

Siam :

**Its Posts and ..
Postage Stamps.**

BY _____

FRED J. MELVILLE.

**Price
6d.
net.**

SIAM : Its Posts and Postage Stamps.

"S.C.F." *Philatelic Handbook*, No. 1.



1812

SIAM :

Its Posts and Postage Stamps.

A Handbook for Philatelists.

By FRED J. MELVILLE,

Author of

"The ABC of Stamp Collecting," "The Stamps of Great Britain,"

"The Stamps of the United States," etc.

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The "S.C.F." Philatelic Handbooks.

EDITORIAL NOTE.

This, the first of the "S.C.F." Philatelic Handbooks, will, I feel sure, prove an interesting and serviceable guide to the postage stamps of Siam, and a worthy addition to the number of Mr. Melville's popular philatelic books. To such a work no introduction is necessary, but it may be said that further volumes in the series will be published as opportunities occur. They will be uniform with the present volume, and will be published at the same popular price—sixpence net.

PERCY C. BISHOP.

63-64, Chancery Lane,

London, W.C.,

April, 1906.

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SIAM :

ITS POSTS AND POSTAGE STAMPS.

THE Kingdom of Siam occupies the central portion of the Indo Chinese peninsula, bordered by Burmah on the North-West and West, Annam on the North-East and East, Cambodia on the South-East, and the Gulf of Siam on the South, extending also on the South into the Malay Peninsula.

DERIVATION OF THE NAME SIAM.

The name Siam is from Sayam or Siyam (brown) signifying "the brown race," but the name is of European application. The natives speak of the country as *Thai*, "free," or *Muang Thai*, "the land of the free." The area of the kingdom is about 244,000 square miles, although in the last decade it was 310,000 square miles, the appropriation of territory by the French having been responsible for the diminution. The population is 6,320,000, and a considerable foreign settlement conducts most of the trade from the capital Bangkok, a city of 600,000 inhabitants, situate at the mouth of the river Meinam.

MAINLY HISTORICAL.

The unauthenticated history of Siam dates back to very remote times, but only for the past 150 years can the events be substantiated. The country became independent in the twelfth century, and its capital, until the latter half of the eighteenth century, was at Ayuthia, now a mass of ruins of interest to the antiquarian and the tourist, but of no commercial importance, 45 miles further up the Meinam than the present city of Bangkok.

About 1767, the Commander-in-Chief of the Siamese Army, one Phya Tak, having been driven away from Ayuthia, by an advance on the capital by the Burmese, took up his quarters at Chantaboon. There he gathered a larger army, established the new capital of Bangkok in 1782, and settled himself there as King. The native designation of the new capital is Krung Tape Maha Nakhon Ameratna Kosindr Mahindr Ayuthia, the first two words Krung Tape being sufficient for general use.

Phya Tak's tyranny and subsequent insanity led his subjects on to rebellion, and he was killed by his closest friend and adviser, who set himself up as sovereign, and was the first King of the still reigning dynasty. He was styled Somdetch Pra Boroma Rahcha Pra Putta Yaut Fah.

THE SIAM OF TO-DAY.

The present government is an absolute monarchy, and the reigning King is Somdetch Phra Paramindr, Maha Chulalongkorn, Phra Chula Chorn Klao, who was born September 20th, 1853, and succeeded to the throne October 1st, 1868, at the age of fifteen. He is well known to be a progressive ruler, and has adopted Western ideas to a very great extent. He was crowned twice, for after his coronation on November 11th, 1868, he was obliged on reaching the age of twenty to enter the Bhuddist priesthood to preserve the terms of a rule by which every official of the government must have been a priest, which entails the renunciation of his former life. After twenty-one days in a monastery the coronation ceremony was repeated on November 16th, 1873.

His reign has been long and prosperous and as King Chulalongkorn (to use the name by which he is most familiar to us) is little over fifty, there is every reason to hope it may long be continued. As early as 1872, he abolished slavery, and he has kept continually in touch with European and American civilisation by sending many of the most cultured youth of Siam to train in all directions of study in England, on the Continent and in America.

The King is advised by a Council called the Sanbodi, composed chiefly of members of the royal family.

THE CURRENCY OF SIAM.

The monetary system is in multiples of four. The standard coin is the bat or tical. The other coins are as follows: 1 bat (tical) = 4 salungs = 8 fuangs = 16 seeks = 32 seos = 64 atts = 128 solots = about two shillings in English money.

POSTAL BEGINNINGS.

The postal organisation of the Kingdom of Siam is one of the outstanding developments resulting from the adoption of Western methods by the present King. When it was decided by the Siamese Government in 1881 to organise a local letter post in Bangkok, as a preliminary to establishing a postal service throughout the country, the King appointed his youngest brother Somdetch Phra Chao Nong Ya Tho Chao Fa Bhanurangse Swangwongse Krom Hluang Bhanuphanduwongse Wordej, as his Minister for Posts and Telegraphs.

His Majesty in the course of a speech on the proposed new service, is reported in the "Siam Advertiser"* to have said:

"When Siam shall have established telephonic communication with British Burmah or the Straits Settlements and Saigon, it will be necessary to put at her disposition the necessary means for assuring the transportation of correspondence, such as already exist in all countries which are favoured with postal facilities. To-day within the Kingdom everyone is obliged to provide for sending his correspondence by his own messengers, which causes a considerable loss of both time and money. The more our correspondence increases the more will this inconvenience make itself felt.

"We have, then, decided upon the organisation of a postal service for Bangkok, a service which will be successively extended to other provinces as soon as it may be possible to do so.

"This organisation will meet with very many difficulties in Siam; the inhabitants of the country will have trouble in comprehending the usefulness and advantages of such a service and their doubts will not disappear until they have seen it in active operation. The Government, upon its side, will derive no benefit from it, because the number of correspondents is very limited in this country. If we establish it at present, it is, then, because we desire to see it keep pace with the service of the telegraph lines and because we think that it will be profitable to our commerce.

"We have confided this object to our youngest brother, H. R. H. Krom Luang Bhanu Bautawong Varadej†; after the question shall have been well studied we will communicate the result to the public by an official notice. We have hopes that the success which this work will meet with, will contribute greatly to hasten the moment when our Kingdom can be admitted to the grand confederation of civilized nations. Siam can not, nor does she wish to be, much longer ranked among the barbarian nations."

SURCHARGED STRAITS STAMPS FOR BANGKOK.

The year following this pronouncement, the service not yet having been inaugurated, and as it was only to be a local one to start with, there was a need for some system by which letters from Bangkok to foreign parts could be prepaid, and an arrangement was made with the postal authorities of the Straits Settlements to pass all foreign letters from Bangkok through their office. Stamps of the Straits Settlements were therefore overprinted with a large letter B, for Bangkok, and these were procurable in the city for use on letters going out of the kingdom.

* Quoted in "L'Echo de la Timbrologie," and "The American Journal of Philately," from the latter of which this excerpt is made.

† A different rendering from that given previously of the same name. Possibly misquoted here. The first rendering is that of the official book on *The Postal Organization of the Kingdom of Siam*.

At that time there was evidently a quantity of obsolete Straits Settlements stamps on hand, for at first the overprint was applied to the early issues of that colony.



The overprint on all these stamps consisted of a large Roman "B" impressed in black, the top half of the letter being $2\frac{3}{4}$ mm. high by $2\frac{1}{4}$ mm. wide, and the bottom half 3mm. high by $2\frac{3}{4}$ mm. wide.

The first of these stamps appeared on September 1st, 1882, and was the already once surcharged stamp, the 32 cents on 2 annas yellow, issued originally in the Straits Settlements, in 1867.

The complete list of these stamps is taken from Mr. William Brown's monograph on *the Stamps of the Straits Settlements surcharged for use in the Native Protected States*.

1882. Watermark "Elephant's Head," perforated 14.
32 cents in black on 2 annas yellow, 1867.*
1882. Watermark "Crown & CC." Perforated 14.
- | | |
|----------------|-------|
| 2 cents brown, | 1868. |
| 4 " rose, | 1868. |
| 5 " plum, | 1882. |
| 6 " lilac, | 1868. |
| 8 " orange, | 1868. |
| 10 " slate, | 1882. |
| 12 " blue, | 1868. |
| 24 " green, | 1868. |
| 30 " claret, | 1872. |
| 96 " slate, | 1868. |

1883. The "B" overprint applied to the provisional TWO CENTS on 32 cents red of 1883. Watermark "Crown & CC." Perforated 12. Two varieties.

Varieties.—There are two varieties of the first overprint in this stamp, one with "E" of CENTS wide, "S" narrow, the other with "E" of CENTS narrow, "S" wide.

* The second date in each case is the original date of issue for use in the Straits Settlements.

1883. Watermark "Crown CA." Perforated 14.

2 cents brown,	1882.
2 " rose,	1883.
4 " rose,	1882.
4 " brown,	1883.
5 " blue,	1883.
6 " lilac,	1883.
8 " orange,	1882.
10 " slate,	1882.
12 " purple,	1883.
24 " green,	1883.

Varieties.—There are errors consisting of inverted "B's" on two of these stamps namely the 2 cents rose, and the 8 cents, yellow.

The stamps of the Straits Settlements surcharged "B" remained in use until they were rendered unnecessary by Siam establishing a foreign service of her own in 1885.

HOW THE MAILS WERE CARRIED.

A writer in "L'Echo de la Timbrologie" gives an account of the methods of transportation of letters and messages in Siam at the time the above-described stamps were in use.

In the Kingdom of Siam the rivers and canals fulfil the functions of roads and streets; it is this fact which caused Bangkok to be nick-named 'The Asiatic Venice' and which explains the presence of the numerous boats that are seen circulating the city at all hours of the day.

For the transportation of the mails no less than a score of different styles of boats, both with oars and sails, were employed. These boats do not differ greatly in construction but they each bear a name corresponding to their particular destination. This explains the existence of the 'Rua Krap Kanga' destined to 'transport the important letters exchanged between princely personages'; the 'Rua Krap Thonge,' which are used to carry the mails between the King and his ministers, functionaries, and foreign consuls the 'Rua Muang,' which carry the letters of least importance and those of the royal suite. All of this permits us to conclude that the ceremonial of the court of Siam extends even to the exterior forms of the postal service.

The same form is carried out with the land conveyances, as we find the 'Krah Kuhn Nang,' a chair carried by four men for the transportation of the important letters exchanged between the princes; the 'Jau,' a chair carried by two men for the transportation of the missives which the king addresses to his ministers and the functionaries of the country.

The elephant, also, plays a very important part as a means of transportation. In this connection we cite particularly the 'Chang Kup Tang Tua Prom,' or travelling elephant, richly harnessed and covered with a scarlet saddle-cloth, which serves to carry both travellers and letters to distant parts of the vast territory of the empire of Siam.

14 SIAM: ITS POSTS AND POSTAGE STAMPS.

THE LOCAL POST FOR BANGKOK, 1883.

In 1883, H.R.H. the Siamese Minister for Posts and Telegraphs, issued a notification of the opening of the postal service in Bangkok referred to by the King in his speech two years previously. This document also gave detailed regula-



1 lotte, blue.

1 att, carmine.

1 pynung, red.



1 songpy, yellow ochre.



1 salung, brown orange.

tions for the conduct of the system, and for the information of the public.

From this notification the following excerpts are taken:—

POSTAL REGULATIONS.

I.—From Saturday the 1st day of the waxing moon of the 9th month of the year Goat, fifth of the decade, of the year 1245 of the civil era, corresponding to the 4th August 1883 of the Christian era, letters can be transmitted by post within the following limits, viz. :—

Samsen on the North ;
Bangkolem on the South ;
Talad Plu on the West ;
and Sü Pratum on the East.

II.—There will be three deliveries daily, at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., and at 4 p.m.

III.—All letters must be enclosed in a stamped envelope, with the name and address of the addressee written on the same side.

Letters to be transmitted by post must be deposited in one of the letter-boxes, which have been placed for that purpose at several localities throughout the town, whence they will be collected, at stated intervals, by the postmen, who will convey them to the General Post Office for ultimate delivery to their destination.

IV.—Four classes of articles may be transmitted by post, viz.:—

1. Written letters in an open or closed envelope ;
2. Postcards ;
3. Newspapers printed in Bangkok ; and
4. Other printed publications in the form of newspapers, books, &c.

V.—For the transmission by post every article must have affixed thereto a stamp.

These stamps may be purchased at the General Post Office on the mouth of the Ong Ang Canal, or at any other place where there is a letter-box.

VI.—The rate of postage for articles of the first class (written letters in envelopes) will be computed according to the weight of the letter, in the following manner:—

For a letter weighing less than 1 tical ...	2 atts
For a letter weighing more than 1 and less than 2 ticals ...	3 atts
For a letter weighing more than 2 and less than 3 ticals ...	4 atts
And 1 att for every additional weight of 1 tical or fraction thereof.	

VII.—Post-cards having a printed stamp do not require an adhesive one.

The name and the address of the addressee to be written on the side bearing the stamp, the communication to be written on the blank side only.

The price of these postcards will be :

1 post-card	1½ atts
3 post-cards	4 atts
6 ,,	8 atts

VIII.—The rate of postage for articles falling under the third class will be 1 att per sheet.

Newspapers may only be transmitted in wrappers open at the ends, so that the characters within may be seen, otherwise the packet will be charged for at the rate for letters.

IX.—Articles of the fourth class in the form of newspapers or books, must be wrapped in such a manner as to show the characters and binding, and will be charged for at the rate of 1 att for every tical weight or fraction thereof.

XII.—For any letter, on which the postage is not fully prepaid, the Superintendent will charge to the addressee double the amount of the deficiency. In case the addressee refuse to pay, the letter will not be delivered, and the sender of the same will be charged with double the amount of the deficiency.

XVII.—Any person can obtain delivery of his letters at the General Post Office. In order to facilitate the delivery to the addressees, lists will be published of all letters, which have been received in the course of the day, at the General Post Office, and at the Office of Phra Visutr Sa Koradit, the harbour-master.

All further information regarding the Postal Service may be obtained at the General Post Office on the Ong Ang Canal, or at any place where there is a letter-box.

STAMPS FOR THE LOCAL SERVICE, 1883.

For the inland post, set in operation in 1883, a series of five postage stamps was issued. These stamps which were printed in distinctive colours were engraved in *taille douce* and printed in sheets of one hundred stamps by Messrs. Waterlow and Sons, of London. They all show a profile portrait of the King. The three lowest, the 1 solot, 1 att, and 1 seo values are uniform in size ($20 \times 25\frac{1}{2}$ mm.) and design. They show the profile in an oval bordered by a colourless line mounted on a frame of an ornate rectangular form. In each of four small circles near the corners of the stamps is a native character representing the numeral 1, and in a small oval label between the two upper circles is a native inscription denoting the particular coin to which the numeral "1" refers, thus they represent respectively "solot" "att" and "seo." The colours are 1 solot, dark blue; 1 att, carmine; 1 seo, red.

The 1 seek stamp, which is the next denomination in the series, is smaller than the other values, its dimensions being 18×22 mm. It bears the same portrait in an oval bordered by two white lines, divided by a line of colour. At the bottom conforming to the lower curve of the oval, is a white scroll with the native inscription of value. The design is squared up by a rather more ornamental framework than the other stamps of the series. The colour is yellow.

The highest value is the 1 salung, the size of which is $22\frac{1}{2} \times 27$ mm., and the design of which is more regular in form than that of the lower denominations. The portrait is the same, but it is displayed on a medallion arched at the top, and square below, standing out from the frame from which it is separated by a thin colourless line. Above the curved top of the medallion is an ornate tablet bearing the value in

native characters, and the whole is mounted on a frame more severely rectangular than the lower values. The colour is an orange-brown.

SOME MINOR VARIETIES.

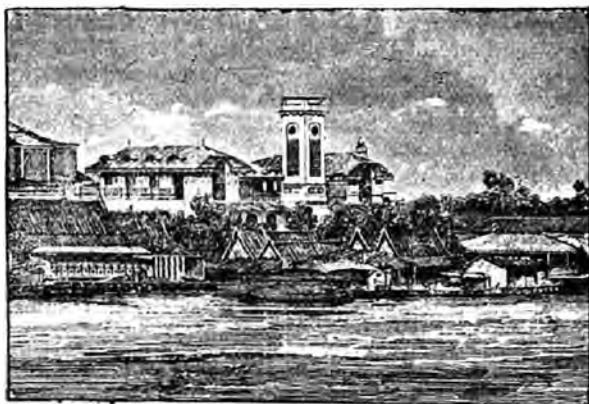
The sizes of all the stamps vary slightly, probably owing to shrinkage of the paper,

The gauge of the perforation also is subject to slight variations, but the general measure is $14\frac{1}{2}$. They may also be found with the perforations missing, either horizontally or vertically, but these should only be accepted as such varieties if the margins are at least $\cdot 75$ mm.

SUMMARY OF LOCAL ISSUE, 1883 :

1883. Perf. $14\frac{1}{2}$.

- 1 solot dark blue.
- 1 att carmine.
- 1 seo red.
- 1 seck yellow.
- 1 salung orange.



GENERAL POST OFFICE. BANGKOK.

PROPOSED EXTENSION OF LOCAL SERVICE 1884.

THE success of this preliminary trial of a postal system limited to a purely local service led to its extension a couple of years later to other countries. In the course of a speech

at his birthday fête, on September 21, 1884, King Chulalongkorn said with reference to the then proposed extension :—

“The interior postal organization of our capital having been completed, we intend now to extend it to all the provinces watered by the river Meinam as far as Chieng-mai. Encouraged by the promise which the United States of America, Germany and Switzerland have made of their friendly co-operation, we have accepted the invitation to enter the Universal Postal Union. Nevertheless, the legislation which was necessary was not completed until after the adjournment of the Postal Congress. We do not doubt that this step will be a benefit to all the world in general, and, above all, to our kingdom.”

SIAM JOINS THE POSTAL UNION, 1885.

The next year, the International Postal Congress met at Lisbon, and Siam was represented at it for the first time by her minister in Paris, and declared her adhesion to the articles of the Postal Conventions of Berne and Lisbon. Having thus entered the Universal Postal Union, the following notification was issued :—

OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION RESPECTING THE NEW SERVICE.

H.R.H. Somdetch Phra Chao Nong Ya Thò Chao Fa Bhanurangse Swangwongse Krom Hluang Bhanuphandhwongse Wordej, Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, begs to announce to all persons interested in and desirous of using the Postal Service, that on the first of June next, the kingdom of Siam enters the Universal Postal Union. From that date, an outward Postal Service will be conducted by the Government. A new Post Office for that purpose is located on the premises of the Custom House. The office hours are : On week-days, from 9 to 12 a.m., and 2 to 5 p.m.; and on Sundays, the office will only be open when a Singapore mail either arrives or is to be despatched. Special hours of business are always before the departure and after the arrival of a Singapore mail. The departures of mails are announced by means of postal circulars. The closing of any particular mail is fixed at half-an-hour before the steamer is announced to start. Letters will be despatched with this steamer still, if they are posted, at latest, half-an-hour before the despatch of the mail, in the Post Office letter box, at the new Custom House ; or at latest, ten minutes before the departure of the steamer, in the letter box, which will be found near the wharf of every mail steamer ; whether the steamer starts in the day or night time. A supplementary mail may be closed on board at the discretion of the Post Office.

RATES OF POSTAGE.

The rates of postage are the following:—

Countries.	Each letter per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	Each Post-card.	Each Newspaper, Book Post, Printed Matter, Sample, per 2 oz.	Registration Fee.	Fee for an Acknowledgment of receipt.
	Atts	Atts	Atts	Atts	Atts
Universal Postal Union ... except	12	4	3	12	6
Straits Settlements and China	8	4	2	8	6
Non Union Countries ...	—	—	—	—	—
South Africa, Australia (New Zealand, Tasmania, Fiji Islands) ...	24	—	12	12	—
Sarawak and North Borneo	8	—	2	8	—

The limit of weight for printed articles of every kind is 4lbs. 6oz., and no packet of printed papers may exceed 2 feet in length or 1 foot in width or depth.

The limit of size for a sample is 8 inches in length, 4 inches in width and 2 inches in depth, and the limit of weight is 8 ounces.

The limit of weight for articles grouped together (samples and printed papers) is 8oz. per package.

Until the arrival of the new postage stamps, the inland and local stamps will be used, the 16 atts stamps representing a value of 12 atts; the others at their present value.

Full particulars regarding the service will be published shortly in a Postal Guide.

Bangkok, the 23rd May, 1885.

General Post Office.

START DELAYED TILL JULY 1ST, 1885.

The commencement of the International Service was delayed for a month later than the date given in the above notice; July 1st, 1885, being the actual date of starting.

A new Act was passed giving the letter carrying monopoly to the Postal Department, and formulating regulations for the conduct of the new service. This Act was to come into operation from and after June 30th, 1885.

The Postal Act of Siam is as follows:—

“On Friday the 14th, of the 8th waning moon, in the year of the Cock, seventh of the decade, civil era 1247, by Royal appointment, His Majesty Somdetch Phra Paramindr Maha Chulalongkorn Phra Chula Chom Klao, King of Siam, 5th Sovereign of the present dynasty, having entered the Audience Hall at the East end of the Royal Palace, Chakree Maha Prasat, and the members of the Royal Family and the military and civil officers of the State being present in audience, His Majesty was graciously pleased to signify his pleasure to His Royal Highness Somdetch Chao Fa Bhanurangse Swangwongse Krom Hluang Bhanupandhuwongse Wordej, Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, that the Department should be open on and after Wednesday the 5th, of the 8th waning moon, in the year of the Cock, seventh of the decade, civil era 1247. But there were no established regulations regarding the Postal Service, and it pleased His Majesty to cause the following rules and regulations to be enacted containing many provisions, and that they be printed in the Siamese and English languages.

PAR. I.

PRIVILEGE IN THE CONVEYANCE OF LETTERS.

Wheresoever, within Siam, posts or postal communications are or shall be established by the Government of Siam, the said Government reserves to itself the exclusive privilege of conveying by post, from one place to another, all letters except in the following cases:—

1. Letters sent by a private person so long as such letters are delivered by this person to the addressee without hire, reward, or other profit or advantage for receiving, carrying or delivering the same.

2. Letters, solely concerning the affairs of the sender or receiver thereof, sent by a messenger on purpose. Such a messenger is not allowed to receive letters from, or to bring back such for other persons.

3. Letters solely concerning goods or other property sent either by sea or land to be delivered with the goods or property, to which such letters relate (consignee's letters), without hire, reward, or other profit or advantage for receiving, carrying or delivering such letters.

Unclosed letters, which are conveyed in closed packets, are to be treated as closed letters.

PAR. II.

Wheresoever, within Siam, posts or postal communications are or shall be established by the Government of Siam, the owners and commanders of ships, steamboats or other vessels passing on any river or canal, or to or from any port in Siam, are expressly forbidden, as well as their servants or agents, to collect, carry, tender or deliver any letter or letters, with the exception, however, of letters solely concerning goods on board (consignee's letters, bills of lading).

PAR. III.

Every shipmaster is bound to take mails and sign a receipt for them, and to deliver mails or correspondence, which may be on board, to the Post Office without delay after his arrival.

Any shipmaster about to start with a vessel to any place out of the kingdom must send the first notice to the Post Office. With regard to sailing vessels the rule practically is, that if notice be not specially asked for, it is not required.

PAR. IV.

WARRANTY.

In case of the loss of a registered article, on whatever territory or maritime service it may occur, except in the case of "force majeure," an indemnity of twenty ticals shall be paid to the sender or at his request to the addressee.

Payment of this indemnity shall be made with the least possible delay, and at the latest within a year from the date of application. Every claim for an indemnity is excluded if it is not made within one year from the date on which the registered article was posted.

No indemnification shall be paid in case of a registered article or an ordinary article being damaged, or in case of delayed dispatch, conveyance or delivery.

For the loss or damage of a parcel, indemnification shall be paid according to the real value of the lost or damaged contents, but not more than 1 tical per pound or part of that weight.

When an incomplete or damaged parcel is presented for delivery, it should be refused and a notification of the ground of refusal made on the declaration which accompanies it. A claim can then be made, but, the parcel once received, the warranty, *ipso facto*, ceases.

The Post Office is not responsible for any injury which books or other articles may sustain. No person employed in the Post Office is responsible for any loss or inconvenience which may arise from the mis-sending, mis-delivery, loss, &c., of ordinary letters or other articles of correspondence, unless that person shall have caused such delay, loss or damage negligently, maliciously or fraudulently.

The Government shall not be responsible for the right delivery of the correspondence, if the addressee has declared that he will send for it. The post officers are not obliged to prove the signature of the addressee under the form of receipt or the right of the person to request the registered or ordinary correspondence by presenting the signed receipt or the window-delivery ticket.

In case of war the Government has the right, after due notification, to decline every responsibility for registered articles or the conveyance of letters.

In such a case every other occasion of conveyance can be made use of without regard to Paragraph I of this Act.

PAR. V.

SPECIAL RIGHTS OF THE POST.

1. No post-carriage, post-boat, post-runner or postman, unless by express order of the Government, can be detained except for a criminal offence.

It shall not be lawful for any person to open a packet or mail bag or box in transit from one post office to another, and every person who shall be guilty of any of the offences mentioned in this paragraph shall be punished with a fine not exceeding two hundred ticals or imprisonment with or without hard labour for a term not exceeding three months.

2. Private carriages, boats or vessels are obliged to give way to post-carriages, post-boats, or post-vessels.

Contraventions will be punished with a fine not exceeding twenty ticals or with imprisonment with or without hard labour for a period not exceeding twenty days.

3. Post-carriages, post-riders, post-boats, post-runners or postmen are and shall be free from all transit charges which may at any time be fixed for private carriages, private riders, or boats or messengers.

4. If any accident should happen to any post-carriage, post-rider, post-boat or postman, the residents in the neighbourhood, when such accident occurs, are bound to give every assistance they may be called upon to render, it being understood, that the Government on the other hand binds itself to full compensation for such assistance.

5. Where there are or shall be stationed ferry-boats, these boats must without any delay ferry over the post-carriers, and where there are or shall be established drawbridges, post-carriers must be allowed to pass them without delay.

Contraventions will be punished with a fine not exceeding twenty ticals, or with imprisonment with or without hard labour for a period not exceeding twenty days.

6. The post offices are entitled to attach property for the recovery of unpaid post fines and post fees.

7. All money or other valuables contained in a letter or other article of correspondence, which cannot be delivered to the addressee or returned to the sender, belongs to the Postal Department.

PAR. VI.

PENAL CODE.

(a) For Private Persons.

1. Any person who shall send, otherwise than by post, a letter not exempted from the exclusive privilege established by Paragraph I, shall for every letter so sent, forfeit a sum not exceeding fifty ticals or be liable to imprisonment with or without hard labour for a period not exceeding forty days. The same penalty is fixed for any person who shall collect, carry, tender or deliver any letter or letters not exempted from the said exclusive privilege.

2. Any person who shall make a collection of letters for the purpose of transmitting them through the Post in a clubbed packet—as particularly allowed to Chinese in regard to letters for China—and any person who shall knowingly tender or deliver a letter to be sent in such a clubbed packet, as is particularly allowed to Chinese in regard to letters for China, shall forfeit for every said letter a sum not exceeding fifty ticals, or instead of this penalty he shall be liable to imprisonment with or without hard labour for a period not exceeding forty days.

3. Any person who shall be in the practice of committing any of the acts mentioned in Sections 1 and 2 of this paragraph shall, for every week during which the practice shall be continued, forfeit a further sum not exceeding five hundred ticals.

4. Any person who for the purpose of defrauding the Post Office revenue, shall put any wrong mark or stamp on any letter or other article of correspondence, certify by writing on any official or other letter or packet delivered at any Post Office for conveyance by post that which is not true in respect of such letter or packet or in respect of the whole of its contents, or shall knowingly send or deliver, or attempt to send and deliver, for conveyance by post any letter or packet with any such false certificate thereon, and any person, who shall knowingly send or permit to be sent by post under colour or pretence of an official communication, any letter, paper, writing or any other enclosure of a private nature, shall for every such offence be punished with a fine not exceeding fifty ticals or with imprisonment with or without hard labour for a term not exceeding forty days.

5. No person shall knowingly post any letter or article of correspondence containing any explosive or other dangerous material or substance.

Contraventions will be punished for every such offence with a fine not exceeding eight hundred ticals, or with imprisonment with or without hard labour for a term not exceeding three years.

6. Whosoever shall assault, or by any violent act towards any officer or employé of the Government Post Department, interfere with, or resist, any such officer or employé whilst in the discharge of his duty, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding the sum of five hundred ticals, or to imprisonment with or without hard labour for a term not exceeding six months.

(b) For Shipmasters.

7. Every shipmaster who shall disobey any direction contained in Paragraph III. shall be punished with a fine not exceeding five hundred ticals.

(c) For Officials.

8. Secrecy in respect to such information as may be

obtained by the officers of the Department by virtue of their appointments and is not intended for public disclosure, must be maintained inviolate. The exceptions which may become necessary in penal or criminal cases shall be determined by the criminal court. Any violation of such secrecy by an officer of the Department shall, upon proof, render him liable to imprisonment with or without hard labour for a term not exceeding two years, or falling short of six months.

9. Whoever being in the Government employ shall fraudulently put any wrong mark on any letter or other article of correspondence, or shall fraudulently alter, remove or cause to disappear any mark or stamp which is on any letter or other article of correspondence, or shall fraudulently use or place with or upon any letter or other article, any stamp which shall have been removed from any other letter or other article of correspondence, shall knowingly demand or receive any sum of money for postage thereof, other than the sum duly chargeable for such postage, shall be punished, on conviction before a criminal court, with imprisonment not exceeding two years.

10. Whoever being in such employ as last aforesaid and being entrusted with the preparing or keeping of any document, shall with a fraudulent intention prepare the documents incorrectly, or alter that document, or secrete or destroy that document shall be punished, on conviction before a Judge or criminal court, with imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for a term not exceeding two years, and shall also be liable to a fine.

11. Any person employed to convey or deliver any mail bag or box, or any letter or other article sent by post, who shall be guilty, whilst so employed, of drunkenness, carelessness, or other misconduct, whereby the safety of any such bag, box, or letter or other article of correspondence may be endangered or who shall loiter or make delay in the conveyance or delivery of any such bag, box, letter or other article, and who shall not use proper care and diligence safely to convey or deliver any such bag, box, letter or other article, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding fifty ticals, or to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for a term not exceeding forty days.

12. Every employé in the Postal Department who shall steal, fraudulently retain or wilfully secrete or make away with or keep or break open or detain a letter or other article of correspondence, or a mail bag, box or packet containing a letter or other article of correspondence, shall be punished on conviction, before a criminal court, with imprisonment with or without hard labour, for a term not exceeding five years nor less than three months.

An equal penalty is fixed in case of an official or employé in the Postal Service stealing or fraudulently retaining cash or stamps or other Government property.

(d) Generally.

13. The amount of the penalties, and the decision of the punishment which may be inflicted upon any offender, shall be at the discretion of the judge or the criminal court.

14. The authorities of the Postal Department are hereby empowered to institute any prosecution or action at law which may be considered necessary for the purpose of carrying out the foregoing laws.

PAR. VII.

PRIVILEGE IN POSTAGE.

Letters and other articles on His Majesty's Service certified to be such by the words "On His Majesty's Service only," and by the signature or seal of any public chief officer, shall be forwarded by the Inland Post free of charge.

This law shall come into operation from and after the 30th day of June, 1885.

PROVISIONAL STAMPS, 1885.

This extension of the postal service in 1885 to the whole of Siam and to foreign countries, necessitated the issue of a stamp of higher facial value than the 1 salung, which, by the way, was reduced in equivalent value from 16 atts to 12 atts, to provide for the Postal Union rate. So a quantity of the 1 solot blue stamps were raised in value by means of an overprint to the denomination—1 tical (=64 atts), equivalent to about 2s. 6d.



1 TICAL

Type I.

1 Tical

Type III.

1 Tical

Type II.

1 Tical

Type IV.

VARIETIES OF SETTING 1 TICAL ON 1 SOLOT.

The surcharge, which is in ordinary Roman type, was printed in red, and there are several distinctive varieties in the setting of the overprints. The first has the word TICAL in elongated capitals, while all the others have lower case letters, except for the initial letter, thus: Tical. The figure 1 in the first type is of the same height as the letters, and has a long drooping serif and a scarcely perceptible widening at the base. The figure in type 2 is shorter and thicker with

a heavy straight top, with a thick base projecting outwards on both sides of the perpendicular stroke of the figure. Type 3 has a figure slightly longer than the T of Tical, and with a straight serif and clearly projecting base. It is not so thick as in the second type. Type 4 has a very short thick 1 with a gently sloping serif. The letters of the word Tical are shorter and heavier than in the first three types.

MINOR VARIETIES OF THE 1 TICAL ON 1 SOLOT.

Of these surcharges there are several varieties recorded.

The "Monthly Circular" of July, 1886, records a variety of Type I. with the last two letters of the surcharge missing TIC instead of TICAL.

Mr. Holland lists type 3 with inverted surcharge, double surcharge (both red), double surcharge (one red and one black), and with figure 1 inverted. Of type 4 he gives a double surcharge, and a variety from which the serif of the numeral is missing.

Mr. Poole has discovered five types of the surcharges which he has measured as follows:—1., surcharge 14mm. long, $3\frac{3}{4}$ mm. high; 2, $13\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{3}{4}$ mm.; 3, $16 \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ mm.; 4, $12\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{3}{4}$ mm.; 5, $13 \times 2\frac{3}{4}$ mm.

COUNTERFEIT OVERPRINTS.

Counterfeits of these overprints are numerous. Mr. Holland mentions one in which the value is spelt Tical another of type 1 in which the surcharge measures $16\frac{1}{2}$ mm. from the left end of the base of the figure 1 to the right end of the base of the letter L, while the original measures only 14mm., and the letters of the surcharge are much thinner and higher. Those stamps, he adds, having a surcharge that appears to be printed with a glacé or varnishy look are generally regarded as forgeries. No doubt it is unwise to overprint stamps of low denominations to serve as high value ones, as the application of a passable type overprint is a simple matter to the forger. The facial value of the "solut" stamp (equivalent to $\frac{1}{2}$ att) was increased 128 times by conversion into a one tical stamp (equivalent to 64 atts), a proceeding involving considerable danger to the revenues of the Siamese Post Office.

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONAL 1 TICAL ON 1 SOLOT, 1885.

1885. Perf. 14 $\frac{1}{2}$, overprinted in red on the 1 solot stamp of 1883.

- 1 TICAL (Type I.) on 1 solot blue.
- 1 Tical (Type II.) on 1 solot blue.
- 1 Tical (Type III.) on 1 solot blue.
- 1 Tical (Type IV.) on 1 solot blue.

INTERNAL POSTAL EXTENSIONS.

Meanwhile the authorities were rapidly extending the ramifications of the service. From August 26th, 1885, offices were established at Paklat and Paknam, and these were to be in daily communication with Bangkok.

According to a notification, dated October 15th, 1885, of the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, a post office was opened at Bang Pa In during the presence of His Majesty there; connection with Bangkok every second day.

On October 19th, further new offices were established at the following places: Nakonchaisee, Phra Pratoom, Banyang, Tacheen, Maklong, Ratboorie and Petchabooree.

The first two places were on the route of one mail-boat, and the remainder all on a second mail-boat route. They were thus in regular connection with Bangkok Post Office No. 1 once a week, and it was promised that the communication to these places would be increased when found necessary.

Commencing with October 26th, a regular mail service—fortnightly both ways—was established between Bangkok and Chiangmai, and post offices were opened on the main line at Muang Nontabooree, Muang Pratoomtanee, Bang Pa In, Ajuthia, Angtong, Muang Prom, Muang In, Cheinat, Prayuhakiri, Monorom, Nakon Sawan (Paknam Po), Poom, Pechit, Ban Thalaw, Pitsanuloke, Siperom, Peechei, Outaradit, Pray, Lakon, Lampon, Chiangmai and branch lines. To Banpotpesei, Muang Kanu, Kampang Pet, Raheng, Sokothai and Swankaloke.

The mail took about fifteen days from Bangkok to Chiangmai, five days to Paknam Po, ten days to Raheng, and ten days also to Outaradit.

NEW STAMPS WITH VALUE EXPRESSED IN ENGLISH AND SIAMESE, 1887.

Immediately Siam joined the Postal Union, the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs* decided that the stamps then in use with only native inscriptions would be a source of much inconvenience to foreigners, and that a new series should be prepared giving the value in English figures, and which should meet the requirements of the new rates fixed upon by the Conventions of the Postal Union. It was also intended that the new stamps should serve for both postal and revenue purposes. The stamps were surface printed by

*His full name has already been given, and as it is a severe tax upon the Western understanding, and as there is no desire on the part of the compiler to unduly prolong this work, the title of his office will, henceforward, be sufficient to identify him.

Messrs. De la Rue & Co., of London, in sheets of 120 stamps arranged in ten rows of twelve. The series was completed in 1886, but the stamps were not issued until April, 1887.

On January 4th, 1887, the following notification was issued by the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, from the General Post Office, Bangkok :

NOTIFICATION RESPECTING THE NEW STAMPS.

"On the 1st April, 1887, the Postal Department of the Kingdom of Siam will issue a new supply of postage stamps and post cards, including the following denominations, viz., stamps of 2, 3, 4, 8, 12, 24 and 64 atts; international 4 att post cards, and the same with reply 8 atts.

"The new stamps may be used for prepaying either inland or international mail matter, also for custom and duty purposes; but after the above date the current stamps and post cards can be used only for inland correspondence.

"Therefore any mail matter for other administrations, or for countries foreign to the Postal Union, the postage of which is prepaid with the stamps heretofore in use, will be considered as unpaid after April next, and treated as such. However, in order that the public may have ample time to comply with this regulation, it is arranged that the old 12 att stamps and the international 4 att post cards will be received at any office in exchange for new stamps or cards of corresponding denominations during the months of April, May and June. Exchange for cash is not allowable."



DESIGN OF THE NEW STAMPS.

The new stamps showed a full face portrait of the King in an oval. A native inscription in white characters on a horse-shoe shaped band of colour extends round the upper two-thirds of the oval, and the top angles of the design are squared up with triangular ornaments. In the lower angles are two octagonal tablets bearing in the left-hand one the value expressed in Siamese characters, and in the right-hand

one the value in English characters, between the tablets in small white capitals on a ground of colour is the inscription SIAM—POSTAGE—& REVENUE in three lines.

COLOURS.

The stamps are all bi-coloured, the same head plate serving for all values, and the small octagonal tablets of value being printed afterwards, each denomination from a separate duty plate. Of the seven values 2, 3, 4, 8, 12, 24 and 64 atts, the design proper is printed in green on the first four stamps and in purple on the three highest values, the tablets containing the values being printed in a distinctive colour for each denomination, viz.: carmine, blue, brown, yellow, carmine, blue and brown respectively for the seven stamps. These colours vary in intensity, and collectors of shades will find differences in the red, the blue and the brown colours.

THE "CHAKR" WATERMARK.

All the stamps were printed on paper watermarked with a curious native emblem. Mr. C. A. Howes a close student of



Oriental matters relating to philately, says: "The watermark of the Siamese stamps has usually been described as a 'lotus flower.' It may resemble, at first glance, the conventionalized lotus bloom used for a watermark on some stamps manufactured by Messrs. De la Rue & Co., but in this case it is something entirely different. It is an emblem used by the royal house of Siam and is called a *chakr*, translated literally as 'wheel.' It represents a mythological circular weapon which, when thrown, was supposed to return, boomerang-like, to the thrower. It usually has a companion weapon, a trident, called the *kri*. The two are used as a crest on the royal coat-of-arms, and the *chakr* appears on Siamese naval flags to denote rank."

SUMMARY.

1887. Perf. 14. Watermarked a Chakr.
- 2 atts, green and carmine.
 - 3 atts, green and blue.
 - 4 atts, green and brown.
 - 8 atts, green and yellow.
 - 12 atts, lilac and carmine.
 - 24 atts, lilac and blue.
 - 64 atts, lilac and brown.

FURTHER INTERNAL POSTAL EXTENSIONS.

Further extensions of the inland service were still steadily progressed with. In the portion of the Malacca peninsula belonging to Siam, offices were opened at Trang, Pang Nga, Singora, and Kanchanadit. On the frontier of British Burmah a post office was started at Mehongson, and in the north-west was opened an office at Moug-Tern. Later there were three offices opened at Koh-si-chang, Anghin, and Rayong on the east coast, opposite the French possessions. By the end of 1889, according to the writer in "L'Echo de la Timbrologie," there were 90 post offices in operation.



THE SURCHARGE.



PROVISIONAL STAMP, 1889, 1 ATT ON 1 SEO.

In the preceding series it will have been noted that there was no stamp of the value of 1 att, although printed matter for certain inland postal routes had since 1885 been subject to a 1 att rate for each two ticals weight (1 tical weight = 15 grammes). The need for a stamp of this denomination became urgent in 1889, and pending the preparation of one by Messrs. De la Rue, the one seo vermilion stamp of the 1883 issue was overprinted in black at the top with the new value 1 att in Siamese characters.

ERRORS OF OVERPRINT.

Of this surcharge, Mr. Holland mentions a pair of which one has been surcharged and not the other; this is due no doubt to inaccurate registering of the overprint, as entire sheets have been found showing one entire horizontal row of unsurcharged specimens. In addition to this variety, Mr. Poole chronicles a double impression of the overprint.

SUMMARY.

1889. Perf. 14½. Overprinted in black Siamese characters on 1 seo stamp of 1883.

1 att on 1 seo, vermilion.

1889, PROVISIONAL 1 ATT ON 2 ATTS AND 1 ATT ON 3 ATTS.

As the 1 att stamp was not received from England until 1890, recourse was made to the overprinting of other stamps with the value 1 att which was by this time being extensively used on samples and printed matter. At the end of 1889, the 2 atts stamp of 1887 appeared overprinted in black with the value 1 att in Siamese characters, and the Arabic numeral 1. The issue of these stamps together with a similar overprint on the 3 atts stamp of 1887, continued throughout 1890.

VARIETIES OF THE OVERPRINT.

There were various printings of these surcharged stamps showing at least four varieties in the type of the overprint. The differences in the latter are best described by the Arabic figure 1.

TYPE 1.

TYPE 2.

TYPE 3.

TYPE 4.

In type 1 this is thin and has a sloping serif and scarcely any perceptible projection at the base, and the figure is 5mm. high.

In type 2 the body of the numeral is thicker, the serif is longer and at a wider angle than in the previous type, the base has distinct projections, and the whole figure is 6mm. high.

In type 3 the figure has an almost straight serif at top, is shorter and thicker, and the projections at the base are longer and more defined; the height of the numeral is 5mm.

In type 4 the figure is long, thick, with a heavy sloping serif and no perceptible projections at the base; the height measuring 6mm.

All the four types appear overprinted on the 2 atts green and carmine stamp, and types 1 and 2 may be found on the 3 atts green and blue.

MINOR VARIETIES.

Mr. Holland lists type 2 (on the 1 att on 2 atts stamp) (a) with the first Siamese character inverted; (b) double surcharge; (c) serif of figure 1 turned up at end; (d) pair,

one without surcharge; (e) figure 1 omitted. To these Mr. Poole adds one in which the cedilla-like character at the top of the overprint has been omitted.

In the "Philatelic Record" for February, 1890, is the following note concerning Mr. Holland's variety (e) with the figure 1 omitted.

"Messrs. Butler write that in one of the sheets recently received by them the numeral '1' was altogether omitted on eight of the stamps. The *raison d'être* is that the surcharge is applied in two parts by hand, the portion of it with the Siamese characters being on one stamp, and the '1' on the other. This accounts for the frequently 'drunken' appearance of the numeral."

SUMMARY.

1889. Perf. 14. Watermarked a "Chakr." Surcharged in black on stamps of 1887.

- 1 att (Type I.) on 2 atts, green and carmine.
- 1 att (Type II.) on 2 atts, green and carmine.
- 1 att (Type III.) on 2 atts, green and carmine.
- 1 att (Type IV.) on 2 atts, green and carmine.
- 1 att (Type I.) on 3 atts, green and blue.
- 1 att (Type II.) on 3 atts, green and blue.

THE CHARGE OF SIAMESE PROVINCIAL POST OFFICES TRANSFERRED.

Up till 1890 the charge of the provincial post offices in the kingdom had been entrusted to the local governors, as were all other services of the State. The increasing popularity of the postal service gradually rendered this work too severe a tax on such officials, pressed as they were with other duties, and it was decided that the offices should be transferred to private individuals with whom the postal authorities could make contracts for the execution of the duties of local postmasters.

Accordingly thirty-seven of these offices were transferred from the charge of provincial governors to the management of private persons, and the total number of offices was shortly raised to one hundred and two.

PROVISIONAL 2 ATTS ON 3 ATTS, 1890-91.

It would appear that the wholesale using up of the 2 atts for 1 att stamps depleted the stock of the former, and to provide stamps of the 2 atts denomination, which began to be extensively used for newspapers and printed matter to China and the Straits Settlements, the quantities of the 3 atts stamps had to be converted by the same process of

overprinting into 2 atts ones in 1890 and 1891. The overprint, which is in black, has the value expressed in native characters and an Arabic numeral 2, and there are five varieties of the black impression.



TYPES OF THE OVERPRINT.

In type 1 the numeral is well rounded and light, with a long thin base and only the slightest suggestion of an upward projection at the end of the base. The overprint measures 16mm.

In type 2 the numeral is heavier, especially at the base, and a long stroke projects upwards from the termination of the base. The overprint measures 14½mm.

Type 3 has a distinctly small "2," which measures only 3mm. high.



Type 4 has a long elongated numeral, 6mm. high, and the native characters are not level, the first one being much lower than the second.

Type 5 has a long 2 as in type 4 but the native characters are level.

Type 5 has also been impressed on the 1 att on 3 atts green and blue.

ERRORS OF THE OVERPRINT.

Of errors in these overprints, Mr. Holland gives of type 2 (a) the 2 is vertically flattened to the right (*i.e.*, presumably from type damaged in course of use) (b) with the accent over Siamese characters horizontal instead of slightly slanting. Mr. Poole lists several pairs of surcharged and unsurcharged stamps *se tenant*.

SUMMARY.

1890-91. Perf. 14. Watermark Chakr. Overprinted in black.

- 2 atts on 3 atts, green and blue, Type I.
- 2 atts on 3 atts, green and blue, Type II.
- 2 atts on 3 atts, green and blue, Type III.
- 2 atts on 3 atts, green and blue, Type IV.
- 2 atts on 3 atts, green and blue, Type V.
- 2 atts on 1 att on 3 atts, green and blue, Type V.

FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS OF THE INTERNAL POSTAL
SERVICE.

Several further improvements in the inland service were effected this year 1891, which are best explained by the author of the article in "L'Echo de la Timbrologie."

"At the time of the establishment of the postal service in Siam it was thought necessary to have all routes radiate from Bangkok, the capital. In this way the offices upon the same postal route could easily exchange correspondence between each other. But this was not so when the offices were established on the frontier of the kingdom, and it then became necessary to organise a direct service between the offices of the various provinces without having to pass through the capital. In May, 1891, therefore, four new branch routes were established corresponding with the principal service from Bangkok to Chiengmai. At the same time the service which had been once every fifteen days upon the more important routes, such as the Bangkok-Luang-Prang routes, was transformed into a weekly service.



THE NEW 1 ATT STAMP, 1891.

The 1 att green stamp, the delay in procuring which had given rise to the overprinted issues last described, reached Bangkok in 1891. It is identical in design with the stamps of 1887, but the native and English inscription in the octagonal tablet give the new value, and the stamp is printed in one colour only, green, on the same paper as before, watermarked in the chakr design, and perforated 14.

SUMMARY.

1891. Perf. 14. Watermark Chakr.
1 att, green.

PROVISIONAL 4 ATTS ON SIAMESE CHARACTERS ONLY.

In 1891 Siam entered an arrangement with several other Postal Union countries for the interchange of money orders, and this led to a considerable increase in foreign business.

The stock of 4 atts stamps had been very nearly used up, and as the stamp was in constant demand the overprinting process was repeated to reduce high values to the lower one of 4 atts in 1892-3. The 24 atts, of which there was a good quantity on hand, was the first to be thus overprinted.

At first the stamps would appear to have been surcharged in Siamese characters only, at the bottom of the stamp, one at a time, by means of a hand-stamp. There are two distinct types of these on the first, of which the characters are large and close together, and on the second they are smaller and wider apart.

SUMMARY.

1892. Perf. 14. Watermark, Chakr. Siamese character surch.
Overprinted in black.

4 atts (Type I.) on 24 atts, lilac and blue.

4 atts (Type II.) on 24 atts, lilac and blue.

4 ATTS ON 24 ATTS IN ENGLISH AND SIAMESE CHARACTERS.

As the 4 Atts stamp was largely for use abroad, it is surprising that the stamps should have been overprinted in Siamese characters only, having regard to the Minister for Posts' consideration of forgeries in the past. And indeed Mr. Holland is of opinion that these stamps are errors of the stamps next to be described, the English overprint having been omitted. This, however, is scarcely possible as the stamps with the Siamese surcharge only, must have been issued at the latter end of 1892, while the ones with English overprint as well were not issued till early in 1893. In the "Philatelic Record" for January, 1893, is an illustration of the type with native overprint only, and this could not have been so illustrated if the stamp had only appeared even on January 1st, 1893. It is not until March that the "Monthly Journal" records the stamp with the two surcharges, English and Siamese.

TYPES OF ENGLISH OVERPRINT.

Of the stamp in both English and Native overprint there are several types, two of the Siamese pair as described above and four of the English surcharge. While the former was applied to each stamp singly by hand-stamp, the English one was printed in post office sheets of 120 at one impression.

This is clearly evidenced by the fact that a vagary in centring the English overprint puts the whole of the surcharges on one sheet proportionately out of position. "The American Journal of Philately" gives an instance. "We have a sheet on which the surcharge has been misplaced so that, on each row of stamps, it slants up from left to right. Every row is printed this way and the surcharge is at the same angle on each."

A writer in "L'Echo de la Timbrologie" thinks the English overprints were applied to ten stamps only at a time, but the above facts controvert this statement as also does the fact that a minor variety in which the letter S of Atts is inverted appears only once on a sheet and not once on every block of ten stamps.

The printing of the Siamese surcharge, one at a time, is clearly evidenced by the irregularity with which the overprint has been applied, and by the occurrence of inverted, double, and occasionally totally omitted Siamese surcharges.

In describing the four varieties of the stamps surcharged 4 atts in English and Siamese, the English superscription will be the best guide.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TYPES.

In type 1 the inscription reads 4 atts, in small letters, and is not punctuated at the end. The Siamese surcharge is type 1, already described, with large characters close together.

4 atts

TYPE I.

4 atts.

TYPE II.

Type 2 is similar, though the letter S is more rounded, and a full stop ends the surcharge "4 atts." The Siamese surcharge is the second type, with small characters widely spaced.

4 atts

TYPE III.

4 atts.

TYPE IV.

Type 3 is in much larger letters and is without the punctuation mark. These have the second type of Siamese overprint.

Type 4 is in large letters, similar to type 3, but has the punctuation mark. The Siamese overprint is the second type.

MINOR VARIETIES OF TYPE I.

Of type 1, Mr. Holland gives light minor varieties as follows:— (a) double Siamese surcharge; (b) Siamese surcharge omitted; (c) English surcharge omitted*; (d) inverted "s" in "atts"; (e) antique "a" "atts; (f) antique "a" and space between "t" and "t" in "at ts; (g) "t" and "s" of "atts" dropped below the line; (h) Siamese surcharge inverted.

Variety (e) is the third stamp in the first row, (d) is the fourth stamp in the fourth row; the widely spaced t's occur on the twelfth stamps of the fourth and sixth rows; variety (g) is the fourth stamp on the ninth row. Mr. Poole also gives two other varieties, viz.:—the eleventh stamp in the seventh row has a wrong fount, second "t" in "atts, it being thicker and not curling up so much at the end as in the normal stamp; and the fourth stamp of the eighth row has the letters "tt" lower than the other letters.

MINOR VARIETIES OF TYPE II.

Of type 2, Mr. Holland gives the following varieties:— (a) inverted "s" in "atts" (tenth stamp, first row); (b) Siamese surcharge double; (c) English surcharge omitted*; (d) same as (c) but Siamese surcharge double†; (e) period omitted.

Mr. Poole adds an antique "a" in "atts" (fourth stamp in first row); "t" without a foot (tenth stamp in second row); comma instead of period on ninth and tenth stamps in the fourth row; wrong fount second "t" with straight foot (seventh stamp in eighth row); wrong fount first "t" (tenth stamp in tenth row).

Mr. Holland's variety (e) is distinguishable from type 1 by the Siamese surcharge only, which is in smaller characters but more widely spaced.

MINOR VARIETIES OF TYPE III.

Of type 3, Mr. Holland gives four varieties: (a) Siamese surcharge omitted; (b) double Siamese surcharge; (c) space

* This as already explained is probably simply the earlier stamps surcharged in Siamese characters only.

† This as already explained is probably simply the earlier stamps surcharged in Siamese characters only.

between the letters "t" of "atts" (ninth stamp, first row); (d) pair, one being surcharged in Siamese only. This latter variety may possibly be explained by the ill-centring of the English overprint, resulting in one row of the surcharges being impressed on the margin of the sheet and leaving a row of stamps at the opposite side unsurcharged.

Mr. Poole states that the twelfth stamp in the third row has a wide space between the letters "a" and "t," and that the first stamp in the fourth row has a wrong fount first "t."

The "Monthly Journal" for May, 1894, describes a sheet of these stamps (ten horizontal rows of twelve stamps each) received by its publishers, on which all the stamps in the ninth row are minus the Siamese surcharge.

MINOR VARIETIES OF TYPE IV.

In type 4, Mr. Holland gives four minor varieties, viz.: (a) English surcharge double; (b) Siamese surcharge double; (c) inverted "s" in atts; (d) pair, one being surcharged in Siamese only. The same remark applies to this variety (d) as to variety (d) of type 3.

Mr. Poole gives a variety in a very large stop after "4 atts," which he explains occurs on the seventh stamp in the third row, and also on the sixth stamp in the tenth row.

SUMMARY.

1893. Perf. 14. Watermark, Chakr. English and Siamese characters overprinted in black.

- 4 atts on 24 atts lilac and blue (Type I.)
- 4 atts on 24 atts lilac and blue (Type II.)
- 4 atts on 24 atts lilac and blue (Type III.)
- 4 atts on 24 atts lilac and blue (Type IV.)

INTERNAL POSTAL EXTENSIONS, 1894.

The extension of the internal postal routes was constantly being effected. In 1894, a number of secondary routes, or what we would term cross-roads, were established, connecting points off the line of the main post roads with some point on those roads where the mails could be collected for delivery in Bangkok, or letters from Bangkok dropped for delivery along the secondary route. The author of the article in "L'Écho de la Timbrologie" says that one of these secondary routes was 500 miles in length, and that the carriers took about a month in traversing it. By means of such cross posts the chief centres on the right bank of the Mekong were connected up with the main route to Bangkok. New weekly services were started in Central Siam from

Korat to Nangong and to Chaturat and Pookiew. In Southern Siam a weekly territorial service was organised and connected with the line from Bangkok to Kabin. Another with a fortnightly service connected Sissophone and Sangha. Already there was a steamer mail service running weekly on the eastern coast (gulf of Siam), and in this year an additional one was established between Chantaboon and Prachuntakirikate (Ko-Kong) on the Cambodian frontier.

Exactly how far these extensions were responsible for the shortages in stamps, the values mostly used in their operations cannot easily be decided. But it is quite probable that with these new openings and with the increase of communications on other routes, that it was difficult for the department to gauge its requirements in the matter of stamps, and it is evident from the number of surcharged specimens which have been issued that the shortages were very frequent.

PROVISIONAL "1 ATTS" ON 64 ATTS, 1894.

In 1894 and the following year several varieties of overprinted 1 att and 2 att stamps were issued. The first of these was overprinted on the 64 atts lilac and brown, with the words Atts in the plural, although prefixed by the numeral 1. But for the fact that the type is different, one might have assumed that the setting for some other stamp had been used with only the numerals changed. But the surcharge is entirely different from previous ones; the initial letter is a capital A instead of a small one, and the Siamese surcharges were set up with the English ones, in sheets of 120, and printed both at the same time, instead of being done singly by hand. The English numeral is generally a good distance from the word "Atts."

MINOR VARIETIES OF "1 ATTS" ON 64 ATTS.

Owing to its peculiarity of spelling this stamp is readily distinguished.

Mr. Holland lists (a) "s" of "atts" inverted; (b) period inverted; (c) surcharge inverted; (d) different space between "1" and "A" of "Atts."

Mr. Poole gives seven variations in the length of the surcharge, viz. :—1, 16½mm.; 2, 16mm.; 3, 15½mm.; 4, 15mm.; 5, 14½mm.; 6, 14mm.; and 7, 13½mm. He also gives two variations in the distance between the Siamese and the English super-inscriptions, viz. 1, 9mm.; 2, 10½mm. Also wrong fount fifth native character; fourth and fifth native characters close together; and a wide space between the fifth and sixth native characters.

THE "1 ATT" (LARGE TYPE) ON 64 ATTS, 1894,

The next stamp to be noted is practically the same as the last, with large numeral and letters, but with the superfluous "s" of "1 atts" deleted.

1 Atts.

1 Att.

WITH SUPERFLUOUS
"s"—"ATTS."

WITHOUT THE SUPERFLUOUS
"s"—"ATT."

ERRORS AND MINOR VARIETIES.

Mr. Holland gives five varieties: (a) English surcharge double; (b) different space between "1" and "A" of "Atts", (c) narrow "A"; (d) inverted "V" for "A"; (e) period inverted. The explanation of variety (a) is doubtful, for it is difficult to understand, as the Siamese and English inscriptions were printed together, how one could be printed twice without the other. It is probable, perhaps, the letters of the English inscription were loose in this instance and slipped, causing a blurred or partly duplicated impression.

Mr. Poole, in his minute study of these stamps, again gives seven varieties in the length of the inscription, which go to prove they were printed from the same setting of type as the last described stamp, except for the correcting of the final "s." The variations are 1, 14½mm.; 2, 14mm.; 3, 13½mm.; 4, 13mm.; 5, 12½mm.; 6, 12mm.; 7, 11½mm.

The different spaces between the English and Siamese characters are as before, viz.: 1, 9mm.; 2, 10½mm.

Mr. Poole also gives a variety with wider space between the fourth and fifth Siamese characters.

The "Monthly Journal" records a variety of this stamp with an inverted capital S after the period at the end of the English inscription thus: "Att.S"

1 Att.

2 Atts.

1 Att on 64 Atts
(small type).

2 Atts on 64 Atts
(first setting).

1 ATT (SMALL TYPE) ON 64 ATTS, 1894.

The next stamp is also the same 64 atts stamp, but overprinted 1 Att in smaller type, and the Siamese characters are more uniform. There are two distinct settings of this stamp, on one of which the surcharge measures 8mm. and on the other 9½mm. Mr. Poole is of opinion, on account of the regularity and careful execution of these overprints, that they were done in London, by Messrs. De la Rue & Co., but as this firm, no doubt, had the plate of the ordinary unsurcharged stamp of 1 Att green, it seems scarcely likely that they would be called upon to overprint stamps of a higher value (and bi-coloured ones at that) in this fashion, when a single printing in one colour, green, from the plate of the "1 Att" value would have supplied the deficiency in these stamps.

MINOR VARIETIES.

Mr. Holland gives six varieties of this stamp: (a) different space between "1" and "A" of "Atts"; (b) inverted "V" for "A"; (c) Siamese surcharge omitted; (d) surcharged on back as well as on front; (e) surcharge on back inverted; (f) surcharges on back *tête bêche*. Variety (a) is accounted for by the two settings with different measurements; variety (b) is probably due to a broken or unequally inked A, the cross bar of which has not left any impression; variety (c) is probably due to bad registering of the overprint, as also may be Mr. Poole's variety with the Siamese surcharge above "1 Att" instead of below it. The latter authority also chronicles a double surcharge of the 9½mm. setting.

SUMMARY.

1894. Perf. 14. Overprinted in black in English and Siamese characters.

"1 Atts" on 64 atts, lilac and brown.

1 Att (large type) on 64 atts, lilac and brown.

1 Att (small type) on 64 atts, lilac and brown.

PROVISIONAL 2 ATTS ON 64 ATTS 1894.

The settings and the minor variations of the 2 atts on 64 atts surcharge are particularly confusing. In the first setting the English letters are small and are practically the same as the last described 1 Att stamps.

ERRORS AND MINOR VARIETIES.

Mr. Holland gives ten varieties of this as follows:—(a) "s" of "Atts" omitted; (b) both surcharges inverted; (c) double surcharge; (d) double surcharge, one inverted; (e) "s" of "Atts" inverted; (f) surcharged on back as well as front; (g)

same as f, surcharge on back has inverted "s." ; (h) surcharge on back inverted ; (i) pair, one without surcharge on back ; (j) pair, surcharge on back *tête bêche*.

Messrs. Gibbons quote another with a wide space between the figure and the word of the English overprint.

2 Atts.

TYPE I.

2 Atts.

TYPE II.

2 Atts.

TYPE III.

2 Atts.

TYPE IV.

2 Atts.

TYPE V.

2 Atts.

TYPE VI.

The 2 Atts on 64 Atts: Types I. to VI. of the second setting.

A FURTHER SETTING.

The next setting of the 2 Atts on 63 atts is in a larger type, similar to that of the mis-spelt "1 Atts." It would appear as though the same type served for both with the numerals altered. Certainly the supply of 120 figure 2's of the same fount seems to have been too severe a tax on the printers, as there are no fewer than six distinctly different numerals in this setting.

THE SIX VARIETIES OF THE NUMERAL "2."

Type I. (following the order of Mr. Holland's work which illustrates one sheet of this setting) is a well-rounded upright 2 with a straight foot.

Type II. is somewhat flatter on the right curve, has not the well-formed "ball" at top as in the first type, but the foot is a distinctly curly foot like the musical sign known as a *turn*.

Type III. is the heaviest and largest of the six, and is a heavy-lined block 2 without a ball at top, and with a straight foot with a short, heavy upward stroke at the end of the base.

Type IV. is the smallest of all, and has a well-rounded top and straight foot slightly turned up at end.


Type V. is a slanting italic figure with a curly foot.

Type VI. is a short heavy upright numeral with a curly foot.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE DIFFERENT NUMERALS.

The numeral type I. appears thirty-eight times, II. once, III. eight times, IV. forty-four times, V. eighteen times, VI. eleven times, on the sheet of this setting.

ERRORS AND MINOR VARIETIES.

In Mr. Holland's sheet the third stamp in the seventh row has an upturned letter used for spacing instead of an ordinary lead space and it has printed thus: .

The sixth stamp in the fourth row has a raised stop.

On the fourth stamp in the last row the stop after "Atts" is missing owing to bad registering of the surcharge.

The following is a table showing the positions the varieties of numeral occupy on this setting:—

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1st row	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2nd row	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
3rd row	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	6
4th row	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	1	1	1	1
5th row	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
6th row	5	5	5	5	5	5	1	6	6	6	6	6
7th row	6	6	6	6	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
8th row	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
9th row	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
10th row	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4

VARIATIONS IN MEASUREMENTS OF THE OVERPRINTS.

Mr. Poole, who has a particularly fine collection of this stamp, gives varieties of measurements to add to the confusion. Adopting Mr. Holland's order of the numerals, they are as follows:—

1. Large upright to "2" with straight foot 14mm., 15mm., 16mm. and 16½mm.
2. Large upright "2" with curly foot, 15mm.
3. Very large upright "2" with straight foot, 13½mm., 15mm., 15½mm., 16½mm. and 17mm.
4. Small upright "2" with straight foot, 12½mm., 13mm., 13½mm., 14mm., 14½mm., 15mm., 15½mm.
5. Large sloping "2" with curly foot, 14mm., 14½mm., 15mm.
6. Small upright "2" with curly foot, 12½mm., 13mm., 13½mm., 14mm., 14½mm., 15mm.

He further describes two variations in the distances between the English and Siamese surcharges, viz.:—8½ and 10mm.

OTHER MINOR VARIETIES.

Of other minor varieties of the types, Mr. Holland lists:—

Numeral Type 1, (a) inverted "s" in "Atts," (b) English surcharge double, (c) inverted period, (d) inverted "V" for "A."

Numeral Type 2. None.

Numeral Type 3, (a) period half way up, (b) "s" of "Atts" inverted, (c) period between "t" and "s" of "Atts."

Numeral Type 4, period between "t" and "s" of "Atts."

Numeral Type 5, (a) inverted "V" for "A," (b) double English surcharge.

Numeral Type 6. None.

It would seem almost as though the authors of the Boston Society's little brochure and the series of articles in the "Philatelic Journal of Great Britain" really had some difficulty in finding two stamps on the sheet alike.

Mr. Poole is of the opinion that a further printing of the same stamps was made from the same type, but that a sufficient quantity of the numeral type IV. was procured and all the numerals rendered alike.

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONAL 2 ATTS ON 64 ATTS, 1894.

1894. Perf. 14. Watermark: Chakr. Siamese and English characters. Overprinted in black.

Small English Letters.

2 atts on 64 atts, lilac and brown.

Large English Letters.

2	atts	on	64	atts,	lilac	and	brown,	Numeral	Type	I.
2	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	II.
2	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	III.
2	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	IV.
2	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	V.
2	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	VI.

PROVISIONAL "10 ATTS" ON 24 ATTS, 1895.

In 1895 a quantity of 24 atts lilac and blue stamps was overprinted for the creation of a new denomination of 10 atts. The object of this stamp was to provide a new value for use on letters sent to Postal Union countries, the rate for which was raised to 10 atts owing to the depreciation in the value of silver. The 8 atts rate to Straits Settlements, China, Macao, Cochin-China, Cambodia, Sarawak and Borneo was likewise

raised to 10 atts. The surcharge is in English and Siamese, the English letters being small and thick.

10 Atts.

ราคา ๑๐ อัฐ

Of this we have the following moderate list of varieties from Mr. Holland (a) "o" of "10" dropped below the line (b) inverted "s" in "Atts" (c) surcharged on back as well as front.

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONAL 10 ATTS ON 24 ATTS, 1895.

SUMMARY.

1895. Perf. 14. Watermark: chakr. Overprinted in black in English and Siamese.

10 Atts on 24 atts, lilac on blue.

The writer in "L'Echo de la Timbrologie" already quoted, gives a review of the extensions of the postal service in 1895, and of the state of the internal and foreign mail traffic of Siam in that year.

"The year 1895 was not less notable than its predecessors for the betterments introduced in the Siamese postal service. Of these one of the most important was the establishment of a continuous service between Bangkok, Singora, and Kalantan, a distance of over 500 English miles. Another service was established between Singora and Kedah, and a third between Lakhon and Trang.

"On the 1st of April, 1895, the Siamese postal network comprised eighty-two routes divided as follows: one railroad route (Bangkok to Paknam), forty-nine messenger routes, twenty-five routes upon rivers and canals, and seven which were partly by land and partly by water. The service was daily upon two of the lines, twice per week upon six, once a week upon forty-eight, and once every fifteen days upon the other twenty-six.

"During the period from 1891 to 1895 the Siamese postal traffic had continually increased. The number of letters to and from points within Siam, which had been 126,868 in 1891, had increased to 243,447 in 1895. The number of postal cards handled had attained the figure of 9,220 in 1895, while in 1891 they were but 3,116.

"In International traffic the increase had been no less important. We cite especially the considerable increase in

the amount of registered mail matter sent and received, which numbered 18,307 pieces in 1895, while in 1891 it was but 8,971.

"The Siamese statistics show that, in 1895, the most important international relations were with Great Britain; the interchanges with this country comprising 23 per cent. of the total business. Following Great Britain came, in the order of their importance; the Straits Settlements with 22 per cent.; British India with 9 per cent.; France with 8 per cent.; Germany with 6 per cent. and the United States with 5 per cent.

"Notwithstanding the importance of the business and the fact that the post office receipts had been largely augmented during the five years from 1891 to 1895, the financial results at the end of 1895 were far from being favourable, as the year closed with a deficit of 63,315 ticals which was due to the expenses necessitated by the postal routes and general improvements introduced in the internal service."

It appears to have been largely due to the state of affairs mentioned in the last paragraph quoted, that the issue of a new permanent series of stamps was postponed and further recourse was made to overprinting in 1896.

PROVISIONAL 4 ATTS ON 12 ATTS, 1896.

A fresh lot of 4 atts stamps was issued in that year overprinted on 12 atts lilac and carmine. In these "Atts" is spelt with a capital A instead of a small one in the last 4 atts (on 24 atts lilac and blue). There were large and small English letters used for these, making two distinctive types and two distinctive settings.

4 Atts.

4 Atts.

Type 1.

Type 2.

Of type 1 (large letters) Mr. Holland give a variety (a) with the "s" of Atts inverted.

Of type 2 (small letters) (a) no period after "Atts"; (b) both surcharges double; (c) variety a double.

SUMMARY.

1896. Perf. 14. Watermark: chakr. Overprinted in black in Siamese and English characters.

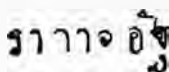
4 atts (Type I.) on 12 atts, lilac and carmine.

4 atts (Type II.) on 12 atts lilac and carmine.

PROVISIONAL OF 1898, 1, 2, 3 and 4 atts.

The year 1898 brought another little shoal of these surcharged stamps, the 1 att on 12 atts, lilac and carmine; 2 atts on 64 atts, lilac and brown; 3 atts on 12 atts, lilac and carmine; 4 atts on 12 atts, lilac and carmine; and 4 atts on 24 atts, lilac and blue. The type is similar throughout only the numerals being different, the central capital being broader than in the preceding issue, and most of the letters "t" are cut short at the foot.

1 Att.



There are probably two settings in which the distance from the numerals and the letter "A" vary.

MINOR VARIETIES.

Of the 1 Att on 12 atts, Mr. Holland lists (a) Atts in plural, (b) inverted "V" for "A," (c) narrow "A," (d) both styles of "t," (e) varieties c and d together.

Of the 2 atts on 64 atts (a) narrow A in Atts; (b) both styles of "t"; (c) variety a with both "t's" old type.

Of the 3 Atts on 12 atts (a) surcharge double; (b) narrow "A" in "Atts"; (c) both styles of "t," (d) variety c double; (e) Siamese figure of value below the line.

Of the 4 Atts on 12 atts (a) surcharge double; (b) both styles of "t"; (c) "A" double; (d) comma instead of period; (e) narrow A.

Of the 4 Atts on 24 atts, Mr. Holland has not found any errors.

SUMMARY.

1898. Perf. 14. Watermark: chakr. Overprinted in black in English and Siamese characters.

- 1 att on 12 atts, lilac and carmine.
- 2 atts on 64 atts, lilac and brown.
- 3 atts on 12 atts, lilac and carmine.
- 4 atts on 12 atts, lilac and carmine.
- 4 atts on 24 atts lilac and blue.

TWO NEW STAMP DESIGNS, 1899.

As a relief from the swarm of surcharged or rather overprinted stamps it is pleasant to turn next to some normal

specimens. In 1899, it was decided to issue an entire new series of stamps and two stamps with different portraits, though in the same frame, were submitted. One showed a profile portrait of the King, the other a three-quarter face portrait similar to the one in use on the revenue stamps; and for some unexplained reason stamps were prepared from dies of the two distinct designs. But the stamps of the three-quarter face portrait type were rejected, though a few seem to have got into circulation in certain remote parts of the country.



Issue of 1899.



The "rejected" type.

The "Monthly Journal" for January, 1901, says, in reference to these stamps:—

HOW STAMPS FOR THE REJECTED DIE WERE USED.

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

ISSUED BY MISTAKE.

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

"We gather," adds the "Monthly Journal," "that only three values exist, and that one of our contemporaries was wrong in chronicling four others. . . . The stamps of the rejected type seem to have been issued and used, so we suppose they should be listed."

The three denominations of this rejected series were the 1 att green, 2 atts green and red, and 3 atts carmine and blue. The date of their issue was probably early in 1900.

SUMMARY.

1900. Perf. 14. No watermark.
 1 att green.
 2 atts green and red.
 3 atts red and blue.

NEW PERMANENT ISSUE, 1900.

The series of the profile type was issued in 1900 and consisted of stamps of nine denominations, three of which were mono-coloured, the remainder bi-coloured. The stamps were printed on paper which had no watermark.

SUMMARY.

1900. Perf. 14. No watermark.
 1 att, green.
 2 atts, yellow-green.
 3 atts, red and blue.
 4 atts, carmine.
 8 atts, green and orange.
 10 atts, blue.
 12 atts, brown and carmine.
 24 atts, brown and blue.
 64 atts, brown and orange-brown.

OLD STAMPS IN NEW COLOURS.

Mr. Holland explains the next change in the stamps of Siam as due to the depreciation in silver, which had lowered the value of the tical considerably since the foreign rate of postage had been fixed at 10 atts (2½d. gold). So in 1903 the foreign rate was raised to 14 atts, and this made the 3 atts stamp the Siamese equivalent of our halfpenny one instead of the 2 atts, which was previously equivalent to the English ¼d. stamp. This necessitated the issuing of some new values and a readjustment of the colours of the old ones.

The colours of the 2 atts and 3 atts stamps were exchanged, so that the 3 atts stamp could now appear in the Postal Union colour for a stamp representing 5 centimes or one halfpenny in value, viz., green.

The 2 atts which was now no longer needed in the Postal Union colour was changed to the red and blue of the previous 3 atts so that it would not be confused with the new 3 atts

NEW VALUES.

The one penny rate was now 6 atts and a new value of this denomination was issued on this series printed in red. The 4 atts which had formerly been red took the colours of the 12 atts, viz., brown and carmine, as the 12 atts was discarded.

The foreign rate ($2\frac{1}{2}$ d.) was represented by the new value 14 atts printed in blue, and the double foreign rate by a 28 atts stamp in the colours of the old 24 atts stamp, viz., brown and blue.

SUMMARY.

1904. Perf. 14. No watermark.
- 2 atts, red and blue.
 - 3 atts, green.
 - 4 atts, brown and carmine.
 - 6 atts, carmine.
 - 14 atts, blue.
 - 28 atts, brown and blue.

PROVISIONAL "1 ATT" AND "2 ATTS" OF 1905.

Early in 1905, through some mismanagement, there was a shortage of 1 att and 2 atts stamps, and in the "Bangkok Times" for February 28th, 1905, the methods of stamp distribution in Siam are thus discussed :

A NEWSPAPER'S COMPLAINT.

"Neither 1 att nor 2 att stamps were to be had at Post Office No. 2 in Bangkok to-day. A few 1 att stamps were obtained by sending to the head office in the city, but practically the stock of both is finished, and we are unable to learn that there is any immediate prospect of a new supply arriving. And this in the reformed Postal Service! We said on a previous occasion that the Post Office has no friends, and in fact its friends seem to be as much to seek among the members of the Government as in the general community. The principle adopted in last year's reforms was to give the department the power to do the postal and telegraphic business of the country, and place on it at the same time the responsibility for the work being properly done. The results were excellent, we believe, so far as the principle was carried. But in the matter of stamps. curiously enough, the Post Office does not have the power, and therefore presumably will not accept responsibility. So far as we understand the position, it is the Treasury which orders new stamps from Europe; it is the Treasury which undertakes their safe-keeping and distribution. Anyhow, we trust that this time somebody will be found to be responsible for a state of things that is far from creditable to the country.

Presumably, stamps will have to be surcharged again—at one time Siam is said to have had about twenty-five different surcharges—but the sooner this anomaly is reformed the better.”

The assumption that “stamps will have to be surcharged again” proved correct, for in the same paper a short while afterwards appeared the note:—

“We understand the new supply of postage stamps has been shipped and should be in Bangkok by the end of the month. For present needs other stamps have been surcharged 1 and 2 atts. It is to be hoped, however, that the present experience will check the tendency of other departments to do the work of the Post and Telegraph Department.”

The “other stamps” referred to were the 14 atts blue, and the 28 atts brown and blue, which were overprinted in black in Siamese and English characters.

MINOR VARIETIES OF THE 1 ATT.

The setting of these overprints is more regular than in the case of the earlier ones, and there is not the same confusing number of minor varieties.

In the 1 att on 14 atts blue, the third stamp in the third row has the top of the second t in Att broken off, presenting the appearance of a small “t.” The bar of the letter A has been broken in the 8th stamp in the 4th row; the 7th stamp in the 5th row; the 6th stamp in the 7th row; and in the 5th stamp in the 10th row. The tails of the letters “t” are in some cases turned up, and in others they are short and not turned up.

MINOR VARIETIES OF THE 2 ATTS.

The same setting of the letters “Att” appears to have been used for the 2 Atts stamp with the numeral changed and the final s. added. The letters “s” are not precisely uniform throughout, but the variations are very slight.

Some of the varieties in this overprint noted, are:

3rd row: 9th stamp has broken top to “t.”

5th row: 8th stamp has broken “s”; 10th stamp short top to “t.”

6th row: 2nd stamp has no cross to “t,” and the “t” is short.

7th row: 1st and 3rd stamps have each a short “t”; 8th stamp has no top to second “t”; 10th stamp has a short first “t.”

9th row: 1st stamp has a short second “t.”

SUMMARY.

1905. Perf. 14. No watermark. English and Siamese characters overprinted in black.

1 att on 14 atts, blue.

2 atts on 28 atts, brown and blue.

ISSUE OF DECEMBER, 1905.

At the beginning of December, 1905, a new series of stamps was issued consisting of nine values.

The *Bangkok Times* on December 12th, 1905, gives the date of issue of some of the values as the 12th. A careful description of the design is given, and is quoted here :

"The new issue of postage stamps in Siam that was casually announced some time since and forgotten about by most people, is partly on sale at the post offices from to-day. The design is entirely new, and the same on each, though the colours vary with the denominations; and they make a very pretty set. The head of His Majesty the King appears as a small profile cameo, supported by two Siamese children, between whom, and just below the King's portrait, appears a distant view of Wat Cheng and the river, with the word 'Siam' at the top, and the value below. The values announced are of one att, two, three, four, five, eight, twelve, twenty-four, and sixty four atts, respectively. The one att stamp is of pale yellow, with pale green centre, the two atts is purple and pale green, the three atts, green, the four atts, puce and red, the twelve atts, blue, and the twenty-four atts, brown. The five, eight, and sixty-four atts stamps are not yet issued for sale. The new stamps are slightly larger than those which they supersede."



The size of the stamps is 23×28mm., and they are perforated 14. They were printed by a Leipzig firm in sheets of one hundred, in ten rows of ten stamps each. All

the values are not to hand at the time of writing, but the specimens received are pretty, though owing to the minute inscriptions they bear they can scarcely be said to be very effective for postal duty. The summary of the issue is as follows:

SUMMARY.

- 1905 (December). No watermark. Perforated 14.
1 att, yellow and green.
2 atts, violet and greenish-grey.
3 atts, green.
4 atts, puce and red-brown.
5 atts, carmine-rose.
8 atts, grey-black and olive-yellow.
12 atts, blue.
24 atts, brown.
64 atts (1 tical) dark blue and orange-brown.





