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THE YOUNG COLLECTOR'S
HANDBOOK

OF

POSTAGE STAMPS.

BY

WALTER T. OGILVY,

OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

1883.

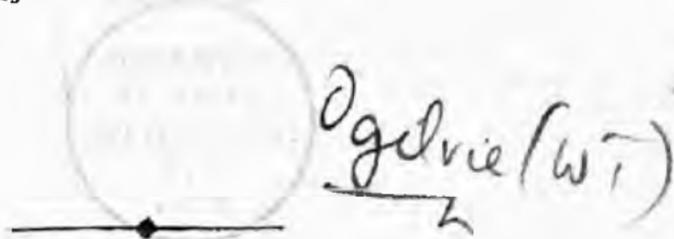
LONDON:

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STAMP LITERATURE.

(See also page 12.)

HANDBOOKS.

- Illustrated Catalogue of Postage Stamps by Dr. Gray, of the British Museum. Sixth edition. *London, Bath, 1875.* 8vo.
- Stamp Collector's Handbook, by E. L. Pemberton. Second edition. *Southampton, 1878.* 8vo.
- ✓ Catalogue of British and Foreign Postage Stamps, by Mount Brown. Fifth edition. *London, 1867.*
- Alfred Smith & Co.'s Standard Catalogue. Second edition. *Bath, 1881.* 8vo.
- Postage Stamps Illustrated, by J. B. Moens. Translated by Dr. C. W. Viner. *London, 1864.* 8vo.
- ✓ How to Detect Forged Stamps, by Thomas Dalston. *Gateshead, Bath, 1865.* 8vo.
- ✓ Postage Stamp Forgeries, by J. M. Stourton. *London, 1865.* 8vo.
- ✓ Catalogue complet des Timbres-poste, etc. *A. Maury: Paris, 1865.* 8vo.
- ✓ Nouveau Guide Manuel du Collectionneur de Timbres-poste. *P. Mahé: Paris, 1866.* 8vo.
- Bibliothèque des Timbrophiles. *J. B. Moens: Brussels, 1879, etc.*
- Histoire de la Poste aux Lettres et du Timbre-poste, by Baron A. de Rothschild. *Paris, 1879.* 8vo.
- History and Catalogue of the Envelopes of the United States, by W. E. V. Horner. *Philadelphia, 1879.* 8vo.
- ✓ Beschreibung der bis jetzt bekannten Briefmarken, etc. *Berger Levrault & Sohn: Strasburg, 1864.* 8vo.
- ✓ Guida di tutti i Francobolli emessi dal 1840 alla fine di Giugno, 1864. *G. Brecker: Firenze, 1864.* 8vo.

PERIODICALS.

- The Stamp Collector's Magazine. Vols. 1-12. *Stafford Smith. Bath, 1863-74.*
- 1-10 The Philatelist. Vols. 1-8. *Stafford Smith. Brighton, 1867-74.*
- Philatelic Record. *In progress.* 1880, etc.
- Le Timbre Poste. Edited by J. B. Moens. *In progress. Brussels, 1863, etc.*
- Le Timbrophile. *F. Mahé et Cie. Paris, 1864, etc.*
- Illustrirtes Briefmarken Journal. Edited by Dr. Moschkau. *In progress. Leipzig, 1878, etc.*

POSTAGE STAMPS.

EVERY boy has his hobby : some like cricket and football, and games of all kinds ; some—a minority we fear—prefer study ; others again have a turn for Natural History, and make collections of birds' eggs, beetles, butterflies, or moths, while some, and for them we write, are engrossed in the mysteries of "Stamps."

Now, what are stamps? What are these little bits of coloured paper, which come from all parts of the world in their hundreds and thousands ; and why do they come? What is the good of them, and why were they invented? Who invented them? Well, a certain Mr. Rowland Hill invented the original Penny Stamp in the year 1837. Letter postage was a much dearer thing in those days ; people thought twice before they sent a letter, and three times before they paid for it. There were no railroads then, and the only means of carriage were very slow mail coaches. Your letters were generally three or four days old when you did get them, and very often they were lost or stolen on the way. From all these things Mr. Rowland Hill conceived the idea that if the price of letter carrying was greatly reduced, and letters were paid for at the beginning instead of the end of the journey, many more letters would be sent, which would thus provide the means for improved carriage, and so on. People, of course, scoffed at the idea of a cheap postage, and it was not till 1840, three years later, that Mr. Hill induced the Government to lower the price of letters of a certain weight from ninepence or a shilling to one penny, with the proviso that they must be prepaid. To show that they had been paid for, little pieces of paper were stuck on each letter when payment for the carriage had been made ; and for the convenience of the public these little bits of paper were sold at a penny each, so that they might be at hand when wanted. Being stamped with the same

design, these bits of paper got to be called *stamps*. England therefore has the credit of inventing and bringing into use the postage stamp, and from this has sprung the numberless stamps which now circulate throughout the civilized world.

Now, if we examine a stamp—say the red English penny—we notice two or three things about it. In the first place it has letters in all the corners; and if we examine a whole sheet of these stamps, we find no two have the same letters. Each row has its distinctive letter; but each stamp in that row has the



alternate letter different from that in the stamp either before or after it. The reason of these letters was to prevent the stamps being forged by private persons and sold; for the postal authorities rightly conjectured that under this system, if many stamps with the same letters were found, especially as only one die could be forged, it would excite suspicion, and the forgery would be detected.

Turning to the stamp again, the second thing we notice is that, on holding it up to the light or placing it on a piece of black paper, we observe the faint outline of a small crown. This crown is called the "*Watermark*", and was adopted for the



same reason as the letters on the face of the stamp, to prevent forgery and to show it was issued by Government. This water-

mark used to be made by very small jets of water directed on the stamp, which washed away minute fragments of paper, and so caused the substance of the stamp to be thinner just at that particular place, and we can thus trace the watermark. Very many stamps have this watermark, and in many cases it is the only thing which points to a distinct issue. Antigua, Ceylon, St. Lucia, New Zealand, etc. have a *Star* as watermark: these are all English colonies. Others have a *Crown* and *CC*, which



stands for Crown Colony, as in the case of the latest issues for Victoria, West Australia, and many of our West Indian possessions. Some countries have a distinctive watermark: India an *Elephant's Head*, Jamaica a *Pineapple*, Egypt a *Pyramid*,



Naples a *Fleur-de-lis*, West Australia a *Swan*, Chili a *Numeral*, and many others. These watermarks play a very important part in the history of postage stamps, and to have a good collection it is necessary to study them carefully.

The early stamps were all imperforate; that is to say, they were printed in sheets, and when one was wanted it was cut off; but since then various modes of perforation have been tried, in order to obtain means of easily separating the stamps. There

are at least six or seven different perforations to be found among stamps, but only two of these are in general use.



Fig. 1.

(1) Ordinary *Perforation* (fig. 1), as we find it in the current English and indeed in most modern stamps. This is made by circular holes punched clean out between the stamps. These holes or perforations vary in size, and consequently in number, from seven or eight in the scarce French set, perforated by Messrs. Susse, to nearly three times that number. In the Antigua, Grenada, and some of the Natal stamps these holes were cut with a solid punch, which leaves the edges of the perforations very ragged and uneven.

(2) What is termed *Roulette* perforation (fig. 2), because it is manufactured by a *wheel* passing over the paper and leaving a line of nicks or dents between the stamps. The Prussian, Oldenburg, some of the Luxembourg, South Australian, Chili,



Fig. 2.

Brazil, etc., are rouletted. In the case of Luxembourg this rouletting is supplemented by a line of the same colour as the stamps, which gives a pleasing appearance to their edges.

These are the two principal modes of perforation at present in use, but the old Finland Stamps have a curious *Serpentine* perforation (fig. 3), which it is difficult to avoid tearing and so



Fig. 3.

spoiling the specimen for one's album. The stamps of Helsingfors have a smaller *Serpentine* perforation, while the Brunswick and Hanover stamps have a very minute perforation done by machine. The 2 grote Bremen has a *Serrated* edge like a saw.

THE ALBUM.

As soon as we have two or three stamps, we must have an album to put them into, and we will now consider that very important part of stamp collecting.

Now you can do either of two things—procure a ready-made album at a stationer's or stamp dealer's, or you can get a blank book and make an album for yourself. The latter is by far the best plan, but as most boys for some years after they begin to collect only look at difference in issues and ignore varieties of colour, paper and watermark, we will say a few words on ready-made albums.

One of the best is *Oppen's*. The pages are ruled into squares the size of a stamp, and you can arrange the stamps under the different countries as you please. There is a copious catalogue of all stamps issued at the end, and a table of coinage.

Lallier's is in our opinion the next best. This album has a space marked out on the page for each stamp, with the colour marked on it, and a list of the stamps issued by the country on the opposite page. The worst of this album is that there is no room for varieties at the side of the page, and little provision for future issues.

The *Imperial* Album is arranged much on Lallier's system, but each space has, instead of the colour, a number corresponding with the number of its stamp in the catalogue. The same objections apply to it as to Lallier.

We think every boy should begin with one of these albums, and then, when his collection is assuming more respectable proportions, rearrange it in a blank album such as we are about to describe. This should consist of two volumes, one for stamps and newspaper-wrappers, the other for envelopes and postcards, each volume of at least 280 pages, and the size of the page 13 inches long and 10 wide. This, though rather unwieldy, is better than one some inches smaller each way, as it leaves room for varieties at the end of each issue, and more can be got into a page. Rule a double line round each page as a frame to the stamps, half an inch from the sides and an inch and a half from the top and bottom of the page, and also spaces for each issue, beginning at the left margin, with half an inch clear between them. Some of the Spanish require more than one row to themselves, and have to be continued below. Above each set of stamps write the year of issue, the watermark, and other peculiarities which may strike you as important, whether lithographed or engraved, as in the case of some Hungarian, Mexican, etc. Commence each series of stamps from the left, the smallest value first.

The best colour of the paper is white, as it shows off the stamps well, and does not detract from the brilliancy of their colour like black or coloured papers.

With respect to the arrangement of the various stamp-issuing countries, some people prefer a strictly chronological method, arranging Great Britain first as the originator of the Postal system, and then countries in the order in which they followed her example. The advantage of this is that if new countries take to issuing stamps, they are simply added at the end of the album and do not disturb the arrangement. But a more natural mode of arranging stamps seems to be by the divisions of the globe—Europe, Asia, Africa, America and Oceania. To these add a sixth—West Indies, for though this is not usual, great advantage will be found to arise from it, and lastly arrange the countries in each division by the alphabet.

There is great inequality in the number of pages that you must leave for each country. For States which no longer issue stamps, such as Naples, Sicily, Hamburg, Saxony, etc. you will find one page ample, but countries in active existence will require two, and in some cases three pages to meet their needs, while cor-

morants like Spain and her colonies, Cuba and Porto Rico, will take as many as six or seven.

In addition to the pages allotted to each country, you must leave at the end of each division at least ten or fifteen blank pages for future stamp-issuing countries. Write the name of the division of the globe in the centre of the first page, and that of the country at the top of the first page devoted to it.

The volume for envelopes and cards may be treated in the same way, but more room will be required for the more bulky specimens.

Having your album, we now come to mounting the stamps in it, and before we go into details, let us remember three things :—

- (1) Do not wet the face of any stamp.
- (2) Never paste a stamp down in your book.
- (3) Use very little gum.

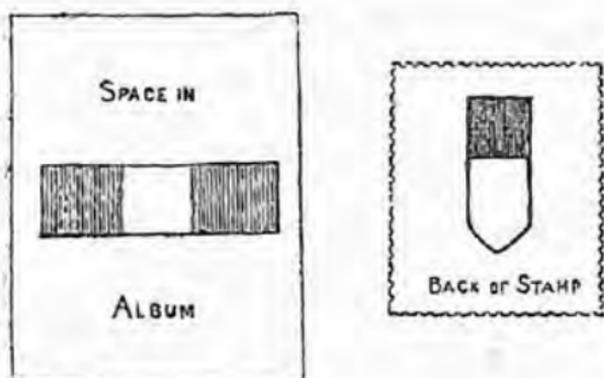
There are two very good ways of mounting stamps : one by a hinge of tissue paper, the other by the aid of a little tongue of paper, one end of which is gummed on the back of the stamp,



the other fitting into a socket gummed on to the page of the album. The first method is the most simple and the best. The chief thing to be careful about is to get the stamp and hinge square to your page, and in doing this you will find the ruled spaces greatly assist you ; stamps crookedly and awkwardly put in have a very bad appearance.

If your envelopes are cut square, they can be mounted with a hinge of tissue paper like adhesive stamps, but if whole, a better mode is to use two narrow bands of white ribbon, the ends of which are gummed to the page, and so keep the envelopes in their place. Postcards are best mounted on *two* small hinges of paper in preference to one hinge running the whole length of the card.

To prepare specimens for the album, many stamps come into



your possession on several thicknesses of paper, which you must remove before the stamps are fit to be mounted.

To do this lay the stamps carefully on their backs in a glass nearly full of lukewarm water, taking care not to wet the face of the stamp. They will curl up at first, but gradually straighten, and when flat on the surface are sufficiently moist to be operated on. Remove them gently with a penknife, and carefully detach the paper from them. Dry them lightly with a handkerchief, and then lay them on warm blotting paper. If they curl up, breathe once or twice upon them before putting them in their places in the album.

If you receive your envelopes whole and fastened up, slit them open at one end in preference to cutting the flap. If your album is ready, mount them at once; if not, keep them clean, and separate the unused from the used, as the former are easily dirtied.

With respect to postcards, never fold them, as nothing spoils the look of a card more than two great creases right in the middle of it. Choose as clean copies as you can get, and keep them carefully till mounted.

WHAT TO COLLECT.

There are two ways of collecting stamps, as there are of doing anything—the right way and the wrong way. We will take the latter first. Some people, and especially boys, are delighted with anything having the mere semblance of a stamp, no matter how torn or defaced, all is fish that comes into their net, and a very mixed netfull it is! Abounding in forgeries and mere fragments of stamps, a schoolboy's album is indeed a sorry sight.

Now this indiscriminate method of collecting stamps is of very little use, for half the specimens are neither useful nor ornamental, and utterly worthless from a money point of view. The right way to collect is quite different—no torn specimens of stamps, be they rare or common, and though a dirty copy of a stamp is better than none, take the first opportunity of exchanging it for a cleaner specimen. Commence by collecting as many different issues as you can, and try and complete these issues. Keep before your mind the stamps you want to make up each set, and when buying stamps, buy these in preference to others of sets you are quite wanting in.

Having completed a set, your next step is to obtain *varieties* of the stamps composing that set, differing in colour, watermark, paper or perforation, for all these things go to make up a good collection. A single specimen of each stamp makes a very poor show. If your stamp is imperforate, see that it has a good margin and is not clipped close round to the design, for otherwise it might be a perforated stamp with the edges cut off, and so of no value. Look out for stamps on blue paper, for all such are rare. These owe their colour to the chemical action of the gum on the paper, and are all old issues.

The red and blue Trinidad first issue, the first issue of Barbadoes, the 5 centavos Chilian, 1858, some of the Cape stamps, the fourpenny English, 1855, and others, are all on blue paper, and should be watched for. In the case of envelope stamps, it is even more important that they should have a good margin, for in some of the Saxony envelopes there is an inscription to right or left of the stamp which would be lost if the stamps were clipped close. Envelopes are however best whole, in which condition they are far more interesting. Newspaper bands should be treated the same, cut square with a good margin of paper all round the design.

Now how to collect stamps, and where. There are two ways, from friends or dealers. The former will soon supply you with plenty of duplicates which you can utilize for exchanges. With respect to dealers, be very careful with whom you deal, for stamp-dealers and horse-dealers have much rascality in common. There are, however, one or two firms from whom you may safely increase your collection, such as Alfred Smith and Co., of Bath, and Stafford Smith, of Brighton. Keep your eyes open when passing newspaper or tobacconists' shops; these often have stamps for sale, and sometimes a treasure may be unearthed. We have heard of two Winterthur stamps acquired in this way for the modest sum of twopence, but such prizes are alas! not common.

Now what are we to avoid? In the first place, *reprints*; and in the second, *forgeries*. Reprints are impressions struck from the worn-out die for the purpose of sale. Many people admit them into their collections; but it is self-evident that, as they are not issued by Government and the Postal authorities, but merely as a private speculation to meet the demand of collectors, they are not *postage* stamps. Reprints are generally, if not invariably, unused, and may in most cases be detected by the coarse impression, the absence of fine lines in the design, and want of watermark. *Forgeries* are far more dangerous than reprints to the young collector, for the simple reason that there are many more of them, but fortunately they are generally abominably printed, and in nine cases out of ten are obliterated with a wrong postmark. This is generally placed at one corner which but rarely occurs in genuine stamps. As a rule, avoid stamps with coarse blurred impressions, and indistinct corner postmarks, for more often than not these are dubious in their origin, and most probably never saw the country from which they pretend to come.

STAMP LITERATURE.

The bibliography of postage stamps, extending as it does to several hundred magazines and periodicals and nearly as many catalogues and handbooks, of all countries and in all languages, would require a work of ten times these dimensions to contain all that could be written about it. Commencing in France in the year 1862, the mania for stamp collecting quickly spread to England, and in the two or three years succeeding that date, much of the literature relating to stamps was written. The periodicals for the most part had but a transient success, the *Philatelist* and *Stamp Collector's Magazine* running the longest as far as English publications are concerned. Abroad, the *Timbre-poste*, published by Messrs. Moens of Brussels in 1863, before either of its English rivals appeared, has long outlived them, and is now, as it was then, of material assistance to the collector. Between 1864 and 1874 seems to have been the busiest time in the history of stamps; then many of the less enthusiastic collectors gave up the study, leaving still more than enough to carry on the pursuit up to the present time, and to contribute from time to time articles and publications relating to the subject. With the view of assisting the young collector, we have inserted (p. 2) a short list of the publications which he will find most useful in making a collection of stamps, and most of which any of the dealers in stamps could procure for him.

ENGLISH VALUE OF STAMPS.

				s.	d.
Anna	16 annas	= 1 rupee	=	1	8
Bani	100 bani	= 1 piastre	=	0	9½
Cent (Dutch)	100 cents	= 1 florin	=	1	8
„ (Ceylon)	100 cents	= 1 rupee	=	1	8
Centavo	100 centavos	= 1 peso	=	4	2
Centesimo	100 centesimi	= 1 lira	=	0	9½
Centimo de peseta	100 c. de pes	= 1 peseta	=	0	10
Centime	100 centimes	= 1 franc	=	0	9½
Crazia	12 crazie	= 1 lira	=	0	9½
Cuarto	8 cuartos	= 1 real	=	0	2½
Dollar	100 cents	= 1 dollar	=	4	2
Groschen	30 groschen	= 1 thaler	=	3	0
Kopec	100 kopecs	= 1 rouble	=	3	0
Kreuzer	100 kreuzer	= 1 florin	=	2	0
Lepton	100 lepta	= 1 drachma	=	0	8½
Para	40 paras	= 1 piastre	=	0	2½
Pfennig	100 pfennige	= 1 mark	=	1	0
Rappen	100 rappen	= 1 franc	=	0	9½
Real	20 reales	= 1 duro	=	4	2
Reis	1000 reis	= 1 milreis	=	2	3
Sen	10 rin	= 1 sen	=	0	0½
Skilling	100 skilling	= 1 six daler	=	2	3
Soldo	100 soldi	= 1 florin	=	2	0
Tempo	100 tempoes	= 1 dollar	=	4	2

EUROPE.

ALSACE AND LORRAINE.—These stamps have been also issued with the network inverted.

AUSTRIA.—Two sets of the issue for 1863 can be collected, with *large* and *small* perforations. Reprints of the first issue are common.



- AUSTRIAN ITALY.—The 1863 issue has both large and small perforations.
- BADEN.—The 6 kreuzer *yellow* of 1861 is not nearly so common as the orange shade, and should be looked for.
- BAVARIA.—The 12 and 18 kreuzer of 1862 are the rarest of the set. The various "returned letter" stamps need careful arrangement.
- BELGIUM.—The watermarked set of 1850 *imperfurate* are not so usually met with as those unwatermarked.
- BERGEDORF.—These stamps have been largely reprinted and forged. Genuine stamps have *fifty-five* small circles round the arms in the centre, forgeries generally have less. The first two stamps issued are rare.
- BULGARIA.—These stamps are now watermarked like the Russian—with undulations.
- CYPRUS.—The early stamps are English surcharged with the word "Cyprus." We shall come across many instances of this surcharging, but it is generally the value of the stamp that is surcharged, and not the name of the country issuing it.
- DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.—Genuine types of these stamps are almost unattainable, and even the Postal authorities have issued various other types to meet the demand for copies. Forgeries are plentiful.



- DENMARK.—The *perforated* set of 1857 dotted ground is scarce.
- FINLAND.—The first issue of 1856 needs care to distinguish it from similar envelopes.
- FRANCE.—The 1 franc *vermilion*, Repub. 1849, is not at all common. Note the 20 centime Empire imperfurate, on blue and also green paper, and the large perforations of Messrs. Susse. Avoid confusion between the first issue of

the Republic of 1870 lithographed, and the fine impressions used for the French Colonies, both sets imperforate. There are three varieties of the ten centimes of 1870-73, and two of the 15 centimes. Of the 1877 set the 40 centimes red is the most difficult to meet with.

GERMAN STATES.—Perfect copies of the imperforate sets are not common, the stamps being generally clipt. The Northern States used the *groschen*, and the Southern the *kreuzer*.

GERMAN CONFEDERATION.—The imperforate sets we have not seen. Rouletted and perforated specimens are common.

GERMAN EMPIRE.—Take care to distinguish between the *groschen* and *kreuzer* sets, and also note the two distinct issues of 1871 and 1872, small and large shield. The present set in use wants the final *e* in *pfennige*, which the 1875 issue possesses.

GREAT BRITAIN.—One copy of the black penny, V.R. in the upper corners, we have seen obliterated in red like its common brother, but our readers are not likely to come across it at all. Look carefully to watermarks, and note the four-penny rose on blue paper of 1855.



GREECE.—There are four distinct sets of these stamps. First, the fine Paris-printed set without numeral on the back, next the coarse impression on tinted paper with the numeral, then the same on white paper, and lastly on white paper without the numeral.

HAMBURG.—The 7 schilling mauve imperforate is scarce, and the envelopes were at first issued without watermark.

HANOVER.—The reddish gum distinguishes the issue of 1856 from later reprints, which want it.

HELIGOLAND.—These stamps from their similarity in colour are

a little confusing, but the white spandrels distinguish the later issue from that of 1867.

HUNGARY.—Notice the double issue of 1871, lithographed and engraved. The hair and eye are a good test for the distinction if carefully compared. The 15 kreuzer *engraved* is also on tinted paper.



IONIAN ISLES.—Forgeries are common. The blue and lake are distinguished by the watermark.

ITALY.—A curious variety of the 15 centesimi, 1863, exists, with three white dots, which were inserted to cover a defect in the die from which the stamps were struck. The official stamps of 1875 seem all alike, but are not so, as they differ in the centre value.

LUBECK.—There are two similar sets of 1859 and 1862, but the latter has a watermark of rosettes.

LUXEMBOURG.—Notice the imperforate and rouletted sets as distinct, and the official stamps with a diagonal surcharge.

MALTA.—The halfpenny unwatermarked is also on blue paper.

MODENA.—Many curious varieties in the spelling on these stamps—*cent*, *centn*, etc., for *cent*.

PORTUGAL.—There are two types of the 1855 issue, head of Don Pedro to right, one with straight and the other with curly hair. Some of the values of the 1871 issue exist imperforate, and the colours are changed, the 25 reis being *blue* instead of *rose*, and the 50 reis *rose* instead of *green*.

PRUSSIA.—Reprints of the 1850 issue are to be met with, but the colours are lighter. The parcels stamps are curious, being the only ones on goldbeaters' skin.

ROMAGNA.—Used specimens are rare, but reprints, and very bad ones, are common.

ROMAN STATES.—The 50 bajocchi blue, and 1 scudo red, are the rarest of these stamps.

- ROUMANIA.**—The two Provisional stamps, bearded type, had only a month's currency and are scarce. They are, 10 bani, very pale blue, and 50 bani, blue and red. Notice the difference between the sets for 1872 and 1876, one fine impression on tinted paper, the other coarse, on white paper.
- SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN.**—The first two stamps are printed on paper with a silk thread through it. Reprints are tolerably numerous.
- SICILY.**—Head of King Bomba. Genuine stamps have a very ornamental obliteration. These have also been reprinted.
- SPAIN.**—The early issues, with the exception of the 6 cuartos, black, of both issues are scarce. The 19 cuartos of 1860, 1862, 1866, etc., are difficult to come by, as also the temporary surcharged stamps of the Republic which succeeded Queen Isabella. Some of the stamps have a round hole in them. These were used for telegraphic purposes. The Carlist stamps are not common, and rare in an obliterated condition.



- SWITZERLAND.**—All the stamps for the early Cantons are scarce; the double green, 10 centimes, for Geneva, especially so. The other Swiss are easy to make up.
- TURKEY.**—A most puzzling country, and we advise the young collector to keep all his Turkish separate till he is more advanced in the knowledge of stamps before diving into their mysteries. The various surcharges, local and otherwise, are legion.
- TUSCANY.**—First issue was on blue paper, the second on white, and the watermarks differ.
- WURTEMBERG.**—These stamps need careful arrangement, being imperforate, rouletted, and also perforate, and in varying shades of colour. The 18 kreuzer violet, of the first issue, is not very common.

ASIA.

AFGHANISTAN.—These stamps are very scarce, and being numerous, the pages devoted to them are a sad blot on one's album. They are very curious, however, when you do get them.

CASHMERE.—The same remark applies to these stamps also. Being generally printed in watercolours, take care never to wet them, or your stamp will vanish.

CEYLON.—Note the watermarks, and in the case of the octagonal stamps, decline those cut close round the design. Ceylons are not at all common.



HONG-KONG.—Three bill stamps were used for postage in 1877, value 2, 3, and 10 dollars.

INDIA.—The 4 and 8 annas of 1855 were also printed on blue paper. The 2 annas *green* is rare, imperforate and perforate. Surcharged bill stamps were used as Service and Postage stamps in 1866 and 1868. The Service stamps *small* letters are not very common.

JAPAN.—These are all tolerably common, and only need some looking into to discover their value and place.



- PERSIA.—The early sets are uncommon. The 1879 set has been also issued with coloured borders.
- PORTUGUESE INDIES.—Very scarce and very troublesome through the similarity in design. That, however, is now changed.
- SHANGHAI.—The large stamps have numerous varieties, chiefly in the numeral of value. Genuine stamps have the design slightly sunk, while reprints are quite level in surface. The surcharged and provisional issues are rather confusing.
- STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—The 10 cents surcharged on 30 cents, claret, exists in two varieties.

AFRICA.

- CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—The triangular Capes were first issued on blue paper. The *woodblocks* may be distinguished by the white lines of the frame surrounding the figure. The three-penny stamps are numerous, surcharged and not.
- AZORES.—Portuguese stamps with forged surcharges are numerous. The genuine have the word "Açores" clearly printed.
- EGYPT.—The 10 paras of the present issue has been printed in two colours, mauve and now rose-pink.
- GAMBIA.—The unwatermarked 4 and 6 pence are scarce.
- GRIQUALAND.—Cape stamps surcharged with G W, or G alone, in red and black in all types, and very puzzling for that reason.
- LIBERIA.—Have been extensively forged. Genuine copies of these stamps are clearly printed, and one sure test is that the *c* of cents comes exactly under the *b* in Liberia; in forgeries it is generally not so. The issue of 1881 is very coarsely printed.
- MADEIRA.—The remarks made on the Azores apply equally here.
- MAURITIUS.—The early stamps are very scarce. The later ones need careful attention to watermarks.
- NATAL.—The early Natal stamps are quite unattainable. In the later issues the thing to avoid is confusion between the various varieties of surcharges, which are somewhat numerous.
- ST. HELENA.—There are two different sizes of surcharge to most of these stamps.
- TRANSVAAL.—These may be summed up thus: 1st issue, clear

impression on white paper, imperforate, and rouletted ; 2nd, coarse impression, ditto, ditto ; 3rd, ditto, ditto on white paper, surcharged in capitals ; 4th, surcharged on coloured paper, surcharging spread out ; 5th, ditto, surcharging more compact.

AMERICA.

ARGENTINE CONFEDERATION.—The second issue has been extensively reprinted. Forgeries of the first issue are very deceptive. The 1877 issue, surcharged with figure of value, is likely to become scarce.



BOLIVAR.—The first issue is curious as being the smallest stamps extant, and are proportionately rare.

BRAZIL.—The first two issues, the large "bull's-eye" stamps and those with italic numerals, are on thin grey paper, and the background is finely executed ; this will distinguish them from forgeries. The next issue, *perforated*, is scarce, the most common being the 60 reis. The 500 reis yellow *rouletted*, head of Don Pedro, is difficult to get, the perforated copy being the one usually met with.

BRITISH GUIANA.—Our readers are not likely to come across the circular Guianas. The provisional issue, with various borders, is more common, but still rare.

BUENOS AYRES.—There are two issues of the Head of Liberty, one fine and one coarse.

CANADA.—The 15 cents, 1862, large stamp varies much in colour from mauve to slate. The pence series are not common.

CHILI.—The 5 centavos, first issue, is on blue paper as well as on white.



CONFEDERATE STATES.—The 10 cents blue, head of Davis, varies much in colour, and is also found perforated.

MEXICO.—The stamps with head of Juarez are a little confusing, but the first issue wants the word "Mexico," which is surcharged on those of 1867 and 1868. The stamps with the head of Maximilian were issued both engraved and lithographed, the latter are scarce. Notice the blue pattern on the back of the 1872 set; forgeries are without it. The Port-de-Mar stamps are not common.

MONTEVIDEO.—There are two sets of the "rayed head," with thick and thin figures of value. There is also a later set with thick block letters, which is scarce. The provisional set of 1866 is not easy to get. The 1 centavo brown, of the present set is now lithographed.



NEW BRUNSWICK.—The first issue, diamond shape, are scarce and almost unattainable.

- NEWFOUNDLAND.—Two sets of the 1857 stamps can be made, *vermilion* and *lake*, but all of them are rare. The designs of the present issue have been slightly altered, the 1, 2, and 5 cent having the value in the lower angles only. The originals are both perforated and rouletted.
- NICARAGUA.—Most of these stamps are issued both perforated and rouletted.
- PERU.—Some of these stamps have a *grid* or square of crossed lines stamped on the back. The Lima stamps are scarce.
- UNITED STATES.—The first two stamps, 5 cents brown or blue and 10 cents black, as also the carriers' stamps, are scarce; the latter have been reprinted. All other issues are easy to make up, with the exception of some of the envelopes and Official Stamps.

OCEANIA.

- FIJI ISLES.—The different V. R., C. R., and surcharged stamps are very intricate, and need careful handling. The same may be said of nearly all the Oceanic Colonies, whose variations of watermark are a sore trouble to the young collector.
- NEW SOUTH WALES.—The "Sydney Views" may be roughly divided into two classes, *with* clouds and *without* clouds. The next issue is on bluish as well as white paper. Official stamps are surcharged O.S.
- NEW ZEALAND.—First on blue paper, then unwatermarked on thick and also thin paper. Watermark a star, N.Z. and star. Also perforate and imperforate.
- PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.—By referring to Spain, much of the difficulty in arranging these stamps as well as those of Cuba and Porto Rico vanishes. The chief stumbling-block is the surcharging.
- QUEENSLAND.—The watermarks, in order of sequence, are star imperforate and perforated, no watermark perforated, star again, then parts of words, star and words combined, and lastly, Crown and Q.
- SANDWICH ISLES.—The Inter Island stamps, owing to their extreme simplicity, have been extensively forged. The varieties of the genuine stamps are numerous.
- SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—The 10 pence yellow was surcharged in both black and blue. The South Australian stamps were first imperforate, then rouletted at sides and perforated top

and bottom, and lastly perforated on all four sides. The stamps found surcharged with letters are for various official departments.

TASMANIA.—The sixpenny and one shilling octagonal are found in all shades, the former in slate, ash, red lilac, light blue, &c. ; the latter in orange, vermilion, deep red, &c.

VICTORIA.—Very difficult to arrange, owing to the numerous watermarks, especially the sets for 1856-62, head to left in oval band and emblems in corners, and those for 1863-67, head in circle on solid ground, name and value in straight labels above and below. We give the watermarks of the latter: single line numeral, thin figure 4, thick ditto, no watermark, thick figure 1, thin figure 6, ditto 8, five lines, Crown and V. The five lines we have not seen mentioned before, and doubtless there are many other varieties.

WEST AUSTRALIA.—The early "Swan Rivers" are not at all common, those usually found are the one penny black and fourpence blue octagonal. Numbers of these stamps have a round hole punched in them like the Spanish stamps; these were used officially.

WEST INDIES.

BAHAMAS.—The one penny varies much in hue from vermilion to lake.

BARBADOES.—First issue on blue paper, and is scarce.

BERMUDA.—The threepenny underwent many changes between 1873 and 1875, and other surcharged stamps also appeared to stop gaps in the postal system.

CUBA.—Not a difficult country to make out by the side of Spain. Those between 1855 and 1857 are the hardest to get.



FRENCH COLONIES (Martinique, &c.)—These must not be confounded with French stamps. The first issue is distinct; the others, all but the present issue, are, roughly speaking, *imperfurate* specimens of the French stamps. Those with the head of Liberty are also *engraved*, the imperfurate French stamps corresponding to them are *lithographed*.

GRENADA.—Avoid some of these stamps in yellow, surcharged 1, 2, 3 pence, etc. These are fiscal, not postage stamps.

MONTserrat.—The early stamps were those of Antigua, surcharged with the new name in full.

PORTO RICO.—The various surcharged signatures across the stamps are bothering, till we remember that they are only Cuban stamps of the same year surcharged. The 1876 stamps were issued in two sets, with a double and also a triple surcharge.

SALVADOR.—The Volcano series were issued in 1874 and 1877, surcharged "Contra Sellos," and the date in small circle.

ST. DOMINGO.—These stamps are very puzzling, as, though two values only were issued, they were printed in all sorts of colours at different times. They are moreover not at all common.

ST. VINCENT.—The one shilling seems to have been uncertain as to its right colour, for it went on from deep violet, dull blue to brown, rose, brown lilac, and vermilion, where it now remains.

TRINIDAD.—First issue on blue paper, and on white. The succeeding stamps, design on crossed lines and badly engraved, were provisional stamps, and are scarce. Trinidad stamps generally are not so common as others of the West Indies and Oceania.

TURK'S ISLAND.—Latterly these stamps have been surcharged in a most lavish manner, and on all values.

RECENT STAMP ISSUES. 1881.

EUROPE.

Austria. NEWSPAPER STAMP. Head of Mercury to left. Col. imp. unsp. $\frac{1}{2}$ kreuzer, sea-green.

POST CARDS. In various languages for different districts; in German, German and Bohemian, German and Polish, German and Italian, German and Ruthenian, German and Slavonic. 2 kreuzer.

Bulgaria. ADHESIVE. Arms. No wmk. Col. imp. perf.

3 stotinki, red on grey.

Ditto, wmk. undulations.

5 stotinki, black on orange.

10 „ black on green.

15 „ red on green.

25 „ black on violet.

30 „ blue on ochre.

POST CARD. 5 stotinki, blue-green on white.

Cyprus. ADHESIVE. Head to left. Col. imp. perf.

$\frac{1}{2}$ penny surcharged in black on one penny red English.

30 paras

ADHESIVE. New type. "Head to left." Col. imp. perf.

$\frac{1}{2}$ piastre, green. | 2 piastres, blue.

1 „ carmine. | 4 „ sage-green.

6 piastres, grey.

NEWSPAPER WRAPPER. Head to left. Col. imp.

1 piastre, red-brown.

REGISTERED ENVELOPE. Various sizes. 2 piastres, blue on white.

POST CARDS.

$\frac{1}{2}$ piastre, green on white. | 1 piastre, carmine.

$1\frac{1}{2}$ piastre, brown on buff.

Finland. ADHESIVE. Arms on shield. Col. imp. perf.

10 penni, chocolate.

POST CARD. 10 penni, brown on buff.

France. CHIFFRE TAX. Words on scroll. Col. imp. perf. 30 centimes, black.

Great Britain. ADHESIVE. Head to left. Wmk. a crown. Col. imp. perf. 1 penny, lilac.

Same design, re-engraved. Band of colour surrounding oval containing head broader and pearls in frame fewer. 1 penny, lilac.

ADHESIVE. Receipt Stamp used as Postage. Provisional. Col. imp. perf. 1 penny, lilac.

ADHESIVES. Old die. Wmk. a crown. Col. imp. perf.

$2\frac{1}{2}$ penny, blue. | 6 pence, black.

3 „ rose. | 8 „ orange.

1 shilling, green.

ADHESIVE. Head to left in oval wavy frame. Wmk. a crown. Col. imp. perf. 5 pence, violet-black.

ENVELOPE. Head to left in oval. Undated die. 1 penny, pink.

Holland. UNPAID LETTERS. Numeral in white circle.

Col. imp. perf.

1 centime, l. blue.	12½ centimes, l. blue.
1½ " " "	25 " " "
2½ " " "	1 gulden " " red letters.

POST CARDS.

2½ centimes, lilac on salmon.	
2½ " " "	reply-double.
5 " " grey on grey-blue.	

Hungary. POST CARDS.

2 kreuzer, ochre on buff.	
2 " " "	reply-double.
5 " " pink on buff.	
5 " " "	reply-double.

Italy. FOREIGN OFFICES. Adhesive type surcharged "*Estero.*"

5 centesimi.	25 centesimi.
10 " "	30 " "
20 " "	50 " "
	2 lire.

POST CARD. Dated 1881. 10 centesimi, brown on white.

Portugal. ADHESIVE. Head to left. Col. imp. perf.
50 reis, blue.

Roumania. UNPAID LETTERS. Numeral in oval. Large stamp. Col. imp. perf.

2, 5, 10, 30, 50, 60 bani, dark-brown.

Roumelia. ADHESIVE. Crescent on background of oriental characters. Col. imp. perf.

5 paras, black and olive.	1 piastre, black on slate.
10 " " black and green.	5 " " brick-red on blue.
20 " " black and pink.	

ADHESIVE. Turkish stamps surcharged "R. O." (Roumélie Orientale).

20 paras, brown-lilac.
2 piastres, black and yellow.
5 " " red and blue.

Servia. ADHESIVE. Three-quarters face to left. Small stamps. Col. imp. perf.

5 paras, green.	25 paras, blue.
10 " " carmine.	50 " " sepia.
20 " " orange.	1 dina, lilac.

POST CARDS.

5 paras, brown on lilac-pink.	
10 " " violet-blue on buff.	
5 " " brown on lilac-pink	reply-double.
10 " " violet-blue on buff	" "

Turkey. ADHESIVE. Crescent as last issue. Col. imp. perf.
5 paras, black on yellow-green.

1 piastre (in the singular), red and blue.

LOCAL ADHESIVE. Type of 1876, surcharged "Cheir"
in Turkish. New surcharge in circle of pearls.

10 paras, violet. | 20 paras, green.

1 piastre, yellow

POST CARDS.

20 paras, black and pink on white.

20 ,, ,, reply-double.

20 ,, black on buff.

20 ,, ,, reply-double.

Wurtemberg. OFFICIAL ADHESIVE. Col. imp. perf.

3 pfennige, green.

20 pfennige, blue.

5 ,, violet.

25 ,, ochre.

10 ,, rose.

50 ,, grey-green.

ASIA.

Dutch East Indies. ENVELOPE. 10 cents.

Hong-Kong. ADHESIVE. Type as last. Col. imp. perf.
48 cents, brown.

PROVISIONAL ADHESIVE. Surcharged in black on 8
cents. 5 cents, yellow.

India. ENVELOPE. Head to left in oval. $4\frac{1}{2}$ annas, yellow
on white.

Persia. ADHESIVE. Rayed Sun in ornamental frame. Col.
imp. perf.

5 shahi, violet. | 10 shahi, carmine.

25 shahi, green.

OFFICIAL ADHESIVE. Arms in white in solid circle.

Col. imp. perf. 5 shahi, blue and orange.

Portuguese Indies. ADHESIVE. Type as last. Col. imp
perf. 40 reis, ochre-brown.

ADHESIVE. Surcharged in *red* with new value.

$1\frac{1}{2}$ reis on 10 reis, black, 1876.

5 ,, 10 ,, ,, 1875.

5 ,, 10 ,, 1877.

ADHESIVE. Surcharged in *black* with new value.

$1\frac{1}{2}$ reis on 20 reis, bistre, 1876.

5 ,, 15 ,, pink, old type.

5 ,, 20 ,, red, ,,

10 ,, 20 ,, ,, "

$4\frac{1}{2}$,, 20 ,, bistre, 1877.

1	tanga on 200 reis, orange, 1877.
2	" 200 " " "
2	" 50 " green, "
4	" 50 " " "
4	" 10 " " 1880.
8	" 200 " orange, 1877.
8	" 20 " bistre, "

Straits Settlements. ADHESIVE. Surcharged in *black* with new value.

10 cents, brown-rose (many varieties). | 10 cents, blue.

AFRICA.

Egypt. ADHESIVE. Type as last. Colour changed. Col. imp. perf. 10 paras, lilac-pink.

Gambia. ADHESIVE. Type as last. Col. imp. perf. 6 pence, d. blue. | 1 shilling, d. green.

Griqualand. ADHESIVE. Type of Cape Stamp, 1880, surcharged. 3 pence, lilac-rose.

(a) surcharged "3 G," in red.

(b) " " black.

Guinea. ADHESIVE. Cape Verde Stamps surcharged "Guiné," in black.

5 reis, black.

10 " yellow.

20 " l. brown.

25 " rose.

40 reis, blue.

50 " green.

100 " violet.

200 " orange.

300 reis, brown.

Liberia. ADHESIVE. Design as last. Poor impression. Col. perf.

1 cent, blue.

2 " lake.

6 cents, violet.

12 " yellow.

24 cents, pink.

FOR INLAND POSTAGE. Design (Sun, etc.) in oval within frame. Col. imp. lith. perf. 3 cents, black.

POST CARD. 3 cents, blue and red on l. yellow.

Orange Free State. ADHESIVE. Surcharged "1d." in black on 5 shillings, and old value struck out. 1 penny, green.

Sierra Leone. POST CARDS.

1 penny, red on buff.

1½ penny, grey on buff.

AMERICA.

Brazil. ADHESIVE. New type. Head to left. Col. imp. perf. 50 reis, blue. | 100 reis, d. green.

200 reis, claret.

POST CARDS.

- 20 reis, brown on white.
 20 ,, carmine on white.
 20 ,, ,, ,, reply-double.
 50 ,, blue on white. }
 50 ,, ,, ,, reply-double. } 2 types.
 80 ,, ochre on white.
 80 ,, ,, ,, reply-double.

British Guiana. REGISTERED ENVELOPE. 4 cents, vermilion on white.

Chili. ADHESIVE. Fiscal Stamps used as Postage. Arms in irregular octagon enclosed in circle. Col. imp. perf.

- 1 centavo, red. | 2 centavos, brown.
 5 centavos, blue.

ADHESIVE. New type. Centavos *under* figure of value.
 1 centavos, green. | 2 centavos, carmine.
 5 centavos, rose-red.

POST CARDS.

- 2 centavos, brown on white. | 3 centavos, red on white.
 5 centavos, blue on white.

Costa Rica. ADHESIVE. Surcharged in *red* with new value. [value.
 2 cents, blue.

Guatemala. ADHESIVE. Surcharged in *black* with new value.
 1 centavo, brown and green. | 10 centavos, black and green.
 5 ,, green. | 20 ,, carmine.

Mexico. ADHESIVE. New type. Head to left. Col. imp. perf. 4 centavos, light-red.

Newfoundland. POST CARD. 1 cent, green on buff.

Paraguay. ADHESIVE. Old type. 10 centavos, green.
 Ditto, surcharged in *black* with new value.

- 1 centavo, green. | 2 centavos, green.
 4 centavos, green.

ADHESIVE. New type. Lion, pole and cap of liberty in circular band containing inscription. Col. imp. perf.
 1 centavo, blue. | 2 centavos, carmine.

4 centavos, brown.

Surinam. POST CARD. Surcharged with new value in *blue*. 7½ cents, grey on blue.

Uruguay. ENVELOPE. 5 centesimos, green on white.

United States. POST CARD. Inscription altered. 1 cent, grey-black on cream.

United States of Colombia. ADHESIVE. New type. Arms in oval within circular band. Col. imp. lith. unp.

- 1 centavo, green. | 5 centavos, blue.
 2 ,, red. | 10 ,, lilac.
 20 centavos, black.

ADHESIVE. New type. Head to right in oval. Black imp. unp.

1 centavo, black on green. | 5 centavos, black on lilac.

POST CARD. 2 centavos, red on white.

REGISTERED ENVELOPE. 10 centavos, violet on white.

OCEANIA.

Labuan. ADHESIVE. Surcharged in *black* with new value. 8 cents, red.

POST CARD. 4 cents, green on buff.

Philippine Isles. ADHESIVE. Surcharged in *black* with "correos" and *value* on Fiscal Stamps.

2½ c. de pes. p. brown. | 8 c. de pes. blue.

2 " " " | Do., surcharged on current type

2 cent. de pes. brown.

Queensland. ADHESIVE. Col. imp. perf. Wmk. Q and crown.

2 shillings and 6 pence, vermilion.

10 " " brown.

Ditto, unwatermarked.

5 shillings, d. pink.

POST CARDS.

1 penny, carmine on white. | 1 penny, carmine on straw.

1 penny, pink on straw.

Samoa. ADHESIVE. Old type. Col. imp. perf. 9 pence, chestnut-brown.

Victoria. ADHESIVE. New types. Wmk. cc. and crown. Col. imp. perf.

2 pence, brown. | 2 shillings, blue on green.

REGISTERED ENVELOPE. Various sizes. 4 pence, violet on white.

WEST INDIES.

Bahamas. POST CARD. One penny halfpenny, pink on straw.

ENVELOPE. 4 pence, violet on white.

Barbadoes. POST CARD. Provisional. Black on white (no value).

Cuba. ADHESIVE. New type. Head to right. Col. imp. perf.

1 cent. de pes., green. | 5 cent. de pes., blue.

2½ " " olive. | 10 " " light-brown.

20 cent. de pes., d. brown.

POST CARD.

2 cent. de pes., lake on white. | 3 cent. de pes., pink on white.

2 ditto, ditto, reply-double. | 3 ditto, ditto, reply-double.

French Colonies. ADHESIVE. New type. Allegorical figure seated. Col. imp. perf.

1 centime, black on blue.	25 centimes, yellow on yellow.
2 „ brown on brown.	30 „ brown on brown.
4 „ violet on blue.	35 „ black on yellow.
5 „ green on green.	40 „ brick-red on ochre.
10 „ black on lilac.	75 „ carmine on rose.
20 „ red on green.	1 franc, bronze on green.

Grenada. ADHESIVE. Fiscal Stamps surcharged in *black*. Col. imp. perf.

½ penny, violet.	2½ penny, brown-red.
	4 penny, blue.

POST CARD.

1 penny, dark-blue on buff.	1½ penny, brown on buff.
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Hayti. ADHESIVE. Head of Liberty to left in circular band. Col. imp. unp.

1 centime, vermilion on flesh.	5 centimes, green on green.
2 „ violet on mauve.	7 „ blue on azure.
3 „ brown on straw.	20 „ red-brown on buff.

Porto Rico. ADHESIVE. Head to right in oval. Col. imp. perf.

½ mils. de pes., claret.	1 cent. de pes., blue-green.
1 „ mauve.	2 „ lake.
2 „ pink.	3 „ black-brown.
4 „ yellow-green.	5 „ blue.
6 „ lilac.	8 „ brown.
8 „ ultramarine.	10 „ grey.
20 cent. de pes., olive-brown.	

San Domingo (Dominican Republic). ADHESIVE. Arms on reticulated ground. Col. imp. roul.

1 centavo, green.	20 centavos, yellow-brown.
2 „ orange.	25 „ lilac.
5 „ l. blue.	50 „ orange.
10 „ carmine.	75 „ blue.

1 peso, gold.

NEWSPAPER WRAPPER.

2 centavos, yellow.	3 centavos, black.
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ENVELOPE.

5 centavos, blue on blue.	30 centavos, pink on straw.
10 „ rose on straw.	40 „ brown on white.
15 „ yellow on white.	45 „ lilac on blue.
20 „ yellow-brown on straw.	60 „ green on white.

POST CARD.

2 centavos, green on straw.	3 centavos, rose-red on straw.
2 " " reply.	3 " " reply.
2 " green on l. green.	3 " rose-red on pink.
2 " " reply.	3 " " reply.

St. Lucia. ADHESIVE. Old type, surcharged in *black*.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ penny, green. | $2\frac{1}{2}$ penny, red.

POST CARD. $1\frac{1}{2}$ penny, red-brown on buff.

St. Vincent. ADHESIVE. Surcharged in *red* on old type.
 Col. imp. perf. $\frac{1}{2}$ penny, green. New type. 5 shillings,
 lake-red.

Tobago. ADHESIVE. Head to left in circle. Col. imp. perf.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ penny, brown-lilac. | 6 pence, olive-brown.
 1 " red-brown. | Surcharged in *black*.
 4 " green. | 1 shilling, orange.

POST CARD. $1\frac{1}{2}$ penny, red-brown on buff.

Turk's Island. ADHESIVE. Surcharged with new value
 on various stamps.

$\frac{1}{2}$ penny, black.	$\frac{1}{2}$ penny, slate.
$2\frac{1}{2}$ " "	$\frac{1}{2}$ " violet.
4 " "	$2\frac{1}{2}$ " "
$\frac{1}{2}$ " red.	4 " "

New type. Head to left. Wmk. cc. and crown. Col.
 imp. perf. 4 pence, blue.

POST CARD. $1\frac{1}{2}$ penny, red-brown on buff.



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