NOTES

ON THE

DE LA RUE SERIES

OF THE

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Adhesive Postage and Telegraph Stamps

OF

INDIA.

A Supplement

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THE POSTAGE STAMPS, ETC., OF BRITISH INDIA AND CEYLON,

PUBLISHED BY

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

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The De Ka Rue Scries of the Adhesive Postage and Telegraph Stamps of India.

A Paper Read before the Philatelic Society, London, the 15th of February, 1895.

By J. A. TILLEARD.



HOSE of us who were present at the meeting of the Society, on the 11th May last, may remember that we had the privilege of looking through a very beautiful collection of Indian stamps, kindly forwarded by our Honorary Vice-President, H.R.H. the Duke of York, for inspection by the members attending the meeting.

This collection consisted of about 160 imperforate stamps, and comprised a copy from each registered sheet of the whole of the postage and telegraph stamps prepared for the Indian Government by Messrs. De La Rue & Co.

It doubtless occurred to many of the members, that a careful study of this collection might possibly add to the store of knowledge already possessed by the Society, as recorded in its work on the stamps of *British India and Ccylon*.

Although this work received very little notice from the Philatelic press of this country, the fact that, during the time which has elapsed since its publication, there has been little or no attempt on the part of Philatelists to question its accuracy, or to correct any of its details, or to supply omissions in the text, shows how exhaustive and complete was the history of the stamps with which the book deals. It was, therefore, not without some misgivings as to the possibility of adding anything useful to the information already published, that I made a note of a few points which seemed to call for further investigation.

It is generally admitted that one of the chief charms of the scientific pursuit of our "hobby" lies in the fact that, however careful our study of the stamps of any particular country may be, and however wide may be the information we have been able to obtain, there remains, almost invariably, some points on which further light can, from time to time, be thrown. I have accordingly put together such facts as I have been able to ascertain,

in the hope that some of you may, perhaps, think that they are of sufficient interest to be recorded.

The first stamps manufactured for India by Messrs. De La Rue & Co. were prepared in 1855, and were printed upon paper without watermark. Two out of the five values of this issue, viz.: the 4 annas, and the 8 annas, are found upon bluish glazed paper, as well as upon the white wove surfaced paper common to all the values.

In the case of the "record" sheets of the various registered plates, it is noticeable that there is only one which is on the first-named paper. This is the sheet from Plate I. of the 8 annas, and as only one plate of the first type of this value was ever registered, it is fair to assume that the stamp first issued was on the blue paper.

The first plate of the 4 annas was printed on the white paper, and perhaps those found on the bluish paper were of a later printing, although it is of course possible that impressions on both papers were sent out with the first deliveries.

It will be remembered that, in some catalogues, the I anna and 2 annas values have been mentioned as also existing on bluish paper, but they are not generally believed in; and, as the result of enquiries I have made on the subject, I have been officially informed that there is no record of these values ever being printed on bluish paper, and the manufacturers themselves only know of the 4 annas and 8 annas being so printed. The Society has expressed an opinion against the existence of any other values on the blue paper, and I think we may safely consider that this question is now definitely disposed of.

In the Society's list, the colour of the 2 annas stamp is given as "brown-pink," and in the remarks to Issue III., there is a statement that this was the colour of the stamps as originally transmitted from England, a date nearly two years later than that given for the Issue being assigned to the well known variety in green. Now the registered sheet of Plate I. of the 2 annas was undoubtedly printed in green. The date of registration is the 8th June, 1855, while the stamp in brown-pink does not appear to have been registered until the 2nd September, 1858, when the second plate was made.

I have ascertained from head-quarters that "the stamp was first printed in green," that those first sent out to India were of "this colour," and that there was "no subsequent printing in green."

In the descriptive list prepared by Lieut. Col. Mainwaring, in 1871, to which I shall presently refer, the 2 annas is given, amongst the other stamps issued in 1855, as "green." It is natural to suppose that this would have been the first colour chosen, the native-printed stamps of this value being also green; and Col. Mainwaring deals with the two annas, "pink" as a separate stamp. In referring to it he says that it is the same stamp as No. 9 c. (the green 2 annas), "of which very few were issued," and he adds: "the similarity of the original colour (green) to the half anna, blue, occasioned it to be changed to pink." He further says: "The selection of pink for this stamp was a mistake, as the colour bore a resemblance to the 8 annas, rose. Like its predecessor, therefore, it had but a very short reign—one set only was issued; it was succeeded by No. 11, 2 annas yellow."

I am somewhat puzzled to ascertain how the date, "September to December, 1857," for Issue III. (which only treats of the stamps we are now considering in the green and yellow colours), as given in the Society's book, has been arrived at. If it is assumed from the official correspondence referred to in the work, I cannot help thinking that there must have been some misunderstanding as to the letter set out at page xxxiii. of the appendix. In this letter, the Director General of the Post-office, replying to an enquiry by the Superintendent of stamps, under date September 11th, 1857, states "the green two-anna labels will not be issued; it is impossible by candle-light to distinguish between them and the half-anna labels." We have seen that the stamps in the green colour were sent out in 1855, and, if Col. Mainwaring is correct in saying that very few were issued, practically the whole stock, in all probability, remained on hand in 1857. Under these circumstances, is it not fair to assume that the Superintendent's letter had reference merely to the desirability of using this stock?

It may perhaps be asked, How it is that we do not see more used specimens of the 2 annas "green," if it was actually the first sent out? But I should imagine that it was at once found to be unsuitable, and was only employed to a very limited extent, if at all. The native-printed 2 anna stamps had only been issued late in 1854, and probably there was a sufficiency of these in hand to meet the demand, until a fresh supply in a more suitable colour was received from England, as it is on record that the "country manufactured" stamps were not called in or destroyed until 1858.

One of the reasons for the green stamp being considered as of a later date, appears to be that it was assumed that the plate for this value in green was numbered 4. Seeing that we have Messrs. De La Rue & Co's statement that green was the first colour, and that there was no second printing in green, I think some mistake must have been made. Plate IV. (3 c) was only registered on the 2nd May, 1866, the stamps being printed on the paper watermarked with an elephant's head, which was then in use, while all the specimens of the green stamp which I have seen are invariably upon the unwatermarked paper. I cannot understand how any plate of this value could be numbered 4. The first plate was numbered 3 (the 2 anna stamp being the third of the series), the subsequent plates being 3 a, 3 b, &c. This was the practice with all the stamps of the first De La Rue issues, and if any specimen of the 2 annas has been seen bearing the figure 4 in the margin it has no reference to the number of the plate. Possibly the number should have been given as 3, which would be Plate I. of this value.

If Col. Mainwaring is correct as to one printing only of the 2 annas "pink," being used, it would seem that for some years there were no 2 anna stamps of the De La Rue type employed, as I find that the first sheet registered in "pink" is dated the 2nd September, 1858. This was an impression from Plate II. (3 a). There was doubtless a delivery in this colour about that time, but unfortunately the manufacturers are unable to find the records of their deliveries of the "pink" stamps.

It is of course possible that Col. Mainwaring was mistaken, and that as soon as the "green" stamp was condemned, printings were made in "pink,"

and sent out to India. These would have been impressions from Plate I., so that no further registration would have been deemed necessary.

On the other hand, none may have been required until the date when the enquiry above referred to, as to the use of the stock in green, was made, and the change of colour was then ordered. The dates of the enquiry and of the subsequent registration of the sheet in "pink," would tend somewhat to confirm this view of the case, and the only dated specimens which I have been able to find were used in 1862.

It would seem to follow that the date of the yellow stamp was later than that given in the Society's work. I learn from Messrs. De La Rue & Co. that those in yellow were first sent out in 1862, and the earliest dated specimen I have found amongst a great number is one used in September of that year.

If I am correct in my conclusions, it would appear that in Issue II. the 2 annas should be described as "green," and that Issue III., if still retained as a separate issue, should be altered so as to comprise the "pink" and the "yellow" colours of this value. The stamps on the unwatermarked paper had a life of nearly ten years, so that, possibly, it would be better to include all the stamps on this paper in Issue II., giving approximate dates for the later colours; as, if they are to be divided, each of the three colours would appear to require to be described as a separate issue.

Reference is made to a specimen of the 2 annas in a reddish-brown colour. This stamp is in the collection of our late Vice-President, but I have not been able to learn anything in regard to it, beyond a statement by the manufacturers, who say "no red-brown were printed; they were printed in pink, and then altered to yellow."

I have appended to this paper a table showing a detailed list of all the plates of the "De La Rue" stamps, of which there are record sheets, with the dates of registration; and a reference to this list will show the number of plates employed for this and each succeeding issue.

The first plate of the 8 pies stamp (Issue IV. of *India and Ceylon*) appears to have been registered on the 21st May, 1859; but this value does not seem to have been issued for use until May in the following year. There were only two plates registered, the first being printed on a very highly glazed paper, which should be readily distinguishable from that used for the later printings.

The change of colour of the 4 annas stamp to "green" was not recorded by a registered sheet, probably because plate 3—which had been registered, and was the last plate used for the stamps printed on unwatermarked paper —was still in use at the date of the change.

With Issue VI. we come to the introduction of the paper watermarked with an elephant's head, which was first employed in the year 1865. The values were not all printed on this paper at the same time, and, from the information I have obtained, it is not quite accurate to give "early in 1865" as the date for the issue.

I imagine that this has been assumed to be the date in consequence of the letter written in October, 1864, by the Secretary of State for India to the Governor-General, set out in the appendix to the Society's work. Reference is here made to the fact that a watermarked paper would be employed for the future; but, although instructions were no doubt given at the date named, the paper was not actually introduced until new supplies of stamps were required. I find that, as a matter of fact, the first deliveries of the anna, 1 anna, and 2 annas values were sent out in December, 1865, so that the date of issue should probably be given as "early in 1866." Of the other values the 8 annas stamps were delivered first in January, 1866, the 4 annas in May of the same year, and the 8 pies in September, 1867. I was led to make the enquiries, which have enabled me to give these dates, from the fact that the registration sheets could not be relied upon as giving, even approximately, the time when the supplies commenced, a fresh impression only being registered in many cases, when a new plate was brought into use. Thus, there are no sheets of the 4 annas and 8 annas values, owing, probably, to the fact that the plates in use at the time when the change in the watermark was effected continued in use throughout the remaining lives of these stamps.

In 1866, the design of the 4 annas stamp was altered, and the first plate was registered on the 28th March, the colour being "yellow-green," changed, in 1872, to a dark green. The colour given in the Society's work for this stamp is "dark green," but there is a somewhat contradictory note that the dark shade was not employed until 1876. Seven plates in all of this design were registered; the last on the 12th May, 1880.

There has recently appeared, in a French journal devoted to Philately, an account of the discovery of specimens of this stamp printed from a "retouched" die. The only differences which I have seen mentioned so far appear to be a thickening of the lips, and a lengthening of the oblique descending line, which is found at the part where the lips join, technically known to engravers as the fish-tail. Our esteemed member, Monsieur Moens, in commenting on this discovery, adds that extra lines are found in the forehead, and that the head-band is slightly modified.

A comparison of the specimens from the several registered plates shows an apparent difference between the impressions from plates 6, 7, and 8, and those from the earlier plates. The differences are not very pronounced, and I was at first inclined to think that there were no changes which could not be accounted for by the work upon the plates, which is always necessary, in the case of surface-printed stamps, in the preparation of the plates for printing, to enable satisfactory impressions of all the stamps to be obtained. Several other careful investigators had, I found, come to the conclusion that there had been no alteration in the die; and, but for the fact that Mr. Bacon, whose valuable aid I sought, thought that he could trace signs of slight alterations, I should possibly have contented myself with the erroneous opinion that the discovery was of little importance.

On consulting an authority whose opinion ought to have been conclusive, it was declared, on examination, that the specimens from the several plates which I submitted were all made from the same die. As, however, after seeing the entire registered sheets, I still felt some doubts, a search was made for my satisfaction, and it was discovered that, in 1877—the year in which plate 6 was made—the working die was "opened up a little," and a new

plate was prepared from it, thus confirming the accuracy of observation of the French authorities, and the "infinite capacity for taking pains" of our friend, Mr. Bacon.

I have since had an opportunity of inspecting proofs in black on card from the die as it existed, both before and after alteration, and, in these proofs, the changes are naturally easier to distinguish than is the case in the ordinary impressions from the plates. There are a number of minor differences which might be described, but the principal are, in the shape of the "fish tail," the rounding of the chin, an increased curve in the upper lip, and, as pointed out to me by Mr. Bacon, an alteration in the shading just beneath the mouth, caused by the removal of two of the shading lines.

The chief guide for distinguishing the plates will, however, be found in the fact that the stamps from the altered die have a somewhat different general appearance, the profile from the point of the nose downwards, extending to half way down the neck, being outlined by a well-defined line of colour, which does not appear in the earlier printed stamps. The specimen from which the illustration of this value in the Society's work was taken, is one of the "retouched" type.

There does not seem to be any record of the precise reason for the change in the case of this stamp, but I understand that it was probably in consequence of some difficulty in working from the plates made from the die as it originally existed.

I am told that it is no uncommon occurrence to find that plates are not capable of all the work that should be obtained from them. Small defects in the detail, or otherwise, are discovered which causes "inking up," resulting in difficulty and delay in printing, owing to the constant attention and frequent cleaning of the plates which is required. When this happens, the working die is softened, and the parts which give rise to the defects in the plates are deepened or modified, as may be found necessary, new plates being then made. Sometimes, in this operation, the die is damaged, necessitating the making of a fresh working die from the original "mother" die, which is never used for the making of the plates. I understand that it is often necessary to resort to some slight retouch of dies, and it is probable that a close examination of surface-printed stamps which have had any length of life, and have demanded the employment of many plates, may bring to light similar instances, in stamps of this and other countries, which have hitherto passed unobserved, owing to the change effected in the dies being so minute.

I have not been able to find any other examples amongst the Indian postage stamps, but there are some similar cases in the second issue of the telegraph stamps, to which I shall presently refer.

The date of the first registration of the new value of 6 annas 8 pies (Issue IX.) is given as 21st August, 1872. There is, no doubt, an error in this date, which, doubtless, should be 1866, as the second plate was registered on the 1st December, 1869, and I have ascertained, from the manufacturers, that the first printings were delivered in October, 1866. Possibly the date of issue was earlier than that suggested in *India and Ceylon*. viz., May (?) 1867, as in the annual Post-office Report, published in

September, 1868, this stamp is one of those mentioned as being on sale in 1866-67, and 1867-68.

In 1867 an alteration was made in the 8 annas stamp. (Sce Issue X.) The first plate was prepared in April, 1867, and the second in December of the same year, but there was no registration until the 13th April, 1870, the record sheet being printed from Plate IV. of this value. The altered die was first employed for the official stamps, a supply overprinted "service" being sent out in July, 1867, followed by a consignment of the ordinary postage stamps printed from the same plate in September, 1867.

The differences in the design are so distinct, owing to an entire change in the form of the diadem, and the increase in the size of the lettering, that no mistake can well be made in the type in the case of this stamp.

In regard to the reasons for the change in the design in this value and, later on, in that of the half-anna stamp, all that I can learn from the manufacturers is, that the alterations were effected "to generally improve the stamps."

In *India and Ccylon* the next issue (XI.) in 1874 comprises the one rupee value alone. It would appear that the 9 pies value should also be included in this issue instead of in that of October, 1876, as I find that the first order for 9 pies stamps was completed by Messrs. De La Rue & Co. in 1874. In the remarks on this stamp, in the Society's work under Issue XII., the probability of its use in 1874 is noted; and the annual Post Office Report for 1874–75 states that "a 9 pie postage stamp was substituted for the formerly existing 8 pie label"; so that it must have been issued before the date of Issue XII., under which it is classed in the Society's catalogue.

It follows, from what I have said above, that Issue XII should consist of two values only, viz., the 6 annas and the 12 annas. The lower value was registered on the 26th April, 1876, and the other on the 4th May, 1876; and the former has continued in use unchanged up to the present time.

We now come to Issue XIII. in 1879. This is the date assigned for the alteration in the die of the half-anna stamp; but although, doubtless, some good reason existed for naming this year, I think it is pretty clear that the type here described must have been in use many years previously. The first plate was registered some six years earlier, viz., on the 21st May, 1873, and there were in all twenty-three plates of this type. half-anna stamp was more in demand than any other value; and between May, 1873, and January, 1879, seventeen plates, out of the twenty-three which were required during the life of the stamp of this type, had already been registered. I think it may safely be assumed that the issue commenced in 1873, during which year three plates were prepared, and in 1874, at any rate, we find it is employed for the stamps overprinted "On H.M.S.," and the demand for official stamps certainly cannot have been sufficient to account for the use of seventeen plates. The total number of plates, of the half-anna of both types, registered between 1855 and 1880 (the date of the last registration) was forty-nine, giving an average of about two plates for each year during the whole period. The requirements during

the later years show three, and sometimes four plates to the year; and as it is believed that after May, 1873, no plates of the first type were employed, the supply for the next six years must have come from the new plates.

The description of the difference between this stamp and that previously used, as given in *India and Ceylon*, has always seemed to me to be somewhat incomplete and misleading. For example, I have never been able myself to distinguish the flat or "squat" shape of the letters in the inscription. I fail to observe any real difference in the lettering; and I have been informed by Messrs. De La Rue & Co. that there was no alteration in this respect, or in the general design, but that "the head only was altered." Personally, also, I see very little difference in the position of the ear, and it would be difficult to distinguish the two types, if the description given were all that existed as a guide. The most striking difference by which one can immediately determine the type is in the mouth. In the first type this is closed, while in the second it is very distinctly open; and the added curl of the nostril in the later type is also very pronounced, and is another infallible guide.

The years 1881 and 1882 saw the introduction of an entirely new series of stamps for India. These are all included in the Society's list under Issue XV., the dates there assigned being January, 1882, to April, 1888. It was assumed that the designs of all the values given were "probably approved in 1882"; but as a matter of fact the 4 annas and 6 pies, and the 12 annas values were not prepared until some years later. The designs for all the rest were approved in December, 1880. In September, 1881, the 1 anna 6 pies, and the 3 annas stamps were first printed, the 1 anna in March, 1882, the 8 annas and the 1 rupee in July, and the half-anna, the 9 pies, and the 2 annas were sent out in August of the same year. The 4 annas stamps were not delivered until October, 1885.

Of the 6 annas value none have yet been printed for use, although the plate was registered on the 3rd January, 1882. I am indebted to Mr. G. J. Hynes for the information that so large was the stock on hand of 6 anna stamps of the previous design, that up to the present time it has sufficed for the demand; but that the next "indent" for stamps of this value from England will be for those of the new design, which has been so long waiting to make its appearance.

From the foregoing dates, I should imagine that, in all probability, the various values were issued somewhat earlier than the dates assigned to them in *India and Ceylon*, except, perhaps, in the case of the 4 annas. I observe that the issue of this stamp was chronicled in the number of the *Philatclic Record* for July, 1885; so that possibly Messrs. De La Rue & Co. may have made a mistake in giving the month of October as the date of their first supply, unless, as is not unlikely, the description given in the *Record* was taken from a proof of the stamp in question.

The design for the 4 annas and 6 pies stamp was approved in August, 1885, and that of the 12 annas in January, 1886. The first order for the lower value was completed in January, 1886, the first printing of the other being made in April, 1887; and these two stamps should, I think, be

included in a separate issue. There does not appear to be any registrationsheet of the 12 annas value.

The only remaining ordinary postage stamps are the 2 annas 6 pies, and the 1 rupee in the double colour, both of which were registered in September, 1891, and made their first appearance in 1892. The two last-named stamps are the first to have the addition of the Jubilee line round the sheets.

It has already been mentioned, in the London Philatelist, that the authorities have in contemplation the issue of three new stamps of the value 2, 3, and 5 rupees, and also of a new "wrapper." In all of these the distinguishing feature will be a representation of Her Gracious Majesty the Queen Empress, taken from the well-known portrait by Angeli. I am able to show you to-night a series of essays for the 2 rupees stamp, and essays of the new wrapper, kindly lent for the purpose by our Honorary Vice-President. The postage stamps are, as you will see, of large size, and the design is very elaborate, and they are to be printed in two colours. The essays shown are merely a selection, for submission to the authorities, taken from a very much larger number, in which almost every combination possible in two colours has been employed.

In regard to the official stamps, none were printed by Messrs. De La Rue & Co. until 1866. These form Issue III. in *India and Ceylon*, and there is a query in the list as to the number of the values employed in this Issue.

The word "Service" was only printed in one size in England, and I have been officially informed that the 8 pie stamp was never overprinted for official use by Messrs. De La Rue & Co. From Col. Mainwaring's list of the first watermarked stamps the 8 pies value is accidentally omitted, and the same omission occurs in his list of the service stamps issued in 1866; and, apparently, correctly so, in so far as concerns the English overprint.

The 4 annas, and 8 annas mentioned in the list in *India and Ccylon*, and overprinted in England, were, as pointed out in that work, of the altered types, and not of the first types of those stamps.

The I rupee is the other value which is questioned, and I have ascertained definitely that this stamp was not surcharged for official use by Messrs. De La Rue & Co.

There would appear to be a slight confusion in regard to Issues IV., V., and VI. In Issue IV., in 1874, the surcharge is chronicled upon both the types of the half-anna blue, but in Issue V. the second type is omitted, and it is treated as a separate issue in 1879. This was the supposed date of the appearance of the stamp without the surcharge—a time which, for the reason I have already explained, should be ante-dated by some years.

I have ascertained that Messrs. De La Rue & Co. never applied the surcharge described under Issue IV. They have only used the one type, namely that with the first line reading "ON," the second "H S," and the third "M," as described in Issue V., so that the overprint of the other type must have been applied in India.

The question of the two types of the half-anna (blue) being used for the official surcharge appears to be open to some doubt. Messrs. De La Rue & Co.

have no record of any printing of stamps of the first type after the early part

of 1873. They say—"The H S plate was made in March, 1874, and 1/2 anna

stamps so printed were delivered by us in May, 1874; so probably none of the first were so overprinted." I should imagine that this assumption is correct, as the first delivery of unsurcharged stamps from the altered die took place in June, 1873; and it is not very likely that the printers would have reverted to the old plates, especially as a reference to the record-sheets shows that by January, 1874—some months before the delivery of the official stamps—they had five plates from the altered die ready for use. The type used for the overprint under consideration is of a common description, which would be found in almost any printing-office; and I am inclined to think that a similar surcharge may have been applied in India. This would account for the specimens printed upon the stamp of the first design, some of which probably still remained on hand when Issue V. of the official stamps came into use.

On this assumption also the specimens of stamps of this issue, known with the surcharge in blue, can be accounted for, as I am assured by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., that they have never overprinted any stamps in blue, black ink only being employed by them. The 8 pies, 9 pies, and one rupee stamps bearing the surcharge for official use, are questioned in the Society's list. These, I am informed, were never sent out from England, none of the three values in question having been overprinted here.

There only remain for consideration the stamps used for telegraphic purposes. I observe that the first issue is assumed to have made its appearance in February, 1860, and I presume that this date has been assigned by reference to the Gazette notice set out at pages xlix, and l. of the appendix to India and Ceylon. The plates for this issue were all registered on the 17th September, 1857, and the stamps were sent out to India shortly after that date. The notice above referred to merely contains an announcement of the use of the stamps in the Bombay District. It is dated the 16th February, 1860, and it states that a small supply had been received from Calcutta. I would suggest, in view of the time when the supply was sent out from England, that it is possible that the stamps were employed in Calcutta and the district before the date at which they were sent to Bombay. It would seem from a report as to the use of the stamps, dated in 1866, giving details of the total supply received at Calcutta, and showing what remained on hand at that date, that a portion only of the stock was forwarded to Madras and Bombay, and I do not see anything to indicate that the stamps were issued only in the Madras and Bombay Presidencies.

In the case of the second issue reference is made to varieties of the 4 annas, 8 annas, and 2 rupees 8 annas values, on paper blued by the chemical action of the ink. I have not seen the particular specimens which gave authority for the chronicling of the varieties here mentioned, but it is noticeable that the first registered sheets of all the values prepared in 1866 are on a blue tinted paper, the colour being in the paper itself, and not being due to the chemical action of the ink.

Eight of the twelve values forming this issue were registered in December, 1866, three in July, 1869, the remaining value (the one anna) not appearing until August, 1878. The paper used in 1869 is not so blue as that of 1866, but it is nevertheless distinctly tinged with blue, and all the sheets registered up to that year, whether the first or subsequent plates of the earlier printed values, are upon bluish paper. From this it would appear that one might expect to find all the values above one anna upon blue paper, and I should presume that the varieties referred to in the Society's list are specimens from the early printings of the three values specially mentioned.

A careful examination of the stamps from the various registered plates shows that, in the case of the values first printed in 1866, collectors may expect to find them on three distinct descriptions of paper; the first a thinnish hard blue paper, the second somewhat similar, but less deeply tinged, and the third a paper of stouter texture and very white. In the stamps of 1869, the two last-named papers only would be found, and in the one anna the last of the three papers alone.

In the summary of the stamps slight shades only are mentioned, but the registration sheets, where more than one plate is registered, show very marked shades, from light to dark, in their respective colours.

I cannot refrain from expressing my admiration of the manner in which the descriptions of these stamps have been dealt with in *India and Ceylon*. If I remember rightly, the lists of the telegraph stamps were not settled at general meetings, as in the case of the postage stamps, and the descriptions of the numerous and complicated designs, which vary considerably in the case of each value, must have been a most arduous task, calculated to give many a headache to the members or member of the publication committee on whom this duty devolved. After a very careful comparison I find very little to add, and some of the alterations which I suggest are merely corrections of obvious clerical errors.

In regard to the one anna value, the ovals in which the head appears are single-lined instead of double-lined. What has been taken for the second line is, in reality, part of the frames in which the ornaments in the corners are enclosed, and only extends part of the way at the top and bottom of, and does not surround, the ovals,

In the case of the 2 annas, 4 annas, and 8 annas values there is a slight error, in reference to the inscription "Department," on the right side of the stamp. This in each case reads "upwards," instead of "downwards," as described in the Society's work.

There is also a slight clerical error in describing the 2 rupees 8 annas, as having, at the top and bottom of the stamp, white labels containing the value in figures and words in "white block type." This obviously should be "coloured block type."

For the values of 14 rupees 4 annas, and 28 rupees 8 annas, which were added to the series in 1869, there was probably not much demand—only one plate of each was registered. The stamps were withdrawn in 1878, and neither value was continued in the new series, which was prepared in 1890. In describing the first of these stamps, no reference is made to the spandrels, which are nearly filled by a large foliate

ornament in white on solid colour. In the other value, by a clerical error, the inscription on the right side is called "telegraphic department," in lieu of "telegraph department."

In the design of the 50 rupees stamp, it should be noted that the whole of the triangular spaces, forming the spandrels and interstices, are filled in with colour, on which appear the foliate ornaments in white, thus differing from the design of the 25 rupees value, where the triangular blocks of colour containing the ornaments do not fill up the whole of the spaces, but have a margin of white between them and the other portions of the design. In the values at the top and bottom of the stamp, and at the intersection of the bands, the word "rupees" is abbreviated to Rps., and is not inscribed in full, as described in *India and Ceylon*.

The stamps up to the value of 10 rupees were first printed in sheets of 80 labels, arranged in four horizontal rows of 20, the sheets of the values of 10 rupees and upwards containing 40 stamps in 4 horizontal rows of 10. In each case there was printed, in the top and bottom margins, "Electric Telegraph," and at the sides, "Government of India." In 1882, and in the subsequent printings, the whole of the values were arranged in two panes of 40 stamps, each containing 4 horizontal rows of 10, and the marginal inscriptions are omitted.

The date assigned to Issue III., consisting of the 1 rupee, 25 rupees, and 50 rupees, with slight alterations in the design, is 1879; but I observe that, in the addenda, reference is made to a copy of the 1 rupee of the altered type used in 1872, showing that an earlier date should be given, at any rate for this value. The plate for the 1 rupee was registered in June, 1869, that of the 50 rupees in September, 1874, and the plate of the 25 rupees in July, 1877, and, instead of treating them as a separate issue, it would, perhaps, be better to include them in Issue II., as second types of their respective values, giving the approximate dates of their appearance.

The description of the differences in the design of the I rupee stamp might, perhaps, be somewhat amplified with advantage, by stating that the triangular ornamentation, in the spandrels and interstices, is in colour on white, instead of being in white on colour, as in the first design, and the fretwork, as well as the other ornamentation, is all double lined.

There seems also to have been a further small alteration made in the design at a later date, making three distinct types of this stamp. The plate registered on the 30th March, 1882, shows the "fretwork," but not the rest of the ornamentation, again in white on colour, with the addition of a small white dot below each angle, formed by the lines of the fretwork. There are other minor variations in the design, and the lines are not so fine, the whole stamp having a coarser appearance.

In the case of the 50 rupees, I do not think the foliate ornamentation, in the spandrels and interstices, has been enlarged, as suggested in *India and Ccylon*. At any rate, the difference, if any, in size, is so minute as to be practically unobservable. It is true that the ornaments in the altered type fill the spaces, but this is due to what, in my opinion, is the principal alteration made, viz., that the spaces themselves are reduced in size. In the first design the solid colour extended up to the marginal line of the bands and

labels, whereas in the second type they are surrounded by an extra outer line of colour, which necessitated a reduction in their size.

I find also signs of a retouch in the head of the 2 rupees 8 annas, and the 10 rupees values; in the first case, in the plates registered on and after the 23rd October, 1878, and in the other, in the plates registered on and after the 18th April of the same year. The alterations are very similar to those made in the 4 annas postage stamp, as before described, and, as in the case of that stamp, they consist chiefly in a strengthening of the lines, the profile being, in consequence, more distinctly outlined by a line of colour. There are also modifications in the lines and shading of the hair, &c., and in the "fishtail" of the mouth. The alterations were doubtless effected in the same manner, and were due to the same causes as led to the changes in the die of the postage stamp.

Although somewhat outside the scope of this paper, I may perhaps be pardoned for referring here to the use of the stamps of these issues in Ceylon, in relation to the vexed question of their use without being surcharged with the name of the Island.

In June last I received a letter on this subject from Mr. A. Rossi Ashton, of Agra Patnas, Ceylon, and I cannot do better than allow him to impart the interesting information communicated to me, in his own words, as contained in the following extract from his letter:—

"In your Society's publication, The Postage Stamps, &c., of British India and Ceylon, on page 81, referring to the use of Indian Telegraph Stamps in this Island, I find the following remarks: 'The Indian stamps have been catalogued as employed in Ceylon without any surcharge, but no specimens thus employed have been met with by the Society. . . . It does not seem probable that unsurcharged stamps were thus used.'

"I now send you, enclosed, a sheet of fifteen stamps, from which you will see that, not only were the stamps mentioned employed in Ceylon without any surcharge, but the 1 a., green, 1 r. (1869 issue), 14 r. 4 a., lilac, 25 r. (1869 issue), and 28 r. 8 a., green, have also been used unsurcharged, although I have not come across a specimen of any of these five stamps with the surcharge.

"Further than this, with reference to the statement that, according to Mr. E. D. Bacon's paper, telegraph stamps only came into use on the 1st of July, 1880, I would call your attention to the fact that these stamps are dated 1870 and following years (I have not found one dated 1869), and I have several specimens showing these dates.

"I am unable to say whether the 50 r. (1869 issue) was employed here without surcharge, as I have not a specimen of that value."

Amongst the specimens sent, all of which had been used in Ceylon, and bore no surcharge, were the 1 anna and 2 annas, dated in 1880, the 4 annas in 1870, a pair of the 8 annas in 1879, the 1 rupee of the first and second types, and the 2 rupees 8 annas, used in Colombo, but without date; the 5 rupees, dated 1870, and the 10 rupees, 14 rupees 4 annas, 25 rupees (of both types), and the 28 rupees 8 annas.

From the above it will be seen that the only value which Mr. Ashton has not met with unsurcharged is the 50 rupees of the first type, although there

are some of the values which he has not been able to find used in Ceylon with the surcharge.

In looking through the Indian stamps in the "Tapling Collection," with Mr. Bacon a few days since, we found a strip of three of the upper portions of the 8 annas value (imperforate), which had been used in Colombo. This, no doubt, had escaped attention when the Ceylon list was settled.*

The date of 1st July, 1880, given for the first issue in Ceylon, is taken from a *Gazette* notice of the rules and rates for Inland and Foreign Telegrams. I do not know anything of the telegraphic arrangements in Ceylon prior to 1880, but I would suggest, for further enquiry, the possibility that, in the earlier time, the telegraph may have been under the control of the Indian Government.

The fifth issue does not seem to call for special remark, except that from the dates of registration of the several plates, it would seem possible that the stamps came into use somewhat earlier than the queried date assigned to them. The Publication Committee have, I think, exercised a wise discretion in not giving detailed descriptions of each of the designs, which are of even more intricate and complicated forms than those of the previous issues. The admirable general description which has been given, is amply sufficient for all the ordinary requirements of collectors, and only requires completion by noting the addition of the Jubilee line.

In 1871, a descriptive list of the East India Postage Stamps was prepared by the late Lieut.-Col. Mainwaring. I have been fortunate enough to obtain a copy of this list as revised by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., so far as concerns the stamps manufactured by them, and completed by them down to the date of revision. I have thought it worth while to append this list in its entirety, although, as it also describes the stamps prepared in India, it is to this extent outside the scope of my paper. The whole of the portion which deals with the stamps issued before 1855 is the work of Colonel Mainwaring, as is also such part as relates to the provisional issues, and the service stamps printed in India.

The rest has been revised by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., who have substituted their own descriptions of the stamps of their manufacture, in place of the descriptions of the compiler of the list, and they have also added the whole of the matter of a later date than 1871.

There is nothing new to be learnt from the list in regard to the native printed stamps, except the statement that the plate of the 8 anna stamp, which should, of course, be classed as an essay, was mislaid after a few copies only had been printed, and was never recovered.

It is curious to observe that Colonel Mainwaring keeps up, or perhaps is the originator of, the old tradition that the half anna stamp, with the eight arches, was first printed in black and sent out for distribution. He adds that it was never issued in this colour to the public, as a large packet of the stamps was stolen, and the remainder were withdrawn, to prevent the stolen stamps from being used. He then proceeds to state that it was

^{*} Since the above was written, I have also acquired specimens of most of the values used in Ceylon without the surcharge, including the 50 surces stamp of 1869, which Mr. Ash'on had not succeeded in finding.—J. A. TILLEARD.

re-issued in red, and that on the vermilion ink running short, it was printed in blue. It would be interesting to know the origin of this tradition. Personally, I have never seen this value in black printed on the watermarked paper, and if the circumstantial story above referred to were correct, I think we should have seen some watermarked copies, and not merely the proofs. Possibly the story had its origin in the fact that for a short time the printers despaired of being able to obtain satisfactory results in blue, and strongly recommended the black impressions, which had been successfully obtained. In the list of proofs in India and Ceylon, the stamp is chronicled with reserve, and the above-mentioned story is given, on the authority of Mr. G. J. Hynes' official catalogue of 1884. This catalogue was founded on Colonel Mainwaring's list, and it is only fair to Mr. Hynes to state that in the copy of his descriptive list, published by the Indian Postal Authorities in 1885, which Mr. Hynes has been kind enough to lend to me, there is a note by the author against this stamp, "taken from Mainwaring's book, but I have only evidence of proofs having been printed."

I think it is conclusively proved by our late Vice-President's paper, printed in the introduction to *India and Ceylon*, that the red half-anna stamps which were sent to Bombay were not of this type, but were those with the nine arches. Athough the stamp is found printed in red on the watermarked paper, there is no official record of its issue, and such specimens are, in my opinion, correctly classed by the Society as proofs, or colour trials.

It was, however, the detailed description of the stamps which form the subject of this paper, which induced me to consider the list of sufficient importance to be appended to my remarks. It is not that I have any fault to find with the descriptions as given in the lists compiled by the Society. On the contrary, I think that these are, in the main, most admirably and carefully done, and that, in some respects, they are more complete than the official descriptions of the manufacturers. It is, however, well known to all of us who are in the habit of attending the meetings for settling the Society's lists of stamps, how difficult it is to describe accurately and concisely the stamps for the time being under consideration, especially in reference to the varied and complicated designs which are often employed. It is also no easy task to ensure uniformity in the terms used, and we have laboured under some disadvantage in not being sure of the technical terms applicable to the different designs. Seeing that Messrs. De La Rue & Co. produce a very large majority of the stamps with which we are mostly occupied-viz., those of our numerous colonies—it has occurred to me that it cannot fail to be of value. to have a record of Messrs. De La Rue & Co.'s own descriptions of the stamps of India emanating from their factories. With these before us we shall be able, by combining the manufacturers' system with our own, to obtain, I hope. perfection in description, and greater uniformity in this branch of our work. On comparing the terms used in these descriptions with those in the Society's book, I find that "tablets" is the technical word for what we somewhat indiscriminately call "labels," or "bands," the latter word being only applied where it is actually a band which is being described. Again, in describing ornamentation as "reticulated," it would, in general, appear that "engineturned" is the more technical expression. Our "conventional" ornaments are sometimes "rope pattern," and sometimes "scroll" or "foliated" ornament, "ornamental fleur-de-lis," &c. When we say "floreate," Messrs. De La Rue & Co. use the word "trefoil," or "ornamental leaves," as the case may require. "Zigzag" is described as "triangular," and our "Greek" border becomes a "fret" border. These are a few instances out of many, and will serve to show how, with the aid of the list of which we can now avail ourselves, we shall be able to enlarge our knowledge of the technical terms employed by the printers, if we see fit to follow their language and methods of description.

In conclusion, I would desire to express my indebtedness to the Inland Revenue authorities, through whose good services I have been able to obtain dates and facts from Messrs. De La Rue and Co.; to the last-named firm for the great labour and care bestowed on the searches necessary to answer the questions on which I sought their assistance; and last, but not least, to our Honorary Vice-President, for placing at my disposal the collection which we inspected with so much pleasure in May last. Mine has been the comparatively simple task of recording the observations which the inspection of this collection afforded, and the facts imparted to me by the authorities. Whatever of merit there may be in these lines, is due to the co-operation of those who have so kindly enabled me to obtain the information, which has, I trust, somewhat extended our knowledge of the history of the De La Rue series of the postage and telegraph stamps of our Indian Empire.

APPENDIX A.

LIST OF THE REGISTERED PLATES OF THE ADHESIVE POSTAGE AND TELEGRAPH STAMPS

PRINTED BY MESSRS. DE LA RUE AND CO.

POSTAGE.

VALUE.				Colour.					NO. OF DATE OF REGISTRATION.			WATERMARK.
l anna				blue		,			I	8th June,	1855	None.
11				"			•		2	7th July,	1855	17
**				11					3	2nd Aug.,	1855	**
,,				,,					4	8th July,	1857	19
,,				,,					5 }	2nd Sept.,	1858	
99			٠	"		•			65	•	_	"
19				11					7	6th May,	1862	,,
17	_			21					8	20th March		27
,,				11					9	20th Jan.,	1865	Elephant's Head
11				"					10	17th Jan.,	1866	"
**				,,					11	2nd Feb.,	1866	29
				11					12	not registe	red.	
"				12					13 {	27th Sept.,	. 862	
"				"					14 \$	2/til .5ept.,	1007	77
***				"			4		15	roth Oct.,	1867	,,,
"				79					16	15th Oct.,	1867	19
"				,,					17	29th Jan.,	1868	**
"	•			,,					18	rith Jan.,	1869	,,,
,,	•			,,					19	19th Feb.,	1869	,,
"	•	•	•	"					20	rith Jan.,	1869	,,
"	•	•	•	"					21	19th Feb.,	1869	**
**	•	•	•	"					22	13th April,	1870	39
**	•	•	•					i	23	15th June,	1870	"
19	•	•	•	,,	i		·		24)			"
11	•	•	•	,,,	i				25 5	8th Aug.,	1872	22
22	•	•	•	19	Ċ		Ĭ	·	26	13th Aug.,	1872	**
17	*	•	•	11	•	•	Ů		27	30th April,	1873	
"	1	امسمط	dia)	"	•		Ċ		28	21st May,	1873	"
" (tr	om alt	terea	die)	27	•	•	•		29 }			27
22	•	•	٠	22	•	•	•	•	30 5	9th July,	1873	"
22	•	•	•	٠,	*	•	•	•	31	11th Sept.,	1873	
**	•	•	•	>1	•	•	•		_	7th Jan.,	1874	**
37	+	٠	,	51	•	•	•	•	32	toth June,	1874	"
92	*	+	•	33	•	•	٠	•	33	22nd July,	1874	"
99	•	•	•	93	•	•		•	34	15th Oct.,	1874	17
**	*		•	>7	٠	•	•	•	35			**
,,	•	٠	•	21	•	*	•	•	36	29th Oct.,	1874	1)
37			•	91	•	•	•	•	37 5			

	VALUE.	COLOUR.	NO OF PLATE.	DATE OF REGISTRATION.	WATERMARK.
l anna	(continued) .	blue	38 }	24th Nov., 1875	Elephant's Head
22		,,	39 \$	4.11 1.00., 10/3	Biepinant's Tread
**		21	40	8th Nov., 1876	17
22		,,	41	30th Nov., 1877	:>
1)		,,	42	11th Dec., 1877	39
27		,,	43	14th Aug., 1878	1,
17		,,	44	21st Aug., 1878	,,
37		,,	45	29th Jan., 1879	>>
97		39	46	29th Oct., 1879	>9
91		,,	47	12th May, 1880	**
"		,,	48	2nd June, 1880	>>
33		35	49	21st Oct., 1880	,,
11		,,	50	1st Dec., 1880	21
	(new design).	green	1	3rd Jan., 1882	Star.
pies		lilac	1	21st May, 1859	None.
11		37	3	29th Jan., 1868	Elephant's Head
pies		31	1	1st April, 1874	,,,
,,	(new design).	carmine	ı	3rd Jan., 1882	Star.
anna		brown	ı	8th June, 1855	None.
**		,,	2	8th July, 1857	,,
11		,,	3	2nd Sept., 1858	"
- 55		,,	1	28th Dec., 1865	Elephant's Head
••		75	5	2nd May, 1866	
**		,,	61		>77
12		79	7	not registered.	
**		29	8	26th Feb., 1868	
		11		25th March, 1868	**
••		brown	9	11th Jan., 1869	>9
			11	not registered.	",
11		reddish-brown	12	8th Aug., 1872	
••				13th Aug., 1872	79
••		dark red-brown.	13	_	>5
			14	8th July, 1874	11
,.		,,	15	15th Oct., 1874	>>
35		"	16	31st July, 1878	37
11	• • •	, · · ·	17	2nd April, 1879	13
19	• • •	**	18	23rd Sept., 1879	59
**	(new design).	chocolate	19	4th Aug., 1880)) Can
" Lanna			1	5th Jan., 1882	Star.
r anna 2 annas	-	olive-brown	1	roth Aug., 1881	"
		green	I	8th June, 1855	None.
"	• • •	pink	2	2nd Sept., 1858	>>
**		yellow	3	6th May, 1862	77
27	• • •	bright orange-yellow.	-	2nd May, 1866	Elephant's Head
33		dull " .	5	29th April, 1868	"
29		bright ,, .	6	15th June, 1870	37
"	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		7	10th Aug., 1881	"
,,	(new design).	ultramarine	1	3rd Jan., 1882	Star.
	s 6 pies	bright yellow-green .	1	15th Sept., 1891	"
3 anna		orange	I	10th Aug., 1881	"
4 anna	s.,	grey-black	. 1	7th July, 1855	None.
"		,, , ,		19th May, 1862	93
"		11	3 5		
-,, (second design)	yellow-green	1	28th March, 1866	Elephant's Head

Value.	Colour.	No. of Plate.	DATE OF REGISTRATION.	WATERMARK,
4 annas (continued) .	yellow-green	2	not registered.	
	11	3	29th April, 1868	Elephant's Head.
19	dark green	4	15th June, 1870	,,,
,,	,,	5	21st Aug., 1872	12
" (retouched die)	,,	6	11th Dec., 1877	31
31 31	,,	7	14th May, 1879	11
1)))	,,	8	12th May, 1880	11
" (new design).	olive-green	1	5th Jan., 1882	Star.
4 annas 6 pies	yellow-green	I	18th Dec., 1885	39
6 annas	brown	1	26th April, 1876	Elephant's Head.
,,	,,	2	2nd April, 1879	12
,,	pale brown .	3	29th Oct., 1879	17
" (new design not	paid 5.5		7,10001, 10,9	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
yet issued) .	ochre	1	3rd Jan., 1882	Star.
6 annas 8 pies		1	not registered.	J
27 19	pale slate	2	21st Aug., 1866	Elephant's Head.
11 11 * *	dark slate	3	1st Dec., 1869	
8 annas	carmine (blue paper).	_	30th Aug., 1855	None.
		2 }		Tronc.
31	,, ,,	3 5	not registered.	
,, (altered die) .	carmine (white paper		13th April, 1870	Elephant's Head.
	in in in	, 4 5	29th Oct., 1879	-
(now design)	violet	1	3rd Jan., 1882	Star.
" (new design).	red-brown	1	4th May, 1876	Elephant's Head.
		1	19th Nov., 1879	
" (new design).	,,		not registered.	"
	slate	***	1st April, 1874	
ı rupee		2	19th Nov., 1879	"
, (altered type) .	1, , , ,	1	3rd [an., 1882	Star.
(now design)	yraan and carmina	1	30th Sept., 1891	
" (new design).	green and carmine .	1	Jorn Schr. 1991	1, 1,

NOTE.—In the case of the half anna (blue) the colours down to the date of the last registration in 1870 are mostly pale shades. Afterwards the colour is brighter, and varies considerably in shade, the darkest occurring in 1875, and early in 1880. In the "one anna" the colours from 1874 are all dark shades, the deepest occurring in 1878.

TELEGRAPH.

VALUE	COLOUR.	No. OF PLATE.	DATE OF REGISTRATION.	
ranna	yellow-green	1	21st August, 1878	
12	23	2	2nd April, 1879	
,,	dark yellow-green	3	30th March, 188:	
" (new design) .	23	1	6th March, 1890	
annas	maroon (bluish paper)	ı	23rd July, 1860	
,,	dark maroon (white paper)	2	3rd May, 188	
" (new design) .	22	1	16th June, 1890	
4 annas (oblong)	reddish-mauve	ı	17th September, 1857	
" (upright)	pale blue (bluish paper)	1	10th December, 1866	
17 22	"	2	23rd July, 1866	
"			not registered	
)))) · · ·	deep bright blue (white paper)	3	30th March, 188:	
" (new design) .	pale blue	4	10th April, 1890	
8 annas	brown (bluish paper)	1 I	14th December, 1866	
33	paper,	i - I	10th December, 1866	
,,	dark reddish-brown (bluish paper)	2	,	
,		3	and June, 1869	
	11 11 11	4	16th June, 1869	
,,	dark reddish-brown (white paper).	5	not registered	
" (new design) .		6	30th March, 188:	
rupee (oblong)	reddish-mauve	1	6th March, 1890	
/complete)	slate (bluish paper)	I	17th September, 1857	
(retouched die)		I	14th December, 1866	
	pale slate do	2	16th June, 1869	
***	dark slate (white paper)	3	9th August, 1876	
"	"	4	23rd October, 1878	
" (die again retouched)	1))) · · · ·	5	not registered	
(man, dest.,)	slate	6	30th March, 188:	
• ····• · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·) , , , , , , , ,	1	6th March, 1890	
-	orange-yellow (bluish paper)	I	14th December, 1866	
" (retouched die).	bright red-orange (white paper)	2	23rd October, 1878	
/mousednation	22 23	3	21st December, 188:	
,, (new design) .	33 35	I	10th April, 1890	
4 rupees (oblong)	reddish-mauve	I	17th September, 1877	
5 rupees	dull orange-brown (bluish paper).	l I	18th December, 1866	
"	deep bright do. (white paper) .	2 }	30th March, 188:	
, , , , , , ,	27 21 .	3 5	Journal Tool	
" (new design) .	"	1	10th April, 1890	
to rupces do	dull bluish-green (blue paper) .	1	10th December, 1866	
" (retouched die)	bright do. (white paper) .	2	15th April, 1878	
31	111	3	21st December, 188:	
" (new design) .	yellow-green	1	24th July, 1890	
14 rupees 4 annas	bright lilac	1 1	22nd October, 1869	
25 rupees	dull lilac (bluish paper)	1 1	14th December, 1866	
" (retouched die)	mauve (white paper)	2	4th July, 187;	
12 22 .	21 11	3	21st December, 188:	
" (new design).	bright mauve , , , .	1	7th May, 1890	
28 rupees 8 annas	bright yellow-green (bluish paper)	1	22nd October, 1869	
50 rupees	rose (white paper)	1	18th December, 1866	
" (retouched die)	carmine-rose	2	9th September, 1874	
17 15 .	,,	3	30th March, 188:	
" (new design).	carmine	ı	7th May, 1890	

^{*} This is the date given in the records.

APPENDIX B.

DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF EAST INDIA POSTAGE STAMPS.

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

Dated Darjeeling, 14th August, 1871.

Corrected in 1883 by Messrs De La Rue & Co., and continued by them down to the date of Correction.

No. I. Half Anna.

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

It was not until about thirteen years after the first introduction in England of stamps, for the payment of postage on letters, that Government decided on their employment in India. In 1853 postage stamps were ordered to be prepared in the Calcutta Mint, and there the afore-described handsome stamp was designed and made. It was doomed, however, never to come into use, delay occurring in cutting the steel die.* The Governor-General, Lord Dalhousie, became impatient, and sent to the Surveyor-General's Office to know if stamps could not be prepared there more speedily. Accordingly rough and hurried engravings were made on copper-plate, from which stamps of the following designs were struck off and issued to the Post-office, thus:

1854.

No. 2. Half Anna, Black, Red, Blue.

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

Black.

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

Red.

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

Blue.

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

No. 3. One Anna, Red.

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

No. 4. Two Annas.

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

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

No. 5. Two Annas.

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

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

No. 6. Two Annas, Green.

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

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

No. 7. Four Annas, Red and Blue.

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

No. 8. Eight Annas.

Design same as above, only the colours reversed; i.e. head red, border blue.

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

(Note by Messrs. De La Rue and Co.—Nothing is known here of any of the stamps above detailed.)

1855.

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

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

ADHESIVE STAMPS. SECOND SERIES.

No. 9.

- a. Half Anna . . Blue.
- b. One Anna . . . Dark Brown.
- c. Two Annas Green.
- d. Four Annas Dark Grey.
- e. Eight Annas . . . Carmine.

Profile head of Queen, with diadem, looking to left, on fine-lined background of oval form, confined by oval band, bearing the inscription "East India Postage" and the duty. The stamp bound by a rectangular engine-turned band, with engine-turning on the spandrels formed between the rectangular border and the oval band. Paper not watermarked; perforated edges.

No. 10. Adhesive Stamp. Two Annas, Pink.

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

No. 11. Adhesive Stamp. Two Annas, Yellow.

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

1857.

No. 12. Envelope Stamps.

a. Circular. Half Anna, Blue.

Embossed cameo stamp, with the parts in relief in white, the background being in blue. Profile head of Queen, with diadem, looking to left, on solid circular blue background. A circular engine-turned band surrounding the stamp with two tablets therein; the upper one bearing the words "India Postage," the lower one the words "Half Anna," the background of the upper tablet being engine-turned, and the background of the lower tablet solid blue. The envelopes on which the stamp is embossed are made of cream-laid paper, so that oblique lines of watermark run through the stamp.

b. Circular. One Anna, Brown.

Same design, but with the duty "One Anna" on blue wove paper, so that there is no watermark in the stamp.

The above two envelopes bear on the seal flaps an embossed circular cameo stamp, with the parts in relief in white, the background being blue in both envelopes. Lion trippant, facing left, under a palm-tree, the stamp being enclosed by a dotted border.

1857.

No. 13. Note Paper with Envelope Flaps. Circular. Half Anna, Blue.

Stamped as No. 12a. The note paper is made of cream laid paper, the watermark lines running vertically through the stamp.

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

1860.

No. 14. Adhesive Stamp. Eight Pies, Lilac.

Profile head of Queen, with diadem, looking to left, on fine lined background of oval form. Outline of stamp rectangular, with corners taken off at an angle of 45°. A white tablet at the top and bottom of the stamp, being the words "Eight," "Pies" respectively. A coloured tablet on each side of the stamp, bearing the inscription "East India," "Postage" respectively. The spaces between the oval background of the head, the tablets, and the outline of the stamp filled in with engine-turning. Paper not watermarked, perforated edges.

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

1864.

No. 15. Adhesive Stamp, Rectangular. Four Annas, Green.

Same stamps as No. 9d. For the same reason that the English penny black stamp was changed to red, viz., on account of the indistinctness of the marks when the stamp was obliterated with black ink, was No. 9d., black, altered into

green, and also, in the latter case, for the further reason that an imitation of the stamp had been attempted by photography. Likewise, on this account, the blank marginal space on all the sheets of stamps was subsequently printed with an ornamental border, as the blank paper had been made use of to photograph upon.

1865.

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

ADHESIVE STAMPS. THIRD SERIES.

No. 16.

Same design as No. 9.

а.	Half Anna .		Blue	
b .	One Anna .	•	Dark Brown	Watermarked
c.	Two Annas.		Orange	with
d.	Four Annas	•	Green	Elephant's Head.
e.	Eight Annas		Carmine	

(Note by Messrs. De La Rue & Co.—It is not understood why the 8 Pie duty is omitted from this list.)

1866.

No. 17. Adhesive Service Stamps.

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

a. Half Anna
b. One Anna
c. Two Annas
d. Four Annas
Dark Brown
Orange
Green

e. Eight Annas . . . Carmine

The word "Service" printed across in black ink.

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

(Notes by Messrs. De La Rue & Co.—The 8 Pie stamp was never overprinted for service here.

The 4 Anna and 8 Anna service stamps made here were not of the above series, but were of the pattern Nos. 20 and 23 respectively.

The word "Service" was only overprinted in one size in England.)

No. 18. Provisional.

Profile of Queen to left in coloured circle.

a. Two Annas, Lilac.

Externally reticulated with pearl borders, printed across in black ink; above, "Service," below, value.

b. Two Annas, Lilac.

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

The above stamps are revenue stamps cut down for postage use.

No. 19. Provisional. a. Six Annas, Lilac.

Profile of Queen to left in ornamental circle, coloured ground, externally embellished above with lacework and star, &c., on a band within the circle, above "six," below "annas." On the upper part of stamp, surcharged in green ink, "Postage."

b. Six Annas, Lilac.

Same stamp as 19a, but cut smaller, postage in green, printed larger.

The above stamps are revenue stamps, cut down for postage use.

(NOTE BY MESSRS. DE LA RUE & Co.—These Provisional Stamps must have been made in India. Nothing is known of them here.)

No. 20. Adhesive Stamp. Four Annas, Green.

Profile head of Queen, with diadem, looking to left, on fine lined background of circular form, surrounded by pearl border. Outline of stamp rectangular, with corners scolloped out. Coloured tablets following the pearl border at top and bottom of the stamp, bearing the inscriptions, "East India Postage," and "Four Annas." Paper watermarked with elephant's head; perforated edges.

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

This stamp was also used as a Service Stamp, the word "Service" being overprinted across in black ink.

1867.

No. 21. Adhesive Stamp. Six Annas and Eight Pies, Slate.

Profile head of Queen, with diadem, looking to left, on fine lined background of elongated octagonal form, surrounded by coloured band, bearing the inscriptions, "East India Postage," "Six Annas and Eight Pies." The outline of the stamp rectangular, with the corners between the outline and the octagonal band filled in with a rope pattern border. Paper watermarked with elephant's head; perforated edges.

This stamp was obtained at a time when the postage chargeable on letters for the United Kingdom, viâ Marseilles, was six annas, eight pies. It is now of comparatively little use, and will probably be replaced by a stamp of the value of six annas.

1868.

No. 22. Adhesive Service Stamps. Six Annas and Eight Pies, Slate.

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

No. 23. Adhesive Stamp. Eight Annas, Carmine.

An alteration in the eight anna, carmine, No. 16e. The diadem is of a different form, and the Queen's head modified in other respects, the inscription being in bolder lettering.

This stamp was also used as a Service Stamp, the word "Service" being overprinted across in black ink.

(Note by Messrs. De La Rue & Co.—It is believed that this stamp was introduced in 1866.)

No. 24. Provisional. Half Anna, Lilac.

Diademed head of Queen, to left, in lined circular disk, with double circular bands, outer band inscribed, above and below, "Government of India," on inner band "Receipt, Bill, or Draft," inscription, surcharged in green ink on the inscribed circle, "Service Postage," watermark crown, large rectangular.

No. 25. Provisional. Two Annas, Lilac.

Head of Queen, with diadem, to left, in lined coloured disk, beaded circle, external saw-shaped tesselated ground, over which, printed in green ink, is "Service Postage," inscribed in two plain white curved bands; above "two," below "annas."

No. 26. Provisional. Four Annas, Lilac.

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

No. 27. Provisional. Eight Annas, Lilac.

Head of Queen, with diadem, to left, in lined circular disk, beaded, within a lined octagon frame; above and below, solid square disks containing value; sides tesselated and serrated; in words, on reticulated band, at upper end the word "Foreign"; over upper disk, surcharged inscription in green ink "Service," below lower disk "Postage."

Nos. 24, 25, 26, and 27 are, like Nos. 18 and 19, improvised from Revenue Stamps, to perform temporary postal duty.

(NOTE BY MESSRS, DE LA RUE & Co.—These provisional stamps must have been made in India. Nothing is known of them here.)

1871.

No. 28. Envelope Stamps.

a. Half Anna, Blue.

Same design, &c., as No. 12a, but embossed cameo stamp on seal flap coloured brown instead of blue. Paper thicker.

b. One Anna, Brown.

Same design, &c., as No. 12b, but paper thicker, and laid instead of wove, so that watermarked lines run through the stamp diagonally.

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

The following are the additions made by Messrs. De La Rue & Co. to Colonel Mainwaring's list.

1874.

(This is the date of first supply to India.)

No. 29. Envelope Stamp. 1 Anna, Circular, Blue.

Same as No. 28a, but envelope smaller.

NOTE.—The dates which follow are those by which the first order was in each case completed.

1874.

Nos. 30a, b, c, d, e. Adhesive Service Stamps.

Same series as No. 17, except that the overprint is "On H.M.S." instead of the word "Service.'

No. 31. Adhesive Stamp. 9 Pies, Lilac.

Profile head of Queen, with diadem, looking to left, on fine lined background of oval form. Outline of stamp rectangular. A coloured tablet following the upper portion of the ellipse, bearing the inscription "East India Postage." A white tablet of irregular form at the bottom of the stamp, bearing the inscription "Nine Pies." The upper corners of the stamp filled in with scroll ornament, as well as the space between the two tablets. Paper watermarked with elephant's head; perforated edges.

No. 32. Adhesive Stamp. I Rupee, Slate.

Profile head of Queen, with diadem, looking to left, on fine lined background of elongated octagonal form, surrounded by coloured band bearing the inscription "East India Post" at top, and "One Rupee" at bottom, the side of band being filled in

with a "key" pattern. The outline of stamp rectangular, with the corners between the outline and the octagonal band filled in with trefoil ornaments. Paper watermarked with elephant's head; perforated edges.

No. 33. Envelope Stamp. 1 Anna, Circular, Brown.

Same as No. 28b, but the paper cream laid instead of blue laid.

1875.

No. 34. Envelope Stamp, Circular. 1 Anna, Blue.

Same as No. 29, but the embossed stamp on seal flap without colour.

1876.

No. 35. Adhesive Stamp. 6 Annas, Yellow-brown.

Profile head of Queen, with diadem, looking to left, on fine lined background, with straight base and sides and arched top. White band following the form of this background bearing the inscriptions "East India Postage," "Six Annas." The outline of stamp rectangular, with the spandrels formed between outline and arched top of band filled with foliated ornament. Paper watermarked with elephant's head; perforated edges.

No. 36. Adhesive Stamp. 12 Annas, Red-brown.

Profile head of Queen, with diadem, looking to left, on fine lined background, with straight sides, and arched top and bottom. A white band following the form of the background to head, bearing the inscription "East India Postage" at top, and "Twelve Annas" at bottom, the side of band being filled in with triangular border. The outline of stamp rectangular, with two "niches" out of each corner. The corners of the stamp filled in with ornamental leaves. Paper watermarked with elephant's head; perforated edges.

1877.

No. 37. Envelope Stamp, Circular. 1 Anna, Blue.

Same as No. 34, but without an embossed stamp on seal flap, and with the side flaps of envelope cut down.

1879.

No. 38. — Soldiers' and Seamen's Envelope Stamp, vesica-shaped. 9 Pies, Vermilion.

Embossed cameo stamp, with the parts in relief in white, the background being in vermilion. Profile head of Queen, with diadem, looking to left, on solid vermilion vesica-shaped (i.e. a form made by two intersecting segments of circles) background. An engine-turned band, bearing the inscriptions "India Postage," "Nine Pies," completes a vesica-shaped stamp. The envelopes on which the stamp is embossed are made of cream-wove paper, so that there is no watermark. They are printed with the words—

"Soldiers' and Seamen's Envelope.

Address.

Sender's name and rank.

Regiment, Ship, or Office.

Commanding Officer, or Head of Department.

Sig. and rank.

Regt., Ship, or Official design"

No. 39. Inland Single Post Card Stamp. 1/4 Anna, Brown.

Profile head of Queen, with diadem, looking to left, on solid circular background. A white tablet at bottom of stamp, bearing the words "Quarter Anna." Outline of stamp rectangular, with corners cut off, with two V-shaped niches in the top and each side. The space between the circular background of head, bottom tablet, and outline of stamp, filled in with ornament.

In addition to the stamp, the card bears the Royal Arms and the words "East India Post Card," "The address only to be written on this side." The card is made of thick buff, unwatermarked paper.

No 40. International Single Post Card Stamp. One and a Half Anna, Blue.

Profile head of Queen, with diadem, looking to left, on solid circular background. A white arched tablet in upper portion of stamp, bearing the inscription, "One and half Anna." Outline of stamp rectangular, with corners scolloped out, and with the centre of each side broken into segments of circles; acanthus leaf ornament filling the spaces between the background of head tablet and outline of stamp. In addition to the stamp the card bears the Royal Arms and the words—

"Universal Postal Union, British India, Post Card. Union Postale Universelle, Inde Britannique, Carte Postale."

"The address only to be written on this side."

The card is made of thick, buff, unwatermarked paper.

1881.

No. 41. Envelope Stamp, oval. 4 Annas and 6 Pies, Orange-Yellow.

Embossed oval cameo stamp, with the parts in relief in white, the background being in orange-yellow. Profile head of Queen, with diadem, looking to left, on solid orange-yellow oval background. An oval engine-turned band, embraced on each side by a pearl border, bearing the inscriptions, "India Postage," "Four Annas and Six Pies." The envelopes on which the stamp is embossed are made of cream wove paper, so that there is no watermark.

1881 and 1882.

ADHESIVE STAMPS. FOURTH SERIES.

In this series of Postage Stamps the Queen's head is engraved with lines somewhat further apart than in the former series. This alteration was required in order to carry out an improved economical method of manufacturing the stamps. They are of a larger size than formerly, being the same size as the English Postage Stamps, and they are supplied in sheets of 240 multiples, instead of in sheets of 320.

No. 42. Adhesive Stamp. 1 Anna, Dark Green.

Profile head of Queen, with diadem, looking to left, on fine-lined background of oval form, surrounded by a coloured oval band, bearing the inscriptions "India Postage," "Half Anna." Stamp rectangular in form, the spandrels formed between the elliptical band and outline being filled in with a vandyke border. Paper watermarked with a five-pointed star, perforated edges.

No. 43. Adhesive Stamp. 9 Pies, Carmine.

Profile head of Queen, with diadem, looking to left, on fine-lined background of oval form. Outline of stamp rectangular. A coloured tablet following the upper portion of the ellipse, bearing the inscription, "India Postage," a coloured tablet of

irregular form at the bottom of the stamp bearing the inscription "Nine Pies." The upper corners of the stamp filled in with scroll ornament, as well as the space between the two tablets. Paper watermarked with a five-pointed Star; perforated edges.

No. 44. Adhesive Stamp. I Anna, Chocolate.

Profile head of Queen, looking to left, on fine lined background of circular form. Outline of stamp rectangular. An arched coloured tablet at the top and bottom of the stamp, bearing the inscriptions, "India Postage," "One Anna." The spandrels formed between the arched tablets, and the outline of stamp filled in with ornamental fleur-de-lis. Paper watermarked with five-pointed star: perforated edges.

No. 45. Adhesive Stamp. One Anna, Six Pies, Cool Brown.

Profile head of Queen, with diadem, looking to left, on fine lined background of oval form. Outline of stamp rectangular. A straight coloured tablet at the top and bottom of the stamp, bearing the inscriptions, "India Postage"; and "One Anna, Six Pies." The spandrels formed by the elliptical background of head, the tablets, and the outline of stamp filled in with scollop and vandyke ornament. Paper watermarked with five-pointed star; perforated edges.

No. 46. Adhesive Stamp. Two Annas, Bright Blue.

Profile head of Queen, with diadem, looking to left, on fine lined background of a broken ornamental form. Outline of stamp rectangular. A straight coloured table at the top and bottom of the stamp bearing the inscriptions, "India Postage," and "Two Annas." The irregular spaces formed between the background of head, the tablets, and the outline of stamp filled in with scolloped ornament. Paper watermarked with five-pointed star; perforated edges.

No. 47. Adhesive Stamp. Three Annas, Orange.

Profile head of Queen, with diadem, looking to left, on fine-lined background of ornamental form. Outline of stamp rectangular. Straight coloured tablets at top and bottom of stamp bearing the inscriptions, "India Postage," "Three Annas." A band on each side bearing ornamental rosettes, and ornamental leaves in the corners taken out of the head background. Paper watermarked with five-pointed star; perforated edges.

No. 48. Adhesive Stamp. 4 Annas, Olive-green.

Profile head of Queen, with diadem, looking to left, on fine-lined background of circular form, surrounded by a pearl border. Outline of stamp rectangular, with corners scolloped out. An arched coloured tablet at the top and bottom of the stamp, bearing the inscriptions, "India Postage," "Four Annas." The spaces between arched tablets and the outline of the stamp filled in with ornamental dots. Paper watermarked with five-pointed star; perforated edges.

N.B.-No stamps of this value have as yet been shipped to India.

No. 49. Adhesive Stamp. 6 Annas, Cool Yellow.

Profile head of Queen, with diadem, looking to left, on fine-lined background, with straight sides and base, and arched top. A coloured arched tablet at the top, and a straight coloured tablet at the bottom, bearing the inscriptions, "India Postage," "Six Annas." Stamp rectangular in form. A fret border running up each side, and continued through the spandrels formed between the top arched tablet and the outline of stamp. Paper watermarked with five-pointed star; perforated edges.

N.B.—No stamps of this value have as yet been shipped to India.

No. 50. Adhesive Stamp. 8 Annas, Purple.

Profile head of Queen, with diadem, looking to left, on fine-lined background of rectangular form, with corners notched out. Stamp of rectangular form, with scolloped edges. A straight coloured tablet at top and bottom bearing the inscriptions, "India Postage," "Eight Annas." A border runs up each side of the stamp, with coloured dots and lines, and there is a little ornamental leaf in each of the corners notched out of the background of head. Paper watermarked with five-pointed star; perforated edges.

No. 51. Adhesive Stamp. One Rupee, Slate.

Profile head of Queen, with diadem, looking to left, on fine lined background of elongated octagonal form, surrounded by coloured band, bearing the inscription, "India Postage" at top, and "One Rupee" at bottom, the sides of band being filled in with a triangular pattern. Outline of stamp rectangular. The corners between the outline and the octagonal band filled in with trefoil ornaments. Paper watermarked with a five-pointed star; perforated edges.

ADHESIVE SERVICE STAMPS.

No. 52. Half Anna, Dark Green.

Same as No. 42, but overprinted, in black, "On H.M.S."

No. 53. One Anna, Chocolate.

Same as No. 44, but overprinted, in black, "On H.M.S."

N.B.—These are the only two duties of the fourth series of stamps which have as yet been thus overprinted.

1883. No. 54. Envelope Stamp, Circular. Half Anna, Dark Green.

Same as No. 37, but with the stamp in dark green instead of in blue, so as to accord with the regulations of the International Postal Convention, wherein it is provided that stamps of the value of a halfpenny should be printed in green.

No. 55. Inland Reply Post Card Stamp. Anna, Brown.

Same as No. 39, the card, however, being double, with a perforated hinge, the front card, in addition to the lettering described under No. 39, bearing the words "The annexed card is intended for the answer," the back card the word "Reply." These cards are of the size of the international cards.

No. 56. International Reply Post Card Stamp. 11 Anna, Blue.

Same as No. 40, the card, however, being double, with a perforated hinge. The front card bears the following lettering at the head:-

"Universal Postal Union British India Post Card The address only to be written

on this side.

Union Postale Universelle Inde Britannique Carte Postale Ce côté est réservé exclusivement à l'adresse."

And at the foot:

"The annexed card is intended for the answer. (La Carte ci-jointe est destineé à la réponse.)"

The back card bears the same heading, with the addition of the words "Reply," "Réponse," and does not bear the foot-note.

These two values of reply cards are in course of manufacture, and a supply of each kind will be ready shortly.

Correct up to date.

THOS, DE LA RUE & CO. (Signed) July 11th, 1883.

110, BUNHILL ROW, LONDON, E.C.