Stamp Collecting Notes

By W. S. LINCOLN

PHILATELIC SECTION.

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PREFACE.

This little book is not intended to in any way compete with or supersede the many admirable works on stamp collecting produced by learned members of the Philatelical Societies. All such works, however, so bristle with technical expressions, that, of a necessity, they appeal to a very limited class.

For years past the conviction has been forcing itself upon me that something is needed which will appeal to a much wider constituency: something which, although dealing with all the salient features of what is, perhaps, the most fascinating hobby in the world, will yet be couched in language comprehensible to any schoolboy of average intelligence.

To that end I have compiled this little book. It was as far back as 1854 that I commenced the collection of postage stamps. Since then some millions must have passed through my hands, but whereas I have compiled my numerous catalogues as a stamp dealer, it is rather as a stamp collector that I have written the present work, and to my fellow collectors throughout the English speaking world I respectfully dedicate it.

WILLIAM S. LINCOLN.

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CHAPTER I.

ON STAMP COLLECTING IN GENERAL

IT is a simple truism to say that philately, or to use the more homely and expressive phrase, stamp collecting, is by far the most popular of all hobbies. In the smallest provincial towns, whether in Great Britain or abroad, just as here in the world's metropolis, enthusiastic collectors may be found. This is demonstrated by the fact that it would be almost impossible to find a town, however unimportant, either in Europe or America, where foreign postage stamps are not exposed for sale. Not so many years ago, stamp collectors were regarded generally at best as harmless cranks. Nowadays, so far from being merely a frivolous mode of whiling away odd moments, stamp collecting is universally recognised as a study requiring patience, care, and intelligence. As such it attracts members of all the learned professions. Indeed, the number of lawyers who are enthusiastic philatelists, is quite phenomenal. And stamp collecting is by no means confined to any one class of society. Prosperous city merchants are often as keen in the pursuit of rare specimens, as their own junior clerks. Many of the best collections are owned by members of the nobility, even

Royalty itself does not disdain the hobby. The late Tzar of Russia was an indefatigable collector; so is the Duke of Saxe Coburg and Gotha. The Duke of York, too, possesses a valuable collection.

Of course these great ones of the earth have in many cases spent fabulous sums in perfecting their collections. With care and judgment, however, it is possible to obtain a valuable collection at quite a modest outlay, and one which, should necessity to part with it ever arise, may be relied upon to realise more than it originally cost. In this respect, stamp collecting is unique among hobbies. The value of old china, old lace, old paintings, and old silver, constantly fluctuates. Many a cabinet of old china, brought together when the æsthetic movement was at its height, would now barely fetch one half the sum it originally cost.

Now and again, of course, an old drawer is turned out, and perhaps a dozen or twenty letters, each bearing a particular foreign stamp, are discovered therein. If it should happen that comparatively few specimens of the stamp in question were known to be in existence, these dozen or twenty coming into the market may to a certain extent affect the price of the stamp. For this reason, whenever hereafter in these pages I mention the value of a stamp, I propose only giving its approximate sale price, and qualifying the same with the word "about." Inasmuch as all price catalogues have to be revised nearly every year, the necessity of this precaution is obvious.

As a matter of fact, to one case of a stamp decreasing in value, there are on record at least a hundred instances of the value of stamps greatly increasing. As one case amongst many, I may mention that in a catalogue I issued in 1873, the one penny (red) triangular stamp,

struck at the Cape of Good Hope in 1861, was priced at half-a-crown. I am now quite prepared to *purchase* specimens at £2 apiece. Let it be distinctly understood that this refers solely to the stamp generally known as a wood block. As a matter of fact it was from a copper plate, but so roughly executed that collectors generally concluded it was from a woodcut. The ordinary issue, similar in size and colour, is still comparatively common. It is necessary to mention this, as it is a curious fact that whenever the newspapers record the sale at a good price of any rare stamp, every stamp dealer of any note receives numberless letters containing stamps bearing some distant resemblance to the rare one sold. The likeness is often very distant, as the descriptions of stamps sold at auction, as vouchsafed by the ordinary press, are necessarily meagre and often inaccurate. Nevertheless, no matter how common or hopelessly mutilated the specimens sent may be, the worthy possessors ask enormous prices for them and are disappointed, sometimes even angry, when told their treasures are practically worthless.

If a dealer's correspondents are sometimes an occasion of mild worry to him, some of his callers are far more troublesome. For example, the last specimen on sale of the half-anna Indian stamp of 1854, red in colour, fetched £10 in the open market. Immediately on this fact being chronicled, every dealer was beseiged by retired East Indian officers, or their widows, their sisters, their cousins, or their aunts, all bearing in triumph old letters from India with either half-anna *blue* stamps on, or one anna, red. In the former instance their stamps were worth about a shilling each, in the latter about sixpence. In either case their owners retired crestfallen and chagrined.

Sometimes all the persuasion in the world will not convince would-be vendors that their specimens are not of priceless value, and that all the dealers have not conspired together to defraud them. One charming young lady in particular, left me with the remark, "Perhaps it's not quite the same, but it's much prettier than the nasty old thing you've got in your window marked up £2 10s., so there now"; which was cutting and undoubtedly true. Artistic beauty, however, by no means governs the value of a stamp. Of course, stamp collecting has its artistic, just as it has its historical and its geographical side, and it will be from these and from many other points of view that philately will be considered in the following pages.

CHAPTER II.

ON HISTORY AS EXEMPLIFIED BY POSTAGE STAMPS.

THE first postage stamp ever issued saw the light in 1840, this was the black English penny stamp which has not yet attained a high value. A variety struck with the initials V.R. in the upper corners is, however, exceedingly scarce. This is somewhat remarkable, as it is doubtful whether the stamp was ever issued other than as an essay. That it was intended for use in a limited sense by the government of the day, the following extract from an official notice of May 7th, 1840, by the then Secretary to the Post Office, clearly demonstrates: "I also enclose for your information two specimens of the label stamps bearing the letters V.R. at the upper corners, which are to be applied to the correspondence of Public Departments and other persons formerly enjoying the privilege of official franking.

(Signed) W. L. MABERLY,
Secretary."

Since 1840 history has been made very rapidly, and postage stamps have faithfully chronicled each change in the form of government of every civilised state.

To prove this we have only to glance at the stamps emanating from our next-door neighbours, France. The

first set issued in that country was in 1849. It consisted of six varieties, progressing in value from ten centimes to a franc; stamps of the latter value, by the bye, being found in three tints—lake, carmine, and orange. All alike bear the head of "Liberty," and are inscribed "Repub Franc." In December, 1851, after three years struggle with the Assembly, Louis Napoléon brought matters to a climax by his famous *coup d'état*, and was elected Prince President of the Republic. Early the following year we find two stamps appearing, bearing a similar inscription to the previous ones, but in place of the head of Liberty that of Louis Napoléon is shewn. Another year passes, the form of government in France has again changed, and the inscription on the postage stamps is accordingly altered. "Repub." disappears and in its place is shewn the proud word "Empire." Ten years go by; the Emperor is in the zenith of his power, and a new set of stamps is issued, shewing His Imperial Majesty crowned with the hero's laurels.

Seven more years elapse, and the sun of Napoléon III. has sunk for ever at Sedan. Once more the head of Liberty is blazoned on the stamps. Again "Repub." appears in place of "Empire." The first stamps issued by the newly formed Republic were somewhat rough, being only lithographed and not perforated. No wonder, for they were struck when Paris was beseiged. In 1871 the stamps were better executed. These remained in force until 1876, when "Liberty" gave way to "Mercury" and "Commerce." Stamps of this pattern are current at the time of writing, but it is understood that an entire new issue is in contemplation.

For a still more varied record of governmental changes exemplified in philately we must turn to Spain. The first postage stamps issued in the Peninsula

appeared in 1850. From that date until 1868 a bewildering variety came out, differing in value and in colours, but all alike bearing portraits of Queen Isabella II., except two struck in 1854, on which are shewn the arms of Madrid, and seven issued the same year shewing the arms of Spain. In 1868, Queen Isabella having been dethroned and a Republic declared, two stamps were produced having their values in large numerals enclosed in a double circle, 5 riels (green) and 10 riels (brown). The former remained current for some years, but the latter was replaced in 1870 by one of a set bearing a front faced head of "Liberty."

The Spanish people, however, soon tired of a Republic and for a while the ancient throne of Spain went begging. At one time it was thought a German prince would be appointed, and this was, of course, the immediate cause of the France-German war. At last Prince Amadeus, of Italy, was fixed upon, and accordingly, in 1872 a set of stamps was brought forth bearing his portrait. For a few stormy months Amadeus reigned as King, but he was acceptable to nobody. The adherents alike of Don Carlos and Isabella looked upon him as a usurper, the Republicans objected to a king of any kind, and the clergy, all powerful in Spain, never forgot he was the son of Victor Emmanuel, whose treatment of Pope Pius IX. they resented. So the reign of King Amadeus was soon brought to an inglorious end and a Republic once more proclaimed. An issue of stamps was produced by the Republican government in 1873, whereon "Liberty" was shewn seated, bearing an olive leaf in her right hand, her left arm resting on a shield. The following year these stamps were superseded by a set which, in lieu of "Liberty" bore a representation of "Justice."

Why the change was made is not very obvious. The stamps were no improvement upon their predecessors in appearance, both sets being coarsely executed, and no Spanish Republic has yet been conspicuous for its love of either liberty or justice.

In 1874 the monarchy was restored under Alphonso XII., son of the exiled Queen Isabella, and stamps with his portrait on them, front face and facing both left and right, were in use not merely until his death on November 25th, 1885, but until 1889, when stamps came out displaying the likeness of the posthumous son of Alphonso XII., who was born on May 17th, 1886, to the style and title of His Most Catholic Majesty, the King of Spain. The portrait of the youthful king, Alphonso XIII., is on all the stamps now hailing from Spain.

Of the stamps issued by Don Carlos it will be more appropriate to speak under another heading, but no mention of Spanish stamps would be complete without reference to the special War Tax stamps issued from 1874 to 1879. These were produced with a view to covering some of the expense of the civil war then raging. All letters had to bear one of these stamps in addition to the ordinary ones. They bore the inscription "Impuesto de Guerra," and varied in value from five centimos to five pesetas.

The neighbouring kingdom of Portugal, although it has had a far less chequered political career than Spain during the last half-century, has been ruled over by no less than four sovereigns:—Maria II., Pedro V., Louis, and Charles. The Portuguese stamps have in turn given portraits of each.

But for really dramatic history portrayed in postage stamps it is necessary to turn from the pages of an album

devoted to Europe to those allotted to America. There the Mexican issues tell one of the most tragic stories the modern world has known. The first stamps used in Mexico were struck in 1856, and displayed the portrait of Juarez, although he was not actually elected President of Mexico until 1861. From 1853 he was for years engaged in a struggle for the Presidency, and during the fights between the adherents of President Zuloaga and the followers of Juarez the losses sustained by European residents in Mexico were enormous. Many of the European residents were Frenchmen, and Napoléon III. demanded compensation for the losses they had sustained. This demand Juarez refused to comply with, whereupon the Emperor of the French sent troops to overthrow him. The French occupied Mexico, and in 1863 and the following year issued the "Eagle" set of stamps. Maximilian, brother of the Emperor of Austria, was, by the French, proclaimed Emperor of Mexico, and stamps bearing his portrait followed. In the struggle to maintain his position Maxmilian was defeated, and, by command of Juarez, shot in June, 1867. Juarez then caused himself to be re-elected President of Mexico, when stamps appeared with his portrait similar to those of 1856 and 1861. In 1879 President Diaz was elected, and an issue of stamps bearing his portrait was brought out. Under the beneficient autocracy of President Diaz the condition of Mexico has steadily improved, but although several varieties of stamps have since been produced there, none call for special comment.

Brazil, too, has undergone a change in the form of its government, and the fact has been duly shewn on its postage stamps. From 1843 to 1875 the stamps used in the Brazilian Empire were simple in the extreme.

They were mostly black, the only exceptions being the 280 reis, which was red, the 430 reis, which was orange, and the two newspaper stamps, which were blue. As to inscription they boasted none whatever, and their values were simply shewn in large white numerals. In 1876 a more interesting set was circulated, displaying the profile of the Emperor, Dom Pedro II., and His Majesty's portrait graced nearly all the stamps until his deposition in 1889, after a reign of fifty-eight years. Since then several varieties have been issued by the present Republic.

These are only a few examples of many that could be quoted, showing how history is illustrated in philately. There is another way in which history has occasionally been exemplified on postage stamps, but that can better be dealt with under a separate heading.

CHAPTER III.

ON COMMEMORATIVE POSTAGE STAMPS.

THE stamps referred to in the last chapter all chronicled contemporary history. This chapter, on the other hand, will be confined to the consideration of stamps struck to commemorate great historical events of the past. Against some of these commemorative stamps it must be admitted that many collectors appear to entertain a considerable amount of prejudice, some going so far as to decline to find places for them in their albums. Inasmuch as in the case of one or two of the poorer countries, it seems probable that the stamps were issued with a view to inducing stamp collectors to purchase specimens, and thus help replenish empty Treasury exchequers, there may be some excuse for the prejudice, but it must be borne in mind that the stamps were duly issued and used for postal purposes, so that, whether a collector likes them or not, his collection cannot be considered complete without specimens thereof.

The first purely commemorative stamps issued were the two large shield shaped envelope stamps brought out by our American cousins in 1876, in celebration of the centenary of the Declaration of Independence, which was signed in 1776. They bore the inscription "1776—

1876," and as a design shewed a mail carrier on a pony, and a railway train. The mail carrier on a pony was a representation of the "pony post" by which letters were conveyed across the American continent before the railway was completed. Fresh carriers were ready at certain points duly mounted, the mail bag was slung from the carrier whose journey had ceased to the one about to start, and consequently the mails were carried with no delay whatever.

Seventeen years later the United States issued a set of large oblong stamps to commemorate the four hundredth anniversary of the Discovery of America. That event, of course, occurred in 1492, and the stamps, although issued in 1893, bore the inscription "1492—1892." The set consisted of eighteen varieties, each depicting a notable event in the career of Columbus. In variety of design and beauty of execution, this set was the finest produced by any State. The same year four large envelope stamps were issued in the States, shewing the heads of Columbus and "Liberty." There are varieties of these with, and without a stop after the word "America," and some have two, others three longitudinal lines at the back of the portrait of Columbus.

But Columbus discovered America—not the United States—and several of the Central and South American Governments duly recorded the fact by issuing commemorative stamps of their own These were, generally speaking, quite equal in design and colouring to those issued by the United States, being only inferior in number and completeness.

The commemorative stamps produced by the Argentine Republic were two in number, and were used only on October 12th, 1892, to commemorate the Discovery of America exactly four hundred years before. They

were very fine examples of engraving by the Compania Sud Americanb de billetes de banco of Buenos Ayres.

The same year Honduras brought out eleven ordinary and four envelope stamps, on all of which Columbus was depicted sighting land. Nicaragua, too, recorded the same event on ten ordinary and five envelope stamps.

Venezuela's contribution to this plethora of philatelical records of one great event, was a finely executed stamp to the value of twenty-five centimos, magenta in colour, and similar in general design to the commemorative set issued by the United States. As it bore the inscription "1492—1892; Descubrimiento de la costa firme, 1498," and as it did not make its appearance until 1893, chronologically speaking it had it's little eccentricities.

The small Central American Republic of Salvador has issued three sets of commemoration stamps. The first came out in 1892, and consisted of ten varieties, all depicting the landing of Columbus. The second set, which was issued in 1893, consisted of three very handsome stamps, larger than the ordinary size; 2 pesos (green); 5 pesos (violet); and 10 pesos (orange). The first named shewed Columbus landing at the spot he called Isabella, in honour of the Queen of Spain; the second bore a picture of the famous Monument to Columbus at Genoa; and the third illustrates Columbus starting from Palos, a headland near Huelva, in Spain. It is upon Palos that the monastery of *La Rabida* stands where the great explorer was fitted up, and from whence he was sent on his perilous adventure. In 1894, these stamps were superseded by three oblong ones of similar value, but differing in colour, being blue, lake, and brown respectively. These are also singularly beautiful

specimens of the engraver's art. The 2 pesos variety shews Columbus before the Council; the 5 pesos depicts him protecting the hostages; and the 10 pesos portrays his reception by the King and Queen of Spain.

If in 1776, as brought to memory by the first commemorative stamps referred to in this chapter, Great Britain lost a considerable part of North America, twelve years later she founded a mighty colony in Australasia. It was in 1770 that Captain Cook discovered New South Wales, but it was not until 1788 that it was actually colonised. Accordingly, in 1888 we find a series of stamps from that Colony celebrating its hundredth birthday. Of the eight comprised in the set, the 4d. and £1 stamps are perhaps the most interesting. The former bears a portrait of Captain Cook; the latter boasts two portraits, a picture of Captain Arthur Phillips gracing the upper portion, and one of Lord Carrington the lower portion of the stamp. Captain Phillips, it may be noted, was the first Governor of the Colony, and Lord Carrington held that post in 1888.

Newfoundland issued a handsome set of stamps in 1897, to commemorate the discovery of that part of the continent by Cabot four hundred years before, and in one out of the fourteen stamps comprising the set, to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Each stamp bore a separate design, with an explanatory description underneath. The values, colours, and inscriptions, were as follows:—

1 cent.	(green).	"Our Queen. Sixtieth year of her reign."
2 cents.	(lake).	"Cabot. 'Hym that found the new Isle.'"
3 ,,	(blue).	"Cape Bonavista. The land fall of Cabot."
4 ,,	(sage).	"Caribou hunting. Newfoundland sport."
5 ,,	(violet).	"Mining. One of the Colony's resources."
6 ,,	(red brown).	"Logging. One of the Colony's resources."
8 ,,	(orange).	"Fishing. One of the Colony's resources."

10 cents.		(brown).	"Cabot's ship, the 'Matthew,' leaving the Avon"
12	,,	(indigo).	"Ptarmigan. Newfoundland sport."
15	,,	(vermilion).	"One of the Colony's resources." (Seals are depicted on this stamp, but not named.)
24	,,	(lilac).	"Salmon fishing. Newfoundland sport."
30	,,	(blue grey).	"Seal of the Colony. Fishermen bringing gifts to Britannia."
35	,,	(brick red).	"Coast scenery. An Iceberg off St. John's."
60	,,	(black).	"Henry VII., who granted charter to Cabot to discover new lands."

The entire set is beautifully executed, and does undoubted credit to the American Bank Note Company of New York, which Company has produced them.

Loyal Canada duly celebrated Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee by producing a handsome set of sixteen double-headed stamps, rising in value from half-a-cent. to five dollars, shewing the Queen as she was in 1837 and as she was in 1897. The number issued of each value varied considerably; whereas 20,000,000 of the 3 cents. stamp were produced, only 150,000 of the half-cent. stamp were issued, so there is every probability of the latter becoming rare in time.

Shanghai is another British settlement that has indulged in the luxury of a commemorative stamp. After the war with China in 1841, a Treaty of Peace was signed on August 29th, 1842, whereby China agreed to open five ports to British trade, Canton, Amoy, Foochow, Ningpo, and Shanghai, but it was not until 1843 that the ratification of the treaty of peace was proclaimed. In 1893, therefore, a Jubilee 2 cent. stamp was struck to commemorate the event. It was printed in red and black, and bore as a design, Mercury on a winged wheel.

The neighbouring Empire of Japan issued two stamps

on February 9th, 1894, to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the wedding day of the Emperor and Empress. These are naturally known as "The Silver Wedding stamps."

Amongst commemorative stamps that have caused some outcry on the part of many philatelists, on the ground that they were absolutely uncalled for, the penny stamp issued by our old friend, President Kruger, in 1895, must be reckoned. It bore the arms of the Transvaal, together with a sketch of a railway train and wagon. Its *raison d'être* was the institution of a uniform postage for the Transvaal, and the opening of the Delagoa railway. It must be admitted that these were important events for the South African Republic.

In Europe, commemorative stamps have not been very plentiful. The Greek Government issued a set in 1896, on the occasion of the revival of the Olympic Games at Athens. It is understood that they do not propose to issue any to celebrate their war with Turkey in 1897. Portugal had a fine set in 1894 to celebrate the fifth centenary of the birth of Prince Henry the Navigator, son of King John I. of Portugal, and in 1895 a set to commemorate the seventh centenary of St. Anthony's birth, which will be dealt with under another heading. Belgium also produced two fine stamps in honour of the Brussels Exhibition of 1897.

If the multiplication of stamps to commemorate bygone events, having no possible connection with matters postal, is to some extent to be deprecated, it has its use. Such stamps give a particular interest to the young stamp collector, marking events and dates in the memory which are never likely to be eradicated, and that, all will agree, is no mean gain.

CHAPTER IV.

ON "LOST CAUSES AND IMPOSSIBLE BELIEFS."

WE have seen how postage stamps record changes in the government of states, and how they have been occasionally utilised to recall to the memory great historical episodes of the past. I now propose to demonstrate how a stamp album may be a silent memento of powers and dominations that have had their day, which, although they still have their adherents, who look back longingly to the old *régime*, may yet be fitly consigned to the region of what Matthew Arnold has pathetically referred to as "Lost causes and impossible beliefs."

First and foremost in this category come the stamps issued by Jefferson Davis for use in "The Confederate States of America." There were three values of such stamps issued in 1861, 2 cents (green), having a portrait of Andrew Jackson, seventh President of the United States; 5 cents, struck both in blue and in green, bearing a portrait of Jefferson Davis; and 10 cents, also struck in two colours, blue and rose, with James Madison's portrait on. Of these, the 2 cent stamp is the rarest, used specimens selling at about a guinea each.

Unused specimens are cheaper, this being accounted for by the fact that after the surrender of the Confederate forces at Charlestown whole batches of stamps were secured by the Federal authorities, and eventually disposed of to collectors and others. During the stormy years 1862 and 1863 several other stamps were issued: 1 cent (orange), with a portrait of John Calhoun; 2 cents (carmine), shewing Andrew Jackson's head; 5 cents and 10 cents, both blue, and both with Jefferson Davis' portrait; and 20 cents (green), displaying a picture of George Washington. Of these, the 5 cents is to be found clearly printed on smooth paper and printed with a worn die on coarser paper. There were four varieties of the 10 cents stamp. The rarest had the value in words, examples now fetching about fifteen shillings each. The three varieties with the value in numerals differed as to the background around the head. Die No. 1 had a background divided into squares by lines of equal thickness. In die No. 2 the perpendicular lines were thicker than the horizontal ones, making the spaces oblong. Die No. 3, engraved by Messrs. Keatinge & Ball, of Columbia, South Carolina, had lines so thick that the background appeared to be solid.

Besides the official stamps issued by the Confederate government, several towns, Knoxville, New Orleans, Charlestown, Mobile and others, produced stamps for local use.

Although there are veterans in the Southern States who still whistle "Dixie's Land," and cherish a sentimental regard for the memory of "Stonewall Jackson" and other Confederate heroes, probably none of them would seriously desire to split into two antagonistic countries the now happily United States, and the dream of secession on the part of "The Solid South" is clearly

to be classified amongst "Lost Causes and Impossible Beliefs."

The Hanoverian stamps recall a State which, as an independent kingdom, has ceased to be, and are particularly interesting to Englishmen. Hanover, it may be remembered, became an appurtenance of the British Crown when that "wee, wee, German lairdie," as the Jacobites called him, the Elector of Hanover, became King of Great Britain and Ireland, in the person of George I. Up to the reign of William IV. Hanover was united to Great Britain, but on the death of William IV., the Salic law being in force there, Hanover passed over the head of Queen Victoria to her uncle, the Duke of Cumberland, who became King Ernest Augustus of Hanover.

It was originally intended that the King of Hanover's son George should marry Queen Victoria, and thus once more bring Hanover into governmental union with Great Britain, but owing to an accident when a youth, Prince George entirely lost his sight, and Her Majesty, not unnaturally, would not hear of the match.

The blind prince in due course succeeded to the throne of Hanover as King George V., and the most interesting stamps from that country are those showing his profile. They are all still fairly common except the 10 groschen stamp, green in colour, used specimens of which fetch about thirty shillings each. But Prince Bismark had long had designs on Hanover's independence, and during the "Seven Weeks' War" of 1866 Prussia occupied the country, and afterwards annexed it. King George V. died in exile. His son still declines the annuity which the German Emperor would allow him, and claims to be King Ernest Augustus II. of Hanover. He resides principally in Austria; when in

England he is known as the Duke of Cumberland, a title that is his *de facto* as well as *de jure*.

United Italy comprises several States of which, as far as their independent existence is concerned, may be written, "Ichabod, for the glory has departed." Modena is one of them, and the stamps issued by the last Duke thereof, Francis V., from 1852 until he was dethroned in 1859 are rapidly becoming scarce.

The stamps that came from Parma are also getting rare. Those issued from 1852 to 1857 all displayed the Bourbon *fieur de lys* under a ducal crown. Of these, the rarest is the 5 centesimi issued in 1854. It was printed in yellow on white paper, and specimens now realise about twelve shillings each. A still rarer stamp emanating from Parma, was the 80 centesimi, orange, being one of seven struck by the Provisional Government in 1859 after the deposition of the Duke of Parma. Examples of this stamp now sell at about thirty-five shillings each.

The stamps used in Tuscany, prior to its annexation by Victor Emmanuel, have in some cases become very valuable. Specimens of the 2 soldi variety, printed in red brown on bluish paper in 1849, are worth about £7 each, and examples of the 60 crazie, of a somewhat similar tint, £12. In 1859 Victor Emmanuel issued seven stamps with the Savoy cross in lieu of the Tuscan lion and shield, but still bearing the inscription "Franco Bollo Postale Toscano." Of these seven, the highest value, 3 lire, yellow, is now an extreme rarity. On the 20th August, 1860, the National Assembly at Florence voted the Union of Tuscany to the Kingdom of Italy, and separate stamps for Tuscany became things of the past.

Of all the defunct Italian States, from a purely

philatelical point of view, the Kingdom of Naples and the Two Sicilies is the most interesting. The stamps issued for use in Naples bore the arms of that kingdom. Of these the 50 grana stamp is the scarcest, specimens being now worth about sixty shillings each. Those issued for Sicily in 1852 bore the portrait of King Ferdinand II., better known as "Bomba."

Apropos of these stamps a curious tale is told. It did not seem right to King Ferdinand that His Majesty's portrait should be disfigured by an ordinary post-mark. So he invented an effacing die which would mark the top and sides of the stamps, leaving the face of "The Lord's anointed" apparently surrounded by black curtains. That was admirable in theory; alas, in practice it often worked out that the curtains came right over the royal face terribly disfiguring it. Whether this was due to hurry on the part of the Sicilian post office officials or was intended to express their sympathy with Garibaldi, who shall say? Italian postal officials are certainly not remarkable for their alacrity, and the circumstance caused much disquietude to poor "Bomba," but he was more disconcerted the following year when he had to flee to England where he died in exile.

Throughout his residence in England the ex-king lived in a state of preparedness, waiting the call he momentarily expected from his affectionate people begging him to resume his heritage. The call never came, and now his son, "Francis III.," or "Bombina" as he has been irreverently styled, has followed him where the cares and troubles of pseudo kingship are unknown.

I promised in chapter ii. to refer later on to the stamps issued by Don Carlos. It is doubtful whether

the Carlist cause in Spain is absolutely lost, and of all things it is the most rash to venture to prophesy in matters political appertaining to the Peninsula, still, at the present moment, this seems the most suitable place to deal with these philatelical curios. They were brought out intermittingly from 1872 to 1874. There are nine varieties of adhesive stamps and one envelope stamp known. All are much scarcer used than unused. Indeed, most of the varieties never appear to have escaped the vigilence of the then existing Republican Government, who seized all letters bearing such stamps and confiscated them as being treasonable. None the less, the present Spanish Monarchy hangs on the very slender thread of the young king's life, and if at any time the wheel of fortune hands the throne of his ancestors over to Don Carlos or his son, Don Jaime, this paragraph must be eliminated from our chapter on "Lost Causes and Impossible Beliefs."

CHAPTER V.

ON GEOGRAPHY AS ILLUSTRATED BY POSTAGE STAMPS.

THE difficulty in attempting to demonstrate how geography is taught by philately, is to know where to begin. One is almost tempted to say that to carefully study a well filled stamp album, is to acquire a liberal education in geography. This fact is now so generally recognised, that most parents encourage their children to collect stamps, and it is an undoubted fact that many schoolboys thereby obtain a more practical knowledge of geography, than either school manuals or pedagogues are able to impart. Wherefore I say most parents encourage their children to collect stamps nowadays, but they did not always do so. I heard of the case of a schoolboy in the early seventies, who gave sixpence for an eightpenny maroon coloured Ceylon stamp, not perforated; it was his entire week's pocket money, and his irate father, upon learning of the purchase, confiscated the stamp, and chastised the boy. Twenty years after, the worthy parent died, and the old stamp was found in his desk. A collector to whom it was shewn, pronounced it valuable. It was put on the market, and sold for £11. No doubt that sum helped to pay the old gentleman's funeral expenses, and his son had long since overcome his feelings of soreness—both mental and physical.

Probably the best way to realise how stamp collecting teaches geography, is to look over a stamp album issued some ten years ago, and then one of the current year. In the older one the space which sufficed for Africa was very meagre compared with that which is allotted to that Continent now. The reason is obvious. Since the earlier album was published, the European powers have appropriated vast portions of Africa. Indeed, they have parcelled out a great portion of the dark continent, with a nicety and precision only comparable to Joshua's division of the Holy Land in days of old.

Now, wherever civilisation marches, postage stamps follow. Thus in 1890, the British South Africa Company issued a set of seventeen stamps for use in their vast dominions. The facial value of the stamps varied from one halfpenny to ten pounds. Many, especially the high value ones, are exceedingly rare. They are all thoroughly artistic productions, most of them being printed in two colours. All bear the Chartered Company's arms, with the words "British South Africa Company" above, and the motto "Justice, Freedom, Commerce," beneath. In 1892, civilisation had so far advanced in the Company's dominions, that it was found possible to guarantee safety to valuables sent by post therefrom, and registration stamps to the value of twopence and fourpence, were accordingly issued. The following year, the Company produced yet another stamp, parti-coloured, slate and red, and of an absolutely unique value, *i.e.*, four shillings.

Not so many years ago barbarism ruled supreme in Zululand, and Cetewayo was king. Now Zululand is a fairly peaceful British Colony, and since 1895 has boasted of stamps specially engraved for itself; for

seven years prior to that date it had been content with British or Natal stamps surcharged "Zululand."

Nor have the Boers been idle while we have been extending our territory. In 1889 they practically annexed Swazieland, and the current issue of Transvaal stamps were used in that region surcharged "Swazieland." These remained in circulation until 1893, when Swazieland became formally a Boer Protectorate. Since then the ordinary Transvaal stamps have been used without any surcharge. To judge by the several petitions sent to England on the subject, it would seem that the natives fail to appreciate the blessings of Boer "protection."

The stamps emanating from the "New Republic" are also interesting. The New Republic was a settlement of Boers outside the old limit of the Transvaal. The stamps which were issued in 1886 and 1887 were some of the roughest known. They were produced from hand dies, having the value and date moveable. They are all in violet ink on coarse white paper, and are found in ten values, ranging from a penny to half-a-crown. All are exceedingly scarce. Some few, which have the arms of the Republic embossed on them, realise fancy prices. It cannot be said how many varieties might be procured. It is possible that some were issued every day for nearly two years. This is, however, highly improbable, considering how scantily populated the district was. All alike bore the inscription "Nieuwe Republiek," and the words "Zuid Afrika" under the date. In 1888, the New Republic was merged in the Transvaal, and these queer stamps ceased to be used.

Our Portugese neighbours have also been moving in South Africa, and, as usual, philately records the fact.

The most important Portugese settlement in South Africa, is Mozambique. The first stamps used there were issued in 1877, and numbered nine in all, varying in value from five to three hundred reis. Later on the ten, twenty, twenty-four, forty, and fifty reis stamps were re-issued in different colours. Specimens of each of these five stamps, therefore, are met with in two tints. In 1886 a new set came out, bearing the profile of the late King Louis of Portugal.

In 1892, a Company having been formed to develop the district, stamps bearing a full-faced portrait of King Charles of Portugal, saw the light; they were surcharged "Compa de Mozambique." In 1895, a series was issued by the Company, shewing the arms of Portugal supported by two elephants.

The same year some very pretty stamps were issued for use in Lorenzo Marquez, the district surrounding Delagoa Bay. They bear an excellent likeness of the King of Portugal, in an oval surrounded by the inscription "Portugal: Lourenço Marques." The following is a list of their values and colours:—

5 reis, yellow.
10 ,, lilac.
15 ,, brown.
20 ,, lilac.
25 ,, green.
50 ,, blue.
75 reis, rose.
80 ,, emerald.
100 ,, brown on yellow.
150 ,, rose on pink.
200 ,, blue on pale blue.
300 ,, blue on yellow.

A few years back another Company, entitled the "Nyassa Company," was formed to develop Portugese possessions in South Africa, and three stamps were ordered from and produced in England. They all shew a castle surrounded by the inscription "Companhia do Nyassa," with "Cabo Delgado" above, and "Provincia de Mozambique" below. Their values are ten reis (red), twenty reis (violet), and fifty reis (green). Unfor-

tunately it happened that there was a diplomatic misunderstanding between Great Britain and Portugal at the time and, on the grounds that the stamps were produced in London and not in Lisbon, the Portugese Government forbade their use. They were, therefore, not put into circulation and may be looked upon more as philatelical curiosities than anything else. From this it will be seen that besides teaching geography, the study of philately sometimes gives us little lessons in patriotism, even though, as in this case, the patriotism is directed against our own country.

CHAPTER VI.

ON THE ECCLESIASTICAL SIDE OF STAMP COLLECTING.

The connection between stamp collecting and matters ecclesiastical is perhaps not at first sight very obvious. None the less there are quite a number of postage stamps which really possess quite a religious interest. The stamps issued by Portugal in 1895, illustrating the life of St. Antony of Padua, are good examples. Throughout the world, St. Antony is known as "St. Antony of Padua"—except in Portugal or any Portugese possession—there he is referred to as "St. Antony of Lisbon," and it is almost a mortal offence to speak of him in the presence of a patriotic "Portugee" under any other cognomen.

The set of stamps in question was issued only from the 12th to the 30th of June, when all Lisbon was keeping the seventh centenary of St. Antony's birth. Each stamp depicts an incident in the life of the saint. All of them bear at the back a quotation from St. Bonaventure, the full inscription being:—

Centenario de Santo Antonio.
MCXCV. • M.DCCCXCV.

O lingua benedicta quae Dominum semper benedixisti et alios benedicere docuisti: nunc perspicue cernitur quanti meriti fueris apud Deum.

S. Boaventura.

The translation being:

Centenary of St. Antony. 1195 * 1895.

Oh blessed tongue, which has always blessed the Lord and taugh others to bless Him: now more than ever do we see how great is your merit with God.

St. Bonaventure.

The set consists of fifteen, as follows:—

2½	reis, grey.	80	reis, green and lilac.
5	,, yellow.	100	,, brown and grey.
10	,, lilac.	150	,, rose.
15	,, brown.	200	,, blue and pink.
20	,, slate.	300	,, grey and pink.
25	,, green and lilac.	500	,, brown and blue.
50	,, blue and lilac.	1,000	,, lilac and blue.
75	,, rose and lilac.		

These stamps, like others referred to in chapter iii., are looked upon askance by some collectors on the grounds that they are a "fancy issue." Be that so, or not, the stamps were issued by the direct order of the King of Portugal, and the Portuguese Government was so interested in the fête held when these stamps were used, that for about a month beforehand the postal authorities at Lisbon had instructions to affix on every letter leaving the capital a label advertising the forthcoming event.

In 1897 Belguim issued two large stamps in honour of the Brussels Exhibition of that year, as briefly referred to in chapter iii. These stamps were not wanting in the religous element, for the 5 cent. (mauve) shewed St. Michael triumphant over evil, and the 10 cent. (brown) displayed St. Michael defeating the Spirit of Evil. Both stamps bear the coupon now found on all Belgian stamps, whereon is notified in French and in Flemish that the letter on which they are used is not to be delivered on Sunday. When a letter is of such urgency, that a delay from Sunday to Monday morning would be serious, the coupon is torn

off, and thus Belgium settles in an eminently practical manner the vexed question of a Sunday post.

Certain stamps formerly used in the Virgin Islands clearly come within the scope of this chapter. Thus the 1d. (green) and 6d. (camine) stamps used there in 1866 are embellished with a figure of a virgin surrounded by lamps. At first sight this would appear to represent one of the wise virgins of the parable, but as the head of the figure is surrounded with a halo, and as there is a lily in one of her hands, it may possibly be intended for the Blessed Virgin Mary. There can, at any rate, be no doubt about the 4d. (brown) and 1s. (rose) stamps issued in 1867. The figure shown thereon is crowned with stars and stands on a crescent moon, and in the 4d. stamp the ocean is in the background. the whole design being evidently taken from some old picture of the Assumption.

A cross has been used as the principal feature in many of the stamps of Switzerland, Russia, and San Domingo. The stamp struck by Venezuela in 1893 to commemorate the fourth centenary of the discovery of America, of which mention is made in chapter iii., exhibits a picture of Columbus planting the cross in America. One of the commenorative stamps issued by the United States in the same year, may also be referred to here. It is the 30 cents. variety, a delicate shade of brown in colour, whereon Columbus is depicted in the monastery of La Rabida.

The stamps issued in the States of the Church from 1853 to 1870, all have a religious interest to this extent —they all shew the crossed keys and triple crown, which, of course, constitute the ecclesiastical symbol for St. Peter. Occasionally one comes across specimens of the 1853 issue surcharged with a black cross. This

implies that they were used in Rome during the great cholera epidemic there. It was represented to Pope Pius IX. that letters leaving the eternal city might spread the disease, so his Holiness had the sheets of stamps, before being sent to the various post-offices, brought to him that he might bless them. Those so honoured were marked with what is generally known as a St. Andrew's Cross. Viewed as a preventative against cholera, this proceeding may, or may not, have proved efficacious; it certainly does not come within the province of this book to determine; but I think it will be admitted on all hands that it was introducing the ecclesiastical element into philately with a vengeance.

CHAPTER VII.

ON PORTRAITURE IN A STAMP ALBUM.

NO one calls a stamp a "Queen's head" nowadays, but not so many years ago the expression was a common one. As a matter of fact, the idealised portrait of Her Majesty as a young girl, which graces British and most Colonial stamps is very far from being an accurate likeness of the august Lady who rules over these realms.

It seems a pity that both the Jubilee and Diamond Jubilee years have been allowed to slip by without an issue of British stamps being struck, shewing the Queen as she really is. Canada, truly, has produced the set of double-headed stamps referred to in chapter iii., and the one cent Newfoundland issue of 1897, also mentioned in the same chapter, shews the Queen as an elderly lady; but as far as Great Britain itself is concerned, no genuine likeness of the Queen has been attempted.

It is nothing new for Canada to depict the Queen in widow's weeds; many Canadian bill stamps have so shewn her, as did the 20 cents (vermilion), and the 50 cents (blue) postage stamps of 1893. But Canada has

not always confined herself to displaying the Queen's head on her stamps. The tenpenny (blue) stamp of 1851 had a portrait of Cabot and so did the 17 cents (blue) stamp of 1860. The former of these is now very rare. The ten cents (brown) variety of 1860 bore a portrait of Lord Elgin, incorrectly described in some catalogues as the Prince Consort.

Cabot, it may be recalled, was the discoverer of the northern portion of the American Continent, and Newfoundland gave his portrait on the 2 cents stamp of 1897. Like Canada, Newfoundland has varied the monotony of philatelical representations of Her Majesty by introducing several other portraits. There are three varieties of 1 cent stamps, with portraits of the Prince of Wales as a lad attired in Highlander's costume. The ten cents (black) stamp of 1862 has a portrait which is also given in many catalogues as that of the Prince of Wales. This is, however, an error; the portrait was meant for the Duke of Edinburgh.

Before leaving the subject of the Queen's head on postage stamps, mention should be made of a set recently issued by the Niger Coast Protectorate, which bear a most excellent likeness of the Queen as she appears at the present time. The stamps are all beautifully engraved and are a pattern alike to the mother country, and to many of the larger colonies in that respect. It is no exaggeration to say that the pictorial representations of the Queen placed before some of her loyal subjects on certain Colonial stamps have been positively grotesque. Notoriously was this the case in the Tasmanian first issue of 1853, and the present 2½d. stamp used in New Zealand is little better. The earliest stamps hailing from Mauritius, too, had portraits of the Queen which can only be described as

humorously insulting. However, as I have before remarked, beauty in design does not necessarily imply that a stamp is valuable, and the two first stamps used in Mauritius in 1855, one penny (red) and twopence (blue), with the words "Post Office," have realised higher prices than any other postage stamps in the world.

If the portraits of Her Majesty on most British and Colonial stamps are not all that could be desired, many foreign stamps bear capital likenesses of the rulers of the countries from which they come; so much so, that just as we turn to a photo album for portraits of our friends and relations, so we may well turn to a stamp album for pictures of the rulers of the earth.

At the present time the Continental states shewing their rulers' portraits on their postage stamps are Austria, Belgium, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Luxemburg, Monaco, Montenegro, Norway, Portugal, Roumania, Spain, Servia and Sweden.

Royal personages are not without those little vanities characteristic of less exalted mortals. The stamps issued by King Pedro V. of Portugal demonstrate this, for sets were issued shewing His Most Faithful Majesty with straight hair and with his hair prettily curled. Stamps can also be made to depict the changes time works in the appearance of a monarch, as in the case of King Milan of Servia, who appears on his earlier stamps as a lad, and on later ones resplendent in all the glory of whiskers. Stamps, too, have been issued shewing the Prince of Roumania with whiskers and embryo moustache; with a slight beard, whiskers, and a rather larger moustache; and with a full beard, whiskers and heavy moustache.

The earlier Prussian stamps bore a likeness of King

Frederick William IV. When William I. succeeded in 1861 the Prussian eagle took the place of the King's head, and the same design has appeared on all subsequent Prussian stamps, and has been transferred to the German stamps since the formation of the German Empire. It is rather strange that the present Emperor's portrait does not appear on any German stamp, because His Imperial Majesty would seem to be rather fond of having his photograph taken. Pictures may be purchased of the Emperor in some twenty different military and naval uniforms, and almost as many civilian costumes, but never a postage stamp bearing the royal visage. Possibly His Majesty is waiting until he has time to design a set of stamps himself.

The Bulgarian postcard of 1896 bears the head of the infant Prince Boris, on the subject of whose reception into the Greek Church half the crowned heads of Europe were agitated and the Pope himself perturbed. Queen Victoria's head appears on the stamps of Malta and Gibraltar, as it did upon the stamps used in the Ionian Isles and Heligoland prior to their transference to Greece and Germany respectively. In their time, too, the stamps of France, Hanover, the Neapolitan Provinces, Saxony, and Sicily, have all borne their rulers' portraits.

In Asia, the best portraits on any stamps are those of the late Shah of Persia. Attired in fez and aigrette, that Oriental Potentate makes a decidedly striking picture, as does the Rajah of Sirmoor upon his stamps. The specimens coming from Sarawak also deserve mention. The 2 cents. stamp of 1868 shews the head of the late Rajah, James Brooke, an intrepid Englishman who subdued and civilised the semi-barbarous natives

of Sarawak and ruled over them wisely and well. Later stamps shew the profile of the present Rajah, Charles Brooke, who has continued and completed his father's good work.

Strangely, it is to the home of Republics, America, that we must turn for portraiture in postage stamps on a large scale. The bewildering variety of the portraits on stamps from the United States would require several chapters devoted entirely to them to do them justice. From Washington downwards the various Presidents of the United States have yielded their portraits to different stamps, and their example has been followed by the Presidents of the other American Republics.

"Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown." So wrote Shakespeare, but had he lived in the nineteenth century he would probably have said "Uneasy lies the head of the President of a Republic." The 1893 issue of stamps by Paraguay illustrate this. The portraits on them are those of the Presidents of Paraguay, in rotation from the first to the eighth, as follows :—

1	centavo	(pearl)	Rivarola.
2	centavos	(green)	Jovellanos.
4	,,	(rose)	Gill.
5	,,	(lilac)	Barreiro.
10	,,	(blue)	Uriarte.
14	,,	(brown)	Cabellero.
20	,,	(scarlet)	Escolar.
30	,,	(green)	Gonzalez.

Of these, one, President Gonzalez, was deposed, and three, Presidents Rivarola, Gill, and Barreiro, were murdered.

Most of the stamps from the Argentine Republic have heads of different Presidents, as do some hailing from Ecuador, Costa Rica, Paraguay and other Central and South American Republics. Chilian stamps bear the head of Columbus, and a recent issue of Peruvian

stamps displays portraits. The 2 centavos stamp has a portrait, more or less apocryphal no doubt, of Manco-Capac, the native ruler whom the Spaniards found when they first went to Peru. The 5 centavos stamp bears a portrait of Pizarro, who discovered Peru, and after massacring ten thousand natives founded Lima, the present capital of that country, and practically reigned there as king until he, in turn, was assasinated by a Spanish faction under Almagro. The stamps of a higher value have a portrait in modern military dress of La Mar.

Certain of the stamps issued by Montevideo bear portraits of President Suarez, President Santos and General Artigas. Some of the stamps of New Granada bear portraits, and circulate throughout all of the nine Departments or States comprised in the Republic. In addition to these, six of the Departments also issue their own stamps. Of these, some of the stamps of Antioguia, Bolivar, and Cundinamarca, bear portraits; those of Panama, Santander, and Tolima do not.

The stamps proceeding from the Sandwich Isles have displayed likenesses of King Kamehameha III., King Kamehameha IV., King Kamehameha V., Princess Victoria, King Kalakava, Prince Leleohoku, Governor Kekuanaoa, Princess Likelike, Queen Kapiolini, and Queen Liliuokalani. British schoolboys, groaning over the table of English sovereigns, may, after perusing the names just quoted, thank their lucky stars they were not born natives of the Sandwich Isles. The latest stamps from Hawaii, however, bear an adaptation of the American Stars and Stripes, and the annexation of that country by the United States makes the earlier stamps of more than usual interest in our gallery of philatelical portraiture.

CHAPTER VIII.

ON DESIGNS AND DEVICES ON POSTAGE STAMPS.

PERHAPS the most striking feature in a collection of postage stamps is the wonderful variety of designs afforded. Next to a portrait, the most common design on a postage stamp is, of course, the arms of the country or state from whence it comes.

At the time of writing the European states displaying their arms on their postage stamps are Bavaria, Bulgaria, Germany, Russia, Switzerland, and San Marino. This last named state, by-the-bye, boasts of being the oldest surviving republic in the world. It was founded as far back as the fourth century by Marinus. In extent only about 30 square miles, it is yet entirely independent of Italy or any other country in law, government, finance, and armament. Its army consists of 50 men, and it issues its own coins and stamps. The latter are oblong in shape, and, owing to the limited extent of San Marino, are probably the rarest of any current European stamps.

The Austrian arms appear on the Bosnian stamps, and underneath the king's head on the earlier Hungarian issues. Both arms and head were given on the 10 kreuzer (brown) stamp issued in 1858 by Austria, but, unlike the Hungarian ones, the head appeared sur-

rounded by the arms emblazoned on seven shields connected with each other by a band of laurel leaves. The 10 soldi, used in Austrian Italy at the same time was of similar design. The earlier stamps of Finland bore the distinctive arms of that state, but Finland has been gradually Russianised, and now the stamps all bear the Russian arms. The small value Dutch stamps of 1869 showed the arms of Holland, later stamps of similar value show large numerals as their chief feature. Italy has reversed this order ; whereas the low priced stamps formerly had their values in numerals, this was changed and two very pretty stamps were produced, displaying the Sardinian Cross, under a crown. The 1 centesimo stamp is of a brown tint, the 2 centesimi, a dull red in colour.

Some of the Danish stamps bear the arms of Denmark, but the bulk of them have, as a design, their value in numerals in a circle surmounted by a crown, with a small posthorn underneath. The stamps of Iceland and Norway are of a very similar character, although some of tho Norwegian ones have in the past borne the arms of that country, and some the King's head.

The arms of the kingdom of Saxony were on its last set of stamps prior to its absorption into greater Germany, although earlier issues bore portraits of King Frederick Augustus and King John. The stamps of Baden also bore the arms of that state, and the stamps issued by Hamburg and Lubeck bore the arms of those towns respectively. The stamps used in Bergedorf were distinctly interesting. That small town placed itself under the protection of the two larger Hanse towns, Hamburg and Lubeck, and displayed half the arms of each on its stamps. The Bergedorf

stamps were all square, varying in size, the highest value being the largest. They had the letters "L. H. P. A." in the corners, which were the initials of the words Lubeck, Hamburg, Post, Amt. Alas! the protection of Lubeck and Hamburg availed Bergedorf but little, when Prince Bismarck determined to incorporate it into the German Empire! The arms of Oldenburg, now also a portion of the German Empire, appeared on its stamps in the old days. In some cases the entire arms, in some the first and second quarterings.

Stamps do not, however, always show the arms of the state. Sometimes they show the arms of a particular city or portion of a country. Thus, some Swiss stamps show the arms of Bâle and of Geneva. There are Belgian stamps with the arms of Antwerp and of Brussels, and Peruvian ones with the arms of Lima.

Outside Europe, good specimens of philatelical heraldry appear on certain of the stamps from Ecuador, Costa Rica, Peru, Nicaragua, and Venezuela. Tonga, the principal of the group of islands known as the Friendly Islands, produced a set of stamps in 1893, bearing the quaint but effective quarterings adopted by that far off spot in the Pacific. Earlier stamps had borne the portrait of King George, who, when he died on February 26th, 1893, was reputed to be over one hundred years old. The latest issue of Tonga stamps displays the head of the present monarch, King Jioaji Tubou II.

Although the bulk of British Colonial stamps bear the Queen's head, there are many exceptions. Mauritius, for instance, has issued a 3 cent. lilac stamp, displaying the arms of that island on a shield, the entire stamp being rather an artistic production. It is not the first time Mauritius has discarded Her Majesty's pro-

file on its postage stamps. The 1857 and 1859 issues had Britannia for a device.

The island of Barbadoes issued in 1892 a set of nine stamps, varying in value from a farthing to 2s. 6d., whereon the Queen appears in Neptune's car. The design is very similar to that on a coin used in Barbadoes "when George III. was king," when that sovereign was also depicted under similar circumstances, as shown in our illustration. The earliest stamps from Barbadoes all had a figure of Britannia, but from 1883 to 1892 the Queen's head appeared.

The stamps of British Guiana have as a device a ship, as did the 1858 issue of Buenos Ayres, the 12 cents square (green) stamp used in the United States in 1868, the 3 cents (green) commemorative stamp, issued in the States in 1893, the Newfoundland 13 cents (orange) stamp of 1865, and 10 cents (black) stamp of 1880, and the 3 cents (blue) stamp of Liberia issued in 1885.

If transport by water is illustrated on some stamps, others suggest travel by land, for certain stamps from Peru, the United States, and New Brunswick have all borne pictures of locomotive engines.

Nevis is celebrated for its springs, and the device on the stamps used in that small British possession represents a prostrate figure attended by two others adminis-

tering water which is flowing from a rock. Both the 1861 and 1867 issues of Nevis stamps were printed in sheets of twelve, each stamp in the sheet being slightly different. If this system were universally adopted what gigantic stamp albums would be required!

The Cape stamps also bear an allegorical figure, "Hope." On the early three-cornered ones the lady is seated with an anchor beside her. In the rectangular stamps, with one exception, a vine and a sheep are introduced in the picture, to typify the important Cape exports, wine and wool. The exception is the penny stamp of 1894. Thereon "Hope" is represented standing. In the background is the Table Mountain, and in the middle distance the harbour.

In giving a view of the harbour on their stamps the Cape was only following the example of New South Wales, for the 1850 issue of stamps in that colony showed a view of Sydney. There are several varieties of these old stamps, some with clouds in the background and some without. All are now rare. The penny commemorative stamp of 1888, and the envelope stamp of the same year also displayed a view of Sydney. Views may likewise be found on certain stamps from Bolivia, Costa Rica, Liberia, Nicaragua, and Salvador.

If not exactly views, the pyramid and sphinx on Egyptian, and the orange tree on the Orange Free States' stamps are both devices typical of those two countries respectively. The chrysanthemum which appears on all Japanese stamps is also representative of the land of flowers. Liberia has also borrowed a device from the vegetable kingdom, for its 6 cents (green) stamp of 1892 bears a picture of a palm tree.

There is certainly a pleasing variety about Liberian stamps. The 4 cents (green and black) stamp of 1892

gives an admirable portrait of an elephant and the 1 dollar (lilac and black) stamp of the same issue, an equally good picture of a rhinocerous. Animals of one sort or another figure on quite a large number of stamps. Thus, a kangaroo is to be found on a New South Wales stamp, llamas on certain Peruvian stamps, a seal and a dog on different Newfoundland stamps, a horse on the old stamps of Brunswick, and a heraldic and more or less conventional lion on stamps from several countries; Bulgaria, Tuscany, Paraguay, and Persia, as examples.

Birds furnish the device on a good many stamps. A parrot in the case of Guatemala, an ostrich and a peacock in that of New South Wales. A swan is found on Western Australian stamps, and an eagle on some from the United States and from Tolima. Further, some remarkable birds defying description appear on certain Japanese stamps.

Fishes are not so popular as birds or beasts, but a fish is to be found on the 2 cents. (green) oblong stamp used in Newfoundland in 1865. This, with the sacred shell on the stamps of Travancore, may be taken as the philatelical representation of the wonders of the deep.

From this it will be seen that a good stamp collection may be looked upon almost as an illustrated supplement to a work on natural history, or even as an occasional substitute for a visit to the Zoological Gardens.

CHAPTER IX.

ON POSTAGE STAMPS ODD SHAPED AND EXTRAORDINARY.

IF all extraordinary looking stamps probably those produced in British Guiana in 1850 were the most remarkable. To say they were rough is to very inadequately describe their appearance. They were intended to be round, but as they were cut out by hand, the result seldom, if ever, corresponded with Euclid's definition of a circle. There were four of them in all, 2 cents (rose), 4 cents (yellow), 8 cents (green) and 12 cents (blue). All are exceedingly scarce. Specimens of the 2 cents stamp selling at as much as £200. The appearance of these stamps really furnishes some excuse for that dealer in a small continental town who was found displaying for sale, under the heading of "Rare old British Colonials," some labels taken from English cotton reels.

Stamps nowadays are nearly always rectangular or oblong in shape, there being only a few exceptions. In the past, however, the exceptions were far more plentiful. The triangular Cape of Good Hope stamps are too well known to need description. Newfoundland also issued a triangular stamp in 1862. It was green in colour and of the value of 3d. It is now becoming rather scarce, used specimens fetching about 7/6 each.

New Granada, too, has indulged in the luxury of triangular stamps in 1865 and 1876. Both were 2½ centivos in value and lilac in colour, but there the resemblance ended. The 1871 stamp was in the form of an irregular triangle, but so shaped that four would form a square.

Nova Scotia went in for three diamond shaped stamps in 1857 ; 3d. (blue), 6d. (green), and 1/- (violet). Examples of the latter now fetch about £26 each. They were rather pretty stamps, showing the crown surrounded by the national floral emblems,, similar in design to the 1857 issue of Newfoundland except that the latter were square. The difference between the square Newfoundland and diamond shaped Nova Scotia stamps, was actually due to the angle of the figures in the corner.

The earlier Spanish stamps were rough in design and execution, but those used in the Spanish possession of the Philipine Islands were even rougher. Cuban stamps are similar in design to the Spanish ones, but some of them intended for use in the neighbouring island of Porto Rico from 1873 to 1876, inclusive, are to be found surcharged with a somewhat cabalistic sign. This queer sign is a kind of signature, or to speak accurately, a paraphe, placed on the stamps to signify that they could only be used in Porto Rico, and to prevent their being used in Cuba ; the difference in the exchange being then so considerable that a profit could otherwise have been made by buying stamps at Porto Rico and sending them to Cuba. A paraphe or *parrafo*, it may not be amiss to explain, is the figure formed by the flourish of the pen at the conclusion of a signature. It was formerly used very generally as a precaution against forgers, and is still employed in Spain as a

usual addition to a signature. It is nowadays customary in England for signatures to be without any unnecessary flourishes; but Charles Dickens was very fond of adding a paraphe to his signature.

The stamps formerly used in the French colonies were remarkable in one respect: although the introduction of perforation as an easy mode of detaching stamps took place as far back as 1854, the French Colonial stamps were imperforate until 1884. From 1860 to 1871 France had a universal Colonial stamp, displaying the Napoleonic eagle with the inscription "Colonies de l' Empire Francais." From 1872 to 1883, inclusive, stamps were used in the French colonies similar to those in vogue in the mother country but not perforated. In 1884 perforation was at length introduced on the stamps struck for French colonial use, a new set being issued bearing as a design a seated female figure resting on an anchor with a ship in the distance, the inscription being "Colonies Postes." Later on a long series of stamps was issued all of the same design, except that on a label at the bottom of each stamp was inscribed the name of the particular colony from which it came; thus, "Congo Francais," "Guyane" (French Guiana), "Guinee Francais," "Etablissements de l' Oceanie" (French Oceana), "Nlle Caledonie" (New Caledonia), "Diego Suarez," "Sultanat d'Anjouan," and so on.

For really extraordinary looking stamps it is necessary to turn to Asia. Those issued by Shere Ali at Cabul in 1872, for instance. Weird and utterly indescribable they are now exceedingly scarce. I, myself, have given £60 for two different specimens on one envelope. The mode of obliterating stamps in Afghanistan is peculiar. After purchasing a stamp, but before gumming on to the envelope, a small piece has to be torn off it, and

that is the usual post mark in the dominions of the Ameer. The stamps of Bhopal, Bhore, Bikanir and Cashmere are also extraordinary looking productions and deserve passing mention.

Extraordinary as most of the foregoing examples are, in one direction or another, no stamps ever received more remarkable treatment than certain ones of the United States, at the commencement of the Civil War. Money was scarce, and tentatively stamps were offered and accepted in lieu of specie. The gum at the back of the stamps was, however, sticky, such being the nature of gum, and the stamps stuck in the pocket or purse; moreover, they soon became frayed and torn. Then

brass frames were introduced into which the stamps were inserted, and consequently preserved, as shewn in the accompanying illustration.

Subsequently a "Postage Currency" was introduced in the form of minature bank notes, on which, as a design, representations of postage stamps appeared with the inscription "Receivable for postage stamps at any post office." There were four varieties: the 5 cents. (brown) and 10 cents. (green) each bore a reproduction of a single stamp, but the 25 cents. (brown) had pictures of five 5 cents. stamps, and the 50 cents. (green) five 10 cents. stamps. These were followed by what was termed a fractional currency, also in paper.

It has often been remarked that there is a distinct resemblance in several ways between coin collecting and stamp collecting, and these philatelical coins, or numismatic stamps, call them which you will, form the connecting link between the two hobbies.

CHAPTER X.

ON WATERMARKS, PERFORATIONS, PRINTING AND PAPER.

MANY branches of philately may be of more general interest than the study of watermarks; none are of greater use to collectors. Before attempting to give particulars of some of the most interesting watermarks found on postage stamps, it may be as well to explain for the information of the uninitiated what a watermark really is, and this requires a short dissertation on the art of paper making.

Paper, as we all know, is made of linen and other rags, also straw and various fibrous materials, such as esparto. The rags and fibre are torn to pieces, beaten, boiled and mixed with size, thus forming a pulp. This pulp is placed on a fine continuous sieve, known as a wire gauge sheet, which continually travels along. As it travels the water drains out of the pulp which is then passed over hot rollers, and becomes what we know as paper. If there is to be a watermark, the marks, words, devices, or all of them are worked in fine wire and sewn on to a hollow cylinder of wire cloth, making

what is called a "dandy roll." This is placed over the wire gauge sheet in such a position that the light impression it makes acts upon the pulp just as it ceases to be pulp and becomes paper.

Many people are puzzled by the terms applied by philatelists to the various papers used for postage stamps. Broadly speaking, there are five papers principally employed for the purpose. The most common variety is *wove paper*. This is of a uniform texture, and presents merely a transparent appearance without any configuration on it when held up to the light. The next common is *laid paper*. This is a paper that, held up to the light, shews lines running through it either vertically or horizontally. "Cream laid" note paper, so much used, readily presents an example of this description of paper. When the laid lines run both horizontally and vertically, so as to make little squares in the paper, it is called *quadrillé*. An example will be found in the 15 cents. blue stamp of France and the oblong set of Obock and Djibouti. *Granite paper*, used for some of the Swiss stamps, is distinguished by the small fibres of silk that are mixed with the paper, and *pelure paper* is very thin and hard. Gold beater's skin has actually been used for postage stamps. This was in the case of the 10 silber groschen (red) and 30 silber groschen (blue) registration stamps issued by Prussia.

To properly deal with the subject of the printing of postage stamps would require a great deal more space than I have at my command. Broadly speaking, however, stamps may be said to be either engraved, line engraved, lithographed or hand stamped. These are, of course, all modes of surface printing from raised dies. The stamps of the United States, on the other hand, are all printed "direct from plate," just as

ordinary visiting cards are. The two so-called Hospital Stamps, issued upon the initiation of the Prince of Wales to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, were produced in the same fashion.

The origin of the word "watermark" is somewhat obscure. It has been stated that the earliest watermarks were in the form of curved lines, like waves, and hence the term. Personally, I hesitate to endorse this view, but after all, the subject is one more within the province of an etymologist than a philatelist.

So much for the production of watermarks. Now for some illustrations. We have not far to travel to obtain these, for our British stamps furnish admirable examples. Here it may be remarked that, although there are collectors who profess to ignore watermarks, it is impossible to properly classify British stamps without a knowledge of the subject; and British stamps are, perhaps, the most difficult of any to successfully arrange.

The early stamps issued by Great Britain had a crown watermark of a very rudimentary design (see fig. 1); but in 1856 the crown received more attention, as shewn in figure 2. The earlier issues of the 4d. stamp were watermarked with a garter. The 1855 issue had a small garter (fig. 3); the 1856 issue a larger one with the holes of the buckles marked (fig. 4). In 1857 another change took place, the garter appearing still larger, but without the marks in the buckles, as shewn in figure 5.

Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Other watermarks found on British stamps are a rose with two leaves (fig. 6), and an orb (fig. 7). Some, too, have two elementary roses in the upper corners, an apology for a thistle in the lower left hand corner, and a fairly well defined shamrock in the lower right hand

corner (fig. 8). As the shamrock is far better depicted than either the roses or thistle this watermark does *not* constitute "another injustice to Ireland."

FIG. 3.

FIG. 4.

FIG. 5.

Most of the stamps used in our Colonies have watermarks; that on many of them having been changed from C. C. (Crown Colony) to C. A. (Crown Agent), as shewn in figures 9 and 10.

FIG. 6.

FIG. 7.

FIG. 8.

A watermark in the form of a star appears on some of the stamps used in Antigua, Queensland and New

FIG. 9.

FIG. 10.

FIG. 11.

Zealand. Figure 11 shews the star on the Antigua and New Zealand Stamps, that which is found on certain Queensland ones having longer points. Later on sheet

of stamps were produced for Queensland with the words "Queensland Postage Stamps" as a watermark. As this inscription was in large letters only a portion of a letter can be traced on each individual stamp. The later issue of stamps from this Colony have as a watermark the letter Q under a crown (fig. 12).

FIG. 12.

Very usual watermarks found on South Australian and Victorian stamps are S. A. under a crown and V. over a crown, respectively—as shewn in figures 13 and 14. By some mistake, however, some of the 2d. (orange) and 4d. (lilac) South Australian stamps were printed on paper intended for use in Victoria. The quantity was small, and South Australian stamps with the watermark V. are now exceedingly scarce. A

FIG. 13.

FIG. 14.

FIG. 15.

somewhat similar mistake was made in the case of some of the 4d. Victorian stamps which were printed on paper intended to be used for 5/- New South Wales stamps, and bearing as a watermark the words "Five Shillings." When this mistake was discovered another supply of paper was prepared for New South Wales, having a watermark 5/- in numerals (fig. 15).

Apart from royal and patriotic emblems the watermarks on some of our Colonial stamps have been borrowed from the animal and vegetable kingdom.

For instance, the first issue of stamps for Jamacia were watermarked with a pineapple, as shewn in figure 16. The 1864 issue of Indian stamps had an elephants' head as a watermark; otherwise the stamps were similar to those of the 1861 issue, which were not watermarked at all. Before searching for stamps with this watermark

FIG. 16.

FIG. 17.

FIG. 18.

it would be well to refer to figure 17, whereby it will be observed that the representation of the largest of beasts is not conspicuous for its anatomical accuracy.

Figure 18 represents a swan which appears as the watermark on the 1862 issue of Western Australian stamps. This particular bird has caused a great amount

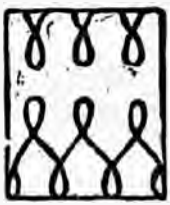

FIG. 19.

FIG. 20.

of trouble. It was customary for years to classify the 1862 issue of Western Australian stamps under two headings; those with a swan watermark and those with no watermark at all. I well remember examining a large number of these stamps and carefully putting aside those which appeared to have no watermark. To make quite sure, I put them all in water when the little swan swam out in every case. It is now established

beyond a doubt that all the 1862 stamps bore the swan watermark, although in some cases it is very indistinct.

So much for our Colonial stamps. To return to Europe. The Spanish and Cuban stamps of 1855 and 1856 should be examined for watermarks. Those of the former year had loop lines (fig. 19), those of the latter year straight lines (fig. 20).

The current issue of Italian stamps have a crown as watermark, and paper with the same watermark is used for the San Marino stamps (see fig. 21). Quite unique watermarks, however, were those used in Tuscany prior to the Unification of Italy. Tuscan stamps were printed in sheets of 240, the 1849 issue being watermarked with twelve crowns, and the 1851 issue by wavy lines

FIG. 21.

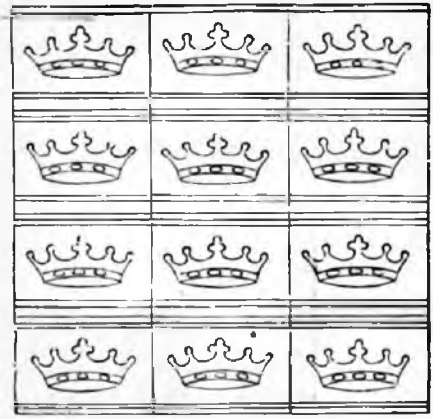

FIG. 22.

with an inscription from left to right, as represented, on a greatly reduced scale by figures 22 and 23. The sheets being large only a small portion of the watermark can be found on each stamp, but sufficient to enable the

two issues to be separated. There is, another way to detect the two issues, altogether apart from the watermark. The 1849 issue was printed on paper of a

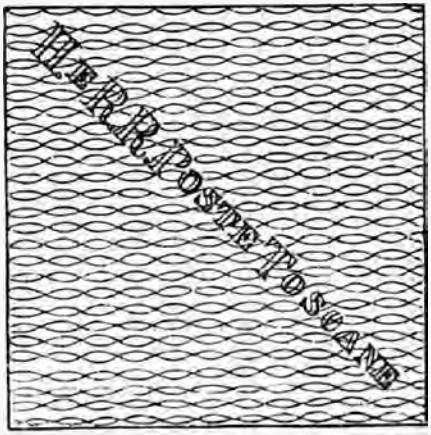

Fig. 23.

blueish tint, whereas the 1851 stamps were all produced on white paper.

Certain of the stamps issued by Lubeck, which has also long since ceased to possess a separate fiscal

Fig. 24.

Fig. 25.

Fig. 26.

existence, likewise had a curious watermark. It is generally defined in catalogues as a watermark consisting of small rosettes. Figure 24 will probably convey a better idea of this than pages of description. The same

remark applies to the watermark on Chinese (fig. 25) and Liberian stamps (fig. 26).

The Egyptian stamps of 1865 bore an interesting watermark, consisting of a pyramid surmounted by the sacred lotus of Egypt, as shewn in figure 27. The 1867

Fig. 27.

Fig. 28.

issue was watermarked with the arms of the suzerain power, Turkey, a five pointed star over a crescent moon (fig. 28).

It would be quite possible to devote an entire book such as this to the subject of watermarks, but enough has been said to demonstrate that it is a branch of philately well worthy of careful attention. Of course, if stamps are classified in accordance with their different watermarks they should never be gummed down on to the pages of the album direct, but an adhesive stamp hinge, as shewn in figure 29, should be used.

Fig. 29.

And now a few words on the subject of perforations. Perforations are generally described as being either *Roulette*, *Machine* or *Serpentine*. Figure 30 shews the appearance of these perforations, both before, and after the stamps are separated from each other.

Besides these three, which are the principal perforations, there are others not generally employed, such as *Percé en arc*. This consists of a number of indentations

of half circles or crescents. *Pin perforation* is almost the same as *machine perforation*, but instead of the paper being taken out in small circles it is left in. Machine perforations are counted by the number of holes that occur in the space of two centimétres and not by

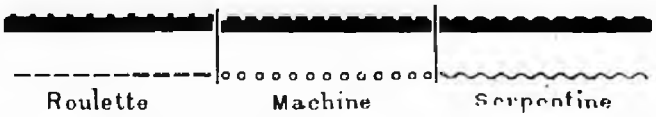

Fig. 30.

the number of holes at the top or side of any given stamp, as shewn on a reduced scale in figure 31.

With a view to assisting collectors in the classification of perforations, I have for some time now published a Transparent Perforation Measure at the not very

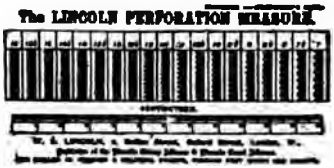

Fig. 31.

alarming price of threepence. The need of such a thing is manifest when it is remembered that the value of the stamps of Prince Edward Island, British Guiana, Sierra Leone, Austria, Baden, Finland, Lagos, Russia, and many other countries, varies according to the number of perforations.

CHAPTER XI.

ON SURCHARGES AND ALTERATIONS.

MORE than once in the foregoing pages I have had occasion to mention the word "surcharge." Before giving a few examples of surcharged stamps, it may not be out of place to explain exactly what is meant in philately by a "surcharge." When a surcharged stamp is referred to, it implies that it is one upon which some inscription, device, or figure, has been placed after it has been issued in the ordinary way.

Such an inscription generally denotes a change in the nature of the Government in authority where the stamp is used, an alteration in the value of the stamp, or that it is intended for use in a State other than that from which it emanated. Surcharges are, of course, generally of a provisional nature, stamps so altered being only circulated until those of the particular kind or value required have been produced, hence the tendency of all surcharged stamps is to become scarce.

To illustrate the subject of surcharges occasioned by change of Government, and by alteration in the value of stamps, we cannot do better than turn to those issued in the land now owning the gentle sway of President

Kruger. The earliest stamps used in the Transvaal were issued in 1869. The first remark to be made about them has a very familiar ring; they were "made in Germany." Four, ranging in value from one penny to a shilling, were issued not perforated. The penny (red), sixpence (blue), and shilling (green) stamps, were also issued with roulette perforations. There are to be found two varieties of the sixpenny roulette perforated stamps, the same in colour, but whereas most have over the Transvaal arms a small eagle like the other stamps in the same set, a few were printed bearing a large eagle. Used specimens of these latter stamps now sell at about 10/6 each.

The following year the dies were sent over from Germany, and stamps were printed in the Transvaal. The locally printed stamps were blurred and generally badly turned out. The artistic temperament is not much in evidence in the worthy Burgher's character. These stamps are to be found without perforations, with narrow-dented roulette perforations, with broad-dented roulette perforations, and with machine perforations. The roulette perforated specimens, with broad dents, are now becoming very scarce, specimens of the penny stamp realising about £2 each when used, and the threepenny and sixpenny stamps even more.

In 1887, the Transvaal was annexed by Great Britain at the request of the majority of its inhabitants, and during that and the following year, the Boer stamps were surcharged "V. R. Transvaal." In 1879, a regular series of stamps, seven in number, was produced, bearing the Queen's profile with the inscription in English. Of these the halfpenny (scarlet), shilling (green), and two shillings (blue), are now fairly rare. At times the demand for penny stamps exceeded the

supply, and the postal authorities met the difficulty by surcharging sixpenny stamps "1 penny." There are three varieties of surcharges in red, and three in black.

In 1880 the Boers declared war against Great Britain. What followed is not pleasant reading to Englishmen. None the less, it is history. In 1881 Majuba Hill was fought and lost—by the English. The Burghers thereupon revenged themselves on our proceedings of 1877 by surcharging Her Majesty's portrait with inscriptions that look like a vile parody on English. Sixpenny stamps were surcharged "Halvepenny Z.A.R." and "Tweepenny Z.A.R." Fourpenny stamps were surcharged "Eenpenny." The letters "Z.A.R.," it may be stated, stand for "Zuid Afrikaansche Republiek."

In 1884, the British Government having granted the Boers independence, four stamps were issued similar in design to those of 1869. In the interest of Art it is to be regretted that the Boer authorities reverted to their old design instead of displaying on the stamps the classic features of "Oom Paul." By no means should it be easier to bring home to the masses an appreciation of the beautiful and a love of the sublime than by a chaste and elegant design on a postage stamp.

In 1885 a smaller and neater series was brought out, numbering eleven in all, or if the two shades of brown in which the twopenny stamps were produced are counted, twelve. The lowest value is a halfpenny, the highest, five pounds. This high-priced stamp is green in colour, and exceedingly scarce. In 1894 yet another issue appeared, bearing the Transvaal arms in an octagon whereon a waggon with two shafts was shewn. This was an error, as waggons in the Transvaal are pulled by a pair of oxen, and the stamps were withdrawn in favour of others, displaying a waggon with one pole,

which would, of course, accommodate two beasts. These stamps are in use at the present time.

The instances of stamps being surcharged for use in places other than those for which they were originally intended are plentiful. For example, when in 1886 the southern portion of Bechuanaland became formally a British possession, Cape of Good Hope Stamps were used in that region surcharged "British Bechuanaland." Old English Revenue stamps and ordinary English stamps have also been requisitioned for use in Bechuanaland, surcharged in a similar manner. When, in 1888, British sway had extended throughout Bechuanaland, Cape stamps were requisitioned for use in the northern portion of that vast district also. They were surcharged "Bechuanaland Protectorate." British South Africa Company's stamps may also be met with surcharged "B.C.A.," which implies that they have been used in British Central Africa, that immense region situated north of the river Zambesi, which was allotted to Great Britain when the European Powers divided Africa amongst themselves in 1891. Portugal for years surcharged stamps "Acores" for use in the Azores, but these have been superseded by stamps inscribed Angra and Horta, two of the principal towns in the Azores. In like manner the old Portuguese stamps surcharged "Madeira" have been withdrawn in favour of stamps bearing the inscription "Funchal," which is the capital of Madeira.

Surcharges implying alterations in the value of stamps are also plentiful. Thus, Grenada stamps are often found surcharged. Three-halfpenny, fourpenny, shilling and two-shilling stamps are all to be found surcharged "1d. Postage." Two-shilling stamps may be met with surcharged "4d. Postage," and eightpenny stamps

surcharged "Postage and Revenue 1d.," and by way of a change, "1d. Surcharge Postage."

Quite a unique surcharge took place at the Cape, where it was found that the threepenny stamp was so like the penny one by gaslight that mistakes occurred. The difficulty was temporarily surmounted by surcharging the threepenny stamp with a large black figure 3, and permanently solved by the issue of a new penny stamp quite different in design to the threepenny one.

So much for surcharges. As far as alterations to stamps are concerned the most interesting case occurred at Naples during the transitional period between the deposition of King Ferdinand II. and the final incorporation of Naples into the present Kingdom of Italy. In the time of King Ferdinand there was issued a ½ grano stamp, lake in colour, bearing the arms of the Kingdom of Naples. In 1860, Garibaldi, who had declared himself "Dictator of the Two Sicilies," issued the same stamp in blue with the "G" in the die erased and "Te" put in its place. This was because its value was altered, the "G" signifying grano, the "Te" tornese. This alteration, however, did not satisfy Garibaldi, and the following year he had the arms of Naples partially erased and the Savoy Cross placed over them. Under the cross a trace of the arms, however, can be discerned. This is a guide to ascertain the genuineness of these rare blue ½ tornese stamps, as they should correspond exactly with their ½ grano lake predecessors, with the exception of the erasements.

CHAPTER XII.

ON ERRORS IN POSTAGE STAMPS.

"TO ERR is human," and the sad fact has been frequently demonstrated in philately. Mistakes have arisen unexpectedly in designs, in colours, in inscriptions, and in surcharges. In the preceding chapter I had occasion to refer to an error in the design on some of the Transvaal stamps, and that was only one of many such mistakes.

A frequent error found when stamps have been printed in two colours is the centre portion reversed. The Italian *segnatasse*, or unpaid letter stamps, are cases in point. Specimens both of the lower value buff stamps with the value in red numerals, and the higher value blue stamps with the numerals in brown may be found with the numerals reversed. Far greater rarities of this sort, however, are the 15 cents little square stamps of the United States, shewing the landing of Columbus, and the 24 cents of the same issue, depicting the signing of the Declaration of Independence printed with the designs reversed. There is a chance of finding them in old collections although I have heard of collectors throwing them on one side in favour of properly printed ones. The

reversed specimens are worth searching for nowadays, as they fetch at least £25 each. Another scarcity is the Western Australian 4d. blue stamp of the first issue with the swan the reverse way.

The Brazilian 100 reis stamp, printed in red and blue, may be met with the head reversed; indeed, specimens so printed are by no means rare. The bird in the centre of certain Guatemala stamps can also be sometimes discovered upside down. I have likewise come across some of the oblong stamps used in the Belgian possession of the Congo with the pretty little view in the middle reversed. The makers of these stamps declare that such a thing cannot have occurred, but having actually seen specimens so printed, at the risk of being considered bigoted, I maintain that the error has certainly happened.

Some stamps bear an embossed device; the embossment taking place after the stamp has been printed, and this, too, has led to some reversed varieties being inadvertently turned out. Specimens of the Italian embossed series and those used temporarily in the Neapolitan provinces prior to their incorporation into United Italy, can be found with this error.

Some of the Peruvian 1 dinero stamps of 1862, both of the pink and of the green variety, may be discovered with the arms reversed. They are scarce, however, the green ones especially so. The ½ groschen (mauve), ½ groschen (green), 2 groschen (blue), and 3 kreuzer (rose) German stamps of 1872 may also be come across with the eagle in the centre upside down.

The Queen's head on the 4 annas, red and blue, Indian stamp of 1854, may likewise be met with reversed, but examples are very rare indeed. Indian stamps also furnish an example of an error in colour,

the half anna stamp of 1854 having been produced in red instead of blue. The red stamp which I referred to in the first chapter of this little book is one of the great philatelical prizes.

Errors in inscriptions are even more common than in designs. Thus the stamps of the 1852 issue of the defunct Dukedom of Modena were all printed from the same die, the value being inserted with moveable type, whereby numerous errors arose, such as Cnet, 5; Cent, 9; Cnet, 10; Ce▫t, 10; Cent, 49; Cnet, 40.

The 2 schilling (brown) stamp issued in Lubeck in 1859 has a curious error. In the bottom row of some of the sheets two stamps were inscribed "Zwei ein halb," instead of "Zwei." The error was soon discovered and rectified, so that stamps with "Zwei ein halb" are very rare. Another strange mistake occurred in printing the 1889 issue of Brazilian newspaper stamps when by some mischance the inscriptions were given in Spanish "Veinte Reis," "Cuarenta Reis" and "Sesenta Reis." Now a form of Portuguese is the language of Brazil, so the stamps were withdrawn, and the following year saw an issue with the inscriptions in Portuguese, "Vinte Reis," "Quarenta Reis,' and "Sessenta Reis" respectively.

Of errors in surcharges there are a number of examples. Several such are to be found on Cape stamps. The fourpenny blue stamp may be found surcharged "Thee pence" and "Three pencb," instead of "Three pence," and when the threepenny stamps were surcharged with the numeral 3, for reasons explained in chapter xi., by accident the figure 3 was occasionally reversed. Stamps so treated are now worth about five shillings each. A far rarer error in surcharge occurred on some of the Transvaal penny

stamps, when that country was under British rule. By some means the word Transvaal was spelt "Transvral." The mistake was soon rectified, and specimens so surcharged are extremely scarce. Of errors in watermarks, I gave one or two examples in chapter x.

It will be seen that mistakes of one kind or another have cropped up in all branches of philately; nor have collectors and dealers been always free from errors. Some of the mistakes made in the early days of stamp collecting were very funny. One in particular occurs to my mind. The 1850 and 1858 issues, both of Austria and of Austrian Italy, were printed in sheets of sixty-four oblong spaces. There were, for all that, only sixty stamps on each sheet. For reasons which now seem inexplicable, four spaces were filled in by a St. Andrew's Cross. In the 1850 issue, the cross appeared coloured the same tint as the stamps, on a white ground. The 1858 issue had white crosses on ground the same colour as the stamps. These labels, or ornamental designs, style them what you will except postage stamps, which they never were, made up the necessary number or *complement* to complete the sheet. By some means the word complement became confused with the word compliment, and under the heading of "complimentary stamps," they were actually referred to in some catalogues. As such they may be still occasionally found in old collections.

So it will be observed that, if Postal Authorities sometimes make blunders, collectors occasionally fall into errors themselves, and even dealers are not infallible.

CHAPTER XIII.

ON FORGERIES AND IMITATIONS.

FORGERIES of rare postage stamps, although still far too frequently found, are much less often met with than in years gone by. The most potent factor in bringing about the decline of the once flourishing, though illicit, industry of manufacturing forged stamps, has been the increasing care and attention bestowed upon their hobby by collectors generally.

It is, of course, the minute details in designs and inscriptions that baffle the forger, and although, alas, we shall probably always have him with us, careful consideration of these details on the part of collectors makes his nefarious calling harder to pursue every year.

Colour is, perhaps the great stumbling block to the forger; it is certainly a constant source of trouble to the collector, and a perpetual puzzle to the compiler of a catalogue. If a number of stamps of any one colour are examined, it will be found that the shades vary considerably. To prove this, it is only necessary to take a few duplicate stamps, and divide them into reds, blues, greens, &c., giving a page in an old copy book to each

colour. It is surprising the number of different tints that will be found. This is an admirable way of training the eye for colour, and of minimising the chance of falling a victim to the wiles of the forger. Needless to say, owing to variations in printing, different shades are often obtained of nearly every stamp, but they are all shades of the same colour, whereas forged stamps are often of quite a different colour to those they are intended to imitate, although the difference is not easily discernible until the genuine specimens and the forgeries are placed side by side.

To illustrate my meaning. If you take a good crimson lake paint, you can obtain a large number of different shades from it according to the quantity of water you mix with it, but they will all be shades of the same colour. So, too, if you take a carmine paint, you can obtain as many shades of carmine. Apart, some of the shades of crimson lake might be mistaken for some of the shades of carmine, and *vice-versâ*. Placed together, the two colours could always be recognised. Now specimens of any particular stamp are all of the same colour though differing in shade, whereas forgeries are frequently of what is really another, although somewhat similar, colour to that of the original from which they are copied.

I suppose I could almost fill this book with particulars of different forgeries that have come under my notice during the last forty years. To do so, however, would serve no useful purpose, and would certainly assist forgers to rectify their mistakes in the future. It will be far better, therefore, to give a few instances of peculiarities in certain rare stamps which are generally absent in their imitations. First, then, a word or two about the early German stamps known as those of Thurn and

Taxis. The value of the stamps of the Northern States was shewn in silber groschen, and of the Southern States in kreuzers, but in both cases the principal device on the stamps was a large numeral. These stamps are rapidly becoming scarce, and the forger has recently been busy on them. Fortunately he has overlooked one important fact, or more probably he hopes his dupes will overlook it. The engraving in the background differs in every value of the genuine stamps, whereas that in the background of every forgery I have seen, has been the same. Thurn and Taxis stamps bear the inscription "Deutsch Oestr Postverein" on the left side, and "Thurn und Taxis" on the right.

The stamps used in Baden from 1850 to 1859 inclusive, also differed in each value as far as the engraving in the background went. In their case the name of the State appeared at the top, and in minute letters on the side was inscribed "Deutsch Oestr Postverein—Vertrag v., 6 April, 1850" (German-Austrian Postal Union—Treaty of 6 April, 1850). The same inscription is to be found on the Wurtemburg issue of 1850.

There are minute marks on the Bremen stamps which were evidently intentionally placed there by the engraver, just as certain little marks are placed on bank notes. Thus, if the 5 silber groschen (green) stamp is examined, it will be observed that the shading lines are continued right through the figure 5 and the letter S. The 3 grote stamp (black on blue) has two little white spots in the shading of the centre numerals. These peculiarities are conspicuous by their absence on forgeries.

The stamps of Bergedorf have been forged, but the forgers have been unable to make the circles, which surround the arms, perfect. The imitations shew irregular

circles of different sizes. The genuine ones are perfectly regular, and all of a size.

Lubeck stamps have been imitated, but there is an easy way of detecting genuine specimens from false. At the very lowest part in the centre of the real stamps there is a small bar with very minute dots, which vary according to the value of the stamp. The ½ schilling (violet), has one dot over the bar ⁖ the 1 schilling (orange), has one dot under the bar ⁘ the 2 schillings (brown), two dots under the bar ⁝ the 2½ schillings (rose), one dot over and two dots under the bar ⁙ and the 4 schillings (green), four dots under the bar ⁞ Every forgery I have seen has had either a plain bar, or a bar with three dots underneath.

In some cases the name or initial of the engraver may be found on a stamp. For example, the English sixpenny, tenpenny, and shilling octagonal adhesive stamps, bore the initials "W. W.," having been designed by William Wyon, R.A., who was chief engraver to the Mint from 1823 until his death in 1851. The Portuguese issues of 1866 and 1869 had the initials "C. W." (C. Wiener), and the fourpenny octagonal Tasmanian stamps of 1853, "T. W. C." (T. W. Chard.)

The Spanish and Cuban stamps from 1890 to 1896, had the name "Julia" printed in very small letters under the bust. The particular Julia it may be noted was of the masculine gender, and no relation to Mr. Stead's tame spook. "Julia" was in fact the surname of the engraver of the stamps.

The French "Mercury and Commerce" stamps bear the name of the engraver "Mouchon," whose name also appears on the present issue of stamps from Abyssinia, Portugal, and Tunis, together with the Brussels

Exhibition stamps of 1897, and the Greek "Olympian Games" set of 1896. The two stamps issued by Louis Napoleon as Prince President of the French Republic, had a small "B" under the bust, the initial of Barri, the celebrated engraver to the Paris Mint.

In conclusion, I would point out that there are two errors into which the inexperienced collector is apt to fall. One is this: if he should possess a stamp of the same colour and value as one owned by a friend, but differing in some particular in the matter of design, he is very inclined to jump to the conclusion that one or the other must be a forgery. Truly he may be right in his surmise, but it by no means follows. In 1843, there were issued for use in the Swiss Canton of Zurich two black stamps to the value of four and six rappen respectively. They had at first horizontal red lines, and later on perpendicular red lines. In the early days of stamp collecting, it was thought there was only one genuine type of these stamps, but it is now known that they were printed in strips of five, each stamp in the strip being somewhat different to its fellows. It is sad to think the standard variety was only preserved in most cases, and the others destroyed. This no doubt in a measure accounts for the present scarcity of many of these stamps. It cannot be too strongly insisted that it is not wise to destroy a specimen suspected of being, or even known to be, a forgery. It is far better to keep it for future guidance.

The second error common amongst inexperienced collectors is that an unused stamp is likely to be a forgery, whereas an obliterated specimen is probably genuine. As a matter of fact nearly all forgeries are obliterated, indeed I have scarcely ever come across an imitation unused stamp. It is obviously quite easy to

forge a post-mark, and if a forgery has its weak points, and every one I have ever seen has had several, the most easy and natural way to hide those weak points is to cover them up with a bogus post-mark.

CHAPTER XIV.

ON COMPILING A COLLECTION.

IN no respect is it "more blessed to give than to receive," than in the matter of good advice. We are all quite ready to give good advice, or, at all events, advice which we ourselves believe to be good; very few of us are so ready to accept it. The undergraduate home from Oxford can, and generally does give his younger brothers, still at school, most admirable advice on all matters, from compiling a collection of postage stamps upwards. The younger brothers listen to the advice with more or less impatience and then disregard it.

Nevertheless, I am constantly being asked for my opinion and advice on all matters philatelical. In view of the fact that it is now close upon half a century since I first began to collect postage stamps, this is, perhaps, not to be wondered at. After all, my readers are at liberty to follow any advice I venture to give, or to ignore it at their own pleasure, and if advice in any form is obnoxious to them to disregard the existence of this chapter altogether by not reading it.

One question I have been often asked is this: "Now that there are so many thousand varieties of stamps is it wise to try to collect all?" To this, my reply varies according to who my questioner is. If he be a young

collector taking up stamp collecting as a pastime my answer is "yes," alike for the pleasure to be derived from the extended scope stamp collecting in general gives as for the valuable information to be so obtained. If, on the other hand, my interlocutor is one desirous of taking up the study of philately seriously then I am inclined to advise specialism. By "specialism" I mean drawing an imaginary historical or geographical line and confining the collection to such stamps as come within the line. The line historical might be drawn at the year 1870, and the collection confined to stamps issued prior to that date, or, if it is preferred, to stamps issued after that date. If the line geographical is selected the collector might confine his attention entirely to British and Colonial stamps, or to European stamps, or even to all stamps except European. By this means an approximately complete collection within its own limits may be obtained.

To obtain a really complete collection of all postage stamps, if it is possible, would require leisure and means beyond the reach of all but a favoured few. This is no reason why the ordinary schoolboy or young collector should not collect the stamps of all dates and all nations. He will never obtain a *complete* collection but he may obtain a very good one, and just as schoolboy collections compiled in the sixties and seventies now realise large prices, so his collection may, in course of time, become quite valuable.

Now with respect to preparing postage stamps before inserting them in an album. The *modus operandi* is to soak them in water, thereby detaching them from the envelopes or wrappers to which they had been affixed. That is the rule, but like all rules, it has its exceptions.

Do *not* soak any of the later issues of Portuguese

stamps in water. They are printed on paper previously prepared with chalk, and, if put in water, the design almost disappears. Russian stamps are also made in such a way as not to admit of their being put in water. The present set of British stamps fade if soaked, and if the stamps of Cashmere are so treated the colour entirely disappears, as they are only printed in water colours. In all these cases soak a piece of *white* blotting paper in water, place the stamps face upwards on it, leave them a few minutes in that position, and then gently remove all traces of the paper at the back with a penknife, or, better still, with the philatelic tweezers specially manufactured for that purpose.

Next, with regard to placing the stamps in the album. As stated in chapter x., I strongly recommend the use of paper hinges, whereby stamps can be turned over to examine watermarks, bad specimens removed in favour of good ones, and any portion of a collection taken out and re-arranged with very little trouble. If, however, a collector is so wedded to old methods that he prefers to fix the stamps direct to the album, good paste is preferable to gum.

As far as the arrangement of the stamps is concerned that must be left to the taste of each individual collector. Some place the stamps in a row as they get them. Others prefer to place them in categorical order, leaving spaces for such as they do not possess but hope to obtain. Something is to be said for both plans and I do not care to advise in the matter.

When removing stamps from an old album to a new one, if the stamps in the old album have been put in without hinges the best plan is to take one or two pages of the old album out at a time and place wet white

blotting paper on them. Do not be in a hurry to remove the stamps before they are properly soaked, or you will run the risk of damaging them. Do not attempt to preserve the old album. It is quite hopeless to do so; it will never be of any use and in trying to save it you will probably spoil more stamps than it is worth.

Do not destroy duplicates: keep them. Stamps that are common to-day may be rare to-morrow. A very excellent plan is to keep a duplicate collection. A cheap album or even a copy book will do admirably for the purpose.

Do not maul or finger your specimens, it does not improve them. Once they are in an album they can be admired just as well without being touched.

Do not—but these do nots become monotonous—so I will simply say do not think that in anything I have said in this chapter, or indeed throughout this book, I have been governed by self-interest. I have, as I state in the preface, written it throughout as a collector, not as a dealer. As I know from personal experience, much of the pleasure in compiling a collection is derived from following one's own inclinations and predilections, I will refrain from inflicting any further advice upon my readers.

The writing of this little book has been a pleasurable task, and, in the hope that it may prove of use and interest to them, I leave it in the hands of my fellow collectors.

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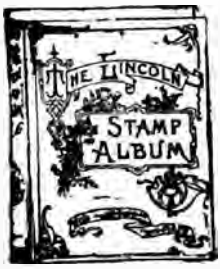

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