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The Stamp

1904

Collectors'

Annual,

And YEAR-BOOK of PHILATELY.

Price, = ONE SHILLING.

..... Edited by PERCY C. BISHOP.

[1904.]

London:

Published by C. NISSEN & CO.,
77-78 High Holborn, W.C.

D. FIELD,

Dealer in Rare Postage
.. Stamps, ..
Philatelic Publisher, . . .

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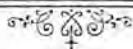
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The Stamp Collectors' Annual, 1904.



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We cordially invite readers of the ANNUAL to make suggestions regarding the contents of the next edition, and to let us know unreservedly their opinions of the present issue.

The Catalogue and Guide to Values of British Stamps is a feature that may interest a large proportion of the readers of the ANNUAL. Many specialists and collectors of British stamps will entertain varying views as to the comparative values of these issues. Such views we should be most interested to hear, and all who have criticisms to offer will confer a great favour upon us by committing their views to the paper.

Letters addressed either to ourselves or to the Editor of the ANNUAL, at 77/78, High Holborn, will be cordially welcomed, and will receive the most careful attention of

We remain,

Yours most faithfully,

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Dealer in Rare Postage
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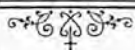
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CHAS. NISSEN & CO.

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- Page 36. Mr. H. W. Beck's advertisement should read: "Ten
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- „ 44. 9th line should read: "Plate I. is not numbered."
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THE
STAMP COLLECTORS' ANNUAL
1904.

A YEAR-BOOK OF PHILATELY

EDITED BY PERCY C. BISHOP.

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The Stamp Collectors' Annual.

A FOREWORD.

IT is hoped that the "Stamp Collectors' Annual," the first edition of which is now launched upon the world, will prove to be a source of usefulness and interest to philatelists generally. This first issue, I fear, contains faults both of omission and commission. Rome was not built in a day, and there is such a wide range of material suitable for inclusion in a "Year Book of Philately," that the difficulty has been to know what to select and what to reject. Such blemishes as may exist we shall strive to rectify in the second year of publication.

The publishers, Messrs Charles Nissen & Co., and I, have to thank many good philatelic friends for help and encouragement in the preparation of the work. In fact there has been scarcely a note out of harmony in the chorus of sympathy and goodwill that the project of an Annual for Philatelists has called forth. Our best thanks to all.

PERCY C. BISHOP.

77/78 High Holburn, London, W.C.,

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Fakes and Forgeries at Brighton.

A Visit of Investigation : by Charles Nissen.

THE reports as to the open sale of forged and faked stamps at Brighton have been in no way exaggerated. Still, it is only fair to the many established and reputable stamp dealers in that town to explain that these frauds are only on sale at the "commission shops"—small newsagents' and stationers' places where sheets of stamps are taken in for sale on the understanding that 25 per cent. or 33 per cent. of the amount realised shall be retained by the shopkeeper as his commission.

I have seen sheet after sheet of fraudulent rubbish in these shops, and I think an account of my own investigations down there—so far as it is wise to publish it—may be of interest and value to many of the readers of the "Annual."

First of all there is no question of the forgeries and fakes being sold as forgeries and fakes. They are sold as genuine stamps, and the people who buy them are mostly boys who cannot be expected to know what they are buying. I hold that it is the boy buyer, the young beginner, who most needs protection; and in the interests of all who want to see Philately progress and flourish, it is important that he should be protected, for the young beginner of to-day is the advanced collector of to-morrow. As evidence how these frauds are bought as genuine stamps, while I was calling on one of the Brighton Stamp Dealers a Collector entered the shop in a state of great delight, "Here's a bargain!" said he. "I've just bought this shilling green Nevis—how much do you think? Threepence!"

I looked at the thing he called a shilling green Nevis. It was an out and out forgery!

In one small newsvendor's shop I saw a card on which were thirty-two stamps and a few blank spaces. Out of all the thirty-two, absolutely only one was genuine—and that was a five cents. Salvador. This card was marked "Rare Stamps." Another, inscribed "Genuine Stamps," had twenty-six stamps, of which the majority were out and out forgeries, while six were genuine stamps with faked surcharges. There were some clever fakes of Zanzibar, British Bechuanaland on Cape, &c.

It will be useful and interesting to give a list of the principal Brighton fakes and forgeries. Some of these special illustrations have been made for the "Stamp Collectors' Annual."

- Great Britain, 40 paras on 2½d lilac, forged overprint.
 Do., R. H. Official (King's Head), ½d green.
 Do., Government Parcels, all values.
 Do., Board of Education (King's Head), 2½d.
 British Bechuanaland surcharged on Capes.
 British East Africa surcharged on Indian.
 Cape of Good Hope, Mafeking bicycle stamp.
 Canada, 3c. inverted surcharges, Gibbons' Nos. 135 and 136.
 Remarkably well imitated.
 Congo State, 5 francs.
 Indian States, Cashmere, &c., used and unused.
 Mexico, all issues, including surcharges.
 Moldavia, reprints sold as originals.
 Newfoundland, first issue.
 Nova Scotia, 6d green and 1s violet, on pieces of original, and nicely postmarked.
 Switzerland, 1854 2 mie, with silk thread (so well done as to almost deceive any dealer).
 Turkey, 25 piastres, used and unused.

These fakes and forgeries vary greatly in "quality," so to speak; but that is not the point. The astonishing thing is that a brisk trade should have been done in them in Brighton for so long a time. It appears that so far all efforts to put a stop to the evil have been in vain, and I hear that an appeal to the Stamp Trade Protection Association elicited only a polite refusal. The matter is one that calls for strong measures, and I have every hope that the person who is placing this fraudulent rubbish on the market will shortly find himself in the hands of the police.

I gather that the man who takes the sheets of forgeries and fakes to the shops for sale is a young fellow, well dressed, and smart in manners and appearance. Many think he is an American. As to where he may be living at the present moment I have no information, but he appears to have an unlimited supply of "accommodation addresses," from which to date his correspondence. One of his letters may be given as evidence of the nefarious class of business this man is carrying on:—

" 38 Bond Street, Brighton.

Dear Sirs,

I can offer you reprints of Roumania 1862, 30 paras, at 3d per 12, 1s 6d per 100, or if you take 1000 I will do them at 12s and take 6s cash and 6s exchange. I can also offer you Confederate States 10 cents. blue 1863, perforated and postmarked on part of envelope at 6d each. These perforated Confederate States are catalogued by Scott at 75c. (3s) each unused, and not priced used. Other things equally cheap. I hope to hear from you soon.—Yours truly,

" ————— "



Some of the Fakes and Forgeries sold at Brighton.

The address at the head of the letter, 38 Bond Street, is a small newsagent's shop displaying in its window a card with the announcement, "Letters may be Addressed Here." The reprints of Roumania 1862 (Moldavia) are offered in the above letter as reprints, but their true character follows them no farther. The man who retails them "forgets" the fact that they are reprints when he offers them in individual specimens to members of the rising generation of philatelists.

The smartly dressed young American—if he be American—is vastly accommodating. Collectors and dealers in Brighton report that when told his stamps are forgeries he will retort, "Oh, very well then! Have them at forgery price!"—and he forthwith comes down from shillings to pence.

But there should be no such thing possible as a "forgery price." That is a matter which I trust the police will shortly see to!

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The Present Position of Revenue Stamp Collecting.

BY A. PRESTON PEARCE.

NOW-A-DAYS, as soon as I have shaken hands with any of my stamp-collecting acquaintances, exchanged notes as to our respective conditions of health, and united in condemnation of the weather, I stand prepared for the inevitable enquiry, "Well! how are fiscals going?"

This being the case, it occurred to me, when invited to contribute an article on some fiscal topic to "The Stamp Collectors' Annual," that, instead of spending time on the cultivation of a spot likely to produce fresh



Mr. A. PRESTON PEARCE.

fare for other fiscal philatelists, I might, more usefully, perhaps, set forth the substance of the replies that I have been accustomed to give to the above query.

Glancing, then, at the head line, and endeavouring to epitomize the description, I would say that the present position of revenue-stamp collecting is one of hopeful expectancy, founded on the fact that fiscals are "going" steadily and strongly.

It is well known to those conversant with the early history of stamp-collecting that the fathers of philately bestowed an impartial attention on both postage and revenue stamps, and that it was only when stamps became fashionable that the more widely diffused and readily obtainable kind monopolized the attention of the vast majority of collectors, leaving the less obtrusive class in an obscurity that was only lightened by the resolute attachment of a few old stagers, who for more than a generation were faithfully served by M. Moens of Brussels and M. Roussin of Paris.

Throughout this long period the hobby has been a constant source of profound interest and deep satisfaction to the few enthusiasts whose good genius has led their steps in this direction, and to some of them it is a source of much gratification to find that the unrivalled charm of the once despised fiscal is now being acknowledged by a rapidly widening circle of admirers, and that in all directions there is an awakening to the possibilities of the new movement.

One of the healthiest signs of the revival has been the recent establishment of Fiscal Stamp Societies in various places, which are not only serving to bring together philatelists of kindred taste, but are stimulating their energies, and serving the whole body present and future of fiscalists, by taking in hand various divisions of the globe and carefully recording their revenue-stamp history. In our own country we have a strong Society that for the past two years has been actively engaged in the preparation of a catalogue of British-Colonial fiscals. The result is a striking example of the advantage obtained when work of this kind is done by collective rather than by individual effort, and it is to be hoped that the finished product will appear in permanent form during the present season. It is now proposed to tackle the issues of Great Britain, of Peru, and of Switzerland, three countries, or rather groups, that will provide plenty of variety, and, better still, plenty of work.

It is in the last few words that much of the secret of the growing popularity of fiscal-stamp-collecting may be found. The man with strong philatelic instincts is naturally attracted by a field where he has ample scope for his energies, and full play for all those faculties that scientific stamp-collecting calls into action. The prospector, the keen investigator, the cataloguer, and even the antiquarian, may all find ample employment or their respective talents, and a rich reward for the time and trouble bestowed.

Men with these tastes are now engaged in laying out broad highways through the fiscal domain, and it will inevitably be found that more and more of the diverging roads and smaller by-ways will be constructed by those specializing in the postage stamps of certain limited districts, who, appreciating the close connection naturally existing between the postage and fiscal-stamps of the same neighbourhood, and the value of the wider view obtained by the study of both, will do their part in mapping out the whole.

It must surely have struck most readers of the illustrated interviews that are about the most prominent feature of one of our monthly journals, how large a proportion of the leading men in philatelic ranks have lately owned to the interest taken by them in revenue stamps—as usual, the big men are collecting quietly.

In some other countries a condition of affairs very similar to those at home is seen to be prevailing. Societies are being formed, and the fiscal issues of the mother land are receiving careful and critical attention, but in others the conditions are different, and in some cases present features of special interest.

In France, for example, although the birth-place of the hobby, there is not, so far as I am aware, a single Society exclusively devoted to the study of the subject, but collectors are more numerous than in any other country, and amongst these there would probably be found a larger proportion of general collectors than anywhere else. There would also seem to be an almost total absence of that amusing assumption of immeasurable superiority on the part of collectors of postage stamps that used to be so prevalent here, and which, however unwarrantable, is often exceedingly difficult to overcome. The prominent position assigned to the fiscal side of philately at the great Paris Exhibition of 1900 was at once a proper acknowledgement of its claims, and an excellent object-lesson to those who previously had had but a very erroneous idea of its importance.

Turning to the United States we find quite a different state of affairs. Until recently it would probably have been no easy matter to find there a round dozen of general collectors of revenues, but, on the other hand, the overwhelming majority of stamp folk take the liveliest interest in the fiscal emissions of their own country, and a large number of them have extended the scope of their activities to include the whole of the splendid North American group, the finest fiscal one on this planet. So widespread is the collecting of U.S. revenues, that it is the regular thing in American albums to provide spaces for them, and the trade in them forms a large part of the turnover of nearly every American dealer. The magnificent "Historical Reference List of the Revenue Stamps of the United States," compiled by a committee of the Boston Philatelic Society, and published in 1899, is a splendid example of what there is to be done in this direction, and stands as a direct incentive to other nations to be up and doing. One other fact of interest that may usefully be referred to here is the sale by auction, in 1900, of a collection of U.S. revenues for a total sum of over one thousand pounds, a single specimen fetching three hundred and twenty-five dollars.

Reverting for a moment to our own country, my heading renders it very necessary that I should make special mention of the good work being done by two particular agencies not yet referred to. The old-established Fiscal-Stamp Exchange Club, with corresponding associates in all parts

of the world, has vastly contributed to the growth of the collections of its members; and the monthly publication of "Morley's Philatelic Journal," with its strong advocacy of the hobby, and high-class presentation of articles and matters connected therewith, does much to demonstrate the manifold claims it has to attention, and much to strengthen its actual position. It may in this connection be added that for some years a revenue-stamp department was a regular feature of that excellent journal "Stamps," and that since its decease it has been transferred to the "Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly." No purely fiscal periodical has appeared in the British Isles since the early death, in 1893, of the prematurely born "Fiscal Philatelist," but the demand for such a work is constantly increasing, and it will doubtless arrive in good time.

I trust that I have said sufficient to demonstrate the essential correctness of my summary of the position, and sufficient also to show that no lover of stamp-collecting need abandon the joys of philately through disgust at the various ills that have overtaken the more popular side of the hobby: he can still find plenty of congenial occupation in a sphere where, as yet, neither faker nor speculator doth corrupt, nor kleptomaniac break through and steal.

The Fiscal Philatelic Society.

OBJECTS.

- To advance and encourage the study of the Revenue Stamps of all countries.*
- To compile catalogues of fiscals.*
- To draw together all interested in these Stamps.*
- To form a Library for the use of members.*
- To facilitate the exchange of duplicates amongst members.*
- To appoint corresponding members and unite with Societies in various countries for the exchange and circulation of information respecting Revenue Stamps.*

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1904 CATALOGUE

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lands, - - - -	621	St. Vincent, - - - -	376
Gambia, Gold Coast, Lagos,		Jamaica, Virgin Islands,	
and Sierra Leone, - - -	531	Monserat, - - - -	321
Mexico, - - - -	1072	Trinidad, - - - -	670
China, - - - -	151	Guatemala, - - - -	109
Peru, - - - -	322	Grenada and St. Christopher,	581
Antigua, Bahamas, Nevis,		Servia, - - - -	180
and Seychelles, - - -	799	Japan, - - - -	830
Italy and States, - - -	1689	Shanghai, - - - -	417
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lonies, - - - -	2291	Belgium, - - - -	406
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Russia and Finland, - -	859	South Africa, Zanzibar, &c.,	1177
Uruguay, - - - -	527	Roumania, - - - -	510
Mauritius, - - - -	479	Hong Kong, - - - -	293
Transvaal, - - - -	2992	Dominican Republic, - -	354
Holland and Colonies, -	816	Cape of Good Hope, - -	1040
Great Britain, - - - -	1837	Western Australia, - - -	755
British Guiana, - - - -	845	New South Wales, - - -	1331
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THE 1901 1S. GREEN AND CARMINE "GOVERNMENT PARCELS" WITH
INVERTED SURCHARGE.

AT the request of Messrs. C. Nissen & Co., whose interest in all matters pertaining to British stamps is well known, we submit a brief account of the above variety, as far as the facts in our possession will permit.

We cannot find any record that this variety was known prior to September 14th, 1903. On that date two copies were purchased by a Liverpool stamp dealer along with several others of the normal type. We have no information as to the date upon which the sheet containing this error was printed, but seeing that we have no notification other than that of September 1903, we think it must have been one of the earliest, and possibly remained in store until the stock was almost exhausted before being issued. There are 120 of the 1s. stamps in a full sheet, and assuming that a sheet was used, is it not remarkable that no mention of the error was made to any philatelic paper or journal before the Liverpool discovery?

Personally, we do not think that a full sheet was used, but that the official charged with the duty of stamping the Government packages discovered the misprint after using only a few, and would then, in accordance with the regulations, lay such information as to cause the whole of the remainder to be withdrawn from circulation. We have adopted this theory because so few copies have come to light, and so little appears to be known about the stamps. Furthermore, in view of the heavy obliteration usually associated with these stamps, is it not likely that some very badly marked copies have been thrown away, which would also tend to diminish the quantity in circulation? It is a fitting testimonial to the official scrutineers of our overprinted stamps, that so few errors occur, and this is no doubt the principal reason why such of our stamps as by chance do get misprinted are so precious in the eyes of collectors. The solid fact underlying the whole matter is, that they are not made to order, which is something to be said in these degenerate times of stamp issuing morality.

We had hoped, in making public the existence of this variety, that some additional information would have come to light, but regret to report that we have nothing to add to the above meagre details. We trust, however, that further light will be thrown on the subject, and that we shall learn something of the probable number issued, when printed, and where first used. Messrs. Nissen & Co. will, we are sure, be only too pleased to report anything of additional interest in connection with the above important discovery. In conclusion, we may say that no further copies have come to light in Liverpool, although others of the normal type have since been purchased from the same source.

CUTHBERTSON & CO.

Philately at the Old Bailey.



Interesting Snap-Shots of Stamp Dealers and others, taken outside the Central Criminal Court, at the time of the Government Stamp Prosecution.

The Government Stamp Prosecution.

A Review of the Case and of the Events leading up to it.

BY THE EDITOR.

CO many of us the most startling piece of evidence adduced in the course of the recent Government Stamp Prosecution was the statement that over-printed official stamps had at one time been placed on public sale, at face value. It had been better for philately if the authorities concerned had made that arrangement permanent. But they decided to cease the public sale, and their decision was fraught with momentous potentialities for stamp dealers and collectors. But for that decision British official stamps in mint condition would never have attained the high prices so often paid and received for specimens; but for that decision Anthony Buck Creeke, junr., and Walter John Richards would not have been sentenced to imprisonment at the Old Bailey in September last.

We have no exact record of the period at which unused official stamps were purchasable by the general public at Somerset House. It seems to have been a privilege of which the general public were absolutely ignorant, and, to judge from the general surprise occasioned by the statement made at the Bow Street Police Court, it is fairly safe to assume that not many stamp dealers or stamp collectors knew of the opportunity, or, knowing, seized it. Certain it is that the stamps were only on public sale for a brief while in the "eighties." By 1890 the higher value "I.R. Official" and "Government Parcels" issues had attained high prices in mint condition, and at about that time the official mind began to be seriously exercised as to this steady leakage of Government stamps. And in 1895 came a prosecution—the first of which I have been able to obtain any record—for wrongful dealings in "I.R. Official" and "Government Parcels" stamps.

THE PROSECUTION AT CARDIFF.

It was on Tuesday, December 17th, 1895, that two civil servants, Arthur J. Williams and Tom Rees, were charged at Cardiff, "they being persons employed in the public service of her Majesty, for that they, between the 11th day of October, 1895, and the 20th day of November, 1895, at the borough of Cardiff, did feloniously steal certain chattels belonging to her Majesty, to wit, certain 'Inland Revenue Official' and 'Government Parcels' stamps, of the value of £30 15s. 6d." It was stated for the prosecution that the prisoners sold unused Government stamps to a Mr. V. Brukewich, described as a stamp collector. Williams carried the stamps to Brukewich, together with written messages from Rees. When spoken to by Mr. Thomas Bell, Surveyor of Taxes, at Cardiff, Williams admitted selling the stamps, but urged that he had made them good by substituting ordinary penny stamps purchased at the Post Office. Mr. Brukewich himself gave evidence as to purchasing stamps from Rees and Williams at more than face value, as did also Mr. George Hallett, of Penarth, and Mr.

C. Bowden; and a dealer, Mr. Percy Bright, of Bournemouth, spoke to having stamps from Brukewich, and to communicating with the postal authorities as to the legality of such transactions.

Finally, both the accused men were committed for trial, and the case came before the recorder, Mr. B. Francis Williams, Q.C., at the Cardiff Borough Quarter Sessional Court on January 15th, 1896. Williams pleaded guilty, Rees not guilty. On this occasion the prosecuting counsel gave a detailed description of the alleged frauds and the manner of their perpetration.

The Inland Revenue, he explained, had two departments at Cardiff, one the surveyor's and the other the collector of Inland Revenue. The surveyor, Mr. Bell, had often to send from his office bundles of letters, and in cases of that sort higher value stamps of £1 were affixed to a form and sent to the Post Office, where the letters were stamped. Mr. Bell had not the custody of stamps, and had to get them from the collector of Inland Revenue. He sent a requisition to the other official, who in return sent him the stamps. Those stamps were not issued to the public, and they therefore procured from collectors a sum above their face value. It was found that these official stamps were possessed by persons in the habit of dealing with stamp collectors, and enquiries were instituted. Rees was asked for an explanation, and he, in a letter to Mr. Bell, said when the stamps were given to Mr. Brukewich their equivalent was given by buying ordinary stamps and using them, so that the Revenue suffered no loss. Mr. Benson then dealt with the requisitions which Mr. Bell sent to the collector of Inland Revenue. One sheet, which was signed for five sheets of 240 penny Inland Revenue stamps, was made to read for seven £1 stamps, and others of the higher value order, making a total of £17. Another for £5 read, when presented, for £12, and one more requiring five sheets of 240 I.R. penny stamps was made to read for stamps worth £14. The requisitions were in duplicate, and in these cases the requisition and the duplicate did not agree. Altogether requisitions signed by Mr. Bell for £20 were altered, so that £50 15s. 6d. was received. Williams took the requisitions to the collector and returned with the stamps. Dealing with Rees' connection with the transaction, Mr. Benson read two letters, one dated October 8th and the second on October 16th. Both letters were to Mr. Brukewich, and in the first Rees, who wrote from the office, said, "Mr. Williams has some official stamps for you to see. I believe you used to collect them. The used ones you are welcome to, but the unused ones, which we have only just received, he will explain to you about." In the second letter Rees said he sent some Inland Revenue stamps, which he stated would be the last he could get in view of different arrangements with the Post Office. He further said they had to pay the face value of the stamps, and they only got what Mr. Brukewich paid above that value.

The man Williams, who had pleaded guilty, was called as a witness, and made so many contradictory statements that the Recorder, in summing up, said that "no human being who had heard Williams in the witness box would attach the smallest value to anything he had said upon his oath." The jury declared Williams guilty, and Rees not guilty. The former was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment with hard labour, and the latter was discharged.

We have devoted some considerable space to this earlier Government Stamp Prosecution at Cardiff because, in the light of more recent events,

it is not without a certain historical interest. The prosecution and its result afforded a topic of discussion at the time. Among philatelists it was pointed out that the charges embodied not only a substitution of one class of stamp for another, but also an out-and-out theft by means of faked requisitions. It was generally believed that without this charge of theft the prosecution would not have been able to secure a verdict, since, from the point of view of the man in the street, if not in the eyes of the law, it is no crime to substitute one article for another article of precisely similar value. "Exchange is no robbery" runs the old adage. The law possibly would not always echo the sentiment, but to a plain man it would seem that no particular harm is done by substituting a penny stamp without overprint for a penny stamp surcharged "I.R. Official," since, as postage stamps, though not as objects of philatelic interest, the two labels are of precisely the same value and utility. On the basis of such reasoning as this it was held that theft and not merely substitution had sent Arthur John Williams to prison, and that the Government had not yet established its right to say that no person other than an official servant should handle official stamps.

Has the Government even now established such a right? That remains to be seen.

THE ARREST OF MR. A. B. CREEKE.

Early in June, 1903, the police arrested three persons, Henry John Richards, cycle dealer; Anthony Buck Creeke, junior, solicitor; and Alfred Waterhouse, an Admiralty clerk, on charges of stealing and receiving Government Stamps. The events leading up to these arrests were curious. A brother of the prisoner Richards, Percy Richards by name, had been charged some weeks previously with forging a bill of exchange, and at the time of his arrest the police had found upon him a cheque for £10 drawn in his favour by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, in payment for stamps. It was this clue that put the police hot upon the scent of the sources whence what we may call the philatelic supplies of unused Government Stamps were drawn.

The arrest of Mr. A. B. Creeke, jun., well known to all philatelists as the co-author of the Philatelic Society's work on British Stamps, came as a thunderbolt save to a well-informed few; and for many days little else was talked about in philatelic London. Mr. Creeke, as the prosecution averred, had abused his privilege of a free entrée to Somerset House in order to obtain possession of some of the "forbidden" stamps.

The prosecution was for a time quite a *cause celebre*, and during the months of June and July philately had a more extensive notice in the daily and weekly Press than it had ever previously enjoyed. At the second hearing of the charges at Bow Street on June 15th another defendant appeared in the dock in the person of Percy Richards (brother of Henry John Richards), and the following week the number was increased to five by the arrest of Walter John Richards, the father of the two young men of that name already in custody.

THE "TREACHERY" OF WALTER RICHARDS.

The third hearing of the charges before Sir Alfred de Rutzen at Bow Street on June 20 elicited an interesting statement from Mr. R. D. Muir, the prosecuting counsel.

It was necessary, said Mr. Muir, to explain the position of Walter John Richards, who had been arrested only the previous Saturday. He was until recently a principal clerk at Somerset House. In the course of

inquiries made as to the source from which official stamps sold to dealers really came it was ascertained that the great bulk came from Walter John Richards in circumstances which compelled the Board of Inland Revenue—although with the greatest possible reluctance and regret—to include him in the charge with the other prisoners.

As a principal clerk at Somerset House he had—together with a Mr. Douet—the actual custody and control of vast quantities of postage and official stamps. He had one key of the safe in which they were kept, and Mr. Douet had the other. Without the concurrent use of the two keys the stamps could not be taken from the safe in which they were kept. Walter Richards—possibly with the concurrence of Mr. Douet—was the person who had to decide what stamps should be taken out. On January 23 last he decided that four sheets of stamps should be taken out for cancellation—namely, two sheets of halfpenny stamps (one red and one green), one sheet of fivepenny stamps, and one sheet of tenpenny stamps. These were the stamps which were sold among others to Messrs. Stanley Gibbons & Co. (Limited), who gave the enormous price of £64 for three sets. These stamps should have been included in a cancellation warrant made out at Somerset House on January 30, but in point of fact they were not so included. What took place was this: Walter Richards and Mr. Douet kept the stamps referred to. He (Mr. Muir) would not say anything about Mr. Douet at present, except that none of the stamps which came into his possession were ever put upon the market, and he never made a single penny out of them.

With regard to Walter Richards, the facts were very different. As early as the 28th of January some of the stamps which should have been included in the warrant of the 30th of January were offered by Henry Richards (Walter Richards's son), to Mr. Moore, a dealer, and on the very day the warrant was signed a quantity was sold to Mr. Field, a dealer. On the same day, Mr. Healey, a stamp merchant, had some of these official stamps offered to him.

That letter was handed to a trusted servant—Walter Richards—to deal with. He at once showed it to the prisoner Creeke. Creeke was in the possession of Office of Works stamps stolen by his friend and associate, Walter Richards, and although knowing, as he said he knew, that Somerset House absolutely prohibited their sale, he took them to Mr. Healey, and asked him to purchase them. To his credit be it said, Mr. Healey absolutely declined to deal with Creeke. Early in February Walter Richards, as a trusted official in the Inland Revenue, was sent to Mr. Healey for the purpose of ascertaining where the stamps offered to him came from. Instead of acting straightforwardly he continued the course of treachery towards his employers. He went to Mr. Healey accompanied by Mr. Stonestreet, another official. Mr. Healey complained—as he was entitled to do—that a private and confidential letter written by him to the heads of the Inland Revenue should have been shown to Creeke.

That happened on a Saturday, and as soon as the interview with Mr. Healey was over, Walter Richards tried to persuade Mr. Stonestreet, his colleague, not to report what Mr. Healey had said about this letter and Mr. Creeke. Mr. Stonestreet declined to do anything of the kind, but nothing was done until the Monday. Mr. Stonestreet then told Walter Richards that he intended to disclose what had taken place at the interview on Saturday. On that day, however, Walter Richards had gone to

Somerset House armed with a letter from Creeke, stating that he (Richards) had not betrayed anything to him.

In other directions Walter Richards pursued his treacherous conduct. His son, Henry Richards, told Mr. Moore, a stamp dealer, that inquiries were being made at Somerset House as to the sale of official stamps. He told Mr. Moore that he would that day have a visit from the police. That proved to be true. Of course, he got his information from his father, who was supposed to be assisting in the inquiries. Mr. Moore gave Detective-Sergeant Ward a description of Henry Richards. Within 12 hours Henry Richards knew (through his father) that that information had been given. It was perfectly obvious that Walter Richards not only stole stamps, but



The Defendant, RICHARDS.

Mr. LINCOLN REED, Counsel for the Defence.

betrayed the trust reposed in him by playing into the hands of the thieves and receivers acting in concert with him. The authorities, therefore, thought it was their duty to the public to include him in the charge.

The five prisoners were again remanded for the usual week, and at this juncture it began to dawn upon the various parties concerned that the case would be a long and troublesome one. The Board of Inland Revenue, on the one side, were obviously determined to secure a conviction, while the defence, ably led by Mr. Lincoln Reed, were equally determined to make as big a fight as possible.

At the fourth hearing (6th July) a quantity of formal evidence was taken as to the use of departmental stamps. A stamp dealer, Mr. Edwin Healey, was cross-examined at great length by Mr. Lincoln Reed. But it was reserved for the fifth hearing (13th July) to provide one of the most

dramatic passages in the history of this case. This was the story told by Walter Richards' fellow-clerk, Ernest Douet, who admitted that, up to a certain point, he was equally culpable with Richards.

HOW ERNEST DOUET BURNED HIS STAMPS.

Replying to the Counsel for the Prosecution, Ernest Henry Douet, clerk in the department of the Controller of Stamps at Somerset House, said that towards the end of 1902 Walter Richards spoke to him about O.W. official stamps, and said, "Why should we not have some of them to keep?" Witness said he would not have anything to do with that. The subject was discussed on several subsequent occasions, and at last witness consented to do what Walter Richards had suggested.

On January 23 witness took from the stock one sheet each of half-penny red, halfpenny green, and 5d. and 10d. official stamps for the purpose of cancellation. Walter Richards had to decide what stamps should be cancelled; cancellation warrants were then issued, and a record of the transaction was entered in the department in which witness was engaged. The stamps referred to were kept in a safe with two locks, witness having one key and Walter Richards the other.

It was agreed the stamps taken out, ostensibly for cancellation, should be preserved. In fact, they shared them, and, to make the accounts right, put in ordinary postal stamps of the same value. When they shared the stamps, witness said, "I shall keep them; they may be valuable one of these days." Walter Richards said, "I shall do the same." Witness gave Walter Richards cash for the ordinary stamps which had to be provided to take the place of the overprint stamps which were supposed to be cancelled.

Witness took from the stamps he had acquired, four of each kind for his collection. The remainder he placed in a drawer in his safe at Somerset House. On the evening of the 23rd of May, Witness was at his home at Epsom, when Walter Richards called and said one of his sons had been arrested, and that upon him a cheque for £10 from Stanley Gibbons & Co., had been found. He said that cheque was for the Office of Works stamps which he had taken from Somerset House. He explained that he had locked them upon arriving home, and that his son Percy had stolen them.

Mr. Muir—What did you say?

The Witness—I really don't know. I was staggered: almost knocked over. I don't think I said anything special.

The witness was pressed on this point, and, in an agitated way, said he felt hurt that Richards had not kept to his compact to keep the stamps locked up.

Mr. Muir—Your feelings are not evidence. What did you say?

Witness—I said, "What are you going to do?" He replied, "I am going to brazen it out," or something like that. He said, in a reassuring way, "Don't say anything about it," and I agreed.

The witness went on to say that on the following day Walter Richards again called upon him at his house at Epsom. He said he had been called upon for an explanation with regard to the stamps, and remarked, "The fat's in the fire." He said he was sorry to have to drag witness into it, but as his son and family knew he had these stamps he was bound to do so, or they would.

Richards went on to say, "I would go in alone in this matter, but if I did I know the result would be that 'Dismissed' would be written on the papers. I know you have friends, and that may help me. Witness

suggested that they should both make a clean breast of it to the controller." Richards said, "I have told so many stories over this I don't know what to say. I expect to be arrested when I get home, and very likely the same fate is awaiting you."

Witness told Richards that he had an appointment with the controller (who lived near him) at half-past eight o'clock that evening. Richards said, "don't tell the Controller to-night; wait until to-morrow morning." Witness agreed, and kept his word. Witness saw the Controller that evening, as arranged, and then returned home. He could not sleep, and during the night he got up and destroyed the whole of his collection of official stamps.

Mr. Reed—I remember of doing the same thing with partridges' eggs when I was a school-boy. (Great laughter.)

Witness said that on the following morning he and Richards saw the Controller at Somerset House. Richards told him the whole story, and by order of the Board witness gave the Controller the official stamps he had locked up in his safe. Witness once had forty Government parcels stamps for a shilling each from Mr. Gore, the Assistant Controller, giving him penny postage stamps for them. Walter Richards gave him for the parcels stamps a ten-shilling King's Head, and £1 King's Head, I.R. official stamps.

Witness added these three stamps to his collection, and they were destroyed with the others in the way already described. Witness told him that the three stamps had been returned for cancellation, but instead of cancelling them he had cancelled six penny stamps of the same value



The Defendant, CREEKE.



Detective Inspector WARD.

taken from the issue stock. Sometimes they had had to make the books agree with the stock. There was no inquiry so long as the total value was correct.

Questioned by Mr. Williams, witness said he did not think he was guilty of theft when he agreed with Walter Richards to take some. Some stamps had been substituted for others before this—under an order. He knew of no official regulation against the substitution of stamps for others of equal value. The revenue was not defrauded of a single penny by what witness and Walter Richards did in January.

Mr. Lincoln Reed—Do you draw any distinction between the part you played and the part played by Walter Richards?

Witness—No, I was equally guilty.

If he was guilty of larceny, you were equally guilty?—Yes.

You don't want to put yourself in the position of the weak man who yielded?—I accept the responsibility for all I did.

Answering other questions by Mr. Reed, the witness said, sheets of stamps were often destroyed because they were soiled.

Mr. Reed.—The nett result of what you and Richards did was to get four sheets of printed and perforated paper in exchange for £9 6s. 8d., which you and he bore in equal shares?

Witness.—Yes.

Proceeding, witness said he had been in the service nearly 36 years. He wished now that he had not destroyed his collection of official stamps which he started many years ago. It was not complete, and he did not think there was a complete collection in existence. He obtained his first official stamps (Inland Revenue) by getting permission to have ordinary stamps substituted for them. He believed that was done under an order signed by the then Controller, Mr. Cosens. Most of the stamps which formed part of the collection he had destroyed were obtained by a process of substitution. He never doubted for a moment that he would have been allowed to substitute one stamp for another if he had applied for permission. He was away from Somerset House about 10 years, returning in 1901.

When he substituted one stamp for another it never occurred to him that he was doing anything criminal. He thought there was no harm in it if he gave the face value of the stamps which he obtained. He believed there were about forty varieties of official stamps, but was not quite sure. He did not give Creeke the cancelled stamp for £5 marked "specimen" found on him when arrested. Anyone at Somerset House could obtain them by asking the Controller, or at any rate the late Controller for them.

After the luncheon interval the witness was questioned as to whether he did not know it to be a fact that some of the high officials at Somerset House had collections of unused official stamps. He said he did not know anyone who had such a collection. He knew that in 1887 an album of stamps was made up in connection with the Jubilee.

Mr. Reed—Do you know that Sir John Purcell, the late Controller, sold one of those albums to the prisoner Creeke for £21?

Witness—No; I know he had one, but I do not know what he did with it.

Answering other questions, the witness said he remembered a clerk to a surveyor of taxes being charged at Gloucester with stealing stamps by substitution. The judge ruled that there was nothing criminal in what he had done, and he was acquitted.

Mr. Reed.—Have you some influential friends?—I have friends, but I should not ask them to use their influence if I had done anything wrong.

Walter Richards and myself went before the Board of Inland Revenue after the matter had been investigated. Sir Henry Primrose, the chairman, said we had given value for value, and there had been no fraud committed, although the Board regarded their conduct as a gross breach of confidence. I said "breach of trust," and Sir Henry Primrose said, "I do not think you can go so far as that; it is an error of judgment."

He acquitted you absolutely of any fraudulent intent?—Yes.

And in order to mark the sense of your misconduct the Board reduced you from principal clerk to senior clerk, and took £60 off your wages?—Yes, and Walter Richards was served in the same way.

You have been allowed to go back to your duties?—Yes.

And Walter Richards is charged here with felony. Is that owing to the influence of your friends?—It is not for me to say.

Does it not strike you as a disgraceful thing?—We are under orders.

Is it not an outrage on fairplay and common justice?—(No answer.)

Has any promise been made to you? Have you any hope of reward?—None whatever.

Re-examined by Mr. Muir—The witness said he did not sell any of his stamps, and none of them went on the market. Sir Henry Primrose told Walter Richards and witness that their salaries would depend upon how much money they had made out of the stamps they had had. He once gave Creeke a penny-parcels stamp, as he (Creeke) had presented him with a book he had written on stamps.

Sir Albert de Rutzen asked the witness why he destroyed his collection of stamps. The witness explained that Mr. Highmore of the Inland Revenue, had told him and others that anyone found with official stamps in his possession would be deemed guilty of fraud.

Mr. Lincoln Reed—It is a great pity that Mr. Highmore's bad law lost us such a good collection. (Laughter.)

WHAT A HIGH OFFICIAL MAY DO.

There was an interesting sequel to this evidence when at the next hearing (July 20th) Mr. Ernest Cleave, Comptroller of Stamps and Stores at Somerset House, was called as a witness.

In cross examination Mr. Cleave stated that after stamps were taken out of bulk they were entirely under the control of Richards. Before that they were kept in a safe, which could only be unlocked by Richards and Douet acting together. Sometimes there were millions of pounds' worth of stamps in stock.

Mr. Llewellyn Williams (for Walter Richards): Is Mr. Douet a friend of yours?

Witness: Yes.

Is that why he is still employed at Somerset House? Certainly not. I had nothing to do with the decision.

Answering questions by one of the defendants, Percy Richards, witness said he was a stamp collector, and had in his possession some unused official stamps issued last year. He obtained them by purchase with the authority of the Board of Inland Revenue. Witness wished to be perfectly frank, and to say that last year he had five official and four Government parcel stamps, for which he substituted ordinary stamps.

When you substituted these stamps for others, did you think you were doing wrong?—No; I did it by virtue of my office. I wanted a memento of the stamps I brought out. My action was afterwards approved by the authorities.

Mr. Lincoln Reed (representing Creeke): So was Mr. Douet's action. Do you consider that Walter Richards, as principal clerk, had a right to do what you did?

Witness: No; I do not. He could not do it without my authority.

Witness had heard that his predecessor (Sir John Purcell) had let Creeke have stamps.

Witness further said that last year five sets of stamps were obtained for high officials, including the chairman, Sir Henry Primrose. They were of the face value of 27s., and were paid for in cash. The accounts were not "crooked" in any way. He thought the entries with regard to the 27s. were honest entries. Witness had obtained some Office of Works stamps for Sir Henry Primrose's son.

Mr. Reed: But that was a breach of the regulations.

Witness remarked that the authority who made the regulations had power to make exceptions.

Mr. Reed: I see. The Board makes regulations which Sir Henry Primrose breaks.

At the following hearing (July 27th), Sir Henry Primrose himself appeared in the witness box, and gave evidence as to his own purchase of twenty-four halfpenny Office of Works Stamps—for his collection. His reason for purchasing so many was that a shilling was the smallest change he had in his pocket at the time.

THE COMMITTAL FOR TRIAL.

After a further formal remand, the prisoners were committed to take their trial at the Old Bailey; and a case which had already extended over a period of nearly two months was set down for final settlement at the September Sessions of the Central Criminal Court. It is no exaggeration to say that everybody now heaved a heartfelt sigh of relief. The Board of Inland Revenue, for their part, had never anticipated such a troublesome and protracted case, and had never dreamed of the awkward questions that would be asked by Mr. Lincoln Reed and other able counsel for the defence; and we feel perfectly confident that the worthy Board longed most ardently for the end of the boresome business. Detective-Sergeant Ward (now promoted most deservedly to an Inspectorship at the C.I.D.) hurried away to a well-earned holiday; the defendants were liberated on their own bail, and it is certain that the learned and urbane magistrate, Sir Alfred de Rutzen (himself, 'tis said, an ardent philatelist), had heard enough "stamp talk" to satisfy him for a long time to come.

The Grand Jury, on September 8th, returned a True Bill against the five defendants, and, as the result of a special application to the Recorder, the trial was set down for September 11th.

THE FIRST DAY OF THE TRIAL.

Numerous well known London philatelists foregathered at the Old Bailey when the five accused were placed in the dock and charged with "stealing and receiving" Government stamps. The prisoners were described as Walter John Richards, a principal clerk in the services of the Inland Revenue Department; Percy Tidd Richards, a clerk of nineteen years of age; Henry John Richards, a cycle-maker; Anthony Buck Creeke, jun., a solicitor; and Alfred Waterhouse, a clerk.

All pleaded not guilty to the charges against them; and the trial began.

Mr. C. F. Gill, K.C., Counsel for the prosecution, set forth the case for the Crown. Walter John Richards, he said, occupied, at a salary of £540

a year, a position in which he had the custody of all the stamps kept at Somerset House, representing a face value of many millions.

The class of stamps in regard to which the charges were made were called "over-printed official stamps," and were used by surveyors of taxes and by public departments in dealing with business which required the sending of letters through the Post Office. These stamps were over-printed with the letters "I.R.," indicating Inland Revenue, "O.W." (Office of Works), or some other letters, and were not sold to the public for ordinary use. The question of destroying any stamps which had been defectively printed would rest with Walter John Richards, and sets of "specimen stamps," over-printed with the word "specimen," and issued in the service to be used if necessary in the checking of the genuineness of stamps on documents, were also in his charge.

These official stamps could not get into the possession of members of the public by any legitimate means, and an elaborate scheme had been devised with the object of preventing the public gaining possession of them. It was contended that Richards, together with Creeke, set himself to defeat these precautions.

Creeke, Mr. Gill went on, was a solicitor in an office in Leadenhall Street, in the City, and, in addition to the knowledge of stamps which he would have as a solicitor, he had special knowledge of the proceedings with reference to stamps at Somerset House. In conjunction with another person, he had published a book on the postage stamps of Great Britain, and, in his capacity as an author, had secured facilities to acquire information as to the stamps, and was allowed access to Somerset House from time to time. Creeke asked if he might, for philatelic purposes, be allowed to purchase certain official stamps, among them being 5s., 10s., and 20s. stamps. He was not allowed to purchase these, but a very few months after Richards obtained his appointment as the principal of the postal branch Creeke had these very stamps in his possession, and offered them for sale at £42, their face value being £3 10s. When Richards' stock was examined, certain sets could not be accounted for.

Several witnesses were then called (their evidence being substantially a repetition of that already adduced at Bow Street), and the case was adjourned until the following day.

THE SECOND DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

On the second day of the trial (Saturday, September 12th), came a new development.

Mr. Lincoln Reed, on behalf of the prisoner Creeke, stated that he had advised his client to plead guilty to the indictment charging him with being in unlawful possession of mutilated stamps; and Walter Richards also admitted aiding and abetting.

The prosecution then proceeded to deal with the case against Alfred Waterhouse, who was said to have sold to one Moore, stamp dealer, of Villiers Street, 372 penny, 240 twopenny, 120 sixpenny, 10 ninepenny, and 27 shilling official stamps.

The contention was that Waterhouse obtained these stamps, none of which were issued to the public, when he was employed as a temporary accountant clerk at the Admiralty.

Mr. Moore, the Villiers Street dealer, narrated his dealings with a young man, whom he identified as Waterhouse. He first purchased four stamps of a face value of 1s. each, and paid 10s. for them.

He did not know, he told the Recorder, that these stamps were not issued to the public. He could get £1 each for the shilling stamps.

The Recorder questioned Moore very closely as to why his suspicions were not aroused by receiving such large quantities.

Moore—Well, it was no business of mine to inquire where he got them from. The witness added that he once spoke about the matter to Waterhouse, who replied that his conscience was quite clear, remarking that he was so miserably paid.

THE THIRD AND FINAL DAY.

The final round was fought on Monday, September 14th, when the case against Alfred Waterhouse was continued.

Waterhouse, electing to give evidence in his own behalf, denied the allegations of his prosecution entirely. The witnesses who had spoken as to his identity were mistaken. He did not know either of the Richards.

Mr. Frampton proceeded to ask the accused as to a practice supposed to exist in Government offices of dealings with those stamps, but the Recorder said this would be only hearsay, and was not admissible. Evidence upon these points must be direct evidence. The accused was cross-examined as to a correspondence he had had with a bookmaker to whom he owed money in respect to turf transactions.

The jury found Waterhouse not guilty.

Waterhouse, therefore, was discharged, and no evidence being offered against Henry John Richards and Percy Tidd Richards, they also were found not guilty.

Mr. Gill, proceeding with the case against Creeke and Walter Richards, said the circumstances of this case was first brought to the notice of Somerset House through a Mr. Edwin Healey, who had bought some of the stamps, communicating the fact to them.

As a person in the confidence of Somerset house, Walter John Richards, the father of the two young men who had been acquitted, was entrusted with the inquiries as to how the stamps could have left the Government department. As might be expected, from what was known now, the inquiries were without result. It was, however, significant that after this there was the utmost care displayed in dealing with the stamps stolen.

In the month of May last Percy Richards was arrested upon a charge of forgery, and upon him was found a cheque for £10, drawn by a firm of stamp dealers, and this led to the discovery that the stamps sold were some of these Government official stamps. It was then found that other cheques for large sums for "Office of Works" stamps had been given to Percy Richards. The father, Walter J. Richards, then made a statement that in January he and another clerk had abstracted four sheets of these stamps, and that upon the authority for cancellation being obtained, penny stamps of the face value of the stamps taken were substituted. From the end of January onwards sets of these stamps were sold through Creeke and others, and upon these Government stamps of the face value of £9 9s. only, sums amounting to £246 were realised.

The Recorder—I suppose as a result of this case Richards will not only lose his position but his pension, and that Creeke be struck off the rolls?

Mr. Gill—No doubt that will be the result.

Mr. Lincoln Reed, for Creeke, said the stamps sold by Creeke were brought to him by Henry Richards, who said he had them for a gentleman

able to deal with them. He had no knowledge whatever as to how the stamps were obtained. All that he had got by the transactions was a sum of £25. He now stood before the Court a ruined man.

The Recorder said it had been suggested in the case that high officials had taken some of the stamps.

Mr. Lincoln Reed—Yes, it was admitted by Sir Henry Primrose and Mr. Cleave, the present Controller, that they had at times taken specimens and had given them to friends. They did not regard it as an offence.

Mr. Gill—I do not accept that statement.

Mr. Lincoln Reed—But Sir Henry Primrose said so in his evidence.

Mr. Gill said the suggestion had no foundation whatever, and the only basis for it was that Sir Henry Primrose said that on one occasion he took a shilling's worth of the halfpenny stamps, two of which he sent to his son and two he placed on the letter. The rest he still had in his possession. He paid for the stamps. There was a vast difference between a high official taking specimens and a man like the prisoner taking them by hundreds and selling them for his own profit.

MR. LINCOLN REED'S ABLE DEFENCE.

Mr. Lincoln Reed, continuing a most able and eloquent speech for the defence, said that the fact remained that these stamps were worth outside among the dealers £4 each. Mr. Cleave stated that he had the right to take specimens and to substitute for them ordinary postage stamps. The books of the department would therefore have to be altered to meet this transaction, and they would have to be altered to meet the transaction of Sir Henry Primrose, who was the chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue. Therefore they had the highest authority for what was done, and there was no wonder that Richards should have thought that he also was entitled to substitute one class of stamps for the other.

When a young man, Creeke, he went on to say, was entrapped into a marriage with a woman who had a husband living, and he was involved in considerable expenses. His father was the Town Clerk of Burnley, and he had a brother in the legal profession. He appealed for mercy for Creeke.

Mr. Llewellyn Williams, who appeared particularly for Walter Richards, said his client had benefited financially, but to a very small amount, by the sale of the stamps.

In reply to the Recorder, Mr. Gill said Government stamps had been abstracted from other public departments besides the Admiralty.

Mr. Williams, in the course of his speech, added that Richards was educated at Rugby, and entered Somerset House when he was 19 years of age. He had been 35 years in the service, and not only had he lost his position and pension, but obligations he had entered into on account of his son had necessitated his seeking the protection of the Bankruptcy Court.

The Recorder said no doubt Richards did not at first realise the gravity of the offence he was committing. The fact was the case was one of extreme gravity. A high official might take specimens of stamps for his own collection, but this could not justify the prisoner in taking stamps in considerable numbers for the purpose of making money out of them. As to Creeke, he ought to have known, as a solicitor and as an authority upon stamps, that he was doing wrong. He saw no distinction between the accused, and sentenced them each to six months' imprisonment in the second division.

Thus the nett result of this grand prosecution was the absolute acquittal of three of the accused, and the condemnation of the remaining two (Creeke and Walter Richards) to a short term of imprisonment in the second division. The original charges were practically abandoned, and a conviction obtained on the curious ground that Creeke was found in the possession of mutilated stamps (to which he pleaded guilty), and that Walter John Richards had aided and abetted him in obtaining same.

Philatelists, both amateur and professional, received the verdict with mixed feelings amid a general chorus of the difficult question: "What about the future?"

How are mint unused Official Stamps to rank, philatelically, in the future? That, after all, is the question that most deeply interests us all. Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, have made an interesting pronouncement on the subject. They have declared that they will cease all dealings in the unused British Official Stamps. But what of all those specimens that now repose in collectors' albums, purchased for the most part in perfect good faith at "philatelic" prices? Are they rendered valueless by the "great" official prosecution? We trow not.

WHAT WILL THE GOVERNMENT DO?

The Government, we have a very shrewd suspicion, will now adopt the only sensible course open to it. Recognising the fatuity of stamp prosecutions such as that we have been reviewing, the authorities will, at an early date, discontinue the use of over-printed stamps for the various departments of the Government service. This will not be done at once, because Governments never do a thing in a hurry (especially if it is the right thing), but it *will* be done. We feel quite confident of that. And then? Well, when the further supply of "forbidden" stamps is cut off, those already in the philatelic market will become a legally negotiable commodity, and men will no longer need to deal in them by stealth, but may buy them and sell them in the broad light of day.

One thing, we think, is certain: we shall have no more Official Stamp Prosecutions of the kind which came in like a lion at Bow Street, and went out like a lamb at the Old Bailey.

GERMANY'S TURN NEXT!

At the time of closing the above article for the *Annual* the news reaches us of a forthcoming Government Stamp Prosecution in the Fatherland. Several stamp dealers are reported to have been arrested on charges of illicit dealings in the new German Official Stamps.

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Notes from the Hub.

BY WILLARD O. WYLIE.

THE casual reader will at once recognise the setting of these notes. There is only one Hub in the universe, and from that central spot these lines are being penned. Though this claim may be disputed from a philatelic stand-point, there are sufficient radiating influences that make the city of Boston, in the Old Bay State, famous the wide world over. The writer has at his elbow a number of names very familiar to students of the map of the old country. With five minutes ride Cambridge is reached. Just outside the city, Salem, Beverley, Gloucester, Ipswich, Lynn—are not all these very familiar names? Our local society reaches out to all of these and many more, having upon the list more than 200 active philatelists.

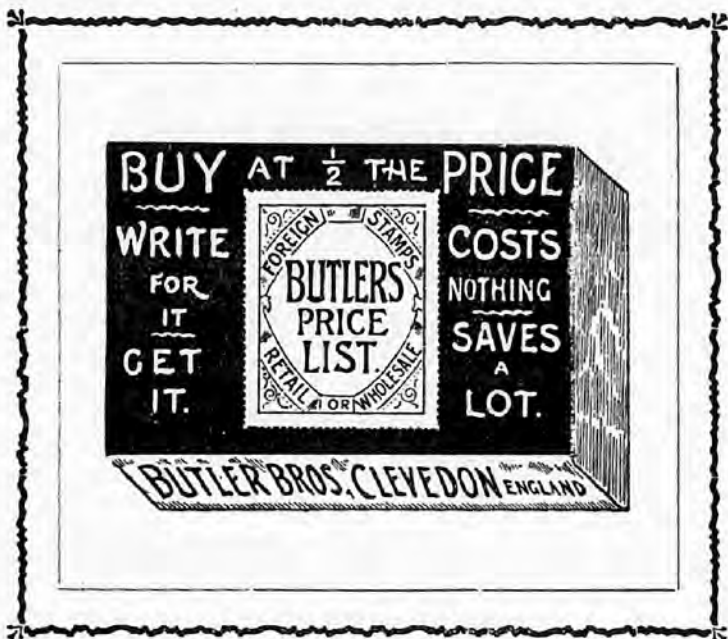
The Boston Philatelic Society has been a very potent factor in American philatelic circles. Its president, M. H. Lombard, has achieved high honors, and won many tokens in competition with the master philatelists of the time. Its secretary, C. A. Howes, is a very facile writer, frequently contributing to the press, and noted for the accuracy of his writings. More than a passing word is due Mr. Howes because of his achievements in the line of special writing for *Mekeel's Weekly*.


Our local society has other members whose labors for philately have been distinguished from the ordinary run of philatelists. They have journeyed over the continent and across the Atlantic in the interests of our work. C. F. Rothfuchs, E. M. Carpenter, A. W. Batchelder, J. M. Bartels, B. L. Drew, L. L. Green are names—familiar names—in the household of philately.

The New England Stamp Co. is our best known firm, and its transactions in buying large collections are matters of history. It has a cosy store on Bromfield Street, where the floating stamp trade is caught, and large airy offices on an upper floor, where a force of 20 care for the interests of the approval trade. Our representative dealer in new issues is Frank P. Brown, and our leading auction firms B. L. Drew & Co., and J. M. Bartels Co. The Holton Stamp Co. purchased last year the stock of the veteran dealer, whose name the firm bears, and, under the able management of F. E. Smith and E. F. Stevens, has built up a large business.

From a journalistic stand-point our city has undergone an important transformation. For many months without a representative in the field of journalism, the *Weekly Era* of Portland, Maine, has been removed to this city, and is now owned by interests represented in *Mekeel's Weekly*. The administration of its affairs will be marked by an energy that must give it a strong hold upon philatelic Boston.

It has been some time since we had a worthy representative in the field of journalism. The old *Boston Stamp Book* was a noteworthy exponent of our literature, but financially a failure. Indeed, it seems exceedingly difficult to place a good monthly upon a paying basis. We are able to maintain some few mediocre journals where the printer's bill is almost *nil*, but even there the publishers are compelled to maintain the form of an existence rather than an existence that means progress in literary excellence. The publisher of the *Stamp Book* was the Rev. John Luther Kilbon, now located in Springfield, and he brought down upon his head the ire of numerous publications in his condemnation of their mediocrity. The revival of the *Boston Stamp Book*, as the organ of our local society, is talked of, and may yet become an actuality.



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THE STAMPS OF GREAT BRITAIN

A CATALOGUE AND GUIDE TO VALUE

COMPILED BY CHARLES NISSEN.

EDITOR'S NOTE.—There has long been an urgent need for a complete catalogue of all varieties of British stamps, and to fill this want, Mr. Nissen has specially compiled the following excellent list for the STAMP COLLECTORS' ANNUAL. At the same time, it must not be supposed that this is in any sense a trade catalogue or a priced list of stamps offered for sale. In other words, these are not necessarily the prices at which Messrs. C. Nissen & Co. are prepared to sell; they are simply and solely the estimated values of British stamps put forward for the guidance of collectors. What should make the catalogue one of special value to collectors of British stamps is the fact that values are now attached to varieties not usually priced in the dealers' catalogues.

A word must be said as to the scheme of valuation.

The figures given for unused stamps are for specimens in mint condition; those quoted for used stamps are for *fine copies*. Heavily cancelled stamps of Great Britain are very common and comparatively valueless. In the case of imperforate specimens, inverted watermarks, and complete reconstructed sheets, etc., the value mentioned is always that of the cheapest in the set.

All the values quoted have been arrived at after very careful expert investigation, and in no case has a value been recorded without the compiler's absolute knowledge that the stamp has actually changed hands at the specified price. Mr. Nissen has had the benefit of much assistance by well-known experts and specialists of British stamps, who possess between them the majority of the varieties detailed below.

In the following lists, wherever a date of issue is omitted it must be understood that no definite information is available as to when (or whether) this particular stamp was issued.

The Line-Engraved Series.

Printed by Messrs. PERKINS, BACON & CO

1840.—Stamps printed in sheets of 240, arranged in 20 horizontal rows of 12 stamps. Lettering in the lower corners AA to TL, and Maltese crosses in upper corners. The first stamp of the first row lettering AA, second stamp of same row AB, third AC, etc., and last stamp of same row being AL. Second row lettering BA, BB, etc., up to BL, and so on to the last row TA to TL. The Penny black stamps were printed from 11 plates, and Twopenny blue from 2 plates. The plate number is to be found on the margin of the sheet.

DIE I.

ONE PENNY.

1840—Wmk. small crown, imperforate.

	Unused.		Used.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
1d Intense black,	30	0	0	9
1d Black,	20	0	0	6
1d Grey black, printed from worn plate,	30	0	2	0
1d Black, complete reconstructed sheet of 240,				£8

Varieties.

1d Black, a double letter in one of the lower corners,	40	0	10	0
1d ,, with a black hair line through the value of ONE PENNY,	50	0	12	6
1d Black, blueté paper,			10	6
1d ,, wmk. inverted,	60	0	12	6

TWOPENCE.

2d Deep blue,	£5	2	6
2d Blue,	£5	2	0
2d Pale blue,		4	0
2d Violet blue,	£8	3	0
2d Printed from worn plate,		4	0
2d Complete reconstructed sheet of 240,			£30

Variety.

2d With wmk. inverted,	£10
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1841.—THE SAME ORIGINAL DIE.

Printed in same arrangement as in the 1840 issue. Lettering AA to TL. The Penny red-brown, the colour of which varies in tone and shade; from time to time the stamp appeared in red-brown—pale and deep, also in brick-red, orange-red, lake-red, etc., etc. The paper varies in thickness, and the colour of the paper varies considerably, generally tinged with blue, caused by the action between the colouring matter and

the paper, causing the ivory head varieties. The Penny stamps were printed from 224 (?) plates, and can only be distinguished by varieties in the lower corner lettering. The plate number is on the margin of the sheet. The Twopence was printed from 2 plates, 3 and 4. In plate 3 the letters are evenly placed in their squares, and not so in plate 4—a white line was added under POSTAGE and over TWOPENCE.

ONE PENNY.

1841—Wmk. small crown, imperforate.

	Unused.		Used.	
	S.	D.	S.	D.
1d Red-brown, white paper,	20	0	5	0
1d ,, blued ,,	1	6	0	1
1d ,, worn plate,	6	0	0	9
1d Complete reconstructed sheet of 240,			15	0

Varieties.

1d Rouletted by Archer,	100	0		
1d Private roulette,	30	0	15	0
1d With vertical silk thread,	40	0		
1d With double letters in one of the corners,	30	0	10	6
1d With a letter inverted in corner,	20	0	10	0
1d One or the two corners without letter,	30	0	40	0
1d With a hair line through the value of ONE PENNY,	20	0	4	0
1d With ivory head,	15	0	1	0
1d With the outer line perfect all round stamp,	20	0	3	6
1d Wmk. inverted,	15	0	2	6

TWOPENCE.

2d Deep blue,	12	6	0	4
2d Blue,	10	6	0	3
2d Pale blue,	15	0	0	3
2d Violet blue,	20	0	0	6
2d Complete reconstructed sheet of 240,			60	0

Varieties.

2d With a hair line through TWOPENCE,	20	0	3	6
2d Ivory head,	20	0	1	0
2d Wmk. inverted,	30	0	5	0
2d Without letters in lower corners,			60	0

The Perforated Issue.

The arrangement of sheet and lettering was the same as in the 1841 issue; also the colour and paper in varieties of shades, but paper much thinner. Printed from 2 dies. The two dies may be distinguished from one another by the eyelids and shading. In die 1 the shading on upper eyelids is very faint; in die 2 more deepened, and the shading on the eyeball is very pronounced.

DIE I.

ONE PENNY.

Wmk. small crown, perforated 16.

			Unused.		Used.	
			s.	d.	s.	d.
1854—1d	Red-brown,	white paper,	20	0	1	0
„	1d	„ blued	7	6	0	2
„	1d	„ worn plate,	10	0	0	9

Wmk. small crown, perforated 14.

1855—1d	Red-brown,	white paper,	60	0	2	6
„	1d	„ blued	45	0	1	6
„	1d	„ worn plate,			2	6

DIE II.

Wmk. small crown, perforated 16.

1855—1d	Red-brown,	white paper,	25	0	1	0
„	1d	„ blued	15	0	0	9

Wmk. small crown, perforated 14.

„	1d	Red-brown,	30	0	1	0
„	1d	„ blued	20	0	0	9
		Complete reconstructed sheet of 240,			30	0

Varieties.

1d	With ivory head,				1	0
1d	Wmk. inverted,				1	6
1d	Perforated twice vertically,	appearing like a				
	roulette,				10	6

Wmk. large crown, perforated 16.

1855—1d	Red-brown,	white paper,	£10		10	0
„	1d	„ blued	£6		4	0

Wmk. large crown, perforated 14.

1855—1d	Red-brown,	white paper,			2	6
„	1d	„ blued	3	0	0	1
„	1d	Orange-red,	20	0	3	6
„	1d	Plum,	15	0	1	9
„	1d	Brown-rose,	10	0	1	0

Wmk. large crown, perforated 14.

The paper very white.

1857—1d	Pale red,		6	6	0	6
„	1d	Orange-red,	20	0	3	0
„	1d	Rose-red,	0	6	0	1
„	1d	Pale rose-red,			0	2
„	1d	Deep rose-red,	0	9	0	1

Wmk. large crown, perforated 16.

1858—1d	Rose-red,		90	0	1	0
		Complete reconstructed sheet of 240,	£7		10	0

	Unused.		Used.	
	S.	D.	S.	D.
<i>Varieties.</i>				
1d Imperforated wmk. large crown,	60	0	80	0
1d Twice perforated vertically, appearing like a roulette,	40	0	10	6
1d Rough perforations,	10	0	1	0
1d Wmk. inverted,	7	6	1	0

TWOPENCE.

Printed from 2 plates, 5 and 6. The plate 6 has thin lines under POSTAGE and over TWOPENCE.

Wmk. small crown, perforated 16.

1854—2d Dark blue,	80	0	1	0
„ 2d Pale blue,	70	0	0	9

Wmk. small crown, perforated 14.

1855—2d Blue,	£15		2	0
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Wmk. large crown, perforated 16.

1855—2d Blue, plate 5,	£35		7	6
1857—2d „ plate 6,	£35		7	6

Wmk. large crown, perforated 14.

1855—2d Blue, plate 5,	40	0	0	3
1857—2d „ plate 6,	40	0	0	6
Complete reconstructed sheet of 240,			60	0

Varieties.

2d Perforated twice vertically,			15	
2d Wmk. inverted,	50	0	4	0

Letters in all Four Corners,

With the Plate Number in the Network at each side.

ONE HALFPENNY.

Perforated 14.

Lettering AA to TX in lower corners, and the top corners have the reverse letters of the lower one. Wmk. "Halfpenny," in script extending over three stamps.

Issued.	Plate.	Colour.					
1870	1	Rose-red,	5	0	0	6	
„	3	„	1	6	0	3	
„	4	„	1	0	0	2	
„	5	„	0	4	0	1	
„	6	„	0	4	0	1	
„	8	„	1	0	0	3	
1871	9	„	90	0	5	6	
1872	10	„	0	6	0	1½	

Issued.	Plate.	Colour.	Unused.		Used.	
			s.	d.	s.	d.
1874	11	Rose-red,	0	4	0	1
1875	12	"	0	4	0	2
1876	13	"	0	4	0	1
1877	14	"	0	3	0	1
1878	15	"	0	9	0	2
"	19	"	1	0	0	2
1879	20	"	1	3	0	2
Complete reconstructed sheet of 480,					60	0

Varieties.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d Imperforate,	25	0	
$\frac{3}{4}$ d Wmk. inverted,			0 6

Lettering AA to TL in lower corners, and the top corners have the reverse letters of the lower one.

Wmk. large crown, perforated 14.

ONE PENNY—Rose-red Shades.

1864-80.

Plate.	Unused.		Used.		Plate.	Unused.		Used.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.
71	1	0	0	1	103	1	6	0	1
72	1	6	0	1	104	5	6	0	3
73	1	0	0	1	105	6	0	0	2
74	0	6	0	1	106	1	0	0	2
76	0	6	0	1	107	1	6	0	1
77					108	5	0	0	2
78	0	9	0	1	109	3	0	0	1
79	0	9	0	1	110	1	0	0	2
80	1	6	0	1	111	0	6	0	1
81	1	0	0	1	112	2	6	0	2
82	4	0	0	2	113	1	0	0	1
83	7	6	0	3	114	4	6	0	1
84	1	9	0	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	115	5	6	0	2
85	1	0	0	2	116	1	0	0	2
86	1	6	0	1	117	0	4	0	1
87	1	0	0	1	118	0	9	0	1
88	10	0	0	4	119	0	9	0	1
89	1	0	0	1	120	0	9	0	1
90	1	3	0	1	121	1	0	0	1
91	2	0	0	1	122	0	6	0	1
92	1	6	0	1	123	1	0	0	1
93	1	0	0	1	124	0	8	0	1
94	1	6	0	1	125	1	0	0	1
95	0	6	0	1	127	1	0	0	1
96	1	0	0	1	129	0	9	0	1
97	1	0	0	1	130	1	0	0	1
98	3	0	0	1	131	1	3	0	1
99	1	6	0	1	132	20	0	0	9
100	3	6	0	2	133	12	6	0	6
101	2	0	0	1	134	0	6	0	1
102	1	0	0	1	135	6	0	0	2

Plate.	Unused. s. d.	Used. s. d.	Plate.	Unused. s. d.	Used. s. d.
136	3 0	0 1	181	0 6	0 1
137	0 9	0 1	182	2 6	0 2
138	0 6	0 1	183	0 8	0 1
139	3 0	0 1	184	0 4	0 1
140	0 6	0 1	185	1 0	0 1
141	6 0	0 2	186	0 4	0 1
142	4 0	0 1	187	0 4	0 1
143	2 9	0 1	188	1 0	0 1
144	2 0	0 2	189	1 0	0 1
145	0 9	0 1	190	0 4	0 1
146	0 9	0 1	191	0 4	0 1
147	1 0	0 1	192	0 4	0 1
148	0 6	0 1	193	0 3	0 1
149	0 9	0 1	194	1 0	0 1
150	0 9	0 1	195	0 6	0 1
151	3 0	0 1	196	0 4	0 1
152	1 0	0 1	197	0 9	0 1
153	6 0	0 3	198	0 4	0 1
154	1 3	0 1	199	0 4	0 1
155	1 6	0 1	200	0 4	0 1
156	0 6	0 1	201	0 4	0 1
157	0 9	0 1	202	0 4	0 1
158	0 8	0 1	203	0 9	0 1
159	0 9	0 1	204	0 4	0 1
160	0 6	0 1	205	0 8	0 1
161	4 6	0 2	206	0 9	0 1
162	2 0	0 1	207	0 9	0 1
163	1 0	0 1	208	0 6	0 1
164	1 0	0 1	209	0 4	0 1
165	0 9	0 1	210	1 6	0 1
166	0 9	0 2	211	3 6	0 2
167	0 8	0 1	212	1 6	0 3
168	0 9	0 1	213	1 3	0 2
169	1 6	0 2	214	1 0	0 2
170	0 6	0 1	215	0 9	0 1
171	0 4	0 1	216	0 9	0 1
172	0 6	0 1	217	1 3	0 2
173	2 0	0 2	218	1 0	0 2
174	0 6	0 1	219	2 6	0 4
175	0 9	0 1	220	0 9	0 2
176	0 9	0 1	221	1 0	0 3
177	0 9	0 1	222	2 0	0 2
178	1 0	0 2	223	3 0	0 4
179	0 6	0 1	224	3 6	0 6
180	1 6	0 2	225		10 0

Varieties.

					Unused.	Used.
					s. d.	s. d.
1d Imperforate, ...	...	...	...	...	60 0	50 0
1d Rough perforations, ...	...	...	...	...	3 0	0 9
1d Perforated twice vertically, appearing like a roulette,	...	...	...	...	20 0	10 6
1d Wmk. inverted, ...	...	...	...	...	2 6	0 9
1d Plate 123, figure 2 inverted, ...	...	...	...	...		10 0
1d Plate 194, error 104 on left side, ...	...	...	...	...	100 0	

THREE-HALFPENCE.

Perforated 14.

Lettering AA to TL as in 1864 Penny. The plate is not numbered.

Issued.	Plate.	Wmk.	Colour.			
—	(1)	Crown	Lilac-rose,	...	40 0	
1870	(1)	"	Rose-red,	...	3 6	0 6
1874	3	"	"	...	2 6	0 3
Complete reconstructed sheet of 240, ...					...	60 0

Varieties.

1½d Plate (1), Lettering	OP PC	for	OP PO	...	...	40 0
1½d Wmk. inverted, ...	...	...	...	...	10 6	4 0

TWOPENCE.

Perforated 14.

Lettering AA to TL same as Penny 1864. Thick lines in plates 7, 8, 9, 12; and thin lines in 13, 14, and 15.

Issued.	Plate.	Colour.	Wmk.			
1858	7	Blue	Crown,	...	20 0	0 3
1859	8	"	"	...	10 0	0 2
1861	9	"	"	...	1 6	0 1
1868	12	"	"	...	35 0	0 6
1869	13	"	"	...	1 6	0 1
1871	14	"	"	...	2 0	0 1
1875	15	"	"	...	1 6	0 1
Complete reconstructed sheet of 240, ...					...	25 0

Varieties.

2d Imperforate, ...	...	...	...	...	40 0	40 0
2d Wmk. inverted, ...	...	...	...	...	10 0	2 6
2d Perforated twice vertically, appearing like a roulette, ...	...	...	...	...		10 0

The Embossed Series.

Octagonal in shape, imperforated. The 6d stamps are wmk. VR.; the 10d and 1s are un-wmk. and have two vertical silk threads. The die numbers are at the base of the bust either before or after the initials W.W.

ONE SHILLING.

Pale to deep green.

Issue.	Die						Unused.		Used.	
							s.	d.	s.	d.
1847	1	...	...	...	...	...	100	0	3	6
1853	2	...	...	...	..	...			3	0

TENPENCE.

Pale to deep brown.

Issue.	Die						Unused.		Used.	
							£	s.	d.	s.	d.
1848	(0)	...	...	...	...	...	£8		60	0
1848	1	...	...	...	...	...	£7		20	0
1850	2	..	...	..	...	...	£6		10	0
1853	3	...	..	...	...	...	100	0	10	0
1853	4	...	...	...	...	...	100	0	12	6
—	5	...	...	...	...	...

SIXPENCE.

Issued.	Die.	Colour.						Unused.		Used.	
								£	s.	d.	s.	d.
1854	1	Violet,	...	...	...	...	100	0	4	6
"	1	Lilac,	...	...	...	...			3	6
"	1	Mauve,	...	...	...	...			6	0
"	1	Purple,	...	...	...	...			3	6

The Surface Printed Series.

Printed by Messrs. THOMAS DE LA RUE & CO.

TWOPENCE HALFPENNY.

Large coloured letters, perforated 14, in corners.

Lettering AA to PL in the wmk. Anchor or Orb., AA to TL in the crown wmk. issue.

Printed on blued fiscal paper.

Issued.	Plate.	Wmk.	Colour.						Unused.		Used.	
									£	s.	d.	s.	d.
1875	1	Anchor,	Lilac-rose, ...	...	...	...	17	0	3	6
"	2	"	"	...	...	...	£10		40	0
"	3	"	"	...	...	...			50	0
—	4	"	"	...	...	...			
—	5	"	"	...	...	...			

Paper white.

Issued.	Plate.	Wmk.	Colour.						Unused.		Used.	
									£	s.	d.	s.	d.
1875	1	Anchor,	Lilac-rose, ...	...	...	...	10	0	0	9
"	2	"	"	...	...	...	12	6	0	9
1876	3	"	"	...	...	...	25	0	0	9
"	3	Orbs	"	...	...	...	65	0	1	9
"	4	"	"	...	...	...	7	6	0	3
"	5	"	"	...	...	...	9	6	0	4
"	6	"	"	...	...	...	9	6	0	4
1877	7	"	"	...	...	...	10	0	0	6
"	8	"	"	...	...	...	10	0	0	3
"	9	"	"	...	...	...	10	0	0	3

				Unused.		Used.	
				S.	D.	S.	D.
1878	10	Orbs	Lilac-rose, ...	20	0	0	4
"	11	"	"	25	0	0	4
"	12	"	"	6	0	0	2
"	13	"	"	6	0	0	1
1879	14	"	"	6	0	0	1
"	15	"	"	6	0	0	2
"	16	"	"	4	0	0	1
"	17	"	"	25	0	4	6
1880	17	"	Blue,	8	6	0	4
"	18	"	"	8	6	0	3
"	19	"	"	4	6	0	2
"	20	"	"	4	6	0	2
1881	21	Crown,	"	4	0	0	2
"	22	"	"	2	0	0	1
"	23	"	"	2	0	0	1

Error of Lettering in Plate 2.

Lettering	LH	for	HL	80	0
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Complete reconstructed sheets:—

Wmk. orb., 192, ... 50 0

Wmk. crown, 240, ... 40 0

Varieties.

2½d,	wmk. anchor inverted,	...	...	...	20	0	4	0
2½d,	" orbs.	"	...	...	10	0	4	0
2½d,	" crown	"	...	...	10	0	4	0

THREEPENCE.

Lettering AA to TL, perforated 14.

Small white letters.

Issued.	Plate.	Wmk.	Colour.			
—	2	Emblems,	Carmine, ...			
		The above with network spandrels.				
1862	2	Emblems,	Dark carmine, ...	25	0	4 6
"	2	"	Carmine, ...	15	0	3 6
—	3	"	"			

Plate 3 has a white dot at either end of the word POSTAGE.

Large white letters.

1865	4	Emblems,	Rose, ...	10	6	1 0
—	5	"	"			
1867	4	Spray,	"	70	0	3 6
1868	5	"	"	5	0	0 1
1870	6	"	"	5	0	0 1
1871	7	"	"	15	0	0 2
1872	8	"	"	8	6	0 2
"	9	"	"	10	0	0 4
1873	10	"	"	15	0	0 3

						Unused.	Used.
						S. D.	S. D.
Large coloured letters.							
1873	11	Spray,	Rose,	...	...	6 0	0 4
"	12	"	"	...	...	15 0	0 4
1874	14	"	"	...	...	15 0	0 2
"	15	"	"	...	...	10 0	0 4
"	16	"	"	...	...	15 0	0 3
1875	17	"	"	...	...	10 0	0 6
1876	18	"	"	...	...	7 6	0 4
1878	19	"	"	...	...	5 6	0 4
1879	20	"	"	...	...	5 6	0 8
—	21	"	"	...	...
1881	20	Crown,	"	...	...	10 0	3 0
"	21	"	"	...	...	4 6	1 3
1883	21	"	Purple,	...	...	3 6	0 9

The 3d Purple is surcharged 3d in rose.

Complete reconstructed sheet of 240, 70 0

Varieties.

3d Small letters imperforate,	...	...	...	...
3d Large letters imperforate,	...	...	...	...	30 0	
3d On azure safety paper,	...	...	...	...
3d With only one dot under "d" of overprint,	...	...	...	...	100 0	20 0
3d Without dots under "d,"	...	...	...	...		40 0
3d Wmk. inverted,	...	...	...	...		7 6
3d Perforated twice vertically, appearing like roulette,	...	...	...	...		15 0

FOURPENCE.

Perforated 14.

No letters in corners and no number on stamp, printed from Plates 1 and 2, which cannot be distinguished.

Thick glazed azure safety paper.

Issued.	Plate.	Wmk.	Colour.	...	£	S. D.
1855	(?)	Small Garter	Deep Carmine,	...	£20	5 0
"	(?)	"	Carmine,	...	£15	3 6
1856	(1)	Medium	"	...	£25	6 6
"	(1)	"	Pale Carmine,	...	£25	5 6

On ordinary white paper.

1856	(1)	Medium	Rose,	...	£20	5 0
"	(1)	"	Dull Rose,	...	£15	3 6
1857	(1)	Large	Deep Rose,	...	50 0	0 6
"	(1)	"	Pale Rose,	...	30 0	0 3
"	(1)	"	Pink,	...		0 3

Varieties.

4d Small Garter on white paper,	...	...	...	...	25 0	20 0
4d Wmk. inverted,	...	...	...	...		3 6
4d Imperforated,	...	...	...	...	50 0	

Small white letters.

Lettering AA to TI.

No plate number on stamp. The plate 3 has a Roman numeral I in the lower tablet outside the letter square, and plate 4 has Roman numeral II; also a hair-line crossing each angle of each letter block.

Issued.	Plate.	Wmk.	Colour.	Unused.		Used.		
				s.	d.	s.	d.	
1862	3	Large Garter	Orange-red,	...	10	0	0	3
1864	4	Large	"	...	10	0	0	2

Large white letters.

Plate number on each stamp—variety of shades.

1865	7	Large Garter	Dull Vermilion,	...	12	6	0	5
1866	8	"	"	...	12	6	0	4
1867	9	"	Orange,	...	8	6	0	3
1868	10	"	"	...	40	0	0	6
1869	11	"	"	...	8	0	0	2
1870	12	"	"	...	7	6	0	3
"	12	"	Dull Vermilion,	...	12	6	0	9
1873	13	"	Orange "	...	12	6	0	9
"	13	"	Dull "	...	10	0	0	4
1875	14	"	Orange "	...	10	0	0	9
"	14	"	Dull "	...	7	6	0	4

Large coloured letters.

1876	15	Large Garter	Pale Vermilion,	...	25	0	3	6
1877	15	"	Sage Green,	...	12	6	2	6
—	16	"	Pale Vermilion,	...			£40	
1878	16	"	Sage Green,	...	10	0	2	0
—	17	"	"	...				
1880	17	"	Grey-brown,	..	30	0	7	6
1881	17	Crown	"	...	6	0	0	8
1882	18	"	"	...	5	0	0	8
Complete reconstructed sheet of 240,					...		60	0

Varieties.

4d Orange wmk. inverted,	...	...	...	...			2	0
4d Sage Green "	...	...	...	...			5	6
4d Grey-brown "	...	...	...	...			10	0

SIXPENCE.

No letters and no plate number on stamp.

Colour—Shades of Lilac, perforated 14.

On azure safety paper.

Issued.	Plate.	Wmk.	Colour.	...	...	£	s.	d.
1856	(1)	Emblems	Lilac,	...	...	£25	60	0
"	(1)	"	Lilac,	...	...	£6	20	0
"	(1)	"	Lilac,	...	...	20	0	0

Small white letters.

Lettering AA to TL. Plates 3 and 4 without number. Plate 4 may be distinguished by a white hair-line crossing each angle of each letter block.

1862	(3)	Emblems	Lilac,	...	...	15	0	0	6
1864	(4)	"	"	...	...	35	0	1	6

Large white letters.

Plate number on each stamp.

Issued.	Plate.	Wmk.	Colour.	Unused.		Used.	
				s.	d.	s.	d.
1865	5	Emblems	Lilac, ...	10	0	0	9
1867	6	"	" ...	70	0	2	0
1867	6	Spray	" ...	20	0	0	6
1868	6	"	Violet, ...			0	9
1869	8	"	" ...	7	6	0	4
1870	9	"	" ...	10	0	0	6
—	10	"	" ...			£80	
1872	11	"	Chestnut, ...	20	0	1	6
"	11	"	Buff, ...	20	0	1	6
—	12	"	Chestnut, ...	£40			
1872	12	"	Buff, ...	60	0	7	6
"	12	"	Greenish-grey, ...	12	6	1	0

Large coloured letters.

—	13	Spray	Buff, ...	£40			
1874	13	"	Greenish-grey, ...	6	0	0	6
1875	14	"	" ...	6	0	0	6
1876	15	"	" ...	5	6	0	6
1878	16	"	" ...	5	6	0	4
1880	17	"	" ...	15	0	3	6
1881	17	Crown	" ...	6	0	1	9
—	18	Spray	" ...				
1882	18	Crown	" ...	5	6	1	6
1883	18	"	Purple, ...	4	0	1	0

The 6d. Purple is surcharge 6d in rose.

Complete reconstructed sheet of 240, ... 90 0

Varieties.

1883	18 (with only one dot under "d" of over-print),	... ..	... ..	100	0	20	0
"	18 (without dots under "d")	... ..	... ..		
6d	Lilac wmk. inverted,	... ..	... ..			3	0
6d	Chestnut, "	... ..	... ..	30	0	10	0
6d	Grey "	... ..	... ..	15	0	5	0
6d	Purple "	... ..	... ..			5	0
6d	Imperforate,	... ..	... ..	35	0	50	0

EIGHTPENCE.

Large coloured letters, perforated 14.

Lettering AA to TL.

Issued.	Plate.	Wmk.	Colour.	Unused.		Used.	
				s.	d.	s.	d.
1876	1	Garter	Orange yellow, ...	12	0	3	6
—	1	"	Purple brown, ...	£6			
—	2	"	Orange yellow, ...				
Complete reconstructed sheet of 240, ...						£45	
<i>Varieties.</i>							
8d	Wmk. inverted,	... ..	... ..	20	0	6	0
8d	Imperforate, ...	... ..	... ..	30	0	60	0

NINEPENCE.

Small white letters, perforated 14.

Lettering AA to TL. No plate number on stamp.

Plate 3 is distinguished by a hair-line crossing the outer angle of each letter block.

Issued.	Plate.	Wmk.	Colour.	Unused.		Used.	
				s.	d.	s.	d.
1862	(2)	Emblems	Bistre, ...	17	6	6	6
"	(2)	"	Straw, ...	17	6	5	0
1865	(3)	"	" ...			£45	

Large white letters.

Plate number on each stamp.

1867	4	Emblems	Straw, ...	45	0	20	0
—	5	"	" ...	£75			
1867	4	Spray	" ...	15	0	4	0
Complete reconstructed sheet of 240, ...						£48	

Varieties.

9d Wmk. inverted, ...						10	0
9d Imperforate, ...							

TENPENCE.

Perforated 14.

Large white letters.

Lettering AA to TL.

Issued.	Plate.	Wmk.	Colour.				
1867	I	Spray	Red-brown, ...	25	0	6	0
1874	I	"	Pale Red-brown, ...	20	0	4	0
1867	I	Emblems	Red-brown, ...			£70	
1868	2	Spray	" ...			£20	
Complete reconstructed sheet of 240, ...							

Varieties.

10d Wmk. inverted, ...						15	0
10d Imperforate, ...						60	0
						200	0

ONE SHILLING.

Perforated 14.

No letters and no plate number on stamp.

Colour—Varying in shades, also varying in thickness of paper.

Issued.	Plate.	Wmk.	Colour.				
On blued paper.							
—	(1)	Emblems	Green, ...	£15			
On white paper.							
1856	(1)	Emblems	Green, ...	30	0	1	3
"	(1)	"	Deep green, ...	40	0	3	6

Small white letters.

Lettering AA to TL. Plate number on stamp. The stamp of Plate 2 is numbered 1; Plate 3 is numbered 2, and also has a white hair-line crossing the outer angle of each letter block.

Issued.	Plate.	Wmk.	Colour.	...	Unused.		Used.	
					s.	d.	s.	d.
1862	1 (2)	Emblems	Deep green,	...	45	0	3	6
"	1 (2)	"	Green,	...	30	0	1	9
—	2 (3)	"	"	...				

Large white letters.

1865	4	Emblems	Green,	...	15	0	1	0
—	5	"	"	...				
1867	4	Spray	"	...	10	0	0	6
1871	5	"	"	...	16	0	0	6
1872	6	"	"	...	25	0	0	6
1873	7	"	"	...	25	0	0	9

Large coloured letters.

1873	8	Spray	Green,	...	30	0	1	6
1874	9	"	"	...	25	0	1	6
1874	10	"	"	...	25	0	2	0
1876	11	"	"	...	20	0	2	0
"	12	"	"	...	12	6	1	0
1877	13	"	"	...	12	6	1	0
—	14	"	"	...				
1880	13	"	Red-brown,	...	30	0	7	6
1881	13	Crown	"	...	7	6	1	6
1883	14	"	"	...	10	0	1	3
Complete reconstructed sheet of 240, ...								£6

Varieties.

1s 1862, with a white circle round the letter K in lower left corner lettered DK KD	...	...	...	...	£15	70	0	
1s Imperforate, ...	...	...	...	...	35	0	90	0
1s wmk. inverted,	...	...	...	...			3	0

TWO SHILLINGS.

Lettering AA to TL.

Large white letters, perforated 14.

Issued.	Plate.	Wmk.	Colour.	...				
1867	1	Spray	Dull blue,	...	45	0	2	9
1869	1	"	Blue,	...	50	0	2	9
1873	1	"	Deep blue,	...	70	0	3	6
1878	1	"	Milky blue,	...	90	0	7	6
—	3	"	Dull blue,	...				
1880	1	"	Red-brown,	...	£8	75	0	
Complete reconstructed sheet of 240, ...								£36

Varieties.

2s Imperforate,	100	0	£10	
2s Wmk. inverted,			12	6

FIVE SHILLING.

Large white letters.

The wmk. Maltese Cross are perforated $15\frac{1}{2} \times 15$, and printed in sheets of 80 stamps, lettering AA to HJ.

The wmk. Anchor are perforated 14, and printed in sheets of 56 stamps, lettering AA to GH.

Perforations and lettering are the same in 10s. and 20s. stamps.

Issued.	Plate.	Wmk.	Colour.	Unused.		Used.		
				s.	d.	s.	d.	
1867	1	Maltese Cross	Rose, ...	50	0	6	0	
"	1	"	Pale rose, ...	50	0	5	0	
1874	2	"	"	70	0	6	0	
"	4	"	"					
1882	4	Anchor	"			25	0	
			On blue paper.					
1883	4	"	"		£10	17	6	
Complete reconstructed sheet of 80, ...						£25		
"	"	"	56, ...					
			Varieties.					
5s	Imperforate, ...							
5s	Wmk. inverted (Anchor), ...					40	0	

TEN SHILLING.

Large white letters. Lettering same as 5s. stamps.

Issued.	Plate.	Wmk.	Colour.					
1878	1	Maltese Cross	Grey-green, ...	£20		30	0	
1883	1	Anchor	"			50	0	
			On blue paper.					
1883	1	"	"	£40		40	0	
Complete reconstructed sheet, ...								

ONE POUND.

Large white letters. Lettering the same.

Issued.	Plate.	Wmk.	Colour.					
1878	1	Maltese Cross	Brown lilac, ...	£40		45	0	
1882	1	Anchor	"	£160		100	0	
			On blue paper.					
"	1	"	"	£120		90	0	
Complete reconstructed sheet, ...								

New Series.

ONE PENNY.

With coloured letters, AA to TL.

Wmk. crown.

1880—	Venetian red, ...			0	3	0	1
"	Deep Venetian red, ...			1	0	0	3
Complete reconstructed sheet of 240, ...				70	0	20	0

Varieties.

	Unused, s. d.	Used. s. d.
With wmk. inverted,	10 6	4 0
Imperforate,	30 0	

Without letters. Wmk. crown.

1880— $\frac{1}{2}$ d Deep green,	1 0	0 1
„ $\frac{1}{2}$ d Pale green,	0 4	0 1
„ $\frac{1}{2}$ d Red-brown,	2 6	0 2
„ 2d Rose,	3 6	0 4
„ 2d Pale rose,	3 0	0 3
1881—5d Deep indigo,	7 0	0 8

Varieties.

Imperforate,	20 0	60 0
The 5d without the value,		
Wmk. inverted,		5 0

Wmk. crown.

1884— $\frac{1}{2}$ d Deep slate blue,	0 6	0 1
„ $\frac{1}{2}$ d Slate blue,	0 4	0 1

Varieties.

Imperforate,	20 0	
Wmk. inverted,		4 0

Without letters. Wmk. crown, perforated 14.

1881—1d Deep lilac, die 1,	3 6	0 4
„ 1d Pale „ die 1,	3 0	0 2
„ 1d Pale „ die 2,	4 0	0 3
1882—1d Lilac, die 2,	0 2	

Die 1 has 14 pearls in each corner portion of the frame; die 2, 16 pearls.

Varieties.

Imperforate,	20 0	40 0
Printed on both sides of paper,		
„ on gummed side of paper,	40 0	
Half portion of stamp printed,	60 0	80 0
Wmk. inverted,	0 9	1 0
Half 1d stamp used for $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1882-1887,		25 0

With coloured letters.

Lettering AA to TL in the $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 3d, 4d, and 1s values, and
AA to LT in 2d, $2\frac{1}{2}$ d, 6d, and 9d values.

Wmk. crown, perforated 14.

1884— $\frac{1}{2}$ d Lilac,	2 3	0 3
„ 2d „	3 6	0 4
„ $2\frac{1}{2}$ d „	1 3	0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
„ 3d „	3 0	0 3
„ 4d Dull green,	5 0	0 8
„ 5d „	3 0	0 8
„ 6d „	2 0	0 4
1883—9d „	6 0	5 0
1884—1s „	7 6	0 9
Complete reconstructed sheet of 240,		30 0

Varieties.

	Unused.		Used.	
	S.	D.	S.	D.
5d With a line instead of a dot under the "d" of the value,				
Imperforate,	30	0		
Perforated 12 instead of 14,				
Wmk. inverted,				4 0

With coloured letters.

Lettering AA to NH. Wmk. anchor, perforated 14.

1883—2s 6d Dull lilac, on blued paper,	70	0	7	6
1884—2s 6d " on white paper,			0	6
" 2s 6d Lilac, " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	3	6	0	5
" 5s Rose, on blued paper,			20	0
" 5s " on white paper,			1	0
1886—5s Deep rose " " " " " " " " " "	6	6	0	9
1884—10s Ultramarine, on blued paper,			40	0
" 10s " on white paper,			3	0
1886—10s Deep Ultramarine, " " " " " " " " " "	13	6	3	0
1884—10s Cobalt blue, " " " " " " " " " "			25	0
Complete reconstructed sheet of 112,			60	0

Varieties.

Imperforate,				
Wmk. inverted,				10 0
5s Perforated 12,				

Large white letters.

Lettering AA to TD. Perforated 14.

1884—£1 Brown-purple, wmk. 3 crowns,	£6		13	6
1888—£1 " " 3 orbs,	£12		20	0
1891—£1 green " 3 crowns,	24	0	6	0
Complete reconstructed sheet of 80,				

Lettering AA to DN. Wmk. anchor.

1882—£5 Orange vermilion, on blued paper,			90	0
1884—£5 " " on white paper,	£6		30	0
Complete reconstructed sheet of 56,				

Without letters, perforated 14.

1887-1900.

½d Vermilion, wmk. crown,	0	3	0	1
½d Deep vermilion,	0	1	0	1
1½d Purple and green,	0	3	0	1
2d Green and vermilion,			0	1
2d Green and carmine,	0	4	0	1
2½d Purple on blue,	0	4	0	1
3d Pale brown on pale yellow,	1	0	0	1
3d Deep brown on pale yellow,	1	0	0	1
3d " yellow,	0	6	0	1
3d Pale brown on yellow,	0	6	0	1
3d Brown on orange,	20	0	10	0

	Unused.		Used.	
	S.	D.	S.	D.
4d Green and deep brown,			0	2
7d ,, brown,	0	6	0	1
4½d ,, scarlet,	0	8	0	3
4½d ,, rose,			0	3
5d Lilac and ultramarine,	0	8	0	1
6d Dark purple on red,			0	1
6d Purple on red,	0	9	0	1
9d Purple and blue,	1	3	0	2
10d ,, scarlet,	1	4	0	3
1s Green,	2	0	0	2
½d Blue-green,	0	1	0	1
1s Green and scarlet,	2	0	0	3
<i>Varieties.</i>				
Imperforate,	20	0	40	0
Printed on gummed side of paper, ..	40	0		
Printed on both sides of stamp, wmk. inverted, ...	0	9	1	0

Official Stamps.

1840—1d Black, with letters VR in upper corners, ...	£10	10		
... Overprinted. I.R. Official.				
1882—½d Dark green,			0	4
1883—½d Pale ,,			0	3
1883—½d Slate blue,			0	3
1888—½d Vermilion, in thin type,			0	2
,, ½d ,, in medium type,			0	1
,, ½d ,, in thick type,			0	2
1901—½d Blue-green,			0	4
1882—1d Pale lilac, die 2,			0	4
,, 1d Lilac, die 2, in thin type,			0	2
,, 1d ,, ,, in medium type,			0	1
,, 1d ,, ,, in thick type,			0	2
1885—2½d ,, ,,	15	0		
1892—2½d Purple on blue, in thin type,			0	9
,, 2½d ,, ,, in medium type,			0	6
1882—6d Grey-green,			0	9
1900—6d Purple on rose-red,			2	0
1885—1s Dull green,			60	0
1889—1s Green, in thin type,			4	0
,, 1s ,, in medium type,			2	0
1900—1s Green and scarlet,			20	0
1885—5s Carmine,			70	0
,, 5s ,, on blue paper,				
,, 10s Ultramarine,			80	0
,, £1 Purple-brown, wmk. 3 crowns,			£30	
1890—£1 ,, ,, 3 orbs,			£30	
1892—£1 Green, ,, 3 crowns,			50	0

Varieties.

The horizontal stroke to the letter L is very short.

6d. Purple on red,	
1s Green,	

Overprinted GOVT. Parcels.

	Used.
	S. D.
1886—1½d Lilac,	4 0
„ 6d Dull green,	17 6
1883—9d „ „ „ „ „ „	9 0
„ 1s Red-brown, Plate 13,	7 6
1886—1s „ „ „ „ „ „	21 0
1897—1d Lilac,	0 3
1887—1½d Purple and green,	0 3
1891—2d Green and red,	0 5
1893—4½d „ and rose,	2 6
1887—6d Purple on rose-red,	0 4
1888—9d „ and blue,	0 9
1890—1s Green,	1 6
1901—1s „ and scarlet,	6 0

Varieties.

1d with surcharge inverted,	£6
1s „ „ „ „ „ „	£30
1d Surcharged GOVT. PARCELS P.	
Without stop under letter T (on most values),	4 6
With inverted 7 instead of T,	5 0

Overprinted O. W. Official.

1896—½d Vermilion,	3 6
„ 1d Lilac,	1 9
1902—½d Blue-green,	15 0
„ 5d Lilac and ultramarine,	50 0
„ 10d Purple and scarlet,	

Overprinted Army Official.

1896—½d Vermilion,	0 1
„ 1d Lilac, thin type,	0 6
„ 1d „ „ „ „ „ „	0 1
„ 2½d Purple on blue,	0 8
1900—½d Blue-green,	0 1
1901—6d Purple on rose-red,	1 6

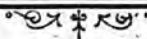
Varieties.

½d Vermilion OFFICIAL,	10 6
1d Lilac „ „ „ „ „ „	8 0
½d Vermilion (the horizontal stroke to the letter L is very short),	4 0
1d Lilac do. do.	4 0
½d (with short letter I),	2 0
1d „ „ „ „ „ „	2 0
6d (with inverted V for letter A),	

Overprinted Board of Education.

1902—5d Lilac and ultramarine,	30 0
„ 1s Green and scarlet,	80 0

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250 " 7/6 to 10/6.

500 " 29/-.

750 " 105/-.

1000 " 250/-.

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" 1902, 9— " " " " 1/-—9d

" 1841 to 1903, 2/6.

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Overprinted for use in the Levant.

	Unused.		Used.	
	S.	D.	S.	D.
1885.				
40 Paras on 2½d lilac,	2	6	1	0
80 ,, on 5d dull green,	5	0	3	0
12 Piastres on 2s 6d blue paper,			30	0
12 ,, on 2s 6d pale lilac,			3	0
12 ,, on 2s 6d deep lilac,	4	0	3	0
1887-96.				
40 Paras on 2½d purple on blue,	0	4	0	1
80 ,, on 5d lilac and ultramarine,	0	9	0	3
4 Piastres on 10d purple and scarlet,	2	0	1	6
<i>Variety.</i>				
40 Paras on 2½d double surcharge,	80	0		
<i>Provisional.</i>				
40 Paras on ½d vermilion,			20	0
<i>Variety.</i>				
40 Paras on ½d the surcharge inverted,			100	0

Head of King Edward VII. Issued from 1st January, 1902.

Perforated 14, wmk. crown.

½d Green,				
1d Scarlet,				
1½d Purple and green,				0 1
2d Green and scarlet,				0 1
2½d Ultramarine,				0 1
2½d ,, on blue,*				
* We have seen this variety used on entire.				
3d Brown on yellow,				0 1
4d Green and brown,				0 1
5d Lilac and ultramarine,				0 1
6d Purple,				0 1
9d ,, and ultramarine,				0 2
10d ,, and scarlet,				0 3
1s Green and scarlet,				0 2
2s 6d Purple,				0 9
5s Carmine,				1 0
10s Blue,				2 6
£1 Green,				7 6

Officials, on Stamps of King Edward VII.

I.R. Official, 1902.

½d Green,			0	1
1d Scarlet,			0	1
2½d Ultramarine,			2	6
1s Green and scarlet,			2	3
5s Carmine,				
10s Blue,			55	0
20s Green,			100	0

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❁ Sales for 1904 ❁

have been fixed as follows:—

January 12 and 13, 26 and 27; February 9 and 10,
23 and 24; March 8 and 9, 22 and 23; April
12 and 13, 26 and 27; May 10 and 11, 24 and
25; June 7 and 8; September 27 and 28;
October 11 and 12, 25 and 26; November 8
and 9, 29 and 30; December 13 and 14.

Owing to the very large number of commissions received from the Continent and America, the Catalogues are issued, when possible, one month or more before the date of sale. Owners wishing to include Stamps should therefore forward them as early as possible. Messrs. PUTTICK & SIMPSON'S Sales are attended by the leading Collectors and Dealers, and are the best medium for disposing of COLLECTIONS AND SINGLE RARITIES, many record prices for fine Stamps having been obtained during past seasons. The greatest care is taken in preparing the Catalogues, in order that Country and Foreign Buyers who send bids may rely upon the condition, &c., of the various lots being accurately described.

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Government Parcels.

	Unused.		Used.	
	S.	D.	S.	D.
1d Scarlet,			0	9
2d Green and scarlet,			0	6
6d Purple,			1	3
9d ,, and ultramarine,			1	9
1s Green and scarlet,			2	6

O.W. Official, 1902.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d Green,			2	0
1d Scarlet,			1	0
2d Green and scarlet,			3	6
$2\frac{1}{2}$ d Ultramarine,			10	0
10d Purple and scarlet,				

Army Official, 1902.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d Green,			0	1
1d Scarlet,			0	1
6d Purple,			0	10

Admiralty Official, 1903.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d Green,			0	5
1d Scarlet,			0	2
$1\frac{1}{2}$ d Purple and green,			1	6
2d Green and scarlet,			1	6
$2\frac{1}{2}$ d Ultramarine,			4	0
3d Brown on yellow,			1	9

Board of Education, 1902.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d Green,			1	0
1d Scarlet,			0	8
$2\frac{1}{2}$ d Ultramarine,			5	0

R.H. Official, 1902.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d Green,			6	0
1d Scarlet,			3	0

For the Levant.

40 Paras on $2\frac{1}{2}$ d,			0	4	0	1
80 ,, 5d			0	6	0	3
4 Piastres on 10d,			1	0	1	3
12 ,, 2s 6d,			3	0	2	3

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Our Philatelic Bookshelf.

BY THE EDITOR.

"THE Stamp Fiend" is the title of a new work announced for early publication. We are looking forward to it in the sure and certain hope that its author, Mr. W. E. Imeson, will amuse us hugely. We understand that "The Stamp Fiend" will be simply a happy, rollicking, irresponsible skit upon philatelists and hobbyists generally, without serious intent, and certainly without spite or malice. Mr. Imeson had completed his labours upon "The Stamp Fiend" some time ago, and in the first spasm of his relief from the carking care of humorous composition he threw off the following verses of kindly greeting to the ANNUAL, and sent them along to Holborn:—

" A Philatelic Annual's
 A 'long-felt want,' I'm sure,
 'Twill welcome prove without a doubt—
 My only wonder, now it's out,
 Is that this kind of manual
 Was not brought out before.

But ' Better late than never,' now,
 I fancy, fits the case ;
 And may in future, year by year,
 A ' hardy Annual ' appear.
 A good investment's that, I trow,
 Whose value's more than ' face.'

—W. E. IMESON.

In all good humour we must point out to Mr. Imeson (who, possibly, is no gardener) that a "hardy annual" is a plant that flourishes for one year only and then incontinently dies! It is a "hardy perennial" that defies the seasons, and, with proper nurture, grows stronger year by year. We want the ANNUAL to be a "Hardy Perennial." But enough! Who are *we* that we should tamper with a poet's license?

"THE ABC OF STAMP COLLECTING."

Mr. Fred. J. Melville has gathered together all the interesting philatelic lore that he can lay hands upon, and the result is a most readable and instructive volume for philatelic beginners, which Mr. H. J. Drane of Salisbury Square publishes under the title, "The ABC of Stamp Collecting." The manifold charms and chances of Philately are most eloquently expounded in this dapper little volume, and it is no exaggeration to say that it makes bright and breezy reading from its first chapter to its last. In Fleet Street it is a time-honoured custom to review such books as this from the title-page, the preface, and the index; but we fancy there are

many reviewers who will pay Mr. Melville the high compliment of *reading* his book as well as reviewing it. We all owe the author a debt of gratitude for so well setting out the charms of Philately as a fascinating and profitable hobby. "The ABC of Stamp Collecting" should do Philately no small service as missionary and as recruiting sergeant. The price of the book (160 pp., cloth bound) is one shilling.

"THE BRITISH EMPIRE EXCHANGE MEDIUM."

We see no reason why a new enterprise, undertaken by Mr. S. F. Bickers, of Cork, should not develop into one of the standard institutions of Philately. We refer to "The British Empire Stamp Exchange Medium," a shilling publication containing the names, addresses, wants, and offers of some two hundred or more "stamp exchangers" in all parts of the world. The idea is a good one, and we cordially wish it the success it deserves.

THE SEASON'S CATALOGUES.

New catalogues from France, Germany, and the United States lie before us, and by the time the ANNUAL is in its readers' hands, our own British catalogue, that of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, will have made its appearance.

The "Catalogue de Timbres-Poste" of Messrs. Yvert & Tellier, Amiens, France, has many features to commend it to the collector's notice. For one thing, it lists and prices Telegraph stamps, in which an increasing interest is shown; for another, it gives illustrated descriptions of many minor varieties not shown in other handbooks. The illustrations in this excellent French publication are "life size," and the type admirably clear.

Both the German catalogues, that of Gebruder Senf of Leipsic, and that of Paul Kohl of Chennitz, display a growing tendency to obesity as the years roll on. Indeed, it is becoming an exceedingly difficult task to list the whole of the world's postal issues in a single volume, especially when the lists are supplemented by a generous sprinkling of notes on minor varieties, etc. The 1904 "Senf" consists of 1324 pages, while the new "Kohl" runs to 976. A marvellously thin paper, little more than a tissue, is used by Herr Kohl in order to keep his catalogue down to a reasonable bulk.

From New York comes the 1904 "Scott," always a welcome and a useful catalogue. To our mind, the most valuable feature of the Scott Stamp and Corn Company's Catalogue is the scheme of typography whereby the minor varieties are given in a much smaller type than the standard sorts. This should be the means of averting confusion in one's references to individual stamps.

STAMP ALBUMS SUPERSEDED
THE CISTAFILE
(PATENT & COPYRIGHT)
AN ENTIRELY NEW SYSTEM

For HOLDING STAMP COLLECTIONS.

IF you possess a Stamp Album, it is all the more necessary that you should see the CISTAFILE. The Cistafile is not a Book; if it were it would lose many of its advantages. It does not appeal to everybody—we never expected that it would do; but to those Collectors who value their Stamps, who have a liking for neatness, who want the minimum of trouble, and at the same time obtain the best results, who would like their Stamps to be in as good a condition in 20 years to come as they are at present, and, further, those who want full and lasting value for the outlay—we commend the CISTAFILE. It is a 1903 invention, and fully up-to-date in every respect.

The CISTAFILE system for collecting can be started at the cost of a few shillings, and is as good and serviceable at the end of 10 or 20 years as on the day when bought. There is no waste whatever to any part. The CISTAFILE is made to last, and is admitted by thousands of Collectors to be the only true permanent system for Stamp Collections. It is used for holding some of the most valuable Collections in the world, and always gives complete satisfaction.

The CISTAFILE is English throughout; every part being made in England by Englishmen. If you cannot call at our establishment and inspect the new method, the CISTAFILE can be sent on approbation. During the first two weeks after the CISTAFILE was placed on sale over 1500 Outfits were sold to Collectors.

For further full particulars, illustrations, and prices, which are sent gratis and post free, write to

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Do., Small Set of 30 different,	0 10 6
The Victoria Era Packet, containing 100 all different (Without any varieties of plate numbers or shades), 1840 to 1901,	2 0 0
Set of 40 different 1840 to 1903 (Queen and King issue),	0 1 9
Sets of Plate Numbers, $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., $1\frac{1}{2}$ d., 2d., $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., 3d., 4d., 6d., and 1/-, 260 different Plate numbers,	3 0 0

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All and every kind of British Stamps, singly or in
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A CHAT ABOUT THE STAMP TRADE IN THE METROPOLIS.

THE Stamp Shops and Philatelic Offices of London were at their busiest and brightest when I made my round of calls. At Messrs Stanley Gibbons' place in the Strand one always witnesses a scene of activity, and the amount of philatelic business transacted at "No. 391" in the course of the year must be something prodigious.

The New Gibbons' Catalogue.

JUST now the thing of the moment at Messrs. Gibbons' establishment is the new Catalogue (Part I.), which, at the moment of writing, is in an advanced stage of "preparedness," and should be ready by the time the "Annual" is in its reader's hands. Mr. Charles J. Phillips, the



Mr. E. STANLEY GIBBONS,
Founder of the Firm of Stanley Gibbons, Limited.

Managing Director of the Firm, has given us some details of the improvements, alterations, and modifications which will be found in the new catalogue. "One important innovation," Mr. Phillips announces, "will be the insertion (as far as we have been able to find out details) of the name of the printer and the method of the printing of the various issues. We have also made a speciality of accurate tracings of watermarks, and have had many hundreds of new illustrations made to replace those that had worn out. In order to economise space, we have in this edition omitted the introduction and business notices hitherto printed in French, German, and Spanish. These notices are, however, printed separately, and will be



MR. CHARLES J. PHILLIPS,
Managing Director of Stanley Gibbons, Limited.

inserted in Catalogues sent to foreign countries. The question of the prices quoted in this Catalogue has received our most careful attention. These have been most carefully revised and lowered where justified; but we cannot close our eyes to the fact that our stock of old English Colonial stamps is becoming exhausted, and the difficulty of replenishing it now has been enormously increased compared with our experience of a few years ago." This remark is significant, indeed. "An important point to remember," adds Mr. Philipps, "is that *all prices* quoted in our Catalogue are in every case based upon *stock in hand* at the time of going to press. We do not believe in 'guess-work prices, or those based upon the average of other catalogues.'" The second part of the Catalogue (Foreign Countries) is also in hand, and is promised for some time in January, 1904. Some very important alterations in prices are promised for this foreign section; and by some of those best competent to judge, it is thought probable that both the Colonial and Foreign volumes of the 1904 Gibbons' catalogues will show very remarkable—shall we say "adjustments" of prices. Meantime the business of the firm of Stanley Gibbons, Limited—unquestionably the world's largest stamp dealing concern—exhibits a healthy development in all departments. Long may it continue to progress and increase, for—when all is said and done—what should we do without our "Gibbons"?

Mr. Peckitt's Big Purchases.

THE striking exterior of Mr. W. H. Peckitt's new establishment in the Strand never fails to rivet the attention of the passer-by. I should think this handsome stamp shop has been the means of converting many a Philistine to philately. Mr. Peckitt has lately made many big and plucky purchases, including the collections of the Earl of Kintore, the late Rev. Wm. Bell, and Mr. J. N. Marsden, of Lisbon. I do not know what Mr. Peckitt has *not* got in the way of stamps, and possibly he doesn't know himself. He is a great man on rarities, and the first thought of anyone who rakes up a good old stamp is to take it to No. 47 Strand. Mr. Peckitt is a dealer in stamps, publications, and accessories, but has never risked the premature grey hairs that are so often the lot of the publisher.

The Latest "Post Office" Mauritius.

AN address well known the philatelic world over is No. 47 Leicester Square, the business headquarters of Messrs. Puttick & Simpson, the auctioneers, but in olden days the residence of Sir Joshua Reynolds. Messrs. Puttick & Simpson have been established for a century or more as auctioneers of fine art and literary properties. It is only in recent years that "stamps" have been added to their repertory. Nevertheless, the stamp auctioneering department has grown to be a big thing in the firm's dealings, and with Mr. Nevile Stocken as manager of the Philatelic Department, and Mr. A. J. Wilson as stamp auctioneer, nothing is left undone to ensure satisfaction to all parties concerned. Many of the catalogues of the stamp sales at "Puttick's," with their full-page illustrations of rarities, have been

things of beauty, and a big sale at 47 Leicester Square is a full gathering of the leading philatelists of London. There is sure to be a specially good attendance at the sale announced for January 12th and 13th next, when a specimen of the famous 2d. "Post Office" Mauritius stamp is to be sold. It has been stated that £1000 has been offered and refused for this brilliant



Mr. ALFRED WILSON.



Mr. NEVILLE STOCKEN.

copy of one of the world's scarcest stamp, and there should be a rare expectant hush in the auction room when Mr. Auctioneer Wilson offers this exceptional "lot" to the assembled bidders. The stamp auction business has grown to be a great factor in the business side of philately. Messrs. Puttick can boast an average turnover in their philatelic department of no less than £20,000 for the season.

Messrs. Grieberts' Large Purchases. FARTHER west—to wit, in New Bond Street—one finds Messrs. Hugo Griebert & Co., a firm noted for their enterprise in the purchase of big stocks and collections. Among their recent acquisitions one recalls the large and fine stock of an old-established Lisbon firm and a great accumulation of Fiscals belonging to the late M. Roussin, of Paris.

IN the very heart of London Society's swaggerest shopping centre is the Royal Arcade, Old Bond Street. Here, behind the most expansive philatelic shop front in London, one finds Mr. D. Field, a very keen and successful dealer in first-class British and Colonial stamps. One would need to take a long day's tramp to find a greater optimist than Mr. Field on the subject of the future of Philately, especially with regard to the values of great rarities. At his fine shop and offices in the Royal Arcade a remarkable range of rare things is always open to inspection. Among our lady collectors Mrs. D. Field takes a prominent place, with her



MRS. D. FIELD.



MR. D. FIELD.

fine collection of Colonial stamps—all unused and in mint condition. At the recent Philhausen Exhibition a well-deserved medal and diploma were conferred upon Mrs. Field for her fine Capes and other Colonials.

At the moment of closing the "Annual" for press we feel that we must add a word as to the very successful show of rare stamps held by Mr. Field at the Albemarle Galleries, a handsome art rendezvous within a stone's throw of the Royal Arcade. The show attracted many distinguished visitors, including that prince of philatelists, Mons. Philippe le Renotiere von Ferrary; and by all who attended the exhibition the

greatest pleasure was expressed at the sight of Mr. Field's most interesting array of rarities in fine condition. The *Morning Post* and other influential newspapers printed appreciative notices of the display.

**Makers of the
"Cistafile."**

IN another portion of the "Annual" we have attempted to convey some idea of the utility of Messrs. Lawn & Barlow's new system for the housing of a stamp collection, viz., the "Cistafile." For some months past the firm have been busily at work at 99 Regent Street, explaining and demonstrating the beauties of this new system to a constant stream of callers. The new idea has been very extensively taken up by all grades of philatelists, and some very decided expressions of opinion in its favour have been received by Messrs. Lawn & Barlow from beginners as well as from advanced collectors.

**Auctions at the
Argyll Galleries.**

MESSRS. GLENDINING & Co., already well known as art and curio autioneers and experts, recently added a stamp auction department to their business, and now the philatelic sales held by this firm at their spacious rooms in Argyll Street, Regent Street, are one of the



MR. W. GLENDINING.

essential features of the London philatelic season. We give a portrait of Mr. Glendining, one of the most popular and genial of London auctioneers.

**A Fine Collection
of U.S.A.**

RETURNING once more to the Strand we are pulled up at the sign of Frederick R. Ginn at No. 143. Mr. Ginn, ten years ago, conducted his stamp-dealing business from a private residence at Tottenham—then quite a philatelic suburb, numbering Mr. Hadlow and others among its residents. Mr. Ginn earned the gratitude of the stamp-collecting community at that time by his energetic conduct of the affairs of the Philatelic Protection Association of which he was hon. secretary. Needing a wider outlet for his philatelic energies than a purely postal business could afford, Mr. F. R. Ginn joined "the Strand division," installed himself at No. 143, and is there to this day. In addition to Colonial and foreign varieties, Mr. Ginn has always taken the keenest possible interest in the stamps of the United States. He is the owner of one of the finest collections of U.S.A.'s (mostly mint unused specimens) that it has ever been our pleasure to see. This fine lot earned him a silver medal at the London Philatelic Exhibition of 1897, and in all probability many important additions have been made to the collection since that date.

Mr. Ginn is one of the hardest workers in the stamp trade, but it is an old and a true saying that the really busy man is generally the one who



MR. FRED. R. GINN.

can spare a few moments whenever occasion arises. And Mr. Ginn is never too busy to receive anyone who calls upon him at his place in the Strand.

Holborn Stamp-dealing, Past and Present. How strange it is that Holborn, one of the finest thoroughfares in Central London, has never attained to more than second rank as a philatelic street. Of course, there have always been stamp-dealers in Holborn. Indeed, Mr. William Lincoln, now located in Holles Street, opened his first stamp shop in Holborn a long, long while ago, and we think he claims to be the oldest philatelic shopkeeper in the metropolis. Others whom we find in the Holborn and Oxford Street district at the present time are Messrs. Alfred Smith & Son (of "Rowland Hill Packet" celebrity), who have lately removed from Essex Street, Strand, to larger offices in Southampton Row; Miss K. Brosnan, the representative of a name long known in the stamp-dealing world; Messrs. P. L. Pemberton & Co., of whom more anon; and Messrs. C. Nissen & Co., the publishers of this "Annual." Yet there was a time when the Holborn and Oxford Street district could boast a far braver showing than this. Maybe the time is not far distant when there will be a marked increase of philatelic "houses of call" in this the finest of London's "east to west" thoroughfares. The opening of the County Council's new Strand-to-Holburn avenue will probably have a beneficial effect in this direction.

Everything British at Nos. 77 and 78. MESSRS. C. NISSEN & Co., as publishers of the "Annual," at first demurred to the mention of their own names in this brief guide to the London stamp trade. But invidiousness, it seems to me, is the sort of thing that cuts both ways, and I am going to say something about the publishers of the "Annual," at the risk of being left out of the list of contributors to next year's edition. Although they have a good all-round stock of postal, fiscal, and telegraph stamps of all countries, Messrs. Nissen make no secret of the fact that their speciality is "British"—not British and Colonial, but just British. Anything in British stamps—postal, fiscal, or telegraphic—comes within the scope of the firm's transactions. British stamps were Mr. Charles Nissen's principal fancy when he started as a dealer (at the ripe old age of thirteen years!), and they have been his principal fancy ever since. The "Guide to British Values" that he contributes to this edition of the "Annual" ought to prove a boon to many collectors.

Like Father, like Son. It would be strange indeed to find the son of the late E. L. Pemberton devoting himself to any pursuit other than Philately. Thus no one was surprised when Mr. P. Lomes Pemberton, at the age of seventeen, started as a stamp dealer at Manchester. From Cottonopolis he came to London, dealt for a time from his home in Kensington, and then entered into partnership with Mr. W. B. Kirkpatrick,

of Bournemouth, the twain trading as "Kirkpatrick and Pemberton" from first floor offices in Holborn. A year ago Mr. Kirkpatrick experienced a



MR. P. L. PEMBERTON.

desire to travel, and the name of the firm was changed to P. L. Pemberton and Co., and Mr. E. P. Airlie Dry, an eminent collector, entered the concern as partner. Mr. Dry had accumulated a fine collection of Colonial stamps, especially strong in Ceylon and St. Vincent, and these treasures went to swell the already fine showing of Colonial varieties in Messrs. P. L. Pemberton and Co.'s stock-books. The firm, as a matter of fact, now transact a very extensive trade in Colonial stamps of all kinds, although formerly they made a speciality of the older Europeans.

Many readers of these notes will recall a most excellent and exhaustive priced list of British-Colonial stamps published by Messrs. P. L. Pemberton & Co. a twelvemonth ago. That list proved a most successful experiment, and is to be followed by another publication of a still more ambitious description, which should be published by the time the "Annual" is in its readers' hands. This new list, Messrs. Pemberton inform me, will not be given away, for it has involved a very great expenditure of time and trouble, but will be sold at the nominal price of threepence, post free. We imagine it will be cheap at that, for the little book will be, in all but name, a catalogue and guide to values of the stamps of the British Empire.

Now for a trip down to Northumberland Avenue to make a call upon Mr. M. Giwelb, one of the oldest and best known dealers in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Giwelb had extensive dealings with the late Duke of Leinster, the Earl of Kingston, Mr. T. K. Tapling, etc. At the present time he can boast of a great and varied clientele in all classes of society. A thing he prides himself upon is that his customers have rarely, if ever, lost money over the stamps they have bought of him, this being due



MR. M. GIWELB.

to the care with which he selects his specimens. Formerly Mr. Giwelb travelled a great deal in Europe and America, and everywhere he picked up knowledge and good stamps. As to the future of philately, Mr. G., having watched its rise almost from the beginning, is very confident of its further steady progress. He favours general collecting without giving attention to such trifling varieties as half a tooth of perforation, and he is confident that by buying stamps from responsible firms and selecting only good specimens, philately will afford pleasure and instruction for all times.

TAKING a short cut through the Charing Cross railway tunnel we come to Mr. Frank Moore's place in Villiers Street. Though quite one of the youngsters of the trade, Mr. Moore has built up a very solid and remunerative business. He caters extensively for the beginner in Philately, and, by dint of constant advertising in boys' and young men's papers, he has got

together a wide clientele of juniors. But he doesn't decline business in rarer stamps. Far from it. He would be as ready as any man to purchase a "Post Office" Mauritius or a circular Guiana, if the chance came his way.

Philatelist and Horticulturist. THE "Only Jones" (which his name is J. W.), is always, or nearly always, to be found at 444 Strand. Mr. Jones thinks there is luck in the figure "4," and is happy in the possession of premises numbered with a strip of three of his favourite numeral. By means of certain weird mathematical calculations he will prove to you that stamps bought at No. 444 are sure to bring good luck to the purchaser. People were puzzled when Mr. Jones, after his long service as Manager to Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, started in business as the Universal Philatelic Provider. But it was part of his programme, and still is one of his leading lines, to supply



Mr. J. W. JONES.

not only stamps but all the paraphernalia of philately. He claims to have a stamp mount that licks creation, and it may be said that no small section of creation licks his stamp mounts. The story goes that "J. W. J." is a veritable miser as regards rare stamps. He can't bear to part with a real good thing unless at his own good price; and they say that he has philatelic treasures locked away sufficient to pay the ransom, not merely of a King or an Emperor, but of an American multi-millionaire. Much as

Mr. Jones likes stamps, he loves his garden more. He has an orchid or two of his own special raising, including a fine orange variety which a frivolous friend has advised him to christen "Pennius Mauritius Postofficus."

**Auction Catalogues on
"Kruger" Paper.**

ONE has to descend a spiral staircase to find Mr. W. Hadlow, of Adam Street, Adelphia, one of the most popular and energetic stamp men in London. Both as an auctioneer and as a stamp dealer, Mr. Hadlow commands universal respect. He can sell as swiftly as any auctioneer in London—which is saying much—and as a dealer he is famous for his Queenlands and many other countries and colonies. It is not an easy matter to create a sensation nowadays, but Mr. Hadlow has succeeded in fluttering the philatelic dovescotes by a new departure in the preparation of his auction catalogues. These are being printed on stamp paper once belonging to the Boer Government at Pretoria, with the watermark "Z.A.R." Should any reader of the "Annual" be curious to see, or anxious to possess, a piece of this paper, we have little doubt that Mr Hadlow would send them a sample on application.

**The Glamour of
the Strand.**

AN always genial philatelist, Mr. A. Boucard has for some time past rented the fine offices previously occupied by the South African Stamp Company. But where S.A.S. Company failed Mr. Boucard has succeeded, and is now running a lively business, chiefly in Colonial stamps. A wonderfully compendious list of packets and sets recently issued shows



Mr. A. BOUCARD

what a fine range of varieties Mr. Boucard must possess. Philatelists with memories will recall this dealer's former establishments in Holborn and in Charing Cross Road. After leaving the latter thoroughfare he made an ineffectual attempt to settle down at home and conduct an exclusively postal business. But he fell a victim to that most prevalent complaint, Strandomania, and hence his installation at No. 368. Besides, being constantly at home in the suburbs bored him somewhat, for Mr. Boucard is nothing if not genial, and dearly loves a chat on stamps and matters stampic.

A Buyer of Big Bundles. IMMEDIATELY opposite Mr. Boucard we find Mr. F. C. Penney, who occupies a ground-floor office next door to Terry's Theatre. One hears less of Mr. Penney as a retail dealer than as a negotiator of large stocks, wholesale lots, and so on.

A Notice of Removal. IN one of the quaint old alleys off Chancery Lane—Chichester's Rents, to wit—in the very heart of the land of law stationers that Charles Dickens knew so well and described so vividly, we were wont to find Messrs. Kerr & Lanham, a firm of dealers transacting a steadily growing business in British, Colonial, and foreign stamps, with a special leaning towards the British. However, Chichester's Rents knows them no longer, the firm being now installed in more convenient premises at 16 Furnival Street, which is almost within a stone's throw of their ancient habitat. The buyer of rare or medium stamps will always find something to tempt him in Messrs. Kerr & Lanham's books.

A Run round the City. MESSRS. G. HAMILTON-SMITH & Co., of Bishopsgate Street Within, upon whom we make our first call in our run round the city, have three distinct claims to our attention. Firstly and foremostly, they are dealers of great experience and enterprise; secondly, they were the negotiators of one of the most sensational philatelic "deals" on record, viz., the sale by private tender of the Castle collection of European stamps; thirdly, they are the makers of the "Interchangeable Philatelic Albums," which have carried off many medals and diplomas at leading philatelic shows. Like many another of our leading firms of stamp dealers, Messrs. Hamilton-Smith are keen buyers, always on the look-out for a big collection to buy.

In another part of the ancient precinct of Bishopsgate—namely, at No. 65 Bishopsgate Street Without—a call must be made upon Messrs. Bridger & Kay, who hold a large and varied stock of most countries' stamps in well-arranged books. It is part of the policy of this firm not to stock new issues, and this, they contend, gives them a greater opportunity of dealing in the older stamps at more reasonable rates. The name

of Mr. A. B. Kay is, of course, well known in connection with Fiscal Philately, in the future of which he has very great faith. One can also view a fine range of "Entires" at No. 65 Bishopsgate Street Without, priced at about a third of the rates quoted in Gibbons' last catalogue of envelopes and postcards.

Mr. J. Louis, now of 43 and 45 New Broad Street, will be remembered as a dealer long established in the other Broad Street. Mr. Louis has rapidly won his way forward in his business by his energy and his fearless enterprise as a buyer of good collections. Several recent purchases, notably in fine Colonial stamps, have greatly enriched Mr. Louis's stock,



MR. J. LOUIS.

and he can now show an all-round selection of stamps that would be a revelation to the many collectors who have a curious belief that all the good philatelic things are to be found in the west end of the town.

In Leadenhall Street we find the William Stamp Company, now quite an old-established city firm, with a good business in stamps of all descriptions. In Fenchurch Street we must call upon the Universal Stamp Company (Mr. J. E. Leech), at No. 70, and upon Mr. Willy Jacoby, at No. 145. Mr. Jacoby has a fine lot of old Europeans, as well as British and Colonial stamps.

A young dealer who is rapidly making his mark in city stamp circles is Mr. Horace W. Beck, of 13 Cullum Street. Mr. Beck has energy and enthusiasm to help him, and is backed up by a sound knowledge of



MR. H. W. BECK.

stamps. Near at hand, in Gracechurch Street, we find another enterprising city firm, Messrs. Ley & Co. Mention must be made of the London Stamp Exchange, cosily quartered at No. 8 Broad Street Station, and of Messrs. Wallace Brothers, so long established at Finsbury Pavement, closely adjacent to Moorgate Street Station.

**Stamps for the
Shop Window.**

DOUBLING on our tracks in this somewhat complicated ramble through the city, we must next pay a visit to Messrs. Edwin Healey & Co., so long established at 7 Wormwood Street. Messrs. Healey long since decided to devote themselves mainly to British and Colonial stamps, and have published not only a British Empire Stamp Catalogue (at the low price of 6d), but also an album for British and Colonial stamps alone. In one branch of their business Messrs. Healey are unique, and that is in their supply of stamps on sheets for sale in newsagents' and stationers' shop windows. They have over 2,000 agents of this kind throughout the United Kingdom.

Cophthall Avenue is traditionally quite a stamp-dealing centre. Therein we shall find Messrs. Ross-Shiells, Mr. Palmer, Mr. Bannister, and Mr. Marchant. Passing hence to the northern end of the approach to London

Bridge, let us pause a moment in Crooked Lane (so called because it is almost mathematically straight) and look in upon Messrs. Bluett & Co., who for some months past have rejoiced in the possession of the "rarest stamp in the world." This is an Italian "uniquity" well worth going to Crooked Lane to see. But Messrs. Bluett & Co. have other attractions in the shape of well-filled stock books of all kinds of stamps, as well as albums and publications.

The City's Stamp Auctioneers. OLD JEWRY is chiefly known to philatelists as the address of the eminent auctioneering firm of Ventom, Bull & Cooper, to whom we owe the origination of the philatelic auction. Messrs. Ventom, Bull & Cooper are, of course, a very old-established firm of property auctioneers, and "stamps" represent only a small portion of their business. Some two hundred or more stamp auctions have now been held by the firm, and the venue for their sales has lately been shifted from the Hotel Cecil to the Temple Hotel, Arundel Street, Strand—a hostel situated quite close to the rooms of the Philatelic Society.

Messrs. John Edwards & Co., of Mansion House Chambers, Queen Victoria Street, E.C., are another and a younger firm of auctioneers who devote themselves almost exclusively to sales of stamps.

In Queen Street, Cheapside—at Nos. 1 and 2, to be precise—we shall find Messrs. John Boulton & Co., whose business is almost entirely wholesale—Messrs. Boulton, in fact, are accustomed to big deals, and are as ready to buy as to sell, especially if some one will kindly step into their offices with a large parcel of used British officials.

A call upon the City Stamp Company in the Poultry, a brief visit to Mr. F. G. Bepler in Cheapside (now among the oldest established of the city dealers), a stroll to the Broadway in Ludgate Hill to see Messrs. Muerscough & Co., and our review of the stamp trade in London proper is complete.

Publishers of the "A.B.C." Catalogue. We had almost forgotten MESSRS. BRIGHT & SON, of 164 Strand, who have attained a very strong position in the stamp trade, a fact that is not surprising when one comes to remember that they are situated directly underneath Dr. M'Laughlin's Electric Vigor. There is always a good display of stamps in Messrs. Bright's window attracting little knots of passers-by. Favourably situated as they are in the heart of London's busiest quarter, they are a firm who must have many opportunities of buying good stamps and fine old collections. The "King Edward" edition of Messrs. Bright's "A.B.C." catalogue has, we believe, beaten all its previous records as regards circulation.

The Monday Auctioneers.

IN Chancery Lane on our way to the Holburn district we must not forget to pay a visit to Messrs. Martin, Ray & Co., Philatelic Auctioneers, at No. 27, who have very recently moved into more capacious offices on the ground floor of Linsdale Chambers to accommodate the growing needs of a growing business. Auctioneers, by the way, find it a difficult matter to find dates for their sales without clashing with other firm's fixtures, but Messrs. Martin, Ray & Co. have adopted the excellent plan of selling on alternate Mondays. It is always Monday for "Martin-Ray," and—another excellent aid to the memory—throughout this season at any rate it is always the Monday after the "Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly" publishing day.



Mr. H. THOMSON,
of Messrs. Martin Ray & Co.



Mr. J. H. TELFER,
of Messrs. Plumridge & Co.

Messrs. Martin, Ray & Co. get a great deal of stuff to sell, medium to rare, and they claim to get a better average attendance of buyers than any firm in London.

Record for the Auction Season.

AT the offices of Messrs. Plumridge & Co., another auctioneering firm in the same historic thoroughfare, we find the popular and courteous Mr. J. H. Telfer, who has attained an enviable place in the esteem of the auction-going section of the philatelic public. Mr. Telfer is another very

rapid auction-seller, and lovers of statistics may like to know that during the 1902-03 auction season "Plumridge's" sold 4300 lots more than any other philatelic auctioneering firm in the United Kingdom.

On the south side of the river, at No. 4 Southwark Street, one may find Mr. J. J. Coates, who has been established for many years as an all-round dealer in postal, fiscal, and practically all sorts of stamps. Mr. Coates has experienced close on a quarter of a century of active stamp dealing, and can show an interesting and varied stock.

Philately in the Suburbs. BUT there is "Greater London" yet to be dealt with. Many well-known dealers transact large philatelic businesses by post from their private residences. One of the first of these to occur to

us is Mr. Walter Morley, of Brownhill Gardens, Catford, who has built up a big business in British stamps of all kinds, and in Fiscals and Telegraphs of all countries. By his catalogues and other publications, Mr.



MR. WALTER MORLEY.

Morley has done much to add to our knowledge of Fiscal and Telegraph stamps. He is himself an earnest and painstaking philatelist, and was formerly postmaster of a small town in Kent, in which position he had many opportunities of studying the curiosities and anomalies that help to make the stamps of our own country such a fascinating study.

The smartness and go-aheadness of Croydon is well personified in Mr. J. T. Bolton (of 5 Elmwood Road, in that bustling town), whose portrait comes next in our gallery of suburban dealers. Mr. Bolton knows as



MR. J. T. BOLTON.

much about stamps and their values as many men who are considerably older than himself. He has had his "finds," but also his misfortunes. Recently, he tells me, he paid £2 in hard cash for a stamp catalogued at 5s., having mistaken a common type for a scarce one. Quite recently Mr. Bolton has established a branch of his business in America—in Nassau Street, New York, which is the "Strand" of the Empire city, in a philatelic sense. He is therefore evidently a "retaliator" in politics, and is going to do a little "dumping" on American soil. There are two partners with Mr. Bolton in the stamp business—Mr. Hawksley, an old college chum, and Mr. Krebs, whom Mr. Bolton met on his recent trip to America. The partnership contract with Mr. Krebs was fixed up, signed, sealed, and delivered about three days after the meeting. It was "slick" business, such as a Croydon man likes.

Mr. L. S. Charlick, deserting his offices at 55-56 Chancery Lane, is now conducting his philatelic affairs at 26 Glenloch Road, Hampstead. Australians are one of Mr. Charlick's great specialities, which is not at all surprising, since he is an Adelaide man himself, and has many influential friends and connections "down under." But he is devoting still greater

attention to European stamps, which he considers have a greater claim to philatelic attention than modern British Colonists, in that they are practically all issued for postal purposes and not for the philatelic market.

Messrs. Gaedechens & Co., now located at 20 Meadow Place, Clapham, are a firm who have experienced over a quarter of a century's active stamp-dealing. Mr. Adolph Gaedechens, whose



MR. A. GAEDECHENS.

portrait we give, commenced his career in the Consular service, and it was his unique experience to represent three kingdoms in a consular capacity in the Australian Colonies. His position at that time gave Mr. Gaedechens exceptional opportunities to acquire the rarer stamps issued between 1853 and 1870. In 1881, when the subject of this notice had retired from his consular duties and settled as a stamp dealer in this country, he purchased the amazing Venezuelan error, which he not unworthily describes as the "King of Stamps." This stamp is certainly the most extraordinary instance of a philatelic error on record. It is at present on offer in Venezuela, the country of its issue, at the price of £1,200. As long ago as 1880 Messrs. Gaedechens held a stock of stamps valued by experts at £10,000 to £20,000; but owing to the constant stream of new issues, the firm gradually disposed of a great portion of its holdings, and at the present time Messrs. Gaedechens mainly confine themselves to dealings in British and Colonial stamps in packets, sets, etc.

Philately in the Provinces.

JOTTINGS FROM BIRMINGHAM, BRIGHTON, CLEVEDON, COLCHESTER, AND IPSWICH.

IT is a somewhat surprising fact that, while London counts its stamp shops and offices by the score, many large provincial towns and cities appear to be without a single representative of the stamp dealers' calling. There are certain country towns traditionally associated with Philately, such as Bath, Birmingham, Brighton, Bristol, Ipswich, etc., while there are many others that have never been prominent in connection with stamps. A few notes as to the present-day leaders of professional Philately in the provinces are appended.

Stamp-dealing in East Anglia. IPSWICH is a town that has been prominently associated with Philately for more than a generation past. To mention Ipswich to a philatelist is tantamount to mentioning Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., who began business as stamp dealers in 1869. The firm consists of



MR. C. WHITFIELD KING.

one man only—Mr. C. Whitfield King, who, since the death of Mr. Stafford Smith, of Brighton, can claim that his is the oldest philatelic business in this country still controlled by its founder. Mr. Whitfield

King's beginnings were small. He purchased a few shillings' worth of stamps, and advertised in the boys' papers while still in the employ of an Ipswich shipping firm. In 1876, however, he left the shipping office and devoted all his time and energies to stamps. The Ipswich business employs a large staff, and is conducted in what Mr. King believes are the largest premises in England exclusively devoted to stamps. But then, as he himself remarks, "building land in Ipswich is not so dear as that in the Strand!" The premises are the freehold property of the firm, and exactly opposite them in Lacey Street, Ipswich, stands Morpeth House, the private residence of Mr. C. Whitfield King.

The firm's business is so well known that it is almost superfluous to enter into details regarding it. There is a huge trade in stamps of all kinds for the beginner, as well as the medium and the advanced collector; and one specially notable thing regarding Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. is their wonderfully complete system of foreign and Colonial correspondents, which has given them exceptional facilities for the prompt importation of new issues.

Some few years ago, Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. commenced publication of a priced catalogue, listing only standard varieties of stamps. The "Universal Standard Catalogue" at once leapt into a position of great popularity, and four editions have been published with great success. The next, and fifth, edition will be published towards the end of 1904.

Another stamp-dealing business, located in East Anglia, at the quaint old town of Colchester, is that of the firm of Winch Brothers. A good many of the middle-aged philatelists of to-day can remember buying stamps from the approval sheets of Messrs. Winch when they were boys at school. The firm is one that transacts a steady all-round trade in British, Colonial, and foreign stamps.

**Notes from
Birmingham.**

THERE is no stamp dealer out of London who is better known than Mr. W. T. Wilson of Birmingham. As a "specialist in British, Colonial, European, and Mexican stamps," Mr. Wilson interests himself in a wide field, but one that he is well qualified to cover. On certain branches of Philately Mr. Wilson ranks as an expert, whose views are entitled to the highest respect.

As a dealer, Mr. Wilson has lately made a great feature of stamps used on original covers, and can supply a list of no less than 1,766 varieties in this condition. He is, as we need scarcely state, sole agent in this country for the "Scott" catalogue and other publications of the Scott Stamp and Corn Company of New York.

Messrs. Margoschis Brothers, of Constitution Hill, Birmingham, are well known as the publishers and proprietors of the *Stamp Collector*, which was adopted some years ago as the official organ of the Birmingham Philatelic Society. But many people are unaware that the firm of

Margoschis dates back to 1877. It is only during the past ten years that the business has been developed by advertising and other up-to-date



MR. JOHN A. MARGOSCHIS.

methods. Mr. John A. Margoschis, who edits the *Stamp Collector*, and takes an active part in the conduct of the firm's affairs, is a keen philatelist and most capable business man. Of a genial nature, he is well received wherever he goes. He has paid many visits to London and other leading stamp centres. During his seven years' editorship of the *Stamp Collector*, that journal has "swelled wisely," and is now a fat thing of 48 pages.

**Stamp Men of
Brighton.**

ONE of the oldest firms in the stamp trade is that still known as Messrs. Stafford Smith & Son, though Mr. H. Stafford Smith himself is lost to us. The business, from the time of its foundation in 1861, has always enjoyed the highest reputation as one of the most reliable and well-conducted in the whole of the stamp trade. The "Stafford Smith" albums have always enjoyed a great vogue, especially among that class of medium collectors who need a printed stamp album, but not an album of printed stamps.

Aside from actual stamp-dealing, the name of Stafford Smith & Co. will remain for ever famous as that of the publishers of those historic philatelic journals, the *Stamp Collectors' Magazine* (founded in 1863, when the firm was known as Stafford Smith & Smith), and *The Philatelist*, published monthly by Stafford Smith & Co. from 1867 to 1876.

A Brighton dealer who transacts a large and growing business, both in the wholesale and retail departments, is Mr. W. Lacey, of 65A London Road. Although the bulk of his trade is transacted by post, Mr. Lacey is always most pleased to see any collector or dealer who visits Brighton. He can show a large range of stamps worth seeing.

Another dealer whom we should always make a point of visiting when at Brighton is Mr. G. C. Stephens, of 60 Preston Street. His business is chiefly retail, and his stock is large and varied. Like many another dealer, Mr. Stephens is sufficiently interested in the hobby to be a collector as well. He has a fine collection of some 20,000 varieties, to which he is constantly adding. In Mr. Stephens' experience, the demand now is chiefly for Colonial stamps. He finds a fair trade, too, in postcards, despite the falling off in the collection of "entires."

We must gratefully acknowledge the sympathy and assistance of Mr. Stephens and other public-spirited philatelists at Brighton in our attempts to put a stop to the stamp fallacy so rampant in the southern watering-place.

A STAMP and publishing business of twenty years' standing is that of Messrs. Butler Bros., of Clevedon. About four years ago, owing to the necessity for greater office and warehouse accommodation, Messrs. Butler built themselves new premises in the best



MR. A. E. H. BUTLER.



MR. G. C. BUTLER.

par of Clevedon—a fine detached building, the whole of which is used exclusively for the business of the firm, with the exception of a portion reserved for the residence of the firm's head clerk.

To mention the name of Butler Bros. is to call to mind the "Excelsior" Stamp Albums, which have now run through about forty editions. The 1904 editions of these excellent books are now in the *press*. The "Excelsior" stamp mounts are another speciality of the firm. These they sell in millions. "Our mounts," write Messrs. Butler, in the course of a recent letter, "are especially appreciated in the United States, owing to their excellent peeling properties; and from there we have, on several occasions, received orders for five and even ten millions at a time!"

Only adhesive stamps are to be obtained from Messrs. Butler Bros. Postcards, envelopes, etc., are not in their line, nor do they touch reprints or locals. The business is purely a postal one, for though both Mr. A. E. H. Butler and his brother, Mr. G. C. Butler, would like to be able to welcome callers at Clevedon, they declare that they are generally "too busy" to do so.

A very fine 72 pp. list of Messrs. Butler Bros. lies before us as we write, listing packets, sets, publications, etc.



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I am also a buyer of anything fine in British Colonials. **Old issues preferred**. Also fine specialised collections, or a good general collection. Single rarities purchased.

I will pay the highest price for Stamps of quality.

Vendors sending Stamps to me will kindly state the amount they require for them.

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6^d. Published on the 22nd of the month, 6^d.
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E. J. Nankivell,

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The Collecting of Postcards.

By the Author of "All About Postcards," &c.

I HAVE been asked many times recently to give a reason why the POST-CARD (or postal-card to speak correctly) is somewhat a despised quantity; and why the collectors of them are not more numerous than they are in comparison with the collectors of those interesting inches known as postage stamps, who are literally as plentiful as blackberries in autumn.

My reply to this duplex query has almost invariably been—*Because they are so little understood!* Now, to use the oft-quoted adage, "coming events cast their shadows before," signs are not wanting to show that there is a growing interest in the collection and study of postcards. As an optimist, and as one who poses as an apostle of the postcard, I firmly believe we are on the eve of something in the nature of a boom in their popularity.

I purpose, therefore, in the space at my disposal to endeavour to put before the readers of this "Annual" the many points not generally known *in favour of* postcard collecting. Fortunately there are but few reasons that can be given *against*.

If, therefore, my readers will forgive the frequent but unavoidable recurrence of the letter "I," I think I shall be able, without the help of the persuasive powers of my "Rt. Hon." friend, the ex-Colonial Secretary, to convince collectors of all types that there is much more in postcards that is both interesting and instructive than they thought.

The Editor has asked me to confine my remarks to "British and Colonial," this I am pleased to do, as these issues will form an excellent object lesson:—

The POSTCARD cannot claim precedence over the postage stamp, there being a margin of thirty years' seniority in favour of the adhesive.

The first card issued for general use was made of thin buff-coloured cardboard—not unlike the modern "thin" card—with a Greek pattern border, the words POSTCARD appearing in centre over the "Arms," the well-known Queen's Head stamp with the word halfpenny appearing on the right, facing to left. The size of the card was $4\frac{3}{4}$ by $3\frac{1}{2}$ in., or 121 by 88 millimetres in the French scale. The colour of both inscription and stamp was in violet.

Those who possess, or have seen any of those cards, and also for the sake of comparison, the cards of 1883-1889 and up to 1899 will notice little in the way of change beyond alterations in the inscriptions, the ornamentation around the head of stamp, and on three occasions a change in the colour of ink and cardboard. What may be called the standard design has remained the same throughout. True, the border has been dispensed with; the

Royal Arms have been omitted from several issues, evidently being considered unnecessary; and the size and quality of cardboard has been changed, but the fact remains a characteristic sameness in the design has been adhered to to the present day. Having seen one of the issues, we may safely say we have seen them all in point of style.

There are some interesting anecdotes told of the use and abuse—for want of common sense mostly in the latter case—some of the earlier issues were put to. One is, that when the word "To" was omitted from the address side of the card, it was said to be due to the fact that in spite of the instructions given just above many correspondents had made use of the word as the introductory syllable of the message they wished to write, *e.g.*:—*To my Dear Mrs—I write these few lines, &c.* Then having filled the address side they turned over the card and continued their endearments or otherwise. After both sides were filled, or nearly so, the writer remembered the address must be added somewhere, with the result that the appearance of the card was unique to say the least. In the case of the card I have before me, the address has been added partly written across the written message and part across the stamp and inscription. I have said in my little book, "All about Postcards," that the late Mr. Gladstone was once heard to declare that the invention of the postcard prolonged his life. He was a great believer in the utility and handiness of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. postcard of the time—the small 1883 type $\frac{1}{2}$ d. brown on buff. Many of these bearing his autograph have been seen, and will be looked upon as treasures by their fortunate possessors.

Some of the early Colonial postcards are quite curiosities, and form in themselves a very interesting study. The first issue of Barbados, 1881, was a simple white card, $3\frac{1}{2}$ by 5, with the name and instructions in black ordinary type slightly to the left. From an artistic standpoint we must not speak of it, the style and finish are so crude, the adhesive stamp having to be affixed by the public. The first issue of Bermuda was somewhat similar, but an attempt was made in this case to adorn the address side with the Arms of the post office, a crown in oval. That one time British Possession, Heligoland, issued postcards as early as 1873, the style of which was very plain, the inscription reading Heligoland Postcard, in both English and German, the Royal Arms appearing in the centre somewhat enlarged. The most striking feature with these cards, however, was the colour, variously described as yellow-brown, brown, red-brown, glazed-buff, &c., any one of which might fit in to suit the not over particular individual.

The cards of the Native Feudatory States of India deserve almost a page to themselves, being for the most part the work of native craftsmen in the designing, printing, and the making of the material, which cannot in all cases be classed as cardboard. They are, in fact, "real natives," and form an interesting collection, the only one out of the 14 States to cultivate

any approach to Western style being Sirmoor, the Rajah of which had his portrait included in the design. The Sirmoor cards were produced entirely in England.

The first issues of both Jamaica and Mauritius are of unusual interest. The card which formed Jamaica's first effort (1877) had, in addition to the arms, formula, and border in rough blue printing, an impression in right upper corner of a circular hand stamp in red, with the wording, "Jamaica, 1877, Paid Halfpenny." This issue was, of course, for purely local postage. It is the stamp that is the most noticeable feature, as it differs entirely from any other hitherto brought into use, not being an adhesive or of the embossed variety, but merely a hand impression.

The first attempt of Mauritius in 1879 was a little more artistic though in black. A lithographed design, including the arms and monogram, "Stella Elairs que maris Indici," on a scroll, the whole surmounted with a crown. This issue also had to have an adhesive 2c. stamp affixed. In the same year Trinidad, another of our older Colonies, brought out a postcard also of the type set variety, an attempt at ornamentation being made by the introduction of a chain border, a not ineffective style.

Tasmania, as a first effort, permitted the use, in 1880, of a card, the entire work of a private individual named Walch. This was type set, with an inscription, which read, "Walch's Tasmanian Postcard," and printed in rose-coloured ink on a white card. In this case also adhesive had to be used—1d. for town postage, 2d. for Inland. This is the same as the letter postage was at the time, and this innovation of a privately produced postcard was looked upon, as no doubt it was so intended, as a hint to the Government to accede to the public demand for a postcard at a popular price.

Since the introduction of the postcard by the mother country on behalf and for the use of the Colonies, there has been three distinct changes in the style of the postcards put into circulation (in the British Isles this is not the case as stated earlier in this article). We might divide and class them as decades each of a nominal 10 years duration, the third and last of which we are just entering, signalled by the introduction of the King Edward VII. portrait in the design of the stamp, and now in use in Bahames, British Honduras, Canada, Cape of Good Hope, Cyprus, Gambia, Grenada, Hong Kong, Jamaica, Malta, Natal, Orange River Colony, St. Vincent Straits Settlements, Transvaal, Trinidad, &c. Other Colonies will introduce similar cards when present stocks are exhausted. Anent this particular Colonial series, *i.e.*, the Fuchs type of stamp, it is rumoured that both the adhesives and postcards may be shortly withdrawn in favour of a more artistic issue, the reasons given being that they are not worthy of this great Empire.

The first decade can be taken as from the issue of the first card by the older Colonies, up to and including the year 1881, when the well-known

De-la-Rue type of postcards—as in adhesive—inaugurated the second decade. The prevailing type of this series is characterised by the stamp having a laureated and filleted head, looking to left of the late Queen, in an inner circle on a groundwork of colour, the name of colony above and value below the head. These are now for the most part obsolete.

Though the greater portion of our Colonies favour the portrait type of stamp for postcards, a few there are that have adopted an emblematic or scenic design. Among the earliest of this class of card was that of British Guiana, with the well-known "ship" design, and others that will occur to the reader are British Central Africa, British East Africa, Rhodesia, Mauritius, New South Wales, British North Borneo, Perak, and Western Australia. In many cases these pictorial and scenic cards rank as productions of great artistic merit.

My object in giving somewhat more fully than might appear necessary a selection of what are the most interesting of our Colonial emissions, has been to show that there is, not only in the stamp, but in the cards themselves, much to interest one.

One of the oldest and most general reasons for NOT collecting postcards has been that they were considered too cumbersome and weighty. We must admit that given quantity for quantity they take up more room than adhesives, but there is one fact in their favour that seems to be overlooked when this matter is discussed, and that is whilst adhesive cannot be kept in order without the aid of an album, postcards are, in reality, self-supporting; an album for their retention is not an absolute necessity. They can be kept readily and neatly on their edges or flat in almost any ordinary cardboard box, and can be taken out to examine postmarks, dates, &c., at will. A second reason has been often urged against them, that their appearance, as a whole, was considered to be not so artistic as adhesive. My reply to this is to ask any reader who takes this view to look at the cards of Newfoundland, British Central Africa, Rhodesia, North Borneo, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Hawaii Guatemala, and the whole of the central American States. I venture to assert that before the reader has seen half of these, he will have seen some of the finest specimens of the engraver's art extant.

In conclusion I will take a few of the main points, and reply to them in *Q and A* form:—

Q. Are postcards easy to procure?

A. Yes, for the most part and with few exceptions most countries can be completed at a very small cost, as only a limited number of varieties are actually needed for full and adequate postal purposes.

Q. Do postcards offer a sufficient scope to the student of minor varieties?

A. Yes; there are varieties of perforation (in the reply cards), watermarks, shades, types, errors in setting, colours of cardboard, surcharged, &c.

- Q. Are facilities for the disposal of duplicates and the acquisition of new issues good?
- A. Yes; there are some well conducted Exchange Clubs for collectors only, supervised and managed by *bona fide* collectors, monthly circuits and settlements.
- Q. As an investment, are postcards considered good security?
- A. Yes, undoubtedly; a perusal of Gibbons' (Part IV.), Sengs', Scott's, or any catalogue of entires of repute will prove this, values being well maintained.

To questions like these may be added a few other facts. To the student of obliterations and postmark dates they offer the very best opportunities for study, it is nearly always possible to trace by this means the route taken and the time occupied in transit from the sender to the receiver, only possible to the collector of postcards and entires.

Much interesting data and other facts anent the various postal systems, curiosities of addressing, language, &c., can be gathered by the collector of postcards in the used condition.

As a field for the specialist to pick where he wishes, and collect only cards of a class, the opportunities are ample. Enough has been said, however, in this short article to interest the reader sufficiently, and I trust to prove that the collecting of postcards will be found quite as engrossing and worthy of the attention of the earnest collector.

W. J. SCOTT.



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What is this "Cistafle?" It isn't a book. That fact Messrs. Lawn & Barlow are careful to point out in the blackest of black type. And it isn't a house or a cow or a balloon. It will save time if we quit saying what it isn't and tell readers of the "Annual" what it is. The "Cistafle," then, is a dust-proof cabinet or series of cabinets; each cabinet contains a tray, and each tray contains a matter of 500 cards, and each card is intended to accommodate only one variety of stamp—either in the form of a single stamp, a pair, or a block of four or six, according to the philatelist's individual fancy.

To many people acquainted with the newest office devices, it will be sufficient to say that the "Cistafle" trays and cabinets are worked on a similar principle to the Wernicke system of filed cards, and that the whole plan of the "Cistafle" is much akin to the Wernicke "elastic bookcase," since one goes on adding more cabinets as one's collection grows in bulk.

The good points about the "Cistafle" are many—far too many to be enumerated here. The thing should be seen, and we advise all philatelists within reach of London to go to 99 Regent Street and see it. Those at a distance should drop a post-card to Messrs. Lawn & Barlow, who will be happy to send an illustrated prospectus to any reader of the "Stamp Collectors' Annual." One special feature, however, must be mentioned. The "Cistafle" is, really and truly, a *permanent* abiding place for one's philatelic treasures. Only one variety of stamp is placed on each card, which, by the way, bears on its back spaces for the insertion of such details as the date of issue, the watermark, perforation, where purchased, at what price, and so on. And owing to the ingenious system of filing, the whole, or any part of one's collection, is removeable or interchangeable at will.

The whole thing offers a marvellously "get-at-able" and convenient method of keeping a stamp collection in a clean and orderly manner, and, as the prospectus states, no matter what the size of one's collection, the "Cistafile" exactly fits it

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As to whether this new contrivance will entirely supersede the ordinary stamp album we offer no opinion. That is Messrs. Lawn & Barlow's prophecy. We are given to understand, however, that orders for the "Cistafile" are coming in faster than they can be executed.

This new departure on the part of Messrs. Lawn & Barlow is being "pushed along" with characteristic vigour. The firm is a young one as years go, but is old in experience and in knowledge of philately. Indeed, Mr. G. W. Lawn was "six years with Stanley Gibbons, Limited," before establishing himself, in partnership with Mr. Barlow, at 99 Regent Street. He could scarcely have gone to a better school of philately than that.



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The Experiences of a Philatelic Lecturer.

BY FRED J. MELVILLE.

I BEGAN to lecture on postal and philatelic matters in 1899—at the same time as the Junior Philatelic Society started. Lantern lecturing, in fact, was our first means of arousing local enthusiasm in stamp collecting. I am a strong believer in popularising our hobby, and in all the lectures I



MR. FRED J. MELVILLE.

have given I have never touched upon scientific points if it has been possible to avoid them.

A few anecdotes and some interesting information about the stamps and the designs go a long way towards giving people an intelligent interest in

stamps, which should, under proper treatment, inspire a fair proportion of the audience to begin a stamp album on their own.

I may say that the lectures I give are never organised by myself. The agents secure the dates and make all arrangements. On the night of the lecture I simply turn up with my box of slides, give my lecture, get my slides back, and go. I do not always get away easily afterwards, however, for the committee room is sometimes very full of inquirers.

A gentleman once came in to tell me he had a blue Mauritius like the specimens of the "Post Office" that I had shown. He explained that it had a big corner cut off. On my inquiring, however, whether it had not the words Post Paid on it, he remembered that it had, and his dream of a thousand pound stamp vanished into thin air, as the novelists say.

We get a good many queer folks into the committee room.

Once, after I had been lecturing on the post office, a tipsy lady of some fifty to sixty summers came to ask me if I knew of a young friend of hers who was in some department of the post office in London or somewhere. She insisted on giving me full particulars of the lad, and was sure I would know him if I only thought long enough over the matter. The London train was due to start very soon, however, and it would not stop for me, so at last I had to sneak away under false pretences.

Some people bring me reprints and forgeries for examination. Others ask me to pronounce upon the genuineness of the obliterated-to-order Labuans and such "gumpaps." Frequently I have been asked why I didn't refer to such and such an issue, as though it were my duty to deal with every stamp under the sun in the space of an hour.

I must, however, acknowledge the general appreciativeness and keen attention of the audiences I have, so far, had the pleasure to meet.



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I am a purchaser of one or two medium collections between £50 and £150 for cash.

J. T. BOLTON,
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Philatelic Societies and Exchange Clubs.

A DIRECTORY AND GUIDE.

The following lists of Philatelic Societies and Exchange Clubs may not be absolutely COMPLETE, but every effort has been made to ensure ACCURACY OF DETAIL. The Editor of the "Annual" invites additions to the list for the next edition of the work, and also all necessary revisions and emendations of the particulars already provided.

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON. — Headquarters, Effingham House, Arundel Street, Strand.

Admittedly the premier society of the United Kingdom. Has striven consistently to foster and uphold all that is best in the philatelic hobby, and has enriched its literature with many important works. Below appears a programme of meetings for 1904:—

- | | | |
|-----------|------------------------|---|
| Jan. 8. | Mr. L. L. R. Hausburg | - A Display of the Stamps of South Australia, with Notes. |
| Jan. 22. | Mr. B. D. Knox | - A Paper entitled "Philatelic Reminiscences of the Early Sixties," with Display of Untouched Collections of that period. |
| Feb. 5. | Mr. Gordon Smith | - Notes on the Correct Treatment of Perforations. |
| Feb. 19. | Mr. R. B. Yardley | - Notes on the Stamps of the First Republic of the Transvaal, in connection with the Reference List for "Africa," Part III., with Display of Dated Specimens. |
| | Mr. E. J. Nankivell | - Paper on the Waterlow Series of New Zealand Stamps, with Display. |
| Mar. 4. | Mr. W. Dorning Beckton | Display of the Stamps of Modena, with Notes. |
| Mar. 18. | Mr. Douglas Ellis | - Display of Japanese Post-cards. |
| | Mr. R. Ehrenbach | - Discussion, "Is Collecting with the Aid of the Present Catalogues and Albums becoming too Difficult for Beginners?" |
| April 15. | Mr. T. W. Hall | - Paper on the Early Issues of the Stamps of Uruguay, with Display. |
| April 29. | Mr. L. L. R. Hausburg | - Display of the Stamps of Victoria, with Notes and Lantern Enlargements. |
| May 13. | Mr. H. R. Oldfield | - Paper and Display. |
| May 27. | Mr. T. Wickham Jones | - Paper on the Stamps of Sicily, with Display. |
| June 10. | | Annual General Meeting. |

BATH AND WEST OF ENGLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY.—A newly-formed society, of which particulars will be supplied by the Secretary, Charles J. Preater, Monmouth Place, Bath.

BIRMINGHAM PHILATELIC SOCIETY.—Honorary President, W. B. Avery, Esq.; President, R. Hollick, Esq.; Vice-Presidents, T. W. Peck, Esq., W. Pimm, Esq.; Committee, Mr. T. P. Deakin, Mr. H.

Grindall, Mr. C. A. Stephenson, Mr. W. F. Wadams; Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. G. Johnson, B.A., 208 Birchfield Road, Birmingham.

The Birmingham Society stands out as one of the most virile of the world's philatelic organisations. Its present membership roll contains 318 names, and the number steadily increases year by year. Frequent meetings are held, and occasionally an auction sale. Fine collections of stamps, both genuine and forged, and of philatelic literature have been formed, and these are the property of the Society as a whole. The subscription is 5s. per annum. The *Exchange Section* of the Birmingham Society is well managed and widely supported.

BRADFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY.—No details received.

BRISTOL AND CLIFTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.—Founded, February 20, 1897, with Mr. P. J. Lloyd as President, a position he still holds. The Hon. Secretary and Treasurer is Mr. H. Alsop, of Archfield Road, Cotham Park, Bristol.

Monthly meetings are held from October to May (inclusive) for discussion and displays of Stamps, and are well attended by the local members. The subscription is very small—2s. 6d. a year, including a free subscription to the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly*, which is the official organ.

ENTERPRISE PHILATELIC SOCIETY.—President, F. W. Lake, Esq.; Vice-President, E. A. Klaber; Hon. Librarian, H. P. Harper; Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, A. H. Harris; Committee, Messrs. Harper, Harris, Klaber, Lake, Simons and Tewson. Rules and full particulars from A. H. Harris, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, The Library, Buckhurst Hill.

FISCAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY.—Honorary Members, His Honour Judge Philbrick, K.C., Dr. A. Legrand, J. B. Moens; President, W. Schwabacher; Hon. Vice-Presidents, H. Kohler, M. Langlois, A. E. Lawrence and A. P. Pearce; Vice-Presidents, W. Morley and E. H. Selway; Committee, B. F. J. Cooper, T. P. Dorman, O. Marsh, A. M. South, H. Thompson and D. Thomson; Librarian, L. W. Fulcher, B.Sc.; Secretary, Treasurer and Exchange Superintendent, A. B. Kay, 2 Haarlem Mansions, West Kensington, London, W.

The Society's objects are:—(a) To encourage and advance the study of Fiscals and Revenue Stamps of all Countries; (b) To compile Catalogues of Fiscals; (c) To draw together all interested in these stamps; (d) To form a Library for the use of Members; (e) To facilitate the exchange of duplicates among Members; (f) To appoint corresponding Members and Societies in various Countries for the exchange and circulation of information respecting Revenue Stamps. The subscription is 5s. per annum, payable in advance. Meetings are held on the Thursday of each month at 65 Bishopsgate Street Without, London, E.C.

HERTS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.—Honorary President, H. Jennings-White; Honorary Vice-President, Herbert R. Oldfield; Vice-Presidents, W. B. Avery, M. P. Castle, J.P., Robert Ehrenbach, and Gordon Smith, M.A.; Committee, Louis E. Bradbury, W. G. Cool, R. Frenzel, Franz Reichenheim, W. Schwabacher, J. C. Sidebotham, W. Simpson, and C. R. Sutherland; Honorary Librarian, George Haynes; Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, H. A. Slade, Ingleside, St. Albans.

The Herts Society is practically a Metropolitan Society, a large proportion of its members being Londoners. Meetings are held monthly at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, E.C. The annual subscription is 5s. per annum, payable on or before the 31st of October in each year. There is an excellent *Exchange Section*.

IMPERIAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY.—No details received. Hon. Secretary, W. T. Hughes, 10 Victoria Road, Gale, Manchester.

INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIC UNION.—Honorary President, His Honour Judge Philbrick, K.C.; Honorary Vice-Presidents, Vernon Roberts and S. C. Skipton; President, H. R. Oldfield; Vice-Presidents, W. Dorning Beckton, H. L. Hayman, and W. Schwabacher; Committee, C. N. Biggs, L. W. Fulcher, W. Hadlow, J. E. Joselin, A. B. Kay, W. S. King, Major Laffan, R.E., Dr. Marx, M.A., P. L. Pemberton, F. Reichenheim, W. Schwarte, J. C. Sidebotham, and H. Thompson; Hon. Exchange Superintendent, Dr. E. F. Marx; Hon. Librarian, W. S. King; Hon. Counterfeit Detector, W. Hadlow; Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, T. H. Hinton, 5 Paultons Square, Chelsea, S.W.

A very old-established and popular Philatelic Society. One of the pioneers of the Exchange Packet system. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday in each month at Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand, W.C., throughout the season. Entrance fee, 2s. 6d.; subscription, 5s. per annum.

JUNIOR PHILATELIC SOCIETY.—President, Fred. J. Melville, Esq.; Vice-Presidents, William Darwen, Esq., Bertram W. H. Poole, Esq.; Committee, Messrs. Jas. Fenney, Crosby Blumsum, C. B. James, C. J. Patman, A. M'Callum, W. A. Bois, R. Halliday, and C. E. Claydon; Hon. Librarian, Mr. Wm. Fahy; Hon. Counterfeit Detector, Mr. Charles Nissen; Hon. Secretary and Exchange Superintendent, Mr. H. F. Johnson, 9 Lorne Terrace, South Lambeth Road, S.W.

A popular Society for beginners and young Philatelists generally. Weekly meetings are held on Saturday evenings at the Wheatsheaf Institute, 67 South Lambeth Road, London, S.W. Visitors are welcomed, and may obtain tickets of admission on application to the Hon. Secretary. There is an *Exchange Club Section* conducted on very sensible and satisfactory lines.

LEEDS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.—No details received.

LIVERPOOL PHILATELIC SOCIETY.—No details received. Hon. Secretary, W. Halfpenny, 28 Dacy Road, Liverpool.

MANCHESTER PHILATELIC SOCIETY.—President, W. Dorning Beckton; Vice-Presidents, J. H. Abbott and W. Grunewald; Hon. Treasurer, C. H. Coote, Holmefield, Sale; Hon. Librarian, G. L. Campbell, jun.; Committee, G. B. Duerst, W. W. Munn, Rev. L. F. Ward; Hon. Secretary, G. Fred H. Gibson, Fairfield, Crumpsall, Manchester; Assistant Hon. Secretary, J. S. Gee.

The Manchester is one of our leading provincial Philatelic Societies. The meetings are held at the Grand Hotel, Manchester, every Friday evening, at seven o'clock. An excellent *Exchange Section* is conducted by the Society's comptroller, Mr. W. Grunewald, Kirklees, Didsbury, Manchester.

PAISLEY PHILATELIC SOCIETY.—Primarily an Exchange Club, but meetings are held at Yeilder's Café, The Cross, Paisley. Subscription, 2s. 6d. per annum. Secretary, Robert M. Mure, 15 Clarence Street, Paisley.

PLYMOUTH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.—Founded 1890. President, R. Tyelt Stevens, Esq.; Vice-President, C. H. Dymond, Esq.; Librarian, H. Scott Tucker, Esq.; Committee, B. J. Boyes-Fowler, Esq., F. A. Cochs, Esq., R.N., W. A. W. Walker, Esq.; Hon. Secretary, Major D. A. Hailes, R.M.L.I., Royal Marine Barracks, Plymouth.

The Plymouth Society has a present membership of 70. Meetings are held every other Wednesday from October to April, at Traders' Hall, Bedford Street. There is an *Exchange Section*, of which Dr. C. E. Russell Rendle is Hon. Secretary.

POST-MARK SOCIETY.—For collectors and students of post-marks. Subscription, 2s. per annum. Secretary, Thomas Whitworth, Waterloo, Liverpool.

SCOTTISH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.—President, Mr. John Walker; Vice-President, Mr. Andrew Henderson; Committee, Mr. James Baxter, Mr. William Bonnar, Mr. Robert Kerr, Mr. Robert Stewart, S.S.C.; the Hon. President, Vice-President, and Secretary, *Ex-officiis*; Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. T. A. M'Intyre, 43 Nile Grove, Edinburgh.

The "Scottish" is the leading society of the North. The annual subscription is 5s. for ordinary members, and 2s. 6d. for corresponding members. Meetings are held, 12 York Buildings, Edinburgh.

The *Exchange Branch* of the Society is managed by the Hon. Secretary, Mr. T. A. M'Intyre.

SHEFFIELD PHILATELIC SOCIETY.—No details received.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS AND SOUTH EASTERN COUNTIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY.—No details received. Hon. Secretary, Frederick Wicks, 74 St. James' Road, Tunbridge Wells.

WARRINGTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.—(Established 1895). President, J. P. Reynolds, Esq.; Hon. Sec., Herbert Woods, Moore, Warrington.

Exchange Clubs.

Note: In addition to the Clubs mentioned below, the majority of the Philatelic Societies have Exchange Sections. See list of "Societies" above.

BEGINNER'S STAMP EXCHANGE CLUB.—Secretary, Miss Florence E. Smith (member S.E.P.S.), Winfrith, The Crescent, Bradford.

BLACKPOOL STAMP EXCHANGE.—Number of members limited to 25. Secretary, W. Warburton, 53 Waterloo Road, Blackpool.

BLACKHEATH STAMP EXCHANGE CLUB.—Subscription, 6d. per annum; entrance fee, 1s. Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, F. C. Henderson, Eton Grove, Lewisham, S.E.

BLANKSHIRE "SWAP" SOCIETY.—A Club for *exchange* only. Subscription (dating from day of entrance), 1s.; entrance fee, 1s. 6d. No commission. Hon. Secretary, F. C. Henderson, Eton Grove, Lewisham, S.E.

BRITISH EMPIRE EXCHANGE.—Established October, 1899. The annual results have been as follows :

October, 1899, to July, 1900, £489 16s. 9d. sent in ; £62 4s. sold.

September, 1900, to July, 1901, £910 5s. 8d. sent in ; £77 2s. 11d. sold.

September, 1901, to August, 1902, £1147 1s. 5d. sent in ; £115 18s. 7½d. sold.

September, 1902, to June, 1903, £965 18s. 8d. sent in ; £148 12s. 8d. sold.

These figures are all nett.

A few members can be admitted who can furnish first-class references, are of full age (over 21), and are willing to pay promptly for any purchases made. Secretary, H. Bean, 164 Loughborough Park, London, S.W.

"CALEDONIA" STAMP EXCHANGE CLUB.—Established 1900. Membership over 60. One or two packets monthly, according to the number of sheets sent in. The last packet returned from circuit contained stamps to the value of £165 18s. 7d., out of which stamp value £17 13s. 5d. were sold. As the Club is still growing, it is expected the value of the packets will increase during the coming winter. Secretary, John Johnston, Moss-side, New Deer, Aberdeenshire.

CÆSAREA STAMP EXCHANGE.—Annual subscription, 1s. ; no commission. Secretary, Ralph Mollet, 16 Royal Crescent, Jersey.

CHELSEA "ENTIRES" EXCHANGE, open to collector's only, for distributing among its members officially-issued Postcards and Envelopes in an "entire" condition with impressed Postage Stamps. A few Telegraph Forms and *used* original covers with adhesives, if of special interest, may be sent from time to time. First-class references required with application for membership to the Manager, B. W. Warhurst, 15 Paultons Square, Chelsea, S.W.

CITY STAMP EXCHANGE CLUB.—Secretary, S. F. Bickers, 7 Richmond Terrace, Cork.

CLIFTON STAMP EXCHANGE CLUB.—Founded March, 1892. The Club can boast of never having made a bad debt or lost a sheet or packet. At present has about 30 active members. The annual subscription is 2s. 6d., and there is no commission on sales. Secretary, J. H. Reynalds, 17 Cranbrook Road, Redland, Bristol.

EXCELSIOR FISCAL, TELEGRAPH, AND RAILWAY LETTER EXCHANGE (The only Exchange devoted to these Sections).—Founded 1899. Present membership, 25. Nett prices. Yearly subscription, 1s., and 5% commission on stamps sold. Secretary, M. Heslop, S.E.P.S., Windmill House, Stocking Pelham, Buntingford, Herts.

EXCELSIOR STAMP EXCHANGE.—Founded 1896. Present Membership, 47. Monthly packets average £250 gross. Yearly subscription, 1s., and 5% commission on sales. Secretary, M. Heslop, S.E.P.S., Windmill House, Stocking Pelham, Buntingford, Herts.

EXOMA STAMP EXCHANGE.—Subscription, 6d. per annum. Secretary, C. House, Merton Villa, Princes Square, St. Thomas, Exeter.

FEDERAL STAMP EXCHANGE SOCIETY.—A newly-formed Exchange club, starting with 20 members. The annual subscription is 1s., and there is a commission of 10% on sales.

This new club appears to be starting under most promising conditions, and Mr. J. C. Long, the Secretary, is sparing no effort to make it a success. Stamps are to be priced at *net* figures. Members are offered the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly*, the official organ, at the specially low subscription of 2s. per annum. Further particulars may be obtained on application to the Secretary, Mr. J. C. Long, 7 Salcott Road, Clapham Junction, London, S.W.

FISCAL STAMP EXCHANGE SOCIETY.—New members are welcomed, either as sellers or buyers, and any having fiscals for disposal or desirous of taking up fiscalism should write for rules and information to the Hon. Secretary, A. B. Kay, 2 Haarlem Mansions, West Kensington, London, W.

"GREATER BRITAIN" STAMP EXCHANGE.—Founded 1895. Circulates only the stamps of the British Empire and the United States. Subscription, 1s. 6d. per annum, and commission of 5% on sales. Secretary, W. S. Webb, Walpole, Halesworth.

HAMPSHIRE STAMP EXCHANGE.—No subscription. A few vacancies for members. Secretary, Arthur Toole, North Road, Southampton.

HOME COUNTIES STAMP EXCHANGE.—Secretary, E. Rondel, Greve Dazette, St. Clements, Jersey.

LADIES' STAMP EXCHANGE.—Open both to ladies and gentlemen. Limited to 30 members. Secretary, Miss Haynes, Westwood House, Wood Lane, Shepherd's Bush, W.

LEICESTER STAMP EXCHANGE.—Third year. Secretary, P. Sansome, Tennyson Street, Leicester.

NORTHERN STAMP EXCHANGE SOCIETY.—Established 1893.

This well-known and highly successful club has just entered upon its 11th year of existence, and maintains its position as one of the leading Exchange clubs of the United Kingdom. Three packets are made up every month, Section 1 being for British and Colonial stamps only; Section 2 for the stamps of all countries (advanced); and Section 3 a general packet for medium collectors and beginners. The average value of the monthly packets is about £2,000, and the sales total to between £300 and £400 per month. There is room for a few new members who can furnish undoubted references. Rules and all other information may be had post free from the Secretary, F. A. Wickhart, "Avonmore," 30 Highbury New Park, London, N. The *Fortnightly* is now the official organ of the "Northern Exchange."

"ONE AND ALL" STAMP EXCHANGE SOCIETY.—Secretary, J. G. J. Stevens, Stanley House, Redruth.

OTTERDALE STAMP EXCHANGE CLUB.—Established 1898.

One of the recognised leaders among Philatelic Exchange clubs. The subscription is 1s. 6d., and the charges nominal. The monthly sales (gross) averaged £113 per month in 1901, £110 in 1902, and £187 in 1903. No dealers are eligible for membership. Mr. Dannatt, the Secretary, has vacancies for a few buying and selling members. Secretary, G. Herbert Dannatt, Lyndale, Blackheath, London, S.E.

PALACE PHILATELIC EXCHANGE SOCIETY.—Founded January, 1900.

There is no entrance fee or subscription of any kind to this excellent Exchange. Furthermore, the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly*, the official organ, is sent free to every member. The Secretary, Mr. R. T. Morgan, has recently divided the "Palace" Exchange into two Sections, Senior and Junior. Secretary for Senior Section, R. T. Morgan, 14 High Street, Selhurst, S.E. Secretary for Junior Section, C. A. Squire Cox, Woodbine, Cambridge Road, Anerley, S.E.

PALATINE STAMP EXCHANGE.—Hon. Secretary, Leicester A. B. Paine, Longsdon, near Stoke-on-Trent.

PERTSHIRE STAMP EXCHANGE CLUB.—Entrance fee, 1s. Secretary, Miss Culbard, Lag Beag, Dunkeld, N.B.

PHILATELIC EXCHANGE CLUB.—Secretary, F. Phillips, 29 Dalby Street, Prince of Wales' Road, London, N.W.

MR. SEMPLE'S STAMP EXCHANGE SOCIETY.—Established 1887. No entrance fee or subscription. A club for medium rather than advanced collectors. Hon. Secretary, Guy Semple, 49 Wester Road, Putney, S.W.

SOLENT STAMP EXCHANGE SOCIETY.—Entrance fee of 1s.; also a commission of 5% on sales. Secretary, E. G. Hazelwood, 48 Clovelly Road, Southampton.

SOUTH OF ENGLAND STAMP EXCHANGE.—Secretary, Miss Florence E. Smith, Winfrith, The Crescent, Bedford.

SOUTH LONDON STAMP EXCHANGE CLUB.—Established 10 years. Nett prices. Secretary, Burton F. J. Cooper, 62 Vassall Road, Brixton, S.W.

STAMP EXCHANGE PROTECTION SOCIETY.—Founded 1894. President, Rev. Gilbert H. Raynor, M.A.

The Hon. Secretary and Treasurer (Mr. F. A. Wickhart, 30 Highbury New Park, London) will be pleased to forward prospectus and any further particulars regarding the S.E.P.S. to collectors who may desire to avail themselves of the benefits of membership. The information at the Society's disposal will be found especially valuable to collectors who engage in exchange transactions either privately or through clubs, and may save many losses.

"STAMPS" EXCHANGE SOCIETY.—The packets of the various sections of this Exchange carry a large and costly selection of rare and medium stamps. Official organ, the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly*. Hon. Secretary, Thos. B. Widdowson, Lincoln Street, Leicester.

SUBURBAN STAMP EXCHANGE CLUB.—Founded 1892. Entrance fee, 2s.; commission on sales, 2½%. There are at present upwards of 300 members. Secretary, H. A. Slade, Ingleside, St. Albans.

TRAVELLERS' STAMP EXCHANGE.—A purely amateur Exchange. Secretary, Leicester A. B. Paine, Longsdon, near Stoke-on-Trent.

TENBY AND SOUTH WALES STAMP CLUB.—Established 1892. Members, 28. Packets circulated on the 1st of each month. Value of monthly packets, £150 nett. The sales average 15%. No entrance fee; commission of 5% on sales. Prompt settlements on return of each packet. Secretary, John F. Lewis, Oscar House, Caerleon Road, Newport, Mon.

UNUSED STAMP EXCHANGE.—This Exchange was taken over by the present secretary, Mr. Bean, in 1901. Membership at present, 34. A few more members with good duplicates to dispose of will be welcomed. Secretary, H. Bean, 164 Loughborough Park, London, S.W.

On British Postmarks.

SOME NOTES AND A BRIEF BIBLIOGRAPHY.

ONLY in recent years has the collecting of British Postmarks received due recognition, and now that the study of them is so rapidly growing in favour, a synopsis of the literature which has appeared in the various magazines, newspapers, books, and catalogues on the subject, and a brief account of the Postmark Club will, we believe, be of use to many of the readers of the "Stamp Collectors' Annual."

Contributions on the subject have been limited. As far back as 1863 an article, with some few illustrations, appeared in the "Stamp Collectors-Magazine" from the pen of Mr. Henry Whymper; but not until the "Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly" took the matter up was anything in the way of detail and classification attempted.

The "S.C.F." articles referred to were contributed by a writer signing himself "C.62," and considering how little was known about so many of the types illustrated and described, that writer is to be congratulated on the number of varieties he mentions and on his valuable notes.

Since that time various articles have appeared. The following is a list of those known to me :—

MAGAZINES, NEWSPAPERS, &C.

"The Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly," 1897 (Articles as mentioned), and smaller notes on Postmarks in various other issues of the same magazine in later years.

"The English Specialists' Journal." And other periodicals edited and issued by H. L'Estrange Ewen.

"The Bazaar, Exchange and Mart." Published by L. Upcott Gill, contains: "A History of British Postmarks." By J. H. Daniels. Illustrated. (See under books.) "The Postmarks of Scotland." By Robert Kerr. Illustrated. Commenced June 24, 1898, concluded March, 1899, carefully written and compiled. Reference to this series of articles is indispensable to all interested in the Postmarks of Scotland. "History of early British Postmarks," 1533-1840, and "History of British Postmarks,"

1840-1870, both by J. G. Hendy, Curator of the Record Room, General Post Office. Various shorter articles have appeared from time to time in the Philatelists' Supplements issued by the same enterprising paper.

"The Philatelic Monthly Referee." Edited by R. T. Morgan. A History of the Postmarks of London from 1840 to 1901; illustrated; a helpful addition to postmark literature. By "Duplex."

"The Koh-i-Nur" magazine of October, 1898, edited by James Middleton Macdonald, F.R.C.I. A short article, illustrated, entitled "British Postmarks" by the present writer.

"The Sphere" newspaper of April 18th, 1903, contains an article entitled "An American Machine at the General Post Office," illustrated, giving an account of the new trial cancelling machine, "Columbus" by name, for defacing postage stamps. These machines are said to cancel 27,000 stamps per hour. The same journal of July 4, 1903, contains an article, under the title of "Weather Forecasts, Postmarks used in Mexico." This article is mentioned, because Great Britain might adopt a system of weather postmark cancellation which may eventually prove to be of considerable value to farmers and others interested in weather lore.

"The Stamp Collector," of Birmingham. In the September and October numbers, 1903, under the heading of "Notes on the Postmarks and Obliterations of the United Kingdom" (taken from the collection of Mr. H. T. Bignold), will be found most interesting articles on the varieties of both postmarks and obliterations on postage stamps. Mr. Bignold has a special fancy for these marks in colour, and his collection of these varieties is very well represented.

CATALOGUES AND BOOKS.

"A Complete Priced Catalogue of the Postal and Telegraph Adhesives of Great Britain." Special reference is made to postmarks and obliterations to be found on postage stamps with prices, etc.

This catalogue was compiled and edited by Harry Hilckes, with the assistance of Walter Morley and H. Ewen in 1894.

"Walter Morley's Catalogue and Price-list of the Stamps of Great Britain." This well-known work contains much that is valuable to postmark collectors, and is a most useful one for reference purposes.

"The Standard Priced Catalogue of the Postage and Telegraph Stamps and Postmarks of the United Kingdom." Compiled and published by H. L'Estrange Ewen. The part devoted to postmarks and obliterations is both illustrated and priced, and contains much information difficult to obtain elsewhere.

"A Price-list of some modern British Postmarks" (illustrated). Compiled and published by "Duplex" ("containing an amount of interesting

“information concerning the most important varieties of modern British “Postmarks with prices, and being the first of the kind issued”). Post free, 3d. November, 1898. I feel proud in being the possessor of a copy of the first edition of this modest little catalogue—it is quite unique, being of home-printed production, and the first attempt at issuing a priced catalogue of postmarks and postmarks only.

“A History of British Postmarks” (illustrated), together with a list of numbers in obliteration in Great Britain and certain Colonial possessions, by J. H. Daniels. Published by Upcott Gill, London, 1898. This book should find a place in the library of all interested in postmarks.

THE POSTMARK CLUB.

In the preface to “A History of British Postmarks,” by J. H. Daniels, that writer says:—

“Two of the first to devote time to the acquisition of postmarks were Mr. Joseph Allen, of Armagh, and Mr. Thomas Gosse, of Bath (now deceased), who were collecting them previously to 1870. They were unacquainted with each other, and it was not until 1883 that two zealous collectors, Mr. R. D. Mattley, of Rochdale, and Mr. T. St. L. Stephenson, of Blair-more, Scotland, and Reading, Berkshire, originated the idea of associating in club form all interested in this particular hobby. These, to the number of about twenty, they succeeded, after considerable trouble, in uniting to what is now known as the Postmark Club, the purpose of the Club being the exchange of duplicates.”

The Club in question is now styled “The Postmark Society,” and its present secretary is Mr. Thomas Whitworth, Waterloo, Liverpool. Members are cordially invited. The subscription is 2s. per annum.

With the view of possible additions to the above list, may I ask readers of the “Stamp Collectors’ Annual” to be kind enough to forward to the Editor any omissions from the above list of newspapers, magazines, etc., in which British Postmarks have received attention.

G. C. WARDEN.

The Present Auction Season.

By S. R. BISHOP.

So far the season 1903-4 has been a brisk one for the philatelic auctioneer. In fact, one gentleman who has for many years wielded the stamp hammer was complaining recently that, having secured a good collection—"a real treasure," as he put it—he was quite unable to find an evening that was not already booked by one or another of the London auctioneering fraternity.

To give the reader some idea of the stamps sold under the hammer during a busy philatelic season, there are something like 1,500 lots disposed of in one week in London alone. Moreover, there is quite lively competition waging between London's philatelic auctioneers as to the speed with which the hammer can descend on every hundred lots.

There are many salerooms in London, all of which are more or less interesting, while to a true philatelist there is nothing more alluring than a stamp sale.

Unlike most other auction sales, the stamp sale is conducted in the evening. One would think that the average salegoer would prefer going home to his dinner, but not so with the stamp enthusiast—he or she would miss many meals, and sacrifice all sorts of valuable appointments, for a stamp auction sale.

One of the latest of our auctioneers is the enterprising firm of Martin Ray & Co. Mr. Thomson, the genial gentleman who occupies the rostrum for the firm every Monday week at Anderton's Hotel, has just informed us that he usually sells in one evening as many lots as another auctioneer devotes two evenings to. His last record amounted to 446 lots in considerably less than four hours.

Many years ago, when stamp auctioneering was almost in its infancy, Mr. Cheveley was considered the most speedy salesman, but some of the present-day firms can easily claim to have beaten all previous records.

It was our original intention to give the prices realised for rare stamps sold during 1903, but quickly discovered that we should require a much larger volume than THE ANNUAL if we hoped to quote anything like a complete list.

Some years ago the late firm of Messrs. Harry Hilckes, Limited, compiled a very useful little summary of "auction prices realised," which was

published at 1s. 6d., but this was not the success that was anticipated, nor did it receive the support it so well deserved. The hammer price of stamps, when struck from an average of a few realisations, should form a very excellent basis of their value, and we should like to hear from readers their opinions as to whether such a book would be of value to collectors.

There has been quite a large number of howling rarities figuring in the catalogues this season, but the finest gem is the beautiful Post Office Mauritius, fortunately secured for sale by Messrs. Puttick & Simpson.

Messrs. Plumridge & Co., in addition to making a bid for the position of fastest sellers, have for some time past made a boast that they sell more lots than any other auctioneer during the season.

If any of our readers have never attended a stamp sale, we can recommend them a very novel and interesting evening at the Home of Sir Joshua Reynolds at 47 Leicester Square; at the Temple Hotel, Arundel Street, Strand; at 63-64 Chancery Lane; at 7 Argyll Street, Regent Street; at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, and elsewhere. Full particulars may be obtained from the auctioneers, whose announcements will be found in our advertisement columns.



MARTIN, RAY & CO.,

Philatelic Auctioneers
and Valuers,

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W.C.,

Hold Stamp Auctions every alternate Monday
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M. R. & CO.'S Sales are the best medium for
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Our Sales are the best attended in London, and
Prices are most satisfactory.

Correspondence Invited.

Double Duttia.

A LEGEND OF CAMBERWELL.

“ ‘**A**NGITALL !” cried the Camberwell aborigine to the sympathetic bounder from Belgravia, “ I don't like being done, 'specially by a petticoat. She came in, t'other day—nattiest girl I ever see. ‘ Come *India*,’ says I, speaking to meself like, and I showed her through the shop to the *Chamba* where the rarities is kept. ‘ What's your speciality?’ sez I. ‘ It's Native States,’ sez she, smilin', ‘ I've got a good many, but I want *Sirmoor*!’ ‘ *Scinde* I may die !’ ow I 'ugged meself as I 'eard 'er say that—now an 'ug and *Nowanuggur*, if you foller me. I whips out me best *Bhopals* and *Bundis* and *Bussahirs* to show her. ‘ *Wadwhan* of these be too dear?’ sez I, showin' 'er the famous *Travancore* error (you know ! the one with no *core*). ‘ Oh,’ sez she, ‘ *Cashmere*—ly a second consideration.’ ‘ *Poonch* me ! I almost 'owled with joy at that, and I sold 'er a sheet of *Bamra* and a strip of *Charkhari* and some *Duttias* and things, and she paid me, and asked me to put aside any good Native States I come across till she called again. ‘ Wot-oh !’ sez I, up me sleeve, ‘ I'll *hide-her-a-bad* thing or six, I will,’ thinkin' o' them *Nepauls* and *Rajpeepals* I've got tucked away at 'ome—and then she went, and I—I woke up !”

“ Eh ? what, what ?”

“ I mean I come to me senses agin. Wotjer think ? While I was fussin' around after 'er Native States she was busy a *Cochin* 'old of my best Capes and Transvaals. She'd collared a nice little parcel of 'em and *Atwur* good stamps I can tell you ! Cunnin' ? Cunnin' as a *Holkar*-full of monkeys she was ! I should jest like to know where she 'angs out !”

“ What a *Bhore* !” said the sympathetic bounder from Belgravia. “ I'm sure I hope you'll speedily *Nabha*. Eh ? What, what ? Say ! have you *Jhind-and-bittered* this mawning ?”

ANGUS M'DOUGALL.

W. T. WILSON,

**Stamp Dealer, Expert and Specialist in British,
British Colonial, European, and Mexican Stamps,**

**192 BIRCHFIELD ROAD, BIRMINGHAM,
ENGLAND.**

Small Priced Stock Books of any country can be sent on approval to advanced collectors and specialists. These contain only carefully selected picked specimens in fine ranges of shades, pairs, strips, blocks, and out-of-the way varieties. Collectors unknown to me will kindly give the customary references.

The filling of Lists of Wants a Speciality. These receive prompt and careful **personal** attention. I hold a large and varied stock (the accumulations of twenty years), which is being daily added to.

Large and varied Stock of "Stamps used on the Original Covers." Special selections of any country sent on approval. My Catalogue of 1766 kinds of stamps in this condition will be sent post free on request.

Monthly Circular containing prices of most new issues and particulars of bargains in old issues forwarded regularly on request.

SPECIAL QUALITY PHILATELIC APPLIANCES.

The "Advanced Collectors" Album. *Highest Awards.* Bronze Medal, London Philatelic Exhibition, 1897; Bronze Medal and Diploma, Manchester Philatelic Exhibition, 1899.

Interchangeable leaves, patent binding, *finest quality hand-made paper*, each leaf backed with Japanese silk tissue paper. No. B935, size 11 inch by 11½ inch. Price 25/-. Descriptive circular of my albums and other high-class philatelic appliances, stamp mounts, tweezers, &c., will be sent post free.

Sole Agent in Europe for the publications of The Scott Stamp and Coin Company, New York.

The Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue. 1904 edition, fully illustrated, 750 pages, all countries, elegant cloth binding, 2/4 post free.

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