the king was represented on the new issue with



curly hair so disposed as to leave the *ear uncovered*.

The annexed engraving will make clear this distinctive characteristic of what may be termed the sub-type. Whether the engraver altered the arrangement of the hair because it looked better curled, or whether, as Mr. Earée suggests, the change was effected at the king's own request, it is impossible to say. Perhaps a simple regard for truth prompted the alteration. The sub-type requires to be sub-divided itself, as regards each value, into two typical varieties. The 5 reis in one variety has the pearls

very large, very close together, and oval; and in the other variety they are small, tolerably far apart, and quite round. The differences in the two 25 reis lie in the network; in one variety it is coarse, and in the other fine. These stamps run through the same gamut of colours as their predecessors; but I apprehend that most collectors will be satisfied with one or, at the most, two copies of each value.

In 1857 a rose 25 reis of the "curly" type made its appearance, and as it remained in use until 1862 it became by far the commonest of the Don Pedro series. Of this stamp, also, two secondary typical varieties have been noticed.

THIRD SERIES.—Issued in 1862.—This series came into circulation just at the time when stamp collecting had become general; it therefore does not possess that halo of antiquity, to use an exaggerated phrase, which encircles the others. One cannot help looking with greater respect on stamps which circulated and prepaid and had their being in pre-philatelic days. Those which have since come out and been superseded we have known from their emission upwards, have been familiar with throughout, and we can never look at them as so thoroughly obsolete as the stamps which were issued before even *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* was thought of. Will my readers pardon this garrulousness in respect of my old acquaintances, the Don Luis stamps? They cannot boast of being distinguished by any of those subtle differences of engraving which characterized their predecessors. The 5 reis alone can lay claim to the right of putting in an appearance in duplicate, by reason of the existence of two varieties, in one of which the 5 is near to REIS, and in the other is far away from that word. Such a distinction, however, unsupported by any other, is barely admissible. As to colour varieties, there are a fair number, but they are less remarkable than those of the early series. The 5 reis is found in chocolate of various shades; the 10 reis is faithful to orange-yellow; the 25 reis, starting with very pale rose, arrives at very dark rose-carmine; the 50 reis varies from yellow-green to dark bluish green; and the 100 reis, from very pale lilac to dark lilac

violacé. This series, like the two previous ones, was engraved by de Borges Freire, who was not subsequently employed. His initials appear, in sunken letters, on the edge of the bust.

FOURTH SERIES.—Issued in 1866.—A Belgian engraver, Mr. C. Wiener, was employed to produce the type of this series, and he inaugurated quite a different style of design, whilst keeping to the old system of embossing. The profile of the king was not a successful one. The stamps, taken altogether, were showy and well printed. The introduction of the name of the country on the left-hand label was a praiseworthy innovation. The insertion of the engraver's initials in a prominent position below the bust was, on the other hand, a blemish. The normal colours were adhered to pretty closely with the unperforated edition, but a year after a second edition, neatly perforated, was issued, and these show some noticeable colour varieties. The 240 reis, it should here be observed, was not issued imperf. Among the perforated stamps we notice the following shades:—

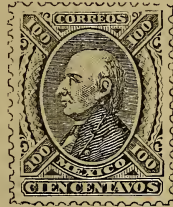
10 reis	yellow to vermilion-orange.
25 "	dull rose to dark rose-carmine.
50 "	pale bluish to dark yellowish green.
100 "	pale lavender to dull mauve.
120 "	dull chalky blue, ultramarine, and royal blue.
240 "	reddish lilac to bright mauve.

FIFTH SERIES.—Issued 1871.—Apparently the Belgian engraver had not given satisfaction, for Campos, a native artist, was employed to design the fifth and current type, which is certainly an improvement on the fourth in many respects. The king's portrait is stated to be a very faithful representation of him. For the first time the engraver allows his work to speak for itself, and refrains from initialing it. Of the colours it is scarcely necessary to speak in detail; suffice it to say that there is the same tendency shown to variation as in the preceding series.

It is said that a 2 reis stamp, and international post cards are to be shortly introduced. Hitherto Portugal has been guiltless of post cards, envelopes, and local stamps.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED
STAMPS.

MEXICO.—As an appendix to our last month's list, we give precedence to the four following engravings:—



The 5 c. is brown, the 50 c., dark green, and the 100 c., pinkish red. The *Gazette* gives currency to the assertion of a gentleman who has passed many years in Mexico, and been acquainted with her principal men, to the effect that the portrait on the last series is not that of Hidalgo, but of Don Lerdo de Tejada, the present president. We register this assertion, but cannot say we place much confidence in it. The new types, according to the above-mentioned journal, came into circulation on the 5th May last.

The annexed engraving is that of the envelope type, of which, as stated in our last, there are two values—10 c. green and 25 c. dark blue. As the *Gazette* also notices the different disposition of the surcharge on each value, we presume that it has been intentionally adopted, and will be found on every copy. *The American*



Journal of Philately bears out our interpretation of the intelligence, forwarded by a correspondent in Mexico, as to the printing of the stamps in Mexico. The first supply was struck off at New York, but all the plates and printing implements have been sold to the Mexican government, and future supplies will be manufactured in the country.

That they will show marked inferiority to the first arrivals can hardly be doubted.

LUXEMBURG.—Another provisional issue of post cards has taken place. The pattern of the border on the new edition consists of a series of rings. The cards with stamp are expected to appear very shortly. There will be two values—5 c. in bright violet on white, for the interior correspondence of the duchy, and 6 c. reddish lilac on pale flesh-coloured card, for communication with the states comprised in the German postal union. The stamps are of the same type as the 1 c., 2 c., and 4 c. adhesive; facing them on the left upper corner is the Luxembourg shield surmounted by a crown. It is said that the post-office itself submitted a handsome design for the post-card stamp, consisting of a numeral of value between crossed branches, the arms below and inscription above in an arch, but it was, nevertheless, rejected.

DOMINICA.—“Own brother to St. Christopher” is the brief but significant pedigree of the Dominican type. No one can deny that the design is pretty. Were it the first of its kind, it would create a sensation. Unfortunately, it comes after forty others, and we should have preferred the adoption of the much-abused apocryphal type, of which we gave an illustration some years ago; it would at least have had the merit of novelty. Still, whatever prejudices we may have in this matter, we can, at any rate, rejoice in the fact that Dominica has at last joined the ranks of the stamp-emitting countries by the issue of the three following values, all of the type here represented:—



One penny	lilac.
Sixpence	green.
One shilling	solferino.

It is hardly necessary to say that they are printed in colour on white pressed paper, are perforated, and watermarked cc. and crown.

PERU.—It is pleasant to turn from a set of mediocrities, fabricated from stock-patterns, to such an elegantly designed stamp as the

one represented below. The series is composed of four values, viz. :—

5 centavos	vermilion.
10 "	deep orange.
20 "	blue.
50 "	dark chocolate-brown.

In general appearance they are alike, but they differ from each other in the shape of the bands and labels on which the value is announced. In the other values, the scrolls or bands curve outwards from the figure in the centre of the lower margin, and the 5 c. is decorated with stars, which are not found on the other denominations. These stamps are for unpaid letters, as the inscription



—DEFICIT O FRANQUEO—indicates; and it is said that they are intended to act as a check on the delivering officials, who might otherwise be tempted to claim more than their due.

Our Brighton contemporary says that the llama series has been reprinted, and is again in use, but its employment can only be temporary, for *The American Journal of Philately* states that a new series of postage stamps for general use is being prepared. The design is thus sketched by that journal: "Arms of the state, supported by flags and cannon on either side, and surmounted by laurel wreath, behind which appears a sun-burst, all within upright oval; CORREOS DE PERU above, and inscription and numerals of value arranged around the central design in various symmetrical designs." Our contemporary adds, "In addition to these, a set of envelopes is in preparation, which we can assure our readers is not behind the adhesives in beauty." Hence it is evident that in matters postal a complete revolution has occurred in Peru, which has given influence to people who, not satisfied with the endless strips of embossed stamps from the Lecocq machine, have determined on giving the country a worthier series of designs. We shall await with interest the arrival of

the promised stamps for general use, and the envelopes. If they are as handsome as the auxiliary unpaid-letter types, they will be welcome.

LAGOS.—The stamps for this settlement have reached us without any preliminary notice. We are indebted to Mr. J. P. Cregoe, of Falmouth, for obliterated specimens of the two values which, we presume, as in the case of Gambia, form the series. They are from the same *atelier* as the Dominicans, described in a preceding paragraph, but, whilst they resemble them in the main features of the design, they are, to our mind, far more effective. The profile of the Queen is in a circle, with the word LAGOS above and POSTAGE below, and value in coloured letters in lower margin. Up to this point they are identical with the Dominicans, but the disk containing the portrait is not enclosed in a complete circular frame like the latter. The spandrels are filled with a graceful flowing ornament, worked in in a most effective manner, which serves to confine the inscriptions within the somewhat narrow limits allotted to them above and below the disk. These stamps are perforated, and watermarked cc. and crown. The colours and values are—

Fourpence	rose.
Sixpence	green.

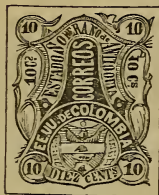
They are no doubt intended exclusively for postage to this country. Our specimens are obliterated by an undated office stamp, consisting of a single-lined circle, enclosing the name and the letter B.

To many of our readers the exact position of Lagos may be a matter of doubt. It was to us. We knew, indeed, that it was somewhere on the west coast of Africa, but had to refer to a gazetteer in order to assure ourselves of the fact of its being on the Slave Coast, and we then learnt that it was bounded by the kingdom of Dahomey on the west, and the Benin river and the mouths of the Niger on the east. The capital of the settlement is Lagos. It exports the usual African products, such as gold-dust, palm-oil, &c., and it is as important a place as Sierra Leone. The territory was ceded to this country in 1861, by a native potentate,

and has since been administered by an official who has been responsible to the Sierra Leone government. Evidently, however, this state of things has been done away with. Lagos, as the watermark on the stamp proves, has been raised to the dignity of a crown colony, and its postal administration has been placed on an independent footing.

ANTIOQUIA.—Three new stamps for this state have made their appearance, viz:—

10 centavos	violet.
20 „	brown.
1 peso	red.



Of the two lower values we are enabled to present engravings herewith. A contemporary declares them to be of rare beauty; we cannot say we coincide in this dictum; The 10 c. certainly presents an original conception, and in these days of servile copying it is something to find a stamp which really can lay claim to novelty of design, but the disposition in this instance is more striking than graceful. It reminds us of the Japanese fiscal stamp, of which, in ignorance of its true character, we gave an engraving some years back; for, like that stamp, it is distinguished by a complex arrangement of bands and scrolls. As to the 20 c., it is but rarely that one sees such an incongruous mixture of scrolls, arms, and inscriptions as it presents. The odd way in which the arms are wedged in under the central inscription is only paralleled by the manner in which the nine stars are arranged in three lines in a curve of the scroll. The value is inserted in the upper left corner merely to fill an unoccupied place, and the repetition of the figure 20 above and below the scroll looks feeble. The 1 peso is more slightly, but the details of the design are still more absurd. The salient feature is a scroll in the shape

of a letter s, which winds from top to bottom; in the upper portion are inscribed the words E. S. DE ANTIOQUIA; in the centre, where the letter is thickest, is the word CORREOS, and in the lower part ES. US. DE COLOMBIA. The S-shaped scroll intersects an upright band or letter I, which runs up the centre; in the lower part is the word UN, and in the upper PESO. The two scrolls or bands form together a kind of monogram consisting of the letters S. I., but seeing that these letters do not signify anything, we cannot understand why they were employed. The shield of arms is supposed to be hidden behind them; it shows here and there in the open spaces in a very uncertain manner.

A bird, which looks like a lark, is perched on the lower extremity of the s, and is presumably intended for the armorial condor, as it holds in its claws a banderole, with the motto, *Libertad y orden*. But the drollest peculiarity of all is the way in which the nine stars are got in. There are two in the upper corners, one on the right just above the eagle, two on an interstice between the I and the s, one in the upper part of the stamp on either side of the letter I, and, lastly, there is one before and one after the word CORREOS. Were it not that they form together the mystic total nine, we should never have dreamed of their being other than mere haphazard ornaments. Certainly, the New Granadine constellation assumes odd shapes, and the stars of which it is composed are not fixed ones. We have already seen how unceremoniously they are ranged in three rows on the 20 c.; on the 10 c. they are flattened out of all shape to suit the exigencies of the design, and placed four on either side, and one above the arms. The engraver, in fact, appears to have been left free to follow his inspiration on all points except one, and that one is the degree of prominence to be given to the word CORREOS. On the three values this word is by far the most conspicuous of all, and probably instructions were given to that effect.

BERMUDAS.—Our Brighton contemporary notices the arrival on a great many letters of specimens of the green shilling, diagonally surcharged with the word THREEPENCE, in

are artistically grouped and delicately drawn.



The execution of this stamp indeed, as a whole, is far superior to that of the majority of its brethren. The colour is an orange-yellow, and, though not wanting in strength, is not adapted to show up the design.

The exterior frame appears to have been borrowed from the imperial stamps. As the corn-sheaf and scythe are found on the Elizavetgrad type, it may be assumed that they form the arms of the government. The inscription is evidently an abbreviation of that which appears on the second and third issues. The district authorities appear to have been somewhat undecided as to the most suitable size for their stamps. After employing the above type, they jumped at once to the large stamp with horseman in centre (adopting at same time the improvement of perforation), and finding it to be too large, they veered round to the current design, which is of more moderate dimensions.

ATKARSK (Saratoff).—This stamp looks just like a wood-engraving cut out of a sheet of paper, and we strongly suspect that the design must have originally served as a head-piece to official documents. It is struck in black on white, and is gummed on the back. The arms are the same as on the second type,



but the crown is omitted in the latter. There is nothing whatever about the stamp to indicate its postal character, unless it be the gum.

SARATOFF (Saratoff).—We have not before us a specimen of the 1871 5 kop., described at the beginning of the present year by M. Moens; we, therefore, can only compare the 5 kop. of 1869, which has just reached us, with our own illustration of the former stamp. We find that our engraving and the 1869 stamp are identical



(date excepted) in all but two points. In the first place, the sheaf, which in the 1871

stamp resembles a licitor's fasces, is plainly delineated in its predecessor, the wheat-ears are shown and are arranged in an arch; and, secondly, we find in the lower margin the abbreviation N^o. followed by the figures 945 in red ink, which we may assume to be the rotation number of our specimen. The colour is a delicate light blue; the paper, like that of the 1871 stamp, a *pelure*, thinner than that of the second Moldavians. The stamp is well engraved and unperforated.

PAVLOGRAD (Ekaterinoslav).—The annexed engraving is that of the second and known type. The first type, of which we have received a specimen, differs from it only in minor details. A six-pointed star fills the place occupied by the figure 5 above the shield, and the Roman numeral ν is found at the four angles, instead of the Arabic figure 5. The disposition of the groundwork—if we may trust our enforced comparison with annexed engraving—differs slightly. Within the oval it is formed of undulating horizontal lines, and the trellis-work outside is closer. The horse in the first issue is rampant; whilst in the second its fore-feet touch the line. In colour the first issue is Prussian blue.

We have done now with the members of the old list, and proceed to chronicle the following individuals, hitherto unknown to fame.

GDOFF (St. Petersburg).—This is a striking type of an original character, which we may recommend to the consideration of stamp engravers nearer home whose conceptions lack novelty. The inscription in the upper section signifies GDOFF DISTRICT; that in the lower, RURAL POST. The fact that this district is within the St. Petersburg province, may be taken to account for the finished appearance of the stamp, which—printed, as it is, in bright ultramarine, and well perforated—has quite a dashing look, if we may be permitted the expression.



We should think it has not been long in use, or we should have heard of it sooner.

ALATEER (Simbirsk).—The Alateer type forms a striking contrast to that of Gdoff.

It is as primitive as it well can be, resembling in this respect, though not in point of size, the only other stamp from the Simbirsk government, that of Sizran. It is a plain type-set production, cleanly printed in black on white wove paper. The inscription reads simply **ALATEER RURAL POST**. There are two values—1 kop. and 2 kop.,—which are identical in every respect.

GRAZOVETZ (Vologda).—It would seem of little use to engrave this type, for the shield in the centre is so blurred as to be quite undecipherable. The design is akin to that of the Kadnikoff district (also in the Vologda government), but is somewhat larger. There is a circle, an inscription running round the inner edge, a blotched shield in the centre, and the figure 2 on the left and κ on right of shield. The impression is handstruck in dull blue on sheets of white gummed paper.

DANKOFF (Riasan).—The lozenge-shaped stamps seem very much affected in the government of Riasan, and a weakness for animals as armorial bearings seems also to be developed in that region. The Egorieffsk and Riasan stamps have lozenge frames; the Sapojok and Skopin districts delight in birds as symbols. The Dankoff



stamp is an upright lozenge. The design is struck in black on a ground charged with green, but the paper itself outside the design is white. The arms in the upper half of the oval are not clearly drawn, but, taking the Sapojok and Skopin types for guides, we perceive that the central object is intended for a Russian cap, whilst those below arc either a sword and flag or two swords *sal-*

tire. The inscription reads **DANKOFF RURAL POST**. We can offer no explanation respecting the presence of the horse in the lower half of the oval, unless we fall back on the supposition that it indicates the holding of a horse-fair at Dankoff.

OUSTSISOLSK (Vologda).—This is again another district in the same province, but its stamp differs from those of Kadnikoff and Griazovetz. The design, however, is not a very pretentious one, as will be seen by the engraving. It is struck in black on a

glazed deep red paper. The inscriptions in the outer frame signify **OUSTSISOLSK RURAL POSTAGE STAMP**; that in the centre, **3 КОП. ЗА ПАКЕТЪ.**

ELETZ (Orel).—The annexed stamp differs from the two preceding types in a pleasing degree. The deer and fir-tree, though drawn in a manner which proves that the artist had no great respect for perspective, are striking emblems which tell us as plainly as possible of immense forests and spreading plains in the north of the great empire.



The stamp is rendered interesting by the aptness of the device, and, as it is fairly printed, it will prove an acceptable addition to the ranks. The colour of the new comer is a dark blue on white. The inscription reads **POSTAGE STAMP OF ELETZ DISTRICT COURT; THREE KOP.**

ALEXANDROWSK, or Alexandria (Cherson).—The circular stamp issued for this district in

1872, and well-known from its peculiar type-set border, has just been superseded by the annexed very fairly engraved and well printed stamp, struck in dark blue. The circular inscription



signifies ALEXANDROWSK DISTRICT POSTAGE STAMP, and that in the centre, PRICE 10 SILVER KOPECKS. Postage appears to be a luxury in Alexandrowsk, to judge from the price of the stamp.

This type concludes the list of locals communicated by our St. Petersburg correspondent, for which our best thanks are due to him, and to his friend the owner of the stamps.

POSTAL STAMPS IN THE UNITED STATES.

THE majority of writers for philatelic magazines have of late assumed, not always in very courteous phrases, that a stamp-collector should only collect such adhesive or embossed labels as indicate prepaid postage, claiming that prepayment was the fundamental requisite of Rowland Hill's plan, and such stamps only were contemplated by it. To defend the collecting of other classes of stamps, which have for various reasons found favour with stamp collectors, or to expound these reasons at length is not our present purpose, but we may remark, in passing, that the word stamp is a good old English word, used to denote, in one of its secondary or applied meanings, the impression of a mark or device indicating payment of governmental dues of various kinds long before postal stamps of any kind were thought of, and had attained a very venerable old age in even the latter sense before the adhesive postal label was adopted by the English government, which, we believe, has not yet employed the word "stamp" to designate these more modern modifications and forms of collecting pay for governmental services. We venture, also, the general remark, that as every collection of coins which pretends to completion includes not only metals stamped for use as money, but medals, medallions, jettons, and even advertising tokens, stamped paper, shells, beads, and other substances used as money in various countries and times, in order that the history of coins may be complete, so, for similar reasons, many things not strictly stamps may be properly collected as an addition to a collection of stamps, and when *separately*

arranged form a very valuable historical collection of stamps, of which postal labels would be only a small part. Those who choose to use the word in its limited signification should, therefore, be courteous at least to those who prefer to accept the older and broader meaning of the words "stamp collectors."* But even the strict postage-stamp collector, who wishes his collection to be complete historically, will find it worth while, before confining himself to the collection of adhesive and embossed stamps, indicating prepaid postages, &c., to pay some attention to the marks used by postal systems older than Rowland Hill's, many of which survived, in whole or part, the general adoption of some modified form of that system, and have left their traces still upon the systems now flourishing all over the world.

The really characteristic feature (though it is not a new one) of all modern systems of collecting postage, is prepayment, in contradistinction to the older system of collecting upon delivery, rather than the form of indicating that prepayment. Adhesive stamps are, therefore, only a convenient way of accomplishing the end. The plan of requesting full prepayment in all cases has not been found entirely practicable in all localities,

* [There can be no doubt that the term stamp-collector really includes collectors of every kind of stamp. When this magazine, however, was started, collections were strictly confined to postage stamps, and we willingly admit that they form only a small fraction of the total number of impressions which are entitled to the name of stamps. We certainly have argued, and shall still continue to argue, in favour of the exclusion from collection of all other kinds for a variety of reasons which it is unnecessary to repeat. In all humility, we adopt Rowland Hill's invention as the point of a "new departure," and only take cognizance, from an historical stand-point, of the systems which prevailed prior to the inauguration of the system of cheap postage; considering that whilst it is desirable to *know* how postage was recovered in old times, it is not advisable to attempt to make collections—which of necessity must be fragmentary—of the handstamps employed for that purpose. We feel bound to say thus much, lest our readers may consider our insertion of this article as an unqualified adhesion to the views it contains. Our readers will appreciate with us the spirited manner in which it is written, and will, we are sure, be interested in the account of the United States handstamps, which forms its *raison d'être*. We, for our part, do homage to the writer's talent, and are disposed to agree with him, up to a certain point, as to the desirability of accepting the labels and marks which form the complement of postage stamps, properly so called.—Ed.]

and under the varying circumstances of various peoples. The accidents of overweight and insufficient or improper payment being almost necessarily incident to a large correspondence, the detention or refusal of all mail matter, not properly prepaid, produced more inconvenience to the public, and caused more annoyance and expense to the government service than advantage to the post-office revenue; and, therefore, most nations have adopted a modified plan, and collect, in certain cases, a portion of their postages upon delivery. When this is done, some method of indicating to the receiver the amount that the collector is authorised to demand has usually been adopted; for the public is always more or less suspicious of government *employés*. The only logical way of doing this, when adhesive stamps are employed for prepayment, is to employ them for the other purpose also; and we have such adhesives as the French and other *chiffre-taxe* stamps, but other nations still retain the methods employed before the introduction of adhesives, such as penmarks and handstamps.

Again, besides merely carrying letters therefor, the post-office renders various other services, such as registering, insuring, or forwarding letters deposited after ordinary hours, charging special compensation therefor, and for these purposes employs registration, too-late, and similar labels, and even receipts in some cases, or retains for these purposes also penmarks and handstamps. Even this does not exhaust the catalogue of postal stamps indicating dues collected or to be collected, not to mention those used for other purposes, such as cancelling the labels, indicating the date and place of receiving or delivering the packages, or the route they are to follow, which are of an entirely different and only temporary character. We might enumerate such labels as the Turkish, used to show what should be paid on letters coming from places without regular postal accommodation; where prepayment is impossible, the Russian local or sub-post-office stamps, which supplement the governmental issues; the American and other unofficial locals, where there was competition with the government; official stamps of various coun-

tries, where the stamp is merely a method of keeping accounts between the post-office and other branches of the government which it serves; the United States registration seal, in form a stamp, which is merely a check upon the officials themselves, and the stamps of the postal telegraph; the war-tax and newspaper stamps of Spain and Austria, many of which do not indicate any postage whatsoever, but which the package must bear upon it, or it could not be transported or delivered.

In fine, so complicated and so intricate are the manifold exigencies and services of the modern postal system, that we are daily hearing of new fields that it occupies, and frequently of new stamps that it employs. The formation of a collection of these various stamps, their proper arrangement in separate groups, according to their use, and the study of their history is certainly a legitimate and proper pursuit, and does not merit the sneers of those who, deterred by limited time and means, choose to devote themselves to the collection of adhesives only. He who writes the history of a world is no less an historian than he who compiles only the record of a single country, and we beg our adhesive label collecting brethren to remember that the collection of revenue stamps began before postal labels were even heard of, and to cease the attempt to rob those who go deeper into the matter of stamps of a name to which they cannot claim an exclusive title.

The above remarks have exceeded the limits originally intended, which were merely to serve as an introduction to a brief sketch of the old system in use in the United States, and the traces it has still left on the postal service; but the subject is so fruitful that our introduction may be found not less interesting than our subject matter.

Prior to 1845, letters in the United States were charged according to the distance they had travelled, and the number of sheets on which they were written. The rates fixed by the law of 1792 were—6 cents within 30 miles, 8 c. within 60 miles, 10 c. within 100 miles, 12 c. within 150 miles, &c. Those were changed by the law of 1799 to 8 cents within 40 miles, 10 c. within 90 miles, 12½ c.

within 150 miles, 17 c. within 300 miles, and 25 cents for all distances over 500 miles. Again the law of 1816 changed the rates to 6 cents within 30 miles, 8 c. within 80 miles, $12\frac{1}{2}$ c. within 150 miles, $18\frac{1}{2}$ c. within 400 miles, and 15 c. over 400 miles. Under each law these rates included only a single sheet, with an equal amount for each additional sheet or piece of paper.

The earliest letters I have found are simply marked with a pen with the name of the town where posted and the amount to be collected. A little later we have a handstamp, bearing the name of the town and month; the day written in, and the amount to be collected written upon them; and still later, the date, month and day, both are on the stamp, the postage being still written with a pen. These stamps are almost always a single-lined circle, with the name of the town above, the state abbreviated below, and the date in the middle.

The next improvement was to stamp or write on the amount, and, when the letter was prepaid, to stamp or write on the word PAID. These stamps, with and without a border, are quite numerous.

These various methods were not adopted uniformly all over the country, but seem to have been first introduced to save labour in large towns, and then to have been extended to the smaller ones. Nor were the stamps used uniformly, but each postmaster seems to have had such as he pleased prepared for himself, and to have used any coloured ink he chose in applying them.

By the Act of 1845 the postage was reduced to 5 cents per single letter within 300 miles, and to 10 cents over 300 miles; circulars and drop letters being charged 2 c. During this period, except in very small towns, we find the figures and the word PAID stamped on when necessary; generally in blue ink when paid, and in red when not. Examples are numerous.

The next improvement was the addition of the figures to the dating stamp, at first on the outside of the circle, the word PAID being always stamped on when the letter was prepaid. Then came the dating stamp, with the figures introduced beneath the date, the envelope being still stamped with the word

PAID when required. This stamp seems to have been in use for a long time, and very generally all over the country, being improved at length by the addition, in some places, of cts. after the figures.* During this period we still find the handstamp PAID in use; and although the postmaster's adhesive labels had been introduced in some places, and the United States adhesives were in use after 1847, they do not seem to have been very generally employed, these handstamps being still much more common; and the cancellation generally was done with the dating stamp, with amount and the word PAID not unfrequently stamped in besides.

The act of 1854 again reduced the rate on single letters to 3 c., within a distance of 3000 miles when prepaid, and to 5 c. when not prepaid, circulars being charged 1 c.; but prepayment not being compulsory, and the use of stamps optional, we have, during this period, letters bearing no adhesive stamp, with the figures 1, 5, or 10 stamped on; or a dating stamp, with the figures and word 5 cts., or 10 cts. when unpaid, or with the figures 1, 3, or 6, the latter always with the word PAID stamped in. But more frequently the dated stamps bear the figure indicating the postage, when paid, with the word PAID stamped on separately, or included in the dating stamp; and not unfrequently both the dated stamp and the figures and paid stamps are seen on the same letter. When adhesives are employed during this period they are generally cancelled by the same stamps as the above, and always with the word PAID in some place. After 1855 prepayment for a time was exacted in all cases, and the word PAID and amount of the postage gradually disappeared, and the simple dating stamp took their place; but when the rule

* [Of this and all the other handstamps referred to our obliging contributor sends us tracings, which we regret we cannot reproduce. Those with the value stated on them are very interesting. Let us describe one as an example; it consists of a large single-lined circle, a little over an inch in diameter; around the upper half runs the word BOSTON; and in the lower half is a large figure 10, followed by cts.; and in the centre of the stamp, occupying two lines, is the date, 21 JUN. This may be said to be a handstruck postage stamp, representing, when accompanied by the word PAID, the amount of postage prepaid in money by the sender, and when not so accompanied the amount due from the receiver.—Ed.]

was relaxed we hear of a return again to the old system of writing in the amount, with an occasional handstamp, "Due three cents," &c., which is still the custom. There are also numerous other handstamps in use of another class, such as "Returned to writer," "Unmailable," "Missent," "Advertised," and others.

Of course we do not advocate the collection of all these by collectors generally, but out of the many that have passed through our hands we have made and arranged a selection, with the dates of the letters from which we have taken them, and to us it is not the least entertaining and curious division of United States postal stamps. We hope our brief account may prove not less entertaining to our readers.

THE VELOCIPEDE-POST.

(TRANSLATED FROM A PARISIAN JOURNAL).

At the time when velocipedes first made their appearance and became "the rage," some one threw out the suggestion that the country postmen should be supplied with them, in order that their labours might be lightened. The project did not seem a practical one, and although it was tried at one or two places, it was ultimately abandoned by the government.

The idea, however, which the administration was unable to carry out, in consequence of the numerous obstacles which were found to exist, is being successfully applied by private enterprise, and it will not be long before the innovation, which is still in its infancy, takes a great extension.

Everyone must have remarked, during the past month, the men who, mounted on immense velocipedes, make their way along the Rue Richelieu and the Place du Carrousel, dashing past with marvellous rapidity, and avoiding the obstacles, carriages and passengers, in their way. They are simply couriers or *commissionnaires*.

Accomplished velocipede-riders, they are charged with the duty of carrying, in the smallest possible space of time, the sale and purchase orders despatched by the banks, at some distance off, to their brokers, who operate for them on the Bourse, and they

return with the intelligence the latter have to send back. And really it is worth while to see them dart off at an astonishing speed, and accomplish, for example, the journey from the Place de la Bourse to the Place St. Sulpice, *and back*, in less than twenty minutes.

But the services they render do not stop there. In Stock Exchange operations, and especially those which take place with the provinces, the banker's maxim is, that "time is money." Everyone knows what an accumulation of messages takes place at the telegraph office on the Place de la Bourse, notwithstanding the promptness with which they are transmitted to the central office. Now, it has been found that a telegram sent by hand to the central office, 103, Rue de Grenelle-Saint-Germain, reaches there sooner than a telegram given in at the Place de la Bourse, and forwarded to the central office for transmission by pneumatic tube. The velocipedists are, therefore, employed to carry the telegrams from the Place de la Bourse to the central office, and thus economise time.

Lastly, all the post-offices are closed and the mails made up at six o'clock, and letters posted after that hour must be doubly or trebly prepaid, in order to ensure their departure the same evening. The velocipedists who are aware of this circumstance, arrange with different banking houses and wait at the door until the last moment, in order to convey the letters for the provinces to the railway stations, from which the mails take their departure, and deposit them in the boxes of the travelling post-office. The banker finds his advantage in the gain of time, and in not having to hire carriages and despatch clerks expressly to the stations.

A velocipedist will take about thirteen minutes to do the journey from the Place de la Bourse to the Rue de Grenelle-Saint-Germain; fifteen minutes to Montparnasse station; eighteen minutes to the Northern station; twenty minutes to the Strasburg station; and twenty-three minutes to the Lyons station.

Up to the present time the persons engaged in the traffic work alone, and independently of each other, and do their work by

contract. They do not number more than thirty at the outside. One of them told us that on some days they could easily gain 15 francs to 20 francs, but the average of their earnings is from 8 francs to 10 francs per day, which is gained between two o'clock and seven o'clock in the afternoon.

A word in conclusion. Whilst we recognise the value of the velocipede post, we cannot refrain from expressing the hope that the prefect of police will require that all velocipedes shall be provided with a warning-bell in the day time, and a white and red lantern at night, for the india-rubber-bound wheels make no noise on the asphalté or the pavement, and passers-by, not hearing them coming, are not always able to get out of their way.

NOTES ON THE EARLIER ISSUES OF DENMARK.

In the issues of 1851-9—those of the square stamps—it would appear that the earlier stamps were all printed on a paper which was first covered with a *burélage*, or wavy groundwork of oblique lines, crossing the paper. This *burélage* was printed in yellow ink generally, but sometimes one sees specimens of the 4 skilling with it of a grey tint; these are rare.

There was, undoubtedly, a printing on plain paper, without any *burélage*. Of course collectors of every school make the distinction between the dotted and the wavy-lined groundwork on the stamps themselves. It appears, therefore, that each series of stamps must, by those who make such distinctions, be classified into those on *fond buré*, and those on plain paper, without groundwork.

The only arrangement of this nature, hitherto made known to the public, was one compiled by that veteran philatelist, the late Mr. Pauwels, to the revision of which the writer made some contributions; it will be found published in *The Philatelic Journal*, Sept. 1872, p. 149.

On recently arranging the stamps of Denmark, attention was drawn to this list, and one or two inaccuracies found, of one of which Mr. Pauwels was sensible, but unwittingly failed to correct it; that is, he chronicled

the existence of a 16 skilling violet, wavy ground, *fond ondulé*, rouletted. This stamp he had not in his collection; nor is it known to the writer. It is not catalogued by Moens or Mahé, though Berger-Levrault (p. 8) mentions it. No such stamp was in Levrault's own collection, and, if it does exist, any of our friends who can produce a copy will confer a favour on the editor, and will assist in solving a disputed point. To deny its existence is not intended; but, till known to exist, it must be regarded as doubtful. Again, Mr. Pauwels gives the green 8 sk., *fond sablé, et ondulé*, on plain paper. The writer never could meet with a copy which, on close inspection, did not show the yellow lines of the *burélage*. As at present known to exist, there are—

1851.—2 rigsbank sk., figure in circle; blue.

(a.)—On *buré*.

(b.)—On plain.

This last is hitherto unchronicled, but the writer has a very clear and perfect copy, which was in M. de Sauley's collection.

1851.—Arms in circle. 4 rigsbank skillings:

(a.)—On *buré*; light brown; chestnut-brown; deep chocolate-brown.

(b.)—On plain paper; light brown; chestnut-brown.

All the 4 r.sk. are on *fond sablé*, or dotted ground.

Issue 1853-7.—Dotted ground; (*fond sablé*):

Buré—

2 sk. blue.
4 sk. light brown; yellow-brown; ochre-brown.
8 sk. green; deep green.
16 sk. lilac; slate-grey.

Perforated 11.—8 sk. green (private perforation?)

Rouletted—

8 sk. green.

Same stamp: plain paper, without *burélage*:

2 sk. light blue; blue; deep blue.
4 sk. light brown; deep chestnut-brown.
8 sk. (not known, but probable).
16 sk. lilac.

Rouletted—

16 sk. lilac, light and dark shades.

Perforated 11 (as above)—

2 sk. blue.
4 sk. ochre-brown.

Same device: Wavy ground; (*fond ondulé*):

Buré—

4 sk. ochre-brown; chocolate; deep brown.
8 sk. green; deep green.

Not *buré*—

4 sk. chocolate.

The same: Rouletted—

4 sk. light brown; chocolate.

8 sk. green (given by Moens; never seen by the writer).

These 4 sk., rouletted, are on a highly-surfaced, glossy paper.

The yellowish appearance of the texture of the paper of some specimens over others seems to be accidental only, and not to mark any peculiarity of printing or issue.

There is one circumstance connected with these Danish stamps which has hitherto escaped attention. In each square, at the lower angles of the stamp, is a small post-horn; but, in addition, there is a figure in the left angle, probably denoting the number-plate of the die used for the particular impression, and the initial *s*, probably of the engraver, in the right angle.

These numbers are almost microscopically small, and are nearly illegible in some colours:—

In the 2 r.sk.	a minute 1 is on the left, just outside the border.
In the 4 r.sk.	1 and 2 can be read on copies now being described.
In the 2 sk.	2 seems to be on all, and is very clear.
In the 4 sk.	2 (once only), and 4 in all other cases.
In the 8 sk.	2, 4, and 8 all are found.
In the 16 sk.	1 and 2, and some illegible.

It is not unlikely that other figures may be discovered. The only reason for research into these *minutiae* is to see whether the supposition as to their being numbers of the plate can be verified or not; or whether any other explanation is more feasible. Somewhat singularly it thus occurs that on this well trodden ground of a country, the stamps of which are so common as those of Denmark, facts of this nature are now for the first time (as far as we are aware) published.

UNITED STATES POSTAL CARDS.—However few or many may be the changes of various kinds to be made by the new Postmaster-general, there is one matter of postal cards that will be brought to his attention at an early day. The design of the cards was never as good as it should have been, and a new design, or several material alterations for the better on the present, are anticipated. Also that, instead of the red and brown ink that is now used, a change to black ink is proposed.—*St. Louis Republican*.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

The Illustrated Catalogue of Postage Stamps.

By Dr. J. E. GRAY, of the British Museum. Revised and corrected by OVERY TAYLOR. Parts I. to IV. London: E. Marlborough & Co. Bath: Alfred Smith & Co. 1874.

THIS Catalogue has now reached to such a point in its progress, that we need no longer hesitate to form our judgment of the mode in which Mr. Overy Taylor has performed his task.

Let us first, however, offer our congratulations to the publishers for the mode in which their portion of this work is performed. Evidently no pains and no expense have been spared on their part. The four first numbers, consisting of 256 pages, contain upwards of 560 cuts, illustrative of the various types; and the paper and printing is everything that can be desired, while space is not economised at the expense of clearness.

As regards the arrangement of the postage-stamp-employing countries, we have always preferred the mode adopted in this catalogue, viz., the alphabetical one for each division of the globe. The geographical classification employed by M. Oscar Berger-Levrault was always too great a puzzle to us for easy reference. One wanted to keep a table of latitudes continually in one's head. Nor do we think that his reasons for adopting this mode were to be relied upon. It is true that the stamps of some countries do bear a certain analogy to those of a neighbouring one, but where this is true in one case, we think it fails in half-a-dozen other instances. The purely alphabetical arrangement has certainly nothing to recommend it, beyond the supposed facility for reference. This may be a desideratum in a price-current, but we fail to appreciate it when the catalogue is intended as a guide to the collector. For our own part, we never saw a collection commencing with Alsace, Angola, Antigua, &c., though we have seen many beginning with Alsace, Austria, &c.

Still, though this is the most common way of arranging a collection, we do not

know that it is the one which we entirely approve of. We have often thought that a system grounded on the affinities of the countries would be preferable, far preferable, to one grounded either on the latitude of the country, or on its position in the alphabet. Thus we should prefer to find Azores and Madeira following the mother-country, rather than to look for the one between Austria and Baden, and for the other between Liberia and the Mauritius. The pages of Great Britain would be followed by the stamps of some forty dependencies, three-fourths of which bear representations of the sovereign, from the native productions of Mauritius, to the finished but monotonous profiles from the *atelier* of De La Rue. We, however, only throw this out as a hint to collectors for the arrangement of new collections. This system of classification would not do for a catalogue which is intended for the great body of collectors,—for those who are somewhat advanced in philately, as well as for beginners. For all such we can recommend this catalogue as a safe guide so far as we have seen, and we have examined the half which has appeared with a critical eye, desirous of finding out its faults as well as its virtues.

The introduction into the former edition of the principal secondary characteristics of stamps, arising from watermark and perforations, was, in our view, a very great improvement. This portion has been evidently most carefully revised in the present edition. It is perhaps to be regretted that a less generic term than *perforated* has not been adopted in some instances, as we find the stamps of Brunswick, 1865, and Hanover, 1864, described as *perforated*, equally with those which are divided by punched-out holes. Mr. Taylor evidently uses the term *rouletted* as applicable only to stamps partially separated by a succession of small linear cuts like the later issues of Tour and Taxis. But in reality the whole subject of perforations, and the mode of describing the various kinds, requires to be restudied and remodelled. Dr. Magnus, as the pioneer, has done a great deal, but there is still much to be done. What resemblance is there between the perforation Suisse of the French stamps and that

of some of the late Turkish stamps?—and yet they are both perforated 7, and are so described in the catalogues which give particulars of perforations according to Dr. Magnus's system.

The notes appended by Mr. Taylor are a most useful feature, and form a veritable repertory of useful hints, condensed into the smallest possible space. It is frequently the case that in such condensations something is sacrificed to perfect accuracy, but with very few exceptions, and these of the slightest kind, we have not found the editor falling into this snare. We quote one example to show what we mean. In speaking of the first issue of Turkish stamps the editor says that "specimens exist printed upside down, relative to the border which runs below, and others are found without the border." Now the real fact is, that the stamps were printed in rows, one row being upside down relatively to the other, but with a space sufficiently large to print the border between the rows, so that half belonged to one stamp, and half to the other. The reason why we occasionally find stamps without a border, or with a border at the top, instead of the foot, arises from a mistake in the second operation, that of printing the border, or in its omission, and not from a mistake in printing the stamp, as might be inferred from the note.

This is, perhaps, being hypercritical, but we will make it up by a shower of praise for the manner in which the Russian locals have been dealt with. Russia, with its locals and the stamps of its dependencies, takes up no less than 50 pages, and is illustrated by 120 cuts. Every known local has its corresponding illustration, and as, perhaps, not more than one collector out of a hundred can read Russian, this is an invaluable help in forming a collection of these interesting stamps. Already many of the types are becoming rare, and we recommend every collector who has not been frightened by Mr. de Joannis, and by the "tall talk" from the other side of the Atlantic, to work hard and collect all he can before the early types fall into the class of unattainables.

THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF FRANCE.

A REFERENCE LIST.

BY G. NETSUA.

It is with the utmost diffidence that I offer the following list to the philatelic world; for, although a collector dating from the early romance of Birchin Lane—when British Guiana provisionals, 1862, were with difficulty sold at two for three-halfpence, or three for twopence, all types and values, and Parma, Modena, &c., fetched one shilling to five shillings each—this will be the first time my name appears in print. I have been induced to compile this list, as I cannot help thinking that (perhaps because they are mostly so easily obtained) the French stamps have barely had that attention paid them which their beauty and fineness of execution merit. I, of course, allude to the issues of 1847-67.

The full history of the various emissions having been so ably given in the admirably written "Papers for Beginners" (*Stamp Collector's Magazine*, vol. x.), I feel it needless for me to take up space in recapitulation; or (the stamps being so universally known) to give an exact description of each of the series.

I must, however, make a few remarks upon the shades, as the terms used will be found to differ from those previously given. In arranging them I have most carefully matched the tints with the colours prepared by Messrs. Winsor and Newton. Most writers invariably employ the term *bistre* for the 10 centimes; why I know not, that colour being one of the darkest browns to be found in the colour-box; and, most certainly, though I do not dispute that there may be some darker shades than those I have seen, the 10 c. is anything but that.

In conclusion, I venture to hope my labours may prove of some utility, and will be viewed with an indulgent eye by those more learned in philately than myself; also to express my thanks to Messrs. Alfred Smith and Co., who most kindly placed at my disposal some hundreds of specimens for comparison.

Republic; head of liberty; imp. on tinted paper:

1849-50.	{	10 centimes	yellow-ochre.
		10 "	Roman ochre.
		10 "	raw umber.
		15 "	light chrome-green.
		15 "	blue-green.
		15 "	olive-green.
		20 "	black.
		*20 "	blue (error).
		*20 "	blue (surcharged 25 in red).
		25 "	smalt blue.
		25 "	dark dull blue.
		40 "	orange.
		40 "	orange-vermilion.
		1 franc	vermilion.
1 "	pure lake.		
1 "	burnt carmine.		

On white paper:

20 centimes black.

The stamps marked * have not been seen by me, but I have no hesitation in giving them upon the authority of Messrs. Overy Taylor and Pemberton. The 1 franc burnt carmine is a very fine dark shade, quite distinct. Though I have not seen them, no doubt some of the other values exist in white paper as well as the 20 c.

Presidency: head of Emperor; on tinted paper; imperf.

1852.	{	10 centimes	yellow-ochre, v. to raw umber.
		25 "	smalt blue.
		25 "	Antwerp blue.

Empire: head of Emperor; on tinted paper; imperf.

1853-60.	{	1 centime	bronze-green, v.
		5 centimes	light chrome-green.
		5 "	blue-green.
		5 "	olive-green, v.
		10 "	Naples yellow.
		10 "	yellow-ochre.
		10 "	reddish ochre.
		20 "	cerulean blue.
		20 "	smalt blue.
		25 "	indigo, v. to blue-black.
		25 "	smalt blue, v.
		40 "	orange-red, v.
		40 "	vermilion.
		40 "	scarlet-vermilion (a very fine brilliant shade).
		80 "	rose.
		80 "	madder-lake, i. e., not purplish tinge.
80 "	carmine.		
80 "	burnt carmine.		
80 "	intense burnt carmine (on very yellow paper).		
1 franc	carmine.		
1 "	burnt carmine.		

All the above exist perforated *à la Suisse*, curious in itself as being, I believe, the coarsest perforation known, i. e., $7\frac{1}{2}$; also from its having been taken by "A Parisian

Collector" as a starting-point in compiling the odontometer. Unfortunately, not having sufficient specimens, I am unable to give any precise shades, but they exist, no doubt, in the same as above, though I do not think the 80 c., intense burnt carmine, formed one of the series. I should be glad to hear if other (French) collectors have met with it, as all the 80 c. *thus perforated* that have passed through my hands, have invariably been in lake and rose.

Of the same series, with "pointed" perforation, I can say but little; they no doubt exist; but I have never been fortunate enough to identify any specimens. This perforation seems to be well known in France; here, not so well, as even in the rather elaborate catalogue of Messrs. Grant the 1 c. and 20 c. are the only values quoted. However, this I must leave to abler hands than myself, and at once pass to the 1862-70 issues, with official perforations, 13½.

Design as before; tinted paper; perf. 13½.

1 centime	bronze-green, v.
5 centimes	light chrome-green, v.
5 "	dull bluish green.
10 "	light umber, v.
10 "	Roman ochre.
20 "	smalt blue, v.
40 "	Venetian red
40 "	dull vermilion.
40 "	orange chrome.

This last is a very fine and distinct shade; all I have seen are on very yellow paper.

80 centimes	dull rose.
80 "	rose-carmine.

In the above series I have not been able to identify so many distinct shades as in the imperf. and we miss the fine burnt carmine shades of the 80 c. and 1 franc. Generally the impressions are, or seem, coarser, and in some of the values, e.g., the 5 c., much blurred, on paper which is all but bluish. These latter I have taken from letters, side by side with the 1870-1 republic, which shows there must have been a large stock of remainders "somewhere" left on hand.

With the above we take leave of the simple—but, to my mind, far chaster—design, and arrive at the so-termed laureated; also four new values. In this series, though the paper is the same, a slight change took place in the colour mixing, notably in the 20 c., the *light* blue shade of which is found

in quite a new tint, corresponding with the blue, known as *vertiter*, of the colour shops.

Laureated head, on tinted paper, perf. 13½.

1863-70.	1 centime	<i>terra verte. v.; i. e.</i> , a cooler shade of green than the previous.
	2 centimes	dark Indian red, v.
	4 "	French grey, v.
	4 "	lilac.
	5 "	green (prepared, but never issued).
	10 "	buff-yellow.
	10 "	warm brown.
	20 "	vertiter blue.
	20 "	rich cobalt blue.
	30 "	umber.
	30 "	Vandyke brown.
	30 "	ditto light and dark (showing horizontal lines).
	40 "	orange.
	40 "	orange-vermilion.
	80 "	dull rose.
80 "	bright rose.	
80 "	carmine.	

Laureated head, 1870; oblong; tinted paper; perf. 13½.

5 francs lilac.

A marked variety exists of this stamp, which is in my own collection, *i. e.*, the 5 and 1 are printed in *blue*, and are *thick and solid* (other copies show the value and letter in double lines); the 1 has no termination at foot; lastly, both letter and figure are printed higher in the frame. A short time since, in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, appeared an article, by a well-known authority, upon the cause of the horizontal lines, showing so strongly upon some copies, which he considered to be bad printing. If such is the case, why the 30 c. should always be the unfortunate individual selected, I should be glad to know, as I am not *aware* of its showing upon any other of the series.

JOURNAL STAMPS.

Large rect.; perf. and imperf.

2 centimes	lilac.
2 "	burnt blue.
2 "	dull blue.
2 "	rose.

UNPAID-LETTER STAMPS.

1857-63.	10 centimes	black (<i>lithograph</i>).
	10 "	black (<i>typograph</i>).
	15 "	black.

The use and employment of the above is so well described by Mr. Overy Taylor in the papers previously alluded to, that I feel it unnecessary for me to say anything upon them.

As regards rarity—with the exception of four or five, *i. e.*, 1 franc vermilion, 20 c. blue, of the Republic, 1847, 1 franc empire, and the 10 c. chiffre-taxe (*lithograph*)—the whole of the series are easy of attainment. The one franc vermilion is undoubtedly a very rare stamp, and few indeed are the collectors who can boast of it. The 20 c. blue (error) is also of equal, if not of greater, rarity. Essays I will not touch upon; there are many of them, and some of great beauty. Though there has been, from time to time, talk of envelopes, none have ever been issued. The republican issues of 1870-3 I reserve for a separate paper.

THE CARLIST STAMP FOR CATALONIA.

OFFICIAL decrees regulating the issue and employment of postage stamps are generally dry reading, and will not bear reproduction *in extenso*. The really interesting information which they often contain is so encumbered and hedged in by tedious repetitions, as to require to be condensed and dressed in ordinary phraseology in order to be made presentable. The documents which appear below form an exception to the usual rule, for the conditions which they lay down, and the penalties by which attention to those conditions is sought to be obtained, are sufficiently striking to render desirable a perusal of the original text. We should say at once that we are indebted to *Le Timbre-Poste* for our knowledge of these ordonnances, and must compliment the editor on his good fortune in obtaining copies of them. The first two emanate from the Carlist headquarters, and the third from the Madrid post-office. We have had to suppress the opening paragraphs of the first, for they are so extremely involved, owing, possibly, to a too literal translation from the Spanish, as to be almost incomprehensible. The brilliant victories of the Carlist armies, the daily accession of new recruits to Don Carlos's standard, the wickedness of the Madrid government, and the need of money to carry on the campaign against the Republicans, are all expatiated on, and a long string of grandiloquent assertions leads up to the announcement, that, as the Pretender is short

of cash, it has been determined to impose a tax on letters, which it is hoped will fall heaviest on the unprincipled people who do not support his cause. The decree then reads as follow:—

1.—A tax is hereby established on letters, and shall be collected by means of special stamps bearing the bust of H. M. King Charles VII. (whom God guard). The value of each stamp shall be 47 hundredths of a real (4 cuartos).

2.—The tax shall become obligatory on the 15th instant, and thereafter all letters which are not accompanied with the above-mentioned stamp shall be stopped.

3.—The *dépôt* of stamps in each town shall be kept in the post-offices of the enemy's government, and the entire responsibility shall fall on the masters of such offices, in case they should at any time be without stamps, seeing that they can get as many as they may want from the departmental administration, if they choose to apply.

4.—The tariff governing the payment of this tax is as follows: For each letter or packet not exceeding 10 grammes, one stamp; if it is above 10 and not more than 20 grammes, two stamps, and so on successively. These rates are to apply to letters circulating within Spain. Correspondence for abroad must be sent under a double envelope. On the outer one must be placed the stamps which cover the circulation in Spain, according to the above tariff, and it should bear the following inscription: *Au Chargé de la correspondance—Pratts de Mollo*. On the inner envelope must be written the name and address of the person for whom it is intended, and stamps enclosed at the rate of three for each one required for the home postage, in order that the said *chargé* may procure and apply the foreign stamps necessary to prepay the letter.

5.—The stamps shall be obliterated by the post-office clerks or carriers, in the same way as those used by the enemy.

6.—Correspondence originating within the region completely dominated by the royal army shall not bear the enemy's stamp. It shall only be allowed to circulate when it bears the stamps created by this decree, and no others.

7.—The employment of the stamps which, under the name of war-tax stamps, have been issued by the usurpers' government is prohibited throughout the principality. Persons who employ the said stamps, and the letter-carriers or conductors on whom letters bearing them shall be found, shall be punished by a fine of 5000 reals the first time. If the offence be repeated, they shall be tried by court-martial.

8.—Official correspondence between the civil and military authorities, or the commanders of columns or batalions, shall be exempt from the tax hereby decreed. Nevertheless, it is an indispensable condition of such exemption that the correspondence shall bear an inscription declaring that it is sent on His Majesty's service, and that it shall also bear the official stamp or seal of the body from which it emanates.

9.—The officials, postmen, rural carriers, or stamp sellers who, from negligence or ill-will, fail in their duty, or counteract the intention of the present decree, and also the drivers of diligences or carriages, and postillions who convey unstamped letters, shall be treated as rebels; the former shall be deprived of their functions, and all will receive the punishment they merit.

10.—The comptroller of the postal department will see that the stamp retailers are regularly supplied with stamps; their applications will be received by the commanding officer of the district, and by him transmitted to the army commanders, from whom the retailers will receive their supplies, an allowance of four per cent. being made to them on the facial value of the stamps.

11.—[Unimportant].

12.—The officers of the administration, and the chiefs of patrols of the auxiliary forces, are called on to assure themselves that the tax yields the product of which it is susceptible, if the above conditions are observed. Therefore they also will be answerable to me for any lack of zeal in their vigilance.

San Boy de Lhusanés, 1st April, 1874.

The Intendant General

Superior *Chef des Affaires*,

FRANCISCO SOLA.

By the next document the decree is communicated by the Intendant General to his subordinates.

II.

Royal Army of Catalonia.

General Administration of this Principality.

By the annexed circular you will acquaint yourself with the tax instituted by this office on letters, and the rules adopted to effect its application.

In order that no prejudice may result to the population under your orders through ignorance, when you receive the said circular herewith, you will be good enough to make it known to them by the usual means, and give particular instructions to the stamp seller of the town, the postmaster, the postmen and others, mail carriers, &c. Of the receipt of this letter, and the accompanying circular, and of the manner in which the instructions are carried out you will be good enough to inform the delegate-general for the affairs of the principality.

May God keep you many years.

San Boy de Lhusanés, 5th April, 1874.

The Intendant General,

FRANCISCO SOLA.

To guide its officials in the dilemma in which the Carlist regulations must place them, the postal department of Madrid issues the following circular.

III.

Ministry of the Interior.—General Directorate of Posts and Telegraphs—Postal Section.—Affairs 3rdly.—Circular No. 13.

His excellency the Minister of the Interior communicates to me this day the following order:—

I have made the president of the executive power of the Republic acquainted with the report presented by the principal postmasters of Barcelona and Tarragona, as to the conduct which they will have to observe when it may unfortunately happen that in the dependencies of the department letters arrive from points occupied by the Carlist faction which do not bear the special war-tax stamp, and on which appear adhesive stamps with the bust of the person called Carlos VII.

as signs of prepayment; and his excellency, in accord with and conformably to the proposal of the postal and telegraphic department, and bearing in mind that not only to permit, but even simply to tolerate the circulation of such letters would be equivalent, from an administrative point of view, to a recognition of the authority which is now opposed by the nation as rebellious, has decided definitely that the letters, journals, and other descriptions of correspondence whereon the stamps showing the bust of the person called Carlos VII. shall appear, and which shall not bear the war-tax stamp, shall be stopped in the post-office, and shall not be transmitted to destination. Letters, however, which lack equally the stamps of the rebellious faction and the legitimate stamps of the national government are to be delivered, upon the addressee, to whom notice shall be sent, paying the postage. By order of the president of the executive power of the Republic, I inform you of this decision for your guidance, and for the effects which result from it. In transmitting to you this decision, I deem it necessary to advise you, for its better comprehension, that the rule as to retention of the correspondence to which it refers applies to two classes; the first that of letters which may be met with bearing the adhesive stamps of the person called Carlos VII. Such letters will in no case, and under no pretext, be forwarded. The other is that of letters bearing no stamps whatever. If such letters are found they will fall within the category of unpaid letters deposited in the letter-boxes, and, as such, the terms of the above order as to their circulation becomes applicable.

Of the receipt of this order you will send me an acknowledgment, and you will be considered responsible for any neglect to carry out its dispositions.

May God guard you many years.

Madrid, 30th April, 1874.

The Postmaster-general,

ANCEL MUNSI.

Probably the reader's first impression on perusing the ordonnance which regulates the issue of the Carlist stamps will be one of astonishment that any civilised being could

be found to make the employment or non-employment of a particular label, a case of life or death. There is something revolting in the idea of a man being tried by court-martial—and we know what such a trial generally leads to—simply for selling the war-tax stamps issued by the Madrid authorities, or carrying letters bearing such stamps, especially when we consider that the penalties are made applicable to the postal officials of towns which are not in the Carlists' possession. The poor *employés* are placed between two pitiful alternatives; they must throw up their posts and possibly find themselves imprisoned in consequence, or if they continue to do their duty, it is at the risk of being hunted down should the Carlists at any subsequent period succeed in occupying their town.

The ferocious tone of the Carlist decree contrasts strongly with the conciliatory spirit of the Madrid circular. In the latter we find no threats, but in their place a sensible hint as to the best means of eluding the difficulty created by the insurgents' tactics. To accept the Carlist stamps as valid, would have been too much of a good thing, but correspondents who abstain from prepaying their letters may be sure that they will go forward all right.

These decrees, taken altogether, give an importance to the employment of stamps which it never had before, and they strikingly illustrate the present state of the conflict. Since they were issued, things seem to have taken an adverse turn for the Carlists, but should the "Young Pretender" of Spain succeed in seating himself on the throne, we hope that if any unfortunate man be under sentence for having been found with a Republican stamp in his possession, the king's first act will be to pardon him.

As to the particular stamp whose employment has been made so strictly obligatory, it is curious that, whilst the decree gives 47 centimos or 4 cuartos as its value, the denomination is really 16 maravedis. This is not a surprising circumstance in a country like Spain, in which old and new currencies are alternately, and sometimes concurrently, used in a most perplexing manner, but it is worth noting.

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—XXXIX.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

Prussia.

THE emissions of Prussia are remarkable, at least in one respect, and that is that they formed a guide and pattern as to colour and value for the issues of a number of German states. In matters postal Berlin was the capital of Germany long before she assumed that position politically, and it is to the credit of the Prussian administration that for a long period it vindicated its right to direct the postal service of the Confederation by the intelligence with which it seized on improvements and led the way in every useful innovation.

Its early issues possess more historic interest than those of later days. The first



three series are adorned with the respectable profile of the last king of Prussia, and the initial series of envelopes bears an admirably engraved portrait of the same monarch. How greatly it is to be

regretted that the subsequent adoption of the national arms as the permanent and exclusive device of the stamps, precluded the representation of the soldierlike face of his militant successor!

Regarded from a philatelic point of view, the stamps issued during the reign of Frederick William IV. offer but little difficulty, at any rate to the beginner. He need not trouble himself with the abstruse distinctions between copies on a patterned or *burélé* ground and those *non-burélés*, which arise in respect of one of the series. The only thing he has to concern himself about is the presence or absence of a watermark.

The first issue consisted of the following values:—

Col. imp.	6 pfennige	vermilion.
Blk. imp.	1 silbergroschen	rose.
"	2	blue.
"	3	yellow.

It made its appearance in the year 1850, and in 1856 a 4 pf. green (col. imp.) was added.

All these stamps bear as a watermark a *laurel crown*, and the portrait is on a ground of crossed lines.

In 1857 the three higher values, 1 sgr., 2 sgr., and 3 sgr., were re-engraved; and whilst the general design of the preceding stamps was adhered to, the details were modified and the execution was finer. The chief point of difference is that the portrait appears on a solid ground, besides which the stamps are printed in colour on white, and are not watermarked. Concurrently with this series the first 4 pf. and 6 pf. continued in use.

In 1858 the design of the second issue was retouched, the lines of the portrait were deepened, and a few strokes of the engraver's burin served to change the solid ground into a ground of crossed lines. So far, then, the design was brought into conformity with that of the first series, but the system of printing in colour on white was maintained. Of this type we have—

4 pfennige	green.
1 silbergroschen	rose.
2	blue.
3	yellow.

These stamps are unwatermarked, and a fresh supply of the 6 pf. vermilion of the first type on *unwatermarked* paper was issued. When selecting copies of this stamp care must be taken to observe whether they show the laurel crown or not, as the absence of watermark is all that distinguishes the 6 pf. of 1858 from its forerunner of 1850.

The four values of the third type are said to exist on *burélé* paper, that is to say, on paper whereon is embossed over the whole face of the stamp a microscopical engine-turned pattern, which, in fact, is scarcely perceptible. Some doubt has arisen as to the genuineness of these *burélés* varieties, but, although the matter can hardly be considered as settled, the best opinion is that probably the *burélage* was applied as a trial, and the stamps which show it were perhaps only essays.

The first three series have been more than once reprinted. The first reprint of the 1850 series was on unwatermarked paper, which rendered detection easy in respect of the 4 pf. and 1, 2, and 3 sgr., but with regard to the 6 pf., which, as above stated,

exists on both watermarked and unwatermarked paper, this test was not applicable; the reprint of that value could only be known by its paler colour. Again, in 1873, the first issue was reprinted, and "it appears," says *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, "that it is exceedingly difficult to distinguish the reprints from the originals, seeing that they are on paper watermarked with the laurel crown, that the plates are not worn, and therefore the impressions are equal to the original ones, and that, although the paper seems somewhat thicker, no fair comparison can be made between these crisp new specimens and the oft-manipulated copies of the known originals. The colour of the paper offers, in respect of the three higher values, about the only test, and even that is an uncertain one. The old 1 sgr. have a more or less marked shade of *rose-orange*; the new are *rose-mauve*: the old 2 sgr. are dark blue; the new, sky or greenish blue: the old 3 sgr. are dark orange-yellow; the new are much paler, with a tendency towards a greenish shade. As to the two lower values, printed in colour, the reprinted orange $\frac{1}{2}$ sgr. is of a more yellowish shade, whilst the 4 pf. green has less of yellow in it. However, that the stamps are reprints is certain, for only a little time back the Prussian post-office did not possess a single old stamp, and now the values of the first series are very easily obtainable.

Throughout the first three series it will be noticed that the values keep to their original colours, but in 1861, for some reason or other, it was decided to abandon the employment of yellow for the 3 groschen stamps, and substitute for it that changeable and ineffective hue which the French call *bistre*, and which we have christened "stone," whilst retaining the other colours previously employed. In 1861 the fourth series made its appearance, and we find it to be composed as follows:—

4 pfennige	green	} arms in octagon.
6 "	orange	
1 silb.groschen	rose	} arms in oval.
2 "	dull blue,	
	ultramarine	
3 "	stone	



The oval design has been so often grumbled at as the acme of prosaic stiffness, that it is hardly necessary to criticise it again. Let us confine ourselves to observing that on the breast of the eagle are the initials F. R., which stand for *Frederic Rex*. No stamps are better known than these, and probably many a young collector has been disappointed at their too frequent appearance in his packets of stamps; no doubt, however, they are a trifle less common now.

In 1865 a new value appeared—the 3 pf. octagon, mauve—designed for the prepayment of circulars, &c., and no further alteration took place in the series, which continued in use until 1868, when the Prussian administration was merged in that of the Confederation.

In 1867, however, a fresh series was issued, with values in *kreuzers*, for the special use of the provinces in which that fractional denomination was employed.

The design may be fairly characterised as superior to that of the groschen series; if not elegant, it has, at any rate, a certain solidity and breadth which are wanting in the latter.



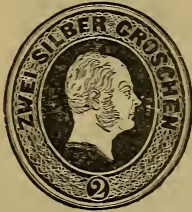
The colours are:—

1 kreuzer	green.
2 "	orange.
3 "	rose.
6 "	blue.
9 "	stone.

As these stamps were in use but a short time, they tend to become much scarcer than the other Prussian emissions, though, on the other hand, the certainty that a large stock was left over when the series was suppressed must be taken into account in calculating the chances of possible rarity.

ENVELOPES.

The first series must be divided into oval and octagonal impressions, as follows:—



Ovals—	1	silbergroschen	rose.
	2	"	blue.
	3	"	yellow.
Octagons—	4	"	brown.
	5	"	lilac.
	6	"	green.
	7	"	green.

The pattern of the frame differs in each value. The ovals were issued on the 15th September, 1851, and the octagons on the 1st September, 1852. They were all originally embossed on paper with two silk threads interwoven, which crossed the stamp, and in 1856 a fresh supply of the three oval impressions, *plus* the 4 sgr. brown, was struck off on paper without threads, but with two lines of greyish black inscription crossing the envelope diagonally above the stamp, and these latter varieties exist on bluish and on white paper. The bluish-tinted are the rarer, as they were in use only a year; the white papers did not appear until 1857.

These are the main features of the series, to which should be added, that on the edge of the neck of the profile appears on all the values the engraver's name, *Schilling*, sometimes followed by a numeral supposed to be that of the die.

Uncut copies of the first issue of this series (the silk-threaded impressions) are by no means common, owing to the pernicious practice which obtained in former days of cutting out the stamps, and some of the values are all but unattainable in a perfect state. The normal colours only are given in above list, but it should be stated that the oval stamps vary very considerably in shade.

In 1861, simultaneously with the issue of the eagle series of adhesives, appeared a corresponding set of envelopes, consisting of 1 sgr. rose, 2 sgr. blue, and 3 sgr. stone, identical in design and colour with the labels of the same values. These envelope stamps have two lines of print *above* the impression. In 1863 the three values were issued with the inscriptions crossing the stamps, but otherwise unchanged. The first issue—with inscriptions above the stamp—are considerably rarer than the later edition. The normal colour of the paper of both is white, but specimens exist of the first edition on slightly bluish paper, and of the second edition on paper of a more pronounced bluish tint.

In 1867 the series was completed by the issue of 3 pf. and 6 pf. envelopes, respectively mauve and vermilion, with inscription across the stamp. They had but a very short currency, and the 3 pf. was at one time a rare stamp, but by some mysterious process it has since become more common.

Envelopes to correspond with the kreuzer adhesives were likewise issued in 1867. The values and the colours were the same as those of the stamps, viz., 1 kr. green. 2 kr. orange, 3 kr. rose, 6 kr. blue, and 9 kr. brown. Each of these values exists in two tolerably recognisable shades. They, like the 3 pf. and 6 pf., were doomed to extinction after a brief existence, but this has not prevented their remaining common in an unused state.

In addition to these stamps, the Victoria Association for Invalids obtained the privilege of franking its local Berlin official correspondence at a reduced rate, and to that effect the 4 pf. green, which does not exist in the regular series, was struck on special envelopes bearing an inscription denoting their employment.

REGISTRATION OR PARCEL STAMPS.

The annexed types were issued in 1866; according to some, for heavy letters and for the prepayment of parcels, of which the post undertook the delivery. They are not, however, issued to the public, but are affixed by the authorities themselves. They are finely engraved, and the ground in-

side the frame is covered with minute repetitions of the Prussian eagle. In style



they remind one of the thaler notes. They are printed on gold-beater's skin, and if detached from the envelope to which they have been fastened, they leave the impression of the design on it, and a simple strip of skin is all that comes away. The utility of these labels having been recognised, the two values were repeated in the series subsequently issued in succession for the Confederation and the Empire, but the innovation of printing on gold beater's skin was not perpetuated.

LOCAL STAMPS.

In the old days of stamp collecting the stamps of the Berlin Express drew attention for some time, but they were speedily discovered to be fictitious, and are now rarely to be seen. A new, and *apparently a bonâ-fide* local office, has, however, within the last few months taken to issuing a stamp and a post card. Of the stamp the design is annexed. Probably the operations of the Berlin local post are in reality confined to the delivery of circulars, and to the performance of work which does not lie within the post-office monopoly, although the contrary has been stated. The fact is, it is very difficult to get to the bottom of assertions made in respect of local stamps, and issues which appear to have been brought out in contravention of the laws which are supposed to govern the working of the government postal service in most countries, should be accepted with much circumspection. A little wholesome doubt is rarely out of place in respect of them, as there is generally a tendency to exaggerate their importance.



THE NEW ORLEANS POST-OFFICE.

[WE insert the following account of the routine of postal work, extracted from the *New Orleans Times*, as an appropriate sequel to the article we recently reprinted from an American paper, describing the process of manufacture of the United States postage stamps.]

Upon the arrival of the mail, the post-office is a scene of busy life. On the outside the expectants gaze through the glass, which separates them from the object of their visit, at the busy clerks within, as with dexterity and skill they rapidly toss the letters and papers in their various receptacles. The anxious crowd never give a thought of the many hands the letters have passed through, and although all have a vague idea of the interior workings of a large post-office, very few are aware of its intricate business. With the object in view of laying bare to the public eye the history of letters before they arrive at their ultimate destination, a *Times* reporter visited that institution, and now appends the result, as an item of interest to our corresponding community in particular and our readers in general.

Entering a door leading to the mail carriers' department, we were conducted to the "D. P. O.," as it is technically called, (which signifies distributing to post towns or sub-distributing post-offices), under the direction of Mr. Henry Thezan. This gentleman has eight assistants, who are engaged in the work of distributing, both day and night, as follows: from 7.30, a.m., to 5, p.m.; from 2, p.m., to 10, p.m., and from 10, p.m., to 7.30, a.m. Thus, it will be seen, no delay whatever occurs in the mails. When the letters are posted these assistants are constantly assorting them, and those letters destined for the city are turned over to the box clerks, while the balance is being deposited in the pigeon-holes intended for their reception, marked with the names of the various destinations. The foreign mails are assorted by Mr. Thezan himself, as it requires a great deal of discretion to discriminate the foreign letters which absolutely require to be prepaid.

It frequently happens that our foreign population are ignorant of this fact, as also of the fact that postage can only be prepaid in *postage* stamps, hence many letters are annually sent to the dead-letter office, and it is positively surprising the number of letters daily received at the post-office which share a like fate.

Noticeably among the illegal stamps employed are the following, *i. e.*, internal revenue stamps, stamps cut out of envelopes, match-box, perfumery, and various other stamps, which the ignorant think serve the purpose equally as well. Many people are labouring under the mistaken idea that a one cent stamp is sufficient for a drop letter, which is doubtless caused by the introduction of postal cards; hence many letters never reach their destination, owing to insufficient postage. This is excusable in cases where persons are not conversant with the postal regulations; but where the clerks of business houses are so careless as to omit to mention the State in cases where there are several places of the same name, thus entailing the forwarding of all such letters (coming under the head of "bad direction") to the dead-letter office, nothing can be offered in extenuation. On an average there are about fifty such ill-directed letters received every day, the majority directed in the same handwriting.

Our reporter's heart bled with sympathy upon being shown a number of daintily perfumed *billets-doux*, addressed in the delicate chirography of, perhaps, a loving sweetheart, with such care and precision; but, alas! her love for the beautiful induced her to carefully cut a stamp from a stamped envelope, and paste it on the corner. Who can tell the amount of misery consequent upon this indiscretion, the agonizing suspense of the fair one, or picture the torturing demon of jealousy entwining itself round the lover's heartstrings!

POST BILLS.

With the mail from New York and Washington a post bill or card, containing the time the mail was sent, is forwarded, and when it arrives in this city, the time received is specified, and as these post bills are kept

on file, it can at any time be exactly ascertained when a certain mail arrived and by what route. Having seen the mail to be forwarded snugly ensconced in their respective pigeon-holes, we followed those letters given to the box clerks, presided over by A. Billet. His assistants selected those intended for box-owners, and passed them on to

THE CARRIERS' DEPARTMENT,

which is superintended by Mr. George P. Wright, with the assistance of S. H. Mathieu. There are at present under his control forty-five mail-carriers, who receive and deliver letters, embracing a district from Upperline-street to the Slaughterhouse, extending back to the Metairie Ridge. Up to date there are three hundred and twenty-five letter-boxes distributed throughout the city. These carriers make four trips a day, receiving and delivering in the districts bounded by Melpomene and Elysian Fields streets; beyond that only two deliveries, one morning and evening, are made. The carriers, before being employed, are required to pass an examination as to qualifications, and, if pronounced capable, have to give a solvent security as a guarantee of honesty and a faithful performance of their duty. They are also required to make a daily report of the total number of letters received from the boxes and delivered. During the past month they have delivered about 300,000 letters and newspapers and 30,000 city drops, or local letters. Two distributors receive the letters from the box department, and assort those having the residence of the person to whom they are sent, apportioning to each carrier a district of about twenty squares; the balance is then referred to Mr. W. L. Hammet, of the general delivery, who, assisted by August Schmidt, in turn reassorts them in alphabetical order, transferring those intended for our French or German population to Felix Cassamire.

A MAIL ARRIVAL.

About this time the mail arrived, and we kept our eye on a foreign looking envelope, bordered with a deep margin of black. Its very appearance betokened grief, or rather ostentatious mourning. We noticed it first

when the D. P. O. assistants took it from the mail-bag, traced its course to the box clerks, from there to the mail carriers, thence to the general delivery, and lastly to the hands of the foreign delivery clerk, where we saw it placed among its companions on the French side among the Y's.

On the whole, our post-office is exceedingly well managed; no one is idle, and everything betokens that each individual clerk has a thorough knowledge of his duties.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

LAGOS.—We are now able to give an engraving of the design adopted for this settlement, and to supplement our description of last month with the information that two other values exist, viz. :—

One penny	lilac.
Twopence	blue.



Our illustration is of the latter value, and we are confident that our readers will confirm our opinion that the type, apart from the indistinctness of the inscriptions, is an improvement on those of Dominica and St. Kitts. Since describing this emission in the last number, we have seen a telegram, addressed from London to the foreign newspapers, stating that Lagos has just been constituted a crown colony. Inasmuch, however, as the stamps have been in use there for at least two months, this information may be characterised as stale, at any rate to philatelists, who, in this instance, have been better posted than the general public.

PERU.—The July number of *The American Journal of Philately* contains an evidently careful engraving of the new type for the adhesives, which is of singular delicacy. The weak point in the design, as in that of Lagos, is the lack of prominence in the inscriptions; but the fault, if fault it is, has the counterbalancing advantage of directing all the attention to the central device. The arms and

flags are tastefully grouped, and the burst of sunlight behind is very effective. The facial value of the stamp engraved is 2 centavos, and, as the old llama series is again in use, our contemporary expresses some doubt as to the issue of an entire series of the new type. It, however, seems hardly possible that the Peruvian government can have gone to the expense of manufacturing so costly a die solely for a low-value stamp. The fact that they are issuing an unpaid-letter series and a set of envelopes, is in itself a tolerably sure indication that a complete renovation of the types is intended. Of the envelopes *The American Journal of Philately* says they will comprise five values, all of the same design. The central device consists of the coat of arms, similar to that on the 2 c. postal; it is embossed in white, on coloured ground, within a pearled cross-like frame, which is broken at the side-ends by panels containing figures of value; these panels are connected at the top by double curved lines, and below by curved label, containing value in letters, while in the upper and lower parts of the frame are respectively the inscriptions—CORREOS—CENTAVOS—in fine Roman capitals. Ornaments in the upper angles of this frame; and tassels depending from the lower. The whole design is on a rectangular groundwork. The values are 2 c., 5 c., 10 c., 20 c., and 50 c. As our contemporary does not give the colours, we presume they are not yet decided on.

UNITED STATES.—The above-quoted journal states that, as the public are dissatisfied with the current post cards, chiefly because of the fancied unfitness of the paper for written communications, they are to be changed, though not for that reason alone. The new cards will be lighter in colour, and the border narrower and neater in appearance, the impression being probably in black ink. We have before us a plain but useful private post card, which was used prior to the issue of the official card. The front is covered with a fine reticulated pattern, and edged with a neat wavy border. In the right upper corner is a neatly-ruled square, enclosing a blue one cent adhesive; and in the left are two lines of inscription, in plain but readable type, reading thus :—

LIPMAN'S POSTAL CARD.
PATENT APPLIED FOR.

Below which again, in an oblong tablet, is a statement to the effect that the design has been "entered according to Act of Congress," &c. On the back of our specimen is an advertisement from the proprietor, setting forth that his card "offers great facilities for short and speedy communications, and for business circulars," and giving a list of useful stationery articles sold by him.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.—*Kotelnitsch* (Viatka).—The annexed design has recently been received in two new colours, viz., 3 kop.



orange, and 3 kop. green, which may be assumed to supersede those previously current. This emission, however, if it has recently taken place, clashes uncompromisingly with M. Moens's statement, that the stamps had been done away with, because the authorities had graciously resolved to deliver all correspondence free in future.



Dmitrow (Moscow).—Since writing last month we have ourselves received copies of the types therein referred to, and annex engravings of them. The diamond-shaped stamp is used to prepay letters. It is struck in carmine-red on white, but the arms are on a solid bright blue ground. The colours—red, blue, and white—are said to be those for which Russians have a preference. They are met with everywhere; images, children's

toys, and common earthenware utensils are nearly all ornamented with red and blue. The large square stamp is for unpaid letters. It is printed in brown on white, and the ground of the inner square is coloured green. Both stamps, it will be observed, are of the value of 3 kop. The fact that *Dmitrow* is in the Moscow government will explain the appearance of the arms in the upper half of the shield.

Souunny (Charkoff).—A blue 2 kop. stamp for this district has been catalogued, but has not yet been seen out of Russia. We have, however, just received a *light green* stamp of that value, and of the same device as the previously known values. It is probably a new emission.

Achtyrka (Charkoff).—The stamp of which we gave an engraving in our last is said to have been issued in 1872, and besides the green one used for the prepayment of letters, there is another identical with it in all points, but printed in blue, which, according to M. Moens, serves as a *timbre taxe*, but which we understand to be an unpaid-letter stamp.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

Le Timbre-Poste.—The three numbers in hand—those of June, July, and August—are unusually interesting, and require special notice at our hands. In the June number M. Moens calls in question the genuineness of the yellow *Corrientes* stamp, and presents a number of arguments in support of his belief that it is simply a fancy impression. He is equally severe on the lilac-rose and later-printed blue stamps; but in the August number he very candidly publishes an interesting letter from an official source, which entirely rehabilitates these labels, and proves that the most plausible conjectures may sometimes be erroneous. According to Mr. F. P. Hausen, secretary to the Argentine post-office,—the correspondent in question,—the yellow stamps having replaced the green in 1867, remained in circulation until 1871. Since that date there have been two new issues—the dark blue stamps, emitted in 1871, and the lilac-rose

stamps, which became current on the 1st of January of the present year. The latter were designed to supersede the blue stamps, of which the issue in 1871 had previously led to the suppression of the yellow stamps. The nominal value of these three several issues is three centavos. The explanation of the cause of their issue is thus given:—

“The fourteen federal provinces forming the Argentine Republic have each their separate administration, constitution, legislature, and judicial staff, just as the entire Republic has its national constitution, congress, and government for general affairs. The post is a national institution, but its resources being insufficient to permit of its giving the necessary extension to the service in Corrientes, the local government possesses and maintains sundry postal lines in the interior of that province, and imposes a charge on letters sent over them. The postal department has had in hand, for the last seven or eight years, a project for nationalising this provincial service; but the government of Corrientes has always avoided giving the necessary particulars as to its expenses and receipts, and the extension of lines. However, it is to be hoped that, owing to the tranquillity of the country, and the perseverance of the postmaster general, M. G. A. de Posada, it will not be long before the local stamps will be suppressed.”

From all this it results that the inculpated stamps are really genuine, but it is none the less surprising that M. Moens should have received, with a letter from another correspondent, a number of obliterated specimens of the yellow and lilac-rose varieties which had never been employed. Perhaps, however, as has been suggested, so long as the cost price is paid, the post-office clerk who sells the stamps makes no difficulty about obliterating them, and a motive for requesting him to do so would be found in the superstitious confidence which some collectors place in the genuineness of postmarked specimens.

It will surprise many people to find that ever since 1864 the Corrientes stamps have continued in use, notwithstanding the issue at that date of a series of stamps for the entire Republic which was intended to su-

persede the local issues of certain states. The opposition of the Corrientes authorities to the orders of the central post-office is another example of the weakness of the tie which holds together the states, which in different parts of South America have formed themselves into Confederations.

Returning to the June number, we find in it an instructive and amusing article on the New Granada *Sobre Porte* stamps of 1867, which many persons consider fictitious. We refer to the 25 c. flesh, 50 c. yellowish green, and 1 peso, pale blue. They were originally chronicled by M. Moens, on the authority of a correspondent of whose loyalty he has never had occasion to complain, and who affirms that he received them from New Granada, with other and perfectly authentic stamps. Subsequently, their character having been called in question, M. Moens wrote twice to Bogota for information on them. The first time he simply received in reply some other stamps which he had ordered; the second time he got no answer whatever. The person to whom he wrote contented himself with appropriating to his own use a remittance of £10 which accompanied M. Moens's letter! Still hopeful, M. Moens wrote again, but this time to Carthage. He received a reply, which he has had by him since 1869, and which he now publishes, wherein the date of issue of the Bolivar stamps is given, but not a word is said about the *sobre-porte* issue. An account was enclosed with it for translation of his letter, postages, &c., amounting to 32/-, so that, as our *confrère* says, taking into consideration his own postal expenses, he disbursed in all about £12, with the satisfaction of obtaining in return precise information as to the date of issue of the first series for Bolivar! He has not pursued his inquiries further, and is now forced to admit that there is a doubt as to the value of the stamps, though he adheres to his personal conviction that they are genuine.

The letter received in 1869 from Carthage gives an edifying reason for the impossibility of getting positive information as to the Colombian stamps. “You are, perhaps, aware,” says the writer, “of the complete disorder which reigns in this

country, and the short duration of our public powers. This will explain why it is not possible to meet with a postal *employé*, who has been more than two years in the service. Consequently, no one gives the date of issue of stamps, which were in use prior to that time." Nevertheless, the writer gives the dates of the principal laws by which the postal tariff was regulated; the first was that of the 27th April, 1859, the second that of the 29th April, 1865; the third, that of the 13th June, 1866. It was by the latter that the issue of 5 pesos and 10 pesos stamps was ordered. With regard to the 2½ c. stamps, the correspondent of *Le Timbre-Poste* says:—

"Letters may be delivered at the house by the postmen or town couriers on condition that they bear, adherent to the letter, a triangular stamp, value 2½ centavos. It is not often, however, that the services of the postmen are utilised in that manner, for these men are most irregular, and there is no punctuality in the service; people, therefore, prefer to call for their letters at the office." He adds: "There is also a local post employed, more especially for the distribution of printed matter of which the service is almost *nil* in a little town, all the citizens of which are constantly at enmity."

The June number, with which we have not yet finished, contains a very useful warning respecting certain pretended reprints of the rare 27 paras of Moldavia. The promoters of what is, in fact, a bare-faced forgery, assert that diligent search having been made in the cellars of the finance office, at Bucharest, the die of the 27 paras has been found, and they present the specimens as impressions from that die. Comparison, however, with the very few original copies extant, reveals the existence of fundamental differences between them and the spurious reprints. It is not necessary to go into the details of these differences, for there is positively no chance whatever of genuine specimens being offered to our readers; we may, therefore, unhesitatingly counsel them to reject any "reprints" that may reach them.

The concluding article of the June number is a letter from Dr. Magnus, urging the editors of *Le Timbre-Poste* and *La Gazette*

des Timbres to cease attacking each other, as they have for some time past been in the habit of doing. The recommendation was necessary, for the articles, though very smart, were by far too personal, and, as Dr. Magnus rightly observes, recriminations between two dealers of equally unquestioned integrity could do no good to anyone, and would tend to bring philately itself into disrepute.

A most erudite article from Dr. Magnus's pen, on the Cabul stamps, forms the *pièce de résistance* of the July number. The learned doctor has had the opportunity of examining four of the five stamps forming the series, and has availed himself of it to analyse, with the utmost precision, the component parts of the inscription. He takes the reader into his confidence at every step of his investigation, and does not confine himself simply to stating results. We, however, are willing to adopt conclusions arrived at with so much pains, and therefore need only say that Dr. Magnus is satisfied that the stamps are genuine, and that they come from Cabul, but is unable to affirm that they are employed for postal purposes, since the inscriptions contain no evidence of the fact. All that can be said to have been ascertained is, that they are used to collect a government charge. Further inquiries must be made to set at rest the question as to the precise service in which they are employed.

The August number is chiefly remarkable for the article it contains on the Carlist stamps. The documents therein given are reproduced in these columns, we, therefore, need not more particularly refer to them here. The closing article is devoted to a consideration of certain alleged forgeries of the Spanish "habilitado" surcharges.

The Philatelist.—"A Descriptive Catalogue of the Russian Locals" runs through the last three numbers, and will probably require two or three more for its completion. It is the work of the editor, and will no doubt prove very useful, recapitulating, as it does, all the information acquired up to the present date, respecting the numerous stamps which now constitute the brigade of Russian local issues. "The Spud Papers," under the Rev. R. B. Earcé's direction, con-

tinued to be as instructive as ever. The philatelic weeds, which are "spudded" in the recent numbers are those of the Sandwich Islands, Western Australia, the Argentine Republic, Italy, Hanover, and New Brunswick. "Philatelic Nomenclature, or the 'Who's who' of Philately," by Mr. John A. Fowler, is the title of a most useful series of papers giving, as far as possible, the names, the dates of birth and death, and other important information concerning the originals of postage-stamp portraits. We feel sure that this list will be widely appreciated, and we should like to see it reprinted in such a shape as would permit of its being slipped inside the covers of stamp albums. Of the pains taken by the compiler to render it as complete and accurate as possible, a single instance will suffice. Not being able to obtain the precise date of Jacques Cartier's birth, he applied to the deputy-mayor of St. Malo, Cartier's native town, for a copy of his baptismal register, which that functionary obligingly furnished. The entry in Mr. Fowler's list respecting Cartier reads as follows:—"10d. (Canada). Portrait of Jacques Raoulet Cartier, baptised 8th November, 1494, died *circa* 1552." Mr. Fowler queries the portrait on the rose 10 c. Confederate, and gives details respecting both Madison and Beauregard, but we think no doubt is now entertained as to the portrait being that of Madison. He also gives Juarez as the original of the effigy on the Mexican series of 1868, but we are not aware of any proof that he was, and were ourselves always under the impression that the republican postal authorities had been faithful from first to last to Hidalgo.

The analysis of prize essays in the June number is less interesting than usual. The offer of a prize for an essay on the various modes of perforating postage stamps produced no very brilliant contributions, and the prize for a poem on stamp collecting only resulted in the tender of a lot of doggerel rhymes of no merit whatever. The designs sent in in competition for the prize offered for the best device for a twopenny international postage stamp appear, however, to have been very good, if we may judge by the descriptions in the August number; the

editor is warm in his encomiums on those to whom he allots the prizes.

La Gazette des Timbres.—The numbers for July and August, though readable as usual, contain but little commentable matter. The leading article, using the term in its stricter sense, is that of Dr. Magnus on the "Germano-French" stamps, as he terms the series which has hitherto gone by the name of "Alsace and Lorraine." Dr. Magnus's title for them may be a good one, but we think custom will be too strong for him. The stamps, we venture to predict, will continue to be known by the name of the provinces in which they took their rise, and to which their circulation was ultimately restricted.

L'Ami des Timbres, like its neighbour the *Gazette*, offers but little ground for observation. It is, indeed, composed solely of a chronicle of newly-issued stamps. Its usefulness we do not for a moment question. We have recently had an opportunity of perusing all the numbers for the present year, and were struck with the completeness of the list of novelties they contain. This periodical fully attains its modest aim.

The American Journal of Philately.—The last two numbers of this journal are replete with useful information. The best articles are decidedly those of Mr. Coster, on "The United States Locals and their History." When the series is complete, it will form a standard work of reference, for Mr. Coster evidently possesses a thorough knowledge of what he is writing about. He fairly states the case for and against the acceptance of doubtful locals. Thus, in respect of the Westervelt issues, after describing "the only stamp issued for strictly postal purposes," he goes on to refer to "two more pretentious labels" issued by Mr. Westervelt several years ago, one adorned with a very bad likeness of General Grant, and the other with the head of an Indian. Of these he says:—

"It is quite possible a few of these stamps (which are printed in every colour of the rainbow) were *allowed* to pass through Westervelt's post so as to give them a more high-toned character, but in my mind there is no doubt that the main object in preparing them was to realise a handsome profit from sales to philatelists."

In the June number we find an interesting account of the detection of a roguish stamp seller. "An Era in Stamp Collecting" was the heading of his circulars. Our contemporary adopts the phrase as the title to his article. The era which a Mr. Charles M. Gale, trading under the style and title of "The Philatelist Stamp Co.," has been instrumental in inaugurating, opens very inauspiciously for him. It was to have been a golden age for him, and for a time his prospects certainly were glittering. By offering all kinds of rare stamps at absurdly low prices, he succeeded in getting a number of credulous collectors to remit him money, and omitted to execute the orders which accompanied their remittances. This one-sided style of acting was not, however, appreciated by his "constituents," and the result, as far as at present known, of their dissatisfaction is, that Mr. Gale has been taken into custody on a charge of obtaining money on false pretences, and bound over to appear and take his trial. We hope, if the accusation be correct, he will meet his deserts and discover that his new era is one of oakum. We regret that the July number contains no further intelligence respecting Mr. Gale.

The Philatelic Herald and Review is a new paper hailing from Cincinnati, honestly conducted, fairly written, and well printed. Its apology for its appearance lies in the fact that it is "an original magazine, cosmopolitan in ideas, and American in doctrine." The tone of the articles is thoughtful and conciliatory. The writers do not run a muck at all who are not satisfied with making merely elementary collections. The editor of *The American Journal of Philately* publishes, in the new magazine, a proposal to establish a philatelic society in America, with branches in the leading towns, and also in Europe. We should like to see the suggestion carried out; and, although on this side of the water a similar attempt proved unsuccessful, we are far from saying that our go-ahead cousins would be unable to "put it through." That depends principally on the amount of vitality in American stamp-collecting circles. There is, however, one reason against the success of

societies, and that is that pretty nearly everything that can be said about the obsolete issues has been said already. If the members of the projected association desire to occupy their time advantageously, they would do well to direct their attention to lately issued stamps, which have not been so much "worked" as their older brethren.

INCONVENIENT QUERIES.

WE are at all times ready to give our opinion on philatelic subjects, and also on stamps submitted to us, especially by our foreign readers; but some queries are submitted to us which are what we may term inconvenient, for were we to reply to them we might appear to pin ourselves to some particular opinion on points which we really deem to be at present undecided. We, therefore, lay before our learned readers one or two of these queries, inviting them to give us such information on them as they can afford us.

1.—Some of the later arrivals from Cuba bring stamps surcharged with a species of knot. One authority says this is a surcharge of value; another, that it is a surcharge equivalent to *Habilitado por la Nacion*; while another says it is only a new obliterating mark.

2.—The envelopes of Bremen are certainly not a *chef d'œuvre* either of design or of printing; but, if we mistake not, there are several types of them, though really we cannot take upon ourselves to say how many, and what are the characteristic differences. Perhaps our readers can assist us.

3.—The real use of the "escuelas" stamps of Venezuela has not, that we are aware of, yet been discovered. One great authority says that they are stamps used in the schools, simply for teaching the youth the business of letter-carrying, dispatch and receipt of imaginary orders, &c.; a sort of practical exemplification of the use of a postage stamp; while another says that they are postage stamps to carry letters for the students at a reduced rate. *The Gazette des Timbres*, however, informs us that one of its correspondents says that they are fiscal stamps, and are to be found in fifteen values, varying from 1 centavo up to 50 reales.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED
STAMPS.

GERMAN EMPIRE.—The 18 kreuzer, stone-brown (*bistre*) of the imperial series has just been issued. The colour and details exactly correspond to the 5 groschen, the sole difference being in the figures and designation of value: centre showing imperial eagle crowned, and with banderoles in plain relief in circle, surrounded by upright rectangular frame; printed in light stone colour on white paper; unwatermarked, and perforated 14.

The reported intention of the German post-office to issue a fresh series of stamps on New Year's Day, is confirmed by the following notice which appeared recently in the *Schlesische Zeitung*, and has been kindly communicated to us by Mr. Max Joseph.

"On and after the 1st January, 1875, the new currency, of which the mark is the unit, will be introduced into the imperial postal administration. On that day new adhesive stamps, stamped envelopes, post cards, stamped newspaper bands, and money-order cards, bearing the value in marks and fractions of marks, will take the place of those now in circulation. A detailed description of the stamps and regulations for their employment will be issued prior to that date, but, meanwhile, notice is given to the public that the stamps bearing a value expressed in kreuzer, as also those of $\frac{1}{4}$ groschen and $\frac{1}{3}$ gr., will cease to be valid on the 1st January, 1875; whilst those of $\frac{1}{2}$ gr., 1 gr., 2 gr., $2\frac{1}{2}$ gr., and 5 gr., may be employed until such time as the existing stock in the post-office is exhausted, when a term will be fixed for their withdrawal."

It may be anticipated that a return to the old system of making the figure of value the salient feature of the device, will coincide with the adoption of the mark currency.

Berlin.—It appears the local post no longer exists. The company by which it was managed has either failed or given up the attempt to compete with the government office. "Too many emissions killed it" is the epitaph which M. Moens indites *à propos* of the intelligence that there exist four

types of the unlovely post card which the company brought out.

BAVARIA.—The administration of this country, anticipating the action of the imperial post-office, has already issued a stamp of the value of 1 *reichs-mark*, denomination equaling 35 kreuzer. The new type is of rather larger size than the stamps hitherto issued. The design is in substance that of the present series. The royal arms and supporters are struck in white on a violet oval disk. Above the crown is the word BAYERN; under the arms, MARK; and in the four corners is the figure 1. For the present this stamp will not be perforated. A double, or reply-paid, 2 kreuzer card has been issued, bearing the usual stamp in green and black inscriptions on grey.

HUNGARY.—New stamps for this kingdom are announced by the *Illustrirtes Briefmarken Journal*. They are to make their appearance on this 1st of October. The design will consist of the figure of value in the centre, the Hungarian crown above, and a post-horn and the inscription MAGYAR KIR POSTA below. The values at present known are—

2 kreuzer,	violet.
3 "	green.
5 "	rose.
10 "	blue.

SPAIN.—The Carlist victory of Abarzuza has exercised an influence on the device of the Carlist stamp. The

pretender now assumes the right to wear the conqueror's laurels, and has issued the annexed label on which his effigy is adorned with the usual wreath. Success appears to have had a softening effect on him, if we may judge from the difference between his present serene look and the almost *farouche* aspect which he wears in the old 1 real blue. It appears that so long since as last January proposals were made to Don Carlos by



his partisans to authorise the issue of stamps with laureated effigy, but his modesty was then too great to admit of his giving his consent. M. Moens states that he has seen an essay which was submitted at that time, whereon the head is literally loaded with laurels. The new stamp is certainly, in many respects, an improvement on its predecessor. It is well and carefully drawn, and the design, if not a very striking one, is, at any rate, correct in its proportions. The corner tablets containing the value are copied from the old 1 real, but the remaining features are original. The colour is lilac, varying to reddish-lilac, on white. It is hardly necessary to add that the stamp is innocent of perforation. Of the 16 maravedis of Catalonia M. Moens has discovered four misprint varieties in a sheet, viz.: (1) *Dios Patria Rey*; (2) *Dios Patria Rfy*; (3) 10 maravedi; (4) *Ano en* (instead of *de*) 1874.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.—*Jeletz*, or *Eletz* (Orel).—We refer again to the stamp issued for this district in order to correct the orthography of the name. We find it given in the other journals as *Jeletz*, and *The Philatelist* states that it is derived from *jelka*, a fir. Our contemporary's correspondent has received a clearly postmarked copy of this stamp, the obliteration whereon is very legible, and reads thus, "Received on the 18th May, 1874."

Arsamass (Nijni Novgorod).—A stamp has been issued for this hitherto unrepresented district, of which the above-named magazine gives the following description: "Arms,—stag (?); inscription in oval; value in four angles; blue on white; 5 kop. Mr. Breiffuss has received a specimen obliterated with the date, 20th April, 1874."

Bobrow (Voronesh).—From the same source we get a description of an apparently uninteresting design for this locality. "Lozenge shaped; inscription at sides; black on pink."

Novaja Ladoga (government?).—Still quoting from our Brighton contemporary, we find, in the September, number the following account of an issue for this district. "Arms and crown in oval inscribed frame; value on white ground in angles; light

green on white. Of this stamp the specimen received by Mr. Breiffuss is postmarked 14/26 May, 1873; hence it is evident the emission is by no means a recent one."

Gdoff. (St. Petersburg).—The stamp represented in our August number was issued, according to *Le Timbre-Poste*, on the 16th April last.

LUXEMBURG.—We learn from the Brussels magazine that the first supply of 5 centimes and 6 centimes being exhausted, a fresh lot has been struck off. The printer, not possessing the necessary blocks to form the frames of the number of cards required to form a sheet, has replaced some of the patterns by others nearly resembling them, but showing a small cross in the centre. Three of them are found at each angle, two on either side, and four in the centre of the top and bottom parts of the frame. The card, instead of being dull white for the 5 c., is of a strong bluish tint, and the shade of the 6 c. card is redder than previously. Reply-paid cards of this new pattern have been issued which differ from the ordinary ones only in the addition of the words, **REPOSE PAYEE—RUCKANWORT BEZAHLT.** To facilitate the separation of the two halves, these cards are perforated.

FINLAND—Helsingfors.—The stamp, of which we give an illustration, and which was issued last month, is, like all its congeners, printed in parti-colours. Three shades are now employed. The large figures 10 and the corner spandrels are filled with a fine blue-lined shading on the white ground of the paper. The 10 PENNI



is in dark green (?), a colour produced by the deep blue of the ground of the inner circle being printed on and over the buff tint used for the letters; the ground of the circle is full plain blue; all the other lettering is in buff or yellow, as also are the side ornaments; the dark margins are of the dark blue-green of the central lettering, produced the same way; printed on white unwatermarked paper, *percé en serpentin*; value 10 penni.

NORWAY.—*Drammens.*—So long since as 1869 it was announced that a new 4 skg. stamp was on the point of being issued. It has at length made its appearance, and is accompanied by a 2 skg. Both values are of the annexed design. The 2 skg. is printed in blue on white, the 4 skg. in blue on glazed yellow paper.



CUBA.—The surcharge, referred to at page 144, on stamps of Cuba is a true surcharge, and not a postal obliteration; that it is not equivalent to *Habilitado por la Nacion*, its presence on stamps of the Republican issues seems to place beyond doubt. We have seen it on 25 c. de peseta "ULTRAMAR, 1871," blue.

In the Belgian journal for September, M. Moens re-affirms his opinion that the *paraphe* in question is equivalent to *Habilitado*. He carefully states it as *his* opinion only. We, on the contrary, in like manner, and as a matter of *our* opinion, hold totally different views.

Our supposition, based greatly on the facts that not only the stamps of Amadeus but those of the Republic have this surcharge, and that it is applied to them before they are issued (for we find unused stamps thus marked), is that the *paraphe* shows a distinction for Puerto Rico.

It is well known that while Puerto Rico, in 1868, at once recognised the Republican change in the mother-country, Havannah refrained from so doing till November, 1873, and the latter never surcharged any of its stamps *Habilitado por la Nacion*, till then, if at all. Puerto Rico did this from 1868, and the probability is that all so surcharged emanate from it, and not from Cuba*.

We are unable to decipher the signatures of the *paraphe*, but our observation leads us to believe there are two forms of it *now* in use, though we take them to be merely different renderings of the same signature, and believe that on the stamps of Amadeus it was the same name.

Like M. Moens, we wait the clearing up

* We publish in our correspondence column a letter received since writing this, from our esteemed contributor, Mr. de Ysasi, which emphatically confirms our view.

of this point, which, as attention is called to it during the currency of the *paraphe*, cannot fail to be soon set at rest.

VENEZUELA.—A new value has been issued for this country of the same design as the pre-existing stamps—2 centavos, yellowish green. The 1 centavo is now printed in lilac; the $\frac{1}{2}$ rl., 1 rl., and 2 rls. continue to appear in shade approximating to those in which they were first emitted, but we are inclined to adopt the conjecture of an American contemporary, that the designs of all have been redrawn or transferred. We have the above five values before us. They are all distinguished by a peculiarity which has attracted much attention. Two horizontal lines of minute black print, about a quarter-of-an-inch apart, cross the design near the centre. The characters which make up the inscription are much blurred, and almost illegible on some copies. The first line is composed of repetitions of the word *CONTRESINAS*, and the second, of the words *ESTAMPILLAS DE CORREOS*. Taken together, the inscription signifies "Countersign, Postage Stamp," and would appear to form a kind of *visa* or guarantee of genuineness. Probably only stamps thus "countersigned" are admitted in payment of postage, and we may infer that the precaution of surcharging has been adopted with a view to checkmate the operations either of forgers or thieves.

ANTIOQUIA.—As a pendant to the three high values for this state recently described, comes the annexed one centavo stamp, printed in light green. The value in this denomination occupies the place of honour, which in the others was reserved for the word *CORREOS*. The latter, though still in conspicuous characters, is relegated to the upper margin, and the words *UN CENTAVO* cross the centre. This is the first instance of the issue of a stamp of so low a value by any one of the "sovereign" states. It would seem as if their postal authorities were desirous of emulating the central office in all respects, but let us hope that the extension of postal facilities which



this issue indicates is not merely nominal, but may be taken as an evidence of the desire of the Antioquians to possess a properly organised service.

BOLIVAR.—This state, like that of Antioquia, seems to have made up its mind to “go in” for stamps. Not a year ago it issued a complete series,



and now it sends another claimant for recognition in the shape of a 5 c. blue on white, of which our engraving gives a good idea. The design differs entirely from that of last year's 5 centavos.

The words CORREOS BOLIVAR are strikingly conspicuous, and perhaps the special prominence given to it is intended as a set-off against the inscription, EE. UU. DE COLOMBIA, in the lower half of the stamp. Our Brighton contemporary argues, with some show of reason, that the new design has been issued in consequence of the central authorities having taken umbrage at the absence of any inscription on the 1873 stamp indicative of the subordination of Bolivar to the Republic. The value of the stamp is unchanged, the colour even is the same as that of last year's issue, and what other motive can there have been than the one above given for changing the design? If the conjecture, that the central authorities “insisted on their supremacy being facially recognised on the Bolivar stamps,” be correct, then we may look for the withdrawal of the other values issued in 1873, and the emission of new designs to replace them.

BRITISH EAST INDIES.—We have to chronicle an entirely new value—the highest yet issued for British India—viz., one rupee.

Specimens came over in the mail arriving in England the middle of September, and we have received a copy from one of our correspondents.

The stamp is extremely similar to the current 6 an. and 8 pies, slate-grey. It is the same size, the same conventional head of the Queen, in the same octagonal border, and of the same colour, on the same watermarked paper, and with the same perforation, viz., elephant's head, perforated 14.

The sole distinctions are that the words of value, *one rupee*, only fill the three lower sides of the octagon, and that the two upright sides, which in the other value bear SIX and PIES respectively, are here filled up with a Greek pattern ornament (?), not very happily conceived. The ornaments in the spandrels also are larger and have a sprawling look, not nearly so neat as in the 6 an. and 8 pies.

Messrs De La Rue & Co., of London, are evidently the producers of this stamp, which will hardly add much to the credit of their designer, though the mechanical part of the work strikes us as quite supporting their reputation.

CABUL.—We have lately seen an envelope to which one of the stamps lately described so elaborately by Dr. Magnus, in *Le Timbre-Poste*, was affixed. It was one of the black stamps, and placed on the back, on one side of the seal (the left), so as to prevent any opening of the flap or sides. The contents appear to have been extracted by cutting the other end off the envelope. Three ink lines with a loop at the end of each, like a figure 6, were drawn from the outer edge of the stamp, one each on the flap and two folds of the envelope, we imagine for security sake. An oval handstamp, with an inscription that looks to our eye Persian, is twice impressed on the back of the envelope, once at the seal, once at the side; the stamp is obliterated by a blue (circular?) handstamp, quite illegible, and on the address side of the envelope is an inscription in four lines of eastern characters, of which we hope to be able to give our readers a further description next month, together with such details of this stamp as will enable us to appreciate its true use and character.

JAPAN.—By the kindness of a valued correspondent, who has recently taken up his residence in Japan, we are in possession of specimens of the Japanese substitutes for postal cards, referred to in a recent number, and consisting of small sheets of paper, $6\frac{1}{2}$ in. by 6 in., folded in half. On the outside of one leaf is struck the stamp, which is placed longitudinally in the upper right corner, within a fancy frame of very simple pattern. On the inner side of this leaf are twelve

lines of Japanese characters. Of the other leaf the outside is quite blank; the inner side, which faces the instructions, contains four ruled lines within a plain double-lined border, to receive the communication. There are two values, viz. :—

$\frac{1}{2}$ sen	brownish red.
1 "	indigo.

In both values the instructions and the ruled lines are in red, a common supply for both being probably struck off in advance. The paper is a common wove, rather thin, and of a yellowish tint. The impressed stamps are from the same dies as the adhesives. The ornamental frame is of the same colour as the stamp it encloses; but it appears that the one sen was first issued with the stamp in blue, as at present, and the frame red, so that there is already an obsolete variety of these postal slips. The $\frac{1}{2}$ sen "slip," we should add, is only valid for local correspondence; for communications with Tokio, or Yeddo, as it was formerly called, the one sen is required.

Besides the cards or "slips," a new adhesive has been issued for this country—6 sen brown. It is thus described by *The A. J. P.*: "The design consists of a riband, arranged ovaly, 6 SEN in the upper portion, repeated again in the lower part, the sides being taken up with Japanese characters; within is the circular ornament common to the other values; Japanese characters on the sides, above and below; a groundwork of semi-circles like the slates on the roofs of old houses; the whole within a rectangular frame, ornamented curves filling the spaces between it and oval bard."

MEXICO.—Sets of the last issue—both stamps and envelopes—have arrived in Europe without any surcharge. We are not informed if they are so issued to the public; all we have seen are unused; the absence of the black disfigurement enables the beautiful execution of the stamps (we say nothing of the designs) to be fully appreciated. They are so exquisitely done, that we hope that proofs may be obtainable before the fineness of the dies has been worn off. The New York firm, justly proud of the excellence of its work, usually prints off a small *édition de luxe*, in the shape

of proof impressions mounted on card, and we never heard of any inconvenience attending the practice, although we do know of material advantages resulting from it in increased reputation to the producers. Our own postal authorities are, as it strikes us, over fearful, and the crown agents for the colonies share the like doubts in this respect, so that the engravers of the dies are prohibited from striking off and disseminating proofs of their artistic skill and excellence, even though effectually obliterated with the word *specimen*.

That a more liberal policy might with safety be adopted, is clear, but English post-office officials seem so struck by the past liberality of the great postal reforms inaugurated by Sir Rowland Hill, that they rely on their formerly acquired reputation, and appear unconscious of the fact that, in this as in many other instances, ideas which were somewhat in advance of their period thirty years ago, are now comparatively antiquated.

Verbum sap.; but a hint, and a tolerably strong one, is required, if our postal service is to keep its foremost place—to be in advance, and not behind the wants and wishes of the public.

The newly-issued set of stamps has also arrived with the surcharge of the name of the issuing post-town in an arch over the head of the portrait. This certainly, when accurately applied, does not tend to destroy the beauty of the stamp as much as the system of impressing the name at random across their face. The surcharge of the figures of issue remains as before.

We thus have three sets of these stamps:

I.—Surcharge applied across face of stamp.

II.—Without any surcharge.

III.—Surcharge of post town in arch.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.—We learn that specimens of the 1 real, blue, 1854 y 55, head of Queen Isabella, surcharged *Habilitado por la Nacion*, have been received in London direct from the Manilla post-office. This is certainly utilizing old stock on hand with a vengeance. The specimens referred to were sent, unobliterated, to a well known member of the Philatelic Society of London, with

many other obsolete rarities of the Philippine Islands.

Another stamp of the 1874 type (seated figure, FILIPINAS at top) has made its appearance. The value is 1 peseta 25 c.; the colour, light stone.



PERU.—We are now in a position to give an engraving of the admirable design for this country, to which we alluded in a preceding number. Nothing further is yet known about the forthcoming series.

NEW ZEALAND.—The twopence vermilion, type full face of the Queen, will get confusing if its varieties of watermark are not noted as they are discovered.

We write with a fine perforated copy, plainly watermarked NZ. with star of five points, before us, the same paper and watermark as that on which the present series is printed.

We also have the same 2d. vermilion on plain unwatermarked paper, and on paper watermarked with parallel straight lines, crossed by lines arranged diamond wise, so as to show a trellised pattern. This last is uncommon, and probably belongs to the edge of a sheet of stamps.

Of the actual current issue we have one penny lilac, and twopence rose on distinctly blue paper—a paper made blue, not *bleuté* by gum. The watermark is NZ. with the obtuse-rayed stars of five points.

GRIGUALAND WEST.—A Cape Town correspondent informs us that the order for the projected stamps has not been sent home yet, and that although the designs have been prepared, the matter is still in abeyance. The adopted type is said to consist, as far as the framework goes, in a lozenge within a rectangle.

BERMUDAS.—There are two varieties of the surcharged word *Threepence* on the shilling stamp; in one it is printed in large upright capitals, and in the other in italics.

BOLIVIA.—The 500 centavos, black: it has generally been supposed by most collectors that one type only of this high value existed—that with *nine* stars below the arms; but

by the last mail from Washington a respected correspondent sends us word to the effect that he lately received from the republic of Bolivia a complete set of this series, of which the 500 c. showed *eleven* stars.

ST. VINCENT.—The one shilling now comes over of a dirty rose colour.

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—XL.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

Romagna.

THE stamps of Romagna seemed at one time to be destined to become rare. They were scarce at a time when the issues of Parma, Modena, and Tuscany were common, and it might reasonably have been supposed, seeing how short was the period of their currency, that they would constantly increase

in value. But not only is it possible at the present time to obtain questionable reprints at a nominal price, the far more valuable obliterated specimens are also to be had for a few pence, and are much more frequently met with than, for example, the upright Oldenburgs. That so large a number of stamps should have been employed in the course of five or six months in a province by no means remarkable for its commercial importance, is surprising; yet the fact, as apparently evidenced by the commonness of most, if not all the values, remains.

The emission of the series took place, as everyone knows, shortly after the inauguration of the provisional government of Romagna. The people of that province, seeing the success which had attended the struggle for liberty in the north of Italy, took it into their heads to free themselves from the Papal yoke, and their unceremonious action in the matter was viewed with no great satisfaction by the diplomatic world. Out of the Napoleonic idea of a free Italy from the Alps to the Adriatic was growing a greater idea, that of a free Italy throughout the regions traversed by the Apennines. They who had set the ball



rolling were astonished at the momentum it had acquired, and would, perhaps, have been glad to arrest its progress, but that could not be done. The Romagnese, after a short struggle, gained their liberty, and, as a necessary preliminary to union with Piedmont, a temporary government was established. From that government (to return to things postal) emanated, on the 2nd July, 1859, a request to Professor Silvestri Gherardi to furnish a design for the stamps of the emancipated provinces. Professor Gherardi, an inhabitant of Turin, appears to have taken no notice of the order. The government then applied to the Turin post-office, and the authorities there sent a set of Sardinian stamps to serve as models for the projected set; but apparently the designs did not find favour at Bologna, for, instead of adopting a type adorned with the king's portrait, the Romagna administration took refuge in the above unpretending and unlovely device. It may be conjectured that considerations of economy had something to do with the decision, which was taken after an inspection of a series of proofs struck in black on colour.

The article from which these particulars are taken* states that the printing of the stamps was undertaken by a Bologna firm, that of Tinto and Merlain, and that the casts were made by Amoretti Brothers, also of Bologna. The sheets are divided into two parts, each containing six rows of ten stamps.

The decree authorising the emission reads as follows:—

The Governor-General of Romagna

Considering that postage stamps are requisite, both to facilitate the work of the post-office and for the convenience of the public.

Considering that those which bear the Papal arms can no longer be admitted,

Decrees,—

Art. 1.—The stamps bearing the arms of the Pope are suppressed.

Art. 2.—On and after the 1st Sept. new postage stamps shall be issued, with the following inscription:—FRANCO BOLLO POSTALE, ROMAGNE, and the value in the centre in *baiocchi*.

Art. 3.—The Finance Administrator is charged with the execution of the present decree.

The Governor General,

CIPRIANI.

The Finance Administrator,

G. N. POPOLI.

Bologna, 30th Aug., 1859.

The values of the stamps are as follow:—

$\frac{1}{2}$	baioccho	lemon.
1	”	iron-grey.
2	baiocchi	dark yellow.
3	”	dark green.
4	”	red-brown.
5	”	dull lilac.
6	”	light green.
8	”	rose.
20	”	light blue.

The employment of the 6 baj. has never been proved, though the writer from whom I quote is of opinion that that value was issued with the others. He bases his argument on the founders' (Amoretti Bros.) invoice for the casts, in which those of the 6 baj. and 8 baj. are entered as having been delivered together to the printers; and, if delivered to the printers together, why should not the supplies of the two values have been struck off together? This chain of reasoning is obviously incomplete. It certainly does not prove the simultaneous issue of the 6 baj. and 8 baj.; it only creates a presumption to that effect, which is weakened by the fact that no used specimens of the 6 baj. are known.

The entire series was withdrawn on the 31st January, 1860, in execution of a decree of the governor of the Emilian provinces, dated the 12th of the same month, though a delay of two months was allowed for the exchange of the stamps against those of Sardinia, which were appointed to supersede them.

After the suppression of the stamps (says the writer already quoted from) the dies, badly packed, were forwarded to Turin, and arrived there in bad condition, most of them having had the corners knocked off during the journey. A postal *employé*, Mr. J. Gozo, nevertheless obtained from the dies a number of impressions in all colours, his practice being to unite all the values and print them off on the same sheet. Later on, desiring to hide the defects presented by the stamps printed from deteriorated dies, Gozo got an engraver to add an outside frame, consisting of six to seven thin lines. The impressions from these manipulated dies are worthless.

* *Le Timbre-Poste*, vol. x., p. 92.

Roman States,

(OR STATES OF THE CHURCH).

No one can look on the stamps of the Pontifical government without some degree of interest. They have no claims to artistic merit, in fact they are unworthy to the last degree of the city in which they were printed; but they bear the world-famed arms of a

power which stands apart from all others in its origin, and in the mighty influence it still wields. The keys of St. Peter and the papal tiara are symbols of peculiar import. They are linked with religious and historical associations of the gravest nature, and they remain the emblems of a spiritual dominion which has outlived the temporal sovereignty. Hence the philatelist who takes a pleasure in noting the suggestiveness of the humble labels which fill our albums, will be inclined to give particular attention to the issues of the Roman States.

The Papal government has never been conspicuous for its fondness for progress, and its conservative habits appear even in its postal rates. Such as they were in 1816 such they remained, at any rate, until the issue of the series with decimal values. Until the end of the last century all the powers who were represented at Rome had their own couriers, and the local correspondence of the country was carried on by the nobles for their own profit. When the French invaded the States they put an end to these manifold privileges, and established a uniform postal service, which was carried on by the government as in other countries. This service was continued by Pius VII. when he returned to Rome in 1814, and in 1816 he published a postal tariff which, as above stated, remained in use without any alteration until 1867, and perhaps until 1870, for I am not sure that the change in the denominations was accompanied by any modification in the rates.

The emission of postage stamps took place under the auspices of Cardinal Antonelli, who signed an order, dated the 29th

November, 1851, and on the 19th of the following month the pro-minister of finance issued a notice concerning the employment of postage stamps, in which it was stated that they would be of eight different kinds, from a half-bajoccho up to seven bajocchi, inclusive. Nothing is said of the colour of



the stamps, nor is any reference made to the three other values which were issued, viz., 8 baj., 50 baj., and 1 scudo. No trace of any order for the emission of these stamps can be found, and it would appear that of its own authority the post-office issued them, on finding that they were necessary for the



prepayment of the numerous letters sent from Rome to distant parts of the world. Whether that was really the cause is uncertain. I have always been under the impression that, as the Papal government had no postal treaties with other powers, letters from Rome could only be prepaid up to the Italian frontier. Whatever may have been the true motive for the issue, it is worth



noting, that for a long period Rome was alone among the European states in the possession of a stamp of so high a value as a scudo (4/-).

The colours which were selected by the post-office were the following :—

$\frac{1}{2}$ bajoccho	pale lilac.
1 „	bluish green.
2 bajocchi	yellow-green.
3 „	buff.
4 „	pale brown.
5 „	rose.
6 „	bluish grey.
7 „	blue.
8 „	white.
50 „	blue.
1 scudo	red.

Changes subsequently took place in the shades of some of the stamps; but it appears that they were entirely accidental, and due only to irregularities in the colouring of the paper. Thus we find that the $\frac{1}{2}$ baj. passed through some noticeable modifications, be-



coming of a reddish violet in 1862, and olive-brown in 1864. The 3 baj. varies from brown to pale brown; the 4 baj., from pale brown to bright yellow; and the 50 baj. is found in two distinct shades of blue. Minor differences of shade are noticeable in the 1 baj., 2 baj., and 6 baj.; the remaining values remained tolerably faithful to the original colours.

With regard to the designs, it is remarkable that not only does the shape of the frame differ in each, the armorial bearings also were engraved specially for each value.



The handles and, in some instances, the shafts of the keys vary considerably in shape, and are diversely ornamented. In some values the handle is round; in others, curved inwards at the centre; in others, oval,

with an interior cross-shaped pattern; some of the handles have a scalloped inner edge; others, a chain-pattern; others, a series of dots, and so on throughout this curious series, as a glance at the engravings which accompany this article will show.

In 1867, in consequence of the adoption of the decimal currency, a new series of stamps became necessary. It is to be regretted that the opportunity was not taken advantage of to adorn the stamps with the Pontiff's effigy. The administration, however, appears to have been intent on realising an economy, and finally decided on the re-issue of the old types with values altered to suit the occasion; we have consequently—

1867. 2 centesimi	[2 baj.]	bright green.
3 „	[$\frac{1}{2}$ „]	grey.
5 „	[3 „]	light blue.
10 „	[8 „]	vermilion.
20 „	[4 „]	crimson.
40 „	[6 „]	yellow.
80 „	[1 „]	rose.

These stamps are all printed in black on coloured glazed paper. In 1868 they were reissued perforated in the same colours, and in 1869 the 20 c. appeared in solferino colour. The old 50 baj. and 1 scudo did not share in the general metamorphosis; probably they were not employed sufficiently to render necessary their reproduction.

In September, 1870, the Papal territories were invaded by the Italians on the withdrawal of the French garrison; the temporal power gave way, and the States of the Church, with Rome itself, have since formed part of the kingdom of Italy, the Pope withdrawing, in consequence, to the Vatican. At what precise period the Romish stamps were withdrawn is uncertain. The rumour ran that they remained in use within the precincts of the Vatican for the service of the Papal functionaries and adherents, but that is not probable. It is more reasonable to suppose that when the postal service was taken in hand by the Italian government the Papal stamps at once ceased to circulate. They are now very common in an unused state—I allude of course to the lower values—and in this instance I see no reason to suspect that the copies which are offered are re-

prints. It is more likely they formed part of the "remainder" left over in the Roman post-office.

The 50 baj. and 1 scudo continue rare. They have been frequently forged, however, and inexperienced collectors should be careful what they buy.

Of essays there are none known, except an apocryphal type which was communicated to a continental paper in 1867. Yet it appears that even prior to that date numerous offers to furnish designs for a new series were received from foreign houses.

NOTES ON THE EARLIER ISSUES OF FRANCE.

A DISCUSSION in our columns on the subject of the paper by "Netsua" in last month's *Stamp-Collector's Magazine* may not be out of place, the more so, as but little has hitherto appeared relating to the stamps.

It is curious to observe how, in almost all matters touching philately as a science, that great and accomplished collector, M. George Herpin, of Paris, was the pioneer of our more recent learning; to him belongs the honour of the first attempt to reduce the stamps of France to a systematized classification.

The result of his labours appeared in *Le Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste*, a journal long since defunct, published by M. A. Maury, in Paris, and to what then was written but little can be added. Certainly, a list or bare chronicle of shades, such as "Netsua" gives, and a classification of the subsequent issues are possible additions; the former, very useful to a collector; the latter, indispensable to collectors, catalogue makers, amateurs; but for all purposes little or nothing has come to light of late years to alter or vary the facts as published by M. Herpin, in 1864.

"Netsua," in compiling his reference list, has evidently not been aware of what M. Herpin thus published, nor has regard been had to *Le Magasin Pittoresque*, nor to either the French or German catalogues or publications. This is to be deplored, as what appears in the columns of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* is supposed to represent

somewhat approximately the state of general philatelic knowledge on the subject treated of; and from the evident pains bestowed on the paper, the compiler might have done himself and his subject alike more justice, had the sources of information referred to been consulted by him.

In dealing with shades, the compiler has felt the need of some standard; a need common to all who try their hands at making a list; recourse has been had to the artists' colourman, and the names assigned taken from those of a water-colour box. It is impossible to be accurate and consistent without some standard; the trouble is to find one universally accessible and acceptable.

"Netsua" has chosen Winsor and Newton's water-colour list; but if Newman's, or any of the standard colourmen, had been selected, though in main tints they all agree (e.g., Prussian blue), in subsidiary shades a wide difference will be found to exist between them, which of itself almost prevents the list of a colourman being taken as the general standard.

If another trade dealing in colours be appealed to—dyers—they will be found to vary *toto cælo* from the colourmen in their nomenclature.

But in taking one particular firm for the sake of a particular essay, and saying this is what I name by, the chance of error is removed, *provided* all readers can tell what that firm designates by the particular shade, and the writer adheres to his standard; the *probable* error and *certain* inconvenience is, that all will more or less generalize and reason as if what their standard names a shade must designate that shade everywhere else.

Of this the writer, who spells his name Netsua, affords a rather amusing example; he says he *does not know* why the 10 centimes are usually said to be of the shade *bistre*, for that is one of the darkest browns in the colour-box (*id est*, Winsor and Newton's colour-box). Now, if Netsua had contented himself by stating the fact that the *bistre* in his standard of reference was much darker than the shade in which the 10 centimes were printed, he would have been right, but the *bistre* of us English and that

of the French differ. Ours is a deep brown; theirs, a light stone tint, in which a shade of yellow appears. They are right in calling the 10 centimes *bistre*; it is so. We must, to call it *bistre*, mean the same tint as the French intend by that word.

Again, the French have names which designate hues and shades for which we have no equivalent: how, for instance, would "Netsua" translate into one word the shade so well known under the style *amaranthe*?

Turning now to the list of the stamps of the Republic of 1849-50, the 20 c. blue (error) has no business there; it never was used as a stamp, nor was it issued. The history is well known; there were some blue stamps, value 20 centimes, printed in error; this blue colour was intended for the value 25 centimes, the error being discovered before any of the stamps were issued; but on the eve of their being announced as procurable, a supply was surcharged in red "25 c." Meantime, M. Hulot, the energetic engraver at the *Hotel des Monnaies*, by dint of great exertion, had prepared the die of the 25 c. blue, and got a supply printed off and ready by the day fixed for the issue, so that the intended provisionals with the surcharge, became useless, were never issued, and were destroyed, except the rare copies now in collector's hands, and which no doubt originally came from the sample sheet or two preserved at the Paris Mint.

Thus the 20 c. blue, with red surcharge, equally never existed as a stamp: two of Netsua's list ought therefore to be expunged.

That Moens, on the authority of the specimen of a 20 c. blue, obliterated in the post, gives 20 c. *blue* as a stamp because it is found in a "Parisian Collector's" fine album, does not militate against the fact. Having carefully examined this unique copy, it seems to be genuine beyond suspicion, but marked in error, probably mistaken for a 25 c. stamp. Netsua takes no notice of the reprint of this series of 1849-50 made in 1862, including a *pale* blue 20 c., of which he does not seem to have seen a copy, but he does catalogue the tints of this reprint with the rest of the original stamps of the issue, and apparently confounds them. It

is most singular that this reprinting—made at the Mint itself, to satisfy a request by the English government for specimens of the 1849-50 issue—*did* include a 20 c. blue stamp *which never existed*.

The *Susse* perforation, done by *Susse frères*, the booksellers, to oblige their customers, is 7, not $7\frac{1}{2}$, if measured by the 2 centimetre gauge, the standard to which all refer. Original copies are somewhat rare, but the machines being still extant, use was made of them a few years ago (1869, probably), to perforate numbers of old used stamps, so that, unless one can be sure of the specimen as having its history prior to that year, more or less doubt must occur.

Messrs. *Susse Frères* began to perforate in 1861; *all* government stamps were then imperforate, hence the 80 c. deep carmine (*Netsua's* intense burnt carmine)—which was issued in 1854, and followed very quickly by the 80 c. carmine (in 1854), and in 1860 by the 80 c. rose—naturally was not *piqué à la Susse*, it was no longer in issue.

Netsua, while mentioning the pointed perforations, *percés en scie*, of the 1 c. and 20 c., also a private enterprise like *Susse Frères*, omits the very singular stamps, *percés à la roulette*, done by the French government in 1861. The public demanded to have stamps issued so as to be severable by tearing; to meet the desire, some official at the Mint devised this *perçage en ligne*, a line of straight cuts, with small interstices between, and sundry sheets were so prepared, a few of which had been issued, when a person started up, who had previously patented the same process, and threatened the stamp-office with legal procedure, unless they compensated him or abandoned the use of his plan. Unlike an English government, in like cases of patentee's rights, the French officials gave way and stopped the further use; while waiting in indecision whether to buy a license or not, the process of perforation as now in use was perfected, and being every way more desirable for them, they adopted it.

French stamps thus *percés en ligne* are most rare, and form a very curious and noteworthy series in any album.

The variety of the 5 francs, with solid lettering in the imprint of the "5 F.", in lieu of the outlined letter and figure, is accidental; anyone who even superficially examines a copy of this value, will see the 5 F. is printed after the stamp has been otherwise completely printed; the position of this surcharge on the stamp, therefore, does not indicate any change of die, but only where the particular sheet happened to fall under the press.

The 30 c. certainly is, as remarked, that in which the lined background is chiefly seen. It is occasionally found in the 20 c. Can it be that the linen-coated ink-roller was tried, and was ultimately rejected? Differing dies, as the French dies are multiplied from one matrix by electrotyping, are impossible.

The history of the French stamps and the various details arising are not only curious but overlong for one paper, and these desultory remarks must end for the present. The Republic of 1870 and its issues present a fair field for the labours of the most enterprising philatelic student. Meantime, to Netsua thanks are due for his painstaking care in the list he has furnished.

RAMBLES AT HOME AND ABROAD.

BY QUELQU'UN.

IN the month of June last we offered some observations, in the pages of this magazine, on the Russian locals; not so much with a view to prove their genuine character, which we regarded, and continue to regard, as above suspicion, but to reply to certain charges made against them by Mr. de Joannis, in this magazine, in March last. It will be in the recollection of those of our readers who take an interest in the question, that Mr. de Joannis had challenged M. Moens to produce any *used* copies of the Russian locals. Why this challenge should have been addressed to M. Moens we were at a loss to conceive, except it were from the fact that his extensive relations enabled him to ferret out a large number of these stamps which had, up to that time, been known only by report. In May last, however, *The American Journal of Philately* took up the cudgels, not exactly as

bottle-holder to Mr. de Joannis, but by an attack on this magazine. "We shall," says the editor of *The American Journal of Philately*, "take up his [Mr. de Joannis's] half-timid inquiry, and challenge our contemporary—*The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*—to prove the authenticity and official use of these labels, which we do by boldly denouncing them as humbugs." In support of this challenge he adduced the testimony of a gentleman "domiciled in Moscow," of high standing about the court, of "business cares and necessities," and of a heap of other equally potent qualifications to render him an authority in matters of postage stamps. This gentleman declared his absolute disbelief in their existence; but he, unfortunately, went on to give reasons, and these, being grounded on false premises, his testimony was pretty well demolished by the editor of this magazine in July last, who showed that if the knowledge of this gentleman regarding postage stamps was not in excess of his knowledge of Russian politics, it was not worth much.

But what a great matter a little fire kindleth! See what a remarkable commotion two or three lines, written in March last by Mr. de Joannis, in joke, at the tail of a letter, about the authenticity of the Don Carlos 1 real blue, have produced! We say, written in joke; for the editor of *The Philatelist*, who doubtless is either inspired by Mr. de Joannis, or knoweth what is in him, tells us that "the editor of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* is mistaken in imagining that Mr. de Joannis ever had the least intention of frightening collectors out of a taste for Russian locals. That gentleman is, and ever has been, an earnest collector of them, and merely made the challenge complained of to draw forth all possible information in their favour." If, therefore, what Mr. de Joannis wrote in March last was anything more than a joke, he must have been moved by public considerations,—by a desire to set the minds of collectors generally at ease on the authenticity of the stamps in question. Of their genuineness he could not himself have had the slightest doubt, "as he is, and ever has been, an earnest collector of them," and no one in his senses would expend

"earnestness" in collecting *carottes*. For our own part we are not sorry that the bait took. It has given rise to some examination of the question of their employ; and we certainly do not complain of the challenge, though we think that the information sought for by Mr. de Joannis might have been obtained in some other way than by decrying a thing to find out what can be said in its favour.

While, however, we are informed that Mr. de Joannis is, and ever has been, "an earnest collector" of Russian locals, the editor of *The American Journal of Philately*, in default of argument, becomes scurrilous, and devotes nearly one third of the August number, not to any proof of their non-genuine character, but to downright abuse of the editors and proprietors of this magazine, charging them "with such a course of blundering and swindling, if you will, as may deter anyone from touching Russian locals." In England such language is a libel; what it may be in New York we neither know nor care. It is below notice; and yet the writer, in "blowing his own horn" as he terms it, appeals to the pages of this magazine as the medium by which he was first introduced to the philatelic world. What an ungrateful bantling!

The editor tells us that he appears as prosecuting attorney, and produces his indictment, consisting of twelve counts, and covering two-and-half pages of the journal. The first refers to the well-known so-called essays for Paraguay. The second insinuates that this magazine described the 1866-7 fiscal stamps of Peru as postage stamps, for the purpose of misleading the postage-stamp collecting public. The third accuses this magazine of endorsing Mr. Chute's St. Domingo stamp. The fourth states that the editor supported M. Moens's *jeu d'esprit*, the Moresnet stamp. We can only suppose that the editor of *The American Journal of Philately* has been made an "April fool" of by this *poisson d'Avril*. It shows how little he knows about the matter when he speaks of the Moresnet joke played upon the *redacteur* of *Le Timbrophile* in a serious manner, and as an attempt to foist a *carotte* on the public. The editor says triumphantly—"How about

Moresnet, Mr. Quelqu'un?" We reply—How about Moresnet, Mr. Editor?

The fifth and sixth counts accuse this magazine of an attempt to bolster up the Guatemala stamp, by representing it as the work of the American Bank Note Company. If we are not mistaken, the editor of this magazine was not the only one who was deceived for a short time about this Boston *carotte*.

The seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth, and eleventh counts refer to the Paraguay stamps, which appeared about six years ago, and deceived many, even experienced dealers in Paris. We ourselves suffered to the extent of a few francs on the recommendation of a dealer there, with whom it was always a pleasure to do business, but who was himself deceived.

The last count relates to the "Clara-Rothe" stamps; and in this case the proprietors of this magazine are accused of endeavouring to foist them on the public, because they stated that they were "inclined to believe in them," as M. Mahé, who usually erred on the side of incredulity, referred to them. Then comes a general clause, "that as far as we have gone into these researches this is the last swindle which *The S. C. M.* endorsed."

We have, we fear, exhausted the patience of our readers with so long a reference to this stuff, but we have done so in order to put plainly before them the issue raised between the editor of *The American Journal of Philately* and the editor and proprietors of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, which is this: The editor of *The A. J. P.* deliberately charges these latter gentlemen with using the pages of their magazine for the purpose of palming off the original Paraguay essays, the 1866-7 Peru fiscals, Mr. Chute's St. Domingo stamp, M. Moens's Moresnet, the Guatemala harbour-scene stamps, the later Paraguay humbugs, and the "Clara-Rothe" stamps, upon the public as genuine stamps, the proprietors being at the same time dealers in stamps. He, in fact, attempts to destroy their credibility as evidence in favour of the authenticity of the Russian locals by charging them with swindling the public in the matter of the stamps mentioned in the indictment.

Now, we venture to say that there is not one stamp collector in Great Britain that has ever had cause to speak otherwise than in the highest terms of the perfectly honourable character of the dealings he may have had with the firm of Messrs. Alfred Smith and Co., and the cognate firm connected with *The Philatelist*. We refer to those gentlemen by name, because the editor of *The A. J. P.* has thought fit to name this first-mentioned firm, and to cast a slur upon it. We have ourselves had some experience in stamp-collecting, and have the pleasure of knowing most of the collectors on this side of the Atlantic whose judgment is especially to be relied upon, and yet we know not one who is able to say he has never been deceived. Why should the editors and proprietors of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* be the only exceptions to the rule? They are not infallible, but they have always done what they could to expose fraud; and wherein the editor of *The A. J. P.* charges them with the *scienter*, he slanders them vilely.

We now leave *The A. J. P.* alone in its glory, the only champion of the opponents of the authenticity of the Russian locals. The editor can no longer fall back upon Mr. de Joannis—or, as he denominates him, *H. A. de Joannis of London*—for support. This gentleman owns that he has been long since converted; or, perhaps, what is nearer the truth, never needed any conversion, but has been a faithful believer in them. The editor of *The Philatelist* also, who is not a remarkably blind man in philatelic matters, is doing good service in favour of these locals by his series of papers upon them.

Our ramble has extended to an inconvenient length; let us only, in conclusion, briefly refer to some information, evidently gathered on the spot during a summer tour, by the editor of *The Philatelist*, regarding that eminently Swiss institution "the inn-keeper's postage stamp;" or, as he terms them, "the mountain locals."

Certainly, the hotel and boarding-house keepers in Switzerland do not lose the opportunity of turning an honest penny when they can. It appears from *The Philatelist* that the Rigi-Coulm and Maderanerthal stamps are

still "in active service." The editor has had no opportunity of visiting the Rigi-Scheideck *pension*, but hopes to be able to bring news of Belalp. The stamps of the Rigi-Kaltbad, with the Alpine rose, have become things of the past, and are now obsolete; but the most alarming accounts are those respecting the state of the "original bird," which is, or rather was, to be found on the Swiss envelopes. We always imagined that the figure was intended to represent a dove, and have seen it so described; but our friend is too wary a bird to be caught with chaff, and too careful a philatelist to give a positive name to a doubtful bird, and so terms it an "original bird." Whatever it is, it appears to be in a very bad way, attributed by our friend to "wear and tear." We are told that some of its remains are only "faintly perceivable," while in some instances they seem scarcely at all to exist, and have given rise to the notion that it is quite defunct. We suppose, therefore, that it is gradually giving place to the figure of value which has already been noticed as existing on the 5 c. envelopes.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

The Permanent Postage-Stamp Album. By H. STAFFORD SMITH. Third Edition. London: E. Marlborough & Co. Brighton: Stafford Smith & Co.

THE tendency of stamp albums is to grow stouter. Each successive edition exhibits some increase in bulk on its predecessor, and *The Permanent Stamp Album* is no exception to the rule. The third edition has gained on the second, in point of portliness, to the extent of 32 pages. It has grown with the times. The extra pages contain compartments for the new issues of the last two years, and, from a personal examination of the album, we are in a position to affirm that no recently-issued stamp can complain of being left without a lodging. Even the Japanese post cards, the very existence of which was only known from the account given of them some months back in *The Printers' Register*, are accommodated with spaces, not to speak of the new Peruvian, the new Mexican stamps and envelopes, the Italian "estero" series, the high-value Argentines, the bat-

tion of United States departmentals, and last, but not least, the mysterious Cabul labels.

The general plan of the new edition is the same as that of the last; it is, however, distinguished by an improvement, to which the compiler, in his preface, draws attention with justifiable pride. The compartments, which in the preceding editions were (with few exceptions) of uniform size, are, in the present one, adapted throughout to the dimensions of the stamps they are intended to receive. To attain this result many an hour must have been passed in measuring and mapping out the compartments on each page in succession; but it was worth the labour, for it gives the album a vantage ground which it did not previously possess. The large stamps will no longer elbow each other in an uncomfortable manner, and stamps of abnormal proportions, such as the Egorieff, the Pskoff, and other lozenge-shaped Russian locals, will find room for the unhampered display of their angularities.

The supply of interleaved supplementary pages, which forms a special feature of this album, is sufficiently large for all purposes. Some collectors may indeed be desirous of removing a leaf here or there, where its presence would interfere with the arrangement of their collection. This may be effected, without in any degree disfiguring the book, by cutting away the leaf so as to leave a strip about half-an-inch wide, which will look like and, in fact, act as a guard. Perhaps we may be permitted to recommend the excision in this manner of the pages reserved, as we think unwisely, for those antiquated humbugs, the Hamburg locals. The youngest novice, we should think, would hesitate before giving them shelter; and we regret that Mr. Stafford Smith should even appear to sanction their collection.

In commenting on the last edition, we recommended that a distinction should be made between the unperforated lithographed French republic stamps, and the perforated stamps of similar design. This, we are glad to find, has been done in the present edition, spaces for each series being allotted. We remark, also, that place has been found for all the single post cards issued up to date,

not for the card-stamp alone, but for the entire card. The double cards are not included, because they are too bulky. Their omission, whilst it is to be regretted, was unavoidable in a book, the dimensions of which are necessarily subject to certain limits, and probably the inclusion of spaces for the single cards will satisfy the wants of most collectors.

As a whole, the album is a capital one, and an infinity of pains has evidently been taken to render it satisfactory in all respects. A large number of testimonials to the excellence of the last edition have, it appears, been received from contented purchasers. The new edition will, we are convinced, earn for itself an equally good name for completeness and accuracy in the compilation, and neatness and elegance in externals.

CORRESPONDENCE.

BOLIVIAN STAMPS.

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

SIR,—By the South American mail this morning, I have received a black 2 reales and 4 reales Bolivia, as described in the May number of *The Philatelist*, also in the June number of your magazine. My correspondent had them from Cobija, and says they were used there during the time of "President Linares." He does not, however, give any date, but states that they have always been very rare.

I have also received by the same mail a 100 c. figure of Justice and a 500 c. ditto—the former being vermilion, the latter dark blue,—but as they are obliterated by pen-and-ink marks, it is impossible to say whether they have been used as postals or not. However, I intend placing them in my collection with the 5 c., 10 c., and 50 c., of which I have duly obliterated copies, so as to complete the set.

Hoping this information may be of service to you,

I am, yours truly,

Falmouth.

J. P. C.

CUBAN STAMPS WITH KNOT OR "PARAPHE."

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

DEAR SIR,—To solve definitely the doubt expressed by you in the last number of the magazine, respecting the meaning of the mark which you term a knot, I write today to a friend in Cuba. I think myself that the knot must either be a surcharge equivalent to "Habilitado por la Nacion," struck on the stamps of the ex-king Amadeus, or else a countersign, in consequence possibly of forgeries being current. This, however, I offer as an opinion, and only an opinion. That the knot should indicate an alteration in the value, or should be a cancellation, does not seem to me to be possible, but, I repeat, the reply I expect to receive from Cuba will, I hope, suffice to

cut *this* Gordian knot. I will communicate its purport to you as soon as it reaches me.

Meanwhile I subscribe myself,

Dear Sir,

Faithfully yours,

MARIANO PARDO DE FIGUEROA.

Medina Sidonia.

THE ASSERTED ISSUE FOR PUERTO RICO.

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

DEAR SIR,—In the new edition of Dr. Gray's Catalogue I find catalogued, under the date 1869, what is termed a "Special Issue for Puerto Rico," but, in fact, there never was such an issue. Puerto Rico uses the same postage stamps as Cuba, and those referred to in the catalogue are none other than the 1868-9 Cuba stamps surcharged HABILITADO POR LA NACION, like those of the mother-country. The only difference is that the 1868 stamps are a great deal scarcer, owing to the fact that Cuba did not recognise the revolution till nearly the end of 1868. The few 1868 stamps so surcharged may certainly be taken as coming from Puerto Rico, as the authorities of that island recognised the revolutionary government immediately.

While speaking about Cuba, I may give an answer to your "inconvenient query" about the knot found on the Cuban stamps. The mark is not really a knot, but a signature. It was first used on the Amadeus stamps, and is now found on the 1874 Cubas. It is certainly not a surcharge of value, nor an equivalent to H. P. N., nor an obliteration; but my opinion is, that it has been adopted to distinguish the stamps coming from Puerto Rico from those of Cuba, for the obliteration is that of Puerto Rico.

Yours truly,

V. G. DE Y.

[Our esteemed correspondent has since sent us, in confirmation of his opinion, the envelope of a letter from Puerto Rico, which bears an Amadeus stamp surcharged with the flourish or knot.—Ed.]

FACTS AND QUERIES.

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

DEAR SIR,—Allow me, through the medium of your excellent journal, to make known a few philatelic oddities, and launch a few queries. I possess the following stamps:—

AUSTRIA, 1850, 1 kr., printed on both sides; obliterated on one, MAUER.....(something) 2^e

A post card bearing an obliteration, 7, 8, '69. Has any collector seen one bearing an earlier date?

BAVARIA, 1867, 6 kr., blue, embossed on a piece of paper (silk thread) about 2 in. x 1½ in. in size; obliterated. I take leave to solicit information respecting this stamp, as no envelope or wrapper of that value has, so far as I am aware, ever been issued. The current 1 kr. wrapper, issued on 1st January, this year, has neither silk thread nor watermark; yet, from the shape of the paper, the 6 kr. stamp above described looks more like a wrapper stamp than an envelope one. The paper is cut straight down near the left-hand side of the stamp; the other three sides are torn off.

PERU, 1 dinero, blue, 186—?, zigzag, cornucopia on white unshaded ground.

1 dinero, 1863, with CORREOS above and below, PORTO

FRANCO to left, and *un dinero* to right; in other words, the arms turned quarter round to right.

Same issue and value, two stamps each of which is printed on *two* pieces of paper, these having first been joined together, so as to overlap about one-third of an inch. The join in one is neatly done; in the other, clumsily, showing two sides and a corner of the added piece.

A third specimen of "duplicity" is a 1 dinero, 1868, green, so printed as to show only one piece of paper on the *recto*, and two on the *verso*, which of course only bears the embossed impression, and does not show any colour when off.

Truly yours,

A LONDON COLLECTOR.

[BAVARIA.—Our correspondent describes an essay, or proof, well known to exist. All the series of 1867 are printed on paper similar to that described, with large margins, as proofs of the dies; no question of envelope or wrapper is involved. In the collection of the Vice-president of the Philatelic Society is a complete set of all the values, some with larger margins than above indicated.

PERU.—1 dinero, blue, zigzag, cornucopia on unshaded ground, is a long-known and catalogued variety, described as long as eight years ago; see Levraut. The 1 dinero, 1863, arms quarter turned to right, we commend to Fentonia's notice, as an error of the Lecocq embossing machine, hitherto stated to be infallible. The piecing of strips of paper under the press in printing the 1863 issue is very curious, and many remarkable specimens are to be met with in all large collections.—Ed.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

ETONIA.—We are obliged for the newspaper paragraph with reference to a reduction in the rates for papers to India.

G. H. H., Salford, informs us that his specimens of the Lagos stamps, unlike ours, are obliterated with a *dated* postmark.

POVERTY, Demerara.—Our publishers are obliged by your offer of collection of stamps, but it is not sufficiently large to be of any use to them.

E. O. S., Nashville, Tenn.—Your letter has been sent on to Mr. Overy Taylor, who will, no doubt, take an early opportunity of replying to it.

J. DOWNING, Shrewsbury.—Dr. Gray's *Illustrated Catalogue of Postage Stamps* will shortly be issued as a complete volume, which will comprise over five hundred pages, fully illustrated.

C. M., Jersey.—The firm of Sidney Simpson & Co., of Hull, enjoys an evil reputation. We have already had occasion more than once to show up its dealings in forgeries, but unfortunately it finds its victims principally among young and inexperienced collectors, who do not read the magazines.

H. F., Bradford.—The existence of the 5 c. Swiss in two shades of brown has long been known.—We referred in a recent number to the post-card convention between Germany and Switzerland.—The only genuine Belalp stamps are those which are printed in violet; the others are worthless fancy impressions.

SKANDINAVIEN.—It is not really "necessary" to collect the different shades of the British Guiana stamps. The collection of shades is entirely a matter of choice. For our part, we think that an album is all the richer for possessing specimens illustrative of marked changes of tint, even though those changes be due to accident.

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—XLI.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

Russia.

RUSSIA, a recent writer observes, is "not a country, it is a continent,"—a vast agglomeration of races, which it will be the work of generations yet to knit into one homogeneous whole. At present it is a little barbarous in the west, a little civilised in the east. Its postal system is one of the fruits of its contact with European civilization, but it is still incomplete, and in its lack of unity and completeness it typifies the extent and present condition of the empire. Concurrently with the imperial post-office exists that of Finland, and from 1853 to 1865 that of Poland was also administered independently; added to which, in scores of districts, a local service has been established to supplement the work of the state. Thus the postal organisation of Russia is now represented by a multitude of diverse stamps, and the student who would thoroughly master their history must go deeper than we can profess to do within the limits, and having regard to the scope, of the present paper.

It is worthy of remark that Russia, as represented by Finland, was one of the first among European countries to give the system of prepayment by stamps a trial; but the hesitating and tentative character of the experiment is apparent from the fact that she confined herself to issuing stamped envelopes at the commencement (1845), and did not start an adhesive series in Finland until 1856. Similarly, the St. Petersburg office began with a single envelope for local service in 1845, issued a series for general use three years afterwards, and did not take to adhesives until 1857. Lastly, envelopes for local postage were in use in Warsaw in 1858, and the solitary Polish adhesive did not see the light until 1860. If, however, Russia at first moved but slowly in the path of postal progress, she, at any rate, deserves the credit of having advanced with rapid strides of late years, as witness the low-value stamps issued in 1864, the legalisation of the local service in 1870, and the issue of post cards in 1872.

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Liberal ideas in postal matters appear to be in the ascendant, and we should not be surprised to see Russia distinguish herself, in healthy emulation of Germany, as the promoter of bold and useful innovations.

Turning from this general survey of the Russian issues, and the indications they yield, let us give a glance at the emissions for the empire proper—those which emanate from St. Petersburg, and bear the imperial arms.

The beginner who pays no attention to secondary varieties, derived from peculiarities of colour, perforation, or paper, need collect only seven stamps in order completely to represent the normal issues; of these seven six are still in use, and one, which is known as the 5 kop. of St. Petersburg, is obsolete. The philatelist who goes to the other extreme will require thirty specimens to fully exemplify the various "editions."

The first stamp to appear was the 10 kop. brown and blue, of the annexed type, which was issued, unperforated and on thick paper, on the 10th Dec., 1857. Specimens of this emission are of considerable rarity, which is not surprising, seeing that the perforated 10 kop. came out only a month or two afterwards, in company



with the other two values, viz., 20 kop. blue and yellow, and 30 kop. rose and green, which also were perforated. These stamps, like the first 10 kop., were on thick paper, and the perforations are very fine (15 in two centimetres). Collectors who wish to satisfy themselves as to the date of their specimens, should begin by examining the paper, and if it be thick, and the number of the dents be the same as those on the *water-marked* stamps, and the colours are *not* aniline, then they may be tolerably sure they are in possession of copies of the first *tirage*. Such, at any rate, is the conclusion which results from the arrangement in M. Moens's last catalogue, though I cannot trace any authoritative *dictum* on the point in any of the magazines, the Russian adhesives having attracted comparatively little attention from students. The 10 kop., 20 kop., and 30 kop.

appear to have been perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$ in 1859, and to have reverted to the original perforation—15—in the year 1866, upon the occasion of their being first printed in aniline colours; this measure has since been continuously used down to the present time. Between 1868 and 1871 they were printed on paper watermarked with undulating lines. From this it will be seen that the full catalogue reads thus:

1857.	10 kop.,	unperf.	(thick paper).
1858.	10, 20, 30 kop.,	perf.	15 (thick paper).
1859.	10, 20, 30	"	" $12\frac{1}{2}$.
1866.	10, 20, 30	"	" 15 (aniline colours).
1868-71.	10, 20, 30	"	" 15 (aniline colours), watermarked.

The beginner who is unable or unwilling to include all the above varieties, should select a set of the edition of 1859 and the current set, as the two together would fairly illustrate the varieties of colour, perforation, and watermark.

In September, 1863, the annexed 5 kop. stamp made its appearance. It is generally termed a St. Petersburg stamp.

Whether the inscriptions bear out the title I cannot say. It may well be that it really was issued for the local service of the capital, and perhaps also of Moscow; but no documentary proof of the fact has ever been given, and it certainly served to prepay letters sent to England. It is printed in grey and black, and, like all the Russian stamps, is exceedingly well executed, though not of brilliant appearance. It was in use for only a short period, but has remained a common stamp to the present day.

A series of three stamps of low value was issued in 1864, without any preliminary



notice. They were, and still are, printed in brilliant aniline colours, and are remarkable for delicacy and tastefulness of design. They created quite a sensation on their ap-

pearance, and still remain, with their elder brethren, among the prominent ornaments of the stamp album. They were first issued perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$; but a year later they received the No. 15 perforation, and since 1868 have been printed on laid paper watermarked with undulating lines. A peculiar variety exists which has often been referred to, viz., a 3 kopek green, with the ground of the 5 kop. In all three values the ground is formed of minute figures of value, and is printed apart. By oversight the die from which the ground of the lilac 5 kop. was printed was, on one occasion, inked with the green colouring intended for the 3 kop., and the mistake not being perceived, the stamps were completed by the impression of the black framework and centre-piece of the 3 kop. over the green ground. The number of abnormal impressions thus obtained must have been considerable, to judge from the fact that they are common both used and unused.

ENVELOPES.

The series opens with the envelope which did duty in St. Petersburg for three whole years before the system of prepayment, by means of stamped envelopes, was applied to general correspondence. It was in 1845 that it saw the light, and it remained in circulation, without any modification in its design, until 1869, when it was withdrawn. The earlier copies are distinguished by being printed in a dull milky blue, those of more recent date being generally in ultramarine or in some brighter shade; and the only other varieties, exclusive of those derived from the shape and size of the envelopes, depend on the position of the stamp, which is found in the *lower left*, the *lower right* corner, and the *upper right* corner. The inscription on this stamp clearly denotes its strictly local currency. The fact of the design being struck on the front of the envelope, instead of on the flap, like the other Russian issues, is worthy of attention.



The series of envelopes of the annexed design, viz. :—



10 kopecs, black ;
20 „ blue ;
30 „ rose—

was issued in 1848. The envelopes were of thick greyish yellow paper, and were watermarked with the imperial arms in the centre of a check

pattern. In 1861 the 10 kop. was issued on greyish white paper, of thinner texture, watermarked with the imperial arms in an oval, and in 1866 the other two values followed suit. Thus, then, we find that the series is capable of subdivision into two principal issues. Of the stamps of the first issue, or edition, the 20 kop. was printed in Prussian blue, light or dark, greenish blue, and milky blue, and is, in fact, extremely variable in shade ; and the 30 kop. is found in rose and deep rose, the latter bordering on carmine. The 20 kop. of the second edition is found in ultramarine and light Prussian blue, whilst the 30 kop., changing its tint completely, becomes brick-red and vermilion in succession.

In an analytical article, published in *Le Timbre-Poste* for 1869, Dr. Magnus revealed his discovery of two different types of the 20 and 30 kop., and gave their distinguishing points. The first and generally recognised type shows a clear space on either side of the tail, between it and the eagle's legs, and there are sixteen pieces in the collar which encircles the shield. In the second type the tail is more extended, and touches the legs, leaving no space whatever between them and it, and there are only fourteen pieces in the collar. Dr. Magnus, whilst throwing out the suggestion, *en passant*, that possibly the second type, which is less carefully executed, may be the work of some unsuspected forger, is inclined, on the whole, to accept it as genuine. Collectors would do well to examine their specimens, with a view to ascertain to which type they belong. The second type, on the early paper (arms in square), would appear to be commoner unused ; but this is no reason for suspecting it, and we should ourselves be inclined to accept it unhesitatingly.

In 1869 the fine old first series of envelopes, which in its design and appearance had so much of individuality, if not of elegance, about it, gave place to the existing type, which has a very Germanic primness about it. The three stamps—

10 kop., brown ;
20 „ blue ;
30 „ rose—



were first printed in left upper corner of envelope ; and in 1872 there was a second edition struck off, with the stamp in the right upper corner—a retrograde movement, quite opposed to the general practice at present.

Two very similar 5 kop. envelopes were issued within a short time. The first came



1869.



1870.

out in 1869, and bears an inscription which is an abbreviation of that on the old St. Petersburg envelope. It was printed in maroon, and was possibly intended for local correspondence only. The second, which may be taken to form part of the general series, was issued in 1870. The stamp was then printed in left, but in 1872 it was moved to the right at the same time as the other values.

POST CARDS.

It was in 1872 that Russia gave proof of her appreciation of the utility of post cards, by issuing first an unstamped and then two stamped ones. All three are very well executed, and worthy of a country whose stamps moved Dr. Gray to enthusiasm. The stamped cards are of the value of 3 kop. (brown on grey) and 5 kop. (green on grey), respectively, and bear the annexed design in right upper corner.



LOCAL STAMPS.

As it is but a twelvemonth since I gave, in the columns of this journal, a *resumé* of all the ascertainable facts respecting the origin and history of these stamps, it would be a waste of space to recapitulate them in detail now. They are summarised in the following paragraphs, which form an introduction to the list of Russian locals in the new edition of *Dr. Gray's Catalogue*, to which list I may be permitted respectfully to refer my readers for full particulars respecting the stamps themselves.

"The Russian provinces, styled 'governments,' are subdivided into districts, the internal affairs of which are managed by District Assemblies. In many districts a supplementary postal service has been established by these assemblies for the benefit of the remoter towns and villages which lie away from the imperial post roads. The service is under the supervision of a permanent committee, which goes by the name of the *Zemskaya Upravu*, or Land Court, and sits in the chief town. Its president is *ex officio* the manager of the rural service, and, as such, controls the issue of the postage stamps. A decree of the 5th September, 1870, authorised the establishment of these local posts, and the emission of special stamps for the purposes of the service; but some previous authorisation must either have been given, or taken for granted, as, in fact, several of the local stamps were issued prior to the publication of the decree. The operations of the local posts are limited in various ways by it, and as an institution the service is no doubt in its infancy; but it is capable of doing great good by rendering practicable communication between out-of-the-way regions and the trade centres.

"The stamps herein catalogued we believe to be without exception genuine. They represent the charges for conveyance of letters, &c., from the imperial post-office to the outlying villages, and *vice versa*, and form a quaint but interesting assemblage. Some of the designs are carefully drawn, but more frequently a grotesque primitiveness is the chief characteristic of the types; a few are exceedingly plain, but the great majority are adorned with emblems and heraldic bearings,

which throw light on the history or peculiarities of the districts whence they come. The number of labels already issued, combined with the difficulty of getting anything like detailed information as to the circumstances connected with their emission, render the study of these stamps by no means an easy matter; but, if only as illustrations of the progress made by Russia of late years towards a higher civilisation, they are of considerable importance, and it is to be hoped that as time goes on the hidden facts of their history will be brought to light. As so large a proportion of them are produced in places where lithographic and typographic accuracy cannot be expected, and frequent errors in the composition and printing are inevitable, it appears to us that too great attention should not be paid to secondary varieties arising from the misspelling of words, from slight deviations from the normal design, or from accidental differences in the shade of paper or ink."

Since these lines were written the authenticity of the Russian locals has been called in question on very frivolous grounds, and the captious critic, in order to avoid the confession that his strictures were uncalled for, has been reduced to the necessity of pooh-poohing official documents, obliterated specimens, and every other proof brought forward. The readers of the "Papers for Beginners" may, however, rest satisfied that the Russian local emissions are, without exception, genuine, and that they form part of a genuine though obscure postal service.

Finland.

In order to gain a good idea of the stamps of this province, it is necessary to abandon the usual plan of noticing the adhesives first, for not only did the envelope issues precede them, but the design for the second series of envelopes became at a subsequent period that of the first series of adhesives.

These Finnish stamps have exercised the subtle analytical and inductive faculties of the foremost philatelists, and notably of Dr. Magnus, who has contributed largely to the elucidation of the many doubtful points which are connected with the order of their emission. Indeed, merely to follow him in

his researches requires a concentrated attention, without which the student will soon find himself lost in a labyrinth of fine distinctions.

The employment of stamped envelopes in the Duchy of Finland commenced on the 1st January, 1845, according to a statement furnished to the editor of *Le Timbre-Poste*

by the postmaster-general himself. For years it was thought by philatelists that the 10 kop. red and 20 kop. greenish black of the annexed type formed the first series, but the discovery of a 10 kop. black of the same design in 1870 upset these sup-

positions. The resuscitated stamp was found not to be from the same die as the original specimens of the 10 kop. red, with which it was compared, but it turned out to be almost identical with the reprints of that value. These reprints had been obtained from a die which had come to light at Helsingfors in 1862, and it is now generally accepted that from this die the black 10 kop.—the first representative of that value,—was printed at Helsingfors in 1845. It appears from the details furnished by the postmaster-general that it had a companion in the shape of the 20 kop. red, but no specimens of that denomination have hitherto made their appearance.

The first 10 kop. is badly printed, as if by hand, and it differs not only in colour, type, and execution from the 10 kop. red, but also in position. As is the case with the St. Petersburg envelope, issued in the same year, it is struck on the side intended for the address (though in the left lower angle, instead of the right), whilst the 10 kop. red and 20 kop. greenish black, like the Russian envelopes of 1848, are struck on the flap. That the black 10 kop. was in circulation up to the 30th August, 1848, is evidenced by a postmark consisting of this date on an uncut copy which had passed the post; and as the stamp on that copy was not itself obliterated in any way, although it had been used, it has been argued that the flap-stamped envelopes could not have been in use



at the time, for otherwise this black 10 kop. would have been obliterated, as the flap stamps always were. It may, then, be inferred that the 10 kop. red and 20 kop. greenish black were not employed until the latter part of 1848, or the beginning of 1849. It is probable that they were printed at St. Petersburg by means of a hand-worked machine, and that the stamps were struck on the flap, in virtue of a decision which applied equally to the envelopes of Finland and to those of the empire issued a few months previously. The dies of these two stamps may very possibly still be at St. Petersburg. They have certainly never been reprinted from.

From what precedes, it appears to result that the issues should be classed as follows:—

Type A.	1845.	10 kop. black	} on left lower corner of envelope.
" "	" "	20 " red (?)	
Type B.	1848-9.	10 " black	} on flap.
" C.	" "	20 " red	

This is a condensed statement of the present state of our information as to these early Finnish envelopes. The black 10 kopec is of the highest degree of rarity, but it is, at any rate, a known stamp; the existence of its companion, the 20 kop. red (?), can only be conjectured, but collectors who are in possession of reprints of the 10 kop. red, have, at any rate, the satisfaction of knowing that they are from the die of the still more ancient stamp. Original specimens of the two stamps of the second series, though of an inferior degree of rarity, are still looked on as conferring a certain distinction on the albums in which they are found; and even the reprints, which are of greater intrinsic value than most of their class, are difficult to secure.

The third series of envelopes was issued on the 1st January, 1850, and bore an impressed stamp of the annexed design on the flap. It consisted of three values, viz. :—

5 kop.	blue.
10 "	rose.
20 "	Russian
	green, greenish black,
	bluish green, black.

It results from Dr.

Magnus's analysis that there was a separate



die engraved for each value. The 5 kop. differs in many points from the other two values, and the latter differ, though in a lesser degree, from each other.

In the above engraving it will be noticed there is a dot or pearl in the large opening of each post-horn. These dots did not form part of the original design, and are *never* found in the 20 kop. They exist in the 5 kop. and 10 kop., and are said to represent the holes pierced in the plate to receive two small nails intended to keep it in its place. The introduction of the nails took place prior to 1856, when the dies were employed for the production of the adhesives issued in that year, whence it results that *all* the latter show the two pearls, whilst of the 5 kop. and 10 kop. envelopes there are two varieties viz., without pearls and with pearls. Uncut copies of the envelopes are now rarely to be met with, and it is difficult to distinguish between cut copies (of the two lower values) and adhesives. If the cut copy is without pearls, it is certainly an envelope, and one, too, of the oldest edition, but if with pearls it may be either envelope or adhesive, and the collector finds but an uncertain test in the paper of the stamp. Dr. Magnus gives the following distinctive points:—

Adhesives (with pearls). Wove paper, pressed (glossy), sometimes showing traces of gum on the back.

Envelopes (with pearls). Wove paper, *not* pressed, showing very distinctly the lines of the cloth; or laid paper, with lines generally oblique, but sometimes vertical.

The three values have been reprinted—the 5 kop. and 10 kop. from the original dies in their primitive state, the 20 kop. either from a different die, or from the original one after it had been retouched. Numerous variations exist between the reprint 20 kop. and the original. The colours of the reprints are 5 kop. sky-blue (very pale); 10 kop. rose (very pale), and 20 kop. black, faintly tinted with green.

It remains to be said, with regard to the types of both 1845-8 and 1850, that copies exist of all the values (except the 10 kop. black) with one or other of the values of the

type of 1860 impressed in the upper left angle. The envelopes thus stamped a second time were those which remained on hand at the post-office, and were used up in this manner. As a rule, the value of the two stamps struck at different dates on the same envelope is the same, but there are said to be envelopes showing the 10 kop. of 1845 on the flap, and the 5 kop. of 1860 on the face, and *vice-versâ*, but these varieties are the result of mere chance.

From the envelopes of 1850 we now pass to the adhesives of 1856, which are of the same type. Of the envelopes there were three values; of the adhesives, two, viz.,

5 kop. blue;
10 „ rose;

and they present no noteworthy features apart from those already referred to in describing the envelopes. They were issued on the 12th February, 1856, and withdrawn on the 12th January, 1860, on which date the third type, common to both adhesives and envelopes, was issued, consisting of two values, viz., 5 kop. and 10 kop. There are



two distinct sub-types, viz.,
(a.) Eight stars on shield, wavy lines of ground far apart.

(b.) Seven stars on shield, wavy lines of ground closer together.

The two adhesives are of sub-type *a.*, viz.,

5 kop. blue, pale blue.
10 „ rose, pale rose.

They are generally found on tinted paper, but the 10 kop. rose was reissued in 1865 on white. The perforations are of that peculiar kind termed *serpentine*, of which the engraving gives a fair idea. Of the envelopes we get the following classification:

Sub-type (a). 5 kop. dark blue, light blue.
10 „ rose.
Sub-type (b). 5 „ dark blue, greyish blue, lilac-blue, sky-blue.
10 kop. carmine-rose.

In each sub-type the two values differ more or less from each other, proving that they were separately engraved.

We now arrive at the current series, which, with the exception of the 1 mark, consists

simply of the type of 1860 with altered value. The list reads as follows:—

5 pennia	brown on lilac.	} laid paper.
10 "	black on buff.	
5 "	reddish brown on lilac.	} wove paper
8 "	black on green.	
10 "	black on straw.	
20 "	blue on pale blue.	
40 "	deep rose on rose.	}
1 mark	light brown.	



The issue commenced in 1866, and all the values appeared in that or the following year, those on laid paper first. The 5 pen., 10 pen., 20 pen., and 40 pen. are all of the 1860 sub-type *a.*, whilst the 8 kop. is of sub-type *b.* The 5 kop., 20 kop., and 40 kop. show considerable variations of colour—notably the 5 kop., of which at least two examples should be taken; the other values have been tolerably faithful to the original shades.

The post cards and local stamps we must reserve for consideration in the next paper.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

HUNGARY.—We are now in a position to complete the information given last month as to the issue of a fresh series, having just received a specimen of a new post card, which bears a stamp of the same design as the adhesives. It consists of an upright rectangle, of which the outer frame is formed of a line of pearls. A large oval within, which nearly touches the top, but is at some distance from the bottom of the frame, contains a design in white relief, consisting of an envelope in the centre, with the Hungarian crown above and a post-horn below, within wreath of oak and laurel. Over the representation of the envelope, which it partially obscures, is struck the figure of

value in Roman type, in colour. Below the oval, in a curved line, is the inscription—MAGYAR KIR. POSTA. The spandrels are filled up with a simple triangular ornament, and the ground outside the oval is covered with fine horizontal lines. The design, taken altogether, is a novel and pleasing one, and the introduction of the symbol of correspondence as the central ornament was decidedly a happy thought. The stamp is well executed, and requires three operations for its production, the frame, the embossed design, and the figure of value being apparently printed in succession. The colours of the adhesives are quoted by *L'Ami des Timbres* as—

2 kreuzers	lilac.
3 "	green.
5 "	carmine.
10 "	blue.

There are to be envelopes of the same colours and values. The 15 kr. and 25 kr. values will not be repeated in this series.

The post card, from which we get our information as to the design, has the stamp in the upper right corner; and on a level with it, in the centre of the card, are the inscriptions, namely, MAGY. KIR. POSTA, in small type, in an arch above, and LEVELEZŐ-LAP, in capitals, in a straight line below the arms. Beneath this come four lines for the address, the first beginning with the word CZIM. There is no external frame whatever, and its absence gives the card a very plain, though not ugly appearance. It is almost a misnomer to call this emission a card, it is hardly more than cartridge paper. The stamp and inscriptions are struck in light brown (the figure on the stamp itself being much darker than the rest of the stamp); the card is pale buff, and is watermarked with the words MAGYAR KIR. POSTA in two lines. The same watermark appears on the envelopes.

Besides the foregoing, there is a 1 kr. yellowish brown journal stamp, of the same design as the adhesives, except in one particular; it is destitute of the triangular corner ornaments.

ANTIOQUIA.—We glean from *L'Ami des Timbres* particulars of the issue of three more

stamps for this state, all of high values, viz. :—

50 cents blue, on plain white.

2 pesos black, on paper coated with yellow.

5 " " " " " rose.

From the engravings given by our contemporary we find that two of the three stamps are cast in the usual Colombian mould. The 2 pesos has the arms in a circle, with the name of the republic running round the inside edge in upper half, and the name of the state in the corresponding lower half—the division between them being formed by the American sign for a dollar or sol, followed by the figure 2. Over the circle the word CORREOS, in an arch, and the value in a curve below. This, with the corner ornaments and the figures of value they contain, completes the stamp, which is of about the same size as the current Canadians. The 5 pesos strikingly contrasts with the inferior value in size, it being one of the largest stamps known; but its design is based on the same disposition as the 2 pesos, with this difference, that the arms, &c., are in an elongated oval, instead of a circle. The inscriptions above and below the arms are the same, and CORREOS and CINCO PESOS occupy corresponding curved labels. The value, however, is not indicated within the oval, as in the 2 pesos, but it is repeated in the four corners. The frame of this stamp is designed in a florid style, and has a very heavy appearance. The remaining stamp of the two, the 50 c. blue, reminds one not a little of the Gdoff stamp recently described. It consists of two intersecting circles; the upper one containing the arms in the centre, and the name of the republic round the edge, the lower one the value—"50 cs"—on an interior disk, and the name of the issuing state on the edge; corner numerals and the inevitable scroll work complete the inventory of a stamp which will certainly be conspicuous among the Antioquians.

NORWAY, *Drammens*.—The following extract from *Le Timbre-Poste* merits consideration, and bears out to some extent Mr. Overy Taylor's strictures in a recent paper on the character of some of the Norwegian locals. "Not being able to obtain from M. Hagens, the manager of the Drammens

post the stamps of 1872, of which he himself had sent us specimens, we wrote to another correspondent in order to get, if possible, those of 1874. This correspondent now informs us that the *Drammens post no longer exists, and that there has been no new issue!* Can it be then that, to fill up his spare time, M. Hagens sent us the new stamps? We fear so. It remains to be seen whether the issue of 1872 was more genuine than that of 1874."

PERU.—We extract from *The American Journal of Philately* the following notice of forthcoming new stamps and envelopes, which, it appears, will be of the highest degree of excellence:—

"The stamps we now attempt to describe are the work of the National Bank Note Co., of this city, and need no praise from our pen. Indeed, it is inadequate to cope with the task; for the two values we have seen are far superior to anything else which has appeared in the postal line for many years. There are two values, 50 centavos and 1 sol. The design on the 50 centavos is as follows: a bevelled slab, having within a frame running all round near the edges, broken at the sides to admit of small ovals containing figures 50, and at top and bottom, the inscriptions PERU CORREOS. The value in words on either side of numeral, CINCUENTA CENTAVOS. Lying on the slab, within an upright oval frame, is a series of mountains, behind which appears a rising sun with rays, such as is found upon the earlier Montevidean stamps. The 1 sol. is a rectangular-lined slab indented in the corners with shield-shaped patterns containing numeral of value; curved labels at top and bottom connecting the corner devices, and inscribed PERU CORREOS; labels at sides with ornamental ends containing value, UN SOL. Within is an upright panelled frame with open scrolled corners, on which is depicted the rayed sun in full glory. The stamps are rather large, being about 1 inch, by 1½ inches, perforated and "grilled" at the back.

50 centavos, red.

1 sol. green.

"We have had a glimpse at the envelope stamps, described in our previous number, and are now enabled to give the true colours

and the sizes of the envelopes, together with quality of paper employed. The 2 centavos is impressed on laid buff paper, measuring $3\frac{1}{4}$ by $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches. This is evidently intended for circulars. The 5 c. is on white wove paper, the envelope being the smallest of the series, being $2\frac{3}{4}$ by $5\frac{1}{4}$. The 10 c. is on two qualities of paper; one white wove, the other cream laid paper, and both measure 3 by $5\frac{2}{8}$. The 20 c. is also on two qualities of paper, same as the preceding, and measures $3\frac{1}{2}$ by $6\frac{1}{4}$. The 50 c. is on white wove paper, the envelope measuring 4 by $8\frac{7}{8}$. The paper employed is of a very fine texture, well finished. The colours of the stamps are as follow :—

2 centavos,	blue.
5 ,,	green.
10 ,,	red.
20 ,,	purple.
50 ,,	rose."

SALVADOR.—The annexed engraving represents the current one real stamp, surcharged



with a circular mark, consisting of the arms of the country and the words CONTRA SELLO. This surcharge, or—to translate the inscription literally—"counter-stamp" is so badly

struck that on many copies it looks more like an ink smudge, which might have been made by a finger; and at best it has rather the appearance of an obliteration than of a sign of genuineness. The motive for its application is supposed to be the theft of a large quantity of stamps, or the forgery of the designs. It appears on all the values.

MEXICO.—Our New York contemporary is in a position to state that but three envelopes were prepared for the Mexican government, two of which have been placed in circulation, namely, the 10 c. green and 25 c. blue, but the third, 5 c., has not yet appeared among collectors, and probably has not yet been issued.

NATAL.—This colony now possesses a five-shilling stamp, which is said by M. Moens to resemble in general design the Trinidad stamp of the same value, whilst differing to

some extent in the framework, and possessing inscriptions in colour on white. It is printed in reddish violet, and watermarked cc. and crown.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.—*Duchowschtschina* (Smolensk).—This district has not hitherto been heard of, and we may safely affirm that its name will not often be pronounced—correctly. The government of Smolensk itself has not previously figured amongst those in which local stamps are employed. The stamp of the Duchowschtschina district consists of the value, 3 kop., and inscription in a square; the colour is dark blue. *The Illustrated Briefmarken Journal* must be credited with the first notice of this novelty, and also of the next.

Malmysch (Viatka).—The design of this stamp consists of the value—2 kop.—in an oval, enclosed in a square frame; colour, red.

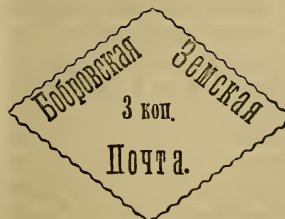
Ockansk (Perm).—Arms in shield, inscription above, value below—3 kop. blue.

Oustsissolsk (Vologda).—We annex engravings of the two types of the solitary value for this district. They are found side-by-



side on the sheet. They differ from each other in that one has a double line within, the other only one, and the ornaments forming the scrolled frame are turned different ways. These plain-looking stamps are struck on bright red glazed paper.

Bobrow (Voronesh).—The lines of the Bobrow stamp have been laid down, as our



engraving will show, but it is apparently reserved for some coming man to complete the construction of the design. As it is printed in

black on white, our readers will have no

difficulty in imagining what the original is like.

Arzamass (Nijni Novgorod).—This type is, at any rate, better than the preceding, and its likeness to the Podolsk and Bogorodsk issues will at once be noticed. The wavy lines, the corner figures, the central oval, all indicate that the new comer, if not from the same *atelier* (?) as the last mentioned stamps has, at any rate, been copied from them. We are



rather puzzled to know whether the two V-shaped ornaments in the lower half of the oval are intended to represent the arms of the district, or the value—5 kopecs. In the latter case, are the arms in the upper half those of the district or the government? We can find nothing to guide us in the design of the Wassyel stamp. The Arzamass stamp, we must not omit to mention, is printed in indigo on white.

Nowaja Ladoga (St. Petersburg).—This stamp, like the preceding two, has already been noticed, and we were not prepared to find it to present such a pleasing appearance. It is evidently modelled on the imperial issue, and, as we presume, the district is adjacent to lake Ladoga, this



fact would explain the presence of the anchor among the armorial bearings. The stamp is struck in yellowish green on white, and we are rather surprised to find it is not perforated.

DENMARK.—The following is the list given by *Le Timbre-Poste* of the stamps in the new currency, which are to make their appearance on the 1st January, 1875:

Adhesives.—3, 4, 8, 12, 16, 25, 50 öre.

„ (official), 3, 4, 8, 32, öre.

Post cards.—4, 8 öre.

„ (official), 4, 8 öre.

Wrappers.—4 öre.

In all ten stamps for the public use, and six for official correspondence. What the design will be we are not informed.

FINLAND.—*Helsingfors.*—The inscriptions on the stamp, of which we gave an engraving last month, should be translated as follows: ANGBATS-POST (in upper margin), STEAMBOAT-POST. SKARGARDS TRAFIK (upper half of circle), TRAFFIC OF THE ISLAND-STUDDED COAST. AKTIE BOLACET (lower half of circle) JOINT STOCK COMPANY. It is issued by the Coasting Steamboat Company, and has, so far as we can learn, nothing whatever to do with the other local Helsingfors stamps.

The 10 penni of Finland is now issued in black on dark yellow, instead of straw-coloured paper.

DISCOVERY OF AN ISSUE OF STAMPED ENVELOPES FOR NEW YORK, AND THE HISTORY OF THE FIVE-CENT ADHESIVE.

BY JOHN K. TIFFANY, OF ST. LOUIS.

In my article upon the St. Louis stamps, published in last year's volume of *The Philatelist*, reference was made by one of the extracts from the St. Louis paper quoted, to an article in *The New York Express*. Since writing that article I have searched in vain for a file of the *Express*, and have only now, by the kindness of the librarian of the American Antiquarian Society, been able to find it. The following extracts, giving the history of the New York stamp, and mentioning New York envelopes, will, no doubt, be of interest to the readers of *The Philatelist*.

The new law, fixing the postal rates at 5 and 10 cents, went into effect on the first of July, 1845; and we find in the *Express* of that date a notice to that effect, and of a meeting of the Cheap Postage Association; in the next day's issue, a report of that meeting and of the number of letters posted in New York the first day of the new law. On the 7th of July, 1845, in the Washington correspondence of the *Express* we find the following:—

Washington, July 2.—It was suggested in New York to Mr. Morris, your postmaster, that he might accommodate the public very much by selling stamped envelopes, as the law does not authorise the sale of stamps on the English plan. When he was here he laid the subject before the Postmaster-General, who has to-day decided that the postmaster can do this. The envelopes are to be marked

with the amount of postage thereon, say 5 or 10 or more cents, as the case may be, and the initials of the postmaster are to be superadded, and then the envelopes can be sold. The object is to facilitate the payment of prepaid letters. Postmasters can interchange envelopes whenever they can agree to do so among themselves.

On the next day, July 8th, 1845, we have an editorial:—

FREE STAMPED ENVELOPES.—When the bill for cheap postage was before Congress, it contained a clause authorising the sale of stamps on the plan of the English system. The provision was, however, stricken out, leaving the public only the old method of prepaying letters during the business hours of the post-office.

A suggestion was made to our new postmaster, Mr. Morris, that the public convenience would be very much promoted if he would sell envelopes which would pass free through his office. By this measure, letters could be sent at any hour of the night to the post-office, and the postage paid, where the writer desired it, by enclosing it in a free envelope. The postmaster proposed to sell stamps at five cents each, but this not having been sanctioned by Congress, we should think would not be the best way; and as the public convenience demands something of the kind, we are glad to learn that he has prepared envelopes of the kind referred to, some of which we have seen. They are marked FIVE CENTS, and under these words is the name R. H. MORRIS. For letters over one ounce they will be marked according to the post-office rates, in the same way. These envelopes will be sold by the Postmaster at six and a quarter cents each, or sixteen for a dollar of the common kind and the common size. This will be as cheap or cheaper than they can be bought in small quantities at the stationers. A thin envelope will contain two letters and be subject only to a single postage. Envelopes of various sizes will also be furnished, and of fine quality, when desired by the purchaser. The plan, we hear, has also been adopted by the postmaster at Washington, D.C., and has met the approval of the Postmaster-General. We think it one not only of convenience to the public, but that it will add to the revenue of the department very considerably.

From this it would appear that some kind of envelopes marked FIVE CENTS, with R. H. MORRIS, were issued in New York soon after the law went into force, and perhaps also in Washington. Except from this notice they seem never to have been heard of as yet, and could have had only a very short circulation, as in the *Express* of the 14th of July, 1845, we have another editorial as follows:—

POST OFFICE STAMPS.—We would call the attention of merchants, and indeed all who pay postage, to the advertisement of the postmaster, who offers to sell stamps of the value of five cents each for the prepayment of letters. This is the cost of the postage under 300 miles. The stamps should be generally adopted, as they will give additional facilities to business men, and save them time in making change. The postmaster will receive nothing for his trouble and his stamps, beyond the profit from *lost* stamps. The disposition of the postmaster to make the new system popular, merits the thanks of our citizens.

The advertisement referred to is as follows, in the same paper and date:—

Post-office, New York, July 14th, 1845.

The public is respectfully informed that the undersigned has caused to be prepared stamps for the prepayment of postage, made for five cents each, which will be sold in parcels of five and upwards. To prevent counterfeits, they will be sold only at this office and the branch office. The public may, therefore, be assured that any stamps which may be offered for sale at any place other than the two post-offices are spurious, and will not be considered as prepayment.

(Signed) ROBERT H. MORRIS, P.M.

[Evening papers please copy.]

Here, then, we have the exact date of the New York Post-office stamp. The precise nature of these stamps may be further shown by the following articles, which, though nearly exact copies of each other, I give in full. The *Express* of the 18th July, 1845, says:—

A writer in the *Courier* is noticing the five cent and ten cent stamps that postmasters are issuing. Admitting the use of such stamps to the public, he says this should be considered in no other light than the personal obligations of the postmaster, unauthorised, as far as the public know, by any proper authority, and if issued by the postmaster of one city, may be also issued by any postmaster in any town or city in the United States; so that if this practice becomes general, the amount in these stamps held by the public will be very considerable, and will evidently lead to great abuses, and probably losses. He then goes on to say that post-office stamps, to be of general utility, should be issued at the General Post-Office at Washington, sanctioned by law, and with suitable penalties in case of forgery.

The original article in *The Courier* is as follows. I copy from the semi-weekly edition, not being able to find the daily of Friday, July 18th, 1845.

The Postmaster of this city has given notice that he has prepared stamps for the use of merchants, and he requests them to provide themselves with these stamps, to facilitate the business of the post-office and for their own convenience. It will be observed that the postmaster warns the public that any stamps offered for sale at any place other than the post-office of this city are spurious. That the use of proper stamps by merchants will be a great convenience is admitted; but these stamps thus offered should be considered in no other light than the personal obligations of the postmaster, unauthorised, as far as the public know, by any proper authority, and if issued by the postmaster of one city may be also issued by any postmaster in any town or city in the United States; and if this practice becomes general, the amount in these stamps held by the public will be very considerable, and will evidently lead to great abuses, and probably losses. In case of the death or removal of a postmaster, we know of no legal obligation of his successor to consider these stamps of any value whatever. Post-office stamps, to be of general utility, should be issued at the General Post-Office at Washington, sanctioned by law, and with suitable penalties in case of

forgery: they would be of great advantage to the Post-office Department, and would much facilitate business in various ways; but if issued by any or all Postmasters, will in some cases be used to "raise the wind," and may raise it pretty effectually in case of death or default as the amount held by the public in any of our large cities would be a very considerable sum.

(Signed) CAVEAT.

Although I have looked pretty thoroughly through the files of other New York papers of this date, I have failed to find any other articles on this subject. I hope, however, that these extracts will prove of service to the readers of *The Philatelist*.*

ANSWERS TO INCONVENIENT QUERIES.

1. SURCHARGE ON CUBAN STAMPS.—We refer our readers to our October article on "Newly Issued or Inedited Stamps" for explanation on this head, and to what there appears would simply add that we believe the mark to be a true surcharge, and not a postal obliteration. The present postal obliterations do not vary from those formerly in use, and we have stamps in our possession with the surcharge inquired about, which are *postmarked* as other stamps. We are not in a position at present to explain further the precise import of the surcharge.

2. ENVELOPES OF BREMEN: VARIOUS TYPES OF? *Query*.—The oval stamp which contains the arms of Bremen is invariable on all the envelopes, and we never heard it suggested before this query that there was more than one type of it, or any variation between the copies. At all events, by whomsoever and whensoever suggested, it is utterly and absolutely untrue that there is any difference in the dies.

In the envelopes themselves there is, as stated in our September number, a marked difference, occasioned by the presence or absence of the word FRANCO in conjunction with the oval stamp, and by the position of the mark on the envelope. Furthermore, white, blue, and watermarked papers are used, one having a set of wavy lines, in lieu of the usual straight ones.

The issue was in 1861, the value 1 grote, = not quite $\frac{3}{4}$ d.

They may thus be classed:
1861 (with *franco*). On white, on blue, on wavy paper. Handstamped at left lower corner.

„ (without *franco*) ditto.
1866. The same stamped at right (without *franco*), on blue wove, on white laid.

Of the adhesives the 3 grote blue on laid paper, and the 5 grote rose of 1855 and 1861, present differences in the dies, the former having three, the latter two types, ranged side by side in the rows; the differences are minute and not worth describing, especially as all five types can be procured *unused* for about 2/6.

VENEZUELA.—"Escuelas."—These are customs stamps, and pay no postage rates; they are not admissible, except in collections of fiscals.

The supposition that a government like that of Venezuela carries letters for students at reduced rates, needs but to be stated to any one conversant with the country to carry its own refutation; the idea of their being used to teach schoolboys to play at postage, is one which reflects more credit on what the originator could evolve out of his own consciousness, than it does on the extent or accuracy of his information.

FORGED LUZON AND DOCTORED FRENCH.

GREAT credit is due to Mr. H. de Joannis for having detected and "scotched" a very dangerous set of Luzon forgeries, which first made their appearance about August last. We hope by inserting their description in the philatelic *Hue and Cry* that they will be rendered powerless for evil. Anyone who is really well acquainted with the Luzon stamps of 1854 y 55 would at once suspect these forgeries; but there are a great many collectors, and even some dealers, who have not a good knowledge of the true stamps, and the counterfeits sufficiently answer to the general idea which obtains respecting them. They have a primitive look about them, the lettering is uneven, the lines are deep, and altogether they have a very plausible look; but two of the three values have been so incorrectly done, that the

* This article is reprinted from *The Philatelist*.

merest tyro can detect them at a glance, and though the third offers a closer resemblance to the genuine stamp, it is almost equally easy to distinguish.

Taking them *seriatim*, the 10 cuartos, the best of the three, is of a brick colour, instead of dark carmine or rose, and there are just twenty rings or pearls on each side of the portrait, including the imperfect top and bottom ones.

The 1 real and 2 reales have evidently been printed from the same plate as the 10 c., and they both have the inscription CORREOS 1854 Y 55 at the *top*, and FRANCO at the *bottom*, which is just the reverse of the true positions; therefore a stamp with CORREOS at top, stands condemned at once. Furthermore, instead of the value being expressed as "1 RL. F^{TES}," or "2 RLS. F^{TES}," it is simply given as "1 RL." and "2 RL.," even the "final s" not being added in the latter.

We will not go into other and finer distinctions, as a farther analysis could add nothing to the efficacy of the foregoing tests. The stamps were first sold in this country by a Birmingham dealer, in ignorance of their true character. One of the sets fell into Mr. Joannis's hands, and upon his communicating with the dealer in question, the latter, as he informs us, called in the stamps he had supplied, and gave all the assistance in his power to discover by whom they were originally fabricated. He at length, in reply to his inquiries, received an offer of 150 sets of four stamps (the fourth being a pretended colour-variety of the 10 c.) for 50/-,—which would be at the rate of a penny each. The offer came from the notorious

ENGELHARDT FOHL,

Cigar Seller, of Riesa, Saxony. This man has launched several very artful forgeries, and we strongly advise every dealer who desires not to touch pitch, to have *nothing whatever to do with him*. We hope that the above description will prevent any of our readers from being taken in by these specious Luzon stamps, and we may, in conclusion, mention that, together with the gentleman referred to in the opening lines, Mr. Ysasi and other philatelic notabilities have been occupied in ferreting out the

forger. Their united efforts have been crowned with success.

A friend of ours, a collector of some experience, who happened to be in Boulogne a few weeks back, was deceived by a very artfully concocted imperial 1 franc stamp. He was offered a very clean obliterated copy at one franc-and-a-half, and was told that others, equally clean, might be had at the same price. He and another collector, tempted by the comparatively low figure, each purchased a specimen, and, as the stamps were evidently genuine, did not at first take the trouble to examine them closely. By chance, however, our correspondent's attention was attracted to the lower margin of his copy, and a moment's glance showed him that he had been the victim of a clever fraud, for which the following is the recipe. Take a common 1 franc stamp of the republic and an 80 c. empire of the earliest shade (burnt carmine). The two stamps are of almost the same colour, and both resemble closely in colour the 1 franc of the empire. Cut away the value from the lower margin of the 80 c., and put in its place the inscription in the lower margin of the republican stamp, "1 F. POSTES 1 F.," and your French empire 1 franc is complete. It requires a neat hand to piece in the little slip which is cut out of the republican stamp, but if well done the join will almost defy detection. You sacrifice the republican 1 franc, which is worth but threepence or fourpence in France, and with the aid of the 80 c., which can be had for a penny, you fabricate a stamp, which will bring in from fifteenpence to two shillings. Our friend, on going to the shop where the stamps were bought, found they had been supplied by Madame * * *, a retired stamp dealer, living in Boulogne, who, he suspects, knew more about them than she would own. The price of the stamps was refunded, and no further steps were taken. It, however, was certainly in our friend's power to proceed against the seller for obtaining money on false pretences, or *escroquerie*, as the French call it. We refer to the matter in order to warn our readers, for "if there are lords in the south, there are chiefs in the north." If eight or nine such stamps could be found at one tinte in

Boulogne, it is probable that a large number have been sent to England. We incline to believe that the fabrication of them is carried on on a large scale, the cleanest obtainable copies of the 80 c. being chosen, in order that purchasers may hug themselves with the idea that they have obtained a fine specimen of the long-sought one franc of the empire.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

PERSONAL.—We are desired, by our old correspondent, Mr. W. P. Brown, now in Japan, to inform all whom it may concern that, as he has definitely retired from the stamp trade, he cannot undertake to exchange stamps, and any which may be sent to him to that effect will be returned.

A ROWLAND HILL MEDAL.—We have received from an old friend a rubbing of an old copper medal, weighing about one-eighth of an ounce, about the size of a two-shilling piece, and one-fifth of an inch in thickness. On the face are the arms of Great Britain on a shield, surmounted by a crown, which interrupts the outer circle, on which is inscribed, THE POST-OFFICE LETTER WEIGHT. The shield itself is encircled with the motto *Honi soit qui mal y pense*. On the reverse, inscribed on an extended mantle (like that on the Prussian stamps), we read FOR ROWLAND HILL'S PLAN OF PENNY POSTAGE, and round the margin runs an inscription, indicating that the medal or letter weight had been duly registered, pursuant to 2nd Vict., cap. xvii, for W. Hooper. It is the only medal, so far as is known, which in any way commemorates Sir Rowland Hill's system; but the penny postage stamp itself is the best memorial he can desire.

POSTHUMOUS LETTER WRITING.—“A rather amusing story,” says Colonel Stuart, in his *Reminiscences of a Soldier*, was told me some time ago by an old lady who had an ancient servant that had lived with her for many years, named Ann Brady. One day Ann came to her mistress in the parlour, crying and roaring. “Now ain't I the unfortunate woman? Och, what will I do at all, at all?” “What's the matter, Ann?” said her mistress. “Och, ma'am,” replied Ann, “the postman's outside, and he's got a letter for me from purgatory, and I know it's from my old mother, who's been there this tin years, and it's all about me not paying for the masses I said I would. Ochone! but I am the miserable woman.” On her mistress going out, she found the postman in a fit of laughter, with a letter directed to “Ann Brady,” from the “Dead Letter Office.” Nothing could induce her to touch it, the “Dead” to her meaning purgatory, and nothing else; and her mistress was obliged to open the letter for her, and found it was one Ann had written to a nephew in Clare; but as he had gone to America, the letter had consequently been returned.

PERFORATION PROPER, i.e., where holes are punched out and a piece removed from the paper, has long been used for Bank cheque-books, to enable the cheque to be detached from the counterfoil, and *perçage à la roulette* is frequently used to sever railway tickets, coupons, and the like. The most extensive use of this latter mode of perforation which we have noticed is to divide one copy of a newspaper from another, on the long roll of paper on which daily publications are usually printed now-a-days.

The Leeds Mercury, one of the foremost of the provin-

cial press in reputation and ability, is the first journal we have seen to which this plan of dividing copy from copy has been applied.

The roll of paper as it rotates between the cylinders, and just before it finally quits them, passes beneath a set of dents, arranged in line, which make a severance without removing any of the paper, and the paper is afterwards readily divided at the line of demarcation, and time and labour much economized.

The operation is performed neatly and almost exactly in a line of 3 feet 6 inches or rather more,—an almost crucial test of the efficacy of the process. This instance of mechanical ingenuity and adaptation merits the success which we have no doubt it will attain.

STAMP COLLECTING IN 1842.—A new mania has bitten the industriously-idle ladies of England. To enable a large wager to be gained, they have been indefatigable in their endeavours to collect old penny stamps; in fact, they betray more anxiety to treasure up Queen's heads, than Harry the Eighth did to get rid of them. Colonel Sibthorpe, whose matchless genius we have so often admired, sends us the following poem upon the prevailing epidemic:—

When was a folly so pestilent hit upon
As folks running mad to collect every spit upon
Post-office stamp that's been soil'd and been writ upon?
Oh, for Swift! such a subject his spleen to emit upon.
'Tis said that some fool in mustachios has split upon

The rock of a bet,
And therefore must get,
To avoid loss and debt,
Half the town as collectors, to waste time and wit upon,
Bothering and forcing their friends to submit, upon
Pain of displeasure
To fill a peck measure
With the coveted treasure
Of as many old stamps as perforce can be lit upon,
To paper a room, or stuff cushions to sit upon.
Do, dearest Punch, let fly a sharp skit upon
This new pursuit, and an ass's head fit upon
The crest of the order of Knights of the Spit-upon.

Punch, 1842.

PUNDITS PUZZLED.—By the last mail from India a curious letter arrived at the General Post-office, London. It was stamped; the paper of which the envelope was composed was peculiar, and the address was, for the time being, utterly unintelligible. Anyhow, the letter had been sent to London. The General Post-office authorities at once despatched a trustworthy messenger to the most erudite scholars in the city, to ask them to decipher the strange, blotted, crooked, and indistinct hand-writing on the envelope. An eminent linguist of the British Museum was applied to. He could not interpret the address, but pronounced the characters forming it not to be arrow-headed ones, nor resembling the letters composing the ancient Assyriac inscriptions with which he had hitherto met. Another well-known authority of the British Museum was consulted, but he could not see in the writing on the envelope any resemblance to Chinese. The authorities at the India Office were next asked for their opinion. The omniscient Librarian was unfortunately absent just at the time when the postal messenger called, but a professor, his able assistant, pronounced it not to be Malagasy or even Pali. The letter next went to Richmond, where a well-known Canarese scholar pronounced the address not to be Canarese. So the letter passed from pundit to pundit without interpretation. At length it happened that a learned gentleman of the India Office recommended the bearer of the mysterious commu-

nication to take it to two other learned gentlemen residing in Bayswater. These laid their heads together, and discovered that the inscription on the envelope of the redoubtable letter was in the Telugu character. It was written very badly, however, and when translated read as follows:—"Nottu peydu. Jaroor! I pray post-office writer in London to take this letter and give into the hand of the Ranec." "Nottu Peydu" means "not paid." There was no stamp on the letter, so perhaps the Telugu person who sent it considered his communication to "the Ranec," as he styles her Majesty the Queen, sufficiently important in itself to pass free to the hands of the "Empress of India." "Jaroor" is the Hindustani equivalent for post haste. Of course the contents of the letter are not known to us. Probably some petty lawsuit has gone wrong with the sender, and her Majesty is informed that the local magistrate took bribes.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE JAPANESE COINAGE, &c.

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

SIR,—Yesterday I received from the British post-office here your magazine for May, and was very much pleased reading it. I notice your item on the Japanese coinage, and your pertinent remarks with reference to the 2 *sen* coin, which I am happy to inform you is quite common here, having been issued at the same time with the other values. The *yen* or *rio* pieces being gold of 2, 5, 10, and 20, respectively equal to 2, 5, 10, and 20 dollars U. S. gold; the 5, 13, 20, and 50 *sen* pieces, silver; and the 1 *rin* piece and the $\frac{1}{2}$ *sen*, 1 *sen*, and 2 *sen* pieces being copper. Your informant speaks of a 5 *rin* piece, by which, of course, he means the $\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* coin. You will, perhaps, wonder at the necessity of a 1 *rin* coin, value about one-fifth of a farthing; but the natives here are mostly very poor, sixpence English out of town being fair price for a day's work, and one shilling, or 1 *bu*, the common price in Yokohama. I would have been glad to do what I could to spread a desire for the science of philately, but as yet I have heard of no one that pays money for used stamps, though several are collecting. A sheet of stamps from a London dealer adorns the show-case of a large firm here, but being about half counterfeits, it is as well, perhaps, that they meet with no sale.

Yokohama.

Yours truly,
W. P. B.

THE PROPOSED AMERICAN PHILATELICAL SOCIETY.

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

SIR,—Having noticed your encouraging remark in the September number of your magazine, *apropos* of the society I am endeavouring to found in this country, I have the pleasure of addressing you a few words explanatory.

The main idea I have, is a society which would bring all collectors together into closer union, and establish an acquaintance between them. It is well known here that the major portion of our amateurs know none of their brother collectors; and many are ignorant even of the extent of philately. An acquaintance with the magazines devoted to the subject they have not; any more than a knowledge of the various dealers engaged in the trade of stamps. You might think in such a country as this facilities would be granted for making collectors known to

one another; but such is far from being the fact. On the contrary, the tendency seems to be to keep collectors in entire ignorance of who their neighbours may be, lest the chance of selling a dollar's worth of stamps would be missed.

With this idea in view, I have consulted among the very few collectors I know, and we are determined to bring about, if possible, a change, so that we may know the who's who of philately.

It must not be supposed that this is the only object. Comparison of views, examination of collections, preparation of papers on all subjects pertaining to the study of philately as a science; interchange of duplicates which now must either be sacrificed or accumulated; special attention to new things; a local habitation as well as a name; the inculcation of friendly relations between *liberal* dealers and collectors; an international membership, by which he, who may be at our antipodes will enjoy all the benefits of communication, as well as he who sits in the society's rooms.

Membership will be open to all amateurs at a merely nominal fee, enough to meet the running expenses of the concern, a library will be formed and a reading-room, in which will be found files of all papers or magazines devoted in part or wholly to Philately. The rooms will be open at all times for the reception of visitors, and, in fact, a club will be established for mutual benefit.

It will not be confined to postage stamps alone, but embrace *fi-scals*, locals, &c., but at the same time, there will be no encroachment of the one upon the other.

If you are disposed to aid us, you may announce that we shall be pleased to receive suggestions from our trans-marine neighbours.

There is no reason why we should not succeed, we have the elements of success, and by harmonizing different views, may be able to shun those rocks upon which other societies have split.

Asking your aid, and knowing how beneficial it will be to us,

I remain, respectfully,
JOSEPH J. CASEY.

New York.

[We willingly give publicity to the above letter, in the hope that we may thereby aid the writer in carrying out his project, which has our warmest sympathies. It was at one time a cherished dream of our own to establish some similar means of intercommunication in this country, but the scheme never got beyond the embryonic stage; possibly because collectors shunned the semi-publicity which would have resulted from the foundation of a society, or because they were, though numerous, too scattered to permit of their attending the meetings; perhaps, also, because the study of stamps is one which encourages rather the habit of silent and persevering comparison and investigation than that of communion and interchange of ideas. Still, what holds good here may not be equally applicable in the States, for temperament goes for something, and in America associations for purposes of study and the like take firmer root than they do here. It seems to us that if each branch society were presided over by a collector of wider attainments than his brother members, and, therefore, capable of giving a direction to the common studies, a great point would be gained. The composition of essays on the emissions of different states should be encouraged. Such essays should be more than a barren enumeration of the successive issues, they should also include some appreciation of the artistic merits of the different types, and some reference to the circumstances of their issue to begin with. Later on, the more abstruse details might be studied; and,

though such essays might not contain much that is really new, the effort required on each writer's part to attain a decent acquaintance with the issues which he undertakes to discuss, would in the end contribute greatly to increase the general state of knowledge. So much has been written on almost every known series that it is in the power of any collector who likes to take the trouble to cull from the pages of the magazines a sufficiency of interesting details to fill and render interesting a paper read before the members of a society. With these desultory remarks we must beg leave to recommend all our American friends, who may feel disposed to do so, to communicate with Mr. Casey, and probably not a few collectors on this side will be willing to join hands with him in his praiseworthy effort.—Ed. S. C. M.]

M. MOENS AND "THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHILATELY."

[Reluctant as we are to occupy any further space with the absurd attack made on the Russian locals by *The American Journal of Philately*, we cannot refuse the shelter of our columns to the following letter, addressed by M. Moens to the *Journal* in reply to the insults addressed to him. It chose to assume that the Moresnet stamp was got up as a speculation, whilst everyone knows that it was simply a hoax. We were for the moment deceived by it, like almost everyone else; but the joke was such a good one that it carried its own excuse with it, and philately was none the worse for the hearty laugh to which it gave occasion.—Ed. S. C. M.]

To the Editor of "THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHILATELY."

SIR,—I protest against the unjustifiable attack on me contained in No. 104 of your journal.

In reminding Mr. "Quelqu'un" of the Moresnet stamps you place me in the same category with Chute and other like fry, whose drugs have no shadow of a resemblance with the Moresnet stamps noticed by me in my journal. In presence of the agreeable relations that have always existed between us, I am surprised to find that you class me with a band of rogues, who have taken and are taking advantage of the credulity of the public, without having first obtained some information respecting these celebrated Moresnet stamps. Your inconsiderateness in this matter is the less excusable, as you might, had you cared to do so, have obtained all the information by a perusal of Nos. 52 and 53 of *Le Timbre-Poste*, of which you have the complete series. Besides which you were not pressed for time, for seven years have elapsed since the revelation of the Moresnet stamps.

For the benefit, however, of those of your readers who do not know the history of these stamps, and for yours, Sir, who appear to have forgotten it, I will briefly refer to the facts as related in *Le Timbre-Poste*.

In April, 1867 (No. 52 of that journal), appeared a letter, signed J. S. Néom, dated Moresnet, 1st April, announcing that certain stamps, of which an engraving was given, had been proposed by Mons. Deraect, the postmaster, and had been printed by Messrs. De Visch & Lirva, of Brussels.

This announcement was a piece of invented news on my part, by which several of my *confères* were taken in. One among the rest—who was always copying intelligence that I had received, and denying that he had done

so—not only appropriated this according to custom, but even offered the Moresnet stamps for sale, a pretty fair proof—for which I have never been pardoned—that this *confère* copied from my journal without acknowledgment, and that he offered for sale what he did not possess.

The explanation of the letter of Mr. J. S. Néom, of the 1st of April, is to be found in the following number for May, and is as follows:—

"The free commune of Moresnet actually exists, as we have said, but *has no post-office*; consequently Monsieur Deraect—pronounced De Craek—cannot be the postmaster. The commune is served partly by the post-office of Montzen, in Belgium, and partly by that of Herbesthal, in Prussia, according as the correspondence comes from one or other of these two countries. There are two letter-boxes, cleared by the respective postmen of the two before-mentioned post-offices, and the prepayment of the correspondence is effected by Belgian or Prussian stamps, according to its destination.

"We have said that the execution and printing of the stamps was due to Messrs. De Visch & Lirva, of Brussels. We are obliged to straighten these names, which are a little twisted. The Flemish word *De Visch* is, when translated into French, *poisson*; which, connected with the word *Lirva*, reversed, gives us *poisson d'Avril*.* By proceeding after the like fashion with the name at the foot of the article on Moresnet, we find the name *J. Moens*."

I would also direct your attention to the date of the letter, *the First of April*, the day set apart for mystifications. Verily the hoax must have succeeded well when you, Sir, have been taken in by it after a period of seven years!

You see then, Sir, that there is, as I said at the commencement of this letter, a vast difference between the Moresnet stamps and the rotten productions of the Bostonians. A few copies, which I printed separately at the request of my correspondents, were announced in my catalogue, Nos. 6555-8, as *Souvenir du Timbre-Poste d'Avril, 1867*; but the greater part I gave away. Further, the perforation, which is feigned in the design of the engraving, leaves no doubt on this point, and all the journals have sufficiently spoken of it that it should be known.

I conclude this letter, already too long, by expressing the surprise I feel that, no doubt from a spirit of contradiction, you disseminate among your readers suspicions which can have no real foundation respecting the Russian locals. Divers collectors receive their stamps through the medium of correspondents who may be relied upon; the director-general of the post at St. Petersburg certifies their existence; copies of the decrees creating them have been furnished; trustworthy dealers (Messrs. Alfred Smith & Co. among others) certify with proofs in hand—and I can do the same—that these stamps are genuine, and yet you refuse to believe. I myself have several letters from the offices of the local posts, and many of my correspondents, who have undertaken to procure these stamps for me, have a heap of such letters, evidence that can be seen and handled. Will you still deny? There is an end to discussion, and a journal ceases to interest its readers if the mind has been made up not to be convinced. None, they say, are so blind as those that won't see. That this letter may have some effect in opening your eyes is the hope of

Yours very faithfully,
Brussels. J. B. MOENS.

* *Donner un poisson d'Avril* is the equivalent to "making an April fool."

TO OUR READERS.

WE take up our pen with infinite regret for the purpose of informing our indulgent readers that this is the last time we shall have the pleasure of addressing them in our editorial capacity. The present number of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* is the concluding one.

A twelvemonth ago we took occasion to mention, when announcing the publishers' intention to advance the price of the magazine, that it had ceased to pay its way. The hope then entertained, that the increase in the subscription rate would enable the publishers at least to cover their expenses, has not been realised. The loss incurred during the present year has been heavy, and has made the discontinuance of the magazine unavoidable.

We believe our readers will share our regret that the extinction of the oldest philatelic publication in the English language should have become necessary. Why it should of late years have received diminished support, is a question which it would be difficult to answer. The lessening of its circulation cannot certainly result from any diminution in the number of collectors, for the leading stamp importers are doing as large a business as ever. Looked at from that point of view, the stoppage of *The S. C. M.*, we are glad to say, presents no evil omen for the future of philately itself. Possibly, however, the fact that among its votaries the proportion of those who go systematically into the study of stamps is lamentably small, may account to a certain extent for the lack of that practical sympathy without which a publication, whatever may be its character, cannot long exist. Possibly also, the popularity of prepared albums and descriptive catalogues, in which collectors find nearly all the leading facts connected with postage stamp emissions grouped together, and always at hand, may explain the lukewarmness of the philatelic public as a whole. These are the explanations which most readily offer themselves; others may exist, but it is rather an uncongenial work to speculate over the precise causes of one's own decease, and we will not attempt to pursue the subject further.

Still, we can console ourselves in contemplating the demise of *The S. C. M.* with the consideration that it forms the close of a long and, we may proudly add, an honourable existence. The magazine, during the twelve years in which it has been published, has uniformly sought to advance the interests of philately by constantly collecting and diffusing all the information obtainable on stamps, and by attacking and exposing shams and swindlers. Scarcely a writer whose name is known to philatelists but has contributed, at one time or another, to its columns. Its early volumes reflect the eager search after knowledge, the ardent enthusiasm, the uncertainties and the antipathies of what may be termed the first generation of philatelists; its later ones portray the maturer acquaintance with stamps, the scientific gravity and method, the wider grasp, and the critical accuracy, which characterise the collector of the present day. In 1862 Mount Brown was a living power in the new world of stamp collectors, and Dr. Gray was standing forth in defence of a contemned pursuit. During the long interval which separates that year from the present one some well known writers have passed away for ever, others have retired from the field, and one or two have, unfortunately, made shipwreck of their reputations; but among those whose contributions enlivened and rendered instructive the columns of the first volumes of *The S. C. M.*, there still remain not a few whose names are familiar in the mouths of collectors as household words. Dr. Viner, whose connection with the magazine was for years of a peculiarly close character, and who did so much by his terse and genial writings to popularise the study of stamps; Mr. Pemberton, whose knowledge of philately is unsurpassed among British collectors, and whose forays among the kites—the makers and vendors of spurious wares—have rendered him a terror to evildoers; Fentonian, whose ingenious disquisitions have frequently enlivened these pages; Mr. Philbrick, whose weighty and exhaustive monographs are universally accepted as authorities on the subjects of which they treat; “A Parisian Collector,” who has brought to bear on the discussion of philat-

telic topics a depth of erudition, a practical spirit, and an acquaintance with collections and collectors which combine to render his contributions so enjoyable—these and many other earnest philatelists of lesser note are still among us, and our sincerest thanks are due to them for the valuable aid they have given us.

Nor, in making our farewell bow, must we omit to thank our contemporaries for the generous support which they have almost uniformly accorded us. In their columns we hope to see philatelic matters discussed and philatelic interests defended for many a year to come.

Lastly, it is our duty to state that although *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* will cease to exist, our publishers have decided on issuing a monthly circular, of which the first number will appear on New Year's day. It will contain, besides Messrs. Alfred Smith & Co.'s announcements, an article or letter by Mr. Overy Taylor, giving an account of the stamps issued during the month, and keeping the readers of the circular *au courant* of philatelic discoveries and controversies; combining, in short, the news hitherto given in *The S. C. M.* under the headings of "Newly-Issued Stamps" and "Our Contemporaries." As Mr. Taylor's contributions to this journal have been kindly received, we venture to hope that similar favour will be extended to his monthly "leader" in Messrs. Smith's circular; and we earnestly solicit at our readers' hands their support to the new venture, modest as it is. Having presented to them our successor, it only remains for us to subscribe ourselves, for the last time, their obedient servant,

THE EDITOR.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

SPAIN.—We find in *The Philatelist* for November a description and engraving of another new Carlist stamp,—this time for the province of Valencia. The portrait of the Pretender—if the illustration is a correct one—certainly does not flatter him; he looks almost an old man, and has doffed the laurel

crown he recently assumed; the effigy is on a ground of open horizontal lines, in an oval with arched scrolled labels above and below,—the upper one inscribed *ESPAÑA VALENCIA*, the lower one *CORREOS ½ REAL*. On either side of the oval is a kind of fleur-de-lis, and the ground outside the oval is formed of radiating lines; a double-lined exterior frame completes this rather peculiar stamp. It is printed in red on white, is unperforated, and the separate stamps bear a single line of demarcation where they are to be cut or torn off. Though nominally issued for use in Valencia—the province which Don Alfonso recently ravaged, and of which the Carlist tenure has now become somewhat precarious—it appears that its employment is not confined to that region, but that the stamp is used in all parts occupied by the Carlists.

The Madrid post-office, on its side, has issued a new 10 c. to replace the stamp of that value with figure of Justice, which was itself brought out only a few months back. It appears that the latter has been forged, and hence its supersession. The new 10 c. stamp is printed in brown on thinnish white, unwatermarked paper; and it is worthy of note that something new in the way of a design has been invented for the occasion. The cordon of the Golden Fleece in this fresh representation of the national arms is conspicuous by its absence; we miss the pendant sheep-skin, which we presume has been looked on as a monarchical symbol.

HUNGARY.—Whilst the general design of the new series agrees with the description we gave last month, which was based on an examination of the post card, it now appears that each different class of stamp in the new series has a design differing more or less from that of the others. Our first illustration represents the adhesive letter stamp of which there are four values—2 kr., 3 kr., 5 kr., and 10 kr.; the journal stamp (engra-



ving No. 2) has no triangular ornaments, but has white spaces instead, and is not perforated, and differs from the first type in the shape of the crown. The envelopes (engraving No. 3)—3 kr. green, 5 kr. red, and 10 kr. blue—resemble in general the perforated adhesives, but the crown is more like



No. 2.



No. 3.

that of the journal stamp, and the corner triangles are formed by vertical lines crossing the horizontal. The post card differs from all the others in the narrowness of the lateral branches and the shape of the crown.

There are also differences in the mode of engraving; the perforated adhesives and the journal stamp are engraved in *taille-douce*; the envelope stamps are lithographed, and the only part of the design in relief is the representation of an envelope in the centre; the post card also is lithographed, but the whole of the central design is embossed.

Beside the above types there is also a journal-tax stamp, resembling in many points the superseded values of the same class.



The Austrian double-headed eagle appears behind the circular disk. We are rather surprised to find it on an Hungarian stamp, even though, as in the present instance, the place of

honour be given to the Hungarian arms, seeing the jealous strictness with which the issuing country asserts its independence of the Austrian empire. Assuredly the representation of the eagle is a trifling matter, but when we find a special series of stamps issued, from which even the portrait of the common ruler of both countries is excluded, and the Magyar crown alone depicted, and know that the issue of a separate series forms part of a system, we may reasonably be surprised at finding the

Austrian eagle creeping in on a supplementary stamp. Perhaps its presence is the result of some particular agreement between the two countries respecting the stamp-tax, in which case the eagle would have its *raison d'être*. Knowing as we do that the decision respecting the design of a series of stamps is not taken until after a close examination of the essays or drawings submitted, we cannot but think that if the eagle was allowed to pass by the Hungarian post-office, there was a reason for its presence beyond what might be found in its suitability as a secondary ornament.

SARAWAK.—We are indebted to Mr. H. A. de Joannis for a sight of five proofs of what is stated to be a forthcoming issue for this rajahship. The design is that of the current three cent stamp, possibly a trifle modified and touched up in detail, but to all appearance the same. The colours of the proofs, which are the adopted ones, are as follow:—



Two cents	brown,	on lilac tinted paper.
Four	„ brown,	on yellow paper.
Six	„ green,	on green-tinted paper.
Eight	„ Prus. blue,	on blue-tinted paper.
Twelve	„ carmine-rose	on rose paper.

Our correspondent informs us that there is a sixth value, viz., 24 cents, of which he does not know the colour, and that all six are to be issued on the 1st of January, perforated. He adds, "Whatever they may be, they are certainly not forgeries." That much is certain, and we shall soon see whether the stamps are put in circulation. A forgery of the three cents, printed in blue on white and perforated 14, made its appearance a short time since, but Mr. de Joannis says he has succeeded in stopping the sale of it.

UNITED STATES.—From *The A. J. P.* we get information of the projected issue of another band of stamps, this time not for departmental correspondence, but for newspaper postage. It is assumed that the series will consist of the following values: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 24, 36, 48, 60, 72, 84,

96 cents, 2, 3, 6, 12, 24, 36 and 60 dollars ! This is good news for the collectors of unobliterated stamps. If only there happen to be a few subtypes, or marked colour-varieties in the 60 dollar stamps, a series of unused specimens will decidedly present a *rich* appearance, and at the same time necessitate the application of a lock and key to the album. The issue of these high values is likely to give an impetus to the nefarious practice of stamp cleaning. The United States post-office is said to lose no less a sum than 200,000 dollars per annum, by the fraudulent employment of stamps from which the postmarks have been effaced, and unless the new stamps are printed in some peculiar ink, or a biting ink is used for the postmark, the States may very possibly be defrauded of a much larger amount. Our contemporary is of opinion that the forthcoming stamps will be used for letter postage, "as there is no use for a 1 c. for newspaper postage, the lowest rate being 2 c. per pound or fraction of a pound," in which case we presume they would be employed concurrently with the existing series.

It appears that there is to be a fresh series of stamped envelopes, which would have seen the light ere this, but that the manufacturer's operations have been in some mysterious way retarded by the action of jealous rivals. The engraver has received orders to follow as closely as possible the designs of the current envelopes, so that between the old and new issues, there will be only that difference of detail which exists between a model and a copy. "There is some talk," says *The A. J. P.*, in official circles, of suppressing some values, and issuing others in their place. If this turn out to be correct, the forthcoming series will prove more interesting. From another article in *The A. J. P.* we find that books with counterfoils will be kept, in which to note the postage received for newspapers. The money received will be acknowledged on the receipt delivered to the purchaser, and an equivalent number of stamps affixed by the post-office clerk to the counterfoil, and obliterated. The intention is to furnish statistics of the operation of the new rates.

A registration envelope has just been supplied to the postal department. The New York journal gives a verbatim copy of the instructions with which it is covered. They are remarkable as showing the extreme care taken of registered letters by the United States post-office, and as such letters must occasionally pass through the hands of illiterate postmasters in remote parts, the instructions are no doubt very necessary. From a purely philatelic point of view the envelope is uninteresting.

RUSSIAN LOCALS—Oustsisolsk (Vologda).—The plain type-set stamps which were recently discovered are the successors of the quaintly designed emission here figured. Guided by the scroll which crosses the stamp, we should have taken it to be an upright rectangle, if it were not that that



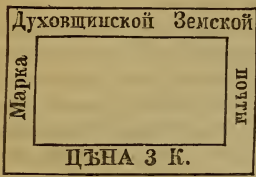
position would place the bear in an unnatural attitude. We owe our acquaintance with, and engraving of, the design to our Belgian *confre*. It appears from our illustration that the bear is coming out from behind a fir-tree, but we should hesitate to guarantee that such is really the case. This, the first issue for Oustsisolsk is said to have been put in circulation on the 1st February, 1872. Its value is 3 kop; the colour black on yellow. We are at a loss to imagine what could have induced the authorities to withdraw it in favour of the commonplace stamps now in use.

Ochansk (Perm).—We are now able to give an engraving of the stamp for this district, which was summarily described last month. It is a more handsome impression than we could have expected from the account given of it by a contemporary. The meaning of the shells, which form the armorial bearings, would be worth discovering. This stamp is lithographed in blue on white.



Duchowschtschina (Smolensk), or—as Le

Timbre-Poste spells it—Douchowchetschina—possesses a stamp of which other districts



are not likely to be jealous. The force of simplicity could no further go. The Duchowchetschinese *must* be a grave primitive sort of people, careless of the lit-

tle graces of ornament, and scornful of heraldic pomp, if this stamp is to their liking. The blank square, it is true, serves a purpose—the date is inserted in it with pen and ink,—but it might have been filled with something more striking. The date in the copy whence our engraving was taken, is the 13th July, 1874, but whether it is that of the entire emission, or merely indicates the day on which this particular specimen was employed, does not appear. This stamp, of the lowest postal formation, is printed in black on dark blue paper, and of the value of 3 kop.

Malmysch (Viatka).—The emission for Malmysch was among those described last month. The inscription in the centre signifies 2 kop. *per loth*. The



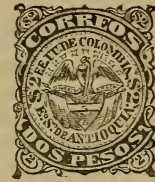
loth, as most readers are aware, is a weight, and forms the basis of the German postal tariffs. We should understand from

this inscription that the value of the stamp is 2 kop., but M. Moens gives it, perhaps by typographical error, as 5 kop. It comes from a government which, up to the present time, has not given us anything very remarkable in the way of stamp designs, the issues of Kotelnich and Nolinsk being below the average of merit.

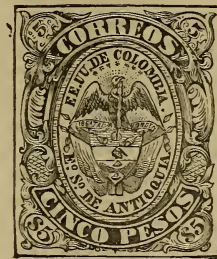
WURTEMBERG.—Mr. de Joannis sends us a cut 3 kreuzer Wurtemberg envelope stamp, which appears to have been the subject of some experiment—possibly an unofficial one. There is a kind of frame or pattern all round the stamp, and apparently printed after the latter was struck. It consists of blue horizontal lines crossed by white ones, forming a lozenge pattern, something like what may be found on the backs of cards.

Have any of our readers met with similar specimens?

ANTIOQUIA.—These three engravings represent the stamps which we described at



length last month. With regard to the two higher denominations, our illustrations are



likely to have a permanent value; for stamps worth, respectively, 8/- and 20/- in the country in which they are used, are not likely to find their way over here in any great number. We are apt to look on a five-shilling stamp as

something of a curiosity, but in New Granada its importance would be singularly dwarfed in the presence of labels which cannot be bought for less than a couple of sovereigns. It is true the designs of these high values are not remarkable for richness, and the Antioquian 5 pesos above represented, is no handsomer than its brethren. In point of originality the plebeian 50 centavos is far preferable. This latter stamp, it should be mentioned, is characterised by an orthographical oversight; the tail of the q in the name of the state has not been added, and the word consequently reads *Antioquia*.

ITALY.—The editor of *The Philatelist* gives the following account of a peculiar stamp, resembling in some respects the New Granadine *cubiertas*.

“While in Italy, we noticed at several of the hotels that the native journals arrived unstamped otherwise than by an adhesive label, evidently employed in substitution for the regular stamp, and therefore, we presume, entitled to rank among postage stamps.

That under description measures about four inches by three-quarters. It has four lines of print. At the upper left is a number (2460), followed by *ABBONAMENTO POSTALE*, postal subscription; then *FINE DICEMBRE*, 1874. *TILL*, &c. The other three lines consist of name and address of the consignee. At the lower left is capital *Z*; at the right, the numeral 4. Printed in black on yellow. We vainly tried at many Italian post-offices, Milan included, to procure any of the stamps employed for the reception of registered letters when received otherwise than personally. The latter office was the sole one wherein they had ever been *heard of*; but even there nobody knew whence they were to be had!"

NATAL.—Annexed is an engraving of the five shilling stamp mentioned in our October



it were in the centre of a dinner-plate.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—One of two things may be safely advanced respecting the sixpence lilac: either it is not used at all, or an enormous stock must have been printed off. A few years ago, when the supply of the 4d. blue ran low, resort was had to the sixpenny, which made its appearance as a provisional stamp. This time it is the penny carmine, of which the stock is exhausted, and again the inevitable sixpence is called into service. The transformation is effected by effacing the original value with a bar of red, as on the previous occasion, and printing the words *ONE PENNY* in red in *capital* letters just under the upper margin.

GRIGALAND WEST.—It appears from *The Philatelist* that the sixpence lilac of the Cape of Good Hope, "with the words of value blotched out in red, and a *written* surcharge 1d. sprawling across the stamps," is in use at the Diamond Fields, but the

correspondent of our contemporary adds that it is not the forerunner of a permanent issue, "as the normal penny red Capes will return to service when a supply is received." From this it appears to us to result that the sixpence lilac surcharged 1d. by hand, is merely an accidental variety of the provisional Cape penny described above under the heading, "Cape of Good Hope." and not a special provisional for the Diamond Fields.



EAST INDIES.—We annex an engraving of the stamp described in a recent number. The value is disposed in rather an ungraceful manner; but, taken altogether, the rupee stamp appears to be rather an improvement on the ordinary type, and the key pattern is quite an innovation.

HELSINGFORS.—We have just received, says *The Philatelist*, a post card for Helsingfors, or rather a piece of stout paper folded in two with a narrow flap gummed for adhesion, after the style of the well-known essay of the United States. It bears a 10 pennia stamp to the left; *KORRESPONDENSKORT* above; brace of dotted address lines commencing with *TILL*, ending with *GATAN NO*, and *STADSPOSTEN I HELSINGFORS* beneath, double lines below. Rather small size, green on white.

TASMANIA.—We learn from *Le Timbre-Poste* that the entire series of Tasmanian stamps has just been issued watermarked *cc* and crown, and coloured as follow:—

One penny,	carmine-rose.
Twopence,	green.
Threepence,	brown.
Fourpence,	blue.
Ninepence,	yellow.
Tenpence,	lilac.
Five shillings,	violet.

CANADA.—The current series has received an addition in the shape of a 10 cent pale rose. It is of the same design as the 2 c. green, but with the numeral 10 in the upper angles. The 15 cents of the large series is still in use, and has just made its appearance in a dull deep mauve.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

The Philatelist.—The three numbers before us contain the usual enumeration of new issues, instalments of Spud papers, and reviews of the philatelic press. Of several recent emissions our Brighton contemporary has been fortunate in having the first sight, of which fact due acknowledgment has been made, on copying the descriptions into these columns. "The Spud Papers" are as useful as never. In the November number a remarkably effective forgery of the 40 c. Cuban, 1867, is gibbeted, and a copy of the counterfeit, following the usual rule, accompanies the description. It is an imitation very difficult indeed to pick to pieces, but a collector who has had any real experience in examining and handling stamps, ought not to be deceived by it. Like all lithographs, it lacks that sharpness of outline which characterises an engraved stamp, however poorly drawn. We refer specially to this forgery because it appears to be typical of a large class. Anyone might be deceived by it at a first glance, no one ought to be at a second.

The "Descriptive Catalogue of the Russian Locals" is making good progress, though the editor frequently gives vent to his dissatisfaction at the appearance of stamps which he cannot now include in their proper place, as their names happen to begin with letters which he has passed. We notice that he spells many of the names in a different way from that in which they are usually written, thus:—

Dankov	for	Dankoff
Egorievsk	"	Egorieff
Gdov	"	Gdoff
Kirilov	"	Kiriloff
Mariupol	"	Mariopol
Novaia Ladoga	"	Novaja Ladoga
Orgaev	"	Orgueiff
Pereyaslav	"	Perejaslav

and so on. It would seem that the English spelling of these words is open to a certain degree of variation. The editor of *The Philatelist* adopts the termination *ov* instead of *off*, and, acting upon that rule, we presume would spell Gortschakoff and Schouvaloff, Gortschakov and Schouvalov. Evi-

dently he has gone fully into the question of the orthography of the names of the Russian districts, for we find him mentioning that on the maps Egorieff is written Jegorievsk; Ekaterinoslav, Iekaterinoslav; Elizavetgrad, Jelizavetgrad, &c. In such cases the J would take the sound of *i* or *e*.

With respect to the stamp for Pereslav Zaleski, our contemporary remarks that the second word does not appear on the stamp, the inscription reading thus: PERESLAVSKAYA RURAL POST VLAD. GOV. Our St. Petersburg correspondent called our attention to the same fact in a letter we intended publishing, and also stated that in any case the word Zaleski did not signify in or beyond the forest, the proper expression being Zalesnoi. He further observes that in his copy of the Melitopol stamp the postman is *not* smoking. We observe that *The Philatelist* mentions the issue last year of the same design as that of 1872, excepting that the cigar between the postman's lips is extinct. This may be the variety to which our correspondent refers as being in contradiction with the well-known type. We notice that, with regard to the Podolsk stamp, our contemporary repeats the suggestion, first made in these pages, that the objects depicted on it are stone-breaker's hammers. The conjecture may be correct, but we think it worth while to mention that, a few days back, we met with an adhesive seal used by a firm of ironfounders in Alsace, on which two crossed hammers, of the same shape as those on the Podolsk stamp, were portrayed. May it not be that there are iron works in the neighbourhood of Podolsk, and that the hammers are smiths' hammers?

Le Timbre-Poste.—The most noticeable article in the September number is a short one signed by Mr. J. Livada, of Constantinople, treating of the Morton stamps. We last referred to them ourselves in June, 1873, when discussing M. Moens's strictures on Mr. Panopoulo, and the latter's reply. We then took occasion to express the opinion that the Morton stamps, taken altogether, were not inferior to those of other private offices, and we are glad to find that in substance our opinion is confirmed by a gentleman who, writing on the spot, had every means of

ascertaining the facts. He gives the following list of stamps, which unquestionably were current:—

1869. Round stamp, without steamer.

Blue on red 20 paras.

Red on blue 40 „

1869. Same type, with steamer.

Blue on red 20 paras.

Red on blue 40 „

1870. Vessel in oval, perf.

20 paras green on white.

1 piastre vermilion.

2 „ blue.

1872. Journal stamp, carmine and black on bluish paper, unperf.

10 paras (surcharged in red letter).

1872. Same stamp, black and red on white, perf.

10 paras.

The round stamps, printed in red on yellow white and rose, and in blue or green on blue, yellow, and white, are condemned as fancy impressions which were never in use. As far as they are concerned Mr. Panopoulo is decidedly blameable, for he must be held responsible for their issue; but it is satisfactory to find that the successive emissions, as above catalogued, had a *bonâ-fide* postal character. Mr. Livada says that the round stamps were not, as supposed, applied as seals to the letters, but printed in advance on *ungummed* paper. They were affixed to the letters delivered at the company's office. The arrangement made in 1870 with the English post in Constantinople, for the reception and reforwarding of letters, gave rise to the issue of the three stamps,—20 paras, green; 1 piastre, vermilion; and 2 pe., blue. The 10 paras of 1872 served equally for letters and journals, as stated by us in vol. x.

The October number contains a further reference to the Corrientes stamps. A letter received from a correspondent who had supplied obliterated copies is quoted. It confirms the information already given, to the effect that the suppression of the Corrientes stamps, though decreed, has not been carried out. A letter sent to Goya in March last, and returned to Buenos Ayres, bore a Corrientes stamp, and also one of the Argentine stamps.

To this article succeeds a description of a forged Cuban 50 centimo de peseta (head of Amadeus) which had passed the post, and then comes a criticism on Col. Mainwaring's description of the first half anna Indian stamps. Our contemporary finds fault with the reasons advanced by our contributor for the successive issue of the half anna in black, red, and blue, because such reasons, whilst sufficient to explain the changes of colour by themselves, are inadequate to justify the changes in design which coincided with them. The theft of a packet of black half anna stamps would be a sufficient cause for changing the colour and even the type; but, argues *Le Timbre-Poste*, if the type were modified it would be so to a more manifest extent than appears in this instance. As to the change of colour from red to blue, because the supply of red ink ran short, that also would be an insufficient motive for re-engraving the design. Furthermore, he adds that the red and black half annas were both simply proofs and nothing more. In reply, we would inquire how it comes to happen that the three stamps—black, red, and blue—are all, according to *Le Timbre-Poste*, from different stones. What motive could have existed for making three distinct but nearly identical drawings of the same type? Are we to suppose that the black essay was rejected in favour of the red one, and that the blue was finally adopted as superior to the others, or that all three designs were presented together for the administration to select from? Surely either of these ideas is more opposed to common sense than that the post-office people, new to the work as they then were, should have heaped precaution on precaution at each successive change in colour. Our contemporary should also remark that Col. Mainwaring does not say the black stamp was ever issued; it was on the point of being issued when the theft of a packet was discovered. With respect to the red, also, our contributor states that it was withdrawn after only a few had been issued to the public. That of those few none have ever fallen into collectors' hands is not very astonishing. Where we were open to blame was in not appending a foot-note to Col. Mainwaring's description of these stamps, to

remedy his omission to state that the three several issues, or, at any rate, the red and blue, were from different dies.

Le Timbre-Poste for October concludes with a description of a spurious series of Carlist stamps, said to have been concocted by M. Paltzer, of Brussels, who, to give them a more genuine appearance, had them printed and perforated by MM. Gonveloos frères, of that city. The pretender's head is in an oval; a bull-dog look has been given him which is far from flattering. In the left upper corner is something intended for three *fleurs-de-lis*, and on the right the tower of Arragon. These humbugs are printed in the following colours:—

2 cartos	green.
4 „	brown.
12 „	yellow.
1 real	blue.
2 „	red.

We must not omit to add that the number under review contains an invitation to collectors, who may desire to join the Parisian Timbrological Society, to send in their names to M. Monnerot, 57, Rue de Chateaudun, Paris.

In the November number of *Le Timbre-Poste* the principal article is one treating of the Luxemburg post cards. Full but puzzling details of six different issues are given. We cannot profess to be able to condense a description of this kind, and therefore must content ourselves with giving the dates.

1. October, 1870. Black imp.
1st edition (1st October).
German inscription; reddish brown, yellowish brown.
2nd edition. 10th October.
German inscription; light buff.
French inscription; light buff.
2. 1st January, 1873. Black imp.
German inscription; lemon.
3. 1st January, 1874. Black imp.
French inscription; deep yellow.
4. 10th February, 1874. Black imp.
German inscription; orange-yellow.
5. 20th May, 1874. Black imp.
Parallel German and French inscriptions, on one and the same card; orange-yellow.

6. Cards with stamps on right upper corner, and shield of arms in left.

1st edition. 1st June, 1874.

5 centimes	violet on white.
6 „	reddish lilac on pale flesh.

2nd edition. 10th August, 1874 (modified frame).

5 centimes	violet on bluish white.
6 „	reddish lilac on deeper flesh.

Of the first edition of the inaugural type only 950 copies were struck off, of which 850 were on yellowish brown and 100 on reddish brown. Specimens of this issue are consequently very rare.

Of the German card—Type 1, 2nd edition—ten copies on thick pressed (glossy) cartridge paper, of a light flesh colour, were printed as specimens for the German post-offices.

Of type 4 there are two varieties, differing from each other in the pattern of the border. Of type 6 the first edition consisted of only 3000 of each value.

The first two types were printed by Theophilus Schroell; the third by Victor Buck; the remaining three by Pierre Bruck. The blocks of the stamp and shield on the sixth were supplied by the firm of Naumann, at Frankfort-on-Maine. Evidently the Luxemburg post-office is either very difficult to please, or very anxious to be impartial in the distribution of its not very important patronage.

The November number of the Belgian journal winds up with a critique on Mr. Tiffany's article on the five cent envelopes, supposed by that gentleman to have been issued by the New York postmaster in 1845. As we have already reprinted the article itself, from *The Philatelist*, our readers will be in a position to judge for themselves of the value of our contemporary's opinion, which is against the probability of the envelopes having been actually issued. He argues thus: The editor of *The Express*, who states that he has seen the stamped envelopes, speaks only of envelopes having been *prepared for sale*. Hence it would appear that on the 7th July, 1845, when *The Express* announced the news, they were not

in use. Mr. Tiffany, who has gone through all the numbers of that journal, finds no further trace of them, and on the 14th July *The Express* published a notice, emanating from the postmaster, of the emission of the 5 cent *adhesives*. If the issue of envelopes had taken place, it is probable it would have formed the subject of a similar notice; and, as none was published, it results that the envelopes, prepared perhaps to meet any possible hitch or delay in printing off the stamps, never saw the light. *The Express* itself when commenting, in its impression of the 14th July, on the issue of the adhesive 5 cents, says nothing more about the envelopes which its editor had seen so short a time before. This reasoning carries a large measure of probability with it. The issue of adhesives could not have been decided on and carried into execution in a single week, that is to say, between the 7th and the 14th July, 1845. The stamps must have been in existence when the editor of *The Express* saw the envelopes, and the latter can hardly have been issued for a seven days' currency. Possibly, however, they were sold at the office concurrently with the adhesives, and were issued to meet the convenience of people who preferred stamped envelopes to adhesive stamps. We are bound to say, though, that this hypothesis rests on a very slender basis, for, if the envelopes were on sale, the postmaster would, presumably, have mentioned the fact in the circular in which he announced the issue of the adhesives.

The American Journal of Philately.—Of the three numbers before us, the first two appear with Mr. Casey's name as editor on the title pages; from the third it is effaced, under circumstances which are related elsewhere. The "History of Postage Stamps" runs through the three numbers. In the third the usual instalment is represented by Mr. Overy Taylor's paper on Bavaria, reprinted from *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*.

The article entitled "The United States Locals and their History" also makes its appearance in each number, and will, unquestionably, be found of sterling value to all who take an interest in those stamps, no one being better qualified than Mr.

Coster to discourse on them with authority. In the September number we get a very good account of Don Carlos, his pedigree, and his doings prior to the outbreak of the war. The October number contains the opening paper of a series on the Californian envelope franks; by Mr. Coster, which promises to be very instructive.

PAPERS FOR BEGINNERS.—XLII.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

EUROPE.

Finland—continued.

POST CARDS.

To the lovers of minutæ the Finland cards offer an interesting subject of study, as the variations of type which have occurred are numerous and puzzling. The first card was issued about the end of 1871. M. Moens gives it as January, 1872; but, inasmuch as it is described in *The S. C. M.* for that month, which must have been written in December, 1871, it is evident that he is mistaken. The design consists of a central inscription composed of the word KORRESPONDANSKORT, in an arch, FOR beneath in small letters, and FINLAND beneath that again. An 8 kop. stamp, of the same design as the adhesive, is in the left upper corner. Three dotted lines for the address cross the card, the first commencing with the word TILL, the last with the word BESTÄMMELSEORT; then come two lines which separate the address from the instructions, which are contained in two paragraphs. The whole is enclosed in a neat Etruscan border; the stamp and inscriptions are in green. Of this first type there are two subtypes:—

(a). Green on pale buff.

(b). Dark green on greenish buff.

The border in subtype *b* is one millimetre (say, one twenty-fifth of an inch) longer than that of subtype *a*.

In October, 1872, we get the second type, of the same size as Type 1 *b*, and with the same Etruscan border and 8 kop. stamp, but the inscription KORRESPONDANSKORT FOR FINLAND is in one *straight line*, in Roman characters, and beneath it, in two straight lines, run the Swedish and Russian translations of

the inscription, each in a distinctive lettering. The dotted lines for the address are done away with, and so also are the two narrow lines separating the instructions in lower margin from the rest. The instructions themselves are condensed into a single phrase, occupying one line, and translations of the same, in Swedish and Russian, occupy two more lines. At the back is an Etruscan border, identical with that on the front, and interrupted at the two sides and the top by an inscription signifying that the space within is reserved for the communication. The impression is in green on buff.

Particular attention should be given to the first line of the instructions on the face; it reads thus:—*Pa framsidan tecknas endast adressen och adress-orten.*

The third issue is a provisional one. It consists of the second type, with the words *Till Ryssland: adressen pa ryska*, and the Swedish and Russian equivalents, surcharged in three lines of small black type, surcharged up the left side. They occupy the space from the lower margin nearly up to the stamp, and read from the bottom to the top.

The fourth issue has no surcharge, but the first line of the instructions reads as follows:—*Pa denna sida tecknas endast adressen och adress-orten. Till Ryssland pa ryska.*

It will be seen that the instruction which was surcharged on the third issue is incorporated in the text in the fourth. Furthermore, all the inscriptions are recast. KORRESPONDENSKORT FOR FINLAND is in block types, instead of in Roman, and the spelling is altered to KORRESPONDENSKORT. The Swedish translation is in Roman small-type, instead of German text, and the Russian translation in a narrow elongated type, instead of in extended round block characters. Similar changes are made in the lettering and the instructions, but none in those at the back.

The third and fourth issues are struck in green on buff of various shades. A fifth issue has recently made its appearance, which I have not yet seen, but it differs in one essential point from all the rest; the card is flesh coloured. This alone would distinguish

it sufficiently; but it appears that, in addition, the inscriptions have nearly all been composed afresh, in different characters, and that the Etruscan pattern of the border is larger, and each separate key-piece spread out.

Let us resume the more prominent of the characteristics above given in a reference list.

First type.—Dec. 1871. KORRESPONDENSKORT FOR FINLAND in three lines, the first one arched. Three lines for address.

a. Green on buff.

b. Dark green on greenish buff (border $\frac{1}{2\frac{1}{2}}$ in. longer).

Second type.—KORRESPONDENSKORT FOR FINLAND in one straight line, and below it Swedish and Russian translations; at back an Etruscan border and inscription.

a. 1872. KORRESPONDENSKORT, &c., in Roman capitals; first line of instructions on lower margin; *pa framsidan tecknas endast adressen och adress-orten.*

Green on buff.

b. 1872. Same as *a*, with black surcharge up left side—*Till Ryssland; adressen pa ryska.*

Green on buff.

c. 1873. KORRESPONDENSKORT, &c., in block capitals; first line of instructions—*Pa denna sida tecknas endast adressen och adress-orten. Till Ryssland pa ryska.*

Green on buff.

d. 1874. Inscription in different characters; Etruscan border larger.

Green on light salmon.

In this list I have only included manifest differences of type, disregarding the varieties due to the comparative glossiness or roughness of the card; it only remains to add that the 8 p. stamp is struck separately, and probably after the rest of the design has been printed.

LOCAL STAMPS.

Helsingfors.

At some unascertained date a private association obtained the necessary authority to establish a local post-office at Helsingfors,

and it would appear to have begun issuing stamps in 1866. The *bond-fide* character of the emissions has been generally admitted, and, perhaps, no better proof of their genuineness—if proof were needed—could be adduced than that which is contained in the fact incidentally alluded to by Mr. Max Joseph, of Gablonz, an old and well known collector, that he possesses an obliterated specimen taken from a letter from Helsingfors, and duly postmarked 17th January, 1869.* From the account of the postal service given by M. Moens in 1866, it appears that it consists in the delivery of letters and packets within the town of Helsingfors, which, as most of my readers are aware is an important commercial town. The company has its letter-boxes scattered through the town, whence the letters are collected five times per day, and delivered from house to house; in short, its operations resemble to some extent those of the second-class American local posts.

The annexed design appeared in the spring of 1866; the diagonal band was printed in red, and the rest of the stamp in green. In 1868 a second edition was issued, with blue diagonal band, and the rest of the stamp brown. The transverse inscription in Swedish, STADSPOST, and the Finnish inscription in upper margin of oval, KAUPUNGIN POSTI, have the same meaning, namely, *City post*. In like manner, the value is inscribed in Swedish (*pennia*) on the left, and in Finnish (*penni*) on the right.

In 1871 the current type, as here represented, made its appearance. It is printed in two colours—the upper half of the stamp diagonally from upper right to lower left corner, in red; the lower half in green. Whether they have any special signification has never been stated, but the Swedish inscriptions,



HELSINGFORS STADSPOST, are made to coincide with the red, and the Finnish, KAUPUNGIN POSTI HELSINGISSA, with the green.

Another design was discovered by M. Moens in 1870, and is included by him in his price catalogue, published not long ago, but no one has heard anything more about it, and the proof of its employment rests on a solitary postmarked specimen dated "2nd February, 1860." It is printed in green with the exception of the ground of the small circular disks, which is red. Whether the present or any other local post company existed in 1860, is a thing which could easily have been ascertained. For my own part I cannot understand why this stamp, if really issued, should be so rare, whilst the others are common, and remain unknown for ten years, when the others were met with as soon as issued. It looks like a mystification.

Recently the Helsingfors company have issued a post card with their stamp in upper corner, and the inscription STADSPOSTEN I HELSINGFORS in lower margin. The card is folded so as to double up, and has a narrow flap for convenience of closing its contents from prying eyes.

The *Joint Stock Helsingfors Steamboat Company* has just issued a stamp of remarkable beauty of impression, for the prepayment of letters carried by its vessels to the islands along the coast, but as it was described only a couple of months since it is unnecessary to refer more fully to it.

Tammerfors.

The solitary stamp for Tammerfors was issued in the same year as the first emission for Helsingfors, an association at Tammerfors having obtained permission to set up a local post. The transverse bar is blue, the rest green. Whether the stamp or the company still exists I know not. We possess the birth certificate of



* See *S. C. M.*, vol. ix., p. 47.

the former, and since its appearance was announced nothing further has been said about it.

[The discontinuance of *The S. C. M.* necessarily implies the abrupt cessation of the series of "Papers for Beginners" which has been in course of publication since 1870. Whether the cessation will be permanent or temporary I cannot yet say, but I take leave to thank the readers of this journal for the encouraging reception they have given to these papers.—I have to appeal to the indulgence of a gentleman writing from Nashville, Tennessee, to allow me to postpone my reply to his query *re* the Lubeck stamps. The description of the forgeries which I copied, as stated in my paper, from *The Philatelist* was written by Mr. Atlee, and I assumed it to be correct. A hasty examination of the stamp sent by my Nashville correspondent leads me to fear that there is some mistake, but before expressing a definite opinion I should require to investigate the matter fully. I will take an early opportunity of replying, either in the pages of *The Philatelist*, or of the Messrs. Alfred Smith and Co.'s forthcoming *Monthly Circular*.—OVERY TAYLOR.]

PERSONAL MATTERS.

[*The Berford Express Stamps.—The Russian Locals.*]

ON page 70 of the present volume we gave a *résumé* of the history of the Berford express stamps, as published in *The American Journal of Philately* for February and March, from which it appeared that three adhesive stamps were issued by Mr. Berford, in 1851, viz.:—3 cents black, 10 c. purple, and 25 c. red. Of these stamps our contemporary's editor—Mr. J. J. Casey, A.M.—stated he had found a number in Mr. Berford's scrap-book, and had obtained possession of them. Later on—if what is stated be true—Mr. Casey informed Mr. Scott, the publisher of *The A. J. P.*, that he had discovered the stones from which the Berford stamps were printed, and had had reprint impressions taken from them. These reprints he disposed of to Mr. Scott, and also, it appears, to Mr. C. H. Coster, both of whom, relying on their genuine character, have since offered them to European dealers.

So far all is plain sailing. That adhesive stamps were really issued by Mr. Berford we are convinced; in the first place, because one of the values—the 10 c. purple or lilac—was seen by us in 1865 (see *S. C. M.*, vol. iii., p. 137); and secondly, because since the publication of the account of the Berford express in these pages, a correspondent, resi-

dent at Oxford, has informed us (see p. 94) he has had a 10 c. lilac in his possession since 1864. Moreover, the public notice of the issue of these stamps, which is reproduced in *The A. J. P.*, is said to have been copied out of *The New York Herald* of the 17th June, 1851, and if doubt be felt as to the actual existence of the stamps, there would be no difficulty in verifying the assertion by reference to the files of *The Herald*.

The authenticity of the reprints has, however, been suddenly questioned in an unexpected quarter. A number of *The Timbrophilist*—a paper occasionally published by Mr. S. Allan Taylor, of Boston—appeared in September, containing an article headed "The Berford Abominations," in which Mr. Taylor, after discoursing, in his usual style, on the facilities and temptations which exist for inventing local postage stamps, wound up by declaring that he had ascertained that the stones from which the pretended reprint Berfords were obtained "were made one day last winter in the office of the New York Graphic Company, photo-lithographers, and that the edition consisted of 300 sets, which were duly paid for at the usual price. In the concluding sentence of the article he adds, "If the promoter and concoctor of the Berford stamps has any reply to make to this assertion, we think we herewith give him a fair challenge." What happened when the paper reached Mr. Scott, the publisher of *The American Journal of Philately*, is related by himself as follows, in the October number of that periodical:—

Upon reading the above paragraph, we requested Mr. Casey to execute an affidavit denying what we supposed to be a base calumny; but, as he failed to respond, we proceeded to the office of the New York Daily Graphic Company, accompanied by a witness, and, upon showing a set of the so-called reprints of Berford's stamps, were informed that they were manufactured by them from copies left by a person exactly answering the description of J. J. Casey. Comment is unnecessary, but it is with feelings of the greatest sorrow that we find our previous misgivings confirmed by the publication of the above article. Mr. Casey has been known to us for many years, and until lately we held him up as an example of what energy and intelligence could accomplish in improving a man's position in society. * * * In common with many collectors, we were aware of his having placed two bogus stamps (Walker's express and the 3 aspers Egyptian) on the market; but he has so often expressed contrition for his early errors, that we did not hesitate to bestow on him the honourable distinction of editing this journal, and when he told us that he had discovered the

stones from which Berford's Express stamps were printed, we did not have the slightest doubts of his veracity, or hesitate to purchase some of the so-called reprints.

In the same number of *The A. J. P.* appears a letter from Mr. C. H. Coster—a gentleman whose integrity has never been questioned—which reads as follows:—

DEAR SIR,—Some time ago I purchased from Mr. Joseph J. Casey, a considerable quantity of what he represented to be “reprints” of the Berford Express stamps, and on the strength of his representations I sent the majority of them to Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, & Co., C. Van Rinsum, Esq., and Mrs. A. Craig, in exchange for stamps received from them. It has since appeared that these Berford stamps are counterfeits, and I have, therefore, already refunded their cost to the above-named parties, and I now take occasion to say that, as there is a possibility of my having sent a few other copies to other correspondents, whose names I have overlooked, I will be most happy if they will remind me of the fact to make similar reparation to them.

I bought the stamps from Mr. Casey in good faith, and he now informs me, about six months afterwards, that he sold them to me as a “practical joke of the highest kind.”

Yours very truly,
CHAS. H. COSTER.

This is a plain statement of the charge against Mr. Casey. His reply to it we shall now give. It is contained in the last paragraph of a long letter he has addressed to us for publication, of which the preceding portion refers to a subject we shall discuss separately. He says:—

As to the other matter contained in the journal of Oct. 20, Mr. Scott will soon be called upon to answer before the courts. His statements are slanderous, libellous, and malicious falsehoods, *all of them*. I have placed the matter in the hands of the Hon. A. Oakey Hall, one of the ablest lawyers in the country, who has begun suit against Scott. There, before the tribunal of justice, he must answer, to an extent he has little dreamt of, for endeavouring to defame me, who, in all my acquaintance with him, never did one solitary act, directly or indirectly, to injure him in the slightest; and never, directly or indirectly, gave him the remotest occasion to ever speak or write one harsh word against me.

This reply is in itself a very insufficient one. Mr. Casey, if he has decided, as he states, on taking legal action, is not to be blamed for prematurely disclosing such answer as he may have it in his power to make to the charge brought against him; but, as he addresses his letter to us for the purpose of publication, and, in effect, denies all knowledge of the reprints, he cannot wonder if we examine how far the accusation is supported by the facts. Mr. Casey declares that every statement made by Mr. Scott is false, but he does not refer to what Mr. Coster advances in his letter.

In point of fact, the charge does not emanate from Mr. Scott alone, but from three persons, whom we will mention in the order in which they appear on the scene,—Mr. S. A. Taylor, Mr. Scott, and Mr. Coster.

The original discovery of the spurious nature of the reprints is due to Mr. S. A. Taylor. If the matter rested on his evidence alone, we should hesitate to give it credence. Mr. S. A. Taylor is the Barnum of the philatelic fraternity; the concocter, *par excellence*, of humbugs, of which he first pockets the proceeds, and then acknowledges himself to be the author. His proceedings have often been the subject of severe censure in all the philatelic magazines, and, finding himself outlawed, he has taken his revenge by absurdly calumnious statements respecting dealers and philatelists in general. But in this instance his assertions are confirmed, and whosoever may have been the promoter of the Berford reprints, Mr. S. A. Taylor deserves credit for having discovered their origin. In a characteristic letter, which he has addressed to us, he says,—

“When I saw by the price lists of Gibbons, Friedmann, and others, that these abortions had been put on the European markets, I thought it was worth my while to look up the matter. No matter if I was a notorious swindler, &c., and chief of a ring of counterfeiters, *et al*, I never was accused of being a fool, or of being readily imposed on, so I went to work on the Berford subject, and, after a very tedious and laborious investigation, occupying and extending over a period of two months, I at last discovered that the Berford locals were executed by the N. Y. Graphic Company, from designs brought to them, *and not from original stones*, for none such exist, and that the stones from which these Berford stamps were made and printed were ‘cleaned off’ when the job was done, which is the best kind of evidence as to whether they were original or not.”

This letter contains an additional argument against the possibility of the reprints being genuine which is worth noticing, and also shows that the initiative in the matter was spontaneously taken by the writer.

As to Mr. J. W. Scott's part in the mat-

ter, Mr. Casey, in his letter to us, would have it appear that his action was guided solely by unworthy motives. Mr. Casey says that he edited the journal until "he found that his services were not met with that due appreciation, that courtesy which he thought was due to him;" that he then "severed his connection with Mr. Scott" (we omit the adjectives), and withdrew his support from his journal. And, he adds, "no sooner had I withdrawn than Mr. Scott endeavours to turn * * his malice upon me." Of course we have nothing to do with the relations which may have existed between Mr. Scott and Mr. Casey, but it is due to Mr. Scott to point out that, as we have already shown, the accusation respecting the Berford locals *did not originate with him*. He found it in a contemporary paper, he gave Mr. Casey the means of refuting it, and upon obtaining confirmation of its truth he published the explanation we have quoted, and advertised that he would return the money he had received for the reprints sold. His breaking off with Mr. Casey appears to have been sudden, and to have been due to the discovery of the disreputable manner in which the so-called reprints had been foisted on collectors. He may have been dissatisfied with Mr. Casey on other grounds; a phrase in his explanatory remarks would seem to indicate as much; but there is nothing to show that the charge against Mr. Casey was commenced by Mr. Scott, or that Mr. Casey's secession from the journal *preceded* it. On the whole we are bound to say that Mr. Scott appears to have taken the only course which an honest man could adopt under the circumstances. If the threatened trial should disclose facts which would vitiate this conclusion, we shall be willing to make all necessary amends.

Now, with regard to Mr. Coster, his statement, if true, clearly identifies Mr. Casey with the sale of the reprints, and by a fair inference, with their concoction. The last paragraph of his letter even quotes a reply from Mr. Casey, in which the latter fully admits his connection with these frauds, and declares them to have been "a practical joke of the highest kind." If this be so, then the statements of Mr. S. A. Taylor and

Mr. Scott cannot be, as Mr. Casey asserts them to be, "malicious falsehoods, one and all." If ever the matter comes before the courts, Mr. Coster will be able to produce Mr. Casey's letter, and prove the accusation, or it will fall to the ground. Assuming the letter to be in existence, the reply is a pitiful one. An English collector who some years ago endeavoured to deceive philatelists in private and in public, when brought to bay, made use of a similar excuse, but ineffectually. His imposition was laid bare and condemned, as it deserved to be. Mr. Casey's reply is of no more avail. If all that is stated be true, he first got the reprints made, and then published the elaborate history of the Berford stamps which appeared in the spring. He afterwards made known his discovery of the original stones, which no one in New York appears to have been desirous to see. His word was accepted with a credulity which, on the part of 'cute Americans, surprises us, and he scattered his reprints right and left—for a consideration. There is no joke at all about the matter, but a very ugly attempt to obtain money on false pretences. The *prima-facie* evidence is dead against Mr. Casey. If he can prove that he is innocent, no epithet will be too strong to stigmatise the combination against him, and we trust that it will be in his power to demonstrate not only that he is guiltless of all complicity with the Berford abominations, but also that he had nothing to do with the bogus Egyptian 3 aspens, or the stamp which was said to have been issued by an express significantly entitled Walker.

RUSSIAN LOCALS.

The other personal matter to which we have to refer relates to the discussion on the genuineness of the Russian local stamps. It will be in the remembrance of our readers that the editor of *The American Journal of Philately* called upon us some months ago to satisfy him that these stamps were what they were said to be. We replied, calling in question his competency for his self-appointed post of judge, and this elicited a rejoinder, in which we ourselves and Messrs. Alfred Smith & Co. were attacked in the most virulent manner. The article in *The*

A. J. P. contained insulting insinuations that Messrs. Smith had from time to time been parties to the sale of stamps which they knew to be spurious. To this second article our own self-respect would not permit of our replying. In it the question of the Russian stamps was put out of sight; the editor of *The A. J. P.*, disclaiming his intention of acting the part of a judge, assumed, as he himself avowed, the character of a "prosecuting attorney," and acted as if he had received for brief those oft-quoted instructions—"No case, abuse the other side." A valued contributor of ours took upon himself, however, the duty of administering the necessary rebuke to *The A. J. P.* in our October number, and the latter journal thus refers to the matter in its article entitled "Our Philatelic Contemporaries."

The Stamp-Collector's Magazine.—The October number of this excellent publication comes promptly to hand, and is as usual full of good things, although we do not find anything sufficiently brief to extract. The paper by "Quelqu'un," defending the honour and business integrity of the Messrs. Smith, gives us an early opportunity of apologising for the slander insinuated in the ridiculous article complained of, which was published without our knowledge or consent, and was not even seen by us until our attention was called to it by the review in question.

We are pleased to find the controversy terminate in this manner, though we cannot give a better proof of our indifference to the insinuations referred to than exists in the fact that we published a letter from Mr. Casey in our last number, although we had every reason to suppose it was he who had penned the attack on us. We could afford to make allowance for the peculiar acerbity which creeps into American polemics, and we did not feel justified in closing our columns from any personal motive against a proposal for the establishment of a philatelic society in the States. The letter from Mr. Casey to ourselves, to which reference is made in the first part of this article, treats, for the most

part, of the closing lines of the above retractation, which appears to have been written by Mr. Scott since the severance of Mr. Casey's connection with the journal. He declares that Mr. Scott has always manifested towards us and towards many other collectors feelings the reverse of courteous, expressed in language the reverse of elegant, and that he (Mr. S.) was the instigator of the slanderous attack on our publishers, which he now so explicitly disowns. According to Mr. Casey, Mr. Scott even corrected the proofs of the article of which he denies having had any knowledge. With this part of the question, however, we have nothing to do. Mr. Scott may, as Mr. Casey asserts, have exercised such a fascinating influence over him as to persuade him into the belief that our publishers and other dealers on this side were dishonest people; or it may be that Mr. Casey was the prime mover in the matter himself. Perhaps Short is the man, and not Codlin. The circumstances which led to the attack, or the extent in which publisher and editor participated in it, do not concern us; we look solely to the fact that honourable reparation has been made by Mr. Scott, and decline to pass our opinion as to the truth or falsehood of conflicting and unsupported assertions with reference to the preparation of the article.

It only remains for us to state that Mr. Casey on his side formally retracts all he has written that he can, without destroying his consistency, retract. He is sorry if he has stated anything untrue or unjust, and if he has done us any injury will endeavour to repair it; adding that he has every confidence in our publishers' integrity.

Mr. Casey accuses Mr. Scott of retracting what has been said in *The A. J. P.* for the sake of spiting him. Mr. Casey himself retracts purely from a desire to do what is right. This much noted we draw the curtain.