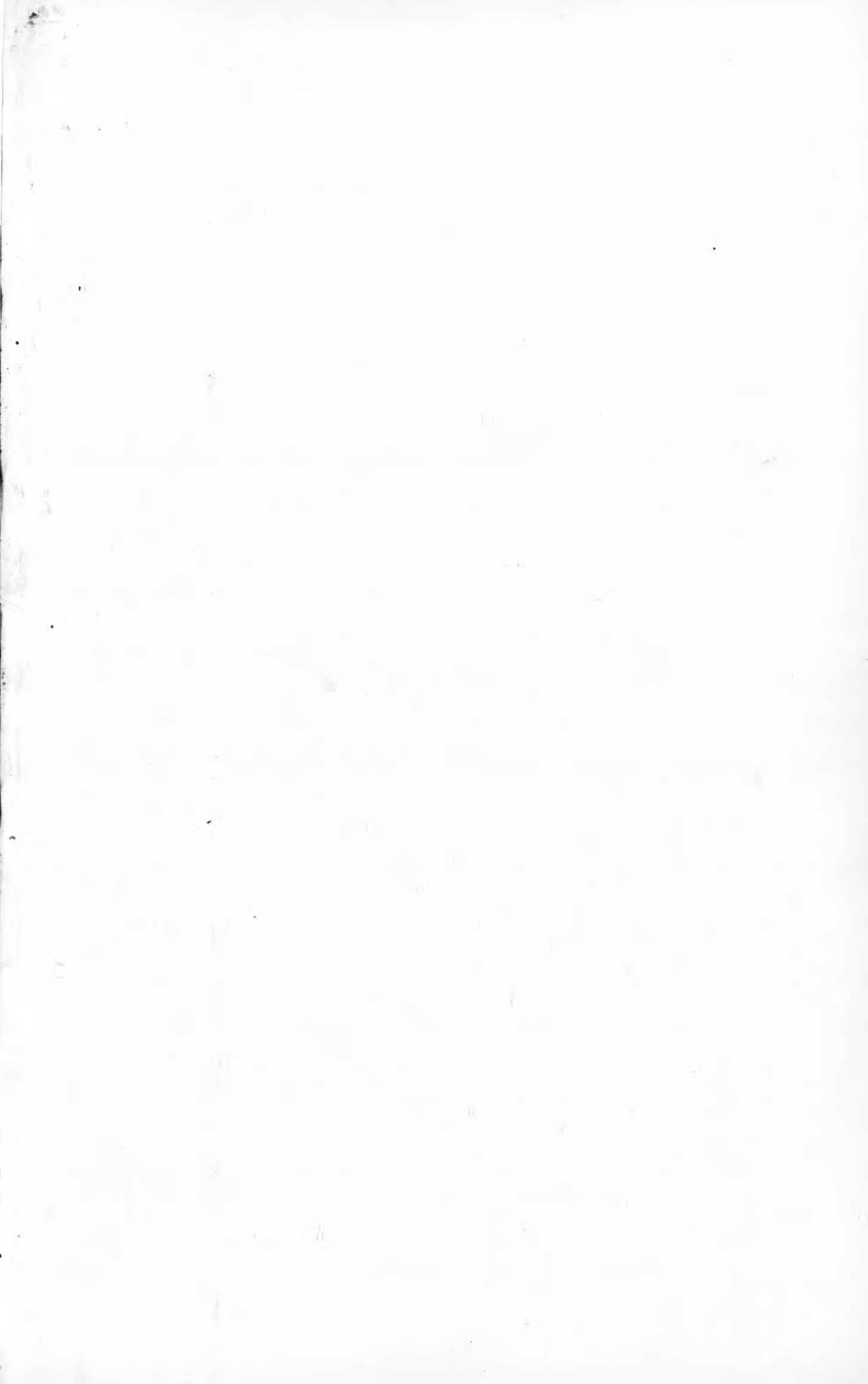


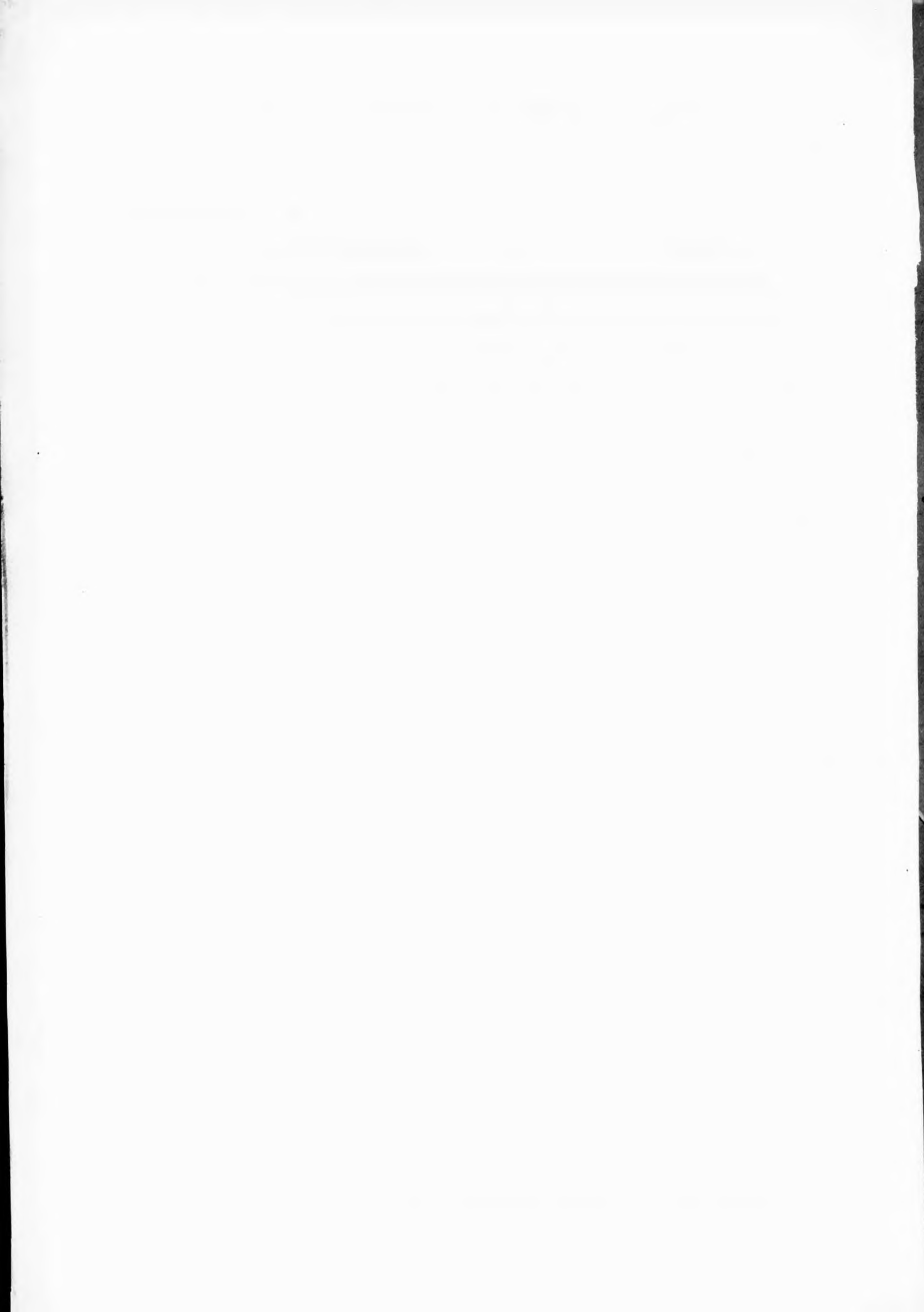


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The Stanley Gibbons Philatelic Handbooks

THE POSTAGE STAMPS
ETC. OF THE
FIJI ISLANDS

BY
CHARLES J. PHILLIPS

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE STAMPS DESCRIBED
AND ALSO
FIFTEEN SHEETS OF PHOTOGRAVURE ILLUSTRATIONS

LONDON
STANLEY GIBBONS, LIMITED

391 STRAND, LONDON, W.C

1908

PRINTED BY
WILLIAM BRENDON AND SON, LTD.
PLYMOUTH

THE POSTAGE STAMPS
OF THE
FRENCH ISLANDS

THE POSTAGE STAMPS
ETC. OF THE
FIJI ISLANDS



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THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF THE FIJI ISLANDS.

INTRODUCTION.

A FEW years ago, on looking round for a new subject of study for spare moments, I decided to take up the stamps of the Fiji Islands, and I have been able to get together a collection that I consider to be second to none, and by means of prolonged study of the mass of material I have collected, I have, I think, found out many interesting facts in relation to the stamps of this much-neglected country.

The stamps of the Fiji Islands prior to 1890 are undoubtedly scarce, and I consider that they are very much under-priced in all catalogues. I have corresponded with all the prominent dealers, and seen practically all stocks and fine collections that exist, and it is only with great difficulty that I have been enabled to get together sufficient material to make anything like an exhaustive study of these very interesting stamps.

I have carefully searched the files of all the standard philatelic publications, and the only article of any importance I can find upon this subject is a paper read by my friend Mr. E. D. Bacon before the Philatelic Society, London, on January 13th, 1893, and printed in the *London Philatelist* (Vol. II, pp. 8 and 34, and Vol. III, p. 2), and in order to make my subject complete I shall have to repeat a good deal of the information in Mr. Bacon's paper.

I have also derived considerable help from the files of the *Fiji Times*, in the British Museum, and have carefully examined every paper from 1869 to 1890, and made extracts from every article or advertisement bearing on postal matters.

My friend Mr. A. F. Bassett Hull has been kind enough to send me copies of all the records available in the Government Printing Office, Sydney, and he has also obtained permission from the Colonial Secretary of New South Wales to publish all such records as may be desirable.

To Sir Everard im Thurn, K.C.M.G., etc., Governor of the Fiji Islands, I am indebted for valuable information and important statistics and dates.

In forming my own collection of these interesting and little-studied stamps, I

have bought the three best specialized collections of Fiji in this country, and have thus secured a vast quantity of material upon which to base my conclusions.

I am also specially indebted to "A Parisian Collector," Sir W. B. Avery, Mr. W. W. Mann, Mr. H. J. Duveen, the Rev. Dr. James, Mr. G. H. Worthington, Mr. W. H. Crocker, Mr. H. J. Crocker, Mr. T. W. Hall, and many other collectors who have kindly allowed me to examine their collections of these stamps, and in some cases to photograph particular stamps.

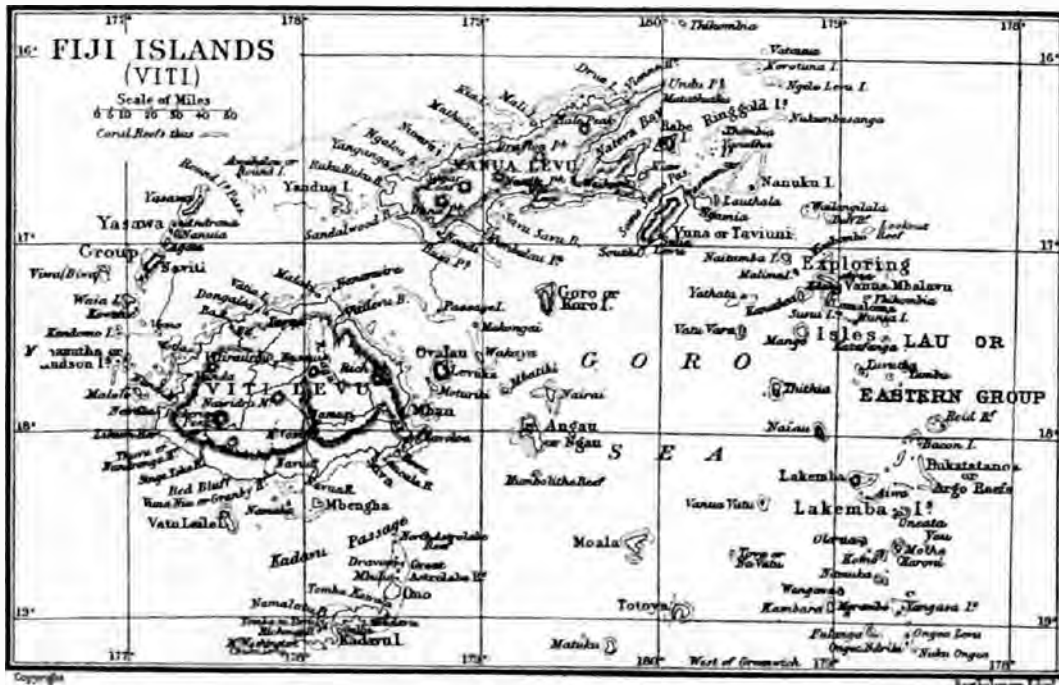
I have also to thank Major E. B. Evans for kindly revising the proofs for press.

CHARLES J. PHILLIPS.

"THE GLEBE," SEVENOAKS,
KENT.

CHAPTER I.

GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY.



The group known as the Fiji Islands is situated in the Southern Pacific, about 1733 miles north-east of Sydney and 1200 miles north of New Zealand.

The group consists of two large islands and 250 small ones, of which about eighty are inhabited. The large islands are Viti Levu (Big Fiji) and Vanua Levu (Big Land),* and there is also another fair-sized island, called Ovalau.

The area is 7435 square miles.

The population of all these islands at the last census was 109,409 natives, 7468 Indian coolies, 2267 Polynesians, and 2036 Europeans, a total of 121,180.

The capital was formerly Levuka, on the island of Ovalau, but as that town consisted of one long street occupying the whole of the level space and was not capable of extension, in 1882 Suva, on the large island of Viti Levu, was made the official capital.

The islands were discovered by Tasman in 1643, and early in the nineteenth century became the resort of South Sea traders. The natives belong to the Polynesian race, are of a dark copper colour, well-built, and handsome. Formerly they were habitual cannibals, but in 1835 the Wesleyan missionaries, led by Messrs. Cargill and Cross, commenced their labours amongst the islanders, and though for a long time progress was slow and disheartening, Christianity is now professed by all

* "Levu," meaning "Big."

the inhabitants. Under the improved and safer conditions many immigrants found it profitable to squat on the various islands, and developed an unruly spirit, which in 1859 caused King Thakombau to solicit the protection of a strong Power.

The government is administered by a Governor (Sir Everard F. im Thurn, K.C.M.G., etc.), who is also High Commissioner for the Western Pacific, assisted by an Executive Council. For the purposes of native government the colony is divided into seventeen provinces, in ten of which a superior native chief exercises, under the title of Roko Tui of his province, a form of rule somewhat similar to that in force prior to the establishment of a European form of government.

Education, almost entirely conducted by the Wesleyan and Roman Catholic missions, is in a high state of efficiency.

There is no military establishment in the colony, but there are a force of armed native constabulary and a Rifle Association under the control of the Colonial Government.

The revenue from postal dues and stamps in 1905 was £4718, and during the year there passed through the post office, in local correspondence, 465,298 letters and post cards, 40,579 book packets, and 214,978 newspapers; in foreign correspondence, 807,186 letters, 99,099 book packets, 421,454 papers, and 5664 parcels.

The following particulars from the C.O. List, 1876, contain much of interest, so I reproduce them:—

“In 1859 Cakobau, otherwise Thakombau, the most powerful chief of Fiji, offered the sovereignty of the islands to Great Britain.

“This offer, upon the recommendation of Colonel, now General, Smythe, R.A. (who had been sent out to investigate the case), was declined by the Duke of Newcastle in 1862. About that time the demand for cotton, owing to the American civil war, led to an influx of Europeans into Fiji for the purpose of cotton cultivation. In June, 1871, certain Englishmen set up a Fijian Government, with the principal chief, Thakombau, as king. This Government received the adherence of the Europeans, who persuaded the other chiefs to acquiesce in the supremacy thus claimed for Thakombau. A constitution was agreed upon, and a Parliament elected. The Parliament and the Government before long drifted into attitudes of mutual hostility, and the Ministry latterly governed without the aid of the Parliament, and in a manner at variance with the terms of the constitution. The question of annexing Fiji to Great Britain has been agitated both in Australia and England since 1869 on many grounds, both of local expediency and Imperial obligation; and in August, 1873, the Earl of Kimberley commissioned Commodore Goodenough, commanding the squadron on the station, and Mr. E. L. Layard, Her Majesty's Consul in Fiji, to investigate the facts of the case on the spot, and report as to the best course to be adopted in the matter. These commissioners, on the 21st March, 1874, reported an offer of the cession of the sovereignty of the islands from the chiefs, with the assent of the Europeans, but on certain terms. Among the principal of these were that Thakombau was to have the title of Tui Viti for his life, and a pension of £2000 a year, payable to his three sons in succession; that the King's sons and chiefs were to be constituted practically hereditary executive officers in their several districts at aggregate salaries of £3400 a year; that the British Government was to assume the liabilities of that of Fiji; that the Fijian chiefs were to be secured a share in the government; and that the charter of the ‘Fiji Banking and Commercial Company’ was to be

confirmed. These terms were not acceptable to Her Majesty's Government, and Sir Hercules Robinson, the Governor of New South Wales, was despatched to Fiji in September, 1874, to negotiate. This mission was completely successful, and the sovereignty of the islands was ceded to Her Majesty by Thakombau, Maafu, and other of the principal chiefs, in a deed of cession dated the 10th day of October, 1874, the form of government, the land question, and the various pecuniary questions then pending being virtually left to the discretion of Her Majesty. A charter has been issued by Her Majesty, erecting the islands into a separate colony, and providing for its government. A Legislative Council is established, to consist of not less than two persons, nominated by Royal instructions or warrant. An Executive Council is also established, and the usual powers of appointing and suspending officers, making land grants, and granting pardons are conferred on the Governor.

"Governor Sir A. H. Gordon arrived in the island in June, but the government continued to be administered by Mr. E. L. Layard, c.m.g., until the 19th of August, when the Charter was proclaimed, and Sir A. H. Gordon assumed the government."

Mr. John Bates Thurston was the first Auditor-General; in November, 1883, he acted as Governor; in 1885 he was appointed Lieutenant-Governor, and in February, 1888, he was appointed Governor and knighted. As Governor, and subsequently as High Commissioner for the Western Pacific, he administered the affairs of Fiji until 1901.

CHAPTER II.

THE *FIJI TIMES* EXPRESS STAMPS.

THE *Fiji Times* is a newspaper started in 1869 in Levuka, Fiji, and first published every Saturday, but from December, 1870, it has appeared twice a week.

The following is an extract from the *first* notice relating to stamps that I have found in the files of the *Fiji Times* in the British Museum:—

“September 24th, 1870.

“‘*FIJI TIMES*’ EXPRESS.—The proprietors of this journal are about establishing a complete postal system throughout the ‘Fiji Group’ combined with an insular parcels delivery company. No pains will be spared to render the undertaking a benefit and convenience to every resident in these islands. To ensure the speedy delivery of all letters and parcels, a boat will be always in readiness to board incoming vessels on anchoring in Levuka, and take mails on board any boat, however small, proceeding to the Fijis or any part of the Colonies. Our agents in London, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, New Zealand, and San Francisco will execute any commission however small.

“We are about erecting a temporary Post Office, and intend as far as possible to conduct the mode of delivery and transmission of letters on a plan similar to that adopted by Government Post Offices; vouchers will be sent by each mail, and letters may be *registered* if desired.

“We hope to induce captains of vessels trading in Fiji to make their first and last call at the ‘Express Office,’ and in return will act gratuitously as Booking Agents for Passengers, and advertise their departure Without Charge.

“Settlers in our district requiring any small commission, the supply of which is not in the province of the local storekeeper, will receive prompt attention by addressing a letter to the Manager of the *Fiji Times Express*.

“We shall commence operation on NOVEMBER 1st, 1870, and advise settlers who wish their letters to be forwarded by the Express to have their letters directed *c/o Fiji Times Express*, and by leaving their address at our office, they will ensure the prompt delivery of all their letters and parcels.

“Our list of charges will be published shortly.

“(Signed) GRIFFITHS AND HOBSON.”

The *Fiji Times* of October 1st, 1870, gives a list of fourteen districts in Fiji and names of local agents through whom business can be conducted.

In the advertisement columns of the *Fiji Times* of October 8th, 1870, appears the following:—

“Remember, remember the First of November,
The day yo’ll have reason to bless,
For then we commence a thing quite immense,
To be called the *Fiji Times Express*.”

The question of the exact date of issue is interesting, partly on account of the notice of the dissolution of partnership between Messrs. Griffiths and Hobson, which is advertised in their issue of October 15th, 1870. Thus it seems probable that Mr. G. L. Griffiths alone should be considered responsible for the stamps.

In the issue for October 15th, 1870, the following notice appears :—

" October 15th, 1870.

" FIJI TIMES EXPRESS.

" IMPORTANT NOTICE.

"Settlers wishing to enjoy a speedy delivery of letters and newspapers should have their correspondence addressed,

Mr. ————,
Fiji Times Express,
Fiji,

and forward their names in full to the Levuka Office, with the number of the district office they wish their letters, etc., to be sent, and to be entered in a Directory."

On October 22nd, 1870, the following appears :—

" SCALE OF CHARGES

(INDEPENDENT OF FOREIGN POSTAGE).

From Levuka to any part of the world	3d.
From Districts to any part of the world	6d.
From Levuka to Districts	6d.
From Districts to Levuka	6d.
From one District to another	9d.
Newspapers : Levuka	1d.
" To or from Districts	2d.

Fiji Times always free.

PRIVATE BAGS.

" Planters and others wishing the accommodation of a Private Bag may have the same allotted to them on the payment of £3 per annum.

"(Signed) GRIFFITHS AND HOBSON."

In the number for October 29th, 1870, the following leading article appears :—

"The postal arrangements in Fiji have been unsatisfactory to all parties concerned. Recent changes have been from bad to worse. Complaints have become chronic and dissatisfaction general.

"The faculty pronounces our 'Consular' postal system 'Incurable,' and public generally endorse the verdict.

"Whatsoever is 'incurable' or proved by experience to be bad beyond amendment, it's useless to waste time and toil upon in vain efforts to improve or cure.

"There is but one opinion, we must have something new, some sound and healthy system that will meet our circumstances.

"In the absence of any civilised Government with postal arrangements of its own, the public mails have hitherto been addressed to the British Consul, who is supposed to act as Postmaster-General in the district. While a few months ago this arrangement was not objected to by the public generally or by the Consul himself, the in-

crease of population has made the distribution and dispatching of mails a heavy work, which can be no longer done without remuneration. The public are willing to pay provided the work is properly done and the payment given be not a Consular tax on a post paid letter, but remuneration for services rendered. Solicited on every side, we have agreed to open an Express in connection with the *Fiji Times*, which will give to the public all the advantages of a well-regulated Government post office. We have issued stamps, by supplying themselves with which, the settlers can forward their letters throughout the group without the difficulty so often experienced of enclosing the money, and our arrangements are complete for posting letters or papers and forwarding parcels, etc., to any part of the world. We dispatch mails by every vessel leaving here for the Colonies, and forward parcels, papers, letters, etc., by all crafts leaving Levuka for the other islands of the group. Our agents at the different settlements will be known by referring to an advertisement in another column. Our constituents will instruct their correspondents to address their letters, etc. 'C/o the *Fiji Times* Express,' and they can rely upon receiving them by the first vessel leaving Levuka after arrival here. Letters need no longer remain in the Consulate till they are yellow with age or devoured by rats, and the Tavnni settlers have an easy remedy against any inconvenience caused by the detention of their portion of the mail of which they so justly complained with reference to the mails landed from the *Duke of Edinburgh*. We have gone to considerable outlay in the enlargement of our premises and the provision of boat, mail bags, etc., so as to ensure the work being not only done, but well done. We shall spare no pains to ensure a prompt and safe delivery. A voucher will be sent with each mail, and the plan will be similar to that adopted by the Government post offices.

"Combined with this postal system will be an 'Insular Parcels Delivery Company.'

"We undertake to transmit parcels to the various districts at which our agents reside. Such an arrangement has been a felt want. The public are willing to support that which has been so manifestly for their benefit and convenience.

"The *Fiji Times* Express will secure many of the advantages and comforts of the old country and the Colonies, where the prompt delivery of letters and papers brings near the distant and keeps people in communication with other parts of the world. We shall no longer be put outside the walls of Creation, but in regular and frequent communication with the great centres of civilization; we shall feel ourselves to be one with the great human family, no longer cut off and isolated, but with the *Fiji Times* Express we can keep up rapid and constant communication with the most distant members of the great family.

"All papers, letters, parcels, etc. addressed 'C/o the *Fiji Times* Express,' will meet with prompt delivery."

The next extracts are as follows:—

"December 17th, 1870.

"'FIJI TIMES' EXPRESS.

"The postage on letters for New Zealand will for the future be as follows:—

From Levuka	6d.
From Districts	9d.

"G. L. GRIFFITHS,

"Proprietor."

"February 15th, 1870.

"For Wairiki, Vuna, Loma Loma, Bua, Ba River, Rewa, Suva, Nandi, Nadroga, Ra Coast, and Kandura, per the various out-going crafts daily, postage 6d."

In the *Fiji Times* of March 4th, May 10th, May 13th, and October 7th, 1871, there are various letters and editorials drawing attention to the appointment of a Postmaster by H.B.M. Consul and expressing dissatisfaction with him personally and also with the fact that an extra fee of 3d. per letter had to be paid in order to provide his salary, and another correspondent draws attention to the fact that no accounts of the Post Office were published.

The following notice appeared in the *Fiji Times* of May 8th, 1872:—

"NOTICE TO AGENTS.

"Having received notice from the Fiji Government to discontinue the receipt and dispatch of Inter-Island correspondence, no letters will be in future received or dispatched from this office; foreign letters, however, arriving at the Consulate office, will be forwarded in the usual way until further notice.

"G. L. GRIFFITHS,
"Manager."

I annex copy of letter sent on October 5th, 1870, by Messrs. Griffiths and Hobson, proprietors of the *Fiji Times*, to the Chief Postmaster, Melbourne, and the reply thereto.

In the G.P.O., Sydney, in the "Register of Letters received," is an extract showing that a similar letter was sent there on same date by Messrs. Griffiths and Hobson, but no reply to this letter can be traced.

"'FIJI TIMES' EXPRESS, OVALAU, FIJI,
"October 5th, 1870.

"To the Chief Postmaster, Melbourne.

"SIR,—As proprietors of the *Fiji Times*, we have experienced great difficulty in dispatching the paper throughout the group, merely for the want of a post-office system, and the small likelihood of any postal service being established in Fiji for some years has compelled us to give our attention to this matter, and we are about to establish a complete postal system in this group, under the style of the *Fiji Times* Express, with twelve branches in the most populous districts of Fiji. We have undertaken this somewhat arduous task at the solicitation of a large number of settlers, who cannot quite understand why they should be compelled to come a journey of one hundred miles, more or less, for their letters, and then, to say the least, to a very poorly conducted office at the Consulate. The perusal of the enclosed advertisement from the *Fiji Times* will give you some idea of the extent of our operations, and can only be carried out at a cost of about £1000 per annum, to cover which a small fee of three pence will be charged at each office any letter may pass through, and one penny for newspapers. The Consulate post office with no funds at its disposal to make the office useful with our large trade in Fiji, you will, no doubt, recognize the necessity of the *Fiji Times* Express in this country.

"We are now erecting a post office in Levuka and completing the necessary arrangements in the country districts in time to open on the 1st November. No doubt the settlers will memorialize you in a few weeks to forward the Victorian

mails to the *Fiji Times* Express, but in the meantime you will greatly assist this important undertaking by making up a separate mail for the *Fiji Times* Express independent of the Consulate mail. In placing a separate box aside for this purpose we shall be glad to pay the cost of same, if such is absolute. We shall also feel obliged to you for a scale of the necessary postal rates, and any information you may be pleased to send us for the better working of the *Fiji Times* Express.

"We have the honour to be,

"Sir,

"Your obedient servants,

"GRIFFITHS AND HOBSON."

"GENERAL POST OFFICE, MELBOURNE,

"5th November, 1870.

"GENTLEMEN,—Adverting to your communication of the 5th ultimo, requesting that a separate mail may be made up at this office for the *Fiji Times* Express; I beg to state that it would be contrary to the practice of the Department to make up mails for a private firm, but there will be no objection to put under one cover all letters to your address and to your care, the packet will, however, be enclosed in the mail addressed in the usual course to the Consul.

"I am, Gentlemen,

"Your obedient servant,

"W. TURNER,

"Deputy Postmaster-General.

"MESSRS. GRIFFITHS & HOBSON,
" *Fiji Times* Express,
"OVALAU, FIJI."

The *Fiji Times* Express stamps were printed at and issued from the office of the *Fiji Times*, in Levuka, Ovalau, Fiji.

They were all printed from type and printer's "rules," and were first set up with four values in the sheet, which consisted of twenty-four stamps arranged in four horizontal rows of six stamps each.

The first row consisted of stamps of 6d.

„ second	„	„	1s.
„ third	„	„	1d.
„ fourth	„	„	3d.

The paper used for this first printing has been a good deal discussed, but it is now generally admitted that the quadrillé paper was that which was first used, as the 9d. value was not at first called for and is not found on the quadrillé paper.

The quadrillé paper is usually of the common form watermarked with crossed lines forming squares, but I have some specimens in which one or two rows of the squares are crossed by an additional line, and this causes the stamp to appear to be watermarked in part with squares and in part with small oblongs, as shown on Plate XIV, Nos. 1 and 2.

For the *second printing* a laid *bâtonné* paper was used (this paper is laid vertically with *vergeures* rather close together, and is crossed horizontally with *vergeures* over half an inch apart; usually only one, or at most two, of these horizontal lines

appears on a stamp), and this paper was used for at least nine-tenths of the whole issue of *Fiji Times Express* stamps; the stamps on the first paper are certainly more than ten times as rare as those on the second paper.

Another alteration, in addition to that of the paper, also took place in this issue. Apparently there was a demand for a 9d. stamp, and this was met by lifting the figures "3" from stamps 22, 23, and 24 of the plate and substituting figures "9." The other portions of the designs were not altered, and I find all the varieties on the first paper recurring on the second paper.

ON PLATING THE FIJI TIMES EXPRESS.

The plating of these stamps on both papers forms a very interesting subject of study, and one worthy of more attention than it has received; in fact, I knew of only one collector who had attempted to make up both plates, and as he had some of my missing numbers, I persuaded him to part with his Fiji; and now, so far as I know, mine are the only reconstructed plates in any collection.

Before attempting to plate these stamps, I think it is necessary for any one to understand the "forme" from which they were printed, and I would shortly describe it as follows:—

In the centre of each stamp is a large figure of value surrounded by the *type-set* inscription "FIJI—TIMES—EXPRESS." with the denomination below the central figure. The whole is then enclosed in a framework of plain lines made up of printer's "rules." The *vertical* rules print a thin, unbroken line from the top to the bottom of each sheet, and measuring across each stamp, the distance between these rules varies from $22\frac{1}{2}$ to 23 mm.

The horizontal rules had to be fitted between the vertical ones, and do not each consist of an unbroken piece of type, but are made up of shorter pieces, which do not touch one another, but always show a space between them; and the easiest method of plating these stamps is by noting the position of the breaks in regard to the inscription.

In some cases the breaks in the top (or bottom) line of a particular value are *very* nearly in the same position as those in the same value in another position on the plate; but if *both* top and bottom lines are examined, the breaks *never* correspond so closely that any confusion can arise, and the stamps can be placed with certainty by these breaks alone.

Mr. Bacon, in his article on these stamps (*L. P.*, Vol. III, p 5), gives a list of the most noticeable varieties in the inscription; I do not think it necessary to repeat this, but note it, so that collectors can refer to his notes if they wish for further information.

The stamps are divided from one another by a series of printer's "dotted rules," printing short dashes, twenty of which go to 2 cm. The vertical dotted rules are continuous from top to bottom of the sheet, and are placed between the vertical plain lines which form the frames of the stamps; the horizontal dotted rules are likewise set between the horizontal plain rules; and they produce a species of rouletting in colour, giving a margin of about 2 mm. at top and bottom of each stamp, and about $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. at the sides.

It is important to note that there are none of these lines of dashes round the edge of the sheets, and this has been a very important matter in reconstructing the plate.

RECONSTRUCTING THE PLATES.

I have luckily been enabled to plate these stamps by means of strips and blocks in my own and other collections.

I think the easiest way to explain this will be by a diagram of the blocks, of which I have seen either the stamps themselves or photographs of the stamps.

<i>bc</i> 1	2	<i>e</i> 3	<i>f</i> 4	<i>a</i> 5	<i>ag</i> 6 <i>h</i>
<i>bc</i> 7 <i>n</i>	<i>d</i> 8 <i>n</i>	<i>e</i> 9 <i>n</i>	<i>f</i> 10 <i>kn</i>	<i>a</i> 11 <i>kn</i>	<i>ag</i> 12 <i>h</i> <i>n</i>
<i>bc</i> 13 <i>i</i>	<i>d</i> 14 <i>i</i>	<i>e</i> 15 <i>ij</i>	<i>f</i> 16 <i>jkm</i>	<i>a</i> 17 <i>k</i>	<i>a</i> 18 <i>h</i>
<i>bc</i> 19	20	<i>e</i> 21 <i>jl</i>	<i>f</i> 22 <i>jlm</i>	<i>a</i> 23	<i>a</i> 24 <i>h</i>

The numbers in the squares show the position on the sheet.

The blocks I explain by letters, as follows:—

- a. Block of eight in my collection, on *quadrillé*, two each, 6d., 1s., 1d., and 3d. (Nos. 5, 6, 11, 12, 17, 18, 23, 24.)
- b. Strip of four in a Parisian collection, *quadrillé*, 6d., 1s., 1d., and 3d. (Nos. 1, 7, 13, 19.)
- c. Strip of four in *M. J.*, January, 1893, *quadrillé*, 6d., 1s., 1d., and 3d. (Nos. 1, 7, 13, 19.)
- d. Pair in Mr. Duveen's collection, on laid *bâtonné*, 1s., 1d. (Nos. 8 and 14.)
- e. Strip of four in a Parisian collection, on laid *bâtonné*, 6d., 1s., 1d., and 3d. (Nos. 3, 9, 15, 21.)
- f. Strip of four in Tapling Collection, on laid *bâtonné*, 6d., 1s., 1d., and 9d. (Nos. 4, 10, 16, 22.)
- g. Pair in Sir W. B. Avery's collection, on laid *bâtonné*, 6d., 1s. (Nos. 6, 12.)
- h. Strip of four in a Parisian collection, on laid *bâtonné*, 6d., 1s., 1d., 9d. (Nos. 6, 12, 18, 24.)
- i. Strip of three in a Parisian collection, on *quadrillé*, 1d., 1d., 1d. (Nos. 13, 14, 15.) •
- j. Block of four in a Parisian collection, on laid *bâtonné*, 1d., 1d., 3d., 9d. (Nos. 15, 16, 21, 22.)

- k. Block of four in a Parisian collection, on *quadrillé*, 1s., 1s., 1d., 1d.
(Nos. 10, 11, 16, 17.)
- l. Pair in Mr. Castle's collection, on laid *bâtonné*, 3d. and 9d.
(Nos. 21, 22.)
- m. Pair in Mr. W. H. Crocker's collection, on laid *bâtonné*, 1d. and 9d.
(Nos. 16, 22.)
- n. Strip of six in a Fiji collection, on *quadrillé*, six 1s. stamps.
(Nos. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12.)

I have seen other pairs of these stamps, but it is no use noting them, as they do not give any information differing from that indicated in the above diagram.

It will be seen at once that the only varieties on the plate which I have not seen in a pair are Nos. 2 and 20. No. 2 is a 6d., and No. 20 a 3d.; but as there is only one of each value whose position is not already proved, I can, with certainty, fit the single specimens of these numbers I show on Plates I and II into their correct position.

In the *London Philatelist*, January, 1894, Mr. Bacon illustrates a remade plate of these stamps. He unfortunately had seen but few pairs and one strip of four, and this lack of material caused a slight error in his plate.

In the 1d.'s, his No. 14 should be No. 16, and No. 16 should be No. 14. This is proved by the blocks I have had.

The *keystone* to my arrangement is strip *n*, the whole row of six 1s. stamps. I then have the vertical strips *b*, *d*, *e*, *f*, *a*, *g*, and *h*, each of which contains one 1s. stamp, and which in themselves prove absolutely every position on the plate except Nos. 2 and 20 referred to above.

In Plates I and II, I illustrate reconstructed sheets on both papers.

PLATE I. QUADRILLÉ PAPER.

As far as I have been able to ascertain, this is the only plate in existence that has been reconstructed on this rare paper. It is complete except for Nos. 3 and 13, and in these spaces I have used photographs of stamps in the collection of a friend.

One should note here the block of eight stamps on the right-hand side. This is most important, as it *proves* that the 3d. stamps were originally in the place taken by the 9d. in the later printing.

PLATE II. LAID BÂTONNÉ PAPER.

This plate I have complete, and although with the exception of the three 9d. stamps it is identical with Plate I, yet I think it best to illustrate it, as I find that the breaks and flaws, etc., on the first paper are not always so well defined as those of the later printing.

Mr. A. H. Ogilvie, merchant, of Suva, who at the desire of Sir Everard im Thurn, Governor of the Fiji Islands, has prepared the important schedule given in Appendix I, informs me that no records were kept of the quantity of *Fiji Times* Express stamps printed, but Mr. Griffiths is confident that not less than 100,000 stamps were put into circulation.

To Mr. Ogilvie I am also indebted for the information that Mr. Griffiths printed twenty sheets from the first plate on *yellow* paper, which he called proofs.

These proofs were prepared under the following circumstances:—

A certain Dr. Mitchell, who lived for some time in Levuka, brought the yellow paper to Mr. Griffiths and asked him as a friend to print a few sheets for him, as he was interested in stamps, and the paper being quite different, would be sufficient to prevent any possible abuse of them. Mr. Mitchell soon afterwards left Fiji and settled in Peru.

Mr. Ogilvie also informs me that it is believed in Fiji that there was an understanding between the proprietors of the *Fiji Times* and the postal authorities in Sydney that letters from Fiji, properly stamped, should be delivered in Sydney without further stamps being required in return for the trouble of Mr. Griffiths, who distributed letters from Sydney throughout the Fiji Islands free of charge.

DATES OF ISSUE.

The exact day of issue of the first paper is November 1st, 1870, this being fixed by the notices from the *Fiji Times*. These stamps were first mentioned in *Le Timbre-Poste* for January, 1871; therefore information of the issue took two to three months to reach Brussels.

As to when the second paper came into use, I have no record, and the earliest mention of it I can find in the philatelic journals is in the *Stamp Collector's Magazine* for October, 1871, when the 6d. is noted on *bâtonné*, and also a new 9d. value, which we now know only came on that paper.

Allowing three months for this information to reach Europe, I think I can fix the date of issue as in or before July, 1871.

WERE THESE STAMPS LOCALS?

In *Oceania* it is stated that these stamps were issued to pay postage on the *Fiji Times* Express.

This is, of course, quite incorrect, as is seen by the notices I publish in the earlier part of this chapter.

These stamps paid full postage to any one of the two hundred islands of the Fiji group, but did they actually pay postage anywhere else? I will give the various facts I have come across bearing on this question.

The *Philatelist*, April, 1871, says, speaking of the 6d. *Times* Express:—

“Our correspondent can vouch for the genuine character of the stamp, it having been used with another specimen of the same value, to defray the postage to Melbourne of a copy of the *Fiji Times*, which was brought over to England by the last Australian mail.”

This is pretty good evidence that the stamps paid postage to Australia soon after they were introduced.

In the notice in the *Fiji Times*, dated September 24th, 1870, it says: “. . . are about establishing a complete postal system throughout the ‘Fiji group.’ . . .”

This looks as if the first intentions were to provide a local post only.

Again, see notice dated October 22nd, 1870. This is headed:—

SCALE OF CHARGES.

(INDEPENDENT OF FOREIGN POSTAGE.)

From this it is clear that foreign postage rates had to be paid in *addition* to the charge for the *Fiji Times* Express stamps.

In the issue of December 17th, 1870, it is stated that postage on letters for *New Zealand* will be 6d. from Levuka and 9d. from Districts.

This looks rather as though the postage on New Zealand letters was paid in full with *Fiji Times* Express stamps.

I have made inquiries on this subject in Fiji.

One gentleman—a well-known merchant—who has resided there since 1868, writes me:—

“*Fiji Times' Express*.—These were considered merely as local stamps. Letters bearing them only were not delivered, in New South Wales for instance, without further payment for postage, *at least for some time*, if not altogether.”

The opinion of Mr. Ogilvie (*ante*) is that letters were accepted in New South Wales for delivery without further charge.

To sum up. I am of the opinion that when first issued the *Fiji Times* Express stamps only paid postage throughout the Fiji group, but that some time later on the proprietors secured their recognition by several of the Australian Colonies.

IMITATIONS.

Many catalogues and handbooks list sets of *reprints* of the *Fiji Times* Express. A reprint is an impression taken from the dies, plates, or stones (as the case may be) after the original impressions have become obsolete. Before taking such impressions the dies, plates, or stones are sometimes retouched or redrawn.

Now the so-called reprints of Fiji are certainly not from the original typographed plates, but are something quite different. As, however, they are decidedly interesting, I illustrate two sheets of them as complete as I have been able to get them.

PLATE III.

These imitations were first chronicled in *Le Timbre-Poste*, October, 1876, where it is stated that the stamps have been remade in five horizontal rows of eight stamps, each row of a different value. I have only been able to get together twenty-seven varieties out of the forty, and these I have not been able to place in correct order owing to the absence of horizontal pairs. The sheets appear to have been broken up into vertical strips of five values and sold in this form. I should be very glad to receive photographs of pairs or strips of any stamps not on this plate.

I think these stamps were printed at the office of the *Fiji Times*, and probably used to give to collectors, who were, no doubt, often writing for the old stamps.

The paper is thin foreign note, “vertically laid,” pin-perf. 12 to 13, and sometimes imperf. The colour is *pale pink*, generally faded to a very pale tint.

PLATE IV.

This set of imitations I have been able to completely reconstruct. It consists of five horizontal rows of six stamps. I draw attention to the right-hand 3d. and 1d. ; both these have quite different figures in the centre from the rest of the similar values on the sheet. The stamps are printed in black on a thick, rather *bright pink* paper. They are rouletted by the printer's rules on the coloured dividing lines, but are imperforate all round the outer edges of the sheets.

Mr. M. P. Castle, in the *London Philatelist*, Vol. I, p. 206, refers to a sheet of these stamps he has had sent him, and states that "they were obtained from the Postmaster of Fiji, who himself procured them from Mr. Griffiths, the proprietor of the *Fiji Times*."

These stamps are also mentioned in *Oceania*, which was issued in 1888 ; therefore they were printed in Fiji some time between 1876 and 1888, but I am unable to fix the date more nearly.

OBLITERATIONS.

I have not found any information whatever upon the subject of the obliterations or postmarks used to cancel these stamps.

The commonest method was to pen-cancel the stamps with a single or double penstroke, but I have stamps on both papers with two different postmarks.

The first of these is a solid eight-pointed star, 17 mm. in diameter ; the other and more common obliteration is that of New South Wales, consisting of the letters "N.S.W." in three concentric ovals ; this, no doubt, being used to obliterate stamps before delivery through the Sydney Post Office.

REFERENCE LIST.

(SEE PLATES I AND II.)

Type-set and printed at the office of the *Fiji Times* in Levuka, Ovalau, Fiji, in sheets of twenty-four stamps, arranged as illustrated.

Rouletted about 20 in black lines in the printing.

(a) November 1st, 1870. Thinnish foreign note *quadrillé* paper.

1d., black on pale rose.

3d. " "

6d. " "

1s. " "

(b) 1871 (early). Rather thicker laid *bâtonné* paper.

1d., black on rose and deep rose.

3d. " " "

6d. " " "

9d. " " "

1s. " " "

The really *deep rose* paper is very rare.

Proofs of the 1d., 3d., 6d., and 1s. exist on ordinary *yellow* wove paper.

No reprints are known to exist, but there are two sets of imitations (see Plates III and IV).

Estimated total number of stamps printed on both papers, about 100,000.

CHAPTER III.

THE C.R. STAMPS.



OFFICIAL record of the postage stamps of Fiji, from 1870 to 1875, seems to be practically non-existent, either in Sydney or in Fiji, and most of the information I have obtained is either from the files of the *Fiji Times* or from the study of the stamps themselves.

At a meeting held in Levuka on Monday, 5th of June, 1871, King Cakobau's address, among other things, contained the promise that the attention of his Government would be at once directed to an adequate postal system.

The earliest information I have is a letter, dated 25th August, 1871, from N.S.W. Government Printer and Inspector of Stamps, Thos. Richards, to E. Greville, as follows:—

“DEAR SIR,—The enclosed will give you an idea of what the Fiji stamps will look like. Will you kindly return the specimens by bearer?”

“Yours truly,

“THOS. RICHARDS.”

With this letter I obtained some original die proofs (see Plate V, Nos. 3, 4, and 5). The 1d. is in the issued type. I have this in

Black,
Blue,
Carmine.

The 3d. has a small triangle of thick lines under the C.R. This was removed before the die was approved. I have this only in chestnut-brown.

The 6d. has inside the circle a hexagon of thick lines; these lines were practically removed, but an outline of them can be traced in the issued stamps. I have this 6d. in

Black,
Blue,
Lake-brown,
Deep brown.

Mr. Basset Hull has had a thorough search made of the records in the Government Printing Office, Sydney, and under date 4th October, 1871, the first record appears. This consists of an entry in the register of correspondence received, to the effect

that a communication was forwarded by the Under Secretary for Finance and Trade (Department of the Colonial Treasurer) transmitting a letter from Greville & Co., requesting to have certain plates ("Electrotyped—Fiji Postage—three") printed at the Government Printing Office. This paper is marked as connected with a further communication from the same firm, dated 1st December, 1871, applying for a further supply of Fiji postage stamps. This was sent to the Treasury for approval on the 4th, and returned approved on the 6th idem. Here the record abruptly ends, and no trace of the original papers can now be found. On the 29th August, 1872, another letter was received from Greville & Co., requesting that Fiji postage stamps, to the amount of £12 10s., might be printed. There are no further records until 1875, and consequently the three entries mentioned are all that is now available with regard to the first Government issue for Fiji.

Failing information from Sydney, I next turned to the *Fiji Times*, and extract the following notices:—

"*Fiji Times*" of 11th October, 1871.

"PUBLIC MAIL NOTICE.

"Due arrangements having been made for the receipt and transmission of mails, notice is hereby given that from and after this date Levuka mails will be delivered at the General Post Office (free of charge when properly stamped), and will be dispatched by the Postmaster-General to all parts of this group.

"Mails will also be made up from time to time for dispatch by the regular mail service, and by any other means of communication that offer: for America, Great Britain, the Continent of Europe, Australia, New Zealand, and Sandwich Islands.

"RATES OF POSTAGE.

Letters not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	12 cents
Letters over $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. and not exceeding 1 oz.	18 cents.
For each additional $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	6 cents.
Newspapers	4 cents.

"For the Postmaster,

"N. G. WILLIAMS."

"GOVERNMENT OFFICES,

"LEVUKA, 9th October, 1871."

In the same paper.

"The first mail which has been forwarded to the new Government arrived by the *Lavita* early on Saturday morning (7th October, 1871) from New Zealand. Acting upon the Colonial system, on receipt of important mails the Government had them at once sorted and delivered by letter-carriers."

"*Fiji Times*" of 14th October, 1871.

"The following are the particulars of mails sent to Sydney per mail steamer *City of Melbourne* through the *Fiji Times* Express:—

Letters: Registered	2
" Ordinary	261
Book parcels	7
Newspapers	751 "

"Fiji Times" of 11th November, 1871.

"Legislative Assembly of Fiji. Tuesday Evening, 7th October.

"Postage.

"Mr. Burt (Councillor), by permission of the House, introduced a Bill to provide for the conveyance and postage of letters, which was read the first time and was postponed, and the second reading fixed for Thursday in the following week."

The only other official papers that Mr. Basset Hull was able to obtain for me in regard to these stamps are the following which have been supplied to him by Mr. W. R. Rundell, of Melbourne.

CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE, LEVUKA,

18th December, 1871.

SIR,—I have the honour to enclose for your information a copy of the Postal Act of this Kingdom as passed by the Legislative Assembly and to intimate that Mr. John Mitchel Haslett has been appointed Chief Postmaster in accordance with the provisions of that Act.

I have at the same time to express the desire of this Government that all Mails for Fiji issuing from your Department may be addressed to the care of that officer.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

SYDNEY C. BURT,

Chief Secretary.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL,
MELBOURNE."

A reply to this letter was forwarded from the Chief Secretary's Office, Melbourne, on the 12th February, 1872, and was to the effect that the Honourable the Postmaster-General concurred in the Chief Secretary of Fiji's letter of the 18th December, 1871, and had accordingly given instructions that mails for Fiji made up in Melbourne should, in future, be forwarded as requested to the care of Mr. J. M. Haslett, Chief Postmaster, Fiji.

The following are extracts from the Postal Act:—

FIJI.

CAKOBAU REX.

No. 3.

EXTRACTS FROM THE POSTAL ACT, 1871.

(DECEMBER, 1871.)

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the conveyance and postage of letters within the Kingdom of Fiji and the receipt and dispatch of mails from and to parts beyond the said Kingdom.

"Be it therefore enacted by the King and the Legislative Assembly of the Kingdom of Fiji as follows:—

* * * * *

"3. That the King's Cabinet shall from time to time fix the rates of postage and value of stamps to be demanded by the said Postmasters respectively and their assistants for the receiving and dispatching of letters and packets and to increase and reduce the same from time to time as to the said Cabinet shall seem meet and to make such rules and regulations for the establishment and management of the said several post offices as may be deemed expedient.

* * * * *

"9. The Chief Postmaster is hereby authorized to issue and sell on account of his Department Postage stamps of such denomination as the public convenience may require. If any person or persons shall forge or counterfeit any stamps of the Post Office Department issued by authority of law or if they shall obliterate the marks of any stamp for the purpose of using the same for a second time they shall be adjudged guilty of felony and on conviction thereof fined a sum not exceeding five hundred dollars or imprisoned at hard labour for a term not more than one year in the discretion of the Court.

* * * * *

"19. That this Act shall come into force on the day of the passing thereof and shall be cited as 'Post Office Act, 1871.'"

In the *London Philatelist*, February, 1893, page 33, there is the continuation of an article by Mr. E. D. Bacon, dealing with this issue of stamps.

Mr. Bacon adopts the date October 9th, 1871, as that of the first issue of adhesive stamps for Fiji; but for reasons I will state, I do not think this date is correct.

Mr. Bacon fixes his date of issue from the notice that appeared in the *Fiji Times* on October 11th, 1871.

The statement in the notice that mails would be delivered free of charge when properly stamped, I take it, relates to such letters as arrived from oversea duly franked, and that such letters would not be subjected to a "delivery charge," as previously was the case.

The *American Journal of Philately* of November 20th, 1871, contains the following letter:—

"U.S. CONSULATE, FIGI, LEVUKA, OVALAU,

"September 9th, 1871.

"SIR,—Your favour of June 20th, touching the postage stamps of Figi, is received.

"The *Figi Times* Express office has issued a stamp upon its own responsibility. The Figi Government has not yet issued a stamp. It is probable that such will be done within a few months.

"I do not know that I can give you any further information.

"I remain, etc.,

"J. W. BROWN,

"U.S. Consul."

Considering that Levuka was the seat of the newly formed Government; that there were very few European residents, and that these residents had been the moving spirits in the formation of the Government, it is extremely unlikely that the United States Consul would be ignorant of the fact that postage stamps would be ready for issue within a month, and would express the opinion that they would not be ready for a "few months."

The Sydney records, however, in my opinion, conclusively prove that the Fiji postage stamps proper were not even printed on the date of the first official notice. It does not clearly appear from Greville & Co.'s letter that it was written after the dies had been engraved and the electroplates cast, but it is quite clear from the account hereinafter quoted that no stamps were printed therefrom until the 17th November, 1871. Had any such printing taken place at the Government Printing Office, there would have been some record, however bare, of the fact. Had any stamps been printed elsewhere from the plates, there would have been some difference in shade, paper, or perforation between the stamps thus printed outside and those printed inside the Government Printing Office. We know that there are no such differences to be found in the C.R. series of Fiji.

The Postal Act, 1871, No. 3, of Cakobau Rex, was assented to in "December, 1871," the day not being stated. It must, however, have been prior to the 18th *idem*, when the Chief Secretary's letter was written (*ante*).

Luckily, however, I have found an extract in the *Fiji Times* of 9th December, 1871, reading:—

"POSTAL ACT.

"This Act was duly considered and passed, 2nd December, 1871."

Clause 19 of the Act says: "This Act shall come into force on the day of the passing thereof."

Probably the Act was passed in late afternoon or evening, and could not be put into operation until the following day.

It will therefore be seen that even if the stamps had reached Levuka at any time prior to the passing of the Postal Act, they could not have been legally issued. Taking all the circumstances into account, I think that the 3rd December, 1871, can be taken as that of the first issue of postage stamps by the Fiji Government.

Messrs. E. Greville & Co. were stationers' and printers' brokers in Sydney. Mr. George Kellick, late chief clerk in the Government Printing Office, Sydney, informed Mr. Basset Hull that the firm was asked by the "ruling powers" in Fiji to prepare plates and supply stamps of the value of 1d., 3d., and 6d., and the work was entrusted to the Government Printer and Inspector of Stamps, Mr. Thomas Richards. Mr. A. L. Jackson, a wood engraver and electrotyper, was temporarily engaged, and he designed, engraved on wood, and made the electrotypes from which the stamps were printed. The clichés were mounted separately on blocks, an additional number being made for use in case of accident. As the electrotypes occasionally came away from the blocks, these additional clichés were found useful. The stamps were printed in sheets of fifty.

Curiously enough, it was found as late as 1881 that the account for printing these stamps had not been paid, and a copy was rendered to Messrs. E. Greville and Co. on the 21st October, 1881. This account was:—

			£	s.	d.
"1871.	November 17th.	To printing Fiji stamps	6	11	0
,,	December 21st.	,,	11	4	0"

The total of this account was £17 15s., and obviously it did not include the cost of engraving the dies and making the electroplates. In a subsequent account (1875) a charge of £5 was made for printing 1200 sheets of fifty stamps each. At the same rate, the first 1871 printing would appear to have consisted of about 1500 sheets; and assuming that the stamps were printed in equal proportions, there would have been 500 sheets, or 25,000 stamps of each denomination.

There are no particulars in the records as to the paper used, but it is known that it was white wove, watermarked FIJI POSTAGE in small, single-lined letters, across the centre of the sheet, falling therefore on the middle line of stamps only (see page 38). This paper must have been manufactured locally, and it is almost certain that the Australian Paper Company were the manufacturers.

I wish to draw special attention to the watermark in these stamps; this is quite different from the watermarks found in most stamps, and I think that the paper was not specially made for the Fiji stamps, but a plain wove paper was taken, and the watermark was stamped in with suitable dies. It is difficult to describe the difference, but any one used to the examination of watermarks will see that the watermark in these early Fiji stamps is of a quite different appearance from that found in most other stamps.

As the established currency of the kingdom of Fiji was the dollar divided into 100 cents, it is difficult to understand why the first C.R. stamps were in English money. Unfortunately I have not been able to unearth any documents upon this subject, or to obtain any information either in Fiji or New South Wales.

Until quite recently Tonga kept its accounts in pence, shillings, and dollars.

These stamps were perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$ in Sydney, the New South Wales single-lined cutter being used, which was introduced in that colony in 1861.

On the 7th March, 1888, the Colonial Secretary, Fiji, asked to be furnished with any non-current Fiji postage stamps then in the hands of the Government Printer, Sydney (*vide* Appendix III). Amongst the stamps sent in response to this request were:—

“Three sheets Three Pence @ fifty on a sheet (printed from C.R. plate).

One sheet Six Pence @ fifty on a sheet (printed from C.R. plate).”

The following extract from a letter dated Sydney, 29th January, 1890, from Charles Potter, Government Printer, to the Colonial Secretary, Suva, Fiji, proves that the *plates* from which these stamps were printed were sent to Fiji, and, I presume, were destroyed there.

EXTRACT.

“SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 20th ultimo, I do myself the honor [*sic*] to inform you that I have this day shipped, per the A.U.S.N. Co.'s s.s. *Tenterden*, a case containing the 1d., 3d., and 6d. plates of the non current C.R. Fiji postage stamps (fifty labels on each plate).”

In this and several subsequent issues we find several values that are not uncommon in an imperforate condition, some of these come gummed and some without gum; but a Mr. Thompson, who bought a small remainder of Fiji stamps some fifteen years ago, communicated with the Postmaster, and was informed that the imperforate stamps could be used for postal purposes, and I have seen several so used. I therefore propose to list such of these varieties as are known to me, but I consider

them to be "printer's waste," and I doubt if any of them were ever issued to the Post Office for sale to the public.

Used specimens of this issue are decidedly rare, the 3d. and 6d. values especially.

The earliest postmark used appears to have been a plain circle 25 mm. in diameter, enclosing the letters "G.P.O." at top and "FIJI" below, with a small star ornament on either side. This was only in use for a short time, as from 1872 the general postmark used reads "G.P.O. LEVUKA [or other town] FIJI" arranged as a circle, but without any outer line, and having the date in centre.

REFERENCE LIST.

3rd December, 1871. Electrotyped and printed at the Government Printing Office, Sydney, N.S.W. White wove paper; wmk. FIJI POSTAGE in sans-serif capitals across the middle row of each sheet (fifty stamps in sheet, in five horizontal rows of ten). Perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$.

1d., pale blue.
 1d., dark blue.
 3d., yellow-green.
 3d., green.
 3d., dark green.
 6d., pale rose.
 6d., carmine-rose.

Varieties. Imperf. (not issued).

1d., blue.
 3d., green.
 6d., carmine-rose.

ESTIMATED NUMBERS PRINTED.

1d., 25,000.
 3d., 25,000.
 6d., 25,000.

This issue was in use for forty-one days only.

CHAPTER IV.

THE "CENTS" ISSUE ON C.R. STAMPS.



THE preceding issue, with its values in "pence" while the currency of the Fiji Islands was "cents," can almost be looked upon as an error, which was quickly realized and rectified as soon as possible by overprinting the three stamps with their equivalent value in "cents."

In Chapter III, I give an account of Messrs. E. Greville & Co. for printing Fiji stamps.

The second date in that account is "Dec. 21, 1871. To printing Fiji stamps £11 4s. Od.," and this entry doubtless referred to the stamps overprinted with value in "cents," as this necessitated two printings (the stamps and then the overprints); it may fairly be assumed that the actual numbers printed were the same as for the first issue in November, viz. 25,000 of each value.

In August, 1872, there was another order for 1800 sheets; if an equal number of each value, this would give us a further printing of 30,000 stamps each of 2 c., 6 c., and 12 c.

I do not know of any later printing, and therefore the total numbers of this issue, which was in use from January, 1872, to October, 1874, are probably 55,000 of each value.

That the overprinting was effected in Sydney (apart from the probable lack of sufficient type in Fiji to set up so many exactly similar repetitions of the overprint) is apparent from an article in the *Stamp Collector's Magazine* for February 1st, 1872, describing these overprinted stamps from copies cut from proof sheets, imperforate, which were "obligingly communicated by a correspondent at Sydney, where the stamps have been designed and printed."

The following are all the local records published in the *Fiji Times* during the currency of this issue:—

"Fiji Times" of 18th November, 1871.

"Estimated Revenue for the financial year ending 30th June, 1872.
Postage £1331."

"*Fiji Times*" of 3rd June, 1872.

"POST OFFICE MAILS.

"Until further notice mails will be dispatched as follows:—

From Government Post Office, Levuka, to Upper and Lower Rewa, Bau, Suva, and Navua *Every Saturday at Noon.*
From Upper and Lower Rewa to Levuka *Every Thursday.*

NOTE.—For the present the Suva and Navua mails will be received and dispatched at the Lower Rewa Post Office in separate bags or parcels.

From Levuka to Vuna Point and Wairiki *Every Monday at Noon.*
From Vuna Point, Tairuni, to Levuka *Every Thursday.*
From Levuka to Wai Kuku, Savu Savu, Natava Bay, Macuata, and Drekiti (Vanua Levu) *Weekly.*
From Wai Kuku to Levuka, taking all mails from Vanua Levu *Weekly.*
From Levuka to Raki Raki, Ba, Tavua, and Nadi *Fortnightly.*
From Raki Raki to Levuka *Fortnightly.*

"S. G. BURR,

"Chief Secretary."

"*Fiji Times*" of 27th January, 1872.

"RATES OF POSTAGE.

Letters not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.
Letters over $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. and not exceeding 1 oz.	25 c.
For each additional $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.
Letters for the Kingdom of Fiji, not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	6 $\frac{1}{4}$ c.
For every additional $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	6 $\frac{1}{4}$ c.
Newspapers, out of Kingdom of Fiji	4 c.
For the Kingdom of Fiji	2 c.

"J. M. HASLETT,

"Chief Postmaster."

"G. P. O., LEVUKA."

On January 31st, 1872, the new "Stamp Duties" Act is given in full in eighteen clauses. This Act has nothing whatever to do with postage stamps excepting that it fixes certain small taxes on receipts, bills of exchange, etc., all of which are payable by means of postage stamps. We occasionally come across stamps of this issue overprinted with a capital "D," small size, 3 mm. high, or a larger "D," 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. high; these are simply stamps that have been used for Duty purposes under this Act (see Plate XIV, Nos. 6 and 7).

Mr. Groom states that these were also available for postage, but I have only seen them cancelled by means of a penstroke or written date.

"Fiji Times" of 14th February, 1872.

"BRITISH CONSULAR POST OFFICE RULES.

- "1. That the office shall be called the British Consular Post Office.
 "2. The British C. P. O. shall be under the management of the Post Office Committee, to be appointed by and held responsible by the Chamber of Commerce.
 "3. All appointments for the Post Office shall be made by the Committee upon the recommendations of this Chamber.
 "4. The Chamber shall guarantee salary to officer, who shall, if required, find security to the Chamber for the faithful discharge of said duties.
 "5. The Consul, upon recommendation of the Chamber, shall dismiss any officer, or should he refuse to do so, the Chamber shall no longer be held responsible.
 "6. The support of the B. C. P. O. shall be by subscription, at such rates as shall be decided by the P. O. Committee.
 "7. Letters shall be received and dispatched by the B. C. P. O. free of charges to subscribers except registered ones, or any having charges thereon.
 "8. There shall be a town delivery to subscribers as soon as possible after arrival.
 "9. All mail matter not belonging to subscribers shall be handed to the Government Postmaster, or any one he may appoint.
 "10. These rules may at any time be altered, added to, and rescinded upon a two-thirds vote of the Chamber present.
 "11. That the Post Office Committee make a report to the Chamber at any time when called upon to do so.
 "These rules were adopted by the Chamber of Commerce, Levuka, 12th February, 1872."

"Fiji Times" of 2nd March, 1872.

EXTRACT FROM "SYDNEY MORNING HERALD" PUBLISHED IN THE "FIJI TIMES."

"Among others the Colonial Post Office will not recognize the Fijian stamps, although the Colonial stamps are recognized by the Fijian Post Office. This, indeed, is a small matter, but it is only mentioned as showing the bad tone of the present state of things."

"Fiji Times" of 27th April, 1872.

"SIR,—I beg to ask whether it is generally known that we have to pay double postage on all letters and newspapers sent through the Levuka G. P. O. We are charged 6d. on every letter posted at Levuka (9d. if posted at any of the country places), and 2d. on every newspaper. When they are delivered in Sydney, 6d. is charged on our letters and 1d. on newspapers.

"The New South Wales Government do not recognize the Fiji Government, and so do not take the slightest notice of our elegant stamps. It is too bad that we have to pay 1s. 3d. on our letters and 3d. on our newspapers.

"This is our cheap Government! We had far better send our correspondence through the Consular P. O.

"Yours, etc.,

"OUTSIDER

"April 22nd, 1872."

"*Fiji Times*" of 29th June, 1872.

"An alteration in the postage of newspapers has been made by the Postmaster. The following are now the rates:—

Newspapers <i>out of the Kingdom</i>	.	.	.	2 cents.
Newspapers <i>within the Kingdom</i>	.	.	.	free of charge."

"*Fiji Times*" of 31st August, 1872.

"POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS.

"Re the Fijian postage stamps not being recognized in the United Kingdom. We are authorised to state that the Government, anticipating some difficulty in the matter, communicated with the British postal authorities.

"Meantime, and forestalling the Fijian Government, a request has gone home from New South Wales that all letters and newspapers having the Fijian stamp shall be delivered free of charge, even if it be necessary to charge the cost to that colony.

"This arrangement will therefore preclude any further inconvenience.

"The action of the New South Wales postal authorities is both liberal and complimentary, and there is little doubt but that England will, following the lead of the Australian colonies, enter into a reciprocal engagement by which the mystic letters 'C.R.' will be known from Land's End to John o' Groats."

In the *Fiji Times* for November 2nd, 1872, the revenue from the sale of postage stamps for the quarter ending September 30th, 1872, is set down at \$1012.76.

In the issue of April 10th, 1873, a new Postal Act in nineteen clauses is given in full; this Act is one providing for the conveyance and postage of letters within the Kingdom of Fiji, and the receipt and dispatch of mails.

The following are the only clauses I think it necessary to reproduce:—

"G. P. O. ESTABLISHED.

"1. That at any time after the passing of this Act it shall be lawful for the King's Cabinet to establish for the receiving and dispatching of letters and packets from and within the said kingdom and its dependencies, one G. P. O. at Levuka, and so many other post offices in different parts of the said Kingdom as may be deemed expedient, and to appoint one chief postmaster, and so many postmasters and other requisite officers for the conducting of same, and if need be, to remove the said postmaster, postmasters, and officers, and to appoint others in their stead respectively.

"UNDER CONTROL OF CHIEF SECRETARY.

"2. That such Postal Departments shall be under the immediate control and direction of the Chief Secretary, who shall countersign all appointments made under this Act.

"CABINET FOR RATES OF POSTAGE AND VALUE OF STAMPS.

"3. That the King's Cabinet shall from time to time fix the rates of postage and value of stamps to be demanded by the said postmasters respectively, and their assistants, for the receiving and dispatching of letters and packets, and to increase and reduce the same from time to time, as to the said Cabinet shall seem meet, and to make such rules and regulations for the establishment and management of the said several post offices as may be deemed expedient.

“OUTWARD POSTAGE PREPAID.

“7. The outward postage on all letters, newspapers (excepting editorial exchanges), and other mailable matter sent to any foreign country shall be prepaid.” Vessels not allowed to carry unstamped letters, etc., under a penalty. Money may be taken in lieu of stamps.

“SALE OF STAMPS, FORGING STAMPS, PENALTY.

“9. The Chief Postmaster is hereby authorized to issue and sell on account of his department postage stamps of such denomination as the public convenience may require. If any person or persons shall forge or counterfeit any stamps of the Post Office Department issued by authority of law, or if they shall obliterate the marks of any stamp for the purpose of using the same for a second time, they shall be adjudged guilty of felony, and on conviction thereof be fined a sum not exceeding 500 dols., or imprisoned at hard labour for a time not more than one year, in the discretion of the Court.

“REGISTRATION OF LETTERS, ETC.

“13. For the greater security of valuable letters posted for transmission in the mails of the Kingdom, the Chief Postmaster shall be and hereby is authorized to establish a uniform plan for the registration of letters, on the application of parties posting the same, and to require the prepayment of postage, as well as a registration fee of 12½ cents on every such letter or packet.”

DATE OF ISSUE.

I have given all the information bearing on this issue that I have been able to obtain from Sydney or from the *Fiji Times*, and must now see how near we can fix the date of issue.

The previous issue appeared on December 3rd, 1871, and it must have been immediately realized that the stamps should not be in “pence” when the currency was in “cents” and “dollars.”

No doubt orders were at once sent to Sydney for a new issue, and to save the time that would have been occupied by making new dies and plates, recourse was had to surcharging, which was effected either from type or from electros cast from type.

In Messrs. E. Greville & Co.’s account (see last chapter) the item on “December 21st, 1871, Printing Fiji Stamps, £11 4s. 0d.” was, I think, no doubt for printing a supply of C.R. stamps and then surcharging them with new value in “cents.” This allowed just about a reasonable time for the order to reach Sydney from Levuka.

Another point to bear in mind is the extract from the *Stamp Collector's Magazine* for February 1st, 1872. The specimens sent from Sydney were *imperf.*, cut from proof sheets, and here again the date fits in, the mails taking about five weeks from Sydney in 1872.

In the *Fiji Times* for January 13th, 1872, there is a repetition of the Public Mail Notice, but with the rates of postage slightly altered to the following:—

“ Letters not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents.
Letters over $\frac{1}{2}$ and not exceeding 1 oz.	25 „
For each additional $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	6 $\frac{1}{4}$ „
Newspapers	4 „

“ J. M. HASLETT,

“ *Chief Postmaster.*

“ *January, 1872.*”

In the issue of January 27th, 1872, the rates were again slightly altered (*ante*).

I can find no explanation of the meaning of these $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ cents, and can only suppose it had something to do with the fluctuation of the exchange.

I think that the notice of January 13th must have been contemporary with the issue of the stamps, and shall therefore accept that as the day of issue.

For some years I have been searching for early dates on Fiji stamps; the following are the earliest I have on this issue.

2 cents, Sp. 16, 72.

6 „ Ju. 22, 72.

12 „ Mr. 7, 72.

On Plate V, I illustrate a sheet complete, all but one stamp, of the 2 cents on 1d., blue. The object of this illustration will be explained in the next chapter.

REFERENCE LIST.

January 13th, 1872. Printing, paper, perforation and watermark as last issue.
Surcharged in black with new value in "cents."

"Two cents" on 1d., pale blue.
Two " " 1d., dark blue.
Six " " 3d., yellow-green.
Six " " 3d., green.
Twelve " " 6d., carmine-rose.

VARIETIES. *Imperf.* (Not issued.)

"Two cents" on 1d., pale blue.
Six " " 3d., yellow-green
Twelve " " 6d., pale rose.

ESTIMATED NUMBER PRINTED.

"Two cents" 55,000.
"Six " 55,000.
"Twelve " 55,000.

A large number of these were further surcharged for the next issue.
This issue was in use two years and nine months, less three days.

CHAPTER V.

THE "V.R." GOTHIC AND ROMAN OVERPRINT.



I now come to what, I think, are the most interesting and most valuable of all Fiji stamps—the first provisionals issued after the cession of the Fiji Islands to Great Britain.

In regard to this issue I have not been able to obtain official information from any source whatever.

In the files of the *Fiji Times* in the British Museum I have found a few notices which I put on record below ; but, with this exception, the whole of the new discoveries I have made are entirely based upon the stamps in my collection and in those of a few friends who have been good enough to allow me to photograph some of their gems.

The following extracts are from the *Fiji Times* :—

“ March 21st, 1874.

“ Consular Notice.—The King and Chiefs have renewed their offer of cession of Islands to Great Britain—(a Government to be formed *ad interim*).

“ Commodore, Foreign Consuls, Mr. Thurston, and Chief Justice, with certain native chiefs, will meet and arrange form of government *ad interim*.

“ E. L. LAYARD,

“ LEVUKA, 20th March, 1874.”

“ H. B. M. Consul.

“ CESSION OF FIJI.

“ Wednesday, the 30th September, 1874, should be a memorable day in the annals of Fiji, for thereon the formal cession of the group was made to and accepted by Great Britain.

“ Signed by King Cakobau, Sir Hercules George Robert Robinson (Governor, New South Wales).

“ Finally annexed 10th October, 1874.

“ (Signed) Cakobau.

“ Isikeli.

“ Tiu Viti and Vinuvalu.

“ Roko Tui Draketi.

“ Maafu.

“ Nacagilevu.

“ Tui Cakau.

“ Ratu Kini.

“ Ratu Epeli.

“ Ritova.

“ Vakawaletobua. Tui Bua.

“ Katuniveri.

“ Savenaca.

“ Matanitobua.

“ (Signed) Hercules Robinson.

“ D. Wilkinson (Chief Interpreter).”

"GAZETTE APPOINTMENTS, 17th October, 1874.

"POSTAL.

"Capt. Frederick Platt Blackmore to be Chief Postmaster of the Colony.

"POSTAGE ON LETTERS, BOOKS, NEWSPAPERS, ETC.

"I. LETTERS (TOWN).

"For delivery within the limits of Levuka:—

"Not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. 1 penny."Exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., but not exceeding 1 oz. 2 pence.and so on, increasing 1 penny for every additional $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. or fraction of $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

"II. INLAND LETTERS.

"Not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. 2 pence."Exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., but not exceeding 1 oz. 4 "and so on, increasing 2 pence for every additional $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. or fraction of $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

"III. INTERCOLONIAL LETTERS.

"New Zealand	} 2 pence per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.
"Queensland	
"South Australia	
"Tasmania	
"Victoria	
"Western Australia	

"IV. LETTERS TO BRITISH COLONIAL AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

"(Excepting Intercolonial.)

"Not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. 6 pence."Exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., but not exceeding 1 oz. 1 shilling.and so on, increasing 6 pence for every additional $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., or fraction of $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

"V. LETTERS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM VIA SAN FRANCISCO.

"Not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. 6 pence."Exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., but not exceeding 1 oz. 1 shilling."Every additional $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., or fraction thereof 6 pence.

"VIÀ TORRES STRAITS AND SOUTHAMPTON.

"Not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. 6 pence."Exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., but not exceeding 1 oz. 1 shilling."Every additional $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., or fraction thereof 6 pence.

"VIÀ TORRES STRAITS AND BRINDISI.

"Not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. 9 pence."Exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., but not exceeding 1 oz. 1s. 6d."Every additional $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., or fraction thereof 9 pence.

"VIA GALLE AND SOUTHAMPTON.

"Not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	7 pence.
"Exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., but not exceeding 1 oz.	1s. 1d.
"Every additional $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., or fraction thereof	6 pence.

VIA GALLE AND BRINDISI.

"Not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	10 pence.
"Exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., but not exceeding 1 oz.	1s. 7d.
"Every additional $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., or fraction thereof	9 pence."

FIJI TIMES, 5th December, 1874.

"POSTAL NOTICE.

"Letters for Australian Colonies, New Zealand, and Tasmania, twopence per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; for other places same charge as New South Wales, as per Postal Guide of that colony.

"REGISTERED LETTERS.

"Registration fee: Fourpence, in addition to ordinary rate of postage.

"NEWSPAPERS.

"Newspapers, printed and published within the colony of Fiji, if posted within seven days after publication, will be transmitted free of charge to the Australian Colonies, New Zealand, and Tasmania. If posted after seven days from date of publication, one penny each.

"All newspapers for transmission to the undermentioned places, *one penny each*:—

"Aden, Alexandria, Algeria, Batavia, Bombay, Calcutta, Ceylon, China, East Indies, Egypt, France, Honolulu, Japan, Madras, Malta (*via* Suez), New Caledonia, United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

"*Twopence each paper for*—

"Cape of Good Hope, Natal, West Indies, and Malta (*via* San Francisco).

"Other places threepence and fourpence, and book rates as per Postal Guide.

"OLD STAMPS.

"After this date no old Fiji stamps will pass at this office, all letters or papers bearing these stamps will be detained for insufficient postage.

"FRED. P. BLACKMORE,

"G.P.O., November 23rd, 1874."

"*Chief Postmaster.*

The above notices are all that I can find that have any bearing on this issue.

Mr. W. O. Groom, of Fiji, to whom I am indebted for much information gathered on the spot, informs me that—

"These stamps were said at the time to have been surcharged by William Cook, of the *Polynesian Gazette* Printing Office, Levuka, where nearly the whole of the Government printing was done at the time."

These stamps are peculiar, as they have the values both in "cents" and "pence," but the notices I give above quote the rates in "pence," and I should think there is no doubt that they were sold by that denomination.

DATE OF ISSUE.

We have now to consider when these stamps were issued, and as there is no direct evidence on this point, I must be guided by contemporary records and dated copies.

The *Philatetical Journal*, March, 1875, records the 2 c., blue, with "V.R." in fancy and ordinary capitals. *Le Timbre-Poste* for July, 1875, gives the 6 c. and 12 c. to complete the set.

The earliest dated specimens * I have are as follows :—

1d., blue	.	Pair dated No. 10, 1874.	(<i>Vide</i> Plate VIII, Nos. 39 and 40.)
3d., green	.	„	No. 21, 1874.
6d., rose	.	„	No. 17, 1874.

I can find no earlier records than these, and will now consider the notices I have quoted from the *Fiji Times Express*.

From these we see that the islands were finally annexed to Great Britain on October 10th, 1874, and a little later on, under the heading, "Gazette Appointments, 17th October, 1874," Captain F. P. Blackmore is appointed Chief Postmaster of the new colony, and at the same date there are published the rates of postage to various parts of the world.

Another notice from the G.P.O., dated November 23rd, 1874, says that after this date no old Fiji stamps will be available for postage.

From these extracts we can be sure that the new stamps were available by November 23rd, 1874, but I have a pair of 1d. dated November 10th, 1874, and therefore they were certainly issued earlier.

In Appendix I, in the Official Return, prepared for me by order of Sir Everard im Thurn, the 1d., 3d., and 6d. "C.R." issue, surcharged, are stated to have been issued on November 22nd, 1875, but my dated copies of all three values prove this to be incorrect.

On September 30th, 1874, it was known that the annexation was settled, and that the ratification would take place in a few days, and no doubt due care was taken to have stamps ready against the date agreed upon.

I think therefore we may accept October 10th, 1874, as the actual date of issue of these interesting stamps.

NUMBER OF STAMPS OVERPRINTED.

From Appendix I, we get the number of stamps of "C.R." surcharged which were issued ; this is as follows :—

1d., blue	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	35,264.
3d., green	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	29,350.
6d., rose	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	29,650.

The 1d. stamps do not work out at a level number of complete sheets, so I suppose that a part sheet on hand was overprinted.

In comparing these numbers with the catalogue prices, one must remember that later on *most* of the 3d. green were overprinted "2d.," as I show in the next chapter.

The 1d. stamp is a little commoner than the 6d., and from the stamps I have handled the relative rarity seems to be in accord with the above figures.

* Dated copies are rather rare ; out of 126 of these stamps only nineteen have a legible date.

ERRORS AND VARIETIES.

In the next section of this chapter, where I treat of plating these stamps, I note the errors and varieties that occur on the sheets of each value.

There is, however, another and a very rare error, and that is the overprint *inverted* on the 6d. rose. This is known with the "V.R." Gothic and Roman, and I suppose that only one sheet of fifty stamps occurred thus.

The genuine nature of this error is well established by a note I have found in *Alfred Smith & Co.'s Monthly Circular* for January, 1877, written by Mr. Carrick, a well-known collector of the early days, who some twenty-five years ago sold his collection to Mr. M. P. Castle.

Mr. Carrick says :—

"I have a curious 12 c. *error* with ornamental V.R. *inverted*, and appearing wrong side up, just below the word TWELVE."

As far as I can trace only two, or at most three, copies of this stamp with inverted overprint are now known in collections. I cannot hear of any of the "errors" in the inverted; of course they must have originally existed, but have probably been destroyed.

FORGERIES.

I have a good few forgeries of this issue, but none of them really dangerous to an expert. One stamp I have with Gothic "V.R." is No. 39 on the sheet, which can only exist genuine with the Roman "V.R."; another forgery, the "V.R." Roman, is dated Sp. 7, 1874, some weeks before the stamps were issued. As a rule the "V.R." in the forgeries is badly formed and the ink is different from that of the original (*vide* Plate XV, Nos. 7 to 13).

I have seen forged *inverted* overprints on the 1d. blue. I do not think these errors exist in a genuine condition.

ON PLATING THE V.R. STAMPS.

I now come to what I consider the most important portion of my notes on Fiji stamps, in which I hope to be able to show that we can *plate* these stamps with almost as much certainty as we can the "Sydney Views."

Some of my readers will be aware of the fact that there are many forgeries of the Gothic and Roman "V.R.," and it is owing to this fact that I first of all started a close study of these most interesting varieties.

I will endeavour to explain the methods I have adopted in reconstructing the plate of the 1d. blue, and 6d. rose.

The first clue came from *Le Timbre-Poste*, January, 1876, where the following appears :—

"The stamps with surcharge 'V.R.' have arrived. They show several varieties on each sheet. The first three horizontal rows of ten stamps have the letters 'V.R.' in ornamental type; the two last rows which follow have them in ordinary characters. One of the stamps having ornamental type has the letter 'R.' followed by a Maltese cross, which is considerably larger than the stop which ought to be there."

We know the sheets are in five rows of ten stamps each, and from the above we fix the first three rows as bearing Gothic "V.R.," and the last two rows having Roman "V.R."

The next point I considered was the position of the watermark "FIJI POSTAGE"

in each sheet. I have a considerable number of large blocks and part sheets of the issues of 1871 and 1872, and this watermark is *always* on the middle row of the sheets, generally about the centre of the stamps. I have never found a genuine Roman "V.R." with a portion of this watermark, and I have never found a watermark in any stamp fitting into the two upper rows of the sheet: I am therefore of opinion that it was invariably in the middle row of each sheet of the blue, green, or rose stamps.

The words "FIJI POSTAGE" are so spaced that they *generally* fall on the following stamps:—

No. 21 in the sheet = No.	1 in the third row, shows the F.
22	2 " " I J.
23	3 " " I.
24	4 " " P.
25	5 " " O.
26	6 " " S T.
27	7 " " A.
28	8 " " G.
29	9 " " E.
30	10 " " no letter.

The watermark does not always fall correctly in the centre of the first stamp in the row, and therefore the position may be altered and we may find the second stamp carrying the letter "I" only, and the third one "JI" and so on, but the table I give above is correct in the great majority of cases.

I claim that by the watermark we establish the positions of stamps No. 21 to 29 on each sheet.

The next step was to get connecting links between these watermarked stamps and those immediately below them which have the letters "V.R." in Roman type, and this has been comparatively easy, owing to the fact that Mocns and others who imported these stamps in 1875-76 were struck with the curious fact of the two very different types of "V.R." coming on one sheet, and therefore often broke up and sold the stamps in vertical pairs showing the two types.

I have only one such pair of 6d., rose, in my collection, but I have been able to see a block of four and five other vertical pairs which have enabled me to fix the position of most of the stamps in the fourth row.

The next *general* point to note before we come to the minor details is that, through the method of printing the stamps surcharged in 1872 with value in "cents," the top part of the upper row and the bottom part of the last row of stamps on each sheet always have the appearance of being overinked; it is difficult to describe this, but it is so clearly to be seen that if one mixed up, say, fifty stamps from the five rows in the sheets, I could in a few moments pick out those belonging to either the top or bottom rows.

Having mentioned the general characteristics which enabled me to start the plating, I will now try to explain how I worked on the minor details.

We have first of all to bear in mind that the stamps in question are printed from the electrotype plates made in 1871, and used first for the "C.R." issue; then we have the same plates used from 1872 to 1874 to print the stamps used for nearly three years overprinted with new value in cents. During this time the plates became somewhat worn; small defects appear all over the face of the plates, and it is by these defects and flaws that I have been able to plate most of the varieties in my collection, although the rarity of the stamps has not as yet enabled me to get together enough material to complete even the two plates I have mostly worked on, viz. the 1d., blue, and 6d., rose.

In order to aid collectors in plating these stamps, I include in this handbook the following full-sized plates of stamps produced by the photogravure process:—

Plate V, 1872. Two Cents on 1d., blue.

This plate is made up of four blocks of stamps, and is complete except for No. 50, which I have not been able to find.

Plate VI.

This is a composite plate made up of stamps of 1871 and 1872 with the right-hand vertical row of 2d. on 3d. of 1876 from an imperf. sheet.

Plate VII. 6d., rose, on laid paper.

This is a complete uncut sheet, and has enabled me to plate almost every one of the 6d. stamps I have met with. It would have been preferable to have made up a sheet of the "Twelve Cents" on 6d., rose, but I have not been able to get sufficient stamps together. The black monogram "V.R." often covers up an important flaw, but I have always been able to find something else sufficiently clear to prove the position of any stamp.

I will describe a few of the flaws, etc., by which I have been able to make up plates of the "V.R." stamps.

"TWO CENTS" ON 1D., BLUE.

- | | | |
|-----|-----|--|
| No. | 1. | Two white spaces in background after "R." |
| " | 2. | White space above centre of crown. |
| " | 3. | White oblong space to left of top of crown. |
| " | 4. | Coloured dot outside stamp on left-hand side, 7 mm. from bottom. |
| " | 6. | White round space to left of crown. |
| " | 8. | Coloured dot between "E" in "POSTAGE" and pearl above it. |
| " | 11. | White spaces to right of "C." and above "R." |
| " | 12. | White spaces to left and right of crown and to right of "C." |
| " | 14. | White space under "O" in "ONE." |
| " | 17. | Round white space to left of crown. |
| " | 19. | White oblong space above crown. |
| " | 21. | Wmk. F. |
| " | 22. | " IJ. Oblong white space top left of crown. |
| " | 23. | " I. Thin white space under centre of crown |
| " | 24. | " P. White space after "R." |
| " | 25. | " O. |
| " | 26. | " S. |
| " | 27. | " T (often T and part of A). Large white space to left of crown. |

- No. 28. Wmk. A G (sometimes G only). White space under foot of "R" and to right of "C."
 „ 29. „ E. Small white spaces on line to right and left of base of crown.
 „ 30. No wmk. Second downstroke of "n" in "Cents" always broken.
 „ 31. Inner circle broken above "ON" in "ONE."
 „ 32. White space in base of crown to right.
 „ 33. Coloured blob above crown on left.
 „ 34. White space to right of base of crown.
 „ 35. Flaw very much as No. 31, but additional white scratches to right of second "I" in "FIJI."
 „ 38. Oblong space to left of crown.
 „ 39. Large coloured dot under "G" in "POSTAGE."
 „ 42. White scratch from right-hand top corner of crown.
 „ 46. White scratch to right of crown.

The above are some of the more pronounced and permanent flaws, but there are many smaller ones which can be detected by using a good glass. I draw attention to white spots on the letters, coloured lines and dots on the pearls, etc.

On Plate VIII I show the "V.R." Gothic and Roman as far as I have been able to reconstruct it.

The varieties of the "V.R." overprint are as follows:—

- No. 13. No stop after "R".
 „ 26. Large *cross pattée* stop after "R."*
 „ 28. Round raised stop after "V."
 „ 29. Round raised stops after "V." and "R."
 „ 30. Inverted "A" used for "V."
 „ 43. No stop after "R".

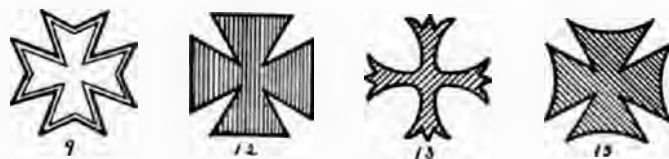
These six stamps may all be ranked as rarities, as there is only one of each of them to be found in each sheet of fifty stamps.

The rest of the sheet consists of twenty-five stamps with Gothic "V.R." and nineteen stamps with Roman "V.R."

Of the errors referred to above I think that No. 13 on the sheet, no stop after "R," is not a permanent error, but an accidental one caused by the stop either falling out or breaking off and being replaced by another one; my reason for this is that in my plate of 6d., rose, I have No. 13 with the stops correct.

* This "cross pattée" stop has hitherto been termed either a "Gothic" or a "Maltese" cross stop, but neither of these terms seems to be correct.

In *The Grammar of British Heraldry*, by Sloan-Evans, 1854, he illustrates different crosses used in heraldry, among them the following, to which I give his numbers and names.



No. 9, Maltese. No. 12, Patée. No. 13, Patonce. No. 15, Templar. Now none of these are just like the curious cross stop used on Fiji stamps, but solid instead of outlined and shaped ✠. Some of the English dictionaries call this the "cross pattée" and I think we should adopt this in place of the term "Maltese" or "Gothic" cross, which it certainly does not at all resemble.

"TWELVE CENTS" ON 6D., ROSE. (Plate IX.)

The following is a list of the chief flaws which have aided me in plating this stamp:—

- | | | |
|-----|-----|---|
| No. | 1. | White space on head of "G" in "POSTAGE." |
| " | 2. | White dot after "P" in "POSTAGE." |
| " | 3. | White space joining lower triangle of pearls to inner circle. |
| " | 8. | White line under second "E" in "PENCE." |
| " | 10. | Coloured dot to left of crown inside inner circle. |
| " | 11. | Outer frame broken on left slightly above centre. |
| " | 12. | Two white dashes in base of crown. |
| " | 17. | Fine white line on tail of "J." |
| " | 18. | White dash after "E" in "POSTAGE." |
| " | 19. | White curved space under right base of crown. |
| " | 21. | Wmk. F. |
| " | 22. | " IJ. White line under "s" in "POSTAGE." |
| " | 23. | " I. Outer bottom line broken under "EN." |
| " | 24. | " P. |
| " | 25. | " O. |
| " | 26. | " ST. Fine white line joining first "I" in "FIJI" to upper border. |
| " | 27. | " A. |
| " | 28. | " G. |
| " | 29. | " E. White dot in "G" and between "G" and "E." |
| " | 30. | No wmk. Coloured dot above upper loop of "c" and blob of colour to left of base of crown. |
| " | 31. | White dash between the "os." |
| " | 32. | White dash between the "EN." |
| " | 34. | Outer frame broken in left upper corner and white spot in lower frame under "N." |
| " | 39. | Coloured blob to right of top of crown. |
| " | 41. | White spot in centre of base of crown. |
| " | 45. | Three white spots on base of crown. |
| " | 47. | White line in upper outer frame, 1½ mm. from left corner. |
| " | 48. | Large white spot on lower right line of the inner hexagon. |

As in the 2 cents on 1d., blue, there are also here many other small flaws and marks which have enabled me to plate these stamps and prove them against the uncut sheet of 6d. stamps shown in Plate VI.

The varieties in the "V.R." overprint are as follows:—

- | | | |
|-----|-----|---------------------------------------|
| No. | 26. | Large "cross pattée" stop after "R." |
| " | 28. | Round raised stop after "V." |
| " | 29. | Round raised stops after "V" and "R." |
| " | 30. | Inverted "A" used for "V." |
| " | 43. | No stop after "R". |

The five errors named above may well be termed rarities, as each one occurs once only on a sheet of fifty stamps.

Although in nearly seven years' work I have not been able to *complete* any plate of these rare stamps, yet I think I have gone far enough to prove that the

arrangement of the "V.R." overprint is the same for the 2 c. on 1d. and the 12 c. on 6d., and I am also fully convinced that the setting of the 6 c. on 3d., green, is also identical with that of the two other values of this issue.

The 6 c. on 3d., green, is undoubtedly a very rare stamp; it was a rate that was not in demand for postage anywhere and, as I hope to show in the next chapter, it was in use for but a very short time, the stock being used up to produce a 2d. stamp which was constantly required.

Of this 6 c. on 3d. I have about a dozen copies, including a strip of three, and I have been able to plate all of these, and as far as I have gone I find the varieties of the "V.R." overprint identical with those of the two other values.

On Plate XV I wish to draw attention to Illustration Nos. 1 and 2. No. 1 is No. 29 on plate, which should be the variety with two round, raised stops, but this stamp has the two normal stops. No. 2 is stamp No. 30 on plate; this has the inverted "A" used for "V," but shows the "R" with tail broken off, causing it to look just like a "P."

I think that both these stamps are from a second printing of the overprint, and I think that probably some of these errors in stops, etc., were noticed during the printing, and corrected, and if such is the case the errors are even much rarer than if they occurred once in each sheet of fifty stamps.

The plating of these stamps has certainly led to one good result; it has enabled me to pick out about a dozen forgeries from my own stamps and from the collections of my friends, so that the labour has not been entirely time lost.

REFERENCE LIST.

(See Plates VIII and IX.)

October 10th, 1874 (3).

Stamps of the preceding issue overprinted "V.R." at the *Polynesian Gazette* Printing Office, Levuka, in Gothic and Roman type.

V.R.**V.R.**

a

b

1d., blue (a and b).
 3d., green (a and b).
 6d., rose (a and b).

VARIETIES.

(i) No stop after "R". No. 13 on sheet.

1d., blue (a).
 3d., green (a).
 6d., rose (a).

(ii) *Cross pattée* stop after "R." No. 26 on sheet.

1d., blue (a).
 3d., green (a).
 6d., rose (a).

(iii) Round raised stop after "V," ordinary stop after "R." No. 28 on sheet.

1d., blue (a).
 3d., green (a).
 6d., rose (a).

(iv) Round raised stops after "V" and "R." No. 29 on sheet.

1d., blue (a).
 3d., green (a).
 6d., rose (a).

(v) Inverted "A" used for "V." No. 30 on sheet.

1d., blue (a).
 3d., green (a).
 6d., rose (a).

(vi) No stop after "R". No. 43 on sheet.

1d., blue (b).
 3d., green (b).
 6d., rose (b).

(vii) Inverted overprint.

6d., rose (a and b).

(viii) Inverted overprint, with *cross pattée* stop after the "V."
6d., rose (a).

(This variety is noted in *Oceania*.)

NUMBER OF STAMPS OVERPRINTED.

1d., blue	.	.	.	.	a. 21,158	b. 14,106.
3d., green	.	.	.	.	a. 17,610*	b. 11,740.*
6d., rose	.	.	.	.	a. 17,790	b. 11,860.

* The bulk of these were afterwards surcharged "2d." in red or in black.

CHAPTER VI.

THE "2D." PROVISIONALS ON THE "V.R." GOTHIC AND ROMAN.



I HAVE now to deal with three provisionals, caused by the demand for a twopenny stamp to pay the postal rates for a double letter in Levuka, or for single letters under $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. sent to the Islands or to any of the Australian Colonies.

The issue of October, 1874, provided a large stock of 3d. stamps for which there was practically no demand, except for letters costing 9d. (6d. + 3d.) sent per Torres Straits and Brindisi, or two 3d. may have sometimes been used to pay the usual 6d. rate for long-distance letters.

The earliest records of these stamps I can find in contemporary journals are as follows:—

- 2d. in *black* on 3d., green, *Le Timbre-Poste*, November, 1875, and January, 1876.
- 2d. „ *red* „ „ „ February, 1876.
- 2d. on 6d., *rose*, *Alfred Smith & Co.'s Monthly Circular*, January, 1877.

The earliest dated copies I have seen are:—

- 2d. in *black* on 3d., green, Jan. 10, 1876.
- 2d. „ *red* „ My. 6, 1875 (also May 20th and 26th).
- 2d. on 6d., *rose*, De. 13, 1875.

In January, 1876, Monsieur J. B. Moens received sheets of the 1d. blue, and 6d. rose, "V.R." stamps, and of the 2d. in *black* on 3d., green. These must have left Fiji quite three months earlier, so the 2d. in *black* was certainly issued and in use about September, 1875. I have several copies of the 2d. in *red* dated in May, 1875, and although the *red* 2d. was noted in Europe after the *black*, I think it was certainly the first one that was issued.

Now let us turn to Appendix I, and see what can be learnt from the official figures and dates.

The following are the particulars:—

- 2d. on 3d., first issue, September 30th, 1875. Number issued, 36,000.
- 2d. „ 6d. „ November 20th, 1875. „ 15,000.

Here are two statements about the 2d. on 3d. which are equally bothering. The date of the first issue is given as September 30th, 1875, but I have several copies dated *May* in that year; and the other statement is as to the number printed.

This 2d., both in red and in black, was surcharged on the balance of the stock of the 3d., green, issued in October, 1874.

The total number of stamps of the 3d., green, is given in Appendix I as 29,350; no doubt at least 2000 or 3000 were used, so how could there be 36,000 to be converted into 2d. stamps?

If the figures are right, then a further printing of 3d. stamps must have been made before the 2d. could be printed upon them. This is not likely, as I do not see where the 3d. stamps could come from. On the annexation of October 10th, 1874, no doubt all the stamps on hand were overprinted "V.R."—there is, of course, just a chance that a further supply of the "cents" issue of 1872 arrived in Fiji, from Sydney, after the annexation, but I can find no trace of them, and I do not think it is at all likely. Unfortunately the Sydney records of 1875 are not available, or the difficulty might be cleared up.

It seems likely that an error of 10,000 has been made, and only 26,000 2d. on 3d. stamps issued; if so, this leaves 3350 used as 3d. stamps, a very probable number from the rarity of the 3d.

Failing further information about the exact date of issue of these provisionals, I will accept the earliest dated copies for the 2d., in red, on 3d., and the official dates for the other two.

These dates will therefore be:—

May (?), 1875, 2d., in red, on 3d., green.*

September 30th, 1875, 2d., in black, on 3d., green.*

November 20th, 1875, 2d. on 6d., rose.

PLATING THE 2D. ON 3D. PROVISIONALS.

At first I thought I should never be able to plate these stamps, as I was unable to get together enough material in the stamps of 1871 and 1872 to reconstruct a plate of either of those issues, and without this aid I could not commence plating the provisionals. Luckily about two years ago I was able to purchase two large blocks of the 3d., green, 1871, one of fifteen and the other of eighteen stamps, and then by the aid of a sheet of the imperf. remainders of the "Twopence" on 3d., laid paper, I completed the sheet, which I reproduce by the photogravure process on Plate VI, as this plate will be essential for any one who wishes to plate these stamps.

The method of plating is exactly similar to that which I adopted in the case of the 1d. and 6d. stamps of 1874.

The position of stamps in the middle row is fixed by the watermark; then I have photographs of a block of four and two pairs, forming connecting links between the middle and upper or lower rows (see Plate X).

The upper row of the sheet with "V.R." Gothic, and the bottom row on the sheet with "V.R." Roman, always have the outside edge of the stamps blurred, so that I can with the greatest ease separate a stamp belonging to these rows from any other row in the sheet.

We thus get the position on the sheet settled of all stamps on the middle row and any other stamp fixed as belonging to one or the other of the four remaining

* It should be remembered that both of these are included in the number given above as issued on the 30th September, 1875, and that some three-fourths, or more, of the whole number would appear to have had the surcharge in red.

rows, and we therefore only have ten stamps to examine in any particular row in order to find flaws by which to fix the exact position.

I may say at once that this is a most difficult stamp to plate; the flaws on it are not nearly so pronounced as in the case of the 1d., blue, and I have often spent a couple of hours before I could be sure of the position of a certain stamp.

The "2d." was type-set and overprinted on the sheets of 3d., green, of 1874, therefore the varieties I list in that issue recur in this, and this enables us to at once fix the positions of stamps Nos. 26, 28, 29, 30, and 43 on the plate.

The surcharge "2d." being printed separate from the "V.R." may be found in all kinds of positions, sometimes over and at other times under the "V.R."

I note a few of the more prominent fixed flaws found on the 3d., green.

- No. 1. Three white spaces in background between circle and base of crown.
- „ 2. White space on right between outer circle and triangular ornament.
- „ 3. Thin white line under first "E" in "PENCE" to edge of stamp.
- „ 4. Thin white line under second "E" in "THREE."
- „ 5. White dot in left margin opposite "P."
- „ 7. White space under "N" in "PENCE."
- „ 8. White dot in centre of downstroke of "P" in "POSTAGE."
- „ 9. White space over second "E" in "PENCE."
- „ 10. White dot under "E" in "POSTAGE."
- „ 11. Triangular ornament on right, blurred in upper angle.
- „ 14. White dot in downstroke of "P" in "PENCE."
- „ 15. Line over "F" in "FIJI" broken.
- „ 16. Outer frame on left side 5 mm. from top badly broken.
- „ 17. White spot under "E" in "POSTAGE."
- „ 18. Irregular white blob in front of the "C." of "C.R."
- „ 19. Two small white dots in left outer frame opposite the triangular ornaments.
- „ 20. Outer frame broken on top of left upper corner.
- „ 21 to 30. Plate by wmk. and varieties in the "V.R." and stops.
- „ 31. White space under second "I" in "FIJI" in inner circle.
- „ 32. Left limb of "N" in "PENCE" broken by a white line.
- „ 33. White spot under "J" in "FIJI."
- „ 34. White dot over "F" in "FIJI."
- „ 35. Small white spot just above upper angle of right triangular ornament.
- „ 39. White space in back of "C" in "PENCE."
- „ 40. Full stop after first "E" in "PENCE."
- „ 41. White space under downstroke of "R" in "C.R."
- „ 42. White space inside lower curve of "C" in "C.R."
- „ 43. Large white irregular space between upper left corner ornament and central circle.
- „ 44. Small coloured dot outside right-hand margin about 4 mm. from top.
- „ 45. Small white dot in downstroke of "P" in "POSTAGE."
- „ 47. Left bottom corner broken off.
- „ 48. White line under first "E" in "PENCE" to outer border.
- „ 49. Three white dots in base of crown and white dot above and between the two letters "E" in "THREE."
- „ 50. Speck of colour in central background near upper curl of "C."

VARIETIES IN THE SURCHARGE.

In the setting of the "2d." the printer made two errors, which occur both in the red and the black surcharge. Stamp No. 2 has no stop after the "d", and No. 47 has the stop between the "2" and the "d," thus, "2.d"; both these are equally rare, as only one of each occurs in each sheet.

I have now to refer to two stamps on the plate which have caused me a lot of trouble, but, I think, I have solved the matter.

Turn back to Plates VIII and IX and you will see that stamp No. 28 has a round, raised stop after "V." and ordinary stop after "R." Stamp No. 29 on these plates has round, raised stops after the "V." and "R." Both these stamps can be easily identified, as No. 28 is wmk. "G" and No. 29 wmk. "E." The latter stamp in the 3d. has also a slightly broken outer frame at the bottom, about 2 mm. from the left side.

Now in my collection, and also in that of one of my friends, I find 2d. on 3d., No. 28, with both stops normal in place of one round, raised stop, and I have No. 29 with stops normal in place of two round, raised stops. I have also one of these stamps on the plate of 2d. on 3d. with the errors as in the printing of 1874, and have seen the other one.

I think there can be only one explanation of these varieties, and that is that in the course of printing these provisionals the printer noted the errors in the stops and corrected them. I have only seen the errors of stops on the 2d. in red, which is a further proof that the red was the first colour used for the surcharge.

I would also draw attention to stamp No. 34 on Plate X. It will be noticed that it is surcharged "R." only, the "V." seems to be missing. Under a strong glass I can see traces of the outline of the "V" and the stop, and I consider that probably a thin piece of paper got between the "V" and the sheet and took up the impression, and probably this particular stamp is unique; I do not think it is a fixed variety or one that should be listed, although as it occurs on my plate it is necessary to draw attention to it.

I also draw attention to stamp No. 8 on Plate X; this has the "V" low, but the stop after the "V" in its correct place.

In *Oceania* the 2d., in black, with Gothic "V.R.", is listed without stops after both the "V" and "R." I still want five varieties on my plate in the Gothic stamps, and it may be one of these, but I cannot find a specimen in any collection.

FORGERIES.

I have not seen any really good forgeries of the 2d. provisionals, except some so-called errors, viz. 2d., in red, on 3d. with the "V.R." omitted; these are probably bogus.

"2d." ON 6d., ROSE.

When I started plating the stamps of 1874 and the 2d. on 3d. of 1875, I had no idea of plating this stamp, as it is really rare, and I thought that to get enough material to reconstruct a plate would be impossible. However, as time went on I picked up the stamps one by one, and soon made an interesting discovery. This was that the stamps with Gothic "V.R.", with inverted "A" used in place of the "V", were almost as common as those with the ordinary "V." In fact, at the moment of writing, I have before me twenty-eight 2d. on 6d. stamps; of these eleven have the inverted "A."

Now, if the "2d." had been printed on the 6d., rose, of 1874 there would be only one stamp in fifty with inverted "A", instead of this proportion.

I saw at once that there must have been a special printing, not only of the "2d." but also of the "V.R.", and I therefore determined to plate these stamps.

This has proved an exceedingly difficult task, owing to the great rarity of the stamps. In about seven years I have only been able to buy just over two dozen copies, and from the collections of various friends I have obtained six photographs. From this material I have been able to locate twenty-two out of the fifty stamps on the sheet, and I show these on Plate XI.

In all these stamps the relative position of the "2d." and the "V.R." is exactly the same, proving that both overprints ("2d." and "V.R.") were printed at the same time.

Judging from the part plate I have made up, I find that the *general* plan of this printing is similar to that of the stamps of 1874.

The three upper rows are probably all Gothic "V.R.", and the two lower are mostly Roman "V.R.", but I have No. 34 with Gothic "V.R."; here the similarity ends.

The stamps I have with normal Gothic "V.R." and stops are Nos. 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 19 on the sheet.

With inverted "A" used for "V" and normal stops, Nos. 3, 18, 34.

With inverted "A" used for "V" and round, raised stop after "V", normal stop after "R", Nos. 23, 26, 28.

With inverted "A" used for "V" and round, raised stops after "V" and "R", Nos. 22, 29.

With inverted "A" used for "V", round, raised stop after "V", and round stop inverted after "R", No. 30.

In the Roman "V.R." so far I have not found any varieties.

At least one sheet was surcharged twice. I show two copies (Nos. 3 and 18) on Plate XI, both having inverted "A" used for "V", and I have seen four others in various collections, some of which have varieties of stops as above.

FORGERIES.

I have one good forgery. The "2" is rather too short and a trifle thick; it is printed on a genuine Gothic "V.R.", but is *close* to the "V.R.", which cannot occur in the genuine (see No. 3, Plate XV).

REFERENCE LIST.

PLATE X.

Surplus stock of the 3d. stamps of October, 1874, surcharged in Levuka with "2d." in red (R.) or in black (B.).

May (?), 1875. Red surcharge.

September 30th, 1875. Black surcharge.

2d. on 3d., green, Types a and b surcharged in R. or B.

These stamps, in both colours of surcharge, exist with the following varieties:—

- (1) No stop after "R". No. 13 on sheet.
- (2) *Cross pattée* stop after V. No. 26 on sheet.
- (3) Round, raised stop after "V", ordinary stop after "R." No. 28 on sheet.
- (4) Round, raised stops after "V" and "R." No. 29 on sheet.
- (5) Inverted "A" used for "V." No. 30 on sheet.
- (6) No stop after "R". No. 43 on sheet.
- (7) No stop after "2d". No. 2 on sheet.
- (8) Stop between "2" and "d," thus, "2.d." No. 47 on sheet.
- (9) "V" low, but stop normal position. No. 8 on sheet.

Number of both red and black surcharge, 26,000 (official records say 36,000).

PLATE XI.

November 20th, 1875. Stamps of 12 c. on 6d., rose, of 1872, overprinted, in Levuka, "2d." and "V.R." in one operation.

2d. in black on 6d., rose (a and b).

VARIETIES.

- (1) Double surcharge (a and b).
- (2) Inverted "A" used for "V" (a).
- (3) Do. and round, raised stop after "V" (a).
- (4) Do. do. after "V" and "R" (a).
- (5) Do. and round, raised stop after "V", and round stop inverted and at top after "R" (a).

NOTE.—The doubly surcharged also must have existed with varieties Nos. 2 to 5 inclusive.

Number surcharged, 15,000.

CHAPTER VII.

THE "V.R." MONOGRAM ISSUE.



WE now return to the consideration of stamps printed and surcharged in Sydney, and I am glad to say that from this date onwards my friend Mr. A. F. Basset Hull has been able to send me copious notes and extracts from the books of the printers and elsewhere.

As I shall have to publish letters, bills, etc., from various persons and firms, I had better explain the positions of the people referred to.

Mr. Thomas Richards was the Government Printer and Inspector of Postage Stamps in Sydney until about 1890.

Mr. Charles Potter was Government Printer in Sydney from early in 1890.

Mr. W. A. Gullick was Government Printer from early in 1897.

Messrs. Greville & Co., of Sydney, were the local agents for the Fiji Government, until November, 1876, when *Messrs. John and Robert Sands*, of Sydney, obtained that position.

Mr. Wm. Bell was an engraver and die-sinker, employed by Mr. Thos. Richards.

The Hon. Sir John B. Thurston, K.C.M.G., was first Auditor-General, then Colonial Secretary, and afterwards Governor of the Fiji Islands.

No. 1.

"GOVT. PRINTING OFFICE,

"17th December, 1875.

"MY DEAR SIR,—The cost of printing the Fiji Stamps (1200) sheets is £5 10s. Would you kindly send cash for enclosed* Account (10s.), which is included in the total?

"Yours truly,

"(Sgd.) THOS. RICHARDS.

"E. GREVILLE, Esq., M.P."

No. 2. "1876, 24th April. Receipt. Wm. Bell, 10s., amount due for engraving initials on Plate Fiji P. stamps."

* "Mr. Richards,

"To Wm. Bell,

"Engraver and Die-sinker.

"To engraving plate for 'Fiji' Stamps 10/-."

- No. 3. "25.2.76. Order from Greville & Co. for 20,000 1d., 10,000 6d.
Received 9th March. (Cost memo.)

1200 sheets, 1800 pulls, 2 pressmen. Paper: 200			
sheets C.W., medium post	0	6	3
Lithographing 1200 sheets ("V.R.")	1	10	0
Printing	2	10	0
Gumming	1	12	0
Perforating	2	0	0"

- No. 4. "1876. Memo. of stamps supplied.

 " March 9th. 400 1d. (sheets).
 200 6d. "
 June 27th. 400 1d. "
 200 6d. "

 "I think there were some printed previous to Mar., '76, and paid for at same time. I have no a/c of them. J. S."

- No. 5. "1876, 10th Nov. We have resigned the agency of the Fiji Govt., and it has been transferred to Mr. John Sands. We therefore should feel obliged by your holding the Fijian postage stamp dies on their account and at their disposal.

 "Yours, &c.,

 "GREVILLE & COY."

- No. 6. "1876, 10th Nov. Order from John Sands for
 20,000 6d.
 30,000 2d.
 120,000 1d.,

bearing the same imprint as those hitherto printed for Messrs. Greville & Co.

Received the above (no date). A/c rendered 4.12.76."

- No. 7 "6th Dec, 1876. Received from Mr. C. Potter, acting Government Printer, the undermentioned obsolete Fiji stamps, namely:—

 300 at One Penny.

 300 at Three Pence.

 300 at Sixpence.

(All without surcharge 'V.R.').

 "THOS. RICHARDS.

 "The above were authorized by the Hon. Mr. Thurston, of Fiji."

- No. 8. "22nd Aug., 1877. Order from Sands for

 1200 sheets 6d.

 1000 ,, 4d.

 "The last issue will necessarily be surcharged with the 'V.R.' and the words 'Four Pence' in black letters. The colour of the fourpenny stamp is to be like the N.S.W. 6d. one."

No. 9. "21st Sept., 1877. Received from the Acting-Inspector of Postage Stamps the following Fiji postage stamps, viz.:—

50,000 Fourpenny.*
60,000 Sixpenny.

"JOHN SANDS."

No. 10. "Amongst the non-current stamps forwarded to the Colonial Secretary, Fiji, in response to his request of 7th March, 1888, were the following:—

- 70 sheets One Penny at 50 on a sheet (printed from 'C.R.' plate with 'V.R.' in black).
- 65 sheets Two Pence at 50 on a sheet (printed from Three Pence 'C.R.' plate with 'V.R.' and surcharge 'Twopence' in black).
- 10 sheets Three Pence at 50 on a sheet (printed from 'C.R.' plate with 'V.R.' in black).
- 16 sheets Four Pence at 50 on a sheet (printed from Three Pence 'C.R.' plate with 'V.R.' and surcharge 'Fourpence' in black).
- 92 sheets Six Pence at 50 on a sheet (printed from 'C.R.' plate with 'V.R.' in black)."

The above extracts, which I number in the margin for purposes of reference, are all I have been able to get in Sydney.

Let us turn to Appendix I and see how far we can fit in dates and numbers with the above incomplete information.

The figures with which we are concerned are as follows:—

	No. issued.
1d., "C.R." (?) surcharged; issued 31st January, 1876	. 20,000
1d. " " " 22nd May "	. 20,000
1d. " " " 12th July "	. 20,000
1d. " " " 5th January, 1877	. 120,000
2d. on 3d. " 31st January, 1876	. 30,000
" " " 5th January, 1877	. 30,000
4d. " 3d. " 12th October "	. 50,000
6d., "C.R." " 31st January, 1876	. 10,000
6d. " " 22nd May "	. 10,000
6d. " " 12th July "	. 10,000
6d. " " 5th January, 1877	. 20,000
6d. " " 12th October "	. 100,000

How do these figures compare with the Sydney entries?

December 17th, 1875. 1200 sheets (each sheet is 50 stamps) = 60,000 stamps
(see Letter No. 1). This exactly agrees with the *issue* of 31st January, 1876,
viz.:—

1d.	20,000
2d. on 3d.	30,000
6d.	10,000
	<u>60,000</u>

* Printed from the 3d. plate, surcharged with word "Fourpence."

- March 9th, 1876. Order for 20,000 1d. and 10,000 of 6d. These agree with the numbers issued on May 22nd (see No. 3).
- June 27th, 1876. 20,000 of 1d. and 10,000 of 6d. These agree with the issues on July 12th (see No. 4).
- Nov. 10th, 1876. 120,000 1d., 30,000 2d., and 20,000 6d. These agree with the issues of January 5th, 1877 (see No. 6).
- Aug. 22nd, 1877. 50,000 4d., 60,000 6d. These are the issues of October 12th, 1877 (see No. 8.), and one notices that the number of 4d. stamps agrees; but here we have 60,000 of the 6d. stamps, whereas the Fiji records show that 100,000 were issued on October 12th. I can only presume that another parcel of 40,000 stamps was sent from Sydney, of which no entry now exists in the books there.

Wove and Laid papers.

Collectors know that this issue appeared on two different kinds of paper, and I now want to see if we can decide which of the above printings were on wove and which on laid paper.

I have a 6d. on *wove* dated "Feb. 18. 76," only six days after they were first issued, and a 1d. dated "— 1876." These prove the wove paper was first used.

The earliest chronicle of any of these stamps on *laid* paper is in *Le Timbre-Poste*, July, 1877, for the 1d.; the earliest dated copy I have on laid is July 19th, 1877. I think, therefore, I shall be correct in stating that the earliest *laid* paper used was for the issue of 5th January, 1877.

From this we get the numbers of each stamp on both papers which were actually issued.

Wove paper.

1d., first issued 31st January, 1876; total number issued	. 60,000
2d. on 3d. " " " " " "	. 30,000
6d. " " " " " "	. 30,000

Laid paper.

1d., first issued January 5th, 1877; total number issued	. 120,000
2d. on 3d. " " " " " "	. 30,000
4d. " 3d. " " October 12th, 1877	. 50,000
6d. " " January 5th, 1877	. 120,000

The "V.R." Monogram.

The "V.R." monogram was engraved by Mr. Wm. Bell at a cost of 10s. (Letter No. 1); from this lithographic transfers were taken, and the "V.R." was printed on plain paper at a cost of £1 10s. for 1200 sheets (No. 3).

Up to the present time I think it has been accepted by collectors that this "V.R.," in black, was printed *on* the stamps, but this is quite wrong, the stamps are printed on the "V.R.;" but the jet black of the "V.R." is so strong that it comes *through* the ultramarine, the green, or the rose, of the stamps, and appears to be printed upon the stamps.

I have a sheet of 50 of these "V.R.s" lithographed on plain wove paper, and I have various blocks of waste 6d. imperf. in which, through folds in the paper, the "V.R." can be shown to be printed before the colour of the stamp.

Varieties.

There are a number of interesting varieties to be found in these stamps, which I propose to group under two headings—"Issued Stamps" and "Printer's Waste."

In the varieties in issued stamps I note the following:—

1d., ultramarine.

Wove paper. (a) Stamp double printed, the one impression nearly 2 mm. below the other. I have this unused and have seen it used. (Plate XIV, No. 8.)



(c)

(b) Horizontal pair, imperf. vertically and perf. horizontally.

(c) Void corner. The first stamp on left in second row of each sheet (No. 11) has the cliché broken in left upper corner.

Laid paper. (a) Horizontal pair, imperf. vertically and perf. horizontally.

(b) Void corner, as in the wove paper.

2d. on 3d., green.

Laid paper. (a) Through very defective inking, or perhaps through the plate being greasy, the lower part of some stamps does not show any green colour or design, and the surcharge "Two Pence" appears on a white background.

(b) Perf. 10.

(c) Perf. 11.

These two stamps are great puzzles. The 10 gauge came into use in New South Wales about 1881 and the 11 gauge about 1885. Now these stamps of 2d. on 3d. were issued in 1876 and 1877, at least four years before the 10 machine came into use.

One of these stamps I found in the stock of our publishers and the other in a specialized collection of Fiji which I bought. They are the only specimens I have either seen or heard of with these perforations, and whatever they may be they are of extreme rarity. It seems possible that at two different periods odd sheets of imperf. stamps were found in Sydney and perforated by the machines then in use and forwarded to Fiji without any record being taken.

4d. on 3d., mauve.

Laid paper. Horizontal pair, imperf. vertically and perf. horizontally.

6d., rose.

Wove paper. (a) Double printed, but the second impression is only about $\frac{3}{4}$ mm. below the first, and the general appearance is of a blurred impression.

(b) Horizontal pair, imperf. vertically but perf. horizontally.

Printer's Waste.

Under this heading I propose to list all the varieties that I have met with which I believe were never issued in the state in which they are found.

Refer to Letter No. 7 at commencement of this chapter. Here is a note of 300 stamps each of 1d., 3d., and 6d. without the surcharge "V.R." Probably these stamps were specially ordered by Mr. Thurston for specimen purposes. They are on laid paper, and I have as follows:—

1d., ultramarine ;	perf. 12½.
3d., pale yellow-green	„ „
3d. „ „	imperf.
3d. „ „	pair, imperf. vertically.
6d., rose ;	perf. 12½.
6d., deep rose ;	„
3d., green, on wove paper, without surcharge	"Two Pence."

I have this last in pale yellow-green and deep green, perf. 12½ ; also imperf. This is noted in the *Philatelic Record*, October, 1880.

In the Tapling Collection there is a vertical pair imperf., the upper stamp without "V.R." and the lower stamp with "V.R."

In the same collection there is a pair imperf. vertically and perf. horizontally.

In the collection of Mr. W. W. Mann there is a specimen of the 6d., deep rose, with a genuine postmark. It is the only stamp of this series I have ever seen used, but I doubt if they were ever on sale to the public.

The Crown Agents for the Colonies issued the following circular in May, 1889:—

"NON-CURRENT POSTAGE STAMPS.

"The Government of Fiji has requested the Crown Agents for the Colonies to dispose of a quantity of non-current postage stamps of that colony, and they will receive tenders for their purchase up to the 17th day of June next.

"The stamps are believed to be of the following description and quantities:—

1. 3244 3d., green ; 'C.R.' overprinted 'V.R.' and surcharged 'Two Pence,' in black.
2. 11,895 3d., green ; 'V.R.' surcharged 'Two Pence,' in black.
3. 495 3d., green ; 'C.R.' with 'V.R.' overprinted, in black.
4. 146 3d., green ; 'C.R.'
5. 796 3d., purple ; 'C.R.' overprinted 'V.R.' and surcharged 'Four Pence,' in black.
6. 4496 6d., red ; 'C.R.' overprinted 'V.R.', in black.
7. 46 6d., red ; 'C.R.'
8. 3495 1d., blue ; 'C.R.' overprinted 'V.R.', in black.

"Tenders must state the price offered for the stamps if printed across with the word 'SPECIMEN,' and also the price if not so printed.

"The several parcels cannot be broken up, and the stamps must be tendered for in bulk, and tenderers must take all responsibility in connection with the quantities, condition, and description of the stamps sold. A specimen taken from each parcel can be seen on application at the Crown Agents' offices.

"OFFICES OF THE CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES,
"DOWNING STREET, S. W., May, 1889."

See also "Extract No. 10," *ante*.

In commenting on this the *Philatelic Record* for May, 1889, states that some of these sheets were perforated and some not perforated.

This stock was purchased by Mr. Thompson, of Bishop Auckland, and it consisted of all the remains of obsolete issues from Sydney and from Fiji, and it is from this source that most of the imperf. printer's waste or unfinished sheets have come on to the market.

The following are varieties that I have met with :—



Wove paper.

1d., ultramarine.	Imperf.	
1d. "	"	double printed.
1d. "	"	void corner.
1d. "	"	"V.R." inverted.
"Two Pence" on 3d., deep green.	Imperf.	
" " "	"	"Two Pence" double.
" " "	"	" inverted.
6d., pale rose.	"	
6d., carmine-rose.	"	
6d. "	"	"V.R." inverted.
6d. "	"	"V.R." sideways.

Laid paper.

1d., bright ultramarine.	Imperf.	
1d. "	"	double printed.
1d. "	"	void corner.
1d. "	"	"V.R." inverted.
1d. "	"	" and void corner.
"Two Pence" on 3d., green.	"	
3d., green.	"	without "Two Pence"
6d., pale rose.	"	
6d., carmine-rose.	"	
"Four Pence" on 3d., mauve.	"	
3d., mauve.	"	without "Four Pence."

October 12th, 1877. Horizontally *laid* paper. Perf. 12½.
4d. on 3d., mauve.

Variety.

4d. on 3d., perf. × imperf.

Number issued.

4d. on 3d. 50,000

For unissued stamps and printer's waste see list in this chapter.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE "V.R." ENGRAVED.



THE following are all the letters and extracts bearing on this issue that I have been able to obtain from Sydney :—

" 21st February, 1878.

No. 11. " R. SANDS, Esq.

" DEAR SIR,—I mentioned to you a short time back that I had commenced a set of new postage plates for the Fiji Government, and that I had altered the die, or first engraving, by taking out the 'C' which represents Cakabou and inserting in its stead 'V', which represents 'Victoria,' my object being to get rid of the lithograph surcharge 'V.R.', which, as well as being unsightly, adds much to the cost of production of the stamps. I wish you to give your provisional approval for the work, and proofs of the altered plates will be ready shortly for submission to the authorities of Fiji. The cost will be just the bare wages of the man employed and the material used.

" THOS. RICHARDS,
" Govt. Printer."

" I approve of the steps that have been taken in this matter as herein set forth.

" 21/2/78.

ROBERT SANDS."

No. 12.

"GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, SYDNEY,

"6th August, 1878.

"SIR,—With reference to the recommendation I made to you some time ago, in which you concurred, to have the initial letters on the Fiji stamps altered from 'C.R.' to 'V.R.', I now beg to hand you proof of the plates (1d., 3d., 6d.) as so altered, with the request that you will submit them for the approval of the Government of Fiji.

"The surcharge 'V.R.' was always difficult to print satisfactorily, and it involved the expense of a double printing. The new plates contain 100 labels each, being twice the number of the old plates, so that in both ways there will in future be relatively a large economy in the production of the stamps.

"The cost of making the plates is £30, for which I enclose account.

"I have the honour to be,

"Sir,

"Your most obedient servant,

"(Sgd.) THOMAS RICHARDS.

"ROBERT SANDS, ESQ."

No. 13.

"COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE, LEVUKA,

"16th September, 1878.

"SIR,—I am instructed by the Governor to acknowledge your letter of the 6th ultimo, covering proof sheets of the Fijian Postage Stamps with the altered initials from 'C.R.' to 'V.R.', as suggested by you during my last visit to Sydney, and to thank you very much both for your courteous attention in the matter and for the economic advantages which the new plates possess.

"2. I observe, however, that the value of the green-coloured stamp is retained as fixed at the time the old plates were engraved for the Fijian Government, that is to say, at 'Threepence,' and not altered to 'Twopence,' the value with which it has been surcharged since the date of annexation. The denomination as it now stands would be extremely inconvenient as not according with our Postal Tariff, and I shall feel obliged by your informing me whether the word 'Threepence' can in any way be altered to 'Twopence.'

"3. Since your absence from New South Wales a lilac-coloured stamp has been issued, bearing the surcharge 'Fourpence,' and I shall be glad to know to what sum the cost of the new plate containing 100 multiples of that value would amount.

"I have the honour to be,

"Sir,

"Your obedient servant,

"JOHN B. THURSTON."

No. 14.

"GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, SYDNEY,

"24th December, 1878.

"SIR,—I do myself the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th September last on the subject of Postage Stamp Plates, and to inform you in reply that when it came to hand I was on the point of leaving town and, not having time to write myself, I requested Mr. Sands to be good enough when communicating with you to say that the stamp plates mentioned could be supplied by me, and that the cost would be £10 per plate.

"I only learned yesterday that this information had not been made to you by Mr. Sands, and hasten now to rectify the oversight and to apologize for it.

"I estimate the plates will be ready in about a month's time.

"I have the honour to be,

"Sir,

"Your most obedient servant,

"THE HONOURABLE J. B. THURSTON,
"COLONIAL SECRETARY, ETC., FIJI."

"THOMAS RICHARDS.

No. 15.

"GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, SYDNEY,

"24th April, 1879.

"SIR,—In compliance with the request contained in your letter of the 16th September last, I have the honour to inform you that I have had made Twopenny and Fourpenny plates of 100 labels each for printing Fiji Postage Stamps, and of which I now beg to submit proofs in duplicate.

"The cost of the two plates is £22 (twenty-two pounds).

"I have the honour to be,

"Sir,

"Your most obedient servant,

"THE HONOURABLE J. B. THURSTON,
"COLONIAL SECRETARY, FIJI."

"THOMAS RICHARDS.

No. 16.

"GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, SYDNEY,

"17th May, 1879.

"SIR,—I do myself the honour to inform you that in compliance with a request contained in a letter received from the Honorable J. B. Thurston, Colonial Secretary, Fiji, I have caused plates to be made for printing Twopenny and Fourpenny Fiji Postage Stamps, proofs of which I forwarded to Mr. Thurston for his approval on the 24th ultimo.

"Enclosed herewith is a detailed statement of your account with this Department to date.

"I have the honour to be,

"Sir,

"Your obedient servant,

"R. SANDS, Esq.,
"George Street."

"(Sgd.) THOS. RICHARDS.

Copy of an account forwarded with Government Printer's letter of the 17th May, 1879.



" PHILLIP STREET, SYDNEY,

" 17th May, 1879.

" R. Sands, Esq.,
" George Street.

		Amount.	Total.
" 1877.			
Sept. 20.	To printing Fiji Stamps (Govt.)	15 8 0	
1878.			
Augst. 6.	„ Altering 3 Wood engravings 'C.R.' to 'V.R.' and making Electro- plates for printing 1d., 3d., and 6d. Fiji Postage Stamps, 100 each	33 0 0	
Octr. 1.	„ Printing 400 sheets Fiji Stamps	2 16 0	
1879.			
Febry. 19.	„ Printing Fiji Stamps.	3 0 0	
May 9.	„ Making Plate for Printing Two- penny Fiji Postage Stamps—100 labels	11 0 0	
	„ „ Fourpenny	11 0 0	76 4 0
1879.			
May 16.	„ By amount for altering by mistake wood Engraving and making plate for Printing 3d. Postage Stamps	11 0 0	11 0 0
			£65 4 0"

No. 17.

" GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, SYDNEY,

" 29th January, 1890.

" SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 20th ultimo, I do myself the honour to inform you that I have this day shipped per the A.U.S.N. Co.'s s.s. *Tenterden* a case containing the 1d., 3d., and 6d. plates of the non-current 'C.R.' Fiji Postage Stamps (50 labels on each plate).

" Enclosed, herewith, is a proof in black ink and on yellow paper of a 4d. 'V.R.' Postage Stamp plate, which was left in an unfinished state by my predecessor, and will, with your permission, use it in printing future issues of the 4d. stamp, and so save the extra print of the surcharge.

" I have the honor to be,

" Sir,

" Your most obedient servant,

" CHARLES POTTER,

" Government Printer.

" P.S.—Shipping receipt herewith.

" THE HONOURABLE THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,

" SUVA, FIJI."

No. 18.

"SUVA, 14th March, 1890.

"SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 29th January and of the dies of the non-current postage stamps, the dispatch of which was intimated therein.

"With respect to the 'Four' pence (4d.) 'V.R.' Postage Stamp plate, a proof sheet of which was enclosed in your letter, I am to ask you that you will do as you propose. I am further directed to thank you for the trouble you have taken with regard to these matters.

"I have the honour to be,

"Sir,

"Your most obedient servant,

"(Sigd.) X— X—,

"For the Colonial Secretary.

"THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER, SYDNEY."

I now append a list of the printings of the 1d., 2d., 4d., and 6d. stamps as shown in the books of the Government Printer, Sydney.

Date of Supply.	1d.	2d.	4d.	6d.
19 Feb., 1879	50,000	—	—	—
1 Sept. "	50,000	25,000	—	—
28 April, 1880	50,000	—	—	—
30 July "	—	25,000	—	10,000
25 Nov. "	200,000	25,000	—	—
11 April, 1881	—	50,000 *	—	30,000
4 June "	—	50,000	—	—
20 Oct. "	—	50,000	—	30,000
11 May, 1882	200,000	—	—	—
19 Sept. "	—	100,000	—	—
23 May, 1883	—	100,000	50,000	—
12 July "	200,000	—	—	—
17 April, 1884	—	100,000	—	—
11 March, 1885	200,000	100,000	—	50,000
14 Nov. "	—	50,000	—	—
3 Sept., 1886.	100,000	100,000	—	—
13 March, 1888	—	50,000	2,500	—
7 Nov. "	50,000	50,000	5,000	—
22 May, 1889	—	50,000	10,000	—
			(Sur.) 67,500	
29 Jan., 1890	50,000	50,000	Sur. on 1d. 10,000	—
13 Sept., 1890	50,000	50,000	10,000	—
3 April, 1891	50,000	50,000	—	—
4 Feb., 1892	—	50,000	—	10,000
8 June "	50,000	—	—	—
6 July "	—	50,000	—	—
18 Aug. "	25,000	—	20,000	—
14 Feb., 1893	—	—	—	—
14 July, 1896	—	—	—	20,000
19 Feb., 1901	—	—	25,000	25,000
	—	—	25,000	25,000
	1,325,000	1,175,000	(Unsur.) 80,000	200,000

* Error printed in blue.

Perf. 10 × 12.

I have a 2d. Fiji with this perforation dated 14th October, 1886, and a 1d. New South Wales is known dated 1885; the date 1883 in our publishers' Catalogue is, I think, a printer's error for 1885, as I can find no earlier use of the "12" machine than the latter date.

Perf. 10 × 12½.

This is, again, a perforation due to the use of two single-line machines, the 12½ and 10. I have it on stamps dated 1882-3-4-5; but the stamps are all rare, and the two machines were probably only used during times of great pressure in the Government Printing Office.

Perf. 11 × 10.

The 2d. was formerly listed perf. 11 × 10, but I have never seen it and cannot find an authentic record. I have several 1d. used in 1893, the earliest dated May 4th. The 11 perf. is known on New South Wales stamps as early as April, 1886; but apparently no Fiji stamps were perforated by this machine before 1893.

Perf. 11.

The 4d. in the new colour and the 6d. in both old and new colours come with this perforation. The earliest I have are the 4d. dated "Apr. 99" and 6d. "Sep. 9. 97."



One sheet of the 6d. was issued printed on both sides. I have seen copies dated "Dec. 1899" and "12 Jan. 1900." Above I give illustrations of the front and back of one stamp.

*Perf. 11 × nearly 12.**

This perforation was used from some time in 1900. The 4d. comes in two distinct colours, red-lilac and violet, and the 6d. in dull and bright rose.

With this perforation new plates of the 4d. and 6d. were made by means of electrotypes taken from the old wooden dies; traces of the circular plug are still quite distinct in both values.

The old plates had the stamps arranged in panes made up of five horizontal rows, each consisting of ten stamps. These new plates are in two panes of 50 stamps each, but each in *ten* horizontal rows of 5 stamps.

* Under this heading are included all the stamps formerly catalogued as *perfs.* 12 × 11, 11 × 12, 11 × 11½, or 11½ × 11. They are all compounds of *perf.* 11 with that of the machine gauging *nearly* 12, which has sometimes been measured as 11½ and sometimes as 12.

THE DIES AND PLATES.

Some four years ago, when I was studying this issue, I noticed traces of a white circle round the "V" of the monogram, and I had enlarged photographs made of the centres of each stamp and companion ones of the original issue of 1871.

I reproduce these on Plate XII.

In letter No. 11 Mr. Thomas Richards, writing to Mr. R. Sands, mentions that "he had altered the die or first engraving by taking out the 'C' and inserting in its place 'V,' my object being to get rid of the lithographic surcharge."

On August 6th, 1878, Richards sent Sands proofs of the 1d., 3d., and 6d. so altered (Letter No. 12). The differences caused by these alterations are very visible on the stamps, and even more so on the enlarged photographs reproduced on Plate XII.

The original dies were made of a very hard wood, similar to our box-wood, perhaps this was the Australian iron-wood. A hole was drilled in the die and a plain piece of wood inserted, which was engraved by hand with the letter "V" and the lines in the background, which were made to join as well as possible with those on the original die.

In the 1d. the circle formed by the junction of the plug with the old die is very visible; it runs under the left base of the crown and cuts off the extreme end of the "R," and then is continued through the inner circle, which shows a break under the point of the "V." The extreme left curve of the "R" had to be re-engraved on the plug, and is thicker than in the original die (Plate XII, Nos. 1 and 2).

In the 3d. the junction of the plug is not so distinct as in the case of the 1d.; but I draw attention to the end of the tail of the "R," which has been entirely removed, and not re-engraved on the new plug, probably as it would have come exactly on the junction of the plug with the old die (Plate XII, Nos. 3 and 4).

In the 6d. the circle of the new plug is very distinct. The 1871 stamps had an inner hexagonal design, consisting of a thick and a thin line inside the circle. In removing the "C" portions of these lines were cut away, and the engraver omitted to re-engrave them upon his new plug. The tail of the "R" is also cut short. (Plate XII, Nos. 5 and 6.)

In Letter No. 12 it is stated that the new plates contain 100 labels each, being twice the number of the old plates.

I have full sheets of the 1d. and the 2d. on 3d. They consist of two panes, each of 50 stamps in five rows of 10; the panes are placed one above the other, with a space of 15 mm. between them.

In the 1d. sheet, No. 7 on the upper pane is raised fully 1 mm. above any other stamp in the row.

The new plate for printing the 2d., green (without the surcharge), was invoiced on May 17th, 1879, at a cost of £11. See invoice attached to Letter No. 16.

THE NEW PLATES OF THE 2D. AND 4D.

When it was decided to do away with the 2d. provisional (on 3d.), and have a plate to print stamps of 2d. without the necessity for surcharge, it was decided to utilize the old wooden die of the 3d. of 1871, and to do this the word "THREE" was cut out, and "TWO" was engraved on a new plug of wood. In doing this the fine curved lines above and below the word "THREE," were somewhat damaged, and the

word "TWO" being shorter than the word "THREE," the spaces between "POSTAGE TWO" and between "TWO" and "PENCE" are too great. (See illustrations, Plate XIII, Nos. 1 and 2.)

About 1891 this old wooden die which had proved so useful was once more resuscitated, the plug with the word "TWO" upon it was removed, a new plug, with "FOUR" engraved upon it, was inserted in its place, and the fine lines above and below the "FOUR" are still more damaged and almost disappear. (See illustration, Plate XIII, No. 3.)

I have no official information about these alterations, but I think a study of the stamps places the matter beyond dispute.

These alterations in original dies and manufacture of various new plates during a period extending over more than twenty years are, I think, unique. I cannot recall similar cases in the stamps of any other country.

Paper.

The paper for all this issue is white wove of fairly good quality, and is often found watermarked across a middle of a pane T. H. SAUNDERS. or SANDERSON, in double-lined capitals, either 13½ or 10½ mm. high.

The plate used for the 3d., green, surcharged "Two Pence" commences to show signs of wear, and in the following stamps the background is considerably worn.

Upper pane : Nos. 18, 20, 23, 34, and 36.

Lower pane : Nos. 13, 20, 31, 39, and 40.

The surcharges.

The surcharge of "Two Pence" on 3d., green, was made by means of two electrotype plates, each consisting of fifty repetitions of the words ; the two plates were used, one above the other.

The words "Two Pence" and "Four Pence" vary slightly in spacing, and I am of the opinion that the surcharge was set up in *type*, 100 times for each value, and that then electrotype plates were made from the type, and it is from these plates, and not from the type itself, that these surcharges were printed.

On the 7th March, 1883, a requisition was despatched from Fiji, including 50,000 4d. stamps. These were supplied on 23rd May, 1883, being printed in lilac from the 2d. plate, and overprinted "Four Pence," in black. The reason for using this plate was that the 4d. plate, engraved and charged for in 1879, had never been completed, and it was not till 1890 that this plate was finished and put to press.

On the 29th January, 1890, Mr. Potter (Government Printer) wrote to the Colonial Secretary, Fiji, forwarding a proof in black ink on yellow paper of a 4d. "V.R." postage stamp plate, which had been left in an unfinished state by his predecessor. He proposed to use it in printing future issues of the 4d. stamp, and so save the extra print of the surcharge. A reply was received, dated 14th March, 1890, approving of this course.

A printing of 10,000 4d. stamps was made on the same date as that of Mr. Potter's letter, but the new plate was not used for this printing, the 1d. plate being employed for a change. This variety was chronicled in *Vindin's Philatelic Monthly* for December, 1890.

THE ERROR 2D., BLUE.

I now come to the greatest rarity in all the Fiji Islands stamps, and one that I think is not known to the bulk of stamp collectors. I refer to the 2d. printed in blue instead of in green.

The history is as follows:—

On the 28th March, 1881, Mr. Thurston wrote from Fiji ordering 50,000 2d. and 30,000 6d. These were printed and shipped by the s.s. *Gunga* on the 11th April. On the 3rd May, 1881, Mr. Thurston acknowledged receipt of these stamps, but pointed out that the 2d. had been printed in *blue* instead of *green*, and asked that 50,000 of that value should be struck off in the proper colour. This was done, and the record of stamps printed contains a note as to the error of colour of the first printing.

This error is chronicled in the *London Philatelist*, December, 1892, where it states, on the authority of Messrs. Hilckes, Kirkpatrick, and Co., that only one specimen was saved, which they sold to a well-known collector for £50; they also produced official documents stating that this whole parcel of errors, with the exception of the one stamp, had been destroyed.

I have seen this particular stamp, which I think is really unique, as I am quite unable to trace a second copy.

I do not think we can class it as an issued stamp; it was never on sale at the post office, but was discovered on arrival from Sydney.

Unperforated stamps.

Some stamps of this issue certainly got out in an imperf. condition, and were used thus. I have copies of several values, with such large margins that they could not be made from perforated stamps. I illustrate some of these. (Plate XIV, Nos. 12, 13, 14, and 18.)

I have the 1d. dated Feb. 23. 1883 and 20 Ju. 1888.

2d. „ Sp. 13. 1881.

6d. „ 15 Ap. 1886, De. 21. 1887.

4d. on 2d. „ 18 Jy. 1890.

FIJI STAMPS SUPPLIED TO TONGA.

I think this is a suitable place to quote the following paragraph, which appeared in the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* for April, 1908:—

“In Tonga a post office was opened early in 1886, but no Tonga stamps were ready until August, 1886; but the authorities of Fiji supplied stamps of Fiji of the 1883 issue.

2d., pale green; perf. 10 and 10 × 12½.

6d., rose „ 10 (?).

“‘V.R.’ engraved.

“Apparently the obliterator was also obtained from Fiji, as the postmarks used on Fiji stamps in Tonga are the same as those used in Fiji.”

REFERENCE LIST.

Printed from new plates made from the original dies of 1871, but altered, and the 2d. and 4d. surcharged, all manufactured at the Government Printing Office, Sydney, in sheets of 100 stamps (two panes of 50 each). Wove paper.

Papermaker's name (T. H. Saunders, or Sanderson) in double-lined capitals extending over about seven stamps, once on each pane or each sheet.

(a) Perf. 12½.

March 14, 1879.	1d., ultramarine (pale to deep).
Oct. 17, 1878.	2d. on 3d., green.
Sept. 19, 1879.	2d., yellow-green.
(?)	2d., blue-green.
Aug. 30, 1880.	6d., rose.

(b) Perf. 10.

1881.	1d., dull blue (pale to deep).
1885.	1d., ultramarine.
1881.	2d., yellow-green.
(?)	2d., blue-green.
June 13, 1883.	4d. on 2d., reddish lilac.
1888.	4d. on 2d., mauve.
March 15, 1890.	4d. on 1d., mauve.
1891.	4d., red-lilac.
1881.	6d., pale rose.
"	6d., bright rose.

(c) Perf. 10 × 12½.

1882.	1d., dull ultramarine.
"	2d., green.
"	6d., rose.

(d) Perf. 12½ × 10.

1890 (i).	1d., bright ultramarine
-----------	-------------------------

(e) Perf. 12 × 10.

1885 (i).	1d., ultramarine.
"	2d., yellow-green.

(f) Perf. 10 × 12.

1885 (i).	1d., ultramarine.
"	2d., yellow-green.

(g) Perf. 11 × 10.

1893 (i).	1d., ultramarine.
"	4d., pale lilac.
"	6d., pale rose.
"	6d., rose.

(h) Perf. 11.

1899 (?)	4d., dull violet.
1897 (?)	6d., dull rose.
"	6d., bright rose.

Variety. Printed on both sides.

Dec., 1899. 6d., dull rose.

(i) Perf. 11 × nearly 12.

1900.	4d., red-lilac.
"	4d., violet.
"	6d., rose.
"	6d., bright rose.

(j) Imperf.

1883.	1d., ultramarine.
1881.	2d., yellow-green.
1890.	4d. on 2d., mauve.
1886.	6d., rose.

Numbers issued.

All perforations taken together.

1d.	.	.	.	.	.	1,320,000
2d. on 3d.	.	.	.	.	.	40,000
2d.	.	.	.	.	.	1,125,000
4d. on 2d.	.	.	.	.	.	67,500 (?)
4d. on 1d.	.	.	.	.	.	10,000
4d.	.	.	.	.	.	80,000
6d.	.	.	.	.	.	200,000

From the above numbers we must deduct the following stamps used for the provisionals made locally, as noted in Chapter X.

1d.	.	.	.	.	.	4,984
2d.	.	.	.	.	.	10,000
4d.	.	.	.	.	.	5,000
6d.	.	.	.	.	.	7,000

CHAPTER IX.

THE QUEEN'S HEADS 1s. AND 5s.



THE following letters, Nos. 19 to 22, are from the Sydney records :—

No. 19.

“COLONIAL SECRETARY’S OFFICE, LEVUKA,

“21st June, 1880.

“SIR,—It being found desirable, if not absolutely necessary, to have a postage stamp of a higher value than those now existing, I have the honour to request that at your earliest convenience you will have engraved and forwarded to me fifty sheets (100 labels each) of One Shilling stamps for the use of the General Post Office of this Colony.

“I have the honour to be,

“Sir,

“Your most obedient servant,

“(Sgd.) JOHN G. THURSTON.

“THOS. RICHARDS, ESQ.”

This letter is endorsed :—

“Mr. Jackson for Report. T. R. 1 Aug., '80.”

“GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE,

“July 2nd, 1880.

“NEW SHILLING POSTAGE STAMP FOR FIJI.

“SIR,—A stamp can be made on the same plan as that on which I made the Duty Stamp, using any Head (the die of which we have) combined with an original border engraved on wood.

“The cost will be about the same as the Stamp Duty Plate in proportion to the number of labels.

“Could you not make it by plugging the original Fiji engraving? T. R.”

“SIR,—I can make one by plugging, and the expense would be two or three pounds less, but I think it would not be so good a piece of work.

“A. L. JACKSON.

“5.7.80.”

“Plate completed, and 100 sheets stamps supplied therefrom. 22.9.81.

“E. K.”

No. 20

"FIJI,

"18th July, 1881.

"DEAR MR. RICHARDS,—I have shown your letter of the 4th July and its enclosed design to the Governor.

"His Excellency, and all who have seen it, think the Queen's Head beautifully executed, but there is a general consensus of opinion that the margin is heavy and spoils the excellence of the Head.

"If it is possible to shorten the stamp slightly, and to make the letters lighter, do so. If that cannot be done, then the Governor would be glad to see the scroll taken away, both below and above, as he thinks the stamp would lose some of the heaviness imparted by the size of the letters.

"The stamps you want shall be sent to you.

"Believe me,

"Very faithfully yours,

"(Sgd.) JOHN B. THURSTON."

No. 21.

"SYDNEY,

"1st August, 1881.

"DEAR MR. THURSTON,—I regret that the 1s. plate is not quite finished. If the Mail had been delayed another day I should have been able to send you a proof.

"With regard to the border, I had already made a slight alteration, which will give it a lighter appearance, and as His Royal Highness Prince Albert Victor pulled the first proof of the 'Die' (which he was very pleased to keep), I think I may ask you to accept the plate in its present form. The delay will give ample opportunity for selecting the most suitable colour.

"Yours very truly,

"(Sgd.) THOS. RICHARDS.

"THE HON. J. B. THURSTON, etc, etc.,

"Fiji."

No. 22.

"7th November, 1881.

"SIR,—I have the honour to request, by direction of the Governor, that you will be good enough to furnish this Government with a postage stamp as recently designed by you and of the value of Five Shillings. For colour, I should suggest dark brown.

"An issue of ten thousand (10,000) such stamps will suffice in the first instance.

"I have the honour to be,

"Sir,

"Your obedient servant,

"JOHN THURSTON."

"THOMAS RICHARDS, ESQ.,

"GOVERNMENT PRINTER, SYDNEY."

In order to finish with the "official records," I will now give the numbers *printed* as per the Sydney records and the numbers *issued* from the Fiji records.

The One Shilling stamps were printed in sheets of 100 labels each (in two panes of 50), on the ordinary white wove paper, common to the other current postage stamps.

The following printings were made :—

21st September, 1881	10,000
23rd May, 1883	10,000
11th March, 1885	10,000
7th November, 1888	5,000
	<hr/>
	35,000

These are noted in the Government Printer's books as printed in "brown."

On the 13th September, 1890, 5000 One Shilling stamps were printed, the colour being noted as "dark brown," and the three last printings were—

15th February, 1893	10,000
23rd July, 1896	25,000
25th January, 1899	50,000

The total number of One Shilling stamps printed was therefore 125,000. All were sent to Fiji prior to the issue of the King's Head series, and on the handing over of the stock of Fiji stamps, hereinafter referred to, there were no One Shilling stamps included.

The records of the Five Shilling stamps are as follows :—

11th May, 1882	10,000
July, 1901 (?)	13,200

From Appendix I, I quote the following :—

1s. stamp, first issued 19th October, 1881 ; total issue,	85,000.
5s. „ „ 23rd May, 1882 „	23,200.

From the above figures it will be seen that 125,000 One Shilling stamps were printed, and that only 85,000 were issued. I know that a small remainder was sold a few years ago, but nothing like so many as 40,000, which is the difference between the two sets of figures. Probably a parcel was destroyed, of which I have not obtained any record.

The figures for the Five Shilling stamps exactly agree.

THE ONE SHILLING STAMPS.

In Letter No. 19 a suggestion was made by Mr. Richards to Mr. A. L. Jackson as to plugging a then existing die, but this was not adopted.

In the Government Printing Office there was a die of the head of Queen Victoria which had been used for, I think, New South Wales Telegraph stamps; it was decided to use this die and to engrave a new border on wood. I have been



able to procure the original sketch, which I reproduce. This is endorsed on the back, "Design drawn by A. L. Jackson," and one can at once see the force of the remarks about the heavy appearance of the margin, which Mr. J. B. Thurston draws attention to in Letter No. 20.

The border was remade, and, as Mr. Richards tells us in Letter No. 21, H.R.H. Prince Albert Victor (who was then in Sydney) pulled the first proof of the "die."

Papers of two different mills were used, the earlier being as the previous issue, wmk. T. H. SAUNDERS in double-lined capitals 10 mm. high; but the later printings show the watermark SANDERSON, and date 1892, etc., in double-lined capitals 14 mm. high; under the date a Posthorn supported by a chain often appears. I illustrate these, as portions of a watermark of the papermaker appearing on so-called unwatermarked stamps often bother the younger collectors (see page 77).

There are two imprints on the margins of the 1s. sheets.



1



2

No. 1 stands for "Government Printing Office, New South Wales"; No. 2 is, of course, the monogram "V.R."

THE PERFORATIONS.

The perforating machines that were used for the Fiji stamps between 1871 and 1902 were those of New South Wales, and as a full history and all details of these machines will appear in the handbook on New South Wales, prepared in 1908 by the Royal Philatelic Society, London, there is no practical use in occupying

space to repeat these details, interesting although the subject undoubtedly may be. I shall therefore only list the perforations I have actually seen and measured, and try to fix approximate dates to each variety.

For over six years I have been searching for early dated copies of every variety of surcharge and perforation, and if any of my readers should find varieties with earlier dates than I give, I shall be greatly obliged if they will lend them to me so that I may keep a record for a revise of this book, if such should ever be called for.

Perf. 10.

This was the first perforation, and the date of issue is fixed by the records as "Oct. 19. 1881."

The first printings were in a clear pale brown; in 1887 a darker brown appears to have been used.

Perf. 11 × 10.

The earliest dated copy I have is "12 Mar. 94." All the stamps perf. 11 × 10 I have seen are pale brown.

Perf. 11.

Earliest date seen "12 Sept. 1898."

*Perf. 11 × nearly 12.**

Earliest date seen "3 Oct. 1900." I have this in pale brown, brown, and deep brown, the last colour being rare.

THE FIVE SHILLINGS STAMP.

Letter No. 22 conveys a request from Mr. Thurston for a Five Shillings stamp, and orders 10,000.

This requisition was submitted to the Treasurer for approval, and duly approved on the 29th November.

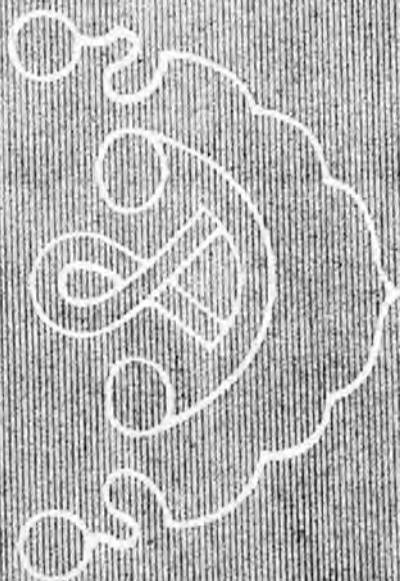
Mr. A. L. Jackson prepared several designs for a frame, the central Queen's Head being the same as on the One Shilling stamp. One of these designs was eventually selected, and fifty lithographic transfers were placed upon a stone, from which the required number of stamps were printed, the central design being in Venetian red, and the frame in black. These were sent to Fiji on the 11th May, 1882.

I think it will be news to most collectors that the Five Shillings stamp was lithographed, but apparently this only applied to the first printing of 10,000 stamps.

* Under this heading are included all the stamps formerly catalogued as *perfs.* 12 × 11, 11 × 12, 11 × 11½, or 11½ × 11. They are all compounds of *perf.* 11 with that of the machine gauging *nearly* 12, which has sometimes been measured as 11½ and sometimes as 12.

SAMUEL GIBSON

1892





The issued stamp. Lithographed ; perf. 10.



The unissued stamp. Electrotyped; perf. nearly 12.

I now copy three records from the Sydney books :—

“4. 10. 99.

“To produce fifty (50) electros of Five Shillings Fiji stamp. I have so taken one electro from steel die N. S. Wales Duty, which gives me the part required to form plate. Will the Govt. Printer please state if the electro I have taken will be kept as the original, or will I work it into the plate? If kept as original, I will require permission to take one extra.

“(Sgd.) J. NELSON.”

“1900 (10 July). Foreman Revenue Printing Branch, G.P.O. (9 July). Reqd. auth. for the productn. of 1 original of 5/- Fiji P.S. to take the place of present copper. Copper plate may be destroyed at next list.”

“1900 (19 July). Foreman Revenue Printing Branch (18 July). Reqg. auth. for the production of 50 duplicates of 5/- Fiji P.S. Original 63.A. Reqd. for preparation of an electroplate of 50 electros to supersede present litho stone 63.a/1. Litho stone may now be cleaned off. Appd. W. A. G.”

No further requisition for Five Shillings Postage Stamps was received from Fiji, but after the issue of the King's Head series all Fiji stamps on hand at the Government Printing Office, Sydney, were delivered to Messrs. Dalgety and Co., agents for the Fiji Government. The stock thus handed over included 264 sheets of 50 stamps to a sheet (13,200 stamps) at 5s. These doubtless had been printed from the electroplate in anticipation of an order. None of this printing appear to have been issued for use in the colony.

Some few years ago a second remainder of Fiji postage stamps were sold by the Government, and these were all obliterated before they were sold. Luckily the authorities did not use the ordinary postmark but had a special one made, which consists of a circle 24 mm. in diameter, enclosing the word “SUVA” at top, a curved line at bottom, and usually the date “15 Dec. 00” in centre. I illustrate this and the genuine postmark on Plate XIV, Nos. 16 and 17.

These Five Shillings stamps are printed in much paler colours than the issued varieties; they are mostly perforated 10, but among them some sheets have been found perf. nearly 12 and also unperforated, but all bear the imitation postmark.

From the clearness of these impressions I am of the opinion that they are the second printing from the electroplate which is referred to in the Sydney records, October 4th, 1899, and July 19th, 1900 (*ante*).

Such stamps can only be looked upon as “stamps prepared for use but not issued.”

These unissued stamps differ in many details from the issued stamps. I give enlarged reproductions of both; the easiest points for distinguishing them are as follows :—

Issued, lithographed.

Star in left lower corner some distance from label containing value. Tongue of “F” in “Fiji” well centred. Thin black line enclosing central circle.

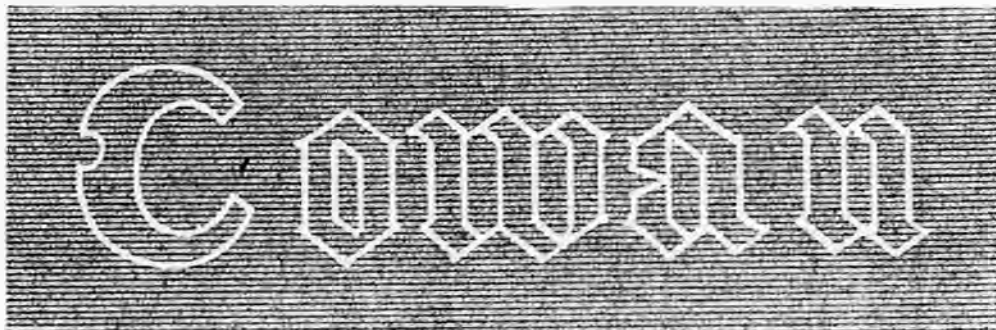
Unissued, electrotyped.

Star nearly touches label. Tongue of “F” too near top of letter. Thick black line enclosing central circle.

The Five Shillings stamps are printed on a rather thick yellowish toned paper with margins of $1\frac{5}{8}$ in. at top and bottom, and nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. on either side. Sometimes one notices a short "i" in "SHILLINGS," but this is only due to overinking on the lithographic stones.

The paper used is quite different from that of any other Fiji postage stamps; it is coarser and more porous, and probably was specially selected as being more suitable for lithographic work.

The sheets show the watermark "Cowan," in old English outline type extending across five stamps, as follows:—



The unissued stamps are on the later paper watermarked "NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT" in large double-lined capitals.

These two handsome stamps are frequently found with a pen-and-ink cancellation, but I believe it is in every instance of a postal nature. Besides the fact that Duty Stamps of a special design and of similar values were in use during the whole period from 1880 to 1902, there is no record of postage stamps having been made available for denoting payment of fiscal dues. The smaller post offices in outlying islands were not always supplied with proper dated obliterating stamps, and consequently it is not uncommon to find stamps which paid postage on letters cancelled with the name of the office from which they originated, together with the date, and in some instances with the date alone, written in pen-and-ink. These remarks apply equally to the postage stamps of lower denominations than 1s.

REFERENCE LIST.

Electrotyped and printed in Sydney, in sheets of 100 stamps (two panes of 50 each).

Watermark of papermakers' names (T. H. Saunders or Sanderson, with date and ornaments) extending over several stamps on each sheet.

(a) *Perf.* 10.

October 19th, 1881. 1s., pale brown.
1887 (?). 1s., deep brown.

(b) *Perf.* 11 × 10.

1894 (?). 1s., pale brown.

(c) *Perf.* 11.

1898 (?). 1s., pale brown.

(d) *Perf.* 11 × nearly 12.

1900 (?). 1s., pale brown.
1s., brown.
1s., deep brown.

Number printed, 125,000. Issued, 85,000.

Lithographed in Sydney on toned paper in sheets of 50 stamps, wmk. papermaker's name, "Cowan," once in each sheet.

Perf. 10.

May 23rd, 1882. 5s., dull red centre, black frame.

Number issued, 10,000.

Prepared for use, but not issued--19 July, 1900.

Electrotyped and printed in Sydney on very white paper.

(a) *Perf.* 10.(b) *Perf.* nearly 12.

(c) Imperf.

5s., pale orange-red centre and grey-black frame.

Number printed 13,200, all sold as remainders and cancelled with a special obliteration, usually dated "15. DEC. 00."

CHAPTER X.

THE PROVISIONALS: 1890-1892.



In a note at the end of Appendix I, it is stated—

“The surcharges $\frac{1}{2}$ d., $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., and 5d. were executed at the Government Printing Office in Suva, and were required through the postal rate to the United Kingdom being reduced to $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. from 1st January, 1891.”

The stamps I propose to deal with in this chapter are as follows:—

- $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 2d., green;
- $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 1d., ultramarine;
- 5d. on 4d., mauve;
- 5d. on 6d., rose;

which were issued in the above order.

“ $2\frac{1}{2}$ d.” ON 2d., GREEN.

By Appendix I, I see that this stamp was issued on 1st January, 1891, and that 10,000 were issued in all.

I am indebted to a correspondent in Fiji for the following interesting information about these stamps.

“To-day * I called on our Government Printer, who surcharged the $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 2d. stamps, and he kindly obliged me by looking up his records. They showed that the stamps were surcharged by him in December, 1890, and 10,000 was the quantity printed off, but he cannot recollect exactly how they were done; he is certain that he had not, at that time, sufficient type to print the whole hundred in one setting, and considers he could not have done even fifty at once,

* 28th December, 1905.

but he is of opinion that perhaps three, or possibly four, rows *horizontally* would have been done at once, then three or two rows next, and so on, till sheets were completed. As he explained to me, say he had sufficient type for three rows, the first three *horizontal* rows would be printed on the whole hundred sheets—one after the other—sent him for surcharging, then the next two or three rows printed in the same way, and so on, till all were completed. This might account for the variation of the wide-spaced surcharge."

On page 82 I illustrate a pair of these stamps. It will be seen that the left-hand stamp is normal, and the right-hand one is the variety with the " $\frac{1}{2}$ d." further away from the large "2."

This wider-spaced variety is only found on the second vertical row of stamps of each pane, and from a number of panes I have seen and others that my correspondent has examined in Fiji, I am able to give the following diagrams of the two left vertical rows of all panes, in which we find the wide and normal spacings in different combinations.

(a) NORMAL SURCHARGE. (b) WIDE SURCHARGE.

Upper panes on sheets.

a	a
a	b
a	b
a	a
a	a

a	a
a	a
a	b
a	b
a	a

a	a
a	b
a	b
a	a
a	b

Lower panes on sheets.

a	b
a	b
a	b
a	b
a	a

a	a
a	b
a	b
a	b
a	a

a	b
a	b
a	b
a	b
a	b

I am not sure how these varieties occurred. The suggestion of my Fiji correspondent does not seem to be correct. I can only think of one way in which they could possibly have occurred, and that is that the printer used a single row of ten " $2\frac{1}{2}$ d.," and that in the second one from the left the type was loose, and sometimes printed with the figures close and sometimes with them spaced.

These $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 2d. are all on the stamps perf. 10.

“½D.” ON 1D., ULTRAMARINE.

From Appendix I, I take the date of issue 1st March, 1892, and number issued 4984. There are no varieties in the surcharge; the perforation is 10, and shades from pale to deep ultramarine may be found. This ½d. provisional was used for circulars and newspapers, and consequently used copies were destroyed and are distinctly scarce.

“5D.” ON 4D., MAUVE.

From Appendix I, we again have date of issue 25th July, 1892, and number issued 5000. No variation in the surcharge, perforation 10, and shades varying from mauve to reddish lilac.

“FIVE
PENCE” ON 6D., ROSE.

There are two varieties of this surcharge, the first with the words 2 mm. apart, the second with the words 3 mm. apart.

The Fiji records show both varieties with following particulars:—

5d. on 6d., narrow; issued 30 Nov., 1892	.	.	.	4000
5d. ,, 6d., broad ,, 31 Dec., 1892	.	.	.	3000

A number of shades may be found in both varieties. I have rose, bright rose, and brownish rose; some of these are very scarce.

A Manchester collector tells me that he has a copy of the 5d on 6d., bright rose, with the words 2 mm. apart, and perf. $10 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$. I have been unable to see the stamp, but it is quite possible that a sheet of the 6d. compound perforation remained in stock in Fiji and was surcharged.

I think many collectors will be surprised at the small number of these provisionals that have been issued. I think all of these are much undervalued in the catalogues; very few seem to be obtainable, and I have hunted everywhere for years. The 2½d. on 2d., green, is the only one that is at all common.

REFERENCE LIST.

Stamps printed in Sydney and surcharged at the Government Printing Office in Suva. All perf. 10.

- (a) January 1st, 1891. (1) Fraction 1 mm. from "2."
 (2) „ 2 mm. „ "2."

2½d. on 2d., green (1).

2½d. on 2d. „ (2).

Number issued, 10,000.

- (b) March 1st, 1892.

½d. on 1d., pale ultramarine.

½d. on 1d., deep „

Number issued, 4984.

- (c) July 25th, 1892.

5d. on 4d., mauve.

5d. on 4d., reddish lilac.

Number issued, 5000.

- (d) November 30th, 1892. Words 2 mm. apart.

5d. on 6d., bright rose.

5d. on 6d., brownish rose.

Number issued, 4000.

Variety. Perf. 10 × 12½.

5d. on 6d., bright rose.

- (e) December 31st, 1892. Words 3 mm. apart.

5d. on 6d., rose.

5d. on 6d., deep rose.

5d. on 6d., brownish rose.

Number issued, 3000.

CHAPTER XI.

THE NEW TYPES: 1891-1902.



In this chapter I propose to group the different colours and perforations of the following stamps:—

$\frac{1}{2}$ d., with large "V.R." and small Crown in centre.

1d., 2d., and 5d., "Pirogue" type.

$2\frac{1}{2}$ d., small "V.R." and large Crown in centre.

The following are copies of official letters I have from Sydney dealing with this period.

No. 23.

Suva, 5th June, 1890.

"SIR,—The Crown Agents for the Colonies having pointed out that the Postage Stamps in use in this Colony are of a somewhat unprotective form, I am directed by His Excellency the Governor to inquire whether it would be convenient that the stamps for this Colony should be printed in fugitive inks, and if so, what would be the extra cost?

"I should be glad if you can favour me with a reply on these points at your convenience.

"I have the honour to be,

"Sir,

"Your most obedient servant,

"(Sgd.) X— X—,

"Pro Colonial Secretary.

"THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER, SYDNEY."

No. 24.

"COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE, FIJI,

"SUVA, 18th June, 1890.

"SIR,—I am directed by His Excellency the Governor to ask whether it would be possible that a drier description of gum could be used in the preparation of the stamps of this Colony. At the present time a great many of the stamps are spoiled in consequence of their being stuck together, which is evidently caused by the humidity of the voyage and subsequent extreme humidity of the climate in Fiji.

"I have, etc.,

"(Sgd.) X— X—,

"For Colonial Secretary.

"THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER,
"SYDNEY, N.S.W."

No. 25.

"GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, SYDNEY,

"2nd July, 1890.

"SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 18th ultimo asking whether a drier kind of gum could not be used in preparing the stamps of your Colony—it being found that many of them stick together and are spoilt—I do myself the honour to inform you that only the very finest and best gum procurable is used for this purpose. It is specially purchased in London at about £500 per ton, and has given every satisfaction here. I am not aware of any method by which the gum could be rendered drier without impairing its essential properties.

"I think the difficulty would disappear if, in future, when ordering, a longer notice were given, so that the stamps may be packed only when completely dry and under the most favourable atmospheric conditions. These precautions could, perhaps, be better taken if the orders were forwarded direct to me.

"I have the honour to be,

"Sir,

"Your most obedient servant,

"CHARLES POTTER,

"Government Printer.

"THE HONOURABLE THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,
"SUVA, FIJI."

No. 26.

"HOTEL METROPOLE, SYDNEY,

"27th April, 1891.

"SIR,—I am directed by the Governor, Sir John Thurston, to request you that you will be good enough to have made a plate for the production of a new postage stamp for Fiji of the value of Twopence Halfpenny. His Excellency has already conferred with you and arranged for the reproduction of the main feature of the existing design of stamp, the difference being the word 'Postage' on the lower part of the stamp, and '2½d.' in the lower corners. I am to ask that upon the completion of the plates you will, at your earliest convenience, be good enough to forward to the Colonial Secretary an initial supply of (25,000) stamps, i.e. 250 sheets of 100 stamps each. The colour of the stamps should, of course, be distinct from any now in use, all of which, I may add, have issued from your department.

"I have the honour to be,

"Sir,

"Your most obedient servant,

"FRANK SPENCE,

"Private Secretary.

"THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER, SYDNEY."

This letter is endorsed:—

"Proof submitted 28/4/91.—G.K.

"Stamps forwarded per *Rockton*, 10.6.91.—G. K."

No. 27.

"GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, SYDNEY,

"28th April, 1891.

"SIR,—Referring to your letter of the 27th instant relative to the preparation of a plate for the new Twopence Halfpenny Postage Stamp for Fiji, I do myself the honour to enclose herewith two proofs marked 1 and 2, which have been prepared from the woodcut of the Fourpence Fijian Stamp.

"If no greater or other alteration is required than is shown, the plates can be prepared from the present woodcuts, and a saving effected of about £10. I would suggest that the sample marked '1' be adopted.

"If you will be good enough to place the matter before His Excellency, and inform me at an early opportunity of his decision, the work can be proceeded with immediately.

"I have the honour to be,

"Sir,

"Your most obedient servant,

"(Sgd.) G. S. CHAPMAN,

"Acting Government Printer.

"F. SPENCE, Esq.,

"Private Secretary to His Excellency Sir John Thurston,

"Hotel Metropole."

No. 28.

"HOTEL METROPOLE, SYDNEY,

"28th April, 1891.

"SIR,—I am directed by the Governor of Fiji to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date enclosing rough proofs of a new Fiji Postage Stamp. His Excellency concurs with your suggestion that the proof marked '1' should be adopted, and desires me to convey to you the expression of his thanks for your attention and courtesy in this matter.

"I have the honour to be,

"Sir,

"Your most obedient servant,

"FRANK SPENCE,

"*Private Secretary.*

"THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER, SYDNEY."

No. 29.

"GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, SYDNEY,

"8th June, 1891.

"SIR,—I do myself the honour to inform you that, in obedience to directions received by me from His Excellency Sir John Thurston in April last, when he was passing through this city, I have prepared plates for the new 2½d. Fiji Stamp—without incurring the expense of having a steel die cut—and have, as directed by His Excellency, printed a supply of 25,000 stamps, i.e. 250 sheets of 100 stamps each, which I forward by the A.U.S.N. Coy.'s *Rockton*, which bears this letter.

"I enclose, herewith, an account of the cost of preparing the plates and printing the stamps.

"I have the honour to be,

"Sir,

"Your most obedient servant,

"(Sgd.) G. S. CHAPMAN,

"*Acting Government Printer.*

"THE CHIEF SECRETARY,

"CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

"SUVA, FIJI."

No. 30.

"FIJI, COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

"SUVA, 7th March, 1892.

SIR,—I am directed by His Excellency the Governor to ask that you will be so good as to cause a die to be prepared for a Halfpenny Postage Stamp for this Government, and that you will forward to me 25,000 (twenty-five thousand) Halfpenny stamps therefrom.

"I have, etc.,

"X—— X——,

"*Assistant Colonial Secretary.*

"THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER,

"NEW SOUTH WALES."

This is endorsed:—

"Halfpenny die cut in steel—plate made—and 25,000 stamps supplied per *Birksgate*, 28th April, 1892.—G. K."

No. 31.

"GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, SYDNEY,

"26th April, 1892.

"SIR,—I do myself the honour to inform you that in compliance with the request contained in your letter of the 7th ultimo, I have caused a steel die of a Halfpenny Postage Stamp to be cut and a plate of 100 labels made; and I now forward to you in a case, herewith, 25,000 stamps printed therefrom.

"The die was cut at an uncommonly cheap rate, viz. £3, and I hope that you will be satisfied with the result produced.

"I have the honour to be,

"Sir,

"Your most obedient servant,

"(Sgd.) CHARLES POTTER,

"THE ASSISTANT COLONIAL SECRETARY,

"Government Printer.

"SUVA, FIJI."

No. 32.

"GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, SYDNEY,

"22nd August, 1892.

"SIR.—I do myself the honour to inform you that the 1d. and 2d. Fiji Postage Stamp plates require renewing.

"I would suggest that steel dies be procured for this purpose, the cost of which for the present comparatively plain designs would be about £5 each. The cost of manufacturing the plates will be £15 each, i.e. in all £40 for the two denominations.

"Will you be good enough to inform me, when advising on the subject, whether, if the above suggestion is approved, the present designs are to be repeated, or will it be necessary to submit others for approval?

"I have the honour to be,

"Sir,

"Your most obedient servant,

"(Sgd.) CHARLES POTTER,

"THE ASSISTANT COLONIAL SECRETARY,

"Government Printer.

"COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

"SUVA, FIJI."

No. 32A

"FIJI, COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

"SUVA, 11th November, 1892.

"SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 22nd August last.

"In reply, I am directed to inquire whether it would be trespassing too much on your kindness to ask you to submit for His Excellency's consideration an estimate of the probable cost of preparing dies for the enclosed design for a new Fivepenny Fijian Stamp, which design might also be used for the Penny and Twopenny Stamps.

"I have, etc.,

"(Sgd.) X— X—,

"THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER,

"Assistant Colonial Secretary.

"SYDNEY, N.S.W."

No. 33.

"GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, SYDNEY,

"23rd November, 1892.

"SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 11th instant, requesting to be furnished with an 'estimate of the probable cost of preparing dies for a new Fivepenny Fiji Postage Stamp,' I do myself the honour to inform you that the cost of cutting a steel die (from which to make electroplates) will be as follows:—

"For one die to be submitted £5.

"For three dies of the same design £10.

"For three dies of different designs £12.

"The cost of manufacturing from the dies plates to contain 100 labels would be £12 each.

"In regard to your remark that the design forwarded by you might also be used for the Penny and Twopenny stamps, I beg to explain that to make one die with movable pieces to designate the different values of the stamps would be very inconvenient and unsatisfactory, and that any saving made in that direction would be lost by the increased cost in the subsequent work of making the plates.

"I have the honour to be,

"Sir,

"Your most obedient servant,

"(Sgd.) CHARLES POTTER,

"Government Printer.

"THE ASSISTANT COLONIAL SECRETARY,

"COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

"SUVA, FIJI."

No. 34.

"SUVA, 20th December, 1892.

"SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 23rd ultimo with reference to dies required for new Postage Stamps for the use of this Colony, and am to thank you for the trouble you have taken in the matter.

"With reference to the concluding paragraph of your letter, I am to explain that in suggesting that the design submitted might be used for the three denominations of stamps, I did not intend to suggest that one die with movable pieces should be cut for each of the three values mentioned (One Penny, Twopenny, and Fivepenny), each of the dies being cut after the design submitted.

"I am now to ask that you will be so good as to have the necessary dies cut and plates and labels prepared for postage stamps of the value of One Penny, Twopenny, and Fivepenny.

"I am forwarding under separate cover an order for stamps of these and other values.

"The Governor would prefer, if there be no objection, that the colour of the new Penny Stamp should be black, that of the Twopenny green, as at present, and that of the Fivepenny blue, or some other colour.

"I have, etc.,

"(Sgd.) X— X—,

"Assistant Colonial Secretary.

"THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER,

"NEW SOUTH WALES."

No. 35.

“GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, SYDNEY,
“February 11th, 1893.

“FROM MECHANICAL BRANCH TO GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

“Please give authority to destroy the leads used in making Fiji Postage Stamp Blocks value 1d., 2d., and 5d.

Leads struck.	Electros delivered to Inspector of Stamps.
126 at 1d.	4 + 100 1d.
126 at 2d.	4 + 100 2d.
126 at 5d.	4 + 100 5d.
378	

“N.B.—No other electros taken.

“E. DUNN.

“Mr. Kellick in conjunction with Mr. Dunn.

“To destroy.

“G. K. 11—2—93.

“We certify that we have this day witnessed the destruction by fire of the 378 lead strikes mentioned herein.

“GEO. KELICK,

“20th February, 1893.”

“EDWIN DUNN.

No. 35A.

“GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, SYDNEY,
“14th February, 1893.

“SIR,—I do myself the honour to inform you that in compliance with the request contained in your letter of the 23rd December last, I have printed, and this day shipped to you, in a zinc-lined case, per the s.s. *Rockton*, the following Fiji Postage Stamps, viz:—

Postage.

One Penny,	250 sheets,	25,000.
Two Pence,	500 „	50,000.
Five Pence,	500 „	50,000.
Six Pence,	200 „	20,000.
One Shilling,	100 „	10,000.

Duty.

One Penny, 500 sheets, 25,000.

“The 1d., 2d., and 5d. postage stamps have been printed from the new electroplates. It will be seen that the suggestions made as to the colours in your letter of the 20th December last, have been adopted. The 1d. stamp being printed in black, the 2d. in green, and the 5d. in blue.

“Herewith I enclose an invoice for £62 12s. 6d. for cutting the three dies, manufacturing plates therefrom, and for printing the above named stamps.

“I may mention that the work done in connection with the dies and plates appears to me to be of a very satisfactory nature, and such as will, I trust, meet with your approval.

“The shipper’s receipt note is enclosed.

“I have the honour to be,

“Sir,

“Your most obedient servant,

“(Sgd.) CHARLES POTTER,

“Government Printer and Inspector of Stamps.

“THE ASSISTANT COLONIAL SECRETARY,
“CHIEF SECRETARY’S OFFICE,
“SUVA, FIJI.

“P.S.—The dies and plates have been manufactured at the herewith lowest possible cost.”

No. 36.

"CLUB (SYDNEY),

"4th May, 1896.

"MY DEAR SIR,—I have just heard from Fiji that the Col. Sec. has written asking you to provide the Government of Fiji with 25,000 postage stamps at the value of One Penny. If the matter is not in hand yet, I should like to change the colour, finding that black, the colour of the stamp, is inconvenient for defacing. Perhaps you would favour me with a line to the Australian Club.

"I am, etc.,

"(Sgd.) JOHN B. THURSTON.

"CHARLES POTTER, ESQ., etc."

No. 37.

"GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, SYDNEY,

"19th May, 1896.

"SIR,—With reference to the proposal to alter the colour of the One Penny Fiji postage stamp, I do myself the honour to submit, herewith, sample sheets (of 100 labels each) printed in four different colours, viz. Plum, Dark Brown, Rosine, and Dark Green.

"The Plum and Dark Brown are farthest removed from any of the colours of the other stamps, the former in my opinion being the most suitable of the two.

"I have the honour to be,

"Sir,

"Your most obedient servant,

"(Sgd.) CHARLES POTTER,
"Government Printer."SIR JOHN B. THURSTON, K.C.M.G., etc.,
"AUSTRALIAN CLUB."

No. 37A.

"HOTEL METROPOLE (SYDNEY),

"20th May, 1896.

"SIR,—I am obliged to you for your note of yesterday covering four specimens of stamps in colour. I concur with you that the plum-colour and dark brown are furthest removed from the colours of our other stamps, and would ask you to print the present requisition in the former (plum-colour).

"I am, etc.,

"JOHN B. THURSTON.

"CHARLES POTTER, ESQ.,
"GOVERNMENT PRINTER."

No. 38.

"GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, SYDNEY,

"2nd June, 1896.

"SIR,—I do myself the honour to inform you that in compliance with your request of the 16th April last, I have this day shipped to your address per the Union Company's s.s. *Ovalau* the following Fiji Postage Stamps, viz.:—

500 sheets of 100 each,	One Penny.
500 " "	Twopence.
250 " "	Halfpenny.

"The One Penny stamp is printed in 'plum'-colour in obedience to a request received from His Excellency Sir J. B. Thurston.

"The invoice will be forwarded through the Treasury.

"I have the honour to be,

"Sir,

"Your most obedient servant,

"(Sgd.) CHARLES POTTER,
"Government Printer.

"THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY,
"COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
"SUVA, FIJI."

On the 5th June, 1890, the Colonial Secretary, Fiji, wrote (Letter No. 23) to the Government Printer that the Crown Agents for the Colonies had drawn attention to the somewhat unprotective form of the Fijian stamps, and that His Excellency the Governor had directed him to inquire whether it would be convenient to print the stamps in fugitive inks, and if so, at what cost.

There is no record of any reply to this query, but as the stamps continued to be printed in ordinary inks, it may be presumed that it was not found possible to adopt the fugitive inks. Doubtless the extreme humidity of the Fijian climate was unfavourable to the use of such inks, which are very sensitive to any application of moisture, whether applied innocently or with fraudulent intent!

Another matter was mentioned by the Colonial Secretary on the 18th June, 1890 (Letter No. 24), namely, the too readily adhesive character of the gum.

This is dealt with by the Government Printer in his reply dated 2nd July, 1890 (Letter No. 25).

THE NEW ½D. STAMP.

On 7th March, 1892, the Colonial Secretary wrote to Sydney ordering a new die to be prepared for a Halfpenny Postage Stamp (Letter No. 30); this letter is annotated by "G. K." (G. Kellick). "Halfpenny die cut in steel—plate made—and 25,000 stamps supplied per *Birkegate*, 28th April, 1892."

Before this new die was cut some interesting experiments took place in the endeavour to once more make use of the good old dies of 1871.

On Plate XIV, No. 10, I illustrate a proof in black of a Halfpenny stamp, prepared by cutting away the lower portion of the old 6d. "V.R." engraved; this unique proof is initialled "First proof, 12.1.92. G. T." (?)

I presume this makeshift die was not finished, the design not being approved.

I have also a block of six colour proofs on stout buff paper, printed in dull lake colour and of the adopted design.

NEW SOUTH WALES

GOVERNMENT

The ½d. stamps were printed in sheets of 100, arranged in two panes, one placed above the other, and with a space of 11 mm. between the panes.

The watermark of the earlier printings was the papermaker's name "SANDERSON" as before, but about 1899 a new paper was used, wmk. "NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT" in tall, double-lined capitals, extending over three rows of stamps on each sheet, so that thirty out of each 100 stamps may show a portion of one of these letters (see page 95).

The printings from this ½d. plate, according to the Sydney records, were as follows (Appendix II):—

26th April, 1892	25,000
6th July, 1892	50,000
20th October, 1893	25,000
19th September, 1894	25,000
28th May, 1895	25,000
2nd June, 1896	25,000
14th July, 1896	50,000
8th October, 1897	50,000
24th January, 1899	50,000
19th February, 1901	50,000
21st April, 1902	50,000
17th June, 1902	50,000
30th December, 1902	10,000
	485,000

The Fiji records (Appendix I) give the number issued as 475,000; the difference is 10,000, being just the odd amount of the printing of 30th December, 1902, which were probably received too late to be issued before the King's Head stamps arrived from England.

The following is a list of the varieties of perforation and colour in this stamp:—

Perf. 10.

Issued 26th July, 1892 (Appendix I), pale grey.

Perf. 11 × 10.

Earliest date seen July 30th, 1894, grey.

Perf. 11.

Earliest date November, 1897, grey.

Le Timbre-Poste, May, 1900, notes a change of colour in the ½d., which it terms black-green, but a more correct description seems to be "deep greenish slate."

Perf. 12 (nearly) × 10.

This is very rare. I have a pair dated March, 1898, and they are pale grey.

Perf. 11½ to 12.

Earliest date March 22nd, 1897, in grey. I also have this perforation in greenish slate, pale and deep.

Perf. 11 × 12 (nearly).

This perf. comes in 1900 in grey and greenish slate.

THE 2½D. STAMP.

In 1891, Sir John Thurston, who had been appointed Governor of the Fiji Islands, was in Sydney, and letters of this period are dated from the Hotel Metropole or The Club in that city.

On April 27th, 1891 (Letter 26), an order was placed with the Government Printer for a new plate of the value of 2½d.

From Letter No. 27 it will be seen that once again an old die was utilized. Mr. G. S. Chapman, the Acting Government Printer, says "the proofs . . . have been prepared from the woodcut of the Fourpence Fijian Stamp."

Mr. Chapman is in error in this statement. As I have stated in a previous chapter, the 4d. was prepared from the woodcut of the 3d.; this can be seen at once by referring to the original stamps of 1871. The 1d. has a circle of round white pearls round the central design, the 3d. has a circular band of coloured squares in place of the pearls, and it is this 1d. woodcut or die of 1871 that was utilized to make the new die for the 2½d. stamp.

Referring to illustration, Plate XIII, No. 4, it will be seen that the lower inscription "POSTAGE ONE PENNY" has been removed, together with the lower corner ornaments, and a new and bolder inscription reading "2½D POSTAGE 2½D" inserted in its place.

From Appendix II, I take the various printings as follows:—

8th June, 1891	25,000
17th August, 1892	25,000
28th December, 1893	25,000
31st October, 1895	25,000
26th July, 1897	25,000
19th February, 1901	25,000

And when the balance of stock in hand was handed to Messrs. Dalgety & Co. in 1904, seven sheets (700 stamps) were included. The total printings therefore amounted to 150,700 stamps.

From Appendix I we have the number issued, viz. 150,000, which agrees with the Sydney figures.

PERFORATIONS, DATES, COLOURS, Etc.

Perf. 10.

From Appendix I, I take date of issue 23rd June, 1891; the colour is a full rich brown.

Perf. 11 × 10.

Earliest date June 3rd, 1893; pale brown at first and about 1895 in chocolate-brown.

Perf. 11.

Earliest date October 29th, 1896; brown first and paler brown in 1897.

Perf. 11 × 12 (nearly).

Earliest date August, 1898; first in pale brown and in 1902 in a yellowish brown.

In this perforation there is to be found a 2½d. all double printed; this was one sheet that was in the remainders postmarked to order in 1900, which I refer to at end of this chapter (see Plate XIV, No. 19).

The 2½d. stamps were printed in full sheets of 100 each, arranged in ten rows of ten stamps, and not divided into two panes as in the other values.

I have only met with these stamps on the paper of "Sanderson," and have not seen any on the "New South Wales Government" paper.

THE NEW TYPE 1D., 2D., AND 5D. STAMPS.

From Letter No. 32 it will be seen that Mr. C. Potter wrote on August 22nd, 1892, to the Colonial Secretary, Fiji, that the 1d. and 2d. plates required renewing, and in his reply of November 11th, 1892 (Letter No. 32A), the Colonial Secretary asked for estimate of cost, and enclosed a suggested design for the three values of 1d., 2d., and 5d.

I have been lucky enough to secure this original sketch, which I reproduce in exact size on Plate XIV, No. 9.

In the *London Philatelist* for May, 1893, an extract is given from a letter received from Mr. Leslie J. Walker, the Postmaster at Suva, who drew this design and thus explains it:—

"The 1d., 2d., and 5d. are all of the same design, which represents a young colony (the canoe forging ahead towards the rising sun shows the progress of the colony); the crown is retained, indicating that it is a colony of England."

Letter No. 34 quotes prices for the dies and plates.

On February 14, 1893 (Letter No. 35A), first supplies were sent to Fiji, and it is noted that the 1d., 2d., and 5d. were printed from the new electroplates.

On May 4, 1896, Sir J. B. Thurston wrote (Letter No. 36) stating that he would like to change the colour of the 1d. stamp, as black was inconvenient for defacing. Mr. Potter replied on May 19th (Letter No. 37), and submitted sheets printed in plum, dark brown, rosine, and dark green; and on May 20th Sir J. B. Thurston replied and approved of the change of colour to plum.

From Letter No. 38 it will be noted that the first 1d. stamps printed in the new colour were sent from Sydney on June 2nd, 1896.

I have several proofs of these stamps, and on Plate XIV, No. 11, I show a first proof of the 1d., which is endorsed below, "First proof—Engraved by Twemlow."

I also have die proofs in black of the 1d., 2d., and 5d. struck on thick, white card.

I have an interesting proof in black on thick buff paper of a group of four electros of the 2d., taken before the plate of 100 electros was finally composed (see Plate XIV, No. 15).

I have also a proof in black on thick card of the issued design, but with the value 1½d., a value never issued as an adhesive stamp; this is a proof of a stamp used on a post card.

The following table shows the dates of printing and numbers printed, according to the Sydney records:—

Date.	1d., black.	2d., green.	5d., blue.
14 Feb., 1893	25,000	50,000	50,000
20 July „	50,000	—	—
20 Oct. „	50,000	50,000	—
17 Mar., 1894	50,000	50,000	—
19 Sept. „	50,000	50,000	—
28 May, 1895	50,000	50,000	—
31 Oct. „	50,000	50,000	—
	<u>325,000</u>		
	1d., plum.		
2 June, 1896	50,000	50,000	—
14 July „	100,000	50,000	—
10 Feb., 1897	100,000	—	—
26 July „	—	100,000	—
8 Oct. „	100,000	—	—
4 May, 1898	100,000	100,000	—
24 Jan., 1899	300,000	—	—
10 Nov. „	—	100,000	—
9 April, 1900	200,000	100,000	—
19 Feb., 1901	200,000	100,000	—
13 Dec. „	100,000	—	—
20 May, 1902	120,000	—	—
17 June „	50,000	—	—
30 Dec. „	10,000	—	—
	<u>1,430,000</u>	<u>900,000</u>	<u>50,000</u>

The Fiji records are as follows (Appendix I):—

1d., black, Canoe	;	first issued	2nd March, 1893	;	number	325,000.
1d., red	„	„	15th June, 1896	„	„	1,520,000.
2d., green	„	„	2nd March, 1893	„	„	900,000.
5d., blue	„	„	„	„	„	50,000.

Of the above figures the 1d., black, the 2d. and 5d. agree with the Sydney records; but of the 1d., red (plum), there appear to have been 90,000 stamps more issued than were sent from Sydney. Now, in Appendix II there is a note that 11,800 of the 1d., plum, remained on hand; this, with the extra 90,000 issued, makes just over 100,000 stamps. I think it probable that there was another printing of 100,000, of which the record was not entered in the Sydney books.

PERFORATIONS.

The following is a list of the varieties I have met with in these three values, with approximate dates of issue:—

Perf. 10.

1d., 2d., and 5d., issued March 2nd, 1893 (see Appendix I).

Perf. 11 × 10.

The earliest date I have is a 2d., July 27, 1893.

Perf. 11.

The earliest date is a 2d., dull green, July 22, 1895.

The 1d., lilac-rose (plum), was issued June 15, 1896 (Appendix I).

The 2d. in the bright emerald-green is noted in *Le Timbre-Poste* for December, 1897.

The 5d. in this perforation is very rare. There was only one printing of the stamp, and most of the stamps one meets with are perf. 11 × 10, some few sheets were perf. 10, and I should think one sheet only was perf. 11, as I have seen so few specimens.

Perf. 10 × 12.

This perforation is rare, the 2d. in particular being a very hard stamp to find. I have a 1d. dated "8 Jan. 94" and a 2d. "1 Apl. 96."

Perf. nearly 12.

The earliest date I have is a 2d., "20 Aug. 95."

Perf. 11 × nearly 12.

The earliest date is a 2d., "Nov. 29. 97."

REMAINDERS.

About 1906, after the introduction of the King's Head stamps, the remainder of the old issues on hand was sold, obliterated in full sheets, but the obliteration used was different from that actually used to postmark stamps.

The postmark in actual use for the past twenty-five years has been of one form. This has date in centre, town above, and the word "FIJI" below, all in a circle (see Plate XIV, No. 17). For the remainder stamps the word "FIJI" has been removed, and two curved lines with dots between inserted in its place (see Plate XIV, No. 16).

In the remainders the authorities seem to have allowed different dates to have been inserted; the most common are "15 Dec. '00" and "21 Jun. 02."

This postmarking to order and selling in bulk at a nominal price is a bad feature that was formerly confined to half-civilized countries, such as Honduras, Salvador, Borneo, and Labuan, and I much regret to see the practice adopted by colonies such as the Fiji Islands and St. Helena.

REFERENCE LIST.

Stamps printed in Sydney from electrotyped plates on white wove paper, watermarked in the sheets either "SANDERSON" or "NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT." Perforation various.

(a) Perf. 10.

26 July, 1892.	$\frac{1}{2}$ d., pale grey.
2 Mar., 1893.	1d., black.
" "	2d., pale green.
23 June, 1891.	$2\frac{1}{2}$ d., chocolate-brown.
2 Mar., 1893.	5d., ultramarine.

(b) Perf. 11 × 10.

1894.	$\frac{1}{2}$ d., grey.
1893.	1d., black.
"	2d., green.
"	$2\frac{1}{2}$ d., brown.
1895.	$2\frac{1}{2}$ d., chocolate-brown.
1897.	$2\frac{1}{2}$ d., yellowish brown.
1893.	5d., ultramarine.

Perf. 11.

1897.	$\frac{1}{2}$ d., grey.
1898.	$\frac{1}{2}$ d., greenish slate.
1895.	1d., black.
15 June, 1896.	1d., pale lilac-rose.
" "	1d., lilac-rose.
1895.	2d., dull green.
1897.	2d., emerald-green.
1896.	$2\frac{1}{2}$ d., brown.
1897.	$2\frac{1}{2}$ d., yellowish brown.
1893.	5d., ultramarine.

Perf. 10 × 12.

1898.	$\frac{1}{2}$ d., pale grey.
1894.	1d., black.
1896.	2d., dull green.

Perf. nearly 12.

1897.	$\frac{1}{2}$ d., grey.
1898.	$\frac{1}{2}$ d., greenish slate.
1895.	1d., black.
1896.	1d., lilac-rose.
1895.	2d., dull green.

Perf. 11 × nearly 12.

1900.	½d.,	greenish slate.
1897.	1d.,	pale lilac-rose.
„	1d.,	lilac-rose.
„	2d.,	dull green.
1898.	2½d.,	brown.
1902.	2½d.,	yellowish brown.

Double printed.

1902.	2½d.,	brown (in remainders only).
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Note.—Where the year only is given in the date, such are only approximate, being taken from the earliest dated copies I have seen.

	<i>Numbers printed.</i>
½d., grey, etc.	485,000
1d., black	325,000
1d., lilac-rose	1,520,000
2d., green	900,000
2½d., brown	150,700
5d., ultramarine	50,000

CHAPTER XII.

THE KING'S HEAD STAMPS.

BEFORE describing the new stamps, I must draw attention to a very rare set of essays in my collection with the head of the late Queen Victoria :—



From the above illustrations it will be seen that the "key" die of Messrs. De La Rue & Co. has been utilized, and the name and value have been painted in by hand.

From this set of essays I think we may conclude that an issue of stamps with the head of Queen Victoria was in contemplation, but that, owing to the death of the Queen, the plates were probably never made.

These essays are as follows :—

(The name and value in second colour.)

- 1d., lilac and carmine.
- 2d. „ ultramarine.
- 3d. „ blue-green.
- 4d. „ orange.
- 6d. „ brown.
- 1s., green and carmine.
- 5s. „ mauve.



With the last issue, the printing of stamps for the Fiji Islands in Sydney came to an end, and the contract was given to Messrs. De La Rue & Co., Ltd., London.

The new stamps were of the usual conventional design, formed from a "key" die of the head of His Majesty King Edward VII, with a blank space at top for the name of the country, and a space at bottom in which to insert the value.

From this die a plate was prepared containing 240 labels, arranged in four panes each of sixty stamps.

The right and left side-margins of each sheet have the watermark "CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES" in small, double-lined capitals, and the margin between the upper and lower panes shows the watermark "CROWN AGENTS" in larger double-lined capitals.

The plate number "1" is repeated six times on each full sheet.

The stamps are printed from electrotyped plates, and watermarked Crown and CA.

The perforation is by means of a comb machine and gauges 14.

The 2d., 4d., 6d., and 5s. values are printed in an uncoloured tablet, the other values are printed on a tablet of fine horizontal lines.

In 1904 the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d. were issued printed upon paper having the watermark multiple Crown CA.

In 1906 the colour of the 1d. stamp was altered to red

REFERENCE LIST.

Engraved and printed in London by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., Ltd.

Wmk. Crown and CA. Perf. 14.

1 Feb., 1903. $\frac{1}{2}$ d., green.
 1d., purple and black *on red*.
 2d. " orange.
 2½d. " blue *on blue*.
 3d. " mauve.
 4d. " black.
 5d. " green.
 6d. " carmine.
 1s., green and carmine.
 5s. " black.
 £1, grey-black and ultramarine.

1904. As last, but wmk. multiple Crown and CA.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d., green.

1d., purple and black *on red*.

1906. As last, colour changed.

1d., red.

CHAPTER XIII.

POST CARDS AND LETTER CARDS.

I HAVE no post cards or letter cards, and do not know anything about them, but Mr. A. F. Basset Hull in searching the records in Sydney came across some particulars of the early cards, and I think it would be a pity to lose the benefit of his researches, and I have therefore put together the information contained in those records.

On the 28th September, 1894, the Colonial Secretary, Fiji, wrote to the Government Printer, Sydney, inquiring the cost per 1000 of printing post cards (single and double) and letter cards, including cost of cutting dies and providing stationery.

Mr. Potter replied on the 7th November, 1894 :—

“I do myself the honour to inform you that in order to enable me to estimate accurately the cost of printing Post Cards and Letter Cards, it will be necessary to have particulars of denomination, design, size, etc., in each case.

“If no objection will be entertained to the design of your current stamps, the dies on hand could be utilized in manufacturing the necessary electros, but if other denominations and designs are required fresh dies will have to be procured, the cost of which will depend on the design.

“The cost of manufacturing single electros from dies on hand would be about 7s. 6d. each, and about twenty of them would be required for each denomination.

“The electros once procured, the cost of printing would be—

Single Cards	14s. per 1000
Reply „	27s. „ 1000
Letter Cards	7s. „ 1000.”

The Colonial Secretary acknowledged receipt of this letter on the 21st November, and ordered :—

1d. Post Cards (single)	10,000
1d. Reply Cards (double)	5,000
1½d. Post Cards (single)	10,000
1½d. Reply Cards (double)	5,000
1½d. Letter Cards	20,000

He added :—

“I enclose herewith copy for the several cards. For the Penny Post Cards the die now used for the Penny postage stamp may be utilized in manufacturing the necessary electros.

“It will be necessary that a new die be cut for the 1½d. cards, as there is no Fijian 1½d. stamp, and I am to ask that you will be so good as to have this done. The design should be the same as that of the Penny stamp, but all within the circle

above the horizon should be cut clear so as to show the sky white. The leaves of the cocoanut palms should also be removed sufficiently to show the word 'Fiji' plainly.

"The cards may be printed in such colours as you may think suitable."

A memorandum was addressed to the "First Litho-printer" on the 16th April, 1895, as follows:—

"PRINTING FIJI LETTER CARDS AND POST CARDS.

"Print the following Fiji Letter Cards and Post Cards, viz.:—

"On venerated grey paper, in red ink (Algerian red)—

20,000 Three Halfpenny Letter Cards.

"On four-sheet Pasteboard, white—

10,000 One Penny Post Cards (Black).

5,000 One Penny Reply do. (Violet-Lake).

10,000 Three Halfpenny do. (Oxide of Chromium).

5,000 Three Halfpenny Reply do. (Maroon).

"Let me have them when printed.

"GEO. KELLICK."

There is also a minute by Mr. Kellick to the effect that the 1½d. die was cut by Twemlow at the price of £4.

The Government Printer forwarded the printed cards by the *Mount Kembla* under cover of the following letter, dated April 29th, 1895:—

"In attention to your letter of the 21st November last, I do myself the honour to inform you that I have had a die cut for the manufacture of electros for printing 1½d. Post Cards and Letter Cards. The work has been satisfactorily performed at a cost of four pounds, and is somewhat in advance of the other dies. Of course the engraving of the die has caused the apparent delay, but I have now shipped to your address the cards asked for."

In enumerating the cards sent, the colour of the 1½d. single cards is given as sage-green.

The receipt of these cards was acknowledged by letter dated May 29th, 1895.

The issue of the Post and Letter Cards was notified in the *Fiji Royal Gazette* of May 31st, 1895, as follows:—

"POSTAL NOTICE.

"His Excellency the Administrator has been pleased to authorize the issue and use of the following denominations of Letter Cards and Post Cards, viz.:—

Letter Cards bearing postage stamps of the value of 1½d.

Post Cards " " " 1d.

Reply Post Cards " " " 2d.

Post Cards " " " 1½d.

Reply Post Cards " " " 3d.

"By Command,

"JAMES STEWART,

"Acting Colonial Secretary.

"COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

"SUVA, 25th May, 1895."

The same issue of the *Gazette* contained the usual regulations relative to Post and Letter Cards.

No further supplies of these cards were printed.

REFERENCE LIST.

LITHOGRAPHED IN SYDNEY.

LETTER CARD.

May 31, 1895. 1½d., red on *grey* (inside *white*).

POST CARDS.

May 31, 1895. 1d., black on *white*.
1 + 1d., violet ,,
1½d., deep green on *white*.
1½ + 1½d., purple-brown ,,

CHAPTER XIV.

DUTY STAMPS, FRANK STAMPS, THE "CAKE FAIR" STAMP.

ONE sometimes meets in collections with stamps which come under one or other of the above headings, and I therefore think it will be as well to explain what these stamps are, and to see how far we can admit them in postage stamp collections.

DUTY STAMPS.

I only know one type of Duty Stamp that has been used postally, and I illustrate a "One Shilling" used on original envelope (see Plate XV, No. 16).

The following Duty Stamps were sent from the Government Printing Office, Sydney, on July 6th, 1880, to the Colonial Secretary, Levuka, Fiji:—

100 sheets at 50,	5000	1d.
50	" "	2500 3d.
50	" "	2500 6d.
100	" "	5000 1s.
100	" "	5000 2s.
100	" "	5000 3s.
100	" "	5000 4s.
100	" "	5000 5s.
100	" "	5000 10s.
100	" "	5000 20s.

These stamps are all of one design, with the value printed in figures at the top and in words at the bottom. The paper is a rather coarse wove, and the perforation gauges 10 × 11.

As far as I can find out, these stamps were never *authorized* for postal use, but undoubtedly a number did pay postage.

I have several of the One Shilling so used; two of these franked letters to Vancouver without any other stamps being used on the envelopes.

In the Tapling Collection there are the 1d. and 3d., both postmarked "Suva. Mr. 20. 1884," and no doubt the 6d. was so used, but as these are only isolated copies that were passed by some laxness on the part of the clerks in Fiji, and as they were never authorized for postal use, I consider that it is quite correct not to include them in the catalogues of postage stamps.

FRANK STAMPS.

The Printing Office in Fiji appears to have had the privilege of franking its correspondence.

There are at least four varieties of "Franks" used, but all I have met with are similar to No. 14 shown on Plate XV.

The differences are in the setting up of the design, chiefly in the different arrangements of the borders, which are composed of "printer's rules."

I have the following, all in black on wove paper :—

(a) Imperf.

Black on white.

„ grey-blue.

„ rose.

(b) Perf. 12.

Black on white.

THE "CAKE FAIR" STAMP.

I sometimes see this in collections, and the owners hardly ever know what it was issued for, although it is often accepted on account of its novel design and large size.

I illustrate one on Plate XV, No. 15.

The history is as follows :—

When Sir William McGregor was Administrator in the Fiji Islands, a "Cake Fair" was held on his estate in Suva in aid of the Mechanics' Institute. A number of ladies were appointed to keep a post office in the fair; the charge for posting a letter was fixed at Sixpence.

Mr. Walker, the postmaster at Suva, kindly engraved a design on a block of local wood called "Bandina," a very hard wood, nearly as hard as boxwood.

Mr. Walker could not find any proper engraving tools in the Colony, but he drew the designs for some, and a blacksmith made them out of old files.

A good revenue was received at the fair by the sale of these stamps, as most of the people attending found a letter addressed to them, and willingly paid 6d.

This "Cake Fair" stamp never paid postage, and when used on a letter the ordinary postage had to be paid in addition. I have as follows :—

(a) *Percé en scie.*

6d., black on bright blue.

6d., red on orange.

(b) Struck on envelope on vertically laid paper.

6d., slate-blue.

APPENDIX I.

LIST OF STAMPS ISSUED BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT BETWEEN 1875 AND 1893, WITH DATE OF ISSUE AND NUMBER OF STAMPS SUPPLIED.

SIR EVERARD IM THURN, K.C.M.G., Governor of Fiji, was good enough in April, 1906, to supply me with the following official list which he had had prepared by Mr. A. H. Ogilvie, of Suva, Fiji:—

STAMPS ISSUED BY BRITISH GOVERNMENT.			No. issued.
½d. stamp surcharged on 1d.	... first issued	1st March, 1892	... 4,984
½d., slate	... ..	„ 26th July, 1892	... 475,000
1d., C.R. † surcharged	... ..	issued 22nd Nov., 1875	... 35,264
1d. †	... ..	„ 31st Jan., 1876	... 20,000
1d. †	... ..	„ 22nd May, 1876	... 20,000
1d. †	... ..	„ 12th July, 1876	... 20,000
1d. †	... ..	„ 5th Jan., 1877	... 120,000
1d., engraved V.R.	... ..	first issued 14th March, 1879	... 1,320,000
1d., Black Canoe	... ..	„ 2nd March, 1893	... 325,000
1d., Red Canoe	... ..	„ 15th June, 1896	... 1,520,000
2d. on 3d.	... ..	first issue 30th Sept., 1875	... 36,000
2d. on 6d.	... ..	„ 20th Nov., 1875	... 15,000
2d. on 3d., another issue	... ..	15th Dec., 1875	... 72,000
2d. on 3d.	„	31st Jan., 1876	... 30,000
2d. on 3d.	„	5th Jan., 1877	... 30,000
2d. on 3d.	„	17th Oct., 1878	... 40,000
2d., V.R., engraved	... ..	first issued 19th Sept., 1879	... 1,125,000
2d., Green Canoe	... ..	„ 2nd March, 1893	... 900,000
2½d. on 2d.	... ..	„ 1st Jan., 1891	... 10,000
2½d., brown	... ..	„ 23rd June, 1891	... 150,000
3d., C.R.	... ..	issued 22nd Nov., 1875	... 29,350
4d. on 3d.	... ..	„ 12th Oct., 1877	... 50,000
4d. on 2d.	... ..	„ 13th June, 1883	... 22,500
4d. on 1d.	... ..	„ 15th March, 1890 †	... 10,000
4d., V.R., engraved	... ..	„ 7th Oct., 1890	... 80,000
5d. on 4d.	... ..	„ 25th July, 1892	... 5,000
5d. on 6d., narrow	... ..	„ 30th Nov., 1892	... 4,000
5d. on 6d., broad	... ..	„ 31st Dec., 1892	... 3,000
5d., Blue Canoe	... ..	„ 2nd March, 1893	... 50,000

6d., C.R.	...	...	issued 22nd Nov., 1875	...	29,650
6d. „	...	...	„ 31st Jan., 1876	...	10,000
6d. „	...	...	„ 22nd May, 1876	...	10,000
6d. „	...	...	„ 12th July, 1876	...	10,000
6d. „	...	...	„ 5th Jan., 1877	...	20,000
6d. „	...	...	„ 12th Oct., 1877	...	100,000
6d., V.R., engraved	...	...	first issued 30th August, 1880	...	200,000
1s. stamp	...	...	„ 19th Oct., 1881, total issue	85,000	
5s. stamp	...	...	„ 23rd May, 1882	„	23,200

No King's Head stamps have been included in the foregoing list.

Up to King Edward's time all supplies have been received from Sydney.

The surcharges $\frac{1}{2}$ d., $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., and 5d. were executed at the Government Printing Office in Suva, and were required through the postal rate to the United Kingdom being reduced to $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. from 1st January, 1891. There does not seem to be any certain information about the other surcharges.

APPENDIX II.

RETURN showing the number of stamps of all denominations despatched from the Government Printing Office, Sydney, from November, 1880, to 1902.

Date.	½d.	1d.	2d.	2½d.	4d.	5d.	6d.	1s.	5s.
25.11.1880	—	50,000	25,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
22.12.1880	—	150,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11.4.1881	—	—	50,000	—	—	—	30,000	—	—
7.1881	—	—	50,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
21.9.1881	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10,000	—
20.10.1881	—	—	50,000	—	—	—	30,000	—	—
11.5.1882	—	200,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	10,000
13.9.1890	—	50,000	50,000	—	10,000	—	—	5,000	—
26.3.1891	—	50,000	50,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
8.8.1891	—	—	—	25,000	—	—	—	—	—
4.2.1892	—	—	50,000	—	—	—	10,000	—	—
26.4.1892	25,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8.6.1892	—	50,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6.7.1892	50,000	—	50,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
17.8.1892	—	25,000	—	25,000	20,000	—	—	—	—
The following 1d., 2d., and 5d. are from new plates—		(1d. black)							
14.2.1893	—	25,000	50,000	—	—	50,000	20,000	10,000	—
20.7.1893	—	50,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20.10.1893	25,000	50,000	50,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
28.12.1893	—	—	—	25,000	—	—	—	—	—
17.3.1894	—	50,000	50,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
19.9.1894	25,000	50,000	50,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
28.5.1895	25,000	50,000	50,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
31.10.1895	—	50,000	50,000	25,000	—	—	—	—	—
		(1d. plum)							
2.6.1896	25,000	50,000	50,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
14.7.1896	50,000	100,000	50,000	—	25,000	—	25,000	25,000	—
10.2.1897	—	100,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
26.7.1897	—	—	100,000	25,000	—	—	—	—	—
8.10.1897	50,000	100,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4.5.1898	—	100,000	100,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
24.1.1899	50,000	300,000	—	—	—	—	—	50,000	—
10.11.1899	—	—	100,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
9.4.1900	—	200,000	100,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
19.2.1901	50,000	200,000	100,000	25,000	25,000	—	25,000	—	—
13.12.1901	—	100,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21.4.1902	50,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20.5.1902	—	120,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
17.6.1902	50,000	50,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30.12.1902	10,000	10,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
On hand—									
Dec. 31	100	11,800	400	700	500	—	500	—	13,200

This return has been prepared by Mr. A. F. Basset Hull from the official books in Sydney, New South Wales.

APPENDIX III.

“62, CLARENCE STREET, SYDNEY, N.S.W.,

“March 7, 1888,

“The Govt. Printer, Sydney.

“DEAR SIR,

“The following is a copy of a letter received from the Colonial Secretary's Office, Fiji, to which I will thank you for an early reply:—

“His Honour the Administrator is informed that there is in Sydney, probably in the custody of the Government Printer, a quantity of non-current postage stamps belonging to this Government, and I am accordingly directed to ask if you will be good enough to procure and forward them by first opportunity to the Colonial Secretary, Fiji.’

“Yours faithfully,

“(Signed) JOHN SANDS.”

NON-CURRENT FIJI POSTAGE STAMPS.

70 sheets One Penny at 50 on a sheet.

(Printed from “C.R.” plate with “V.R.” in black.)

65 sheets Twopence at 50 on a sheet.

(Printed from Threepence “C.R.” plate with “V.R.” and surcharge Twopence in black.)

119 sheets Twopence at 100 on a sheet.

(Printed from Threepence “V.R.” plate with surcharge Twopence in black.)

10 sheets Threepence at 50 on a sheet.

(Printed from “C.R.” plate with “V.R.” in black.)

3 sheets Threepence at 50 on a sheet.

(Printed from “C.R.” plate.)

16 sheets Fourpence at 50 on a sheet.

(Printed from Threepence “C.R.” plate with “V.R.” and surcharge Fourpence in black.)

92 sheets Sixpence at 50 on a sheet.

(Printed from “C.R.” plate with “V.R.” in black.)

1 sheet Sixpence at 50 on a sheet.

(Printed from “C.R.” plate.)

“Received the above stamps.

(Signed) pro JOHN SANDS.

“W. F. ROBSON.”

“March 14th, 1888.”

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The Handbook is illustrated with nine full-size autotype plates, viz. :—Two plates of the “A” and “B” perforating machine, two plates of “perforations,” three plates of the “Star” watermarked papers, and two plates of Grenada stamps; also a large number of illustrations throughout the text.

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No. 8.

“SICILY.”

A History of the POSTAGE STAMPS OF SICILY.

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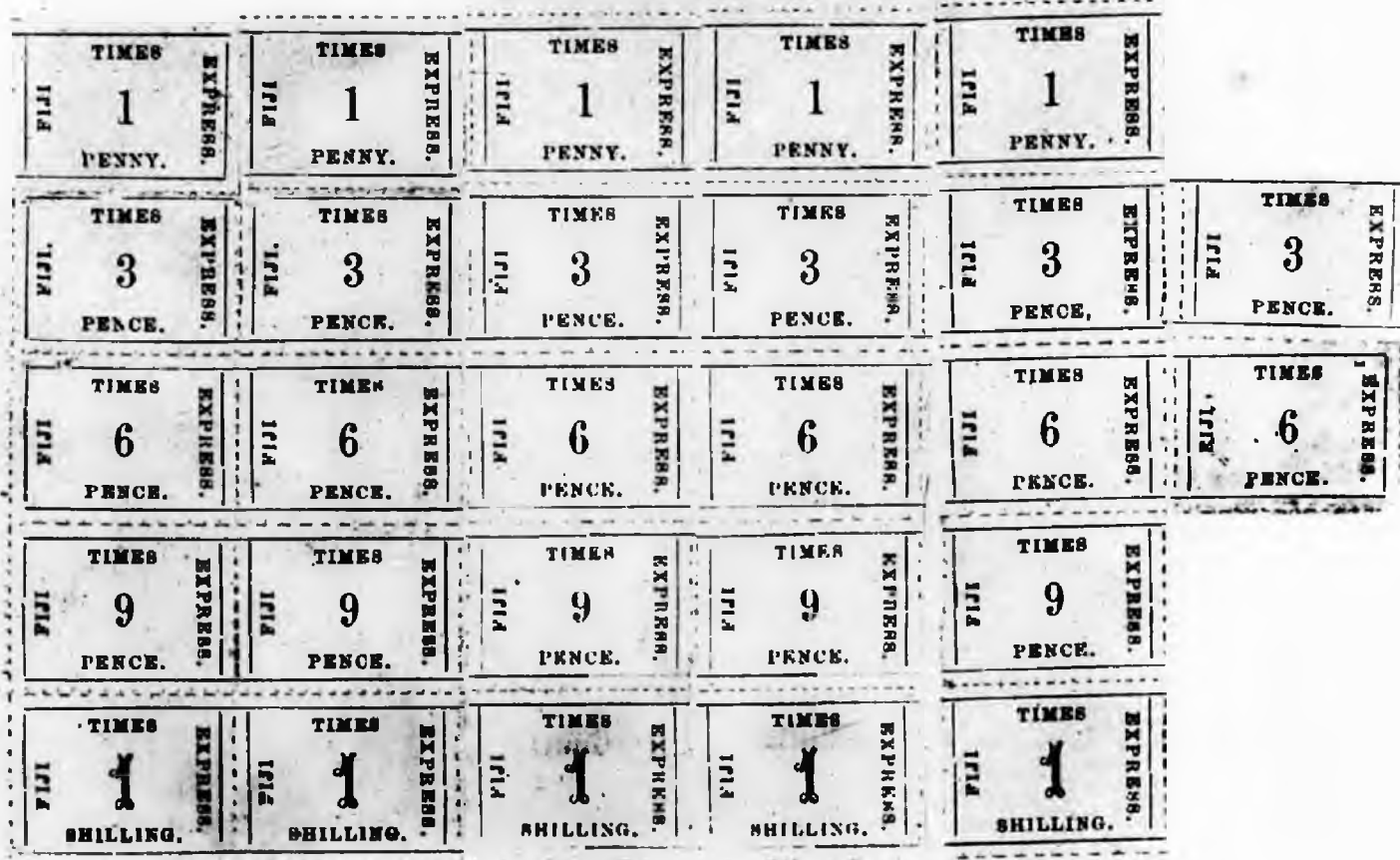


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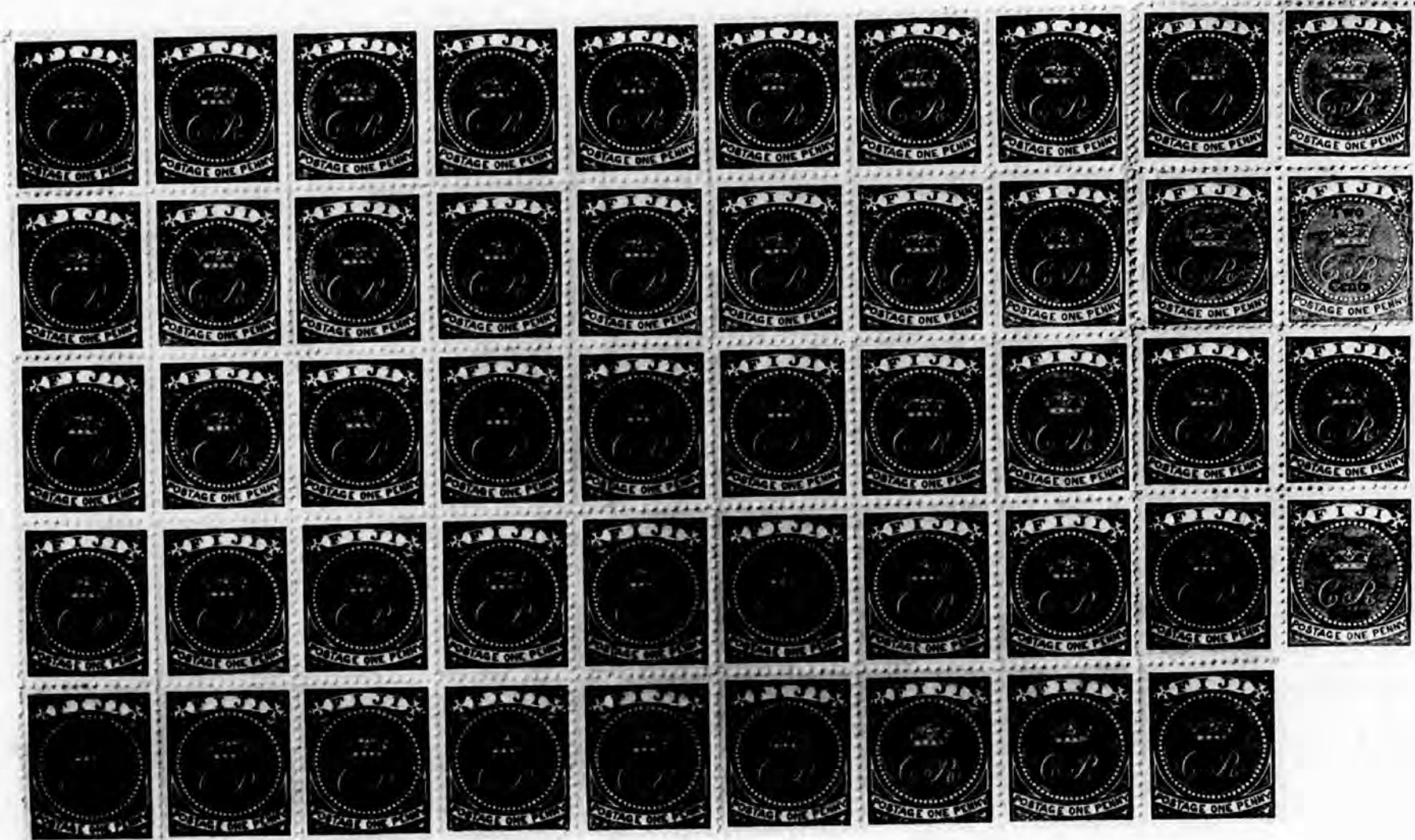


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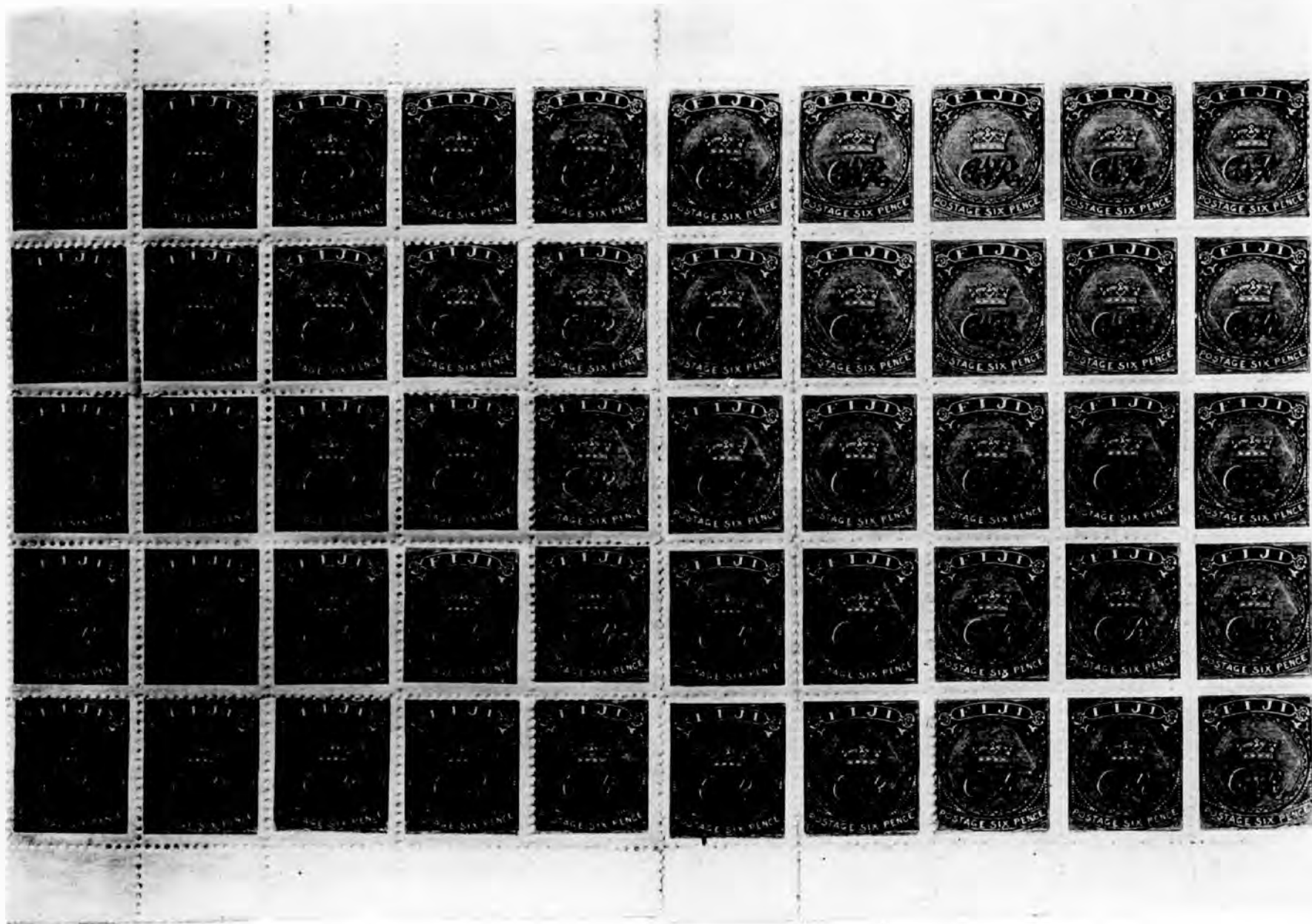


1872. TWO CENTS ON 1st BLUE





3^d GREEN OF 1871, 1872 & 1876



1877. 6^o ROSE ON LAID PAPER



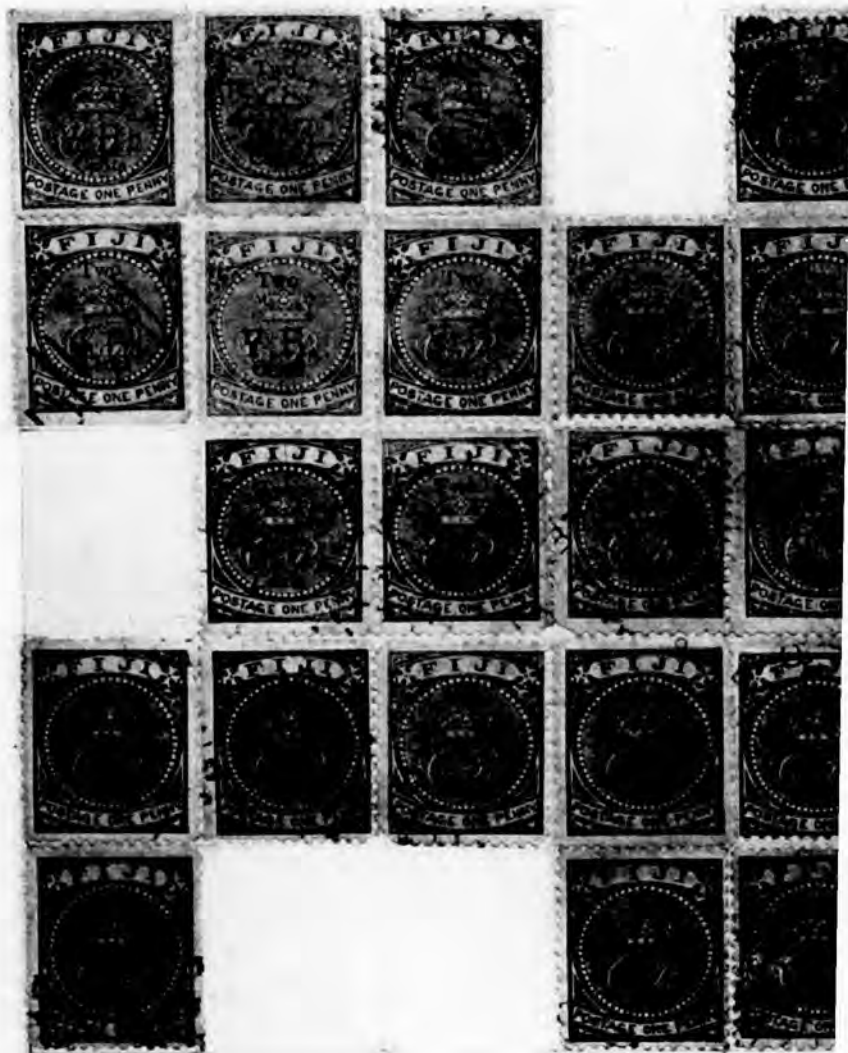
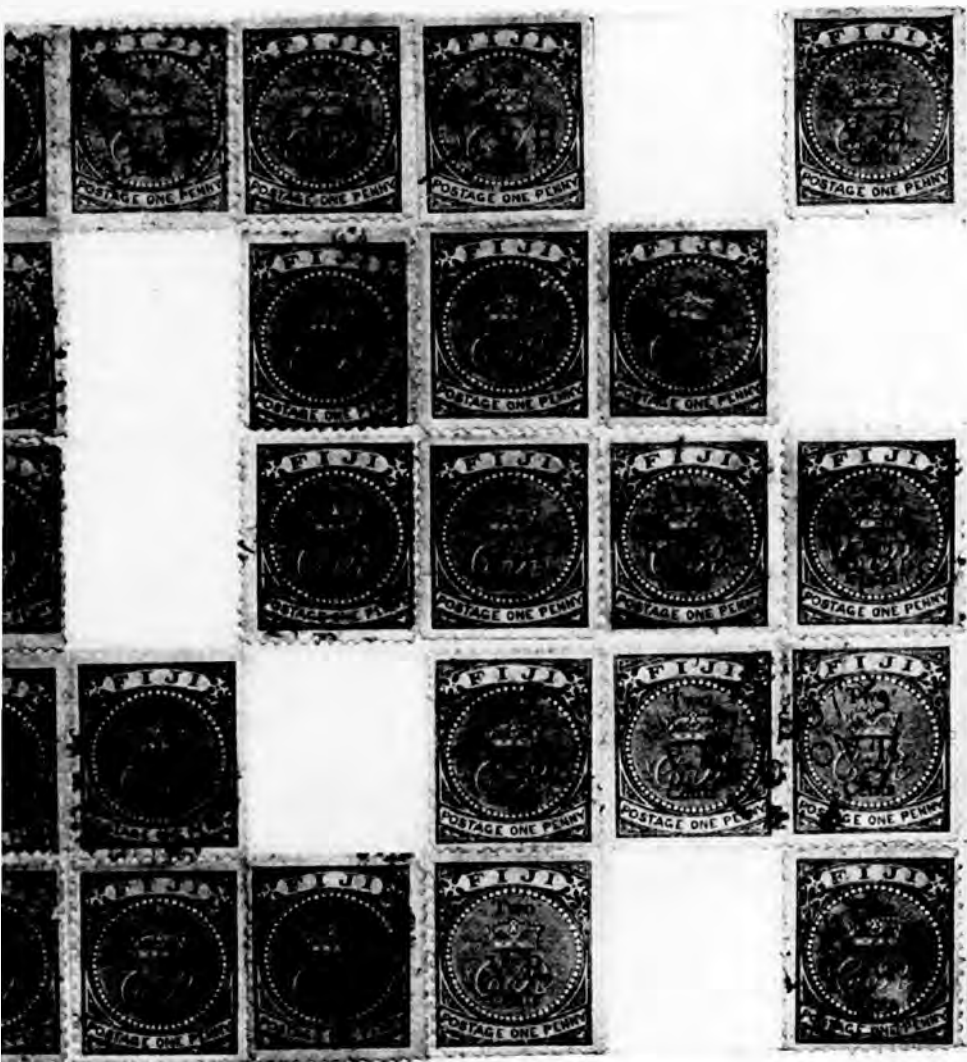
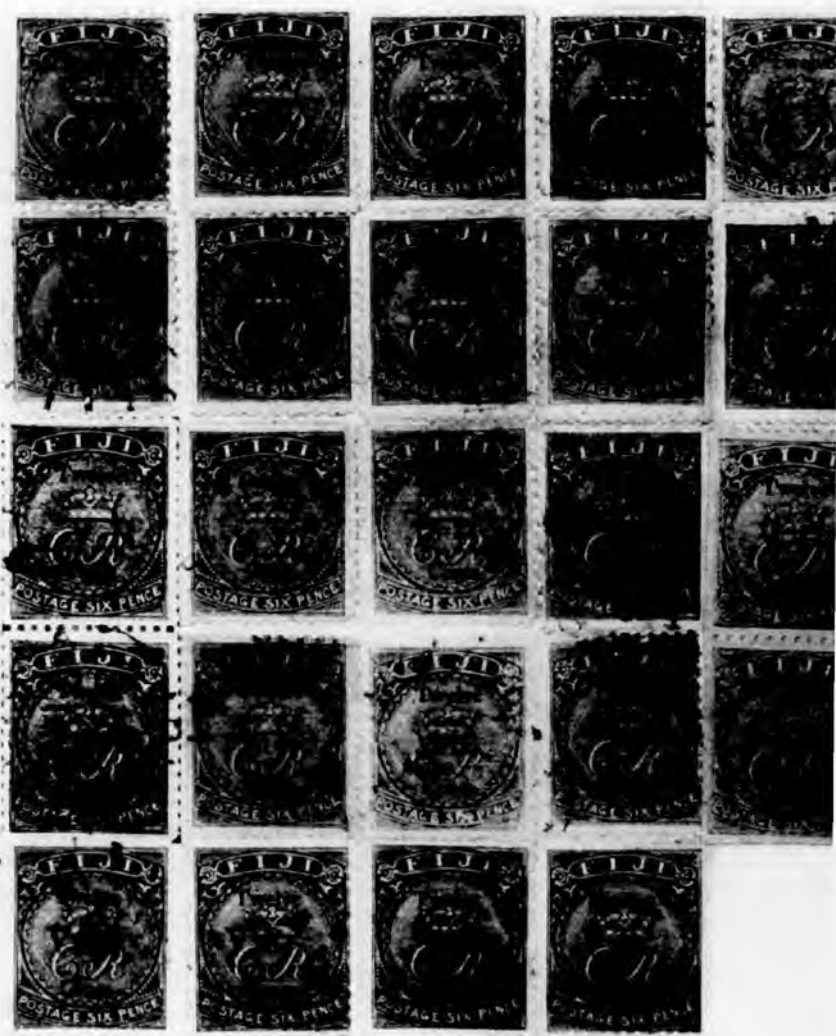


PLATE VIII

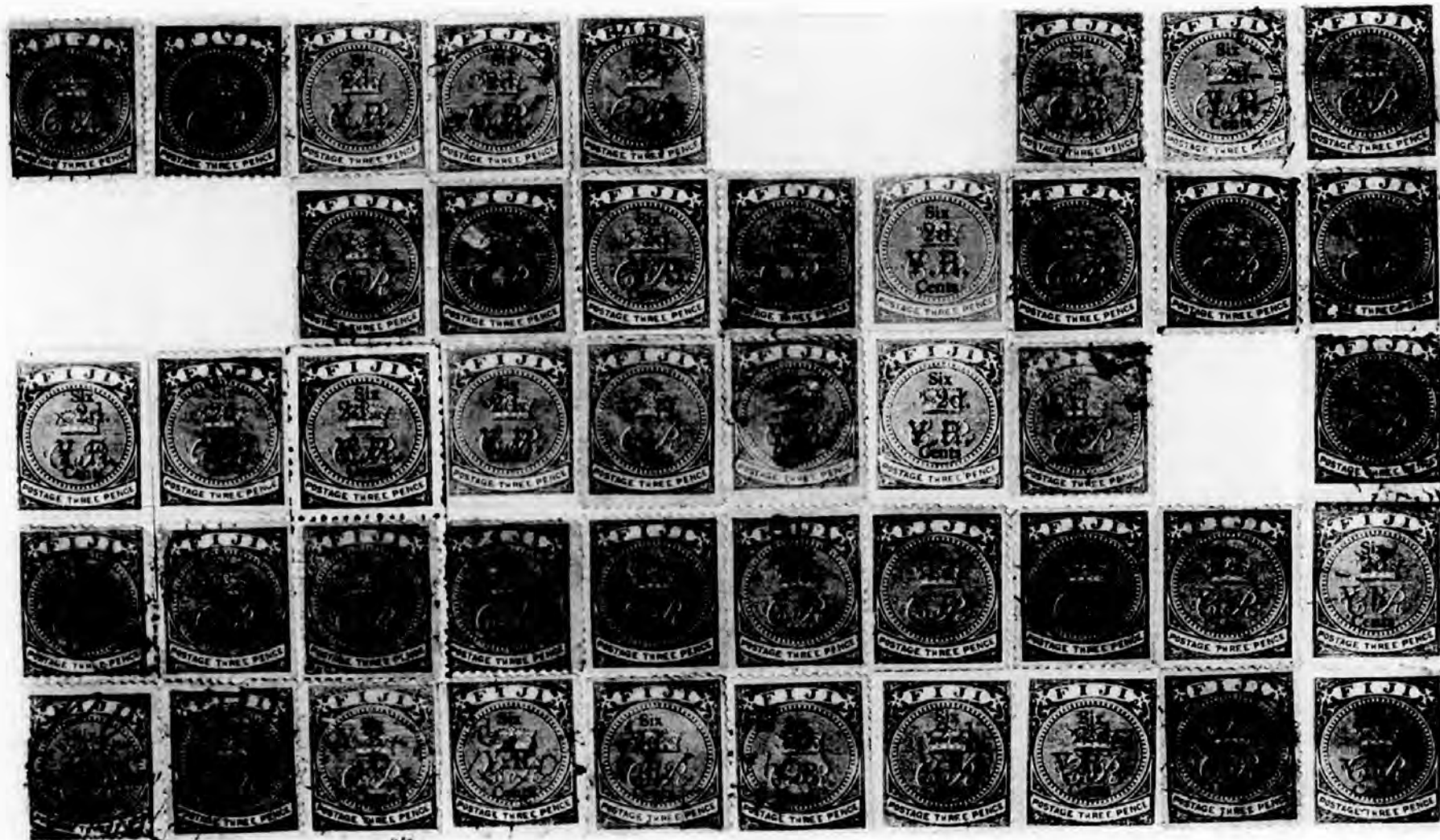




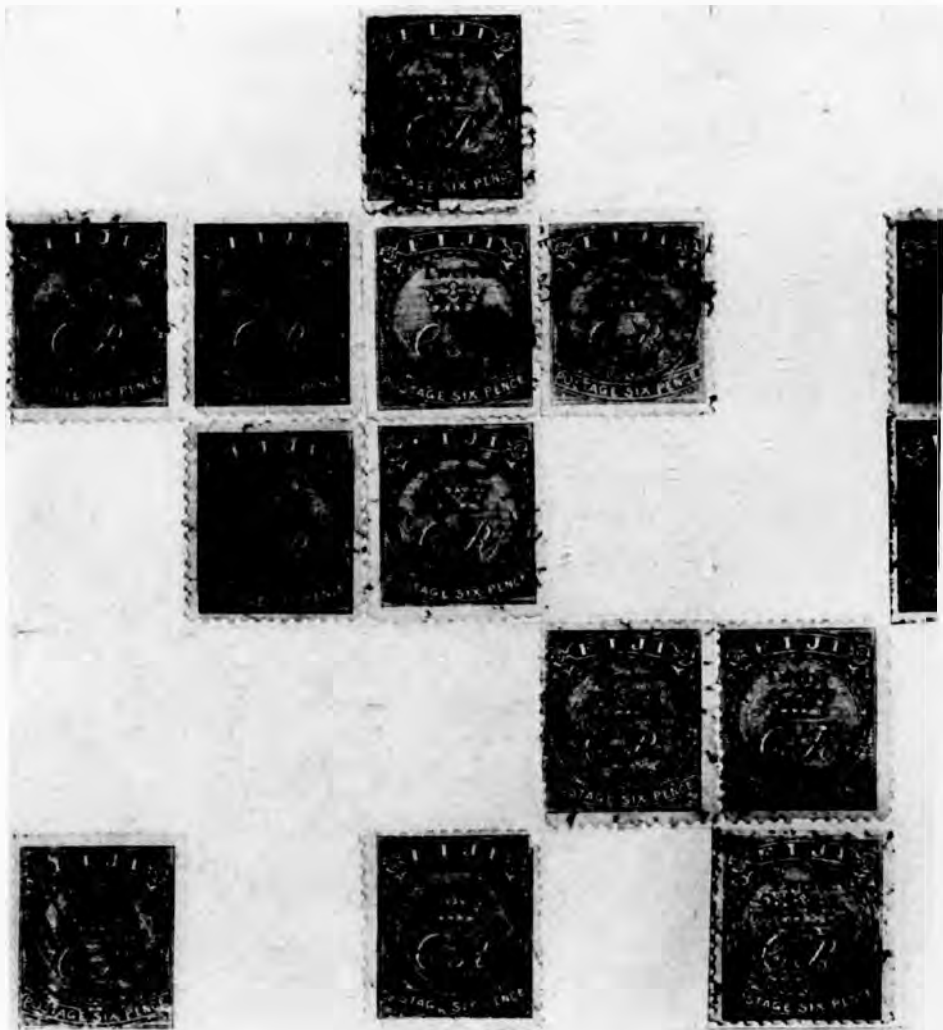


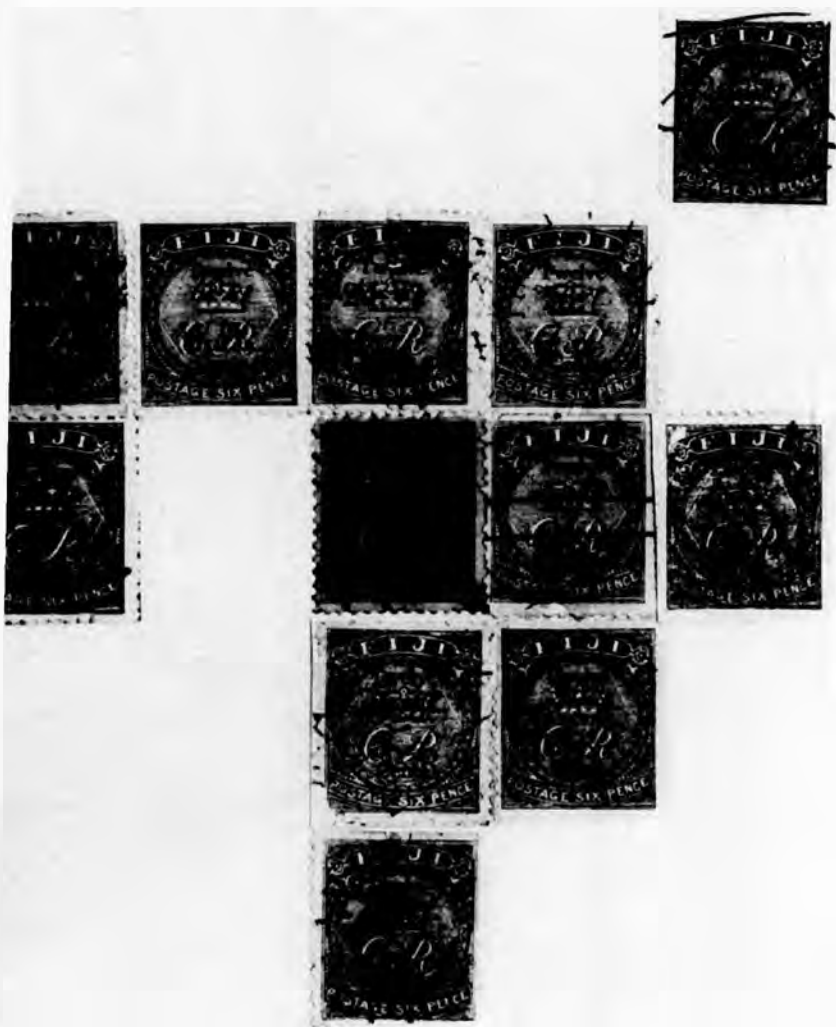




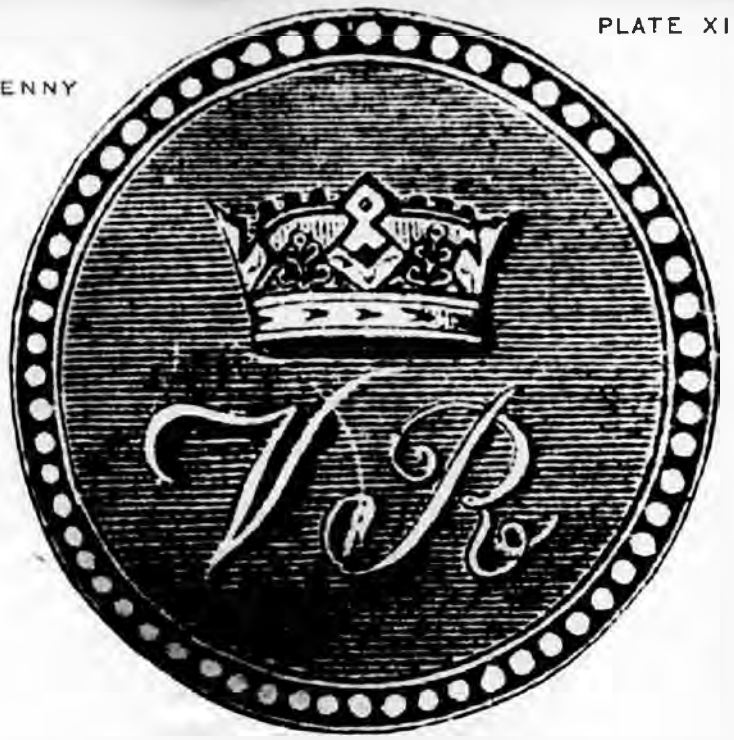








ONE PENNY



THREE PENCE



SIX PENCE



ENLARGEMENTS OF THE CENTRES OF THE 1^o 3^o AND 6^o STAMPS SHOWING THE "C" DRILLED OUT AND THE "V" INSERTED ON A PLUG OF HARD WOOD



THE ORIGINAL 3^p STAMP



1st ALTERATION. "THREE" REMOVED, AND "TWO" INSERTED



2nd ALTERATION. "TWO" REMOVED, AND "FOUR" INSERTED



3rd ALTERATION. LOWER LABEL REMOVED FROM 1st AND "2½^D POSTAGE 2½^D" INSERTED

ENLARGEMENTS OF LOWER PORTIONS OF STAMPS SHOWING ALTERATIONS MADE IN ORIGINAL DIES OF THE 3^p AND 1^p FROM WHICH PLATES FOR THE 2^p 4^p & 2½^p STAMPS WERE MADE IN THE ORDER SHOWN



1



2



3



4



5



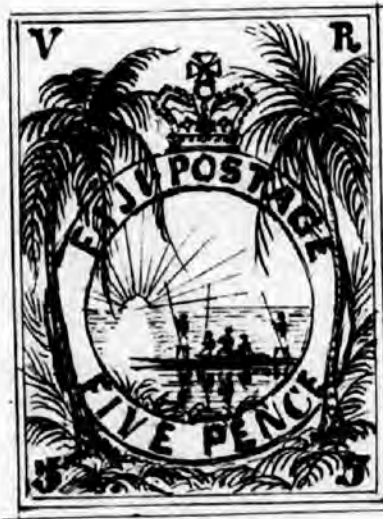
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