

MR. W. DORNING BECKTON.

President of the Manchester Philatelic Society. Mr. Beckton is taking the greatest interest in the Manchester "Juniors'" approaching Exhibition, and as regards the Philatelic Congress to be held at the same time he is lending valuable aid as Chairman of the Sub-Committee which has all the arrangements on hand.

[SIXTH YEAR OF ISSUE

..... THE

STAMP COLLECTORS' ANNUAL,

1909.



A YEAR-BOOK OF PHILATELY

EDITED BY

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P R E F A C E.

IT was at the tip of our pen, so to say, to begin these few introductory words with the remark that it scarcely seems a year since the publication of the last edition of the "Stamp Collectors' Annual"; but on second thoughts the words shall remain unwritten, for, as a matter of cold fact, there has been rather less than a year "between editions" this time. The 1908 book was published in January last; the present edition appears in the November preceding the year of its date. To this arrangement we shall adhere in future, since we find November a more convenient publishing date, and more acceptable to the majority of our readers and advertisers at home and abroad.

The present edition of the "Annual"—the sixth—seems to us to be the best of the series, and we hope there are many among our readers who will think the same. It has been our aim to preserve those features of the book which have most commended themselves to the philatelic public, and to abandon others (such as the list of the year's new issues) which are not a matter of general demand.

The "Philatelic Literary Index" in this edition will seem, at first glance, to be rather short, but it must be remembered that this necessarily embraces only nine months of the year, as a consequence of our decision to publish in November. In the "Annual" for 1910 there will be a complete year's index (October, 1908, to September, 1909, inclusive), and in each successive edition thereafter. Not long ago, by the way, we heard a striking tribute to the value of this annual index. Said a caller at our offices: "I had been hunting through many files of papers for a certain article—you know how difficult it is sometimes to remember just where anything was

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published—but I spent vain hours on the search. Then I suddenly thought of your literary index in the 'Annual,' and, of course, I traced the very thing I wanted in two minutes. I sha'n't forget the 'Annual' next time." Well, on the strength of that conversation, and the letters we have had from several of our subscribers, it has been decided to give the "Index" a rather more prominent place this year, and we hope that it will continue to be of value to philatelists as a guide to the particular subjects dealt with in the English-speaking section of the world's philatelic Press.

The special contributions to this issue of the "Annual" we will leave to speak for themselves, while returning cordial thanks to the writers for their welcome co-operation. One more or less regular feature of the work—the article on the year's auction sales—is presented this year in rather a new way. It is used to point the moral of various writings by Mr. M. P. Castle and others on the importance of "condition" as a factor in philatelic market valuations.

"The Story of the Year" will, we hope, prove another acceptable innovation.

In conclusion, we shall take this early opportunity of wishing every reader of the "Stamp Collectors' Annual" a right Merry Christmas, and in 1909 a year of happiness and philatelic success!

PERCY C. BISHOP.
CHARLES NISSEN.

7 SOUTHAMPTON ROW,
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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Manchester : Its Exhibition and its Congress,	11
<i>Portraits</i> —Mr. W. DORNING BECKTON, <i>Frontispiece.</i>	
Mr. I. J. BERNSTEIN,	13
Mr. GEORGE WHITE,	14
The Philatelic Literary Index,	16
British Stamps of Great Rarity (<i>Illustrated</i>), by the Editor of the <i>British Philatelist</i> ,	28
The "Skilling Banco" Stamps of Sweden,	34
The Story of the Year. by Percy C. Bishop :—The Work of the Societies—The "S.C.F." Medals—Imperial Exhibition and others—Manchester and the Congress—Journalistic Entrances and Exits—The "House Organ"—Philately's Vital Force—The Boy Philatelist—New Issues and Discoveries—Colonial Gumpaps—The Next Boom—Busy Auctioneers—Notable Deaths,	39
The Stamps of the Chinese Treaty Ports, by C. L. Harte- Lovell,	51
A Study of the Stamps of Cyprus (<i>Illustrated</i>), by Percy C. Bishop,	53
Postmarks and their Collection, by Thomas Whitworth, ...	61
The Circular Delivery Stamps of Great Britain (<i>Illustrated</i>), ...	63
The Potential Value of Used Queen's Heads, by a Speculator, ...	71
The Story of the "Twelve Pence" of Canada,	73
Condition in the Auction Rooms: A Brief Review of the Philatelic Auction Sales of the Year, emphasising the importance of "condition" in relation to values,	75
The Philatelic Societies of the English-Speaking World, ...	79
A Directory of British Stamp Exchange Clubs,	84

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INDEX TO ADVERTISERS.

	PAGE
"British Philatelist," The,	91
Brodstone, L. T.,	95
"Captain," The,	87
Glendining & Co.,	96
Harmer, H. R.,	2
Harmer, Rooke & Co.,	Cover IV.
Healey, E. & Co.,	95
Highcliffe Hotel, Margate,	92
Jones, J. W.,	93
Kohl, Paul,	92
Louis, J.,	90
Menke Stamp Company,	92
Nissen, Chas., & Co.,	90, 92, 100
Ostara, D.,	10
Peckitt, W. H.,	4
Pemberton, P. L., & Co.,	8
Plumridge & Co.,	Cover II.
Puttick & Simpson,	6
Rhodes, J. H.,	88
"Stamp Collectors' Annual,"	98
"Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly,"	97
"Stamp Lover,"	94
Whitfield King & Co.,	99
Wood & Son,	Cover III.
Ventom, Bull & Cooper,	89



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Manchester: Its Exhibition and its Congress.



MANCHESTER, at the time of going to press with this edition of the "Annual," is the most-talked-of city on the stamp collector's map. We are all looking forward with interest and eagerness to the Philatelic Exhibition which the Manchester Juniors have planned for February next, and also to its twin event, the First Annual Congress of the Philatelists of the United Kingdom.

The Manchester "Juniors."

When the Manchester Juniors first announced, some months ago, their intention to hold an Exhibition early in 1909, few of us had any notion what a big thing it was going to be. The average philatelist, on reading the first paragraphs on the subject in the stamp journals, murmured to himself, "Ah! another of these small provincial exhibitions? Well, they wake things up, I suppose!" and then dismissed the subject from his mind. But it was soon brought home to him—the aforesaid average philatelist—and, indeed, to everyone connected with philately, that this was a subject which refused to be dismissed. The Manchester men are taking good care to give it full and continuous publicity, and the ultimate result will be such a foregathering of philatelists in February next as the northern city has never hitherto seen.

For quite a generation past Manchester has ranked second to London as a philatelic centre. The city counts among its residents several philatelists whose names are well known the wide world over, and also quite a small army of the rank and file of philately—keen and enthusiastic collectors to a man. It has its dealers also, notable amongst them being Mr. D. Ostara, of Corporation Street, whom someone has named, not inaptly, "the Stanley Gibbons of the North." Our oldest philatelic magazine, the "Philatelic Record," is now conducted—and most ably conducted—by Manchester philatelists, and to round off the story of the city's qualifications one needs only to add a reminder of the International Philatelic Exhibition of 1899, held at the City Art Gallery, Mosley Street, under the

auspices of the senior Manchester Society. That was our first taste of Manchester's philatelic quality; we shall have our second in February next. And it must be remembered that the city is singularly well situated for such events as the coming Exhibition and Congress, for it is the centre of a congeries of important manufacturing towns, all of which will contribute their quota of visitors in February next.

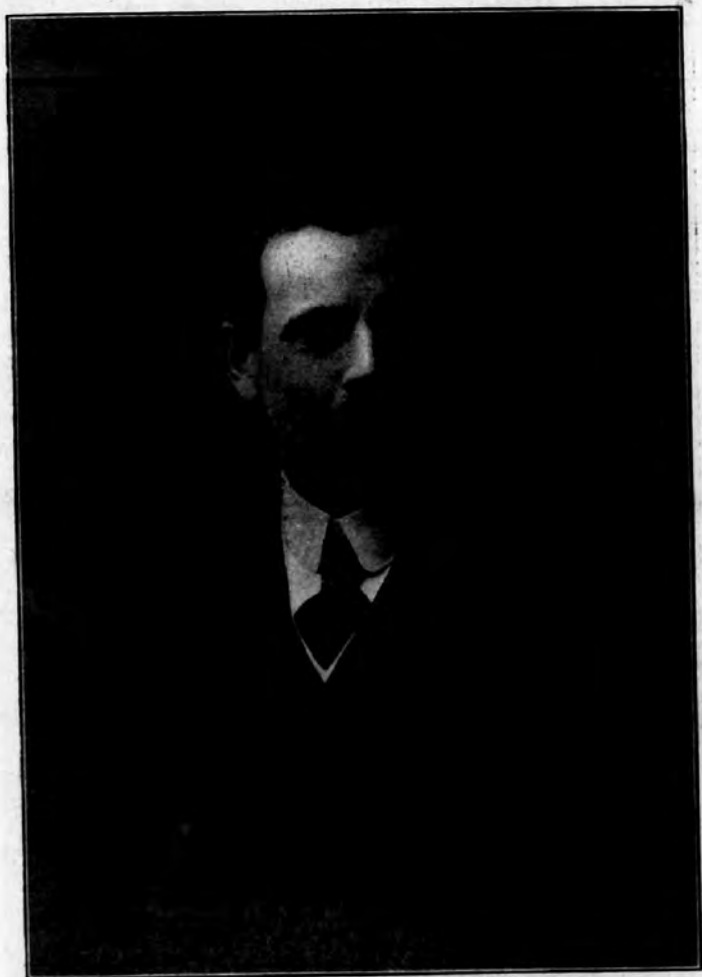
The scene of the dual undertaking, the **Programme and Personnel.** Exhibition and Congress, will be the Hulme Town Hall, and the dates of opening, February 18th, 19th and 20th next. The hall is admirably situated, being within a penny car-ride of any point in Manchester; and, as an instance of the thoroughness with which the Executive Committee's arrangements are being made, we may say it is already settled that all the electric trams running to the Exhibition will be labelled to that effect. Special railway facilities at excursion fares are also being arranged.

Finally, a tribute must be paid to the men who are working so strenuously and devotedly for a big success next February. Of the Executive Committee the Chairman is Mr. I. J. Bernstein, the Hon. Secretary Mr. J. R. M. Albrecht, and for co-workers they have Messrs. D. A. Berry, A. Conboy, J. J. Darlow, G. F. H. Gibson, J. S. Higgins, Jun, W. W. Munn, W. Jung, J. Taylor, and George White.

The "Sub-Committee on Congress" has for Chairman Mr. W. Dorning Beckton, with Mr. J. J. Darlow as Hon. Secretary, and for their colleagues Messrs. G. F. H. Gibson, J. R. M. Albrecht, and I. J. Bernstein.

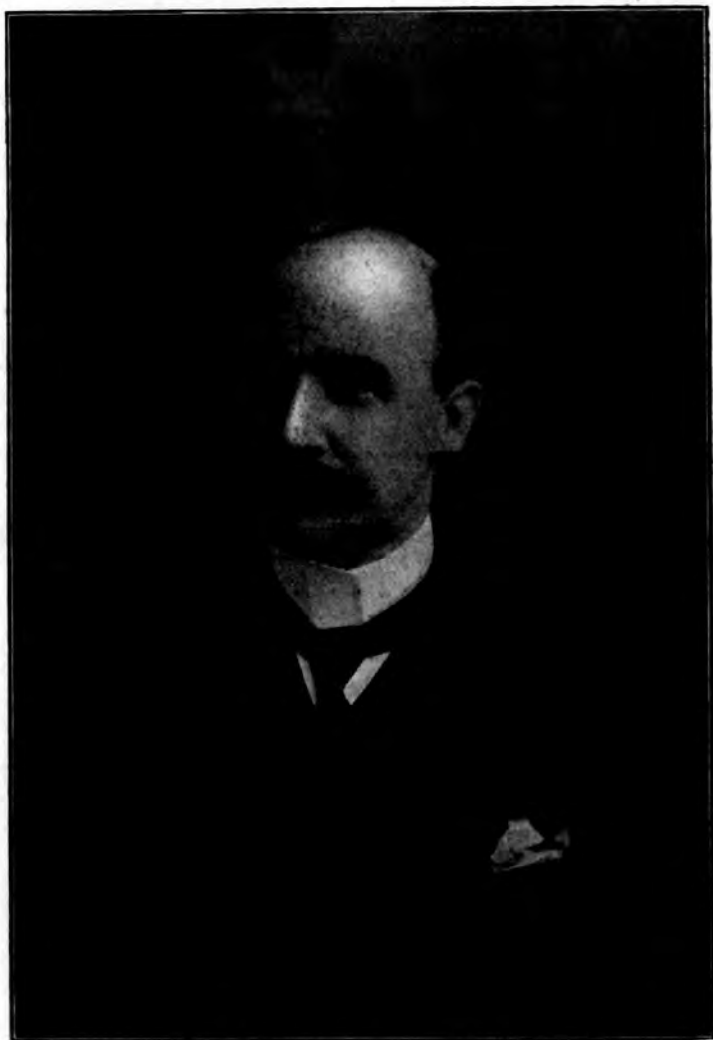
In addition there is a large Honorary Committee of the Exhibition and Congress, comprising all the best known and most active philatelists of the day. The list of names, including that of the Earl of Crawford as Patron, is a tribute to the energy and the popularity of the promoters of the Exhibition.

As regards the general arrangements for the Exhibition, the two halls—the large and the small—which will be used for the exhibits and dealers' stalls are on the same level, both being lofty and well-lighted rooms. The total Exhibition area will consist of about 7000 square feet, and there seems to be no probability of undue crowding. The arrangements for dealers' stalls will be found to show a great advance upon those of previous Exhibitions.



MR. I. J. BERNSTEIN,

Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Manchester Philatelic Exhibition, 1909. Mr. Bernstein was President of the "dissolved" Manchester branch of the J.P.S., and is now, of course, President of the Manchester Junior Philatelic Society, which began its official existence on Thursday, October 22nd, with every prospect of a long career of usefulness.



MR. GEORGE WHITE.

Is another prominent figure in the *personnel* of the Manchester Exhibition. Mr. White's department of activity is summed up in the words "Advertising and Publicity."

There is another large hall above those to be used for the Exhibition which will be devoted to the sittings of the Philatelic Congress, and will also be used for Lantern Lectures, etc.

At the Congress papers will be read on special matters of philatelic importance, and various topics will be debated, included in the probable programme of subjects being—(1) the formation of a National Society or Federation ; (2) the holding of an Annual Congress ; (3) the suppression of unnecessary or speculative issues.

Readers of the " Annual " should make a special note of the fact that all communications, whether on the subject of the Exhibition or the Congress, should be addressed to the General Offices at 9 Albert Square, Manchester. On general and financial matters letters should be directed to Mr. Albrecht ; on matters concerning the Congress, to Mr. J. J. Darlow ; on exhibits, to Mr. D. A. Berry ; and on advertising and publicity, to Mr. George White.



The Philatelic Literary Index for 1908.

The Abbreviations used for the Titles of Journals are as follows:—

A. P.,	-	-	Australian Philatelist.
A.S.M.C.,	-	-	Alfred Smith's Monthly Circular.
B.P.,	-	-	British Philatelist.
E.W.S.N.,	-	-	Ewen's Weekly Stamp News.
G.S.W.,	-	-	Gibbon's Stamp Weekly.
L.P.,	-	-	London Philatelist.
M.P.,	-	-	Metropolitan Philatelist.
M.R.H.P.S.,	-	-	Monthly Report—Herts. Philatelic Society.
P.A.,	-	-	Philatelic Adviser.
P.R.,	-	-	Philatelic Record.
P.S.,	-	-	Postage Stamp.
P.I.G.B.,	-	-	Philatelic Journal of Great Britain.
P.J.I.,	-	-	Philatelic Journal of India.
S.C.,	-	-	Stamp Collector.
S.C.F.,	-	-	Stamp Collector's Fortnightly.
S.J.,	-	-	Stamp Journal.
S.L.,	-	-	Stamp Lover.
S.G.M.J.,	-	-	Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal.
W.E.P.,	-	-	West End Philatelist.

NOTE BY THE COMPILER.

The plan followed in the great majority of instances is to quote the volume and page, the volume being given in Roman and the page in ordinary numerals. Thus "L.P. XVII., 127" would mean page 127 of the seventeenth volume of the "London Philatelist." To this rule it is necessary to make certain exceptions, as follows:—"Alfred Smith's Monthly Circular": no volume number being used for this journal, we simply quote the number of the issue. "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News": this paper is not divided into volumes, but as the pagination is continuous it is sufficient to quote the page numbers alone. "Philatelic West": this journal adopts the unique practice of having no page numbers at all; in this case, therefore, we quote both the volume number and the number of the issue. This year the "Index" covers a period of nine months only—January to September, inclusive—in consequence of the decision to go to press in October. Next year, and in all subsequent years, there will be a full year's "Index," ranging from the October of one year to the September of the next. Two British journals have dropped out during the past year,

namely:—"Stanley Gibbon's Monthly Journal" and "Morley's Philatelic Journal." As against these losses several newcomers are to be welcomed—"The Stamp Journal" (America), "The British Philatelist," "The Philatelic Adviser," and "The Stamp Lover."

- Abyssinia, by Frederic C. Luthy, G.S.W., VII., 59.
 Abyssinia, a Stupid Hoax, P.J.G.B., XVIII., 41.
 Afghanistan, by Sir D. P. Masson and Gordon Jones, P.J.I., XII., 11, 79.
 Afghanistan Handbook, The, P.J.I., XII., 135.
 Afghanistan, The Postage Stamps of, by E. B. Evans, G.S.W., VIII., 198.
 American Philatelic Society, the Annual Convention, M.W.S.N., XXII., 187, 251, 259, 283.
 Antarctic Expedition, The (Stamps of "King Edward VII. Land"), E.W.S.N., 1493, 1501, 1505, 1517, 1569, 1593, 1625.
 Antarctic Stamps, The, A.P., XIV., 69, 123.
 Antigua, "Pictorials" on thick paper, P.J.G.B., XVIII., 97.
 Antigua, The Stamps of, by F. F. Lamb, P.J.G.B., XVIII., 72.
 Arabic Numerals, A.P., XIV., 90.
 Argentina, the Issues of 1882-83, by Emilio Diena, L.P., XVII., 186.
 Argentine, 1882-83 Issues, by T. W. Hall, L.P., XVII., 115.
 Argentine Perforations, by F. T. Collier, S.C., XII., 3.
 Auction Summary, a Guide to the Principal Realizations, S.C.A., V., 48.
 Aviary, a Philatelic, W.E.P., V. 11, 31.
 Bad Copies, by J. W. H. Heslop, G.S.W., VII., 266.
 Bahamas, Specialising the First Penny, by Edward J. Nankivell, P.S., I., 307.
 Baeza, J. ("Well-Known Philatelists"), P.J.G.B., XVIII., 117.
 Bahamas, the First 1d Stamp, by R. E. R. Dalwick, S.L., I., 9.
 Barbados, Notes on Some of the Issues, by J. A. Tilleard, L.P., XVII., 83.
 Bavaria, The Stamps of, by Edward J. Nankivell, P.S., II., 15.
 Bavarian Designs Competition (Illustrated), P.S., II., 101.
 Belgium, the Postage Due Stamps, G.S.W., VIII., 43.
 Bennett, Humphrey ("Well-Known Philatelists"), P.J.G.B., XVIII., 33.
 Bhor and Orcha, P.J.I., XII., 243.
 Birds on Stamps ("A Philatelic Aviary"), W.E.P., V., 11, 31.
 Black Republics, The, by W. W., G.S.W., VII., 231, 264.
 Blank Album, A Plea for, by M. B. Howard, G.S.W., VII., 396.
 Bolivia for Beginners, by L. G. Dorpat, P.W., XL., No. 2.
 Bowers, Dr. William C. ("Notable Philatelists"), P.R., XXX., 30.
 Brazil for Beginners, by L. G. Dorpat, P.W., XLI., Nos. 2 and 3.
 Bremen, a Discovery, P.A., I., 47.
 Brighton Stamp Prosecution, The, S.C.F., XIII., 197.
 Brunei, The Bogus Stamps of, E.W.S.N., 1539.
 Buenos Ayres Revenues, by Frederick E. Heydon, M.W.S.N., XXII., 63, 135.
 Bulgaria, The Stamps of, by B. T. K. Smith, A.S.M.C., Nos. 401 to 404.
 British Central Africa, The Stamps of, by Edward J. Nankivell, P.S., II., 267, 279.
 British Central Africa ("Papers for Moderate Specialists"), by P. L. Pemberton, P.J.G.B., XVIII., 170.

- British Colonial Postage Stamps as an Investment, E.W.S.N., 1613.
- British Columbia and Vancouver Island, Notes on, by J. E. Heginbottom, S.C., XII., 107.
- British "Controls." Notes on, by W. H. Earl, S.C.F., XIV., 70, 88. (*See also under "Great Britain"*).
- British East Africa, The Stamps of, by Edward J. Nankivell, P.S., I., 199, 211, 223, 235.
- British Guiana, the 2c., 1850, P.S., II., 112.
- British Guiana, 2c. of 1889 ("Stories about Postage Stamps"), W.E.P., V., 64.
- British Guiana, Notes on, by J. E. Heginbottom, S.C., XII., 83.
- British Honduras, Notes on, by J. E. Heginbottom, S.C., XII., 70.
- British India, Stamps of, by L. L. R. Hausburg, L.P., XVII., 54.
- British India, The Introduction of Postage Stamps in, P.J.I., XII., 49.
- British Levant, Stamps of, by B. W. H. Poole, W.E.P., IV., 178.
- British Levant and Morocco, by W. W., G.S.W., VII., 207.
- British New Guinea, Notes on the Stamps of, by R. Anthrobus, G.S.W., VII., 295.
- British New Guinea, Stamps of, by E. B. Evans, G.S.W., VIII., 59.
- British North Borneo, A Few Notes on, by Bertram W. H. Poole, G.S.W., VIII., 188.
- British "Paid" Marks, Further Notes on, by Rev. P. E. Raynor, S.C., XII., 20.
- British Post Offices in Morocco, by Novice, G.S.W., VII., 93.
- British Stamps Used Abroad, a Complete List of Postmarks, S.C.A., V., 58.
- British Stamps Used Abroad, by I. J. Bernstein and Charles Nissen, G.S.W., VIII., 187.
- British Stamps Used Abroad, by I. J. Bernstein and Charles Nissen, G.S.W., VII., 11, 25, 37, 70, 86, 119, 172, 284, 298, 334, 399, 411, VIII., 47, 74.
- British Stamps on Blue Paper (*From the Original Manuscript of T. Peacock*), S.C.A., V., 71.
- British Stamps and their Varieties (*See under "Great Britain"*).
- Calcutta Philatelic Exhibition, P.J.I., XII., 37; L.P., XVII., 64; G.S.W., VII., 134; S.C.F., XIV., 4.
- Camel Stamps, W.E.P., IV., 167.
- Canadian Stamps, by Edward J. Nankivell, P.S., II., 147, 220, 232, 244, 255.
- Canadian Revenue Stamps, P.W., XLI., No. 2.
- Canal Zone or Panama, Which? M.W.S.N., XXII., 40.
- Cape of Good Hope Triangulars (Notes of a Provincial Junior), G.S.W., VII., 329.
- Cardiff, Philatelic Exhibition at, S.C.F., XIV., 7; L.P., XVII., 66; S.C., XII., 34.
- Cards and Covers, Notes on "Entires," by a Specialist, S.C.F., XIII., 221, XIV., 12, 19, 35, 66.
- Carlisle Stamps of Spain, by Norman Thornton, G.S.W., VII., 187.
- Catalogues, Early, by B. T. K. Smith, P.R., XXX., 90.
- Catalogue Inconsistencies, W.E.P., V., 1; S.C., XII., 49.
- Cataloguers and Colour Names, by "Formica," G.S.W., VIII., 186.
- Cayman Islands Stamps and Their Values, by R. P. Croom-Johnson, S.C.F., XIV., 131.
- Cayman Islands, Opinions on, S.C., XII., 102.

- Cayman Islands Provisionals, &c., E.W.S.N., 1477, 1513, 1533, 1541, 1545, 1557, 1585, 1589, 1593, 1633.
- Ceylon. A Few Notes on the Stamps of, by Harvey R. G. Clarke, M.R.H.P.S., I., 52.
- Ceylon, The Stamps of John J. Darlow, S.L., I., 24.
- Chalk-Surfaced Colonials, S.C.F., XIV., 6, 85, 93, 96.
- China, The Stamps of, by Edward J. Nankivell, P.S., I., 247, 258, 271, 283, 294.
- Christopher Columbus, by "Semicolon," G.S.W., VII., 229.
- City Stamp Sellers of Twenty Years Ago, by B. W. W., G.S.W., VII., 10.
- Clark, Herbert ("Well-Known Philatelists"), P.J.G.B., XXIII., 81.
- Cleaned Russian Stamps, S.C.F., XIV., 125.
- Coinage of the World, The, E.W.S.N., 1579.
- Collectible Varieties and Curiosities, by R. B. Yardley, M.R.H.P.S., I., 88, 102, 120.
- Collecting Designs Only, M.P., XXVI., 36.
- Collecting for Pleasure or Profit? P.S., II., 269.
- Colonial Postage Stamp Scandal, The, P.S., I., 249, 275, 285, 310, II., 123, 173, 291; G.S.W., VIII., 10, 31.
- Colonial Stamps Postmarked to Order, P.J.G.B., XVIII., 124.
- Coloured Crown and C.A. Papers, Notes on, by J. Ireland, S.C.F., XIV., 21.
- Coloured Papers for Colonial Stamps ("Colonial Office Journal's" Announcement), S.C.F., XIV., 43.
- Colour Names, by B. W. W., S.L., I., 55, 78, 88.
- Columbus, Ohio, its Prominent Collectors, M.W.S.N., XXII., 191.
- Condition and Colour, S.C., XII., 105.
- Consistency in Catalogues, S.C., XII., 49; W.E.P., V., 1.
- Control Letters, British, by J. F. B., G.S.W., VII., 122.
- Counani Redivivus, P.S., I., 319, II., 29.
- Countries of the World, by W. Percy Barnsdall, G.S.W., practically all numbers.
- Countries to Specialise, by P. L. Pemberton, P.J.G.B., XVIII., 138.
- Crawford, Earl of, His Gift of the Fraenkel Library to the Royal Philatelic Society, L.P., XVII., 81.
- Crete, The Stamps of, by D. C. G., G.S.W., VII., 294.
- Cuba, the $\frac{1}{2}$ Real Plata of 1857, by E. W. Wetherell, P.A., I., 102, 142, 172, 191.
- Cyprus, General Remarks on, by J. E. Heginbottom, S.C., XII., 25.
- Danish West Indies, Stamps of, by T. W. Hall, M.R.H.P.S., I., 86.
- Death of Mons. J. B. Moens, L.P., XVII., 113, 120; P.R., XXX., 85; S.C., XII., 89.
- De La Rue "Perf. 12" of 1882-83, by C. S. F. Crofton, P.J.I., XII., 111.
- De La Rue British Plates, The Current Numbers of, by C. S. F. Crofton, P.J.I., XII., 166, 193, 220.
- Denmark and the Danish Colonies, The Postal Issues of, by L. Hanciau, S.G.M.J., XVIII., 160, 163, 201, 263; G.S.W., VIII., 129.
- Denmark, Notes on, by "Wallaby," P.J.G.B., XVIII., 161.
- De Worms, Baron Percy ("Well-Known Philatelists"), P.J.G.B., XVIII., 12.

- Dictionary of Philatelic Terms, P.S., I., 190, 204, 215, 227, 239, 251, 263, 276, 288, 301, 311, 323, 335; II., 8, 20, 30, 44, 53, 67, 78, 91, 102, 113, 125, 139, 149, 164, 174, 187, 200, 210, 223, 235, 247, 259, 271, 283, 295, 308.
- Dr. Gray's Catalogues ("Stamp Lover's Library"), S.L., I., 71, 99.
- Earliest Catalogues of Postage Stamps, The, by B. T. K. Smith, P.R., XXX., 69, 90.
- Early History of the Post, The, S.C.A., V., 11.
- Early Watermarks, P.J.G.B., XVIII., 100.
- East Africa, the Rupee Values, by E. Heginbottom, S.C.F., XIV., 80.
- Engravers of the Stamps of France, W.E.P., V., 79.
- Entire Envelopes, A Plea for the Collection of, by F. W. L., S.C.F., XIV., 129.
- Entires, Why not Collect them? by S. Chapman, M.R.H.P.S., I., 55.
- Evolution of the Postage Stamp, The, G.S.W., VII., 74.
- Extermination of Forgeries, The, P.R., XXX., 1.
- Falkland Islands, Notes on, by J. E. Heginbottom, S.C., XII., 95.
- Falkland Islands, Postage Stamps of, by E. W. Wetherell, P.A., I., 36.
- Falkland Islands, Stamps of the, by D. B. Armstrong, S.L., I., 44, 64.
- Falkland Islands, Stamps of the, by Edward J. Nankivell, P.S., II., 27.
- Falkland Islands, The, by A. H. Davis, G.S.W., VIII., 76.
- Fiscal Stamps, Notes on, by A. B. Kay, S.C.F., XIII., 207, XIV., 6, 27, 43, 59, 87.
- Forgeries and Reprints, by Rev. R. B. Earée, G.S.W., VII., 60, 75.
- Forgeries and Their Collection, by Charles J. Phillips, M.R.H.P.S., I., 65.
- Forgeries of Japan (*Translated*), S.C.F., XIII., 199, 206, 211, 219.
- Fraenkel Library, The, L.P., XVII., 81.
- France, 1900-1902, by Franz Reichenheim, M.R.H.P.S., I., 54.
- France, Engravers of the Stamps of, W.E.P., V., 79.
- France: Varieties of the "Sower" Type, W.E.P., V., 63.
- French Colonies and Consular Offices, How to Collect, E.W.S.N., 1561.
- French Provincial Post Office, Some Notes on, by H. G. Jolson, G.S.W., VII., 414.
- Gambia, The Stamps of, by Edward J. Nankivell, P.S., II., 3.
- Garson, D. S. ("Notable Philatelists"), P.R., XXX., 160.
- Gee, J. Stelfox ("Notable Philatelists"), P.R., XXX., 140.
- Genus Homo in Philately, The, by B. W. H. Poole, G.S.W., VII., 361, 377, 394, 409; VIII., 8, 26, 40, 75, 89.
- German Revenue Stamps, by Frederick E. Heydon, M.W.S.N., XXII., 245.
- German Empire, The, by C. A. Howes, M.W.S.N., XXII., 145.
- German States, 1849-1870, by J. Corner-Spokes, G.S.W., VII., 312.
- Gibraltar, Stamps of, P.A., I., 174, 194.
- Gibraltar, Stamps of, by Edward J. Nankivell, P.S., II., 75, 195, 208.
- Gibraltar, Notes on, J. E. Heginbottom, S.C., XII., 41.
- Gibraltar ("Papers for Moderate Specialists"), P.J.G.B., XVIII., 8.
- Gill, William ("Well-Known Philatelists"), P.J.G.B., XVIII., 178.
- Glorification of Great Collections, The, P.S., I., 237.
- Great Britain: Adhesive Revenue Stamps of King Edward VII., S.C.A., V., 63.
- Great Britain: The $\frac{1}{2}$ Line Engraved Stamp, B.P., I., 41; The 1d Line Engraved, B.P., I., 14, 25; The $1\frac{1}{2}$ and 2d Line Engraved, B.P., I., 33.

- Great Britain : Check Letter Alphabets, B.P., I., 49.
- Great Britain : Cheque Dies, E.W.S.N., 1477, 1481, 1529, 1553.
- Great Britain : Control Letters, E.W.S.N., 1589, 1597 ; Notes on Controls, S.C.F., XIV., 70, 88.
- Great Britain : Control Number Collecting for Beginners, P.S., I., 238.
- Great Britain : Die I. and Die II. of the Red Penny (*Illustrated*), B.P., I., 15.
- Great Britain : Early Date Records, E.W.S.N., 1481, 1485, 1505, 1513, 1517, 1529, 1545, 1549, 1553, 1577 ; B.P., I., 59.
- Great Britain : Inverted Watermarks, E.W.S.N., 1533.
- Great Britain : Line Engraved Stamps, B.P., I., 13, 25, 33, 41, 49, 57 ; E.W.S.N., 1517.
- Great Britain : Marginal Control Letters, King Edward, S.C.A., V., 72.
- Great Britain : Notes on the First Eleven Plates used for the Black Penny, P.J.G.B., XVIII., 13.
- Great Britain : Notes on Gibbons' Catalogue, Part I., by H. S. Hodson, P.S., I., 261.
- Great Britain : Old Tax and Duty Stamps, B.P., I., 5.
- Great Britain : Penny Plate Number Varieties, S.C.F., XIV., 119.
- Great Britain : Plate Numbers, B.P., I., 57.
- Great Britain : Specialising the id., King's Head, P.S., I., 331.
- Great Britain : Railway Letter Stamps, E.W.S.N., 1493, 1497, 1501, 1505, 1513, 1521, 1529, 1533, 1545.
- Great Britain : Telegraph Stamps, E.W.S.N., 1581.
- Great Britain : Unadhesive Stamps, E.W.S.N., 1477, 1493, 1521, 1553, 1589, 1601.
- Great Britain : Varieties, Discoveries, etc., B.P., I., 25, 28, 35, 43.
- Great Rarity, The, by R. E. James, G.S.W., VII., 91.
- Great Rarities : Their History and Market Price, by an Old Specialist, P.S., I., 187, 296, 325, 332 ; II., 112, 233, 245.
- Grenada, Notes on the Provisional Stamps of, by R. E. R. Dalwighk, G.S.W., VII., 8.
- Greece : New Discoveries, S.C., XII., 19.
- Greece : The Olympic Games Stamps, S.L., I., 2.
- Guadeloupe, The 1903 Surcharges of, by John N. Luff, G.S.W., VIII., 56, 137.
- Guarantees : Are they Perpetual? S.C.F., XIV., 77, 88.
- Gum : An Official Letter to the Secretary of the General Post Office, 1858, B.P., I., 19.
- Gum : All about the Gum on our Stamps, G.S.W., VII., 44.
- Hard U.S. Problems made Easy, by Eustace B. Power, G.S.W., VII., 103, 235.
- Heath, The late Dr. George, M.W.S.N., XXII., 221.
- Highest Priced Stamp Paper, The, by James A. Cook, S.J., I., 28.
- Hints to Beginners : How to Collect, by Edward J. Nankivell, P.S., II., 7, 138.
- Holland and Colonies, Notes on the Stamps of, by A. J. Warren, L.P., XVII., 26.
- Holland, The Stamps of, by C. A. Howes, M.W.S.N., XXII., 73.
- Hong Kong : Consignment, Letter Varieties, E.W.S.N., 1489.
- Hong Kong, The Postage Stamps of, by Bertram W. H. Poole, V., 4, 27, 49, 59, 74, 91, 107.
- Hong Kong, Postmarks of, P.S., II., 258.

- Horsley, M. H. ("Notable Philatelists"), P.R., XXX., 122.
- Imitations of the Stamps of Japan (*Translated*), by A. Montader, S.C.F., XIII., 199, 206, 211, 219.
- Imperial Stamp Exhibition, The, S.C.A., V., 9; S.C.F., XIV., 5, 18; S.L., I., 18; G.S.W., VII., 196; P.J.G.B., XVIII., 62; S.C., XII., 36; L.P., XVII., 58; M.R.H.P.S., I., 107; P.A., I., 48; P.S., I., 321; P.R., XXX., 47; M.W.S.N., XXII., 119.
- Indian Fiscal Stamps of 1861, P.J.I., XII., 250.
- Indian Official Stamps, Notes on, P.J.I., XII., 222.
- Indian Postage Stamps of 1854-55, P.J.I., XII., 246.
- Inland Revenue Stamps, by F. E. Heydon, M.W.S.N., XXII., 307.
- Indian Society's Philatelic Exhibition, S.C.F., XIV., 4; P.J.I., XII., 37; L.P., XVII., 64; G.S.W., VII., 134.
- Indian Small "Service" Issues, Some Remarks on, P.J.I., XII., 46, 135.
- India, Stamps of the Native States of, by E. B. Evans, G.S.W., VIII., 53, 133.
- India, The De La Rue Foreign Bills, by C. S. F. Crofton, P.J.I., XII., 142.
- India: The Large "Service" Stamps, P.J.I., XII., 225, 240.
- India: The Stamps of 1854-55, P.J.I., XII., 189, 217.
- Influence of Queen's Head Postage Stamps, The, by J. W. H. Heslop, G.S.W., VII., 180.
- International Reply Coupons, by Arthur W. Line, M.W.S.N., XXII., 215.
- International Transhipment of Mails, The, G.S.W., VII., 410.
- Is Stamp Collecting Deteriorating? M.P., XXVI., 132.
- Italy and the Italian States, The Postal Issues of, by L. Hanciau, S.G.M.J., XVIII., 181, 241; G.S.W., VIII., 49, 193.
- Jamaica, by P. L. Pemberton ("Papers for Moderate Specialists"), P.J.G.B., XVIII., 114.
- Jamaica, by Eustace B. Power, G.S.W., VII., 185.
- Japanese Post, The Early, by C. A. Howes, M.W.S.N., XXII., 27.
- Japan, Forgeries of, by A. Montader (*Translated*), S.C.F., XIII., 199, 206, 211, 219.
- Joynt, W. R. Lane ("Notable Philatelists"), P.R., XXX., 8.
- Junior Philatelic Society's Imperial Stamp Exhibition, S.C.A., V., 9; S.C.F., XIV., 5, 18; S.L., I., 18; G.S.W., VII., 196; P.J.G.B., XVIII., 62; S.C., XII., 36; L.P., XVII., 58; M.R.H.P.S., I., 107; P.A., I., 48; P.S., I., 321; P.R., XXX., 47; M.W.S.N., XXII., 119.
- Junior Philatelic Society's New Meeting Place, S.L., I., 85.
- Junior Philatelic Society, Story of the, P.S., I., 298.
- Kashmir: Colonel Corker's Collection, S.C.F., XIII., 202.
- Keeping Stock in the Stamp Business, M.P., XXVI., 20.
- King Edward VII. Land, The Postage Stamps of, P.R., XXX., 124; E.W.S.N., 1493, 1501, 1505, 1517, 1569, 1593, 1625.
- "King of Portugal" Essay, The, P.J.I., XII., 109.
- Knowles, J. J. ("Well-Known Philatelists"), P.J.G.B., XVIII., 136.
- Labrador Company's Stamps, P.R., XXX., 99.
- Levant, Stamps Used in the, by W. Ward, S.C.F., XIII., 202, 203, 210, 225; XIV., 11, 18, 29, 36, 44, 50.
- Line Engraved Stamps of Great Britain, The, B.P., I., 1, 13, 25, 33, 41, 49, 57.

- £. s. d. Applied to Philately; The Question of, by R. E. R. Dalwigk, G.S.W., VIII., 155.
- Mahé, Pierre ("Stamp Lover's Library"), S.L., I., 41.
- Malta, Notes on, by J. E. Heginbottom, XII., 54.
- Malta, The Postage Stamps of, by E. W. Wetherell, P.A., I., 95, 128, 171.
- Malta, Stamps of, by I. J. Bernstein, S.L., I., 89.
- Manchester Juniors' Philatelic Exhibition, S.C.F., XIV., 60, 112.
- Marginal Varieties, by B. W. H. Poole, P.S., I., 188.
- Market Value of a Stamp, The Real, by C. J. Phillips, B.P., I., 18.
- Melville, Fred. J. ("Notable Philatelists"), P.R., XXX., 42.
- Mirabaird, The Late Paul ("Notable Philatelists"), P.R., XXX., 106.
- Modern French Stamps, Description of a Collection of, A.S.M.C., No. 400.
- Moens, The Late J. B., L.P., XVII., 113, 120; P.R., XXX., 85; S.C., XII., 89.
- Montenegro: Notes on the Provisionals of 1905-06, by Charles J. Phillips, S.G.M.J., XVIII., 220.
- Mount Brown, Cataloguer, S.L., I., 5.
- Mounting and Arranging a Specialised Collection, S.L., I., 92.
- Mourning Stamp Joke, The (Great), S.C.F., XIV., 118.
- Morocco, by George B. Duerst, P.R., XXX., 3, 45, 110, 128.
- Morocco, by George B. Duerst, P.R., XXX., 73, 110, 128.
- Morocco, Postal System and Stamps of, G.S.W., VII., 359, 374, 393, 408; VIII., 6, 22, 38, 70, 86.
- Montenegro: The Surcharges of 1893, by Wm. Evans, M.W.S.N., XXII., 61.
- Mythology and Philately, G.S.W., VIII., 104, 118.
- National Association of British Philatelists, The Suggested, S.C.F., XIV., 53, 61, 71, 81, 128, 130.
- Native Stamp Dealers, by George Cecil, G.S.W., VII., 54.
- Native States of India, The, by E. B. Evans, G.S.W., VIII., 53, 133.
- New Issues of 1907, S.C.A., V., 14.
- Netherlands, Stamps of, by C. A. Howes, M.W.S.N., XXII., 73.
- New Brunswick: The Cents Issues, by F. F. Lamb, P.J.G.B., XVIII., 181.
- New Brunswick: The Pence Issue, P.J.G.B., XVIII., 35, 83.
- New Brunswick, Stray Notes on, P.S., II., 171.
- Newfoundland, by W. Ward, G.S.W., VII., 108, 121, 151, 169, 189.
- New South Wales, Notes on, by J. E. Heginbottom, S.C., XII., 118.
- New South Wales: Notes on the De La Rue Plates, by C. S. F. Crofton, P.J., I.; XII., 112.
- New South Wales Perforations, by C. S. F. Crofton, P.J., I.; XII., 71.
- New South Wales: The Sydney Views, A.S.M.C., No. 397.
- New Zealand Pictorial Stamps, by W. Buckland Edwards, S.C.F., XIV., 9.
- New Zealand Pictorials, Stray Notes on, by Wakalipn, P.S., II., 17, 55.
- Niger Coast Protectorate, Stamps of, by Edward J. Nankivell, P.S., II., 51, 64.
- Northern Nigeria, The Stamps of, by Edward J. Nankivell, P.S., II., 293.
- Norway: the 1905 Provisionals, S.C.F., XIV., 129.
- Ocean Penny Postage, by E. B. Evans, G.S.W., VIII., 202.
- Oil Rivers Protectorate, Stamps of, by Edward J. Nankivell, P.S., II., 51.

- Old Philatelic Literature, A.P., XIV., 90.
 Old Tax and Duty Stamps, B.P., I, 5.
 Olympic Games : Stamps of Greece, S.L., I., 2.
 Orange River Colony : Provisionals of March, 1900, to October, 1902, by
 C. J. Daun, L.P., XVII., 145.
 Overprints and Surcharges, by Charles S. Quenton, G.S.W., VIII., 107,
 120, 154.
 Papal States : the 1852 Issue, by D. C. G., G.S.W., VIII., 103.
 Papua, W.E.P., IV., 164.
 Papua, The Stamps of, by Edward J. Nankivell, P.S., II., 303.
 Papua : Varieties, E.W.S.N., 1553.
 Peck, Thomas Whitmore ("Well-known Philatelists"), P.J.G.B., XVIII.,
 57.
 Penny Plate Number Varieties, by B. W. Parsonage, S.C.F., XIV., 119.
 Penny Post of 1860, The, S.L., I., 28, 47, 69, 95.
 Penny Postage, The Introduction of, by "Plain Anchor," S.G.M.J.,
 XVIII., 245, 267.
 Penny Postage to America, by H. J. Hartley, S.C.F., XIV., 68.
 Perforating Machines at Somerset House, S.C.A., V., 45.
 Peru : First Issue ("Stories About Postage Stamps"), W.E.P., IV., 169.
 Philatelists' Cramp, P.A., I., 26.
 Philatelic Index Expurgatorius, A, G.S.W., VIII., 109.
 Philatelic Geometry, by W. Ward, G.S.W., VIII., 93.
 Philatelic Literature in 1907-08 : The Report of the Committee of the
 American Philatelic Society, M.W.S.N., XXII., 296.
 Philatelic Literary Index for 1907, S.C.A., V., 74.
 Philatelic Notes and Queries, by E. B. Evans, G.S.W., VIII., 61, 140,
 204.
 Philatelic Review of Reviews, P.J.G.B., all numbers.
 Philatelic Terms, &c., A.P., XIV., 105.
 Philatelic Terms, by L. G. Dorpat, P.W., XL., No. 2.
 Philately versus Stamp Collecting, A.P., XIV., 81.
 Philippines ; Notes on the Official Stamps, by W. H. Bandholtz,
 M.W.S.N., XXII., 291.
 Philippine Officials, Notes on, by W. H. Bandholtz, M.W.S.N., XXII.,
 291.
 Photography as Applied to Stamps, by Frank Phillips, G.S.W., VII., 24,
 39, 56, 73, 89, 102.
 Plating, P.A., I., 83.
 Plate Number Collecting, M.P., XXVI., 116.
 Points for Beginners, by B. W. W., G.S.W., VII., 27, 42, 105, 153, 183,
 311, 380, 398.
 Portraits of Washington on U.S.A. Stamps, P.W., XLI., No. 3.
 Portraits on Stamps, by Boswell Junior, G.S.W., VII., 60, 205, 412.
 Portugal, A Few Notes on the Stamps of, by C. C. Tait, M.R.H.P.S.,
 I., 101.
 Postal Fiscals, W.E.P., V., 111.
 Post Cards, Notes by "Reply Paid," S.C.A., V., 55.
 Postmarked to Order (British Colonials), P.J.G.B., XVIII., 124.
 Postmarked to Order Stamps, W.E.P., V., 95.
 Postmarking to Order, E.W.S.N., 1589.
 Postmarks, by D. C. G., G.S.W., VII., 314, 327, 363.
 Prince Edward Island, Stamps of, by B. T. K. Smith, Nos. 398 and 399.

- Present Value of the Tapling Collection, by W. H. J. Robertson, S.C.F., XIV., 119.
- Proofs and Essays, by R. E. R. Dalwigk, S.L., I., 40.
- Punctured Officials of Australia, A.P., XIV., 65.
- Punctured Official Stamps of New South Wales (Prize Essay), A.P., XIV., 134, 147.
- Queen's Head Postage Stamps, The Influence of, by J. W. H. Heslop, G.S.W., VII., 180.
- Queen's Heads: The Perkins Bacon Dies, by C. S. F. Crofton, P.J.I., XII., 139.
- Queen's Heads: The Smaller Manufacturers and Unappropriated Dies, by C. S. F. Crofton, P.J.I., XII., 162.
- Queensland: The Electrotyped Postage Stamps from 1879-1906, by J. Bornefeld, S.G.M.J., XVIII., 165, 184, 222.
- Rails and Mails, by R. Halliday, S.L., I., 61.
- Revenue Stamps of the Balkan States, Turkey and Greece, by Frederick E. Heydon, M.W.S.N., XXII., 295.
- Rio de Oro, S.C., XII., 67.
- Ransome, Francis ("Well-known Philatelists"), P.J.G.B., XVIII., 99; ("Notable Philatelists"), P.R., XXX., 88.
- Roumanian Exhibition Stamps and the 25 bani, green, error, by Rudolf Zoscsak, G.S.W., VII., 140.
- Roumania, Stray Notes on the Stamps of, by C. H. Coote, P.R., XXX., 108.
- Royal Philatelic Society: Annual Report, by the Hon. Secretary, J. A. Tilleard, L.P., XVII., 138.
- Royal Philatelic Society: List of the Members and Associates, L.P., XVII., 144.
- Royal Philatelic Society, Notes on the, by M. P. Castle, L.P., XVII., 91.
- Royal Philatelic Society's Year, The, S.C.F., XIV., 89.
- St. Christopher: Notes on the Unsurcharged Stamps and Their Postmarks, P.J.G.B., XVIII., 96.
- St. Christopher, The Postage Stamps of, by E. W. Wetherell, P.A., I., 71.
- Salvador, The Stamps of, by Joseph B. Leavy, S.G.M.J., XVIII., 187, 191, 209, 226, 267.
- Salvador, 1 centavo, 1879, by B. W. Warhurst, S.G.M.J., XVIII., 168.
- Samoa, The Stamps of, by B. W. H. Poole, W.E.P., IV., 163.
- Samoan Stamps and Robert Louis Stephenson, P.W., XL., No. 2.
- Science of Philately, The, by C. S. F. Crofton, P.J.I., XII., 209.
- Sarawak, by Humphrey Bennett, P.J.G.B., XVIII., 141.
- Sarawak, The Stamps of, by Edward J. Nankivell, P.S., II., 39.
- Scientific Stamp Collecting, by C. M. C. Symes, G.S.W., VIII., 167.
- Servia, by P. L. Pemberton, P.J.G.B., XVIII., 160.
- Seychelles: the King's Head Provisionals, W.E.P., V., 115.
- Ships on Stamps, G.S.W., VII., 332.
- Sicily, The Stamps of, by Edward J. Nankivell, P.S., II., 160.
- Sierra Leone, The Stamps of ("Papers for Moderate Specialists"), P.J.G.B., XVIII., 50.
- Somerset House Perforations, P.J.I., XII., 213.
- South Australia, Notes on, by the Rev. P. E. Raynor, L.P., XVII., 35.
- Southern Nigeria, Stamps of, P.A., I., 46.
- Spain and its Revolutions, by J. Corner-Spokes, G.S.W., VIII., 13.
- Spain, The Stamps of, by Percy Ashley, M.R.H.P.S., I., 117.

- Spain, the 1870 Issue, by E. W. Wetherell, P.A., I., 6, 27, 94, 119, 165.
- Spain : The Stamps of the Carlist Rising, by Norman Thornton, G.S.W., VII., 187.
- Spain and Cuba, Stamps of, by E. W. Wetherell, L.P., XVII., 188.
- Specialised Collection, Mounting and Arranging, by R. E. R. Dalwigg, S.L., I., 92.
- Specialising a Single Value, by Edward J. Nankivell, P.S., I., 307, 331.
- Specialism, by R. E. R. Dalwigg, G.S.W., VII., 58, 71, 87, 150, 168, 206, 237, 316 ; VIII., 46, 92, 125.
- Speculator, The, and His Purchases, by H. J. Hartley, S.C.F., XIV., 99.
- Stamp Auctions : Their Genesis and Development, P.S., II., 150, 163, 172, 183, 294.
- Stamp Frauds, by Paul Howard, G.S.W., VII., 154.
- Stamp Lover's Library : Papers for the Philatelic Bibliophile, S.L., I., 5, 41, 71, 99.
- Stamp Vending Machines, M.W.S.N., XXII., 17.
- Stellaland, Stamps of, by B. W. H. Poole, S.G.M.J., XVIII., 206, 249.
- Straits Settlements : Minor Varieties of the Stamps Surcharged for Use in the Native Protected States, by William Brown, G.S.W., VIII., 169.
- Surcharged Stamps : Shall We Collect Them or Not? M.P., XXVI., 52, 156.
- Systematic Recording of Philatelic Researches, P.J.G.B., XVIII., 142.
- Tapling Collection : Its Present Value, by W. H. J. Robertson, S.C.F., XIV., 119.
- Tientsin, British Post Office at, P.R., XXX., 81.
- Tierra del Fuego, the Lone Stamp of, by A. H. L. Giles, R.N., S.L., I., 14.
- Topical Notes, by Charles J. Phillips, G.S.W., practically all numbers.
- Tuscany, The Stamps of, by D. C. Gray, G.S.W., VII., 376, 390.
- Tonga, Early Issues of, by W. Ward, P.J.G.B., XVIII., 75.
- Transvaal, The First Issue of ("Stories About Postage Stamps"), by Bertram W. H. Poole, W.E.P., IV., 187.
- Transvaal Stamps, Stray Notes on, by Edward J. Nankivell, P.S., II., 124.
- Transvaal War Stamps, P.J.G.B., XVIII., 97.
- Trechmann, O. Kramer, J.P. ("Notable Philatelists"). P.R., XXX., 66.
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- Universal Postal Union, The, by I. J. Bernstein, P.R., XXX., 143, 162.
- Universal Private Telegraph Company, The Stamps of, by Bertram W. H. Poole, W.E.P., V., 42.
- Uncatalogued Varieties, by S. C. Marcuse, M.W.S.N., XXII., 313.
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- Uruguay, Notes on Two Rarities of, by R. B. Yardley, P.R., XXX., 166.
- Used or Unused? by Frank H. Oliver, P.A., I., 144.
- Usher, Rev. W. Neville ("Well-known Philatelists"), P.J.G.B., XVIII., 157.
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- Watermarks on Original Envelopes, S.C.F., XIV., 101.
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- Wurtemberg, The Arms on the Stamps of, by Norman Thornton, G.S.W., VIII., 156.
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British Stamps of Great Rarity.

BY THE EDITOR OF *The British Philatelist*.



I HAVE frequently heard it stated, by both collectors and non-collectors, that Great Britain is an "easy" country, and that a practically complete series of her postage stamps can be got together by the exercise of a little trouble and the expenditure of a few pounds.

Now, although there is a great deal of truth in this, if certain varieties are ignored and used copies of rarities be accepted—and this can be done without lessening the interest of a collection or materially detracting from its completeness from a practical, commonsense point of view—I do not think there is any other country whose stamps present the difficulties which must be encountered by the thorough and would-be-actually-complete specialist in Great Britain.

There are several well-known and specialised collections, but I very much doubt if between them all they can furnish a copy of *every* issued British stamp. This may seem a wild and very sweeping assertion to make; but is there not ample and reliable evidence that certain varieties of stamps, of which not a single one is known, must have existed, and presumably been issued to the extent of from 400 to 1200 copies?

I refer, of course, to what are sometimes called the "abnormal plate-numbers," *i.e.*, stamps from plates which have been registered but never put to press; and stamps from plates registered in the then colour for that value, but subsequently put to press after a change of colour has taken place. There are just a score such. A fair proportion are known used, and some unused, all rarities of a very high degree, even if the value is not so great as might be expected, considering the few copies known; but to take one variety, theoretically the rarest, what collection in the world contains a copy, used or unused, of the first Five Shillings stamp, plate 4, printed on Cross *paté* paper and perforated? I say "and perforated," so as to intentionally exclude the *comparatively* common stamps cut off the imperforate *imprimatur* sheet from the same plate, and which now and then make their appearance, on either the retirement or death of some philatelic (!) official, who, years

previously, had been a party to that spirit of vandalism which caused the mutilation of the *imprimatur* sheets.

Of this unknown variety six sheets of 80 stamps each were printed, one being filed in the archives, and the remainder being issued—it *must* have been issued—but of the 400 who has a copy?

While on this subject, I may as well relate a little bit of interesting news: it cannot now harm anyone, and I refrain from mentioning names.

Just before the Jubilee issue of 1887, Messrs. De La Rue & Co. prepared—I forget how many, but it was about a dozen—small, very nicely got up books containing unused copies (not “specimen”) of all the stamps, up to One Shilling, then in use, together with similar values of the previous issue and of the new Jubilee set.



3d., secret dot.



6d., purple,
plate 10.



6d., chestnut-brown,
plate 12.



6d., pale yellow-brown,
plate 13.



9d., hair-lines.



9d., plate 5,
“Emblems.”

1s., hair-lines.

There was, naturally, no difficulty in obtaining the current and the new stamps; but for some, if not all, of the previous issue Messrs. De La Rue & Co. went, not to dealers, but to the *imprimatur* sheets. The individual entrusted with cutting off the required stamps turned, with that lack of knowledge frequently displayed by the official mind, to the last registered sheet of each value, cutting a large block from the sheet of the

Ninepence, *plate 5*, and from the sheet of the One Shilling printed in *lilac*. These blocks were, of course, imperforate, but they were passed through a perforating machine, and the surplus copies were actually returned to Somerset House and stuck on to the sheets of which they once formed part! This accounts for the few unused copies of Ninepence, *plate 5*, and One Shilling, *lilac*. The former stamp is also known in used condition, evidently from the five spare sheets printed at the time of registration and placed with the ordinary stock.

I have mentioned "abnormals" only to practically ignore them so far as my paper is concerned. They are varieties issued under special and peculiar circumstances, and hardly come within the category of British stamps as known to the ordinary collector or the man in the street. However, those of my readers who persevere to the end will find a list of these varieties, with notes as to value, etc.

British stamps have been produced by three methods, *viz.*, line-engraving, embossing, and surface-printing.

Line-engraved.—The diminutive Halfpenny of 1870 is seldom met with printed from *plate 9* (value £3), unused; at one time that *plate* was supposed never to have been put to press.



Pair of the 1½d., line engraved, showing the error O.P.P.C. in the corner lettering of the right hand specimen.

Of the One Penny and Twopence there are many varieties, dependent on combinations of die, watermark and perforation. The scarcest of the lower value is printed in red-brown on blue paper, watermarked with Large Crown, and perforated 16 (value £4, unused); whilst of the Twopence, *plate 5* or *6*, on Large Crown, and perforated 16, is the rarest (value £20, unused); I remember a mint copy being picked out of a dealer's stock at the price of 15/-, and subsequently sold for somewhere about £80!

Of the Three Halfpence the only rarity is the error, "OP-PC," on plate 1, an unused copy of which would probably fetch about £20.

Embossed.—These are all now good, especially unused, the best of the three values—Sixpence, Tenpence, and One Shilling—being the One Shilling, deep green (value £15). The Sixpence has existed printed on the gummed side of the paper, and I was once told a pathetic story of how a very bright copy, placed *in* (not *on*) water to detach it from a piece of the original envelope, not only parted from the paper, but also parted with all its colour, to the disgust of its owner; without doubt the gum was between paper and colour.

Surface-printed.—Of the various lower values up to Twopence there is nothing worth recording.



The 2½d., surface printed, plate 2, showing the error L.H.F.L.

The Twopence Halfpenny (of 1875) is very scarce (£10, unused), when printed from either plate 2 or 3 on Fiscal paper showing a *blue tinge*, as is frequently noticed in copies of plate 1.

On plate 2 the last stamp in the eighth row, which should have been lettered "LH-HL," actually read "LH-FL"; the error was discovered in America, and was at first officially denounced as an impossibility, until it was found on the *imprimatur* sheet. Unused, the error is rare (£10, unused). Until recently I had only seen one copy (*see Illustration*) in that condition, and it was purchased about twelve years ago, for the reasonable sum of 5/6, from a dealer who is now an authority on new issues. I hope he will not read this! My publishers show me another copy.

The Fourpence (1855), on thick, glazed, "safety" paper, watermarked with either a Small Garter (value £20, unused) or a Medium Garter (value £20, unused), is scarce in really

mint condition, the colour, a pure carmine, being very apt to chip off the hard, smooth paper ; in carmine, on ordinary white paper, watermarked with a Medium Garter, it is very scarce.

A very rare stamp is the Tenpence (1867), printed, in error, on the Heraldic Emblems paper, which, at the time this value



The scarce 10d., on "Emblems" paper.

was issued, was being superseded by that watermarked with Spray of Rose ; unused, it would probably realise £100.

The Two Shillings, in brown (1880), is a very good stamp (value £6, unused). Even when current, it was difficult to obtain, as it was supplied to very few post offices, and was in issue for only five months.

When the use of Cross *paté* paper was discontinued for the large high value stamps in 1883, the plate (4) of the Five Shillings was cut down to 56 stamps, and re-arranged so as to fit the new Anchor paper ; and copies on this latter paper are expensive (£15, unused).



10s., with Anchor watermark.



£1, with Anchor watermark.

The Ten Shillings and One Pound (both 1878-1883) exist on Cross *paté* and Anchor papers ; and these are the scarcest four of all British stamps regularly issued to the public. The

rarest of the Ten Shillings value is the variety on white paper, watermarked Anchor (value £45, unused), and of the One Pound, that on similar paper (value £100, unused). This Anchor paper is usually more or less blued, and it is seldom that the discolouration is entirely absent.

I knew a collector who bought the four stamps at a post office—£3 nett—and realised £175 some 15 years subsequently. What things we have missed!

The large Five Pounds (1882) in the first colour of dull orange-vermilion, on distinctly blued paper, is so scarce (value £100, unused) that I do not remember seeing a satisfactory copy beyond those (imperforate) from the *imprimatur* sheet.

Money will purchase copies of all the foregoing stamps; but what of the extremely rare "abnormals" above referred to? They are as follows, the peculiarity being in every case given in *italics* :—

Face Value.	Colour.	Plate.	Wmk.	Market Value.	
				Unused.	Used.
*2½d	Lilac-rose	4	<i>Anchor</i>	£	£
*2½d	Lilac-rose	5	<i>Anchor</i>		
†3d	Carminc	(3) 'dot'	Emblems	60	30
*3d	Carminc	5	<i>Emblems</i>		
*3d	Carminc	21	<i>Spray</i>		
4d	<i>Vermilion</i>	16	L. Garter		40
4d	<i>Sage-green</i>	17	L. Garter	60	
†6d	Purple	10	Spray		80
†6d	<i>Chestnut-brown</i>	12	Spray	40	20
†6d	<i>P. yellow brown</i>	13	Spray	50	20
*6d	<i>Green-grey</i>	18	Spray		
*8d	Chrome	2	L. Garter		
†9d	Bistre	(3) 'h-l'	Emblems	80	25
†9d	Bistre	5	Emblems	80	80
10d	Red-brown	2	Spray	60	25
†1s	Green	(3) 'h-l'	Emblems	80	
*1s	Green	5	<i>Emblems</i>		
*1s	Green	14	<i>Spray</i>		
2s	Blue	3	Spray	100	60
*5s	Rose	4	<i>Cross</i>		

* Unknown.

† See Illustration.

The "Skilling Banco" Stamps of Sweden.



THE investigations of the Sveriges Filatelist-Förening have had the effect of clearing up many difficult points in connection with the early issues of Sweden, and especially is this so with regard to the series of 1855—Sweden's first issue of adhesive postage stamps.

Unlike those of most of the European nations, the stamps of Sweden were perforated from the first issue. In our own country stamp perforation dates only from 1854, and Sweden, by applying the then new idea to her first stamps in July, 1855, was one of the first to follow Great Britain's lead. Water-marking was not adopted until 1891, although the stamps of 1885 were marked at the back with a posthorn, this being sometimes referred to as an "impressed watermark."

The "Skilling Banco" stamps were undoubtedly printed letterpress fashion, from electrotypes made from copper dies. These copper dies in their turn were derived from an original die made of hardened steel. The "mother die," as one may call it, was unfortunately found to be missing when a search was made through the archives of the Swedish Post Office, but it is on record that it included no indication of value—that is to say, the two top corner-blocks and the label at foot would be left blank for the insertion of the inscriptions peculiar to each of the five values. Also lost were the finished plates used for the actual printing, and the copper dies constructed from the original steel are the sole relics of the issue now remaining in the possession of the postal authorities. It is regrettable, because if the whole range of plates and dies had survived it would have been possible to reconstruct the whole process of manufacture from beginning to end. As it is, however, the information available is sufficient for all practical purposes.

The paper used for the stamps was hand-made, and specially manufactured for this purpose by the Government's bank-note factory. There was a watermark in the corners of

the sheets, but the stamps themselves are unwatermarked. One generally finds that the stamps of the "Skilling Banco" series are of a pronounced yellowish or greyish tinge as to their paper, but the patient investigators, to whom we are indebted for so many details, are positive in their assertion that none but white paper was used. Any change of shade now to be seen is simply the effect of age.

But what is of greater interest and importance to philatelists than any of these details is the knowledge now available as to the use of the thin and thick varieties of paper.

The first paper used was that which we now class as the thin. Stamps were printed on this paper during the months of May and June, 1855, and it is stated that deliveries were made to the postal headquarters on the 12th, 13th, and 21st of June in readiness for the formal issue to the public on the 1st of July of that year. The values and standard colours are well known to philatelists, but may be set forth here in the interests of completeness:—

3	skilling-banco,	green.
4	"	" blue.
6	"	" grey.
8	"	" yellow.
24	"	" red.

At the same time it will be useful to explain that the skilling banco represented the forty-eighth part of the old riksdaler banco, which was the equivalent of 100 öre—the öre being the present currency unit of the country. Thus, if we take the öre as being worth a half-farthing in British money, it will be seen that four skilling-banco would be the equivalent, roughly, of a British penny. The four skilling-banco was, in fact, the penny stamp of the period in Sweden, and to this day it remains by far the commonest of the series in the philatelic market.

Now the thin paper first used was soon found to be unsuitable, but not alone on the ground of strength. It was deemed insufficiently "surfaced," and it is now placed on record that a large quantity was returned to the paper mills to be reglazed. As early as July 11th—that is, in less than a fortnight after the first issue to the public—came the first delivery of a thicker make of paper; but this was only a small quantity as a trial, and it was all used for 4 skilling stamps, which were delivered

to the Post Office in August of the same year. After this there was no further delivery on thick paper until September, 1856, so that the printings were on the thin paper of the original supply and the same made reglazed.

The two problems still confronting the advanced philatelist in regard to the first issue of Swedish stamps are associated with the paper used. In the first place, is it possible to detect and differentiate between the original thin paper and the thin paper reglazed? Secondly, what is the respective rarity of the specimens on thin and thick paper? In this connection it will be well to reproduce the official figures of the total deliveries as arrived at during the investigations at the Swedish Post Office:

		Thin paper.	Thick paper.
3 sk. banco	...	315,600	nil.
4 " "	...	2,756,300	4,228,600
6 " "	...	211,900	55,000
8 " "	...	409,700	389,100
24 " "	...	127,000	104,100

In the first place it will be noted that the 3 skilling was never printed on the thick paper at all. As regards the 4, 8, and 24 skillings, there is not a great deal to choose, taking these figures as a guide; but from a glance at the quantities of "thin" and "thick" accredited to the 6 skilling value, it looks as though the printing on thick paper should be about four times as scarce as that on the thin. Unfortunately, we cannot judge the question on these figures alone, for in the earlier period of the supply of postage stamps in Sweden there was a very high percentage of spoiled stamps, and it is a reasonable inference that the greater number of these would be among the printings on thin paper. Then, again, one has to remember the official destruction of large quantities of these stamps in 1858, at the time of the remodelling of the Swedish currency, and the consequent issue of new postage stamps, with values in "öre." Although there is a statement now published as to the total quantities destroyed (how one would have liked to snatch a few sheets from that postal bonfire!), yet there is no exact record as to the numbers burnt of each denomination, or as to the proportion of thin and thick papers. Current catalogue quotations do not conform to one's pre-conceived notions in the light of the tabular statement given

above, yet they are the result of the experience of the actual handlers of the stamps, and as such are entitled to all respect.

There are still the shades of colour to deal with, and these are many. It will be best to take the five values in rotation, and deal with their principal characteristics:—

THE 3 SKILLING BANCO, GREEN (printed on the thin paper only).—The shades are light green, green, and blue-green. All are scarce, but the rarest is the blue-green shade in unused condition. There is said to be an error printed in a very yellowish shade of green, of which only one specimen is believed to survive.

THE 4 SKILLING BANCO, BLUE.—All the specimens obtainable at low prices (4d. to 1s.) will be found to be in the ordinary blue, varying only in depths—unless, of course, the collector has the luck to make a fortunate "find"! The rarer shades are grey blue, dark blue, and ultramarine. A recent catalogue quotation for the grey blue in unused condition is £12 10s. The ultramarine variety is recognisable, apart from colour, by its very blurred printing. The collector with a quick eye for colour may still hope to make an occasional bargain in specimens of the 4 skilling stamp.

A partial re-drawing of the plate of this value is said to have been the result of damage. In the work of re-drawing the letter "R" of the word "FYRA" (four) at the foot of the stamp became metamorphosed into a "B," making the inscription read "Fyba."

THE 6 SKILLING BANCO, GREY.—Almost incredible as it may seem, this stamp was originally violet. How it has contrived to turn grey with age one cannot tell. In a human being nothing would be more natural, but in a stamp one can only ascribe it to some solar or atmospheric influence, or to some chemical in the gum or in the printing ink itself. Certain it is that the pigment originally used in printing the stamp was violet—the fact is definitely recorded in the official annals. The shades now known are grey-brown and a dark grey-brown. The stamp is scarce, unused, but in used condition (considering the comparatively small quantity printed), it is much more easily obtained than one would expect.

THE 8 SKILLING BANCO, YELLOW.—Here are shades of yellow and orange, and one very rare tint which is generally described as lemon. This value is far scarcer on the thin paper than the thick for specimens in used condition. One may find many variations in the printing due to the steady wearing of the plate. This is true to some extent of all the Skilling Banco stamps, but more especially in the 4 and 8 skillings.

THE 24 SKILLING BANCO, RED.—Another strange instance of colour-fading is to be noted here, for we are told that the original printing was in dark red, though no specimens in that shade are now to be found. Roughly, we may divide existing copies into red and pale red, and there is little to choose between them in point of rarity. The stamp, however, is rarer on the thick than the thin paper.

A word must be said as to the reprints of the skilling banco stamps—reprints which were made by the Government principally for the purpose of exchanging with other nations *via* the headquarters of the Postal Union. There were three issues of these re-impressions, in the years 1868, 1872, and 1885. Those of the two former years are identical with the originals in practically all respects save the gum, which is white in the reprints as against a distinct yellowish in the original stamp. The reprints of 1885 are readily detected by a difference of perforation. The originals, of course, are perforated either 14 by $13\frac{1}{2}$ or 14 all round, whereas the reprints of 1885 have an unvarying perforation of 13.



The Story of the Year.

BY PERCY C. BISHOP.



JUST a year ago the stamp forgery prosecution at Brighton was in full swing, and since that time various minor stamp cases have engaged attention. There have also been divers rumours of libel actions to come. It has been, in fact, rather a litigious year, but, at the same time, a year notable for steady philatelic progress and a large output of satisfactory work by philatelic societies, by the litterateurs of the hobby, and by the philatelic press.

Work of the Societies.

The season started well. The philatelic societies, largely increased in number and greatly strengthened by an infusion of new blood, had issued most attractive programmes. I think myself that there is no fact more cheering in present-day philately than this great accession of strength to the work and influence of the societies. Unquestionably, much of it is due to the vigorous propaganda and the amazing virility of the Junior Philatelic Society. The founder of the J.P.S., Mr. Fred. J. Melville, has not only worked hard himself but he has shown a positive genius for the discovery of able and enthusiastic helpers. The result we see in the up-growth of many provincial junior societies, and probably we may trace to the same cause a general revival in the activity of philatelic organisations generally. During the past year the Bath Philatelic Society has, to use a very ugly verb, "recrudesced" in the happiest possible manner—and how glad one will be to see a strong society in a city so intimately associated with the early days of philately! Another comparatively new society, the South Wales and Monmouthshire, has more than fulfilled its early promise. Other excellent societies of fairly recent formation are the North London, the Croydon, and the Northampton.

Of the Royal Philatelic Society it is enough to say that it continues to live up to its great traditions, and supports the

honour of its new title with befitting dignity. The Herts. Society, growing steadily in usefulness and influence, has this season shared with the "Royal" the pleasure of holding its opening meeting at the residence of the Earl of Crawford. The Scottish, the Liverpool, the Leeds, the Manchester, the Bristol, the Birmingham, and perhaps a round dozen of other societies, have held their members together by the excellence of their meetings.

Time was when we heard much of the dulness and prosiness of philatelic societies' gatherings, but no such reproach could be launched against them now. New methods and new ideas have changed all that. What with open discussions, ten-minute papers, impromptu auctions, essay competitions, exhibitions, and competitive displays, as well as a variety of social functions, the member of the up-to-date philatelic society is in no danger of being bored by lack of variety. To the Liverpool Juniors must be awarded the credit of inventing the latest diversion—an amusing and highly successful philatelic raffle.

The "S.C.F." Medals.

After such a burst of activity as we have witnessed during the past two or three seasons the danger one has to fear is a relapse from the high watermark of energy and enthusiasm. There are, as I write, signs that several secretaries have been hard put to it to fill out their programmes for this present season of 1908-09 with suitable attractions. The pace, in fact, has been a trifle too hot, and there is, for the moment, a shortage of good material in certain quarters. This is, I am convinced, purely temporary. Our societies, and especially our junior societies, are inspired by such a fervour for philately that I look forward to years of continuous progress and useful service to the hobby. I am evidencing my own faith in the work of the philatelic societies, and, I hope, helping to stimulate that work, by offering to award a number of special "Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly" medals to the authors of the best philatelic papers delivered at the various societies' meetings.

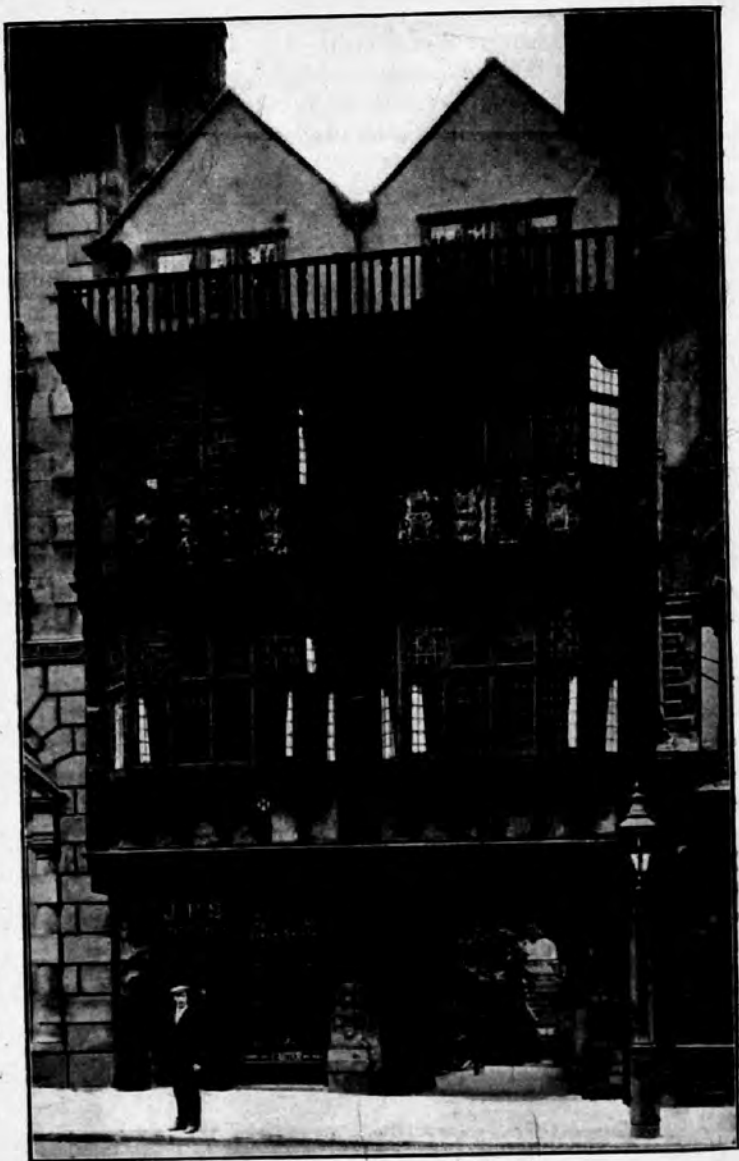
It is natural to turn next to the subject of the year's Philatelic Exhibitions, since it is invariably to the energy and enterprise of one or another of the philatelic societies that we owe these interesting displays.

Imperial Exhibition and Others.

During 1908 we have had exhibitions in London, Cardiff, Liverpool, etc., following an excellent philatelic display organised by the Leicester Philatelic Society in November of the previous year. Without doubt, the most remarkable of these shows was the Imperial Philatelic Exhibition held at Caxton Hall, Westminster, in March last, under the auspices of the Junior Philatelic Society. In the success of its previous exhibition at Exeter Hall, in 1905, the "J.P.S." had given us a taste of its quality as a promoter of popular displays. Both on that occasion and at Caxton Hall success came as a natural consequence of a vigorous and original propaganda. The most notable innovation was the policy of free admission. This and the popular "note" of the whole undertaking were the two great factors making for success, and it is fairly safe to prophesy that in all future philatelic exhibitions—in this country, at any rate—there will be no thought of "gate money," and there will be close attention to persistent and intelligent advertisement. The striking contrast between the Junior Society's Show and the International Philatelic Exhibition at the Horticultural Hall, in 1907, was the subject of general remark, for whereas at the "International" one walked through long dreary aisles of neglected exhibits, at the "Juniors'" display one experienced the opposite sensation of an uncomfortably crowded rendezvous. In fact, the attendance at Caxton Hall was so great that the doors at one time had to be temporarily closed in order to restore something approaching freedom of ingress and egress.

It is good to know that the Juniors' membership roll is still rapidly growing. I understand that 300 new names have been added since the close of the 1907-1908 season. The J.P.S. meetings, by the way, are now held in a truly palatial and historic room at 17 Fleet Street, London, E.C. The apartment is known as Prince Henry's Council Chamber, and it stands to-day practically in the same state as when Henry, Prince of Wales, eldest son of King James the First, used it as his Council Chamber for the Duchy of Cornwall. We give a view of the ancient exterior which overhangs Fleet Street just as it did in the year 1610. The room in which the meetings are held has a unique Jacobean ceiling with Prince Henry's monogram in the centre.

At Cardiff, pursuing the same enlightened policy, but with, of course, a far smaller public to draw upon, the South Wales



NO. 17 FLEET STREET.

The historic house wherein the meetings of the Junior Philatelic Society are now held.

and Monmouthshire Philatelic Society scored a notable success with its first Stamp Exhibition, opened by the Lord Mayor of Cardiff and greatly helped by the co-operation of the officials of the Cardiff Museum. The Liverpool Philatelic Society also held a successful exhibition, and there were local displays in various other towns and cities—displays which necessarily call for little comment in a general survey of the year's events, but which, nevertheless, are productive of the greatest possible good in their particular districts. It is good to know that several of these local exhibitions are in preparation for the coming year.

**Manchester
and the
Congress.**

The great event of 1909, however, will be the Manchester Philatelic Exhibition, planned and organised by what was, until lately, the Manchester branch of the Junior Philatelic Society, but is now an entirely independent organisation. The full story of the coming Exhibition is fully told in another part of the present "Annual," but what is, perhaps, more interesting, because more novel, is the holding of the First Annual Congress of British Philatelists concurrently with the exhibition. That something analogous to the German "Philatelisten Tag" should be held in this country is a proposition that has long been agitated in the philatelic press, and it will be interesting to note what measure of success is scored by this first actual experiment at Manchester. Personally, I have no misgivings on the subject. There is ample material for debate in the shape of such subjects as the proposal to found a National Society or Federation of British Philatelists, and there will be no lack of earnest and eloquent speakers.

**Journalistic
Entrances and
Exits.**

But from retrospect I have swung forward to anticipation. Returning to my muttuns, let me take as my next topic the philatelic literature of the year. There has been, perhaps, rather less activity in the output of monographs and hand-books, but a year which has seen the production of works like "Afghanistan," by Sir David Masson and Mr. B. Gordon Jones, "Fiji," by Mr. Charles J. Phillips, as well as several hand-books of a popular and more elementary nature by Mr. Fred. J. Melville, Mr. Bertram Poole, &c., cannot fairly be called one of the lean years of philatelic literature.

In the journalism of the hobby there have been various entrances and exits. Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, have abandoned their "Monthly Journal" (perhaps the cleverest journalistic exponent of scientific philately ever produced), to concentrate their energies upon the firm's weekly journal. "Morley's Philatelic Journal" has also left us after several years of usefulness. The "Collector's Journal" of Rotherham, has dropped out, to be replaced by a newcomer from the same town, the "Collector's Weekly." Messrs. Bright & Son have established an interesting and instructive magazine in the "Philatelic Adviser," most ably edited by Mr. E. W. Wetherell; Messrs. Charles Nissen & Co., have successfully launched a special journal for lovers of British stamps, the "British Philatelist"; Mr. Nankivell has given us a new weekly in "The Postage Stamp"; and "The Stamp Lover," with Mr. Melville in the editorial chair, has for its principal mission the further development of the Junior Philatelic Society. Other new papers are known to be in preparation, and when these are launched upon an expectant—or shall I say a mildly expectant?—world, the philatelic press of the United Kingdom will be in a stronger position, numerically considered, than at any previous period in its history. It is too early to foretell the fate of these new ventures.

The House Organ.

"They can't all pay," says the disinterested onlooker, and he is right; but this same disinterested onlooker too often forgets that there are many philatelic journals which are not expected to pay except in an indirect manner. Such firms as Stanley Gibbons, Bright & Son, Alfred Smith & Son, and Charles Nissen & Co., issue journals which can only be described by the American phrase, "House Organs." They are valuable and informing journals, but as no outside advertisements are accepted, there is no source of revenue save from subscriptions, and I think I can say with the utmost confidence that no philatelic periodical ever yet showed a profit out of its sales of copies alone. Personally, I do not object to the music of the "house organ" at all, for, as a rule, the man who turns the crank has the interests of his business to consider, and this ensures wise and truthful editorship. Give me, therefore, twenty well-conducted house organs rather than one of those cheap and irresponsible advertising sheets which do not scruple to admit the announcements of Continental "cleaners" and

philatelic "crooks," living at unpronounceable places in Russia or South America. Nor have I any misgivings as to the multiplication of periodical trade circulars issued as philatelic journals. These things must inevitably find their true level, and philatelists, being a very discerning class, will very quickly decide the question of the survival of the fittest. One hears frequent grumbles as to the parsimony of collectors in regard to literature and accessories, but my own experience points quite to the contrary. As a philatelic writer and editor of over twenty years' experience, I can truthfully say that nothing could exceed the generosity and loyalty of the readers of stamp periodicals. As an instance, I received some time ago a letter enclosing 3s. 3d. for a year's postal subscription to the "Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly," and accompanying it a letter, which I construe as one of the most flattering testimonials an Editor could wish to receive. "I learn," said the writer, "that I can now get the 'S.C.F.' (as a member of the — Society) for 2s. 2d. per annum, but I have always paid 3s. 3d., and always shall, as I consider the paper is splendid value for the money." A most unbusinesslike compliment, was it not?; but at the same time obviously sincere. Necessarily, I can speak only of my own experiences, but I doubt not that my fellow Editors have had many equally cheering and encouraging communications from that much maligned individual, the "constant reader."

Philately's Vital Force.

In reality, it is such loyal support as this that ensures a philatelic journal's success, and, as the literature of a hobby is admittedly its vital force, so it follows that countries in which philatelic journalism reaches the highest level of excellence are just those countries which are the most famous for good philately. To many people—non-philatelists all of them—the perennial popularity of stamp collecting is a perpetual puzzle, but such people—and I say this, believe me, without a thought of egotism—such people make no allowance for the enormous influence of the literature of the hobby. Therefore I, for one, cry a welcome to all these new journals, knowing that each one of them, whether it sink or swim, will, in some degree, assist the growth and popularity of Philately.

But of all the signs of the times I think the most significant is this: that the boy collector no longer sheds his stamps when he doffs his school cap, but retains, and often increases, his interest in them, carrying his philately with him into manhood

and old age. Never was there such a remarkable development as this. I well remember the time—in the eighties of the last century—when the average schoolboy collector knew nothing of the real world of philately. He probably never even saw a philatelic journal, though occasionally he would get a price list or an approval sheet from a dealer. To him “stamp collecting” (one could not call it philately) meant merely an occasional visit to a newsagent’s shop, and much noisy swapping of grubby or disabled specimens with his school chums.

The Boy Philatelist.

He groped in outer darkness, did the boy collector of that period, and on reaching early manhood, having no longer any school-fellows to exchange with, or, indeed, anything tangible to tie him to the hobby, he very naturally placed his album on one side or sold it to the first bidder, and thenceforth at any mention of stamp collecting he would give an indulgent smile and say, offhandedly, “Oh, yes, I used to collect when I was a kid, you know!” Well, I think that type of collector is practically gone, and I will try to tell you why. In the first place, the junior societies have caught him young; they have enrolled him in his hundreds at just that age when a youth has his back to his schooldays and his face to the workaday world—the age when a youth’s adherence to philately may be said to be trembling in the balance. I give due praise also to the many broadminded schoolmasters who perceive the great educational merit of a hobby like philately, and, so far from discouraging collecting, as was too often done when I was a boy, use every effort to foster and direct their pupils’ interest in stamps. But the lion’s share of the credit for the awakening of the boy philatelist I must certainly allot to those editors of boys’ journals and magazines who have devoted a generous proportion of their space to philatelic articles. It is only within the past year that I have discovered, as contributor of “Our Stamp Corner” to Messrs. Cassell & Co.’s most excellent boy’s paper, “Chums,” what an enormous number of boys and young men in all parts of the country are now taking an active and intelligent interest in the subject. These boys are no longer mere accumulators; they are philatelists. They have their catalogues, their hinges, and their perforation gauges. In eagerness for information and in keenness in the hunt for scarce and unusual varieties they more than rival those children of a larger growth whose names

are familiar in the philatelic annals of to-day. It very quickly occurred to me that in some way these enthusiastic young collectors should be banded together for mutual help and encouragement. So the "Chums" society of stamp collectors was suggested to them, acclaimed with enthusiasm, and duly formed—all within the space of three months.

**A Hundred
Members
a Month.**

At the moment of writing there are no less than 420 members, and as the applications are still coming in at the rate of a hundred a month, I fully expect to be able to point to a total roll of a thousand names before the present season comes to an end. A little four-page monthly paper, "The World of Stamps," has been inaugurated as the report and official journal of the society, and I may mention, incidentally, that the first (October) issue of this paper bids fair to become one of the greatest rarities in the way of philatelic literature. At the time of going to press I did not anticipate the great rush of applications for membership. Only 250 copies were printed, and a reprint being impracticable, many of the members have had to be content to begin at No. 2 of their official journal. All this I mention as showing what a wondrous change has been wrought in the methods and the environment of the boy philatelist. My youngest member is a boy of seven, my oldest a lady of seventy; but the average of years is about fourteen. All are animated by the same keenness and enthusiasm, and I think one may rest assured that at least 50 per cent. of them are philatelists not for their schooldays only, but for life. The future of philately, as to which a certain uneasiness is sometimes expressed, is assuredly safe when so much can be said!

**New Issues
and
Discoveries.**

The new issues of the year have been many, but not, I think, so numerous as those of the year previous. The stamps of the Nyassaland Protectorate bring with them a name quite new to the collector's album. For the Danish West Indies, Ecuador, Argentina, Italian Levant, &c., there have been entirely new issues. Newfoundland sends us a new 2 cents. label—an addition to the world's "map" stamps—and from various quarters of the British Empire there has been the usual stream of stamps showing modifications of paper or watermark. In Switzerland a revision of the national postage stamps is in progress in

deference to popular feeling, which laughed to scorn the ridiculously cheap and crude designs of the recent issue. To Brazil belongs the distinction of having given us, on the same date, two commemorative stamps issued in honour of two distinct and utterly dissimilar events! Certain American Republics, more especially Paraguay and Nicaragua, have contributed numerous complicated provisionals to the possessions of those philatelists who believe that there is a future for these hitherto neglected countries.

In the domain of new discoveries, however, the year has yielded few sensations, perhaps the most remarkable event being the "find" by Mr. J. E. Joselin of a penny King's Head Transvaal showing the cabled anchor watermark of the Cape of Good Hope instead of the normal "C.A."

Colonial Gumpaps.

The "scandal," as it has been called, of the Cayman Islands issues has been industriously canvassed, some hotly condemning the postal methods of this paltry colony, and others quite as fiercely defending them. The matter has been brought to the attention of the Home Government, and Colonel Seely, M.P., has given a not very definite or satisfactory pledge that something shall be done. The "something," in all probability, will have taken the form of an "enquiry," in the course of which a number of official persons, knowing nothing of the real points at issue, will work hard to compile an expensive and irrelevant report of which no notice will ever be taken! Perhaps the only effective remedy is that which Major Evans has suggested, namely, to withdraw from the Cayman Islands the privilege of issuing postage stamps—a privilege which has certainly been grossly abused. It may be that coming events have cast their shadows before in the latest proceedings of the Cayman Islands' Postal Department. When stamp dealers applied for supplies of the recently issued farthing stamp, the Postmistress replied to the effect that, the issue being one *purely for local postage*, orders from over sea would not be executed, but, alas, for this lady's logicity and sense of humour *she prepaid her communication with four of the farthing stamps in question!*

That we shall hear more of the Cayman Islands and their postage stamps seems certain, and perhaps when I am writing next year's "Story" I may have to report either that the Caymans have been deprived of their right to issue stamps, or

that the administration of the Post Office has been placed under the strict supervision of the Home Authorities. Which, I wonder, will it be?

The Next Boom.

Does Mr. Charles J. Phillips mean it, or is it just a bit of his fun, when he predicts that the next philatelic boom will be in the stamps of South and Central America?

This particular boom has been promised so often, and has so persistently refused to materialise, that one is apt to take it with a whole spoonful of salt. At the same time Mr. Phillips is so emphatically a man who knows what he is talking about in matters philatelic that the only question is whether he is really speaking seriously, or is "hafing a leetle yoke mit us." The *Philatelic Record* has taken him seriously enough, for it announces a special series of papers on South and Central American Republics, whereupon Mr. Phillips gravely pats the *Record's* back, and commends it for its enterprise. But it is left to Mr. J. W. Scott, of New York, to spoil the whole joke—if joke it be—by turning comedy into broad farce. With the gravest face imaginable, the "Father of Philately" tells us, in his *Metropolitan Philatelist*, that there is now a brisk demand for the stamps of Salvador and Nicaragua! Well! well! this would be a dull old world, even for philatelists, if we never enjoyed a good hearty laugh—wouldn't it?

Busy Auctioneers.

The hammer of the auctioneer still swings incessantly. Throughout the season of eight or nine months philatelic auctions are continuous, and one sometimes wonders

how the constant attendants at these functions contrive to provide themselves with a reasonable amount of rest and recreation. At the present time six firms of auctioneers in London—Messrs. Glendining & Co., Mr. Hadlow, Messrs. Harmer Rooke & Co., Messrs. Plumridge & Co., Messrs. Puttick & Simpson, and Messrs. Ventom Bull & Cooper, to give the names in alphabetical order—are dividing up the calendar with such precision that only the Sundays slip through their sieve. Still, with all these sales, I think I may say, without fear of contradiction, that philatelic auctioneers do not now obtain for disposal "stuff" of quite the same quality, or even the same quantity, as in former years. It is not that there has been any falling off in the popularity of the auction as a means of effecting a prompt and satisfactory sale; it is simply the fact that good stamps do not now change hands so frequently.

They do not "come on the market," but get locked up more or less permanently in great collections. The full moral of that condition of things I shall not stop to discuss, but I do claim that the fact that certain of our auctioneers occasionally experience a wee bit of a difficulty in "filling up" their sales is one of the healthiest possible signs of the times.

Notable Deaths.

A notable figure was lost to philately by the death of Jean Baptiste Moens, of Brussels, for so many years a world-known stamp dealer, and publisher of "*Le Timbre Poste*." Another notable philatelist called away from us was Herr Fraenkel, of Berlin, whose splendid library was purchased by the Earl of Crawford, and the greater portion of it presented by his lordship to the Royal Philatelic Society.

Other lamented deaths were those of M. Arthur Maury, editor of *Le Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste*, and M. Rud. Kraseman, who was joint-author with M. Hilmer Djurling of the Swedish Society's great work on the postage stamps of Sweden.

As the "Annual" goes to press there comes the sad tidings of the death of Sir W. B. Avery, Bart., Honorary President of the Birmingham Philatelic Society, a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, and the owner of a collection which is famous for its specimens of the "Post Office" issue of Mauritius, its Cape woodblock errors and many other gems of the first water. Sir William's death will be deeply deplored at Birmingham, where he was the head of a great business, at Windsor, where he latterly resided for a great part of his time, and all over the world by the followers of the hobby he loved.

"Reported dead," but happily still hale and hearty, was Mons. Pierre Mahé, the "report of whose death was grossly exaggerated" (to borrow Mark Twain's immortal jape) by "*Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*" some months ago. The great American humorist scored off the writer of his premature obituary notice in the happiest possible way, but Mons. Pierre Mahé seems to have let his opportunity slip. He might, at least, have cabled "*Mekeel's*" that he was "not yet obsolete," or something of that kind, but perhaps in some future chapter of his papers on "*Life's Little Worries*" the vivacious Frenchman will expatiate on the disagreeableness of reading that one is dead when one hasn't even begun to think of dying!

The Stamps of the Chinese Treaty Ports.

BY C. L. HARTE-LOVELACE.



o one who knows the *raison d'être* of these stamps, it is a matter for regret that they should be in such bad odour among philatelists, solely because of the malpractices of one or two of the local Post Offices.

I propose, then, to give a short history of their origin.

The stamps are not locals in the sense of the stamps of the English Private Delivery Cos. or the Carrier Stamps of U.S.A. Each port delivered letters franked by stamps of any other, Hong Kong itself being in the Union. In fact, the British Mail was delivered by means of them. They are thus more in the nature of stamps for Internal Postage, and although they were limited to about a dozen ports, they franked letters over more than 2000 sq. miles.

Shanghai was the first to issue stamps, in 1865, 14 years before the first stamps of the Chinese Imperial Customs.

They were not used much at first, for by a yearly subscription one could have all postal matter delivered without further charge, not only at Shanghai, but as far as Ningpo, Hankow, Amoy, Foochow, and other ports where the Shanghai Local Post had established agencies.

From 1st January, 1893, the subscription system was abolished, and stamps had to be used in all cases.

The authorities had made no preparation for the extra stamps required; consequently, in a very short time there were none to be had, not only at the agencies, but at Shanghai itself.

As a result, Hankow decided to take over the Shanghai Agency into its own hands, and to constitute it a Local Post of its own. The stamps were issued in a great hurry, as can be seen by the roughness of design and production of the 1893 issue, followed afterwards by a characteristic set by Waterloo and Sons. Chefoo followed suit about the same time for exactly the same reasons.

Kewkiang, Chinkiang, Foochow, and Amoy, in succession, imitated them some time after, when they saw their success.

All these were Shanghai Agencies which developed into self-governing Post Offices. The origin of Chungking's first issue—of one stamp only—was as follows:—The Customs Post of China received letters for Chungking, but for some reason refused to take any from it. Three native agencies, charging pretty highly, filled the gap. Mr. Little, a British merchant, then collected the letters himself, franked by this stamp which he sold, and sent them by the native agencies in bulk, at a cheaper proportionate rate thus than singly.

Mr. Gregson was responsible for the Wuhu productions, the first set made solely for stamp collectors. However, they franked the letters from Wuhu to the other ports, and Wuhu Post Office duly delivered those from the other ports in turn.

At Ichang, a body called the Ichang Public Improvement Committee was formed, with the British Consul as Chairman; this established and carried on the Ichang Post Office.

The Nankin Post Office was established in 1885 as a modified Shanghai Agency. A missionary undertook the duties of postmaster without remuneration. No stamps were issued, but accounts were kept and debited to the various members of the community who used the post, *pro rata*. This system became impracticable with the increase of population, and Shanghai was asked to provide stamps. However, they answered their charge would be 50 per cent. of face value! Accordingly the order was given to a Japanese firm. When the Imperial Post took over the Customs Post of China, 2nd February, 1897, it also took over these Treaty Port Posts, and so from that date the stamps have been obsolete. In conclusion, these stamps offer a wide and interesting field—as I can say from experience—for philatelic research, to those who like to break new ground, and I may add that I should be delighted to correspond with any who have made, or intend to make, a study of them.

A Study of the Stamps of Cyprus.

BY PERCY C. BISHOP.



DO not think that the latitude and longitude of the island of Cyprus have much to do with its postage stamps, nor do I think it greatly concerns the philatelist that the island is about 60 miles from the nearest point of Asia Minor, or that the Syrian port of Latakia is 41 miles distant. These facts, with many others that do not bear upon the subject of stamps, may be found fully set forth in "Whitaker's Almanac."

What *is*, perhaps, of some importance (and is most certainly overlooked by large numbers of people), is the fact that Cyprus is still an appanage of the Ottoman Empire, although, by virtue of the treaty of 1878, the Government is administered by Great Britain for so long a period as Batoum and Kars may be kept by Russia. For this privilege of governing the Cypriotes we are supposed to pay the Sublime Porte a yearly tribute of £78,000, as well as £5000 as compensation for state lands, and a little matter of 4,166,220 okes of salt. An oke of salt is a little over 2½ lbs. I use the term "supposed to pay," because, as a matter of fact, no actual money passes, there being a pretty big score against Turkey in John Bull's ledger, which this annual tribute is helping to liquidate.

Prior to our occupation of Cyprus in 1878 Turkish stamps were in use in the island. Letters for Smyrna were carried by the vessels of the Asia Minor Steamship Company, which issued two postage stamps of the values of 1 and 2 piastres, printed in black on green. Unused specimens of these are to be seen in the Tapling Collection at the British Museum.

The taking-over of the Government of Cyprus was an accomplished fact before it had dawned upon the intelligence of the British Government that the Cypriotes, although not greatly addicted to the letter-writing habit, would need postage stamps. As a temporary measure ordinary British stamps were supplied for the purpose; later—in February, 1880—a special overprint of the name "Cyprus" was applied to these, and in 1881 the first distinctive stamps for the island were supplied from the factory of Messrs. De La Rue.

I.—THE UNSURCHARGED BRITISH STAMPS.

“These unsurcharged British stamps,” remark Messrs. I. J. Bernstein and Charles Nissen in their articles on “British Stamps used Abroad,” “were available for internal postage, this being the only instance in the history of ‘Used Abroads’ where such was the case.”

Does not this fact make the British stamps with Cyprus postmarks stand out from all others of the same class as belonging absolutely to the country of use? I hold that from July, 1878, the date of the annexation, to the time when the overprinted stamps were issued, the ordinary British stamps *were* also the stamps of Cyprus, and I think that no collection of the island’s stamps, whether pretending to the somewhat grandiose description of a “specialised” collection or not, can show any claim to completion unless it includes the stamps of this period, which, being distinguishable only by their postmarks, must necessarily be collected in cancelled condition.



Cyprus Postmarks on British Stamps : 969 (Nikosia),
and D47 (Polymedia).

The numbered postmarks allocated to the various post offices in Cyprus were, according to Messrs Bernstein and Nissen, the following :—942 (Larnaca, the principal seaport of Cyprus) ; 969 (Nikosia, the capital) ; 975 (Famagusta) ; 981 (Limasol) ; 982 (Kyrenia) ; D47 (Polymedia) ; and D48, the army headquarters camp. Two other office numbers, it appears, were allotted—Baffo (No. 974) and Platres (No. 098), but no specimens with these cancellations are known to exist. The following values and plate numbers are known with various Cyprus postmarks.

½d red. Plates 13, 14, 15, 19.

1d red. Plates 81, 95, 102, 105, 109, 115, 118, 123, 170, 171, 174, 179, 184, 190, 192, 195, 198, 199, 201, 202, 203, 206, 207, 209, 210, 212, 213, 215, 218, 221.

- 2d blue. Plates 14, 15.
 2½d lilac-rose. Plates 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17.
 2½d blue. Plates 20, 21.
 4d sage green. Plate 16.
 6d grey. Plates 15, 16.
 1/- green. Plate 13.
 1/- brown. Plate 14.

II.—BRITISH STAMPS OVERPRINTED.

February 5th, 1880, was the first date on which British stamps with the overprint "Cyprus" were supplied in the



The ½d., 1d., and 2½d. British with the "Cyprus" overprint.



The "Halfpenny" on the surcharged 1d. British.

island, the 2½d value being the first to arrive. Here is a detailed list of the whole surcharged series—given in the order of actual issue—together with the plate-numbers of the several values:—

- "Cyprus" on 2½d lilac-rose. Plate numbers 14 and 15.
 "Cyprus" on ½d red. Plate numbers 12, 15, and 19.

- "Cyprus" on 1d red. Plate numbers 174, 181, 184, 193, 196, 201, 205, 208, 215, 216, 217, 218, 220.
- "Cyprus" on 4d sage-green, 16.
- "Cyprus" on 6d slate. Plate 16.
- "Cyprus" on 1/- green. Plate 13.
- "30 paras" on 1d red. Plate numbers 201, 216, 217, 220.
- "Halfpenny" (in addition to "Cyprus") on 1d red. Plate numbers 174, 181, 201, 205, 208, 215, 216, 217, 218, 220. Three types of the "Halfpenny" overprint, measuring respectively 18, 16 to 16½, and 13 millimetres.

The 2½d, as I have said, was the first to be supplied to the people of Cyprus, but it was quickly followed by the ½d, 1d, 4d, 6d, and 1/- stamps.

The type of the overprinted name "Cyprus" is identical on all these values, except the ½d, for which a shorter and more compact overprint was necessitated by the smaller superficies of the stamp. The Egyptian capitals used for the surcharge for the 2½d and other values are 2½ millimetres in height, and the length of the overprint is rather more than 16 millimetres. On the ½d value the type of the surcharge is scarcely 4 mm. in height, and its length is only 13 millimetres.

A few general jottings may be appended on the surcharged series, still taking them in the order of their issue:—

Of the "Cyprus" on 2½d, lilac-rose, one need only say that of the two plates, 14 and 15, the latter is conspicuously the scarcer in used condition. As regards the unused the balance was, to a great extent, redressed by a fairly large remainder of plate 15.

The "Cyprus" on ½d red exists on the three plate numbers, 12, 15, and 19, the last-mentioned being the rarity of the series both in used and unused condition.

Thirteen plate numbers, as given above, were employed for the "Cyprus" on 1d red. The passing years have witnessed many "chops and changes" in the market valuations of these stamps. The great rarities, undoubtedly, are plates 174, 184, 193 and 196. Next to these one would place plates 208 and 220. The belated discovery of the existence of plates 193 and 196, with the "Cyprus" overprint, according to a story given on credible authority, was brought about in a very curious way. An American philatelist who called on Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, at a time when that firm transacted its business in a large private house in Gower Street, asked that a sheet of the penny Cyprus stamps in each plate number might be supplied to him. This was done, and the stamps included plates 193 and 196, the sheets, by the way, being supplied at the all-round rate of

6/- per hundred stamps!! Eventually these sheets came to be framed and hung on the walls of the Collectors' Club, New York, and it was then discovered by an observant member that the sheets included plates 193 and 196, which had never been catalogued, and, up to that time, were not known to exist! So much for the happy-go-lucky methods of the stamp dealers of a quarter of a century ago. One cannot leave the 1d stamp without a reference to the many forgeries that were made. Used "penny reds" were overprinted "Cyprus" on a wholesale scale, and sold, in the underworld of London philately, at quite a trifling price. What, however, detracted greatly from their chances of deceiving any sentient creature was the fact that a very large number of these fakes bore postmarks peculiar to London town. It was disquieting, to say the least of it, to find a postage stamp of Cyprus post-marked "Mincing Lane" or "Aldgate" or "Charing Cross." And in less obvious ways the fakers were seriously at fault, for they took no pains to restrict themselves to the plate numbers actually in use for Cyprus, but surcharged anything in the shape of a penny red, obsolete or current.

Of the 4d, 6d and 1/- stamps with the "Cyprus" overprint one need only say that they are scarce—especially in fine used condition—and growing yearly scarcer.

I now come to the "*30 paras*" on *1d red*—and the beginning of the errors. The double surcharge, one of the overprints being inverted, exists on plates 216 and 220. There is also the so-called error "80" for "30" on plate 216, but the supposed "8" is merely a malformed "3." Among normal specimens the outstanding rarity of this issue is plate 217.

The "*Halfpenny*" on *1d red* was supplied locally, and in a hurry, in February, 1881, as the result of the exhaustion of the stock of the small $\frac{1}{2}$ d stamp, of which only 143 sheets (68,640 stamps) had been sent out to the island. The surcharge of the word "Halfpenny" was at first roughly lithographed, and as the overprint of the first type measured $18\frac{1}{2}$ mm. in length (as against a total width of the stamp design of only 19 mm.) it is not surprising that a large majority of the specimens show the surcharge imperfectly applied. Some two months later there was a revision of the overprint. It was shortened to $16\frac{1}{2}$ mm., and on some specimens measures only 16 mm., the impressions (according to Westoby) being made by means of steel hand-stamps. Still later there was a further shortening

of the surcharge to 13 millimetres, lithography being again resorted to. There were thus three very distinct types of the overprint, and it will be convenient to list them here, together with the plate numbers in which each is known :—

Type I. (*long surcharge*) : plates 174, 181, 201, 205, 208, 215, 216, 217, 218, and 220.

Type II. (*medium length of surcharge*) : plates 201, 216, 218.

Type III. (*short surcharge*) ; plates 201, 205, 215, 217, and 218.

Throughout, but more especially during the printing of Type III., the surcharge was of the crudest description. Not only are there double and triple surcharges, but specimens exist whereon *four* distinct applications of the surcharge can be detected. These freaks are almost invariably found in unused condition only, the postal authorities in the island having held them back from circulation, only allowing them to go forth as part of the remainders sold to the stamp trade.



Four types of the " $\frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{2}$ " on Half Piastre.



Queen's Head issues of Cyprus.

III.—DISTINCTIVE STAMPS FOR CYPRUS.

How long Cyprus might have had to rest content with overprinted British stamps but for currency difficulties, it is impossible to say. The authorities, however, soon perceived that postage stamps bearing values in pence and shillings were an anachronism in a country traditionally accustomed to paras and piastres. Already this had been tacitly admitted by the issue of stamps of the value of 30 paras. Accordingly, the 1st of July, 1881, saw the emission of stamps showing the head of Queen Victoria, printed by Messrs. De La Rue & Co. from their stock dies, and bearing values $\frac{1}{2}$ piastre, 1, 2, 4, and 6 piastres, followed (in 1882) by a provisional surcharged stamp, 30 paras on the 1 piastre rose. Of these (so far as the specimens watermarked with a Crown and "C.C." are concerned) there is nothing of great moment to say.



Die I.



Die II.

The De La Rue Dies, I. and II., as used for the Queen's Head Stamps of Cyprus.

In 1882, however, it became necessary to adopt some means of differentiating between the $\frac{1}{2}$ piastre green and the 2 piastres blue, which were very frequently confused when viewed by artificial light. This necessity called forth the $\frac{1}{2}$ piastre overprinted " $\frac{1}{2}$," one of the most interesting of all the issues of Cyprus.

Usually there are three types of the " $\frac{1}{2}$ " on $\frac{1}{2}$ piastre listed, but unquestionably four very distinct varieties are to be found. The illustrations I give of these are from photographs of specimens shown me some considerable time ago by Messrs.

Bright & Son, and with the following descriptions it is quite easy to detect and locate the differences :—

Type I. is the first form of the surcharge adopted by the postal authorities, the work of surcharging being done in the island.

Type II. is the bolder De La Rue overprint that superseded Type I. One may subdivide Type II. into Type II*a* and Type II*b*, the former showing a space of 8 millimetres between the two overprints of " $\frac{1}{2}$," and the latter a space of only 6 millimetres. Type II*a* is found on both the "C.C." and "C.A." watermarked stamps, but Type II*b* only on the stamp watermarked "C.A."

Type III. shows a thicker "1" in the first " $\frac{1}{2}$ " of the overprint.

Type IV. shows a numeral "1" of an altogether different character in the *second* $\frac{1}{2}$ of the overprint.

The Queen's Head issues generally have quite an involved and complicated look as listed in some of the catalogues, but there is only one thing difficult about them—namely, the price of certain of the varieties. The full list reads as follows :—

Queen's Head ; wmk. Crown and C.C.

- $\frac{1}{2}$ piastre green.
- 1 piastre rose.
- 2 piastres blue.
- 4 piastres olive-green.
- 6 piastres slate.
- $\frac{1}{2}$ piastre green, surcharged " $\frac{1}{2}$."
- 30 paras on 1 piastre rose.

Wmk. Crown and C.A.

- $\frac{1}{2}$ piastre green.
- $\frac{1}{2}$ piastre green, surcharge " $\frac{1}{2}$."
- 30 paras violet.
- 1 piastre rose.
- 2 piastres blue.
- 4 piastres olive-green.
- 6 piastres grey.
- 12 piastres brown-orange.

NOTE.—All the above exist in both the well-known De La Rue Dies I and II, except the $\frac{1}{2}$ piastre surcharged " $\frac{1}{2}$."

Bi-coloured ; watermarked C.A.

- 9 piastres brown and rose.
- 18 piastres slate and brown.
- 45 piastres purple and blue.
- $\frac{1}{2}$ piastre green and carmine.
- 30 paras violet and green.
- piastre carmine and blue.
- 2 piastres blue and brown.
- 4 piastres green and violet.
- 6 piastres slate and green.
- 12 piastres brown-orange, red and black.

The King's Head stamps of Cyprus, "singles," "multiples," "chalkies," and "ordinaries," are quite a study in themselves.

Post Marks and their Collection.


BY THOS. WHITWORTH.



HAVE been asked by the editor of "The Stamp Collectors' Annual" to write a short article on Post Marks and their Collection, which I willingly accede to.

Though not of such popular interest or importance to collectors as stamps, yet certain advantages can be claimed for Post Marks which have a much older origin, with no end of varieties, and last, but not least, there is the comparatively small cash outlay involved in their collection.

That interest in the hobby is increasing is shown by the books and articles that have within the past few years been published, and the keenest collectors are old philatelists who, in these days of collecting only special countries, have filled up most of their wants, and now go in for Post Marks.

The first Post Mark dates from about 1660, and for over 100 years remained a most crude production, being struck from a wooden die, with simply the day of the month, thus : 

It was not until 1787 that the year was added, but only with the two figures 87.

"1806" is the earliest date I have giving the four figures, which appeared along with the previous type, the latter making its last appearance in 1822.

An interesting object of collection is in the "Penny Posts," of which some 2500 existed throughout the Kingdom up to 1840; but though Penny Postage was then established, a few of the old Penny Post cancellations remained for some years, though the extra fee could not be exacted.

Many varieties of designs exist, and some are extremely scarce.

Another branch of interest comprises the Post Marks, giving for England and Scotland the mileage from London, in Ireland

from Dublin, to facilitate the reckoning of the postal charge, which depended on the distance the letter was carried.

In 1844 the Post Office thought it expedient to give the leading towns a distinctive No. (now called a Duplex), to facilitate identification of posting, and began alphabetically with Abergavenny as No. 1, but after Abingdon, No. 3, comes Wantage. These marks are now practically replaced by the single, showing hour of postage.

The selection of towns and villages worthy of Nos. seems very erratic; the changes of numbers most frequent, particularly in the Irish list.

Above are only some of the branches to which collectors give their attention, the beauty of the hobby being in the many varieties that exist, and the fact that each can choose the section that most interests him.

Alterations in the names and spelling of towns are more frequent than most people imagine, and Post Marks show the various changes and when they took place.

Among many others are—

Lane End	now	Longton.
Namptwich	„	Hantwich.
Lyme	„	Lyme Regis.
Lynn	„	King's Lynn.
Yarmouth	„	Great Yarmouth.

It is about 20 years since the first Post Mark Society was formed, of which, for the past five years, I have been Secretary, and so far as I know is the only one existing.

To any readers who may feel interested in the matter of this article, I will gladly send a copy of the rules and give any information needed.



The Circular Delivery Stamps of Great Britain.

IT was Mr. Robert Brydone who initiated the first of the Circular Delivery enterprises in Edinburgh in 1865, his avowed object being to deliver business circulars and parcels at a cheap rate. Brydone appears to have taken the precaution of obtaining high legal opinion—in fact, that of no less a person than the Lord Advocate—as to his project, and it is reported that that personage expressed the view that systematic deliveries of printed matter would not be deemed an infringement of the privileges of the Post Office. Nevertheless the postal authorities did not long allow the deliveries of circulars to proceed. Two convictions were obtained in 1868, and after one last attempt to evade the law the “game” was seen to be “up,” and the curious issues of farthing and halfpenny Circular Delivery stamps became things of the past. Brydone, of Edinburgh, was not long left in sole possession of the field of activity he had created. In his own city the firm of Clark & Co. rose up as rivals against him, but Brydone, nothing daunted, extended his operations to Glasgow, and even to London. Without further preamble it may be well to give a full list of the



The Circular Delivery Companies' Issues.

Circular Delivery stamps from first to last, with all particulars as to values, colours, and varieties of perforation. No lists are available in any of the ordinary philatelic catalogues of recent years, but the *Philatelic Record* of February, 1894, contains a very complete tabulation of the various issues from the pen of the late Mr. W. A. S. Westoby. To this, and to various dealers' catalogues of British stamps, we are indebted for many details embodied in the following review of the various issues:—

1865. EDINBURGH AND LEITH CIRCULAR DELIVERY COMPANY.—The design shows the arms of the two towns on shields, and above these is a scroll inscribed "Edin. and Leith," and on another scroll below is "CIRCULAR DELIVERY COMPANY," under which appears the value in words on a horizontal tablet. The rectangular frame has hollowed angles. Size of the design, $25\frac{1}{2} \times 30$ mm.

One farthing, green, mauve, red-lilac, grey-blue, grey.

The stamps exist imperforate in all these shades of colour, but the only varieties chronicled with rouletting are the green, lilac, and grey-blue. Specimens of the same three shades are known with perforation 12. These stamps, by the way, are to be found with a special cancellation-mark of "R. B. & Co." in monogram form.

1866. Similar to the stamps described above, but of smaller size, namely, 22×29 mm.

One farthing, mauve.

One halfpenny, green.

Both values exist with perforation 12, with pin-perforation $10\frac{1}{2}$, and imperforate.

1867. Similar to the foregoing issues, but of still smaller size— 19×23 mm. In the horizontal label at foot the inscription "12 ELDER STREET" (the address of the Company) is substituted for the face value of the stamp. This was at a time when the Post Office attitude had become, to say the least, threatening.

No value; black on yellow; red-brown on white.

The black stamp on yellow paper is known imperforate, rouletted, and with a curious combination of a large pin-perforation (about 7) and rouletting. The stamp printed in red-brown on white paper has never been chronicled other than in the imperforate state.

1866. CLARK & CO. (*Edinburgh*).—The frame of the stamp is a double-lined rectangle, and the surface is covered

with double lines crossing each other obliquely; on this surface is inscribed "CLARK & CO.—CIRCULAR—AND—PARCELS DELIVERERS—10 CALTON STREET—EDINBURGH."

No value; blue on white.

Of this one emission by Messrs. Clark & Co., Mr. Brydone's rivals in the circular-delivering industry, there are two varieties side by side on the sheet. The difference lies in the width from frame to frame; one is $25\frac{1}{2}$ mm. wide by 27mm. high, the other $23\frac{1}{2}$ by 27mm. The stamp was never perforated.

1866. LONDON CIRCULAR DELIVERY COMPANY.—These stamps represent the beginnings of Mr. Brydone's business in London. On his initiative a company was formed with the name of the "London Circular and Pamphlet Delivery Company." It had head offices at 317 High Holborn. Two stamps were issued, showing the City Arms on a shield, above which appeared "LONDON" and "CIRCULAR DELIVERY CO.," with the value in words underneath. Size, 21×27 mm.

One farthing, blue.

One halfpenny, lilac, grey.

All three values were issued imperforate and perf. 12. There was also a rough pin-perforation gauging $10\frac{1}{2}$, but I believe only the farthing and halfpenny stamps are known in this condition.

1867. METROPOLITAN CIRCULAR DELIVERY COMPANY.—These are similar stamps to the preceding series; the word "METROPOLITAN" is substituted for "LONDON," the colours are different, and the size is a little larger— $21 \times 28\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

One farthing, rose, green.

One halfpenny, orange.

The varieties of perforation are: perf. 12, pin-perf. $10\frac{1}{2}$, and imperf. Mr. Walter Morley chronicles a minor variety, showing the E of "Metropolitan" as a distinct F. Such varieties are almost inevitable in stamps produced, as these were, by means of lithographic transfers. Doubtless there are others in the series, though possibly none so noticeable as this. The variety referred to has been found only in the $\frac{1}{4}$ d. rose stamp with perforation 12.

1867. LONDON AND DISTRICTS.—These stamps were produced to supersede the "London" and the "Metropolitan" issue. The size is $19 \times 22\frac{1}{2}$ mm. The design consists of the Arms of the City on a shield, with "LONDON" on a scroll

above, "AND DISTRICTS" on another scroll beneath, and the value in words at the foot.

One farthing, green, rose.
Halfpenny, rose, brown-rose.

The stamps were uniformly perforated 13.

1867. GLASGOW CIRCULAR DELIVERY COMPANY.—According to the late Mr. Westoby, the issue of these stamps probably took place very early in 1867, and, in fact, preceded those of the "London and Districts." The Company was an offshoot of the Edinburgh and Leith enterprise. The stamps show the Arms of the City of Glasgow on a plain shield, with "GLASGOW" on a scroll above, "CIRCULAR DELIVERY CO." on another scroll below, and the value in words at foot. Size, $18\frac{1}{2} \times 27$ mm.

One farthing, black.
Halfpenny, vermilion-red.

Here a variety of paper occurs. All other stamps of the Circular Delivery Companies' issues were printed on wove paper; these of Glasgow appeared on a thin laid paper. The stamps are found imperforate and pin-perforated $10\frac{1}{2}$.

1867. DUNDEE CIRCULAR DELIVERY COMPANY.—The foregoing description will equally apply to the stamps of the Dundee Company, except that the stamps were of smaller size— $18\frac{1}{2} \times 22\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

One farthing, rose-pink.
Halfpenny, vermilion-red.

The Dundee stamps are imperforate.

1867. ABERDEEN CIRCULAR DELIVERY COMPANY.—The Aberdeen stamps are of the same size as those of Dundee. The design consists of the Arms of Aberdeen on a shield, with the usual inscriptions above and below.

One farthing, orange-yellow.
Halfpenny, light blue.

The perforation is 13.

1867. LIVERPOOL CIRCULAR DELIVERY COMPANY.—This company, another offshoot of the London enterprise, was established in Liverpool about May, 1867. Mr. Westoby gives that date as the time of issue of its two stamps, which bore the City Arms on a plain shield; above this on a scroll the word "LIVERPOOL"; and on a similar scroll below, "CIRCULAR DELIVERY CO."; under all the value in words on a horizontal tablet. Size, 21×27 mm.

One farthing, brown.
One halfpenny, mauve.

Both farthing and halfpenny stamps were originally issued imperforate, but were afterwards perforated 12, and are much commoner in the latter state.

1867. NATIONAL CIRCULAR DELIVERY COMPANY.—This is an issue that has frequently been mis-described. It does not indicate an amalgamation of local companies under one administration, as has often been supposed. The stamps were issued as a consequence of an announcement made by the London Company that circulars would be accepted for distribution in country towns if left at the head offices in London for that purpose. The design of these "National" labels shows the Royal Arms with supporters, above which on a scroll appears the word "NATIONAL," with "CIRCULAR DELIVERY CO." on a similar scroll below, and the value in words on a horizontal tablet underneath. Size, $18\frac{1}{2} \times 22$ mm.

One farthing, green.

Halfpenny, blue.

Three farthings, orange-yellow.

One penny, rose.

The stamps were issued in the early days of June, 1867. There was a uniform perforation gauging 13.

1867. NATIONAL DELIVERY COMPANY (Second Series).—In August, 1867, the troubles of the Circular Deliverers began. The postal authorities, noting the great success of the various businesses inaugurated by Brydone and his colleagues, took action by issuing a summons against one of the Company's servants. A conviction resulted, and the heads of the enterprise began to realise that their undertaking was seriously threatened. Their first step was to eliminate the word "Circular" from the stamps of the National Delivery Company, and to substitute the address, "15 Basinghall Street" for the value in the lower portion of the design. Thus the inscription on the second "National" series reads "National Delivery Company, 15 Basinghall Street," and there is no value expressed. The green, blue, lilac, and red stamps of this set are understood to have represented respectively, $\frac{1}{4}$ d., $\frac{1}{2}$ d., $\frac{3}{4}$ d., and 1d. They made their appearance about the middle of November, 1867.

No value ; green, blue, lilac, red.

All are perforated 12, and Mr. Walter Morley mentions a variety of the farthing (green) stamp perforated at top and bottom but imperforate vertically.

1868. LONDON DELIVERY COMPANY; also VARIOUS PROVINCIAL DELIVERY COMPANIES.—There was a reconstitution of the various Circular Delivery Companies in February, 1868, and then came the issue of nine sets of stamps of $\frac{1}{4}$ d., $\frac{1}{2}$ d., $\frac{3}{4}$ d., and 1d., headed London, Metropolitan, Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, Edinburgh, and Leith, Glasgow, Aberdeen, and Dundee; Manchester and Birmingham being now for the first time added. The stamps were made uniform in size, 21×26 mm., except those for Edinburgh and Leith, which were 21×28 mm. The colours appropriated to each value were also made uniform. The London and Metropolitan issues both bore the Arms of the City as before, and the other towns their respective Arms, with the name of the town on a scroll above, "DELIVERY COMPANY" on a scroll below (the offending word "Circular" now being carefully omitted), and the value on a horizontal tablet below.

One farthing, green.
 One halfpenny, blue.
 Three farthings, mauve.
 One penny, vermilion.

Insufficient space remains to provide a list of the various perforations in which one may find the thirty-six stamps comprised in this "omnibus" issue of February, 1868. It will be sufficient to say that most of them may be found both imperforate and perforated 12. In the first printings of the stamps for Aberdeen, Birmingham, Dundee, Liverpool, and Manchester, the value of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamp was expressed in one word, "Halfpenny," but afterwards this was altered to "One Halfpenny."

The issue above described proved to be the last of the Companies' *bona fide* issues, for in May, 1868, a second conviction against them obtained by the Post Office left them no excuse for continuing their business. Yet these little companies were game to the last, and died with their backs to the wall, fighting their arch enemy, Monopoly. When the first conviction was obtained, in August, 1867, by the prosecution of one Edward Smith, a messenger in the employ of the Circular and Pamphlet Delivery Companies, the virtual defendant, Mr. Manuel Eyre, who had succeeded Mr. Brydone in the proprietorship of the business, came forward to contest the case. He was fined £5, and was told that he would be liable to a fine of £100 a week so long as the practice of

circular-delivering was continued. "You have been keeping a sort of little post office," said Sir Thomas Henry, the Bow Street Magistrate, "and I have no hesitation in saying you have not the right to do it." Mr. Eyre, nothing daunted, proceeded to form a new company on "mutual" lines, arguing that the vested privileges of the Post Office did not, and could not, prevent the delivery of printed matter on behalf of a company's own directors and shareholders. The announcement was made that only those persons and firms who became the company's contributories could have circulars, &c.; delivered through the company's agency. All was now thought to be plain sailing, but alas! in May, 1868, there was a further conviction at Bow Street, the Magistrate, however, allowing an appeal, which was heard in the Court of Queen's Bench in June, 1869. In the result the appeal was dismissed, and the last nail driven into the coffin of the Circular Delivery Companies' undertaking.

During the period when the appeal was pending the Company improved the occasion by preparing a vast quantity of stamps to be sold as mementoes to stamp collectors and others. These are the reprints—if they deserve even such a dignified name as that—which are, or were, to be found in so many stamp collections. The manner of their production was curious in the extreme. They were printed in sheets of eighty-one stamps—nine rows of nine. Each horizontal row contained stamps of nine different towns or districts in the following order: Dundee, Manchester, Glasgow, Liverpool, Aberdeen, Birmingham, London, Metropolitan, Edinburgh, and Leith. There was only one value on each sheet, this being nine times repeated in each vertical row. Thus four sheets in the four colours of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d., $\frac{1}{2}$ d., $\frac{3}{4}$ d., and 1d. stamps would yield the full set of thirty-six varieties. This, however, did not satisfy the proprietors of the Delivery Companies, who wished to secure a good final dividend by the sale of these reprints to collectors. Accordingly, "fancy values," such as 2d., 3d., and 6d., were added in order to make the series more attractive, "especially," as Westoby shrewdly remarks, "to those who imagined they were buying an unused 6d. stamp for 1d."

The writer recently saw one of the original sheets of sample stamps sent out from the head office at 317 High Holborn,

W.C. On the reverse side of this sheet appeared a printed announcement, detailing the Companies' terms of business :—

THE LONDON AND METROPOLITAN CIRCULAR
DELIVERY COMPANIES.

CHIEF OFFICE, 317 HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.

THE LONDON AND METROPOLITAN CIRCULAR AND PAMPHLET DELIVERY COMPANIES have been instituted for the purpose of economising the labour and expense, besides securing the REGULAR DELIVERY, of Circulars, Pamphlets, &c., now so frequent and effective a medium of advertising.

TO INSURANCE COMPANIES, COMMERCIAL and PROFESSIONAL FIRMS, and all who advertise by means of Circulars, these Companies will be of the greatest service. The Company's Stamp can be affixed to each Circular, thereby giving it an official appearance.

Any Circular misdirected, or the Party to whom it is addressed having removed and not to be found, is returned with memorandum of particulars endorsed thereon.

The Companies have an efficient Staff of Deliverers, who are under the immediate supervision of competent Inspectors, thus securing the delivery (instead of the destruction now so commonly practised) of the Circulars sent out.

Terms for delivery of ordinary Circulars, One Farthing each ; Pamphlets and packages according to size and weight.

Advertisers desiring it can have Envelopes Addressed and Stamped, Circulars Folded and placed in the Envelopes. Circulars, &c., Printed, Engraved, or Lithographed, in all styles. By these means saving both time and expense consequent on passing through different hands. Terms on application.

Envelopes, all sizes and qualities, supplied at the lowest trade prices.

No Letter taken on any pretence whatever.

Orders for the Delivery, &c., of Circulars by the EDINBURGH AND LEITH CIRCULAR DELIVERY COMPANY are received at this Office.

M. EYRE, *General Manager.*

ROBERT BRYDONE, *Secretary.*

Whatever may be thought of these curious old stamps, and whatever may have been the feeling with regard to the Circular Delivery Companies at the time, it is significant that the British Post Office, in the year after the dismissal of the hearing of the appeal—namely, in 1870—issued the first half-penny British stamps, and granted reduced postage for newspapers and printed matter generally. It is commonly believed, indeed, that the competition of such men as Brydone and his imitators forced the hands of the Post Office and gave the country cheaper newspaper postage. That is an epitaph worth having.

The Potential Value of Used Queen's Heads.

BY A SPECULATOR.

NOT long ago a dealer in stamps, who is a very shrewd judge of the philatelic market, in answering a question as to the most promising class of stamps from an investor's point of view, replied without the smallest hesitation: "Queen's Head stamps of the British Colonies in used condition."

Of course, the one thing better than used Queen's Heads would be unused Queen's Heads, but this section would embrace so many great rarities that the advice would be useless except to millionaires. But among the less fashionable used stamps are many which must inevitably rank among the rarities of the future.

A run through the catalogue from Antigua to Zululand will show what a wealth of philatelic interest is bound up in the words "Queen's Head Colonials." The most highly prized stamps in the world—the 1d and 2d of the "Post Office" issue of Mauritius—fall into this category, as do many of the commonest of Colonial issues. But it is rather among the Queen's Heads of the "eighties" and "nineties" that the far-seeing philatelist is quietly gathering in what must surely prove a profitable harvest in the year to come. The Queen's Heads of Antigua, Barbados, British Honduras, and many other Colonies, while already marked up to their full value in the unused state, are not yet at their zenith for post-marked specimens. In fact, if we judge them by the quantities available in the open market, the prices for used and unused specimens are often ludicrously disproportionate. Of a certain stamp, used, there may not be more than a thousand specimens in circulation, while in the unused state there are, maybe, ten or twelve thousand in existence; nevertheless, it is quite likely that the quotation for the unused stamp will be the higher.

Unused stamps are "the fashion." There you have the secret of the whole thing; but, personally, I do not think that

the preference for unused copies will always suffice to maintain the present disproportionate ratio of prices. Like the villain in the play, I believe "a time *will* come!" and when it does the patient collector of fine used specimens will reap his full reward. And then, too, the used Queen's Head Colonials will show an all-round appreciation in price.

In variety, in beauty of design and engraving, the early Queen's Heads are an infinitely more interesting chapter of philately than the present stereotyped King's Head issues. In the days prior to the tyranny of the De La Rue "stock dies," the various Colonies possessed postage stamps which were remarkable, at least, for individuality, and often for a rare beauty of design and execution. Take the "cents" stamps of Nova Scotia, the early Queen's Heads of New Zealand, Tasmania (the "Van Diemen's Land" period), Antigua, Bahamas, Canada, Natal, St. Vincent, and a host of others. A well-arranged album of these things, whether the specimens are unused or in fine used condition, is a delight to the eye, and a wonderful picture of the steady growth and development of the British Empire in the great Victorian age.

The Colony of Victoria, appropriately enough, offers us the largest and most varied array of postage stamp portraits of our greatest Queen. On the Victorian issues, from 1850 to the present day, we have portraits of Her late Majesty in all poses and at all ages—from the familiar young girl style of the old British penny to the more mature head appearing on the 1/- and 2/- stamps. On the earliest of them all we see Queen Victoria in full coronation regalia; later come the quaint old stamps depicting the Queen on her throne. Not all of them are good portraits; some might be more fairly described as caricatures, and many of them suffer from cheap and ineffective reproduction. Still, with all their blemishes, these stamps of Victoria form a great and wonderful portrait gallery.

The trouble is to get "fine" used copies, and for this reason there must always be a great elasticity in the market values of post-marked stamps. Superb used specimens of the Queen's Head Colonial issues are in nearly all cases worth "full catalogue" or more, and I believe they will prove a valuable investment to the collector who can afford to "lock them up" in the Stock Exchange sense of the term.

The Story of the "Twelve Pence" of Canada.



THE "Twelve Pence" of Canada is a stamp that never fails to excite curiosity and interest, not because of its rarity alone, but because of its curious and, at the first flash, very puzzling expression of value. In the United Kingdom we are so accustomed to the idea that twelve pennies make one shilling, that the question at once leaps to one's lips: "Why was not this stamp marked 'one shilling'?" Well, it was not so marked because at the time of its issue (1851) the currency of British North America was in a most disturbed and fluctuating condition. There was a concurrent use of the sterling standard of the Mother Country and a local currency which ranked at a lower level, as we may see by glancing at the 6d. stamp of 1859, which bears the dual inscription of value, "6d., sterling; 7½d., currency." Furthermore, a shilling was not at that time fully recognised in North America as being the equivalent of twelve pennies. It had become to some extent customary to speak of 12½ cents (U.S.A.) as a shilling; and as there was ample justification for the inscription "Twelve Pence" on the Canadian stamp.

Now it is a matter of history that the first and only supply of this stamp, which was printed by Messrs. Rawden, Wright, Hatch and Edson, of New York, consisted of 51,000 specimens delivered to the postmaster at Hamilton, Ontario, on June 14th, 1851, and it is also on record that on May 1st, 1857, the balance of stamps still on hand, numbering 49,490 specimens, were destroyed by official order. There were thus only 1510 actually issued to the public, and, considering that a very small proportion of these would be saved for collections at that early period, it is no matter for wonder that the stamp is now a considerable rarity.

We believe it is a fact that only one specimen exists on the entire original envelope, and that this is now in the possession of Mr. John F. Seybold, a well-known American philatelist.

The "Twelve Pence" is always catalogued as being printed on laid paper, and the specimens which are occasionally seen on wove paper are denounced as proofs which, it is alleged, originally bore the word "Specimen." Mr. C. A. Howes, of New York, declares that every copy of the "Twelve Pence" on wove paper either bears the word "Specimen" in red, or shows traces of its removal. Yet there are many philatelists who are by no means satisfied that the wove printing is undeserving of the status of an issued variety. This, perhaps, is a point which will now remain for ever one of the unsolved problems of philately, for at this distance of time it is hardly likely that definite official information on the matter can be vouchsafed.

One of the romances that have grown up around the hobby of stamp collecting attaches itself to this same "Twelve Pence" issue of Canada. It is an oft-told tale, but may be once again related while this quaint old stamp is engaging our attention.

The story goes that a Canadian who lived opposite the St. Lawrence river was about to post a valuable package which had been deposited for safety in a small iron cash-box. Before he could get out, a man entered the house and endeavoured to snatch the box. There was a struggle; the intruder made his escape, but in the meantime a lamp had been knocked over, and the place was in flames. The owner of the box, with such strength as remained to him, threw it out of the window and into the deep waters of the river. . . . The following day his dead body was found amid the charred ruins of the house. All this happened in 1851, and forty-one years later—namely, in 1892—the iron cash-box was brought to the surface of the river during some dredging operations. The papers in it were intact, and were duly delivered to their rightful owners. The package, which should have been posted forty-one years before, still bore on its envelope a specimen of the "Twelve Pence" stamp in an excellent state of preservation. It was sold, if we are to believe the story, for £70.

The record price, by the way, for the "Twelve Pence" of Canada is the £260 paid some years ago for a fine undivided pair—believed to be the only pair in existence.

"Condition" in the Auction Room.

A CHAT ABOUT PAST SALES, WITH SOME
COMPARATIVE PRICES.

IN Philately, and, indeed, in most collecting hobbies, "condition" is all important. Mr. M. P. Castle and other writers have emphasised the point in the course of recent notable contributions to the Philatelic Press, but to the thinking and observant collector it is a thing that scarcely needs to be stated. We see the importance of "condition" in the pricing of dealers' selections and collectors' exchange sheets, but we see it in the most marked degree in the transactions of the auction room. Take the auction records of the past twelve months, compare the prices realised for the same stamps at different times, and you will see variations of price which can only be accounted for on the ground of difference of "condition."

In these brief notes on the auction season it is our aim to present a few instructive comparisons of price. The records are extracted from the priced catalogues of sales held by the London auctioneers, namely, Messrs. Glendining, Plumridge, Hadlow, Ventom, Puttick, and Harmer Rooke. Naturally the greatest variations occur in the prices realised for used specimens. Mint copies of desirable stamps usually show a remarkable steadiness, but even to this rule there are exceptions. In the following lists all stamps are used unless otherwise specified.

GREAT BRITAIN.

- "V.R.", 1d, black, mint, £5 2s 6d ; Plate A, £7.
1d, black, the "Royal Reprint," mint, £1 3s, £2 10s ; corner block of nine, £9 5s.
1d, red, plate 225, mint, £1 3s, £1 5s.
2d, blue, no lines, mint, £3 15s, £3 17s 6d.
1½d, lilac-rose on bleuté, unused, £1 2s ; mint, £1 4s, £1 9s ; a mint block of six, £5 5s.
2s, brown, used, £1 14s, £1 18s (twice), £2, £2 4s.
10s, grey-green, Anchor, on blued, £1 4s, £1 5s, £1 7s.
£1, wmk., Anchor, on blued, £2 10s, £2 12s.

£5, orange, white paper, £1 8s, £1 14, £1 16s, £1 17s, £2.

ditto, on blued paper, £3 (twice), £3 3s.

I.R. Official, 1884-90, 5s, rose, £3 17s 6d; mint, £5 15s.

ditto, 10s, blue, mint, £7; mint, but "Specimen," £1 7s.

ditto, King's Head, 2½d, mint, £1 16s.

ditto, King's Head, 5s, carmine, mint, £10, £10 10s, £11; mint, but "Specimen," £1 7s.

Admiralty Official, 2½d, Type II., £3; mint, Levant, the "Beyrout Provisional," £4, £4 2s 6d.

During the year there has been a wealth of fine British lots at auction, including many fine die proofs, essays, and other choice varieties. It is eloquent of the greatly increased demand for "fine English" that auctioneers offering attractive lots in this department can generally count upon an increased attendance and spirited bidding.

CONTINENTAL EUROPE.

Comparative prices are not available for many stamps in this section, but it will be interesting to record the realisations for various representative varieties:—

Belgium, 1850, wmk. "L.L." in frame, 10c, brown, £1 18s.

Bergedorf, 1861, ½sch, black on pale lilac, mint, £7.

Bremen, 1867, 10gr, black, mint, £1.

France, 1849, 25c, blue, a tête bêche pair, £6; 1849, 40c, orange, the scarce variety with wide "4" on each side, £1 2s; the same, but a pair showing the two varieties, *se tenant*, £3 17s 6d; a similar pair, £4 5s.

Italy, "Estero," 1874, the 10c, orange, with left upper corner unaltered, £1 12s; the 30c, brown, with all four corners unaltered, £15.

Modena, 1852, 5c, black on green, with error "Cnet," £1 16s; 15c, black on yellow, error "Cetn," £1 8s; 1859, 80c, orange-brown, £10 10s.

Monaco, 1885, 5 francs, used on small piece, £2 4s; unused, £1 15s; mint, £2, £2 2s (twice); with corner perf. missing, otherwise mint, £1 4s.

Naples, ½ tornese, arms, £7 10s, £8 10s (twice), £9.

Roumania, 1879, 5 bani, rose-red, error of colour, £1, £1 2s; a mint copy, £1 16s.

Spain, 1865, perf., 19c, brown and rose, unused, no gum, £1 6s.

Switzerland, BASLE, 1854, 2½ rappen, unused, thinned, £2; GENEVA, 1849, the 4c with one or two small nicks, £9; 1850, 5c, £1 13s; unused, £1 14s; unused, with a thin spot, £1 10s; WINTERTHUS, 1850, 2½ rappen, £1 11s, £1 18s, £2; 1852, 5c, unused (No. 8 on plate), £2 2s; ZURICH, 4 rappen, vert. lines, Type 4, £8; ditto, on original, but with two small tears, £5 15s; ditto, Type 3, £13 10s; ditto, horizontal lines, unused, thinned and torn, £8; 6 rappen, horizontal lines, £1 2s; Federal Administration, 1850, 2½ rappen, unused, £1.

Tuscany, 1853, 1 soldo, buff, used on entire, £1 2s; unused, £1 5s, £2.
Wurtemberg, 1858-60, 18 kr, blue, £1 6s; 1861, 9 kr, lilac-rose, £1 19s; 1873, 70 kr, purple, £2.

Mr. Castle, we think, could scarcely desire a more eloquent instance of the truth of his "gospel of condition," if we may so describe it, than the prices quoted under "Monaco," where the 5 francs, mint, is steady at about £2 2s, but shows a drop to £1 4s for the loss of a corner perf. ! On the other hand, the items we have quoted under "Switzerland" tend to show that there is money even for torn, thinned and "nicked" specimens of certain rare and desirable stamps.

BRITISH COLONIES.

Antigua, 1862, imperf., 6d, green, on thick paper, £1, £1 2s.
Bahamas, 1882, C.A. 14, 4d, rose, mint, £2 12s 6d, £2 17s 6d, £3 3s.
Barbados, 1873, Small Star, 5s, rose, £1 3s, £1 5s, £1 6s.
British Central Africa, 1895, £1, orange, mint, £2 10s, £2 16s; 1897, £1, lilac and black, mint, £1 14s, a used copy £1 4s.
British Columbia, 1861, imperf., 2½d, mint, £8 15s, £9; 1865, imperf., 10c, blue, unused, £2 7s, £2 10s; a used copy £1 10s; 1867, perf. 12½, \$1, green, mint, £1 17s, £1 19s.
British Guiana, 1888-89, \$1, green and black, mint, £2, £2 2s.
Canada, 1852-57, wove paper, 10d, blue; £1, on thin paper, £1, £1 4s; 1859, 10c, black-brown, £1 17s, £1 18s.
Cape of Good Hope, 1853-58, 6d, slate, unused, £2 2s, mint, £2 12s 6d; woodblock issue, 1d, red, £3, £4, £5 7s 6d; a mint pair, £56; 4d, blue, £2 6s, £2 8s, £2 10s, £2 12s 6d, £2 14s, £2 17s 6d, £3 3s, £3 10s, and £4 10s (twice); with red postmark, £3 3s; in dark blue shade, £4 10s, £8 5s, £9 10s, £11 10s; 1863-64, 1s, emerald-green, £2 10s, mint, £4 12s 6d; mint pair, £6 17s 6d.
Cayman Islands, 1908, ½d on 5s, mint, 18s; 1d on 5s, mint pair, £1 8s; the two values, mint, £1 18s.
Ceylon, imperf., 1s 9d, green, £2 8s, £2 12s 6d; a pair, £10; unused, £3, £3 10s.
Dominica, 1887, 1s, lilac-rose, mint, £1 5s, £1 6s.
Gambia, 1880, C.C., perf. 14, 1s, green, mint, £1 7s, £1 10s (twice), £1 16s.
Gibraltar, first issue, 1s, brown, £2, £2 5s.
Hong Kong, 1863, 96c, yellow-brown, unused, £3 3s, £4.
Lagos, King's Head, single C.A., 2s 6d, mint, £1 16s, £2 4s; ditto, 5s, mint, £1, £1 4s, £1 5s, £1 6s; a mint pair, £1 18s; ditto, 10s, mint, £5 15s, £6, £6 6s.
New Brunswick, 1851, 6d, yellow, £2 2s, £2 4s; 1s, mauve, £8 5s, £8 8s; 1s, mauve, with dotted postmark, £7 15s (twice), £9.
Newfoundland, 1850, 4d, orange, unused, £9, £11 10s.
Nova Scotia, 6d, yellow-green, £1 4s, £1 5s, £1 6s; 1s, purple, £9.
Northern Nigeria, first issue, 10s, mint, £2, £2 2s.
Queensland, 1860, 6d, dark green, £2 2s, £2 6s, £2 12s.
St. Lucia, 1882-84, 1s, orange, unused, £1 5s, £1 12s.

- St. Vincent**, 1880, 5s, rose, unused, £7 15s; mint, £8 10s, £8 18s 6d, £9 5s; 1880-81, 4d on 1s, vermilion, £7, £7 5s, £8.
- Trinidad**, 1896, 10s, green and ultramarine, mint, £1 6s, £2; mint block of four, £7; £1, green and carmine, mint, £1 3s, £1 6s; mint block of four, £4.
- Zululand**, £1, mint, £1 9s, £1 13s, £1 15s; £5, mint, £6, £6 5s; a used copy, £4 5s.

A point worth noting, before we proceed further, is that while perforated stamps frequently fetch a lower *pro rata* price when in the form of pairs and blocks, a very different state of affairs obtains in the case of an imperforate stamp like the 1s 9d green of the first issue, Ceylon, which sold in single form for prices like £2 8s and £2 12s 6d, while a pair realised no less than £10.

AMERICA AND VARIOUS.

Very few comparative items present themselves here. The following are the most noteworthy:—

- Bolivia**, 1867, nine stars, 500c, black, mint, £1 12s; a used copy, £1 5s.
- Brazil**, 1844, 600 reis, "slightly damaged," £1 4s; another, cut close at bottom and with a small nick, £1 15s; another, fine, £4.
- China**, 1897, 4c on 3c, the scarce small type, £1 3s, £1 6s.
- Colombia**, 1861, 2½c, black, £1 9s, £1 13s.
- Liberia**, 1892, 8c, brown and black, with inverted centre, £1 2s, £3 3s.
- Philippines**, 1854, 2 reales, dull green, £1, £1 4s.
- United States**, 90c, carmine and black, £1, £1 2s.



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