PHILATELIC SECTION.

THE A B C OF STAMP . . COLLECTING:

A GUIDE TO THE INSTRUCTIVE AND ENTERTAINING STUDY OF THE WORLD'S POSTAGE STAMPS.

BY

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WYCIL & COMPANY,
83 NASSAU STREET. ×

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190. " " 3 " ultra-marine.
191. United States, " 15 " brown and blue.
192. United States, 1870. 3 " green.
193. United States, 1893. 6 cents, purple.
194. " " 10 " brown-black.
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221. " " 5 " brown
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236. Spitzbergen. 10 ore, brown.
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PLATE I.

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
POSTAGE ONE CENT
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TREASURY
THREE 3 CENTS
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POSTAGE DUE
U S
1
203
U S POSTAGE DUE
1
ONE CENT
204
205
FIVE CENTS
206
ALEXANDRIA POST OFFICE
PAID
5
207
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5 Cents.
208
BRATTLEBORO', VT.
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209
POST OFFICE
PAID 5 CTS.
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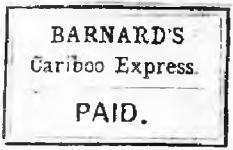

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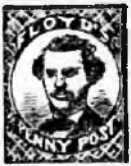

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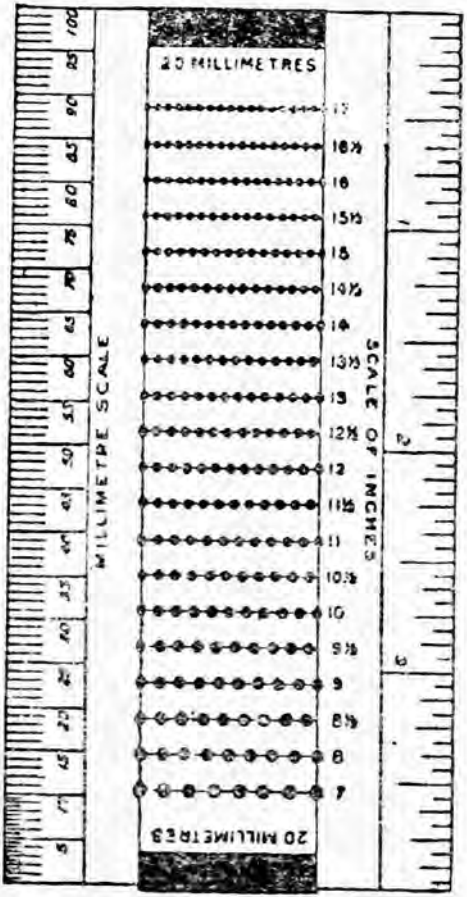

PERFORATION GAUGE

CHAPTER I.

Concerning Hobby Horses.

"There is no disputing against hobby-horses," said Laurence Sterne in his "Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy." Everyone has some pad ready to be harnessed as soon as the ordinary toil of the day or the week is over. It may consist in the accumulation of *objets d'art* or of *objets de curiosité*. It may call for the display of literary, artistic or musical talent. It may require physical exercise. But if it be a change of occupation, it is, all the same, a hobby-horse. As Stevenson said "there should be nothing so much a man's business as his amusements," and the hobby-horse is one of the best forms of amusement. Horace Greeley said that a man draws in vitality from his hobby and that if he have none his part in life will soon be played. Another well known American declared that his hobby had saved his reason and his life when both were threatened by the monotony of professional work. The Right Rev. William Boyd Carpenter, Bishop of Ripon, too, has given it as his opinion that "no single individual life was worth living unless each had some hobby. For after all," continued his Lordship, "the things we were compelled to do might and must have their interest if we were honest men, but if we were to be complete men we must have some interest which may be outside the profession or occupation we had to follow lest we became cripples on God's earth."

A hobby is of value to its rider inasmuch as it is "a rest to his mind, a cheerer of his spirits, a diverter of sadness, a calmer of unquiet thoughts, a moderator of

passions, a procurer of contentedness." And the pursuit should "beget habits of peace and patience in those that profess and practise it." Sir Henry Wotton used to say of angling that "It was an employment for his idle time which was not then idly spent."

While it is easy to agree to the desirability of having a hobby it is entirely out of the question to come to an agreement as to what is the best pursuit in which to indulge. The numismatist has a view of his own, but the art connoisseur differs from him, and the collector of crests and seals dissents from them both. In all likelihood the art connoisseur regards the crest collector as a man with a mania, a craze. The coin collector is frequently found to think the same of the philatelist or stamp collec-lector, while the latter almost invariably laughs to ridicule the modest collector of picture postcards, who has not yet even assumed a "scientific" designation, though he may hope some day to be known as a "philocartist."

No doubt each horse has its advantages peculiar to its own rider. Sterne tells of poor Yorick's steed which was "as lank and as lean and as sorry a jade as Humility herself could have bestrided." But its clerical rider knew what he was about. When he kept a good horse it was borrowed so oft by his parishioners and returned so "clapp'd" and "spavin'd" that Yorick had to purchase a new beast every ten months. So the advantage of keeping a bad horse—which nobody wanted to borrow—was economy both in trouble and expense to Yorick.

There is an ample stable of capital mounts from which to select a hobby, and it only remains to choose one that can be ridden easily and with pleasure to the rider (unless indeed one's liver be troublesome, in which case a more lively mount might effect a speedier cure) and one that will immediately take its rider from the regular sphere of his labours into an entire change of neighbourhood and activity.

The object of the following pages is not to compare the philatelist's hobby with that of somebody else. It is to

show to the uninitiated that there is an abundant interest —educative and recreative—in the stamp album. Those people to whom the wealth of romance and history that is connected with the stamps of the world is unknown are generally the first to place philately among the "fancies too weak for boys, too green and idle for girls of nine." In the following chapters it is proposed to show that philately, properly so called, is more than a dry, prosy fad of accumulating sticky labels. And, like Izaak Walton, the writer wishes "the Reader also to take notice that in writing of it he has made himself a recreation of a recreation."

The interest which stamps excite in the collector is not confined to a single nation but extends throughout the world. Stamps are issued in every civilised country. The postage stamp itself is the key to the history of our most important social and commercial institution, the Post Office. A well-filled stamp album is not unlike that library of whose owner Longfellow wrote, "He has his Rome, his Florence, his whole glowing Italy within the four walls of his library. He has in his books the ruins of an antique world and the glories of a modern one." In the stamp album are depicted some of the most famed of the sculptures of Greece and representations of some of the finest products of the arts of architecture and painting. Subsequent chapters will serve to show that in the stamp album is a pictorial history of our own times and an occasional survey of events of ancient history. Elementary though they be, it may also be said that primers for the stimulation in the young of ethnography, zoology and botany and other fascinating studies are to be found within the cyclopaedic scope of the stamp collector's album.

CHAPTER II.

The Story of the Stamp.

The adhesive postage stamp owes its origin to the British Post Office. Its introduction marks the opening of an era of splendid progress in the facilities for public communication. Before the postage stamp was first issued, postage was a luxury for the rich. Since the commencement of Uniform Penny Postage, prepaid by means of stamps, it has become a blessing for rich and poor alike. Religion and commerce, science and education, all received a great stimulus from the far-reaching effects of the wonderful organisation of the Post Office. Nothing that has been for the good of the world and its civilised inhabitants has been left untouched by this means of facilitated communication.

It is pleasing also to note that the greatest development in the history of our Post Office—this of Uniform Penny Postage prepaid by means of stamps—was inaugurated at the outset of the longest and most prosperous reign in history—that of Queen Victoria. At the time of the accession of King Edward VII the public was much exercised as to what change would be rendered necessary in the stamps and postal stationery of this country. Many were surprised even to learn that there was no precedent in the matter, stamps having only come into use during the reign of our last Queen.

Previous to the issue of adhesive stamps on May 6th, 1840,* various kinds of wrappers had been in use for postal pur-

*Specimens were sold to the public as early as May 1st, but were not available for use until May 6th, 1840.

poses. A *petite poste* was instituted for local purposes in Paris in 1653; and the proprietor issued "stamped wrappers." In Sardinia in 1818 the prepayment of postage was made feasible by the issue of wrappers bearing a stamp design, showing a mounted postboy, with his horn in hand. Not long before the emission of the notorious Mulready envelope in Britain, stamped envelopes were issued in Sydney, New South Wales. These were first offered for sale in 1838 at one shilling and threepence per dozen, the facial value of each envelope being one penny.

Necessity is the mother of invention; and when Rowland Hill realised that cheap postage must come, he understood that there must be some simpler means of paying the postage. The system, in vogue at the time, of charging for the letter on delivery necessitated a great amount of book-keeping, and, on the reduction of the postal tariff this labour would have been increased infinitely. There was, however, a general objection on the part of the public to paying postage in advance. The people appeared to believe that their letters might never be delivered once the postal officials had got all they were to get on account of them. But Rowland Hill saw the possibilities of fraud by the public, and he quoted many instances of such illegal proceedings on the part of letter writers and addressees in his pamphlets on Penny Postage.

Stamped envelopes and adhesive labels for sale to the public were then considered the best methods of prepaying postage. A suggestion had been made in 1836 by Mr Charles Knight that the then reduced tariff on newspapers should be collected by means of wrappers sold in advance at one penny. On the passing of the Act authorising Uniform Penny Postage in 1837 several thousand suggestions for stamped wrappers and postal labels were submitted in competition to the Lords of the Treasury. The two prizes offered consisted of £200 and £100 respectively.

Although the results of the competition were not very satisfactory, a design was accepted for an envelope by Mr. William Mulready, R.A., who about this time successfully

illustrated an edition of Goldsmith's *Vicar of Wakefield*. The design is reproduced as a frontispiece to this book by permission of the Board of Inland Revenue. The figure of Britannia at the top of the envelope was considered the stamp; and the defacement or postmark was intended to be applied there. The remainder of the design is suggestive of patriotism and sentimentalism, being emblematic both of Empire and Home.

Mulready's envelope was rejected of the public from its first appearance. To those interested in the study of the history of postage stamps, the most important point in connection with the Mulready envelope is that its withdrawal opened the way for a thorough and practically universal appreciation of the utility of the postage stamp itself. Although the envelopes only came into use on May 6th, the necessity for the withdrawal of them became evident within a few days. In the entry in Rowland Hill's diary for May 12th it is first hinted at. "I fear," he wrote, "we shall be obliged to substitute some other stamp for that designed by Mulready, which is abused and ridiculed on all sides..... I am already turning my attention to the substitution of another stamp combining with it, as the public have shown their disregard, and even distaste, for beauty, some further economy in the production."

While the Mulready envelope was rejected, the postage stamps were found to be convenient in every way. Queen Victoria was at the time just completing the third year of her reign; and her portrait had been placed on the first adhesive postage stamps ever issued. On this account, stamps were familiarly dubbed "Queen's heads," and they were referred to in conjunction with the Mulready envelopes in the Ingoldsby Legends:

"The Manager rings
And the Prompter springs
To his side in a jiffy and with him he brings
A set of those odd looking envelope things
Where Britannia (who seems to be crucified) flings
To her right and her left funny people with wings
Amongst Elephants, Quakers and Catabaw Kings

And a taper and wax
And small Queen's heads in packs
Which when notes are too big, you're to stick on their backs."

The design for the stamps was prepared by Henry Corbould and engraved by Charles Heath. The penny stamp was printed at first in black (the colour afterwards being changed to red); and the twopenny one in blue. In every respect the stamps (Figs. 53 & 54) have been excellent models for the postal issues of all other countries. With the improvements effected on the introduction of the perforating machine, they proved to be admirable types of what postage stamps should be. The requisites for a postage stamp are destinctiveness of outline and utility of form—not necessarily picturesqueness. The philatelic student much prefers to consider stamps that perform useful postal service than the multifarious pictorial specimens emanating from petty countries anxious to fill impecunious coffers by "taking a rise" out of the stamp collector.

But even the stamps did not altogether escape severe criticism. In a letter dated May 25th, 1840, from a youthful critic, then still at school, addressed to his sister, he asks: "Have you tried the stamps yet? I think they are very absurd and troublesome. I don't fancy making my mouth a gluepot, although to be sure you have the satisfaction of kissing, or rather slobbering over the back of Her Gracious Majesty the Queen. This is, however, I should say, the greatest insult the present ministry could have offered the Queen*."

"The Eton stripling's" view was not a general one, however, and during the first fifteen years of their service as many as 3,000,000,000 stamps were printed to meet the requirements of letter writers. The manufacture of our postage stamps is to-day done on a very extensive scale. Mr. Wilson Hyde, controller of the Post Office at Edinburgh, writing in 1885, says, "Those tiny things called postage stamps, which are light as feathers, and might be

*Notes and Queries, Nov. 15th, 1890.

blown about by the slightest breeze, make up in the aggregate very considerable bulk and weight, as will be appreciated when it is mentioned that one year's issue for the United Kingdom amounts in weight to no less than 114 tons." Since Mr. Hyde wrote, these figures have been greatly increased, and the daily issue of stamps amounts in weight to nearly four tons.

Britain's example in issuing adhesive postal labels was followed in 1842 by the issue of a stamp of the facial value of 3 cents for a private despatch post in New York. The first Government to follow in the train of the British post office was that of Brazil in 1843. The designs on Brazil's first stamps consisted of large numerals of value 30, 60, and 90 reis respectively. The figures were worked upon a graven background (Fig. 12). The Government of the United States did not take up with the idea until 1847, while France and Belgium lingered on without stamps until 1849. Gradually, however, every civilised country in the world has fallen into line, and the Universal Postal Union, established in 1875 for regulating international postal affairs, has been joined by every state of importance.

The Governments of the world have been responsible for the issue of over 17,500 different and distinctive postage stamps. These figures do not include the innumerable minor varieties which the philatelist seeks with as keen an enthusiasm as that of the connoisseur who secures a treasured work of art, or the numismatist who gloats over the addition to his collection of an antique and rare coin.

CHAPTER III.

The Romance of Stamp Collecting.

The beginning of stamp collecting is as obscure as if it had taken place in a much more remote time than it did. A number of quaint fairy tales have arisen concerning the origin of the pastime. These possess an interest chiefly in that they point out the lack of scientific method in the earliest instances of the hobby. Certainly stamp collecting did not commence as a Spanish gentleman would have us believe. His version of the origin of gathering stamps savours of the romantic. A grandee offered a wedding portion to a fair senorita if she would collect a sufficient number of stamps with which to cover the walls of a gallery in his palace. A party of the girl's friends formed themselves into a "sociedad" in order to assist the maiden in her gigantic task, and with this aid the girl succeeded in obtaining the required number. During the course of this work many were smitten by the collecting fever and went on accumulating stamps on their own account.

Although stamp collecting commenced much earlier in Great Britain and in France, it is certain that the hobby had spread largely in Spain by 1862. According to one Dr Thebussem, "carterio honorario" or "honorary postman" of Spain, a decree was issued in that country on May 27th, 1862, forbidding the circulation through the post of packets containing stamps.

Another of philately's early romances is based upon the geographical value of the stamp album. In the early 'sixties, it is said, a pedagogue in Paris encouraged his pupils to procure as many foreign stamps as possible. These he

recommended should be utilised to adorn and give added interest to their geography primers and atlases. The stamps were accordingly placed in the pages devoted to the countries issuing them. This may have been the first form of the classification of postage stamps in a collection. By this means the worthy schoolmaster is supposed to have inculcated in his boys a love for the study of geography. After a time the stamps were withdrawn from the atlases and transferred to a special receptacle invented for them—the stamp album.

But it is very plain that stamp collecting in some form or another has been in existence practically as long as the stamp itself. Scarcely had the penny and twopenny stamps of 1840 been issued than there were signs of the wholesale accumulation of them. Dr. Gray, of the British Museum, says he started collecting stamps soon after the introduction of them. He was led to do this by the interest he took in the scheme, having himself conceived a similar idea previous to the adoption of that of Rowland Hill. Mr P. J. Anderson, a Scottish librarian, has discovered an advertisement in the columns of the *Times* as early as 1841 which shows that stamps were being collected, after a fashion, at that early period:

"A young lady being desirous of covering her dressing room with cancelled postage stamps, has been so far encouraged in her wish by private friends as to have succeeded in collecting 16,000. These, however, being insufficient, she will be greatly obliged if any good-natured persons who may have these (otherwise useless) little articles at their disposal, would assist her whimsical project. Address E.D., Mr Butts', Glover, Leadenhall Street; or Mr Marshall's, Jeweller, Hackney."

In the following year it is understood that a philanthropist offered a large sum to a Roman Catholic charity, provided that the nuns would collect a million stamps within a given time, presumably as a test of their zeal in the cause for which they worked. The nuns advertised for old stamps, and ultimately reached the aggregate required:

whereupon—it is said—they received the promised reward of their labours. This incident probably gave rise to a notion that is very widespread, namely, that if one collects a million stamps he can secure the right of entry for an orphan into a home, or for a person advanced in years into an asylum for the aged. The total value of a million of the commonest used stamps would scarcely be worth a sovereign, and the idea of such an accumulation being an "open sesame" to a philanthropic institution is altogether ludicrous. Yet, as a philatelic writer has aptly put it, "time has not killed this story, nor has long custom staled its infinite variety."

In 1842 also *Punch*, then in its second volume, noted that "the ladies of England have been indefatigable in their endeavours to collect old penny stamps. In fact, they betray more anxiety to treasure up Queen's Heads than King Henry VIII did to get rid of them."

In the issue of the *Family Herald* for June 1st, 1850, is a letter referring to a "gentleman who has undertaken to collect one million postage stamps which have passed through the Post Office, in the space of three months." The writer of the letter goes on to give some statistics of the value of a million stamps if unused, also the total weight and other details "for the amusement of the curious." In the same periodical in the following year, March 22nd, 1851, an advertisement asking for old stamps appears. These were apparently required for decorative purposes by the advertiser, whose address was T.H.S., Smith's Library, 20, Brewer Street, Golden Square. In a foot-note T.H.S. says, "The Ceiling of the Library is decorated with 80,000 Postage Stamps, in various Devices, and admitted to be the most novel Ceiling in England."

This form of collecting could in no wise be considered as helpful; and it is only referred to here as the most primitive and crude form of stamp collecting. "I must confess," wrote Addison,* "I think it below reasonable Creatures to be

*Spectator No. 93.

altogether conversant in such Diversions as are merely innocent, and have nothing else to recommend them, but that there is no hurt in them," The mere accumulation of quantities of stamps may not be harmful, but, as a diversion or recreation, it is certainly below reasonable Creatures to devote their attention to such an unprofitable and insipid fancy.

Philately, or the study of postage stamps, aims at something far removed from the collecting fads of the Spanish maiden, the Roman Catholic nuns, or the "ladies of England" in 1842. It consists in the study of everything pertaining to stamps, their history, their use, their distinguishing features, and their composite parts. "Order is Heaven's first law," and it is this law applied to stamp accumulating that constitutes the science of philately. The pursuit of it requires observation, the gathering together of the results of the observation and inferences which may be deduced therefrom. Collecting must be accompanied by classification in proper chronological and class order. The philatelist must not merely collect: he must understand what he collects. By intelligent watchfulness, the minutiæ of philately are discovered—the niceties of paper, perforation, the shade of colour and distinctive outline. Not one variation in any of the component parts of a stamp is unworthy of the student's attention. Thus, in philately we have stamp collecting promoted from a rough, indefinite, unsatisfactory (and consequently passing) fancy, into a species of systematic knowledge of intrinsic value, which is in every sense a concrete science.

This form of stamp collecting was not much in vogue until the 'sixties. In *Notes and Queries*, a valuable storehouse of information on many abstruse subjects, for June 23rd, 1860, the following communication appeared. "Postage stamps.—A boy in my form one day showed me a collection of from 300 to 400 different postage stamps, English and foreign, and at the same time stated that Sir Rowland Hill told him that at that time there might be about 500 varieties on the whole. This seems a cheap, instructive and portable

museum for young persons to arrange; and yet I have seen no notices of catalogues or specimens for sale, such as there are of coins, eggs, prints, plants, etc., and no articles in periodicals. A cheap facsimile catalogue with nothing but names of respective states, periods of use, value, etc., would meet with attention. If there be a London shop where stamps or lists of them could be procured, its address would be acceptable to me, and to a score young friends.

"S. F. Cresswell.,

"The School, Tonbridge."

In July, 1861, Dr. Brown, author of *Horæ Subsecivæ*, wrote on "Education through the Senses" in the *Museum*.* In this article he said:

"The immense activity in the Post Office stamp line of business among our youngsters has been of use in many ways, besides being a recreation and an interest. I myself came to a knowledge of Queensland, and a great deal more, through its blue twopenny."

Mr. E. S. Gibbons, the founder of the firm of Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., started collecting in 1853 when at school. Monsieur J. B. Moens, a retired Belgian philatelist and dealer, commenced in 1855, since which time he has been the most authoritative writer on philatelic subjects.

A number of the present members of the Philatelic Society of London claim to have been collecting before 1860, and Messrs. Hardy and Bacon in their *Stamp Collector*,† give a long list of gentlemen who started to collect either before, or soon after, 1860, and whose names have been and are still honoured in the philatelic world.

By 1860 French collectors were much in advance of their British brethren. In that year there were stamp dealers in Paris and in the following year (1861) was started a literature which has been surprisingly prolific. The commence-

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ment was made by the publication of a catalogue of the known stamps that had been issued up to that time. The *collectionneurs* of Paris were the first to take into consideration the value of studying stamps and of classifying them. Instead of neatly trimming the perforated edges from the stamps, they measured the size of them by means of a gauge. They scrutinised minutely every portion of the design, discovering here and there instances of the plates from which the stamps were printed having been "retouched." Watermarks, too, received their attention; and the very texture of the paper was carefully noted. The stamps of each country were kept separate, and those of a distinct emission of one country were no longer jumbled together with the specimens belonging to another issue. How suitable were the methods adopted by these French enthusiasts may be judged by the almost universal adoption of those systems by stamp collectors who have continued the pursuit of the hobby beyond the stage of the schoolboy collector.

This class of collecting got its early stimulus in Britain by the publication of the first English catalogue issued in 1862, since which date the pursuit has been steadily increasing in public favour.

It is when stamp collecting is considered in a scientific light, and when, in the pursuit of it, the student exerts his powers of observation, that the title Philately may properly be applied to it. The term was first given to the subject by Monsieur Herpin, a Parisian collector. He invented the description from two Greek words. The first of these is "philos"—fond of,—and the second "atelia," which means "immunity from tax." The latter word was probably chosen as being the best word rendering the idea of "franking" in the Greek tongue. The duty of a postage stamp on a letter is to frank it, and when the postage is thus prepaid, the addressee is not chargeable. The term philately means, therefore, a "liking for franks" or "the love of postage stamps."

When philately had secured some hold on the public

taste, its votaries busied themselves to extend the knowledge of the science. Societies were formed on the Continent, in Britain, and in America for the furtherance of the pursuit. A literature was started that has been, perhaps, more extensive than that devoted to any other collecting hobby.

It is said that a Scotchwoman, hearing that a distinguished artist made his living by painting pictures, said contemplatively, "Aye, there's mony a shift." It is difficult to imagine what she would have thought of men not only making livings, but fortunes, by trading in trifles like postage stamps. The opportunities offered for the investment of capital quickly drew the attention of smart business men. They saw that their most profitable course was to facilitate the procuring of old stamps and also of new ones as they were issued. New issues were few and far between in those early days, though now,

> "Thick and fast they come at last
> And more, and more, and more."

To-day there is a commercial service that secures an extensive importation of every new stamp issued, no matter in how remote a part of the globe, or how limited the issue.

The collectors of stamps to-day in Great Britain, on the Continent, in America, in the Colonies, and indeed under the flag of every civilised country are more numerous than the heroes of Agamemnon's army, and more scattered on the face of the earth than the twelve tribes of Judah.

CHAPTER IV.

How Postage Stamps are Made.

The least interesting parts to the lay reader of a work like *The Compleat Angler* are those which treat of the purely scientific and detailed information. One need not be an angler to enjoy the full beauty of Piscator's bright chats until he enters upon a particularisation of the chavender or chubb, and the minnow or penk, when the author's labours are lost to all but the students of the piscatorial art.

In a popular treatise on philately one would fain leave out the technicalities, but then it would leave in the book a gap that would be missed by those who wish to study the subject more closely than the casual reader does. In this one chapter, therefore, nearly all the purely technical information that this book contains will be compressed. Most of the technical terms used by philatelists concern the stamp itself and certain processes used in its production.

A postage stamp is an adhesive label issued generally by a Government in order to denote the receipt of the amount paid for the transmission of letters and other postal packets. Such stamps must be distinguished from the vast variety of labels used for purposes other than postal.

On examining an unused postage stamp for a moment only, it will be seen to consist of *paper*, on which is printed, in *colour*, a *design*. In most cases there is also *gum* on the back, as well as some signs of the method adopted for the *separation* of each stamp on the sheet from its fellow.

In order to arrive at a full understanding of the study of philately, it is necessary to consider all the above-mentioned details of a postage stamp.

In the first place, there is the *paper* on which the stamp is printed. A brief description of the manufacture of paper is desirable to demonstrate its varying qualities.

Cotton and linen rags form the chief sources whence the materials for paper are obtained. These rags are dusted, sorted, cleaned, and are then pounded into a pulp, which is collected in a large vat at one end of the paper-making machine, and which is kept constantly stirred and at an even temperature. The pulp is then passed through a strainer which frees it from lumps; and, afterwards, the pulp is forced over a leathern surface from which it falls and spreads out upon an endless wire cloth moving round two rollers. The wire cloth is supported by a number of closely set brass rollers, which serve to keep it perfectly level. Having distributed itself over this gauze, some of the superfluous liquid is shaken from the pulp, and the wire cloth with its coating of pulp passes under a light wire cylinder on which is the design of the watermark which becomes impressed in the half formed paper.

After it has passed this "dandy-roll" cylinder the gauze carries its burden over suction boxes and tubes worked by air pumps, which relieve the pulp of nearly all that remains of its superfluous moisture. It is then passed between felt covered cylinders, and afterwards between heated iron rollers. The paper is then sized and passed between the hot cylinders again, after which process it is considered finished.

The varieties of paper with which philatelists have to deal are caused by the differences in the texture of the wire gauze used in the paper-making machines.

The two chief classes are wove and laid.

Wove paper is the product when the wire gauze is woven like cloth. It presents no sign of regular lines running through it as do the other kinds of paper. *Laid paper* is made when the wire is set in parallel lines, which are readily traceable in the finished paper. The varieties can easily be distinguished.

Our current English stamps are printed on wove paper.

The present issue of Russian stamps is on laid paper.

Other papers which have been used for postage stamps are:

Dickinson paper, so called from the name of its inventor, a paper manufacturer of King's Langley. His product has a silk thread running through it. The stamps of Bavaria were, until 1870, printed on this paper. The introduction of perforation has rendered this paper useless for stamp printing, as the silk thread would interfere with the separation of perforated stamps.

Bâtonné, on which the lines are "laid" some distance apart, and which has the familiar appearance of foreign note paper.

Quadrillé, on which the lines may be seen "laid" in squares. An example of this kind of paper may be found in some of the stamps of France, and is particularly noticeable in the large stamps issued for Djibouti in 1894.

Granite, which contains minute threads of silk. The Swiss stamps of 1881-2 may be taken as an example of this variety of paper.

Surface coloured paper, as the name suggests, is either wove or laid paper, coloured on one side only.

The *watermarks* in the paper on which stamps are printed are for the purpose of preventing, or, if not absolutely preventing, helping to detect forgeries. The designs are worked in relief on the "dandy roll" which, pressing upon the only half formed paper, leaves the part at which it touches the film of pulp thinner than the remainder.

In making paper for printing postage stamps it has been found desirable to introduce into it a separate small watermark for each stamp on the sheet. On glancing at a sheet of the current English stamps it will be seen that there are exactly 240 watermarks, each showing a miniature design of a crown, and one mark being allotted to each stamp.

It is not always, however, that each stamp on a sheet receives a distinct watermark to itself. Sometimes one watermarked design is spread over the whole sheet of stamps, as in the case of the Tuscany stamps of 1853. The first British halfpenny stamps were watermarked "Halfpenny," the complete word extending over three stamps.

It is wrong to suppose that all stamps have watermarks, and that therefore if a stamp has not got one it must be a forgery. There are a great many stamps, especially among the early issues, which have no watermarks, but which are nevertheless genuine and good stamps.

The designs which have been adopted for the watermarks in the stamps of different countries are of great variety. In Britain watermarked designs have included crowns (see current issue), anchors, garters, orbs, the letters VR, emblems, and a spray of rose; in India an elephant's head and a star have been depicted; in Jamaica, a pineapple; in Travancore, a shell; in Norway and in Holland, a horn; in Western Australia, a swan; and numerous other designs and initials have been used in the stamps of other countries and their dependencies.

The *colours* of postage stamps may be said to include all the blending shades and tones of the rainbow. As a rule, a distinct colour is chosen for each stamp of different denomination in a set. According to the present recommendations of the Universal Postal Union, the colour of nearly every halfpenny stamp is green, that of the penny is red, while that of the twopence-halfpenny is blue. The object of this uniformity is to guide the foreign postal clerk, who, if unable to comprehend the inscription, will readily recognize the facial value of the stamp from its complexion.

In most cases the colours of stamps have been chosen for no other reason than for drawing a distinction between the different stamps of a series. A few stamps have been impressed in the national colours of the country issuing them. A notable instance of this is to be found on the brightly tinted stamps of Heligoland during the British rule. The stamps are in green and red on a white ground, and the combination is an effective illustration of

"Red is the strand
White is the sand
Green is the band
These are the colours of Heligoland."

There have always been differences of opinion amongst philatelists as to the exact names of many colours; and although it is generally sufficient for the average man to term them red, blue, or green, the scientific stamp collector must be able to distinguish the various shades and tints of all the stamps he possesses. The tone of the colour sometimes has a very great effect on the price. For instance, there are the twopenny green stamps of Ceylon of the 1863-67 issue, which are catalogued in three shades of green at astonishingly varying figures:

	Unused.	Used.
Sea Green	12s. 6d.	6s. 0d.
Emerald Green . . .	—	30s. 0d.
Yellow Green	—	80s. 0d.

One of the chief difficulties of the beginner in stamp collecting is to name accurately the tint of a stamp. Many colour charts have been published for the use of philatelists, and the most convenient and up-to-date of these is one compiled by Mr B. W. Warhurst, a painstaking and enthusiastic philatelist who has made a speciality of the study of the colours in which postage stamps are printed.

The *designs* of postage stamps are always drawn by the artist on a considerably larger scale than that of the stamp itself. A useful size for the original drawing is six inches, a space which allows reasonable freedom to the designer. In order to gain some idea of what the design will appear like, this picture is viewed through a concave lens, or diminishing glass, in which the design is seen reduced to the size of a postage stamp.

The designs that have been used for postal labels are of a very varied character, as will be gathered from the subsequent chapters of this book. Some stamps, however, are quite deficient in pictorial effect, having been set up from the type and ornaments in the regular stock of the printer. Such specimens are known to collectors as "type-set" stamps.

"All sorts and conditions of" *gum* have been used in the manufacture of the world's postage stamps, except, perhaps, the masticating kind. High scented gums, unscented gums, tinted gums, colourless gums, streaky gums, smooth gums, all these and many more have had their share of being brought into requisition for postal purposes. At one time there was a great outcry against the British Post Office, for it was said that the gum used on the stamps of this country was made from stale fish refuse. It was, however, made from potato starch. The adhesive matter most generally used on stamps is made from an exudation of the Acacia Senecal, which abounds in Western Africa. This is collected in nodules, is easily soluble in water, and forms a clear and very adhesive liquid. It is applied to the paper by machinery. The sheets of paper are passed between two rollers, one of which is covered with gum. The sheets are then hung up to dry in a room heated with steam pipes. In Washington, after passing through the rollers the sheets drop on to a continuous band, which carries them through several vats, each containing a coil of steam pipe 50 feet long, thoroughly drying them in the process. The sheets of United States stamps are larger than those of Great Britain and contain 400 specimens. To gum 1,000 sheets of this size takes 26lb. of gum, which is thus spread quite evenly over the back of the sheets.

Little need be said here about the varieties of gum, for they are not difficult to distinguish. It is, however, necessary to impress upon beginners and others the desirability of leaving untouched the gum on the backs of unused stamps. Rare unused stamps always demand a much higher price with the full original gum than without it. In advertisements of unused stamps offered for sale the letters "O.G." (Original Gum) or the description "Mint Condition," frequently appear, which mean that the stamps are perfect specimens, exactly as they came from the manufacturer.

It was Mr Henry Archer, an Irishman, who first conceived the present methods for the *separation* of the stamps on a sheet by *rouletting* and *perforating*. Previous to his inven-

tion (which he sold to the Government in 1852) the stamps were cut from the sheet by means of a knife or of scissors.

There are several kinds of roulettes and perforations to which attention must be called.

The ordinary roulette consists of a series of straight cuts. Sometimes the "teeth" used for making these cuts are inked by the printer's roller and thus make an impression in colour. Stamps which have been prepared thus are described as "rouletted in coloured lines." Other roulettes are the "saw," "arc," "serpentine," "oblique," "point," and "half square."

Perforations are made by punches or needles. The ordinary perforation may be seen on any current English stamp. *Pin* perforation is that kind made by piercing the paper with a series of needles without removing the paper thus displaced.

Perforations form a very important point in the study of postage stamps. It is necessary very often to measure them in order to distinguish issues of different periods. Dr Legrand, a French collector, was the inventor of the present method of measurement. This mode is a very simple one; and after a few trials, the veriest tyro in philately will without difficulty be able to tell the perforation of any stamp. By Dr Legrand's system, which is now most generally accepted, the number of needles of the perforations which lie in the space of twenty millimetres (which is roughly speaking about four-fifths of an inch) is counted. So that when it is said that a stamp is "perforated 14" it is meant that there are 14 points or perforations in the space of 20 millimetres.

In the perforation gauge which will be found on page 2, it will be noticed that there are fourteen divisions, each of the width of 20 millimetres. Arranged in these are bisected dots. By placing one set of these dots at a time under the stamp, the perforation of which it is desired to gauge, the collector will at last find one set of dots which coincides exactly with the punched holes or indentations. This shows that there are the same number of dots in that

division as there are perforations to the space of 20 millimetres on your stamp, and the number which is placed beside each division of the gauge will save the collector the trouble of counting them.

It sometimes happens that the perforation at the horizontal sides of a stamp is different from that at the vertical. For instance, the horizontal ones may be perforated 13 while the vertical sides may gauge 15. In recording these *compound* perforations, the number stated first is the perforation of the top and bottom, and the second that of the sides. Thus the instance just cited would be *compound perforation* 13 × 15.

In the early times of stamp collecting it was generally thought that the perforation did not belong to the stamp, and that all it was necessary to preserve of the labels was that part actually covered with the design. Such, however, is a great fallacy, and many hundreds of really good stamps have been reduced to the ranks of common or worthless ones through its agency. For an example of stamps that are alike in tint and design yet differ in perforation take the 9d. brown (overprinted on 10d.) New South Wales 1871-83. The following table shows the prices recently catalogued for each perforated specimen:—

Perforation.	Value. Unused.	Used.
12	5s. 0d.	—
12½	2s. 6d.	2s. 0d.
11	—	3s. 6d.
10	7s. 6d.	—
12 × 11	2s. 6d.	2s. 6d.
11 × 12	1s. 0d.	1s. 0d.
11 × 10	10s. 0d.	—

If, therefore, the perforation of one of these stamps be cut away it would be impossible to distinguish between the different issues, and the stamp priced 10s. would be on a level with that valued at 1s.

Most stamps have been produced by means of the printing press. In a comparatively few instances stamps have been struck from dies worked by hand, and the first issue of Uganda stamps was produced by means of a typewriter. But the stamp collecting hobby has a peculiar fascination for the printer and the engraver. The stamp album comprises a veritable cyclopædia of specimens of the various modes of duplicating which can be termed printing. Indeed, practically all the chief methods of printing have been used in the production of postage stamps. Engraving, surface printing, lithography, and embossing are the most important methods that call for attention from the philatelist.

The first British stamp design was engraved upon steel. The die was of softened steel on which an engine-turned background was engraved. A place was then cleared for the portrait of the Queen. When the design was completed it was hardened; and then an impression was taken from it on to a softened steel roller. This in turn was hardened and rolled to and fro on a plate of softened steel, making 240 impressions on each plate. The stamp designs on the plate appeared in *intaglio*, so that the ink had to be applied under considerable pressure, causing it to fill up the hollow lines. The superfluous ink was then removed from the level surface of the plate, and the paper was applied under pressure, which forced it into the recess lines in which was the colouring matter. Steam printing had not been invented at the time these stamps were first issued, so that all the printings had to be done by hand on roller presses.

The process of printing the current postage stamps of Great Britain is known as surface printing, or typography. It differs from engraving, the design being in relief on the plate, instead of in recess. The inking of the design and the making of the impression are performed in the same way as a circular or newspaper is printed. Surface printed stamps are not so expensive to produce as engraved ones. The average cost of the manufacture of the stamps of Great Britain per million is £30. 0s. 11d. They are printed at

the works of Messrs T. de la Rue & Co., at Bunhill Row, where a number of specially constructed machines are kept in almost constant use for the production of our postage stamps. When in operation, these machines are under the supervision of a staff of Government inspectors; and when out of use each machine is locked so that no stamps may be manufactured surreptitiously. The plates also are kept in safes, and are only taken out under the direction of one of the inspectors.

Lithography is not so largely used now for producing postage stamps as formerly. The process lent itself to forgery, and there are very few rare lithographed stamps that have not, at some time, been successfully imitated by means of the same process. Lithographic stones are prepared from thin slabs of a fine-grained variety of limestone. On one of these slabs the stamp design is drawn or transferred by means of special ink. The surface of the slab is then covered with a dilute acid, which eats away a thin layer of the limestone where there are no lines of the design. These lines, therefore, are left standing in relief. The stones are then placed in presses, the ink applied, and the impressions taken in the ordinary manner. Nearly all the early stamps of the States of South America were lithographed. The engraved or the surface printed stamps are now in the majority, however, as they are neither so readily nor so successfully counterfeited as are the lithographed stamps.

The nature of the process styled embossing is very generally known. Among the first suggestions for British stamps sent in for the approval of the Treasury were several proposals for embossed stamps, and in 1847-1854 the 6d., 10d. and 1s. stamps of this country were issued embossed in colour on Dickinson paper. Several of the early stamps of Italy had a framework printed in colour enclosing an uncoloured embossed head of Victor Emmanuel II (Fig. 74). In some cases the embossed part of the design was inadvertently impressed upside down.

The most handsome series of embossed stamps is that

issued for the British Colony of Gambia in 1886 (Fig. 50). These stamps are, perhaps, the nearest approach to the philatelist's ideal of what a stamp should be—simple, yet distinctive in design, and with the name of the colony and the inscription of value clearly denoted.

The chief stamp printing firms in England are: Messrs de la Rue & Co., who print our stamps and the postal emissions of many of the colonies; Messrs Waterlow & Son, who have produced many of the most handsome colonial and foreign stamps; Messrs Perkins, Bacon & Co., who printed the earliest British stamps and the first series of triangular stamps for the Cape of Good Hope; and Messrs Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co., who supply a number of foreign States with postage stamps.

The National Bank Note Company of America is noted for its stamps issued periodically under contracts with the Governments of several of the minor Republics of South and central America. The American Bank Note Co. is the chief stamp printing firm in the United States, and is responsible for the production of some of the most beautifully engraved stamps ever issued. This company printed the handsome "Columbus" series of stamps, issued on January 1st, 1893, in connection with the World's Fair at Chicago.

CHAPTER V.

On Starting a Collection.

In forming a collection of postage stamps, it is advisable, when possible, to procure at the start a packet of varieties. At the present time a packet with one thousand different stamps costs no more than from 17/6 to £1. Such a packet will form a very fair nucleus for any collection. Smaller packets, however, may be procured from the stamp dealers at all prices from 4d. for one hundred varieties; and larger ones up to 4,000 specimens may be had for £19.

The next requisite is the resting place for these stamps. In the early days of stamp collecting, nearly every collector had to content himself with a small exercise or scrap book. After a time, however, the stamps bulged the covers of the ordinary book and special receptacles had to be provided. The first suitably arranged stamp album was issued by a French philatelist, M. Justin Lallier. His *Album Timbres-Poste* was published in France and England in 1862. Lallier's albums are still well known; and when a collection contained in such an album is offered for sale, dealers and collectors are usually on the alert, for they naturally expect some finds of old and rare specimens. After Lallier's pioneer work, stamp albums became a regular article of commerce, and to-day many thousands are sold in all parts of the globe.

In selecting an album for his stamps, the collector should carefully consider the amount of trouble and expense he is prepared to go to in his hobby. It is advisable in most cases to make a small beginning in a modest album, and, as the collection grows, transfer the stamps to a larger

album. If a large album be purchased at the start, there is a possibility of the collector becoming disappointed at the great number of spaces that will certainly be left blank. A small and conveniently arranged album for a beginner is issued at sixpence by the publisher of this book, who also issues "My Stamp Album" and "The Boy's Own," at 1s. each, and "The Globe Stamp Album" at 3s. The "Lincoln" albums at 1/- and 5/-, the Excelsior at 1/- to 70/-, the "Gibbons" Improved 1/-, the "Strand" 2/6, the "Empire" 5/-, and the "Victoria" series 4d. to 4/- are among the favourite albums for beginners and may be procured from all stamp dealers, booksellers, and fancy repositories.

For those collectors who are prepared to pay the price of a substantial album the "Imperial" published by Gibbons, and "Senf's Illustrated" are excellent. On the left hand page in the "Imperial" album, are copious notes about the stamps for which spaces are provided on the right-hand page. The album designed by Richard Senf is on a similar plan. Advanced collectors and specialists use albums without special printing, but with interchangeable leaves. All the pages are so arranged that they may be changed in position or removed from the book altogether, at the same time preserving the intactness of both book and page. Messrs Whitfield King & Co. of Ipswich, Messrs Gibbons Ltd, and Messrs Hamilton Smith & Co, of London, all publish volumes of this type.

The stamps that are to form the nucleus of the collection must be placed in their proper positions in the albums. Most printed albums are arranged geographically, and many young collectors will find that they will gain considerable strength in their geographical knowledge by this arrangement. They will have to know, *or find out*, where Djibouti is, before they can place their Djibouti stamps in their proper place. In some albums the arrangement is in Empires and Continents, in others, in Continents only.

There are several points that should be carefully observed in placing the stamps in the albums. It is an accepted

Irishism in stamp collecting circles that the best way to handle stamps is not to handle them at all. Tweezers are largely used by advanced collectors.

Unused stamps should never be fastened into the album by means of the original gum on their backs, and used specimens should not be pasted down in the pages of the album. It is very desirable that the stamps be inserted in such a manner as to preserve a neat appearance, be handy for reference, and be easily extracted without tearing either the stamp or the album.

In order to facilitate the convenient mounting of the stamps, small hinges of prepared gummed paper are manufactured and sold at a very moderate cost. These hinges are spoken of as "mounts." The entire surface of one side is coated with gum. The mount is folded to form a hinge with the gummed surface on the outside. One portion is affixed lightly to the back of the stamp after having been moistened. The other portion is also madified and affixed to the album.

These small paper hinges form handy mounts, which permit of the raising of the specimens for examination and of the easy and safe extraction of the stamps when desired.

Mounts may be procured at any cost from 4d. to 1/6 per 1,000. While a cheap class of mount will serve for the multitudes of common stamps that are to be found in every collection, it is advisable to have a small quantity of a better kind for mounting fine unused specimens and rarities.

Collections formed by juniors and at times even by seniors are spoiled in point of attractiveness by the insertion of stamps with several layers of envelope or other paper on the back. Such paper should be soaked off before mounting in the album.

In the case of stamps printed in coloured inks that are soluble in water, and consequently fugitive, care should be taken to keep the water away from the face of the stamp when soaking. This may be done by letting the stamp float *face upwards* on the top of slightly warmed water.

It should scarcely be necessary to point out the grea

desirability of keeping stamps carefully and clean. This is absolutely essential if they are to be kept long. A very careful Scottish youth showed the author his collection recently. It was neatly and systematically arranged, and its canny young owner had made small sliding "gloves" of tissue paper for every unused stamp he possessed. These he slipped off gently to show the specimens, carefully replacing them before turning over the pages of his album.

Stamps should not be kept in a very warm place. If they are so kept they are likely to curl up.

CHAPTER VI.

Further Hints for Collectors.

Specialism or Generalism? "The world is my parish," quoth the eminent John Wesley, and the most distinguished philatelists have been those who, instead of restricting themselves to the stamps of a particular country, took the whole world into their sphere of philatelic interest.

It is, however, a common plaint with the philatelist of to-day that it is impossible to secure a complete set of the postage stamps of the world. The impossibility of the ideal or absolutely complete collection is certain, and on this account many have restricted themselves to the accumulation and study of the stamps of a particular country or group of countries. This form of collecting is termed "specialism" in contrast to the other school of collecting, "generalism," in which are comprised the stamps of all countries.

Unhappily for the social element at the meetings of philatelic societies, specialism has dwindled the attendances and dulled the liveliness that once was a feature at these assemblies. The members who attend are mostly specialists having little or no interest outside their own limited sphere. They are in fact ill roasted eggs "all on the one side." The learned lecturer who takes three quarters of an hour to read a purely technical paper on the stamps of the first issue of Jhalawar cannot hope to succeed in entertaining the enthusiasts who know no interest outside the stamps of the Dominican Republic or perhaps Bangkok.

To compile a really fine specialised collection of the stamps of one country requires far more philatelic know-

ledge than to form an interesting and much larger general collection. The specialist, by taking into account the most minute points of difference in his specimens, provides for himself a task as difficult, if not more so, than that of the general collector. Many a would-be specialist has found the long, wearisome hunt for the slightest variations in types and perforations too heavy a tax upon his energies and his purse. He is glad to return to the wider field of generalism as he acknowledges with Mandrake, "This glass is too big, take it away, I'll drink out of the bottle."

The chief objection to the general collector is that he almost necessarily becomes a smatterer, knowing a little of everything yet learned in nothing. As a pastime pure and simple, however, the general collector has the advantage over the specialist in that he may roam whither he will in his philatelic studies and may

> "Let observation with extensive view
> Survey mankind from China to Peru."

The collector is often in doubt as to which is the better of these two schools of philatelic study. He has perhaps been a "generalist" for some time and then begins to think that he should specialise. But there is a difficulty as to the choice of a country. There are so many to select from that it is difficult to decide upon one. In this matter no advice can be given; each collector must determine for himself which country he thinks possesses the greatest fascination or interest for him, and act accordingly. If he takes no interest in any particular country then he may as well give up the idea of specialising in the stamps of one nation. Possibly the remarks of Socrates on the selection of a wife would be applicable to the would-be specialist without a notion of any particular country to choose for specialism. "Whether he should choose one or not, he would repent it."

For the beginner in stamp collecting, however, there is but one course to pursue. Everyone should start with a general collection. To become a successful philatelist this

is absolutely necessary. The early stages of general collecting form the apprenticeship through which every collector must go if he wishes to become a master craftsman. In the making of the general collection he will acquire very considerable knowledge of the world's stamps, which will stand him in excellent stead when he begins to specialise. Without this groundwork the beginner who launches straightway into specialism will encounter numerous obstacles with which he will be quite unable to cope. After struggling with them for a few weeks or perhaps months, he will lay aside the stamp album and will ever afterwards regard collecting as an inexplicable and inane pastime.

Experience has, however, shown that the one who forms a small general collection is better fitted to make a successful specialist. Such philatelists are the mainstay of the popularity of the hobby, for with them "to be once a collector is to be always a collector."

Used or Unused Stamps? A matter of considerable importance in starting a collection is to decide whether it shall contain used or unused postage stamps or both. Some collectors take only one kind, while others take every stamp that they can get whether used or unused.

As a rule unused stamps are better than used ones in point of value. In only a very few cases can unused stamps be procured from dealers at a less sum than used specimens cost. Then the unused stamp is the more perfect for studying the type, the paper, perforation, and the gum. To many the unused stamp appeals because it is not likely to be worth less than its face value and it looks better in the album than the used specimen. Neither of these considerations, however, need carry any weight with the real student of stamps.

Used stamps are, on the whole, much cheaper than unused ones, and many collectors pin their faith to them on account of their having actually done duty through the post. If all stamp collectors had accepted only stamps that had been passed through the post, there would be no speculative or

unnecessary commemorative issues created solely for making profit on their sale to collectors. The collector of used stamps should always see that he selects lightly, though clearly, postmarked copies. Some philatelists like to have only stamps on which they can plainly distinguish the postmark, and certainly if the postmark is to be considered part of the used stamp the more perfectly defined it is the better. A smudgy obliteration can have no interest for anyone.

The Expense of Philately. The point is constantly being raised that stamp collecting is a hobby that entails great expense. This very belief has precluded thousands from the knowledge of the great joys of the philatelist in the pursuit of his pastime. Nothing can be more unjust to the hobby, or more distant from the truth. It is true that no one without the wealth of a Carnegie or a Vanderbilt can attain to anything approaching perfect completeness in a collection of the postage stamps of the world. But the philatelist's pleasure is gained in the determined effort to get together the best and most representative collection that he can in his especial and individual circumstances. The infinity of stamp collecting is its greatest advantage over many another hobby.

The primary object in collecting anything is to secure a complete set of the articles in question. In the case of stamps this is impossible. It is an aim which no philatelist can reach absolutely. But from the endeavour to approach it he can derive incalculable pleasure. The expense of the hobby can therefore be governed by the circumstances of the collector. A small general album is to its humble owner as fascinating as an accumulation of great rarity is to the millionaire collector, who has a secretary to amass his specimens and to arrange them when procured. The most interesting stamps, as will be seen from the descriptions of them in the pages of this book, are stamps of no great pretentions to rarity, or exclusiveness. The only interest attaching to great rarities is that there is perhaps only a single specimen known, and that therefore only one man (he who can afford to pay the highest price) may enjoy

the privilege of possessing it. This does not affect the universal pleasure that may be derived from stamps. The fact that one man alone possesses a particular stamp does not preclude the ordinary collector from enjoying the charms of the hobby which consist not in the exclusive possession of a certain stamp but in the bringing together of a number, more or less great, of specimens to form a representative collection of the world's postage stamps. The man who spends large sums of money on getting together simply a big collection may not be so true a philatelist as he who, with less means, forms a carefully and judiciously arranged one. Indeed the case of the philatelist is analogous to that of the cook as described by the steward of Molière's miser. "There is no difficulty," said he, "in giving a fine dinner with plenty of money. The really great cook is he who can set out a banquet with no money at all."

The Season for Philately. Stamp collecting is essentially an indoor pastime for the great majority of its disciples. True, there are some enthusiasts who, having their time in their own hands, devote much of that time to travels abroad in search of "fresh fields and pastures new," where they can discover the gems and novelties of the philatelic world. But to stamp collectors generally it is

> "When dark December glooms the day
> And takes our autumn joys away."

that the chief delight in the album of stampic treasures is to be found. Philately's great season is winter, when the brilliance of the summer's sun no longer charms one out from his domestic shell, when the photographer can no more secure good pictures, and the wheelman's iron steed is hibernating in the remoteness of a cellar.

But although the active work of the stamp collector is chiefly performed during the winter months, the enthusiast cannot allow himself to be entirely dead to his hobby during the months of summer. The garden-amateur's greatest joy is doubtless to see the results of his labour in the time of sunshine; but his hobby keeps him busy for months

before the effects of his efforts become apparent. It is so even with the philatelist. Though winter is his particular season, during which enthusiasm in the hobby is at its height, yet there is much that can be done in the "slack season" to very great advantage. Naturally enough saleable stamps do not procure such high prices in the summer time as they do when in winter thousands of eager eyes are constantly scanning auction catalogues, bargain lists, and club sheets in search of their particular requirements. Thus it happens that the collector who purchases specimens judiciously in the "close season" adds to his collection at a cost much less than the collector who buries his album in summer and brings it out again only when popularity and enthusiasm are both tending to raise prices to their highest point. The collector who decides to make stamp collecting his winter hobby should, therefore, not scorn bargains that may crop up during the season that he devotes to any outdoor sport. He need not give his albums any attention whatever, but, if he procures stamps cheaply during summer, his pleasure will be heightened in the winter when he comes to arrange his summer acquisitions in his albums.

CHAPTER VII.

Effect of Collecting upon Stamp Production.

Commemorative stamps are those which have been issued to celebrate some anniversary, or to mark some special event. Their influence on collecting is a moot subject. Some persons are inclined to give them the credit of adding to the interest of the stamp album, and this is undoubtedly the case with the most acceptable commemorative stamps. But to them also we owe a debt of ingratitude for the numerous issues known as speculative stamps, on account of the object of their emission, which is to make money out of collectors. Commemorative and speculative stamps have been issued on a variety of occasions and are generally of a brilliant, artistic and attractive appearance. They are, however, ignored by the serious, advanced collector, who very justly resents his hobby being taxed in this manner in order to fill the coffers of impecunious Governments.

Although Great Britain is well known to be most conservative in the matter of stamp issuing, yet it is believed that this country gave the first stimulus to the production of commemorative stamps.

On May 16, 1890, the Jubilee anniversary of Uniform Penny Postage was celebrated in London by a postal exhibition at the Guildhall. "To enhance the interest of the celebration" various postal processes were shown in connection with the working of the mails, and a special post card was issued. The words of the preliminary announcement, which read as follows, give a good general description of it:

"The card will be of a light drab colour. In the left-hand corner will appear a crown with the letters 'V.R.' and a rose, shamrock, and thistle beneath. In the centre the City arms (the celebration was held under the auspices of the Corporation of the City of London), with the words 'Penny Postage Jubilee, 1890, Guildhall, London,' and in the right-hand corner an impression of a penny stamp similar to that used for foreign postcards. The printing of the whole will be of red colour. The cards will be made up in packets of twelve and one hundred. They can be sold singly or in larger quantities."

It is also noteworthy that a special commemorative postmark was prepared for use at the Guildhall post office on the 16th, 17th, and 19th, May 1890.

Long before 1890 however, a start was made with commemorative postal issues. Perhaps the earliest was an envelope issued in 1876 to mark the Centenary of the Declaration of Independence. This contrasts the modes of communication in 1776 and 1876. The comparison is shown by representing a mounted post runner together with a railway train and telegraph wires.

It is, however, one of the chief complaints of the collector that small States are now seizing upon every available occasion for the emission of a new stamp or series of stamps. Bulgaria in 1896 took as its pretext for issuing a series of postal labels the baptism of Prince Boris into the Greek Church. The event will be remembered by many as it caused a great stir among the crowned heads of Europe.

Among the most respectable of the commemorative stamps may be placed the handsome Columbus, Omaha, and Pan American series of the United States. On a level with them may be placed the Diamond Jubilee issues of Canada and Newfoundland, as well as the Olympic Games series of Greece. All these and many more have done as much postal duty as ordinary issues would have done, in fact they took the place of the regular issues.

In imitation of the Columbus issues of the United

States, Portugal issued in 1894 a series of far less reputable commemorative stamps. These marked the centenary of Prince Henry the Navigator. They were followed the next year, 1895, by a series to commemorate the seventh centenary of the birth of St. Antony of Padua. When these stamps were announced it was stated that they would be available for use on one day only. Happily for stamp collectors this issue was not a financial success. Seven-eighths of the entire issue were unsold and had to be burnt. The facial value of them amounted to 400,000,000 reis.

Three years passed before Portugal tried again to make money out of stamp collectors. In 1898 they celebrated the memory of Vasco da Gama by a series of eight remarkable labels.

The Republic of Uruguay issued in 1896 a series to mark the inauguration of the statue of Don Joaquin Suarez. This issue was available for use for one week!

A native of the Dominican Republic two or three years ago discovered some human bones, which were declared to be those of Columbus. Elated at the honour of the great man having been buried in their country, the Dominican Government decided to erect a mausoleum for the bones. There was, however, a barrier in the way of such a costly memorial—the want of the money with which to build it. At last, however, the difficulty was got over by an ingenious postal official, who proposed the issue of a set of commemorative stamps. On the strength of this suggestion, the mausoleum was commenced, and the stamps followed soon afterwards.

To enumerate in detail all the multitude of stamps issued for commemorative purposes would require far more space than is available here. In most cases these stamps bear designs illustrative or typical of the subject they commemorate, and in some instances these will be referred to in other chapters.

In addition to the commemorative stamps there are other labels which have been issued not to signalise any

special event, but merely to create new varieties for collectors. These, together with the majority of the commemorative labels, are termed "speculative issues." A large proportion of these stamps emanate from the Central and South American Republics. The manner in which some of these States procured their stamps and postal stationery gives a curious sidelight on the business of official stamp-mongers. A Mr. N. Seebeck (now deceased), the Secretary to the National Bank Note Co. of Washington, entered into an agreement in 1890 to supply various of these Governments with stamps and postal stationery. The company supplying the stamps made no charge for them to the Governments, but they stipulated that the stamps should be withdrawn from use and replaced by a new series each year (or oftener). All that remained in stock were to be handed over to Mr. Seebeck's firm for sale to collectors. The printers, too, preserved the plates and were at liberty to manufacture the stamps for as long a period as there was any demand from collectors. Thus the stamps of Nicaragua have been changed annually since 1890. San Salvador is a worse offender in this respect, for in 1895 and again in 1896 two series were issued instead of the single annual edition.

Honduras presents a similar record to that of Nicaragua, except that for some inexplicable reason no new issue was made during 1894.

Some British possessions have been nearly as prolific in unnecessary speculative issues as these South American Republics.

The Protectorates of Labuan and North Borneo are among the worst offenders, and not a year passes without some changes being made in the postal issues of these countries. Ceylon has incurred the displeasure of philatelists by designing purely speculative issues in the form of surcharges upon the ordinary stamps. Hong Kong followed suit by overprinting the stamps in 1891 to mark the jubilee of the Colony as a British possession. Other colonies quickly adopted the surcharging plan, and it was not until the Colonial Secretary

Lord Ripon, addressed a note to the colonies on the subject that the practice was relinquished, His lordship ordered that care should be taken to keep a sufficient supply of all stamps in stock. "Surcharging," he directed, "should never be resorted to unless absolutely required for the convenience of the public, and in every such case the officer responsible for keeping up the supply of stamps should be liable to be fined."

Although this put a stop to the wholesale practice of surcharging, there have not been wanting signs of a revival of it.

From the preceding instances of stamps the majority of which were made for sale to collectors, it will at once be seen how considerable an influence collecting has had on stamp production. Several colonies and foreign countries have openly admitted that they look upon the hobby as a convenient means of raising money.

In 1895 a society of stamp collectors was formed with the object of restraining the output of unnecessary stamps. With the alliterative title of the Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps, it endeavoured to point out for collectors those issues which should be regarded as unworthy of a place in the stamp album. The Society itself was suppressed simply through lack of general sympathy and co-operation on the part of collectors. These latter are not to be dictated to as to what they shall collect or neglect. It is with them as in the days when "there was no King in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes."

CHAPTER VIII.

Stamps of Great Price.

"Rich the treasure, sweet the pleasure" of possessing the stamp whose scarcity has made it an acquisition long and devoutly desired. Every earnest collector has made extended searches for uncommon specimens, until patience has been tried to the utmost. Then, perhaps when the seeker is least expecting it, the stamp is found. Stamps that have cost their owners long hours and days and months of seeking are valued by them far more than those specimens which can be purchased in any stamp shop without the least trouble.

But it is of the outstanding rarities that it is proposed to treat in this chapter. M. Victor Flandrin has compiled a list of "The Hundred Best Stamps." No useful purpose would be served by giving this complete list here. Some acquaintance with the histories and values of the chief *rara aves* is, however, indispensable to the collector.

In point of actual rarity, those stamps of which there are only single copies known to exist come first. Of these the most notable is the One Cent stamp of the 1856 issue of British Guiana (Fig. 14). This unique specimen is in the collection of Herr Ferrary. Its design consists of simple type-set inscriptions, with a small picture of a three-masted ship in the centre. It is printed in black on red paper. As this stamp is never likely to be sold in the market, no sum may be stated as its value. Such a treasure, when it reaches a wealthy philatelist's album, is priceless, and "cannot be gotten with gold, neither shall silver be weighed for the price thereof."

A single specimen only is known of an Italian error or

misprint. This consists of a 15 centesimi stamp converted by means of an overprint into a 20 centesimi one, and was issued in 1865. The correctly printed stamp is among the commonest of specimens; but in the rarity the surcharge has been printed upside down. The only copy known has been shown lately in the window of a London dealer.

Of several Mexican local stamps there are but two copies known of each. These, however, are not so "fashionable" as some less rare specimens of other countries which secure higher prices when they come on the market.

A triangular Cape of Good Hope stamp, printed by mistake on paper intended for the stamps of other colonies, is a particular rarity, four copies only being known. A pair of these is valued at over £500.

Ten copies are known of the two cents stamp of the earliest issue of British Guiana (Fig. 13). This stamp is a plain looking label, bearing an ill-drawn circle containing the inscription "British Guiana 2 cents." It is printed in black on pale rose coloured paper. In 1878 a copy of this stamp exchanged hands for £20. A similar pair was purchased from a Mr. Luard in 1897 for £650. They were sold for £780 to a German dealer, who disposed of them for £1,000 to Baron Otto von Transehe-Roseneck, a Russian philatelist, who has since relinquished the hobby on account of failing eyesight.

The first issue of Sandwich Island stamps are extremely rare, twelve copies only being known of the two cents stamp (Fig. 69). This stamp had not been in use many days when the General Post Office at Hawaii was destroyed by fire, the entire stock of these stamps being ruined. A single specimen was sold in 1897 for £740.

The 1d. and 2d. "Post Office" Mauritius stamps (plate II and Fig. 95), are the best known of the philatelic *rara aves*. Higher prices have been paid for these than for any other stamps, although there are at least twenty-three copies known. These twenty-three are all that remain for collectors out of a total printing of 1,000 stamps, i.e., 500 of each

denomination. The few copies that are left are divided between collectors in Great Britain and France, with the exeption of a pair in Germany, and another in Russia.

These stamps, which in the early seventies were selling for £4 apiece, are now beyond the reach of all but the millionaire collector—and even he has some difficulty in procuring his specimens. A pair was sold in 1896 for £1,680. At the breaking up of a big French collection, soon afterwards a pair was sold for £1,920.

Two copies of the 1d., both used, were sold together in 1898 for £1,800. During 1901 a single specimen was sold for approximately £1,500 to a German dealer, who exchanged it for some rare duplicates in the collection of stamps at the Berlin Postal Museum. It is estimated that the value he received for the stamp was not short of £1,850.

In 1903 a pair discovered by and Bordeaux Schoolboy on one envelope was sold in France for £2,400 and another fine specimen was discovered for which, the author understands that an offer of £2000 has been made. This latter sum is without doubt the highest price ever offered or paid for a single stamp.

Amongst the rarest of stamps are those issued by postmasters in the United States prior to the appearance of Government issues for the country. The 10 cents stamp of Baltimore issued in 1846 was sold in 1898 for £816 similar to (Fig. 208). The stamp is as unpretentious a label as one could imagine, and bears the signature of James M. Buchanan, the postmaster responsible for its issue. In 1895, £1,026 was paid by an American collector for a pair of 20 cents stamps of St. Louis issued in 1845 (Fig. 212). The approximate values of the 5 cents stamps of Alexandria and Millbury are given as £600 and £400 respectively. (Figs. 207 and 210).

The 4d. Cape of Good Hope error (Fig. 21) of 1861 is a great rarity in the used condition; but only one unused copy is known, and this was sold for £500.

Another extremely rare stamp is the 81 paras of Moldavia's first series of 1858 (Fig. 99). This stamp consists of a crude

circular design showing a bull and a posthorn. Unused it has realised £143, £220, £227, and £350.

Ceylon's 4d. stamp of 1859 is another specimen that would be "of great price" if copies could be procured. Over thirteen years ago one was sold for £130 and no copy has been offered on the market since.

Another notable rarity is Tuscany's 3 lire stamp of 1860. Scarcely half a dozen copies of this stamp are known in the unused condition. A copy was sold during 1896 for the sum of £210.

Canada has a stamp worth £100. It is the 12 pence stamp of 1851. Even Great Britain has a specimen of equal value in the £1 stamp of 1882, watermarked with the design of an anchor.

These are some of the cardinal gems of the wealthy philatelist's treasures, But it is not in these that the inestimable fascination of stamp collecting lies. A unique stamp can be possessed by one individual only, and cannot give much pleasure to others. Yet it will be found that the really interesting stamps are those of which the value for the student of philately is dependent upon their associations rather than their price. The stamps with stories, those that have historic and romantic interest, are nearly all within the reach of every collector, no matter how limited his means. Once the young philatelist has formed a collection of one or two thousand varieties he will have an album that will be a pleasurable study and a recreation for him to turn to at all times of leisure. The designs, the histories of his stamps, besides the personal recollections that are recalled of the difficulties of obtaining his specimens, will provide him with endless material for appreciative enjoyment. When he has reached this stage in his philatelic career, he will be content to let the rich man glory in his riches, without envying him the possession of a Twopenny Mauritius or a "circular" British Guiana.

CHAPTER IX.

Provisional Issues and Surcharged Stamps.

A provisional stamp is, as the term implies, one that has been issued for temporary use only. It has frequently happened that the stock of stamps of a particular type or value has become exhausted, and some other labels have to be brought into requisition until the stock of proper stamps is replenished. It has also occurred, when a country has been about to issue a full series of new stamps, that certain of the old series have been all disposed of before the new stamps are available. It is therefore necessary to provide some sort of label to do duty for each stamp the stock of which is exhausted.

An example of a provisional issue is the first series of Peruvian stamps. These consisted of the remainder of the stock of stamps used by the Pacific Steam Navigation Company, and were requisitioned by the Peruvian Government to do duty until a new series of distinctly Peruvian stamps could be prepared. The regular issue did not appear until four months after the temporary issue.

When the stock of halfpenny stamps of Grenada became exhausted in 1882, penny stamps were cut diagonally in half to serve provisionally as halfpenny ones. In 1892, St. Lucia's halfpenny stamps being all disposed of, sixpenny stamps were cut through the middle and the value ½d. impressed upon each portion in black (Fig. 159). These did temporary duty until a new supply of the proper halfpenny stamps could be procured. In 1899 Lourenco Marques issued a halved 10 reis stamp to serve as one of the facial value of 5 reis.

The majority of provisional stamps are also surcharged stamps—specimens which have for some reason or another been altered from their original state by means of an overprint or surcharge. The change may be effected in the value or in the inscription. For instance, after hoisting the British standard at Bloemfontein several Cape of Good Hope stamps were converted into stamps of the new colony by the surcharge "Orange River Colony" (Fig. 138).

Malta having in 1902 run out of penny stamps for a short time, some 2½d. stamps were overprinted with the words "One penny," thus altering the 2½d. stamp into a 1d. one, (Fig. 94). The first issues of Cyprus were only for temporary use. They consisted of plain English stamps, impressed with the name "Cyprus" in block capitals (Fig. 38). These did good postal service until Messrs de la Rue, Ltd., prepared the special series of stamps for Cyprus in 1881.

This overprinting or surcharging is done in various ways. The most general method is to put the sheets of mint unused stamps into the printing press and apply the surcharges to the whole sheet of stamps at one impression. But frequently the surcharges have been applied by hand stamps. By this method each stamp has to be treated separately, and when this is done the surcharges are never evenly applied. Often through the error of the official in charge of the hand stamp the surcharge is applied upside down, or sideways. In some cases, out of four or six specimens together in a strip or block, three or five will have the overprints, whilst the remaining one, in each case, will be unsurcharged.

A remarkable instance of a provisional issue made by a surcharge is that of the one penny drab-coloured stamp of St. Vincent, which was in 1883 surcharged with the inscription 2½ *Pence*. Two years after these provisional stamps were thus surcharged, the stock of penny stamps in the hands of the postal authorities became exhausted, and it was found necessary to re-convert the 2½d. provisional stamps to the original value of 1d. by means of a fresh surcharge.

Another form of provisional stamp is what is termed the "postal fiscal." This is a stamp which has been prepared for fiscal or revenue purposes but which has in a case of emergency been made available for denoting postage paid on a letter. In some cases "postal fiscals" have been surcharged "postage" but in the majority of instances the stamps have been passed through the post without any such indication. They receive in the course of the post the usual cancellation, and such specimens are accepted by philatelists as "postal fiscals."

CHAPTER X.

Local Postage Stamps.

A local stamp is one that only franks a letter or postal packet within a restricted area. Beyond such limit it has no postal value. No local stamp is recognised for the prepayment of postage on a letter passing between countries belonging to the Universal Postal Union. Generally the local stamp is available for use within the town or district in which it is issued. There are Government locals and private ones.

Of exclusively Government local stamps the number is very limited. After the stamps of Hamburg had become obsolete in 1868, the Hansa towns having joined the North German Confederation, a local stamp was issued inscribed "Stadt-Postbrief Hamburg." This was for purely local use, but being issued under the Confederation, is included with official issues. The so-called Hamburg "local" stamps of gaudy colour, which are sold in "complete sets of 116" for one shilling, are, it is needless to say, worthless labels. The Russian Steam Navigation Company was officially supplied in 1864 with a stamp for use in their mail service in the Black Sea. Since that date, a score or more varieties of stamps have appeared for the same company's service.

In 1863 the Russian Government issued local stamps inscribed "Stamp for the Town," being intended for use in St. Petersburg and Moscow. In 1862 also stamps were issued officially for use in the town of Wenden in the province of Livonia,

The postal authorities of Sweden issued a local stamp

for Stockholm in 1856. Before the commencement of the general issues of Swiss stamps in 1850 several of the authorities of the various cantons prepared and issued stamps for local use. Some of these are very rare.

The postal service is in Great Britain, and indeed in most countries, a State monopoly. On several occasions, this monopoly has been infringed on an extensive scale; and the Postmaster-General has had to assert his rights and crush the offenders. In the Scottish capital during 1865, a remarkable enterprise was started. The "Edinburgh and Leith Circular Delivery Company" was formed to undertake the delivery of circulars locally at lower rates than those charged by the Post Office. Postal labels of as low a facial value as one farthing were issued. By means of these, four circulars could be sent and delivered anywhere in Edinburgh or Leith for the sum of one penny. After doing some good work in this direction, the Company's success led to establishment of the "London Circular Delivery Company" in 1866. The following year similar companies sprang up in Liverpool, Birmingham, Glasgow, Dundee and Aberdeen.

But the infringement of the Postmaster-General's rights was not to be lightly overlooked. In 1867, after a brief existence of less than two years, that Minister swooped down upon the Edinburgh Company, crushing it and all the rivals which had tried to share in its success.

When the companies stopped, the stamps became obsolete, and are now comparatively rare. Facsimiles, however, have been produced in a wholesale manner; but in these the word "Circular" has been left out of the inscription. Thus instead of the "Circular Delivery Company" the imitations read "Delivery Company" (compare Figs. 56 and 57).

Another notable case of infringement of the exclusive right of the Government to issue stamps was that of the colleges of Oxford and Cambridge. The messengers of the Universities had always been employed in carrying letters between the colleges, and records were kept of each letter carried in order to charge the sender for its delivery. By

this method no little amount of book-keeping was entailed, and so the authorities at Keble College, Oxford, in 1871, welcomed the proposal to issue stamps for sale to the students, thus doing away with all the book-keeping. The stamps of Keble show the heraldic emblems of the college. (Fig. 55).

Keble having led the way, the following colleges at Oxford issued stamps: Merton (1876), Lincoln (1877), Hertford (1882), Exeter (1882), All Souls (1884), St. John's (1884), and Balliol (1885).

At Cambridge no college stamps were issued until 1883, when Queen's started. St. John's and Selwyn colleges followed suit in 1884.

The Postmaster-General having drawn the attention of the authorities at both Universities to the fact that in issuing stamps they were infringing the State monopoly, the stamps were withdrawn from use in December 1885.

Keble, however, still uses envelopes bearing the design of the College Arms, which are sold to the students in packets of one dozen for 8d.

In several cases the Postmaster-General has granted permission to issue stamps; and among these legalised labels the most important are the Railway Letter Fee Stamps. Although these were authorised in 1891, and have ever since been performing a useful service in Great Britain and Ireland, they are but little known.

A letter that is to be sent to a country town, may often be expedited by the use of one of these stamps. One bearing the face value of 2d. is affixed to the letter in addition to the ordinary postage stamp, and handed in at the railway station. This will be despatched by the first train, and in cases where there are only one or two ordinary mail trains a day, a letter posted in this way will be delivered several hours before another posted in a post office letter box. The 1d. postage stamp is required to satisfy the Postmaster-General and also because most of the letters have to be sent on to the addressees by post on their arrival at the railway station.

These letter fee stamps are nearly all similar in design, as in this respect the companies followed closely the recommendation of the Postmaster-General. The facial value of the stamps is 2d., though in a few instances 1d. ones have been issued. For instance, the Londonderry and Lough Swilly Company produced some 1d. ones in 1892. The Postmaster-General, however, required that two of them should be affixed to every letter. They have since been superseded by a stamp of the proper value.

In the United States, before the introduction of Governmental postage stamps, several private firms and postmasters —to suit their customers' convenience—issued stamps. In 1845 the postmasters of Alexandria (Virginia), Newhaven (Connecticut), New York, and St. Louis (Missouri), issued stamps. Baltimore (Maryland), Brattleboro' (Vermont), Lockport (New York), and Providence (Rhode Island) had "postmasters" stamps in the following year, 1846; while Millbury (Massachusetts) followed in 1847, the year when the Government of the United States commenced to issue stamps denoting postage paid.

The designs on these "postmasters stamps" are very plain, being mostly set up from ordinary printer's type with "stock" ornaments. Some of these stamps are exceedingly rare (see p. 46).

The private local stamps are numerous, and are largely collected in America, though they do not obtain much favour from philatelists in the British Isles. The first private stamps appeared in 1841, just five years before the production of the first Government issues. They were issued by Messrs D. O. Blood & Co., of Philadelphia. The City Despatch Post of New York was the next to have stamps, in 1842. Pomeroy's Letter Express followed in 1843, after which the matter was taken up widely, and has continued long after the introduction of official stamps into the States.

The designs on the stamps are often curious (Figs. 213-8). Some have representations of the American Eagle, while others have portraits of the promoters of the posts. Others again show the companies' messengers "hustling" along with their

customers' letters; while the 1845 issues of Messrs. D. O. Blood show their Ariel decked in tall hat, tail coat, carrying the City Despatch sack, and doing a "giant stride" across Philadelphia.

On account of the vastness of the Czar's dominions it is impossible to run the Post Office mail routes into every nook and corner of Russia. Consequently, the Imperial Post has fixed routes, which it plies at regular intervals.

The districts which are not on any of those routes are served by "zemstvo" or rural posts, managed by the local municipal authorities. These posts were authorised by a Royal Edict (issued on September 3rd, 1870) to carry postal packets between different points in the district, and also to convey letters to and from the nearest office of the Governmental postal service. Thus these "zemstvo" or rural posts link the remoter districts with the Imperial Postal Service.

In their "zemstvo" stamps, of which there are several thousands of varieties, the Russians have shown their characteristic fondness for vivid colours. A traveller has noted that in rural Russia "colours shriek and flame." The truth of this is strongly borne out by the "zemstvo" stamps, with their gaudy hues. Gold and silver are frequently encountered, and some specimens have been produced in no fewer than five distinct colours. A stamp of Pskoff has the following striking combination of colours: brown, blue, pink, red and black. Tiraspol, in the province of Cherson, boasts a stamp (Fig. 156) printed in gold, green, vermilion, yellow and black; while Tikhvin, in Novgorod, has one in black, gold, silver, pale blue and green (Fig. 157). The designs are as striking as the colours. From some of the specimens hailing from Oustsysolsk the grisly Russian bear, "unlicked to form," scowls defiance at the harmless philatelist (Fig. 158). Belozersk has two fishes with their bodies laid crosswise depicted on its stamps.

Other specimens have religious symbols and heraldic designs. A stamp of Griazovetz (in Vologda), shows a rural postman in the quaint garb of the Russian peasantry; while another label from the same district has a design such as Hudibras saw

"Where I a tub did view
Hung with an apron blue."

A slight acquaintance with the Russian language is helpful to the student of these zemstvo stamps, and no collector of them can afford to be unacquainted with the characters and signs in the Russian alphabet. For the philatelist's convenience, therefore, an alphabet has been given at the end of this book.

Until 1900 a large number of towns in Germany had private postal services, chiefly for the delivery of circulars. Firms of carriers competed with each other in each town in organising local postal services, restricted, of course, to the town or district in which they were instituted. Stamps were issued by the majority of them.

The designs on these are varied. The more business-like stamps have large numerals denoting the facial value; while those which are more intended for attracting collectors than for doing postal service are lavishly illustrated and gaudily coloured. One feature about many of the stamps is the effort to include in the design something to typify speed, a most desirable quality in carrying letters or other messages. Pictures of Mercury appear on several specimens; while others are adorned with the caduceus which the messenger of the gods always carried. Other stamps have represented on them a bird with a letter in its beak; while yet another, hailing from Essen, shows a messenger who appears to be riding astride a wasp!

All these private posts were worked without regard to the Imperial Post. They each had a series of stamps which could be procured at the local shops. Boxes were stationed at numerous convenient places, and were distinguished from those of the Government by their colour. There were also uniformed postmen who collected the letters, and others who distributed them to the addressees. Each post had its own postmark, with which its stamps were cancelled.

The first of these posts to issue stamps was the "Berliner Packetfahrt Gesellschaft," whose labels appeared on April 15th, 1884. For nearly sixteen years these companies worked posts, charging less than the ordinary post for

local letters and circulars. On December 20th, 1899, however, a law was passed to the effect that letters in the German Empire which circulated in places where there were Governmental post offices must be sent through those offices. Another article in the law declared that enterprises for the collection, conveyance or delivery of open letters, cards, printed matter and samples of merchandise duly addressed cannot be continued on and after April 1st, 1900. Thus ended what were in many cases smart business enterprises, run at a good profit, although their rates were lower than those of the General Post office.

The proprietors of a number of Swiss hotels issued stamps. Among the first stamps to appear were those of the proprietor of the Rigi Kaltbad hostelry, in 1864. In 1867 the Rigi Scheideck followed, and subsequently Rigi Coulm Maderanerthal, Belalp, and Kurort Stoos had hotel stamps. The object of the issues was to denote the charges made by the hotel keepers for conveying messages from their establishments to the nearest post offices.

Messrs. T. B. Morton & Co., of Constantinople, issued local stamps for use on their lines of steamers on the river Danube. In Morocco, a number of tastefully designed stamps have been issued by local posts, though the majority seem to have been prepared rather for sale to philatelists than for any other more useful purpose (Figs. 102, 103). A stamp was issued privately for Tierra del Fuego, and was used on letters between settlements north and south of Tierra del Fuego, and also between those settlements and Sandy Point on Magellan Straits. The Government of the Argentine Republic suppressed this.

Several big steamship companies have issued private stamps. The Pacific Steam Navigation Company, the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, the Hamburg-American Packet Company and others are among those who have done so. A stamp issued in 1847 by the owner of the "Lady McLeod" steamship trading with Trinidad is now considered to be worth nearly £15. Another stamp was issued in Nagasaki by Messrs. Sutherland & Co.

In 1887 an express company issued and used stamps in the South African Republic, while the Mount Currie Express served Griqualand with a single specimen of the face value of one penny.

China provides a number of fantastic private postage stamps, with pictures of parakeets and pagodas, dragons and tea merchants.

Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland have all had stamp-issuing private posts, and all of these are now obsolete, the posts having been suppressed. The Suez Canal Company also issued a private stamp in 1870. It shows a steamship passing along the "Canal Maritime de Suez."

CHAPTER XI.

Reprints and Remainders.

Reprints in the philatelic sense are re-impressions taken from the original plates of stamps that have become obsolete. There are two distinct classes of reprints. The first and more important includes all such re-impressions made officially to the order of the postal authorities. The second comprises reprints made by private persons to whom the original plates have been lent or sold.

In 1864 some of the members of our Royal family, having developed a liking for stamp collecting, a so-called reprint was made for them of the 1d. black stamp of 1840. This, however, was not accurately described as a reprint, for it was not printed from the plates used for the 1840 stamp. The plate used for this "reprint" was not existing in 1840, having been made in 1845 from a different and improved die. The impressions were also made on paper with a different watermark from that of the real 1d. black; and the watermark is inverted on all the "reprints." So that the "Royal Reprint," as it is usually described, is really a Government imitation. As there were very few printed, however, it is a great rarity, and has been much sought after by specialists in the stamps of this country.

This is not the only occasion on which a stamp has been reprinted for a Royal collector. In 1893 two stamps of the 1856 issue of Finland were reprinted for presentation to the Grand Duke Alexis Michaelovitch.

In several cases the Government of a country has been desirous of issuing reprints after the original plates have been destroyed or otherwise disposed of. In order to do

this they have imitated or counterfeited the design. For instance, in 1885 the Government of the Sandwich Islands procured from the American Bank Note Company a quantity of facsimiles of the Hawaiian 2 cents stamp of 1855. The proceeding appears to have been a profitable one, for four years later (in 1889) the 5c. and 13c. stamps of 1853 were imitated in a similar manner, and no doubt found a ready sale among collectors. The stamps of Shanghai were officially counterfeited in 1874 and these may easily be distinguished by a curious error on the part of the copyist. The central feature of the design is the Chinese dragon, a truly hideous creation (Fig. 24). This unspeakable figure has, in the genuine stamp, but seven bristles to its beard, while the imitator has given it nine.

In nearly every case of a Government officially imitating its own stamps, something either omitted or added has been traced by collectors, and serves as a guide to the real status of every specimen that is encountered.

With genuine reprints, however, it is by no means so easy to distinguish the original specimen from the re-impression. When Newfoundland reprinted its stamps of 1880-87 the original plates were used and the impressions taken upon similar paper. The perforation was of the identical measure, and the only difference was in the shades of the colours, which are thus compared by Mr E. D. Bacon in his work on *Reprints of Postal Adhesive Stamps*.

Originals.	Reprints.
½c. rose red	½c. vermilion red
1c. reddish lilac-brown, greyish brown	1c. deep brown
2c. yellow green, deep green	2c. deep green
3c. pale or deep blue	3c. dark blue
3c. brown	3c. blackish brown

The stamps of the 1853 issue of New South Wales, showing a laureated head of Queen Victoria, were reprinted in 1885; and, but for the absence of gum on the re-impressions, they might readily be taken for the original stamps.

The majority of the reprints made by private persons are of less philatelic interest than Government reprints. In most cases of private reprints, the plates have been lent or sold outright to the purchasers, who have been enabled to make as many impressions from them as they pleased.

A romantic story is told of one Paul Kirchner. He was an invalid soldier of the Franco-German War who returned home after fighting valiantly against the enemy of Germany, only to find his business gone, his wife dead, and his house burned.

The Senate of the City of Lubeck assisted this veteran by permitting him to take one thousand impressions of each of the plates of Lubeck stamps of the 1859 issue which were then on exhibition in the Museum of the Board of Trade (Fig. 89). Instead of flooding the market with the stamps at a low price, he preferred, wisely, to issue a small number at a high price.

The old soldier gained enough money by the sale of these stamps to purchase a cottage on the outskirts of his native city, where he lived comfortably until his death three or four years ago.

The plates of the "Express" stamps issued in Samoa in 1877 (Fig. 160) were sold to a firm of stamp dealers. The stamps became obsolete in 1882; and, three years later, the dealers who owned the plates had printed 240,000 of the stamps. Seven years later a further printing of 800,000 specimens was made. In 1897 the plates were all destroyed. The plates of the stamps used in Heligoland (Fig. 71), while it was a British Colony, were sold in 1875 to a Herr Goldner of Hamburg, who issued a large quantity of private reprints.

All the issues of Mexican stamps up to 1872 have been reprinted. With regard to the first of these issues, that of 1856, Mr. Bacon quotes from authoritative information that they were reprinted "from time to time for the benefit of an individual who holds no official position, but who is highly connected in Government circles, and who has access to the Government Printing Office and to the Post Office Museum, in which the old dies, plates and brass stamps for surcharging and cancelling are stored."

The stamps of Romagna (Fig. 152), issued on Sept. 1st, 1859, were superseded in 1862 by stamps of the Kingdom of Italy, and are of considerable rarity. Mr. E. L. Pemberton, in a note in his *Stamp Collectors' Handbook*,* says that "the original dies of these stamps were preserved, but got badly knocked about; and from these inferior dies an *employé des postes* made many sheets in 1869, all the values on one sheet. These he termed 'essays' or 'proofs,'—and of course the man ought to know best what to call his own work—or else, as he added a border of seven lines to each die (to hide the indentations a little) I should have called them humbugs." They might have been better described as "frauds."

With regard to the desirableness of including reprints in stamp collections the collector must decide for himself. It is considered by many that in the absence of the original stamps, gaps in the collector's album are better filled with reprints which are the nearest to the actual specimens than left vacant. Most collectors are in agreement with Mr. Bacon in saying that "in cases when a stamp is reprinted from the identical plate used for the original, I would far sooner include the reprint, as such, in my collection, rather than not be able to show any specimen of the stamp."

Reprints must not be confused with remainders. As the term signifies, remainders are the surplus stock left on the hands of the postal authorities after the stamps have become obsolete. Genuine remainders are those which have been printed along with those actually issued for postal duty, but which are no longer required, having been superseded by new series of stamps.

Some of the British Colonies and many Foreign States have at times had large quantities of remainders. These they either sell to the highest bidder or destroy. Needless to say, with the less wealthy Governments the former is the favourite method.

*The Stamp Collector's Handbook (Dawliah, 1872) page 97.

CHAPTER XII.

Errors.

It is human to err and stamp printers are particularly human. Their errors are manifold. To the student of stamps, who notes every detail of the design, colour, paper, watermark and perforation of his specimens, the error is of importance for he considers it as differing from the proper stamp, and consequently a distinct variety.

Even in the strictest Government printing offices errors will at times be passed unnoticed; and in nearly every case the misprinted specimens are a small minority. Perhaps one stamp on a sheet is wrong, or only one sheet has been passed of the faulty specimens and they are consequently rarer than correct varieties. Errors occur mostly in stamps which require two or more printings, bicoloured and multi-coloured specimens, and surcharged stamps. Occasionally stamps have been printed by mistake on paper intended for other issues, and some have been impressed in the wrong colour. Other faulty stamps bear mis-spelt inscriptions. Owing to the laxity of the officials, stamps that should have been perforated have been issued unperforated. The paper has at times been placed in the press upside down; and, when it is watermarked, the watermark design appears inverted on the stamps. These are the chief causes of mis-printed stamps.

A notable error was that of the Indian 4 annas stamp of 1854 (Fig. 78). This was a bicoloured stamp showing Queen Victoria's portrait in a frame design. The portrait was printed in blue, and the frame in red; but, on a few of the stamps, the centre part of the design was printed upside

down. The correct variety is valued at five shillings; while the erroneous one, which is very scarce indeed, is worth from £130 upwards.

Similar instances of "inverted centres," as they are technically termed by philatelists, are included among the rarities of several countries. In 1869 the United States postal authorities issued a series in which were several bicoloured stamps. Each of these consisted of a picture impressed in one colour with a framework in a second tint. The 15 (Fig. 191), 24, and 30 cents stamps of that emission are all known with inverted centres, and these varieties are very scarce.

Errors of this sort occurred in the printing of the 1, 2, and 4 cents bicoloured labels issued in connection with the Pan-American Exhibition in 1901 (Fig. 200).

Surcharges and overprints have frequently been impressed upside down. The unique stamp of Italy to which reference has been made elsewhere (p. 44) is an example of this. It consists of the 15 centesimi stamp of the 1863 issue surcharged 20 centesimi but with the surcharge inverted.

When overprints are made by means of a handstamp it is almost unavoidable that some should be inverted. The stamps of Hayti have been surcharged in this way and nearly every specimen so treated is known in the inverted condition.

Stamps of Great Britain have been overprinted for use in various Government offices, and a few of these may be found inverted. A stamp surcharged "Government Parcels" is known thus, and so also is one overprinted "Army Official."

When printing the 2d. stamps of South Australia in 1871, some sheets of paper intended for the manufacture of stamps for Victoria were inadvertently impressed with South Australian stamp designs. A similar error occurred in the 4d. stamp in 1897. In each case the design is that of South Australia's stamp, while the watermark is that used in Victoria.

The watermark design on the 1861 issue of triangular Cape of Good Hope stamps (Fig. 21) was an anchor, but the

colony having changed its printers a single sheet was printed by Messrs. De la Rue on paper watermarked with the design of a crown and the letters "C.C." Only four copies are now known of this error.

Triangular Cape of Good Hope stamps also provide the most curious instances of stamps printed in the wrong colour. In 1861 the stock of 1d. and 4d. stamps became exhausted. The plates were kept in England, whence the Colony received all its postal supplies. As the need was urgent a local firm, Messrs. Solomon and Co., was commissioned to prepare a provisional supply. Sixty-four separate electrotypes were used for printing the sheets of each value. As the blocks were all loose, it can be easily understood how one of the 1d. stamps got in with the blocks of the 4d. stamps and vice versa. Before the mistake had been noticed, a number of sheets of the penny stamp were printed in red and each sheet showed a stamp marked "fourpence." The sheets of blue fourpenny labels also contained one 1d. stamp in blue. Thus a few 1d. stamps were printed in blue instead of red, and a few 4d. ones in red instead of blue. These errors of colour are great rarities, the 1d. blue being worth about £50, used, and the 4d. red £40.

An erratic inscription appears on a stamp of New Zealand issued in 1898. The label shows a view of Lake Wakatipu, and in the inscription the name of the lake is given as Wakitipu (Fig. 123). A more glaring error occurred in a Swedish stamp which is marked in figures 20 ore but the wording reads "Tretio Ore" which means 30 ore. Tjugo Ore is the correct expression for the 20 ore stamp. This is a variety which is not priced in any of the catalogues, and which is considered to be worth from £20 to £30.

On the 1894 stamps of the Transvaal, a foreign designer was responsible for giving the typical Dutch waggon a pair of shafts instead of the single pole or "disselboom" (Fig. 181). The mistake was remedied on the subsequent issues.

Surcharges are frequently mis-spelt. The stamps of the first South African Republic were overprinted during the British occupation (Figs. 177, 178) with the legend "V.R.

Transvaal." The 1d. red stamp which is printed on blue paper was treated thus in 1878 and a few copies were inscribed "Transvral." A copy of this has been sold for £150 in the unused condition.

In Malta it was found desirable during 1902 to convert a number of 2½d. stamps into 1d. ones for provisional purposes. The 2½d. blue specimen was therefore overprinted "One Penny," but some mis-set type has given rise to an error in which the inscription reads "One Pnney" (Fig. 91).

Stamps that are normally issued with perforations may often be found imperforated. This is quite a common occurrence. Another rather common error is the inverted watermark. When the sheets of stamp paper are being placed in the press, it not infrequently happens that the watermark design is turned upside down. This gives rise to the "inverted watermarks" which are found on the stamps of many countries, including our own, though every precaution is taken in Great Britain to prevent the possibility of an error creeping into our stamps.

It is to be regretted that the attraction which the "error" has for philatelists has caused some of the less reputable Governments to create errors on purpose for sale to collectors. Many of the mistakes that have been made could easily have been obviated with the slightest care. A number of the overprinted stamps of New Caledonia are as common with the surcharges inverted as with the normal surcharge (Figs. 106, 107). In at least one case a bicoloured Russian local stamp is far commoner with an inverted centre than with the correct printing.

CHAPTER XIII.

Forgeries and "Fakes."

A blacksmith, it is related, proposed the toast "Success to Forgery." Certainly no connoisseur of objects of art did. Constance's plaint to King Philip—"You have beguiled me with a counterfeit"—has been the wail of the stamp collector almost since the beginning of the hobby. Nearly every philatelist has at one time or another—more likely than not a score of times—been supplied with a specimen which "being touched and tried, proves valueless."

Forgeries owe their existence to two main causes. First to the desire to cheat the postal authorities, second to impose upon stamp collectors. The great concern of the promoters of the first postage stamp of Great Britain in 1840 was to defy counterfeiters. How far they were successful from the Post Office point of view may be seen from the fact that this country has been almost entirely immune from fraudulent imitation of its postage stamps. The Rev. R. B. Earee enumerates six forgeries of English stamps in "Album Weeds," a valuable and exhaustive description of forged stamps; and three additional ones have been discovered since the publication of the second edition of that work.

A knowledge of the devices adopted for the protection of postage stamps from illicit reproduction is of importance to the philatelist, as it assists him in the detection of forged specimens. One of the earliest methods suggested was the Dickinson paper, already referred to (ante p. 20). The silk thread was interwoven between two surfaces of pulp in an ingenious manner invented by Mr. Dickinson,

which it was scarcely possible to successfully imitate. A very few forgeries have been made by cutting pieces from postal envelopes made from Dickinson paper. The watermark is another device to elude the wiles of the forger, and most imitations of stamps lack the watermark. It is true there have been forged watermarks, and these have been applied by impressing the design into the paper. Such impostures can generally be detected on moistening the stamp, when the fictitious "watermark" disappears.

Lithography is the chief process that has been used by the forger in the reproduction of stamps, but in most cases the work has been poorly done. Occasionally, however, a really clever imitation is met with, and it has been noticed that a few forgeries have been more artistically executed than the genuine specimens. Line engraving, too, is a process that has aided the forger in his nefarious work. By this means the actual stamp is photographed and reproduced as a negative on a composition of zinc.

In the detection of forgeries made to defraud collectors the postmark is an important test. In the early days of stamp forging, little attention was paid to the postmark, and any sort of smudge or obliteration seemed to suffice. A forger might perhaps imitate a French postmark, and use it on all his counterfeited stamps whether British, French or foreign specimens; and to the philatelist this generally "gave the game away." In order to guide the collector, a brief chapter has been devoted to postmarks.

Though the British Post Office has been more free from stamp forgeries than have most countries, yet its postal authorities have in one instance at least been duped on an extensive scale. In 1872 the one shilling stamp was largely used for telegrams, this being then the minimum charge for a telegraphed message. These stamps were forged in a wholesale manner. How much the postal authorities lost will never be definitely known; but the loss to the Revenue is estimated to have been not less than £50 per day for several months. Curiously enough, the deficiency was never noticed; and it was not until twenty-six

years after it had been perpetrated that the fraud was discovered.

In 1898 a London philatelist, Mr. Charles Nissen, was examining a number of these stamps, when he noticed that some of the specimens appeared to be slightly blurred. On closer inspection, several other minor variations from the genuine stamps were detected, and the suspicion occurred to him that they might be forgeries. Mr. Nissen, who is the expert counterfeit detector to the Junior Philatelic Society, did not care to make too rash an announcement, as there were scarcely any forgeries ever known of English stamps. On looking for the watermark, which on the genuine stamp is that known as "spray of rose," he found none, thus convincing himself that the stamps were fraudulent. All the counterfeit specimens known bear the postmark of the Stock Exchange Post Office, a branch which derives its principal income from the telegraph department, This points to the connection of some official there with the forger.

It should be noted that this was a successful attempt to defraud the Revenue. Most of the forgeries of rare stamps have been made with the object of deceiving collectors. The Rev. R. B. Earee has made a speciality of the study of counterfeits and has published a solid volume of over 700 pages devoted entirely to descriptions of the differences which distinguish genuine postage stamps from fraudulent imitations.

In addition to forgeries of stamps, various illicit means have been taken of altering or doctoring genuine specimens, in such a manner as to raise their philatelic value. For instance, the old penny black stamp of 1840 is very nearly like the rare "V. R." black English. The only difference is that the common stamp has a Maltese Cross design in each of the upper corners, while the rare specimen has in the top angles the letters V and R respectively. By carefully deleting the Maltese Cross designs on a stamp worth a few pence and substituting in Roman capitals the letters V.R., the "faker" produces a stamp valued at £8 or £9.

Another method is to manipulate the perforation. The imperforate specimens of the penny red stamp of 1841 have been made to appear like the rarer red penny stamps of 1854-5 by the addition of a forged perforation.

The Indian 4 annas stamp of 1854, which was printed in two colours, is known to exist with the centre printed upside down. There are only about twenty copies of this variety, so it is very rare indeed. The ordinary copies are worth about 5s. while those with the inverted centres are worth nearly £200. On several occasions, collectors have been offered copies of the common variety which have been doctored up by ingeniously cutting out the centre and replacing it in the inverted position. Thus the stamp worth 5s. was doctored to represent the rare stamp worth £200 (Fig. 78).

Where stamps are rarer in the used than in the unused condition, forged postmarks have been frequently applied, in order to make the unused specimens appear to have passed through the post. Not unlike the "faking" of stamps is the process of illicit cleaning. The reason for altering the first British penny stamp was that its colour—black—made it difficult to distinguish whether a stamp had been used before or not. A little judicious scraping or cleaning would remove the noticeable part of the postmark and the stamps were often made to serve more than once. So the stamp was afterwards printed in red, which shows the postmark clearly. To prevent the cleaning of our present stamps they are printed in "fugitive" colours. On applying chemicals to clean off the postmark the design of the stamp is cleaned off too, and nothing of it is left. The Prussian stamps of 1850 were printed on paper which was covered with a network design impressed in invisible ink. On the application of chemicals to clean off the postmark this design became visible, rendering the stamp useless for postal purposes. The 1866 issue of the same country was printed with ink that was soluble in water on the back of a transparent paper miscalled goldbeaters' skin. Thus the design had to be stuck down on to the face of the letter.

On removing the stamp from the letter, in most cases the design adhered to the envelope, thus rendering a double use of the stamp impossible. In some of the stamps of the United States, Peru and other American countries, a grille was used to prevent the re-using of postage stamps. The grille consisted of an embossed pattern of small dots or squares which break into the paper. The obliteration sinks into these holes and is much more difficult to eradicate.

Stamp collectors have frequently had passed upon them as unused specimens stamps that have really had postmarks or pen cancellations (these latter are generally used for receipts) cleaned off from them. The writer was attending a sale of stamps in London towards the end of 1902 when an "unused" British colonial stamp of the facial value of £20 was offered for sale. The bidding was not brisk, and there was no reserve on the stamp. On reaching £2 2s. the bids ceased. The stamp was passed round for examination, and then someone discovered that the word "specimen" had been scraped off from it. With the overprint the stamp was not worth much, but the genuine unused £20 stamp of a British Colony is always considered as worth its face value. On the discovery of the fraud, the stamp was withdrawn from the sale, though not before some wily bidder offered to purchase the stamp at a low price, not stating however what he proposed to do with it!

Overprints or surcharges have been applied to stamps fraudulently. In the case of Costa Rica, stamps of 1863 have been impressed with fraudulent imitations of the genuine surcharge issued in 1881. In addition to this some of the stamps received overprints that have never had any genuine existence at all.

CHAPTER XIV.

Many Inventions.

"The desire," says Dr. Gray, "which some persons have to show stamps that are not in other collections has induced the dealers to produce pretended stamps, which have no real existence; as for example, a French stamp with the portrait of the Republic, inscribed Essai 1858, which is after the "Empire" was established; or Turkish stamps inscribed 6 Truze and 3 Mara, the Turkish Government not having as yet issued any stamps. Some collectors show Chinese stamps which are only the impression of the seal of the mandarin who sent the letter."

Since Dr. Gray wrote in 1862 a number of these bogus stamps, but of a more curious class, have been imposed upon the stamp collecting public. There are labels which have been issued by private speculators. These purport to be postage stamps, although they are out and out frauds. Naturally enough, however, these *soi disant* postage stamps have histories of their own which are not void of interest, humour, and even pathos.

An adventurer known as Baron Harden Hickey, one time editor of the Parisian journal *The Triboulet*, took unto himself the title of Prince James I. of Trinidad, and issued stamps for use in his "dominions." It was not our British Colony of Trinidad that had been commandeered by Hickey, but it was a barren, rocky islet, about 50 miles distant from Brazil. Some years ago this islet, it will be remembered, caused considerable trouble between the Governments of Britain and Brazil. As the island was uninhabited there was certainly not much use for postage stamps, unless they

were intended for sale to collectors. The stamps give a view, presumably taken from the sea, of the island in the distance and a pleasure yacht in the foreground (Fig. 237). These stamps were received with much wonderment by philatelists; but it was soon discovered that they were fraudulent and connoisseurs refused to buy them. The unhappy creator of the fictitious labels lost a considerable sum of money over them, and committed suicide by taking poison in an hotel at El Paso in Texas, a tragic sequel to a philatelic romance.

It would be difficult to imagine the French capital without its sensations. A few years ago a very extraordinary *affaire* aroused great interest in Paris. The whole story has been explained by Mr. Henry Norman in his book on "The Far East."

During 1889 a tall, well-built Frenchman appeared at Hong Kong. He called himself Marie David de Mayrena, and on his visiting cards were printed the words in French "His Majesty the King of Sedang."

Mayrena had had an adventurous career in the Far East; and, in the course of long wanderings, had reached the region of the Sedangs, a tribe inhabiting the hinterland of Annam. By these people he was elected King and according to Mr. Norman there is no doubt whatever about the genuineness of his election.

On his arrival at Hong Kong, the "King of Sedang" was vouched for by the French Consul, who introduced him to the society in the colony, and to His Excellency the Governor. In consequence of this latter introduction Mayrena was invited to a dinner at Government House.

From the description given of his person he was a most striking figure when in his Royal attire. He wore a short scarlet jacket with enormous galons on his cuffs, a broad blue ribbon, a magenta sash in which was stuck a long curved sword worn across the front of his body, white trousers with a broad gold stripe, and a white helmet with a crown of gold and three stars. Having instituted the "Order of Marie I.," he decorated the captain of a little Danish steamer who had hoisted his "royal standard" in Haipong Harbour. Later, he even decorated the British Governor of Hong

Kong with the ridiculous ribbon and cross. To a number of merchants he conceded rights for the development of the country of the Sedangs in return for certain duties on exports. He had prepared in Paris a series of postage stamps, not for use among savages but obviously for sale to philatelic enthusiasts. Soon after the issue of these he was discovered to be an impostor. He left Hong Kong in a German steamer with the French authorities close at his heels. He had passed round the hat to a few friends and acquaintances in Hong Kong to pay his passage. After a term of imprisonment for debt at Ostend, he turned up in Paris. Here he lived for a time in luxury, the French press and the Parisian people themselves scarcely knowing what to make of him. The Far East, however, still had a fascination for him, and he returned thither, taking up his abode with two or three companions in an uninhabited island off the Malay coast. Here a cobra brought the strange career of Marie I. to an end by biting him on the foot (Fig. 235).

In all the works on Arctic exploration there will be found no mention of the supposed postal facilities of Spitzbergen. Away in that icebound waste is a small hotel where one is recommended to go when troubled with certain ailments which require for cure an extremely cold climate. Some years ago the proprietor of a Norwegian trading vessel tried to establish a private postal service between this small Spitzbergen community and Norway. He had prepared two stamps depicting, appropriately enough, a traveller shooting a great polar bear (Fig. 236). As soon as the Norwegian Government heard of the emission of these stamps the labels were suppressed. It is said, however, that the stamps may still be had at the hotel as souvenirs of a visit to Spitzbergen, and it has even been rumoured that mine host has a postmark with which he accomodates those who prefer to have "used" specimens.

Another bogus stamp purports to hail from the Torres Straits Settlements. It is so inscribed as to convey on the first glance the impression that it is a stamp of the Straits Settlements of the Malay Peninsula (Fig. 226).

Yet another fictitious label purports to be a stamp of the Sandwich Islands and gives a picture of the statue of Kamehameha I. at Hawaii (Fig. 234).

Clipperton Island is only a guano islet off the coast of California, and the idea of its requiring postage stamps is of course ludicrous. Yet it has had fictitious stamps. They were issued by a Phosphate Company who owned the property, and the design is supposed to be illustrative of the natural features of the island. Curiously enough these stamps were at first received by collectors in good faith, even in America. Indeed, for a time they were listed in several standard catalogues, and given a place along with official issues. Enquiries, however, elicited the fact that they were not genuine postal issues (Fig. 230).

Another series of fraudulent stamps owes its origin to an official in the employ of the Bolivian Government. He was one of the representatives in Paris at the time of the exhibition of 1889. This person was aware that his Government was about to issue new stamps and he took the idea into his head to forestall the postal authorities in Bolivia. He prepared a design of his own, and had several varieties of stamps printed in large quantities. He then displayed a sheet of each value at the Exhibition. As soon as the stamp collectors saw or heard of these sheets they sent the official orders for large numbers, which were duly supplied. After acquiring a goodly sum the official resigned his post and was never heard of again. When the stamps were sent to Bolivia information was returned that they were fraudulent (Fig. 229).

Two other labels which had no official existence are inscribed: "Afrikanische-Seeën-Post, Deutsch-Ost-Afrika." They were to have been issued by Messrs. Schülke and Mayr under agreement with the Government, but the contract had expired before the stamps were issued.

The stamps of Brunei are generally classified among the "many inventions" of a purely speculative character. A letter written by a person connected with a company of stamp dealers explains that issue. "Let me explain," he says, "that it was I who suggested to the Sultan that he should issue

stamps, and I have arranged the whole thing. He and his postmaster have no idea of the way to conduct any business. I assure you that the delay in sending the stamps to you is caused by the illness of the postmaster's wife—at least, one of his wives. In the meantime the Post Office is shut."

Another letter addressed to a stamp dealing firm arouses a feeling of thankfulness that no one has yet seen fit to undertake the enterprise suggested by the correspondent. The letter reads:—

"Dear Sirs—Knowing your firm as the greatest dealers in postage stamps, I take the liberty to ask your attention for the following business. On my trip to the Upper Congo and sister rivers I entered in a tract of friendship with a free Arab king, and bought from him the concession to make stamps of his kingdom. I am in possession of the signed Act, design of the king's face, and of all the other particulars wanted to make the stamps; and as I should like to sell you the concession, I offer it to you for the time of two years at the price of £100.

I am, Gentlemen, yours truly,

(Signed) H. Wattel."

A recent issue of stamps purporting to be available for use in the Italian Colony of Benadir appears to have done no postal duty there, or indeed anywhere else. When the stamps were issued, Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., of Ipswich, who have frequently been of assistance to the collecting world in similar instances of bogus issues, made careful enquiries respecting Benadir's stamps. On sending a banknote in a registered letter, addressed to the "Postmaster of Benadir," the Italian Resident of Jubaland received the communication and in reply thereto informed Messrs. King & Co. that there were no Postmasters in Benadir. The Ipswich firm also discovered that the entire issue of the stamps had been sold to an Italian stamp dealer so they are of no philatelic interest except inasmuch as they may be classed among the "many inventions" described in this chapter (Figs. 227 and 228).

Three bogus stamps were issued purporting to come from Amoy. The design consisted of an eagle with wings

outspread for the central figure. Other features of the design include a mandarin with his oriental "gamp," a pagoda, and a man-of-war.

One of the most cute impostors was referred to by Mr E. L. Pemberton in his remarks on the 1872 issue of stamps for Prince Edward Island. This issue consisted of six stamps, but an additional label of the supposed value of ten cents was added by an impostor. Mr Pemberton says: "It was cleverly made by one Allen Taylor when the other six appeared, and was sent with the genuine set to a well known foreign dealer who (of course) had them engraved to illustrate his paper, to the immeasurable delight of the maker of the 10 cents."

The "Commemorative Stamps" (Fig. 233) issued in London at the time of the Diamond Jubilee, though not put forward as official stamps were in many cases mistaken for authorised issues. They were printed and sold by a firm of stamp dealers in London, though they were afterwards suppressed.

In addition to the bogus stamps invented by the swindler, some have been issued by philatelists and others as jokes, the humour of which was not always appreciated. The editor of a philatelic journal in Belgium was remarkably successful in gaining early information of new issues of stamps. He was, however, much annoyed at the way other journals reproduced his information, and his pictures, too, without acknowledgment. In order to disconcert his imitators, he one week announced and illustrated a new issue of which no one else had heard. Soon after several other journals proclaimed that they had seen the same stamps and gave illustrations. Then the wily Belgian editor informed the public that he had invented the stamp just to trip his unfair imitators; and all the philatelic world appreciated the joke.

The colonies of Germany used to be supplied with German stamps overprinted with the name of the colony in which they were to do duty. Just for the amusement of its members a philatelic society took one hundred 3 pfennig German stamps and surcharged them "Samoach." These

also reached the philatelic chroniclers, who heralded them as a new issue of stamps for Samoa now in the hands of the Germans.

Much amusement was caused by the appearance of a stamp issued in Paris by some French ladies. The French authorities appear to have forgotten "place aux dames" when in 1901 they issued stamps bearing the inscription "Droits de l'Homme." The Parisian ladies in question promptly issued a stamp inscribed "Droits de la Femme" thus asserting their right to recognition on the French stamps. Their fictitious labels will be kept as souvenirs of a curious phase of the woman's rights agitation.

CHAPTER XV.

Clues to Classification.

Throughout the album of the tyro, one will invariably find stamps misplaced. Some Governments have not found it necessary to denote, by means of an inscription on the stamps, the name of the country in which they were issued. Stamps of other countries, having different alphabetical characters and signs, are not readily classified by the beginner. Austrian newspaper stamps, which bear no inscription, are frequently to be discovered in the pages devoted to the stamps of Greece, because the design of the head of Mercury has some resemblance to the representation of Hermes on the Grecian stamps. Certain Swiss stamps may also be inserted in his album by the beginner under the heading of "France." This may be accounted for by the fact that the only inscription they bear is the word "Franco," meaning free. This is confused by some of the younger collectors with the name of the French Republic. In order to enable every collector to identify certain stamps with the nationalities of their emission, the following alphabetical list of inscriptions is given. In those cases where the designs are the only or the readiest "clues to classification" they have been included in this list under the name of the predominant part of the design—e.g., "Crescent," "Mercury."

ΑΝΑΤΟΛΙΚΗ ΡΟΜΑΥΙΑ—Eastern Roumelia. Stamps similar in design to those of Turkey.

Bs As—Buenos-Ayres.

Chiffre Taxe.—On the postage due stamps of France.

Communicationes—Spain (Fig. 168).

Cpenja—Servia.
Crescent—A crescent appears on stamps of Turkey.
Cross—On some of the early stamps of Switzerland, the design includes a cross.
Dansk Vestindiske Oer—Danish West Indies.
Deficit—Peru (postage due stamps).
Eagle—The stamps of Bosnia bear a design showing an eagle.
Escuelas—Venezuela.
Espana—Spain.
Estensi—Modena.
Franco—Switzerland.
Franco Bollo—Italian States (Figs. 74 and 77).
Franco Scrisorei—Roumania.
Franqueo—Peru.
French Colonial stamps surcharged. The following initials are used to denote the particular Colony for which the stamps were used.

A and T—Annam and Tonquin.
C. Ch.—Cochin China.
G. P. E.—Guadeloupe.
M. Q. E.—Martinique.
N. C. E.—New Caledonia.
N. S. B.—Nossi Bè,
S. P. M.—St. Pierre et Miquelon.

Greek Inscriptions. The stamps of Greece and Crete bear inscriptions in Greek characters (Figs. 58-65 and 32-37).
Helvetia—Switzerland.
H. H. NAWAB, SHAH JAHAN BEGAM—On the stamps of Bhopal.
H I and U S—Hawaiian Islands.
H R Z G L—Holstein.
Ionikon—Ionian Islands.
Island—Iceland.
K. G. L. Post Frm—Denmark (value denoted in skillings); Danish West Indies (value denoted in cents).
Kais. Kœnigl. Post. On many of the stamps of Austria.
Land Post—Baden.
Lion—A lion forms the subject of designs on several Persian issues (Fig. 140).

L Mc L—Trinidad local.
Losen—Sweden, postage due stamps (Fig. 171).
Magyar—On stamps of Hungary (Fig. 73).
Mapka—On many Russian rural stamps (Fig. 156).
Marakech, Maroc } Morocco.
Mejico—Mexico.
Modonesi—Modena.
Napoletana—Naples.
Nederland—Holland (Fig. 72).
Ned. Indie—Dutch Indies.
Norge—Norway.
N. S. W.—New South Wales.
N. Z.—New Zealand.
Oesterr—Austria.
Oriental inscriptions appear on the stamps of the Native States of India (Figs. 80, 81).
Ottoman Empire—Turkey.
P. (Surcharged on stamps of the Straits Settlements)—Perak.
Pacchi Postali—Italy (parcel post).
Para or Piaster—On the stamps of both Egypt and Turkey. When surcharged on the stamps of Great Britain, they denote the special issues for the British post offices in the Levant. Similarly when surcharged on the stamps of Austria, Germany, etc., they denote issues of Austrian, German, or other foreign post offices in the Levant.
Pen—On stamps of Finland.
Posthorn—A posthorn appears on the newspaper stamps of Hungary.
Post Zegel—On the early stamps of Holland.
P S N C—Pacific Steam Navigation Co.
Queen Victoria is depicted on her throne on one of the early stamps of Victoria with only the value "Two Pence" inscribed.
Rayon—On some of the stamps of Switzerland.
Recargo—On some Spanish issues.
Reichs-post—On the stamps of Germany (Figs. 51, 52).
Russian Inscriptions—As it is practically impossible to

cope with the varied inscriptions in Russian characters which appear on the stamps of the numerous municipal posts (Figs. 156-158), an alphabet of the characters is given here. This will enable the collector to translate into English rendering the names of different posts.

А а	a	Т т	t
Б б	b	У	oo
В в	v	Ф	f
Г г	g	Х х	ch
Д д	d	Ц ц	ts
Е е	ye	Ч	ch
Ж	zh	Ш ш	sh
З	z	Щ щ	shtchah
И и	ee	Ъ ъ	*mute*
І і	ee	Ы	y (vowel)
К к	k	Ь	*Half mute*
Л	ee u	Ѣ ѣ	ye
М м	m	Э	e
Н н	n	Ю	u
О	o	Я	yah
П п	p	Ѳ	f
Р р	rr	Ѵ	i
С с	s	Й й	i

Russian Alphabet.

Sachsen—Saxony.
Segnatasse—Italy (postage due stamps).

Sld or Soldi—On some Austrian stamps.
S. U.—Sungei Ujong.
Sverige—Sweden.
Takca—Bulgaria (postage due).
Te Betalen—Holland and Colonies.
Thurn and Taxis—On some of the German stamps (see p. 107).
Toscano—Tuscany.
Uku Leta—On some stamps of the Sandwich Islands.
Ultramar—On the Spanish issues of Cuba.
U. S.—United States.
Z. A. R.—South African Republic.

CHAPTER XVI.

Postal Cards and Covers.

Although philatelists generally confine their attention to adhesive postage stamps, there are collectors who study "entires," as postcards, envelopes, and other stamped stationery are called. The collecting of these objects forms a not uninteresting branch of Philately.

The postcard is, next to the stamp, the most useful and popular of postal commodities. Its origination is credited to Austria, which country began to issue postcards on October 1, 1867 at the suggestion of Dr. Hermann of Vienna. But Dr. Heinrich von Stephan, the Postmaster General of the German Empire for many years, had proposed the use of cards for short messages a long time before that date. Several of the German States quickly took up the issue of postcards. Britain's earliest card appeared exactly twelve months after Austria's pioneer card. During the next few years most of the principal stamp issuing States followed suit; and now the card is in almost universal use for the conveyance of brief messages. Some idea of the popularity of the postcard as a means of intercommunication may be gathered from the numbers that pass through the post each year. In Great Britain alone, 488,900,000 are dealt with annually by the postal authorities.

Mr. Henniker Heaton, M.P., has agitated for the removal of the charge for postcards over the actual face value. A halfpenny card, argues the honourable member, ought not to be sold for three farthings. The first British postcards were sold at their facial value of one halfpenny apiece. This, however, caused a flutter among the stationers, who

feared to lose a great part of their trade; and so the additional charge was made (of ½d. per packet of 12 cards) to satisfy them and also to cover the cost of the cardboard.

Postcards bear designs, some of which are as interesting as those of stamps. The speculative element, the issuing for sale to philatelists, has not been a particular source of annoyance to collectors of these articles. France has issued several commemorative cards. One of those issued in 1893 signalises the visit of the Russian Fleet to Toulon on October 13th of that year. It shows a portrait of the Czar Alexander, and a portion of the Russian Fleet lying off Toulon. Another pictorial card was issued by France during the Centenary fêtes at Dunkerque in 1893. During the Lyons Exhibition of 1894 an illustrated card was issued.

A number of the cards of the Sandwich Islands give an excellent view of Honolulu, while another shows the Iolani Hall (1894) which was the royal palace until Queen Liliukolani was deposed and the islands were annexed by the United States Government. The cards of Abyssinia savour of the ancient. In the left upper corner is the portrait of Negus Menelik II, the sovereign of Ethiopia and "King of Kings," while in the right hand corner is a figure emblematic of the "Lion of the Tribe of Judah."

The postcards which were issued in Ladysmith during the siege (1899-1900) were interesting but unofficial. They bore pictures which had been engraved on wood by a journalist and artist who was under the obligation of being in the town during the siege. Mount Bulwana and the Town Hall at Ladysmith are depicted; and the legend across the top of the card states that "stamps were unobtainable during the siege." The author was examining a number of these cards in the collection of Mr. J. R. Turner of Oxford soon after the siege was raised; and among them was one bearing a curious message giving a graphic picture of the condition of the besieged from within. It was an invitation to tea; "Bring your biscuits, tea, and sugar, if you have any; we have cups."

The cards of the United States, like the stamps, give a

very good portrait gallery of deceased statesmen, heroes, and Presidents. Among these is included the late Mr. McKinley, who is pictured on the one cent card issued in 1902.

Postcard collecting has not yet become so popular as to have paid the unscrupulous to turn it to their baneful purposes, and its devotees need not live in terror of the forger. Scarcely any illicit facsimiles have been known of stamped cards.

Another recommendation this branch of the hobby possesses is that there is but a limited number of postcards to collect compared to the enormous number of stamps. Cards have been in use little more than thirty years, while stamps date back over sixty-three years. In addition to the fact that there have been fewer issues of postcards than of stamps it should also be noted that of postcards only one or two values are required, one for inland and the other for foreign postage. So it will readily be seen that the collecting of cards should not involve nearly the same amount of labour and expense that the accumulating of stamps does.

Stamped envelopes and wrappers, as has been already shown, have been in use as long, and even longer, than the adhesive stamp. They are now circulated in nearly all stamp-issuing countries though they have never been so popular with the public as the postage stamp, which is in many ways more convenient.

Reference has been made to several curious and interesting stamped envelopes notably the "Mulready" of 1840 (ante p. 7) the United States Centennial Envelope of 1876 (ante p. 40) and the Plympton "Booby Head" of 1874 (p. 100).

Another interesting series of envelopes is the Columbus issue of 1893 produced contemporaneously with the handsome series of stamps issued in connection with the World's Fair Exhibition at Chicago. This showed two embossed profiles of Columbus and Liberty, each on a background design representing a hemisphere. The American Eagle and the Stars and Stripes are also included in this patriotic envelope design.

In 1898 the Russian authorities permitted a special letter

sheet to be issued in order to raise funds for some Orphanages founded by the Empress Maria, wife of Paul I. The design on these was appropriate to the object of their issue and showed a pelican feeding its young. The inscription on the sheet stated that "the net receipts go to the credit of the orphanages founded by the Empress Maria."

Another curious "entire" is the letter sheet issued for use by the famous balloon post established in Paris in 1870 during the siege. There were fifty-four ascents and nearly all of these succeeded in eluding the German forces, and in despatching their messages to the addressees.

Newspaper wrappers and letter cards also are included in the general term "entires." A few philatelists go so far as to specialise in one single branch of "entire" collecting.

The chief difficulty that presents itself to the collector of postcards and other entires is that of "housing" them. Being large compared with stamps, they are awkward to keep conveniently for easy reference and examination. To avoid this difficulty some collectors cut the stamp part of the design off, and insert it in an ordinary stamp album. It should be pointed out, however, that in doing this they are collecting damaged specimens. If postcards are the objects of interest, they should be kept intact, and not mutilated after this fashion. Envelopes and wrappers, too, can only be collected, as such, in their entirety.

Perhaps the best method of keeping postcards is to place them in boxes steading on edge. One of the largest collections of postcards, comprising nearly 30,000 specimens, is kept in this manner. A new postcard album has recently been invented by Mr. B. W. Warhurst (ante p. 22) which provides leaves with adaptable slits, so arranged as to hold all sizes of postcards.

This side of philately has its provisional and surcharged issues, its errors, its rarities, and its exchange clubs. The study has also its own literature, and there are prospects of the inauguration at an early date of an influential and representative collectors' society.

CHAPTER XVII.

Philatelic Etcæteras.

Postage Due stamps are labels which are affixed to letters on which the postage has not been paid or on which the amount paid is insufficient. Such letters are conveyed direct to the addressee, who is charged twice the amount of the deficiency. In some countries the amount due on the delivery of an insufficiently paid postal packet is denoted by means of a postal label. Although some are inclined to deny these the right to be termed postage stamps, they are largely collected, and are included in all the leading stamp catalogues. The chief difference between the ordinary postage stamp and these "unpaid letter stamps" as they are sometimes called, is that the former denote postage *prepaid*, the latter postage *due*.

The issues of "postage due" stamps have not been very numerous, and the collector of them has not more than a thousand specimens to acquire. The majority of these stamps have as their central design bold numerals indicating the amount to be paid to the postman. France and its colonies have been responsible for more than 200 of these stamps (Fig. 49). These are inscribed "A Percevoir" (to collect) and "Chiffre Taxe" (amount due).

Belgium's first postage due stamps issued in 1870 are also inscribed "A Percevoir" and bear no other inscription save "L'Union Fait La Force." The second issue (1895) is inscribed "to pay" in French and Flemish "A Payer" and "Te Betalen" (Figs. 9, 10).

On these stamps the name "Belgique" for Belgium does not appear. As nearly all the postage due stamps have

been issued without the names of the countries issuing them, the young collector will find them listed in the chapter on "Clues to Classification."

Official stamps are those which have been issued for the use of Governmental Departments. In Britain, the ordinary postage stamps are overprinted to serve as official stamps. For instance an English stamp surcharged "Army Official," is used exclusively on letters despatched from the offices of the military authorities. The letters "O.W." distinguish stamps used in the Office of Works, and "I.R. Official" those used by the Inland Revenue Department. Since the issue of the King's head stamps, a new surcharge for the stamps of the Royal Household has been issued. These are overprinted "R.H."*

In 1840 a proposal was on foot to have a distinct stamp for the use of Government Departments. The result of this idea was the "V.R." Black English label, which was never properly issued for postal purposes. Specimens were prepared and submitted to postmasters to show them the label which was to be used to frank all official correspondence. For some reason the stamps were never adopted, and the few specimens that have received postmarks are those which have been obliterated experimentally. It is this label which is the rare black English stamp and not the ordinary 1d. black stamp of 1840. A specimen of the former was recently sold at auction for £7 17s. 6d., while the latter sells at from 3d. to 6d. used and 7s. 6d. unused.

The United States Postal Department has issued a large number (about 92) different stamps for use in Government Offices (Figs. 203, 204). South Australia has also a large series of surcharged stamps for a similar purpose. Altogether there are from 1000 to 1200 stamps of this class.

Returned Letter Stamps have not so good a claim to the

*Some of these stamps are valued very highly by collectors on account of the difficulty of procuring specimens. It is not permitted to anyone to deal in these stamps in the unused condition and in September 1903 a Government clerk and a solicitor were sentenced at the Old Bailey to six months imprisonment for illicit dealings in these issues.

philatelist's attention as the postage due stamps. The former are merely labels affixed by the officials in the Returned Letter Departments. The stamps of this class issued in Wurtemburg and Bavaria are inscribed "Commission für Rückbriefe," or "Commission für Retourbriefe."

"Officially Sealed" labels are not postage stamps. They denote nothing more than the closing up of an open packet in the post by an official.

"Registration" and "Too Late" stamps denote fees paid quite distinct from those which frank the letter or postal packet. Collectors generally ignore these.

CHAPTER XVIII.

Portraiture on Postage Stamps.

"Look here, upon this picture and on this," might well be the exclamation of a stamp enthusiast when displaying his album to a "lay" friend. Of all the divers designs on postage stamps the most generally adopted is the portrait of the reigning sovereign, president, or some historic personage. The reason of this is not far to seek.

The first adhesive postage stamp bore the portrait of Queen Victoria. As this "pioneer" label has been taken very generally as a model for all subsequent issues of all countries, it is not very surprising that portraits are so largely represented in the philatelist's album.

No portrait is more familiar to the world at large than that of Queen Victoria, and this is in no small measure due to the delineation of her features on postage stamps. Her late Majesty was shown on the stamps of the British Empire in a great variety of poses, and with divers degrees of artistic success. On the stamps of the United Kingdom, and on many colonial issues, the head engraved by Mr. Wm. Wyon of the Royal Mint has been used. Two capital portraits are given on the Diamond Jubilee stamps of Canada. On these the Queen is shown at the time of her accession and at the time of her Diamond Jubilee, an historic stamp indeed, representing sixty years of glorious history. The early stamps of Mauritius bear "likenesses" of a very doubtful character. They were designed by a local watchmaker in the colony. A quaint half length figure appears on the first issue of stamps for Victoria in 1850. Later emissions of the same colony show the Queen

enthroned. Both Newfoundland and Canada have represented the Queen on various stamps in her widows' weeds. It is scarcely necessary to state that the portrait of the late Queen has adorned more stamps than that of any other monarch, president, or hero. "But," says a distinguished collector, "to the eye of the philatelist, of all the designs none can equal in simple dignity and grace the first stamp of all, the plain *black* stamp, issued when the echo of the Wedding Bells had hardly died away, fit to be an emblem alike of the grace of the young Queen and of the dignity of the Noble Lady who has gone."

King Edward's portrait is being reproduced on a large number of stamps now being issued. The earliest stamp portrait of the King was issued by Newfoundland in 1868, and showed the King as a young man. Two later ones emanating from the same colony in 1868 and 1880 show His Majesty as a boy in Highland costume (Fig. 108). In 1897, a recent portrait was issued on the 2 cents stamp which was of an orange colour, changed in the following year to vermilion (Fig. 116). The first stamps of Great Britain which bear the portrait of his present Majesty were engraved from a design by Emil Fuchs, an Austrian sculptor. They cannot be said to compare favourably with the Queen Victoria issues either in boldness of outline or in excellence of engraving. Some of the Colonial issues of "King's Heads" are much superior in these respects to the home stamps.

Other members of the British Royal Family portrayed on Newfoundland stamps of 1898-1901 are Queen Alexandra on the 3 cents orange, the Prince of Wales on the 5 cents blue, the Princess on the 4 cents violet, and Prince Edward of Wales on the ½ cent olive (Figs. 115-119).

Among the notable portraits of foreign sovereigns on stamps some of the most outstanding rulers are missing. For example, strange as it may appear (considering that His Majesty is frequently credited with a desire for self advertisement), the German Emperor has never been portrayed on his stamps, if one excepts his diminutive appearance in the microcosms on the 3 and 5 mark stamps of 1900 (Fig. 52).

In Germany until lately the "Imperial arms" has formed the design on the stamps, but this has been replaced by the figure of "Germana." The Kaiser, witnessing a performance in a Berlin Theatre, was much struck with the impersonation of Germana, by a young actress. His Majesty is understood to have expressed a desire that this lady's representation should be depicted on the stamps of his country, and the stamps were accordingly changed. The Czar is another prominent figure in European politics whose portrait does not appear on his stamps. The Sick Man of the East is not depicted upon Turkish stamps, for effigies are under the ban of the Koran. The early stamps of Turkey bore the Sultan's sign manual (Fig. 184). Yet on the stamps of Persia there are representations of the Shah, though he too bows to the Prophet (Figs. 141, 142). "This elicits the fact," says the Rev. Edward Bell, M.A., "that there are schisms or divisions in the Moslem world as well as in Christendom. The Sunnites, or orthodox Mussulmans, recognise the Sultan of Turkey as their chief, and conform strictly to the letter of the law. But the Persians belong to the Shiites, a sect of Mahometan dissenters, who claim great liberty of action for themselves, and accordingly do not observe the prohibition."

On the early stamps of Italy are profiles of Victor Emmanuel II. the sovereign of Garibaldi, and to whose dominions the latter added in 1860 Modena, Parma, Romagna and Tuscany. The "Emancipator of Italy" was succeeded by his son, King Humbert I. the memory of whose assassination will not readily be effaced. Humbert I. appeared on nearly all the Italian stamps issued between 1879 and the time of his death in 1900. The current stamps of Italy show the portrait of Humbert's only son, the present King, Victor Emmanuel III (Figs. 74-76).

On the first stamps of Belgium are full face portraits of Leopold I. the uncle of Queen Victoria, who declined the offer of the throne of Greece in 1830 and was elected King of the Belgians in the following year. Since 1870 profiles of his son, Leopold II. the present King, have been the predominant feature of Belgian stamps.

The Emperor Francis Joseph appears on a large proportion of the stamps of Austria. His younger brother, the unhappy Maximilian, having accepted the crown of Mexico in 1864, was depicted on the stamps of that country in 1866. After a chequered rule extending over three years the Juarists got the upper hand of him. In 1867 Maximilian was betrayed into the hands of the republicans and was shot on the 19th July. Benito Juarez, who was elected President after the death of Maximilian, is also portrayed on the Mexican stamps of 1879 and 1882 (Fig. 97).

King Wilhelm II. of Holland and his daughter and successor Wilhelmina are shown on the Dutch stamps. There is a story told of the young Queen that when she grew in years she objected to appearing on her stamps as a little girl. As in the case of many another girl, the time had come when she ought to have been shown with her hair up! At the time of her coronation, therefore, a very handsome stamp was issued bearing a new portrait by Hans Jansen (Fig. 72). Although at first this stamp was found too expensive for ordinary use, a cheaper process of production was tried, and now a series bearing the new portrait is in circulation.

The early issues of Spain show a profile of Isabella II. who abdicated in 1868. Amadeus I. (portrayed on the stamps of 1872-3) was elected King of Spain in 1870 but resigned the throne in 1873. In the following year Alphonso XII., son of Isabella, became King. After eleven years of a comparatively prosperous reign he died, leaving his Queen Christina to reign as regent for his posthumous son Alphonso XIII. The various stages of progress in the life of the young King of Spain have been marked by divers series of stamps of Spain and its colonies. On the early ones he is shown as a baby, later on as a boy, and still later in the uniform of of a military cadet (Figs. 166-170).

On the stamps of the Two Sicilies, now amalgamated with Italy, is a portrait of Ferdinand II., whose bombardment of Sicilian cities gained him the epithet of Bomba. The history of his stamps is rather curious. Two subjects

were available for the design, the King's portrait and the Sicilian arms. The heraldic emblems had, however, been used previously for the Neapolitan stamps, so that Ferdinand's portrait was chosen. The selection of the colours presented another difficulty. The two most eligible colours, red and green, were the national colours of Italy, so they were not to be thought of. However, the stamps when they appeared in 1859 included red and green, but the tints were as different as possible from those of the Italian colours (Fig. 165).

King Christian of Denmark appears on the latest issues of some of his dependencies, and Queen Alexandra's brother, King George I. of Greece, is portrayed on two Cretan stamps (Fig. 34). The poet-king, Oscar II., appears on some Swedish issues.

When Portugal issued its first stamps in 1853 its sovereign was Maria II. who is depicted on them in profile, Pedro V. appeared on the stamps of 1855 with "straight hair" as the philatelic catalogues have it; while the following year a new issue appeared, showing the King with "curly hair." Louis I. followed next on the stamps of 1882, and King Carlos has appeared on nearly every stamp—excepting the commemorative issues—in Portugal and its colonies since 1892 (Fig. 147).

In 1859 Couza became Prince of Roumania, but it was not until 1865 that stamps were issued in that country. These bore the Prince's portrait; but they did not remain in use long, for he was deposed the following year. His successor, King Charles I. is depicted, and a detail of personal history is given, on the stamps of Roumania. Those issued in 1866 represent him beardless. By 1871 he had a short stulted beard and the designs on the stamps issued in that year were brought up to date in that respect. This hirsute adornment grew and flourished, as may be seen on the stamps now current (Figs. 153-155). A similar personal incident associated with King Alexander of Servia is depicted on the stamps of that country and the last tragic chapter in his history is denoted by the obliteration of his

features from the stamps issued in 1903 after the dastardly outrage in which the young King and his Consort met their deaths. Charles III. and the present Prince Albert are shown on the stamps of Monaco, the Principality which is largely kept up by the Casino at Monte Carlo (Fig. 100). Nicholas I. of Montenegro acceded in 1860, and has been depicted on nearly every issue of stamps in his country since the premier issue in 1874 (Fig. 101). In 1902 the stamps of Bulgaria were issued bearing for the first time the portrait of Prince Ferdinand.

Some romantic histories are recalled by the two portraits of the two Rajahs Brooke of Sarawak (Figs. 161-163). The first, James Henry Brooke, after coming into a fortune of £30,000, went to Sarawak, of which he was made Rajah by the Sultan of Borneo, whose uncle he had assisted. He was succeeded by Sir Charles Johnson Brooke, the present Rajah. King Chulalongkorn of Siam is shown on some handsome stamps of the land of the White Elephant (Fig. 164), and several Indian Princes are shown on the stamps of the native States. The Rajahs of Holkar, Bhor, and Sirmoor are represented on their stamps. Tunkoo Abubeker bin Ibrahim Johore, K.C.S.I., is shown on the stamps of Johore, one of the Malay States, of which he is Maharajah.

Practically the whole line of Presidents of the United States has appeared on the stamps of the great Republic. The series begins with Washington, who is perhaps as well remembered in Britain for his truth-loving propensities as for being the hero of the Republic and its first President. Jefferson, who became President in 1801 and was re-elected in 1805, has been portrayed no fewer than sixteen times on the United States stamps. Madison, Chief of State during 1809-17, appears on the current 2 dollars stamp. Andrew Jackson, elected in 1828 and re-elected in 1832, shares with Jefferson the record of sixteen stamps. Along with Lincoln and Garfield and eight others, President Jackson is held up to American boys as a noteworthy example of a boy having "risen from the ranks." Born in a log hut in North Carolina, he rose to the highest

office in the State. After being a canal boy, a farm labourer and a carpenter, Garfield mounted the political ladder to the top rung. He is shown on the 6 cents stamps of the current issue. Abraham Lincoln, who with Garfield and McKinley suffered martyrdom for his exalted position, is shown in several different poses. McKinley is already depicted on an issue of United States postcards, and no doubt he will appear also on the stamps before long. President Harrison's portrait is one of the latest to appear on these stamps (Fig. 198). It is a handsomely engraved specimen of the facial value of 13 cents now in general use. President Cleveland does not appear on the stamps, as he is "not dead yet." There is a regulation in the States by which none but *deceased* heroes and statesmen shall appear on the stamps; and it is to be hoped that the popular ex-President will not qualify for a place in the gallery of deceased statesmen for a long time to come. The only woman who is depicted on these portrait stamps is Martha Washington, on the 8 cents (Fig. 197). She was the wife of the hero of the Republic.

Argentine has an extensive portrait gallery on its stamps of men associated with the history of the Republic. Mariano Morino (4c. 1873) was a prominent member of the Provisional Government of the provinces of the Rio de la Plata, formed in 1810. General San Martin (15c. 1867) led the Argentine troops victorious to Chili and from Chili to Peru. Revadavia (Fig. 4), the leader of the "Unitarians," and President in 1825, was opposed and succeeded by the leader of the Federals, Vicente Lopez (2c. 1877) in 1826. Dorrego, (30c. 1888), another Federal, followed in 1827, and was taken and shot by the Unitarians in 1828. Urquiza (½c. 1889) invaded Buenos Ayres and routed General Roca (20c. 1888) and his army in 1852. General Paz (½c. 1889) was in command of the forces of Buenos Ayres when Urquiza came and saw and conquered it. Urquiza was successfully tackled by General Mitre (50c. 1890) at Pavon in Santa Fé in 1861, the latter becoming President, which office he held until the war in Paraguay in 1868. He was

succeeded by Sarmiento (6c. 1889) in 1868, and the latter in turn was followed by Don Nicolas Avellaneda (10c. 1889) in 1874.

It would be impossible to give all the stories of the heroes of the Argentine and other South American Republics in a chapter which is necessarily limited in length. But enough has been said of them to show that biographical study with the aid of the stamp album may be made full of interest and real fascination. The stories of Simon Bolivar (Fig. 221), the Liberator of South America from the Spanish yoke, and all the men—some valiant, others desperate and degraded—who have taken part in the almost constant succession of revolutions, are overflowing with thrilling incident, and reflect as in a glass the historic associations of the great South American continent.

CHAPTER XIX.

Philately and the Fine Arts.

The fine arts with which Philately is concerned more or less intimately are painting, sculpture and architecture. Of these the highest is painting. Although the space available is very limited, the designs on postage stamps are by no means beyond the reach of art. Distinguished artists have been employed in the production of stamp pictures, and a number of famous paintings have been reproduced on postal labels. From the very first, Rowland Hill secured the highest talent available for the production of his envelopes and stamps. Mulready's envelope was in the most perfect sense an artistic production. It complies with a standard definition of art in that it is "the presentation of the real in its mental aspect." Mr. E. L. Pemberton, while admitting that it was unsuitable for its intended use, says "still, as it was the earliest effort in stamp engraving, we should regard it with unflinching respect and not gauge it by too high a standard. After all, the design cost a good deal of money, £1.000 being the sum stated to have been paid for it, which cannot be termed cheap by anyone who has a strict regard for truth."*

William Wyon's head of Queen Victoria on most of the stamps of Great Britain, was an admirable piece of artistic portraiture. It depicted the Queen in all her youthful beauty and regality, and is a "presentation of the real" not readily to be effaced from the minds of philatelists. Herr Von Angelo executed the jubilee painting from which the stamp on the foreign postcards in use in England until 1902 was designed.

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*The Stamp Collector's Handbook, 1872. Page 39.

The handsome portrait of Queen Wilhelmina by Hans Jansen is worthy of notice in this connection. It displays the young Queen with excellent comeliness, particularly on the large 1 gulden stamp of 1898 (Fig. 72).

Herr Emil Fuchs has hardly been so successful with King Edward's portrait. No doubt the Austrian sculptor produced a good portrait, the original of which was displayed recently in London, but the reproduction of it on the stamps is not quite satisfactory.

Another artistic design spoilt for lack of space is that on the stamp issued by New Zealand to mark the inauguration of Universal Penny Postage into the colony (Fig. 129). The design consists of a female figure representing New Zealand conferring the boon of Universal Penny Postage on the world. Mr. Ward, the Postmaster General of the Colony, had hoped to secure the good offices of Sir Edward Poynter in the preparation of this design, but the President of the Royal Academy declined to undertake the task.

On a previous occasion New Zealand copied its portrait of Queen Victoria from the Coronation portrait of Her Majesty by Mr. Alfred Chalon, R. A.

Some quaint contemporary portraits by Don Bartolomé Coromina represent Queen Isabella and depict the fashion of Spain at the end of the first half of the last century (Fig. 166).

Native art is responsible for many of the crudest stamp designs. On the stamps of the native States of India are some of the poorest designs (Figs. 80, 81). A number of them present nothing more than a native inscription and a printer's rule or two. These are out of the running with the Japanese native designs, which are admirable and quite characteristic of art in modern "Cipango." The stamps issued in Uganda by the missionaries there, are entirely deficient in artistic qualities, the first emissions being made on a typewriter.

Although most of the United States stamps are worthy of inclusion among the artistic stamp designs, there is an envelope sadly deficient in this respect. It is the Plympton envelope of 1874. The reason for its poor execution is unique

in the annals of stamp production. In 1874 the United States Government invited tenders for supplying stamped envelopes, and the Plympton Manufacturing Company's estimate was the lowest and was accepted. This aroused the trade jealousy of the firm that had supplied the United States envelopes up to the year 1874. They engaged the best die sinkers available to do nothing for a month in order to prevent the successful contractors from carrying out their agreement at the proper time. Not to be outdone, the Plympton firm hired second-rate men and hurried the work through, producing, however, a very second-rate piece of work, known to collectors as the "Booby Head" envelope. The whole affair was explained to the Post Office department, who accepted the envelopes until the superior ones could be got ready.

The reason for the "amateurish" appearance of the stamps of Corrientes, a province of the Argentine Republic, is that they were engraved by a baker's boy. No other engraver could be found. The youth had been an apprentice to an engraver before he emigrated to South America, and he was told to imitate as closely as possible the head of Ceres on the stamps of France. How far he was successful will be seen by a glance at the stamp he produced (Fig. 31).

Several of the stamps of the Vasco da Gama series of Portugal are copied from paintings by distinguished artists (ante p. 41) as also were the Columbus issues (1893) of the United States. On the 1 cent stamp is a reproduction of the picture by Powell entitled "Columbus in Sight of Land." Vanderlyn's picture of the "Landing of Columbus," which is the property of the United States Government and is kept at the White House, appears on the 2 cents stamp. The picture on the 3 cents is from an old Spanish engraving of the "Flag Ship of Columbus," while another engraving on the 4 cents value shows the "Fleet of Columbus." After being unsuccessful in trying to interest the King of Portugal, the explorer begged his way to the Spanish Court. This led to the incident recorded on the 5 cents stamp. "Columbus soliciting aid of Isabella," which is taken from Brozik's

painting. R. Roger's bas relief of "Columbus welcomed at Barcelona" forms the subject of the design on the 6 cents, the niches at each side being occupied by miniature representations of statues of Ferdinand of Aragon and of the last of the Moorish Kings of Granada, Boabdil (Fig. 193). "Columbus restored to favour" is the painting that has been reproduced on the 8 cents stamp. "The Recall of Columbus" forms the subject of the picture on the 50 cents stamp. The hero is shown "presenting natives" of the New World to his sovereign, on the 10 cents label (Fig. 194). On the 15 cents is the picture "Columbus announcing his discovery by Balacas." The next value, the 30 cents, shows the navigator discussing his project with the monks of La Rabida (Fig. 195). Isabella offered to pledge her jewels to defray the expenses of the expedition; and this incident is illustrated by the reproduction of Degrain's painting "Isabella pledging her Jewels" on the $1 stamp. On his third voyage the navigator suffered much from the treachery of his enemies, being actually fettered and sent back to Spain by the first governor of Cuba. Lentze's picture "Columbus in Chains" commemorates this incident on the $2 stamp. On the $3 stamp Columbus is "describing his third voyage" (from the painting by Tover); on the $4 are two medallions of Isabella and Columbus (Fig. 196), while the highest value of the set, the $5, bears a medallion of Columbus in profile with allegorical figures at each side.

The sculptor's art is well represented on stamps. Nearly all the portraits on the stamps of the United States are from busts by some of the most skilful sculptors.

The following busts appear on the stamps of this country. In brackets are given the names of the respective sculptors: Benjamin Franklin (after Rubricht); Andrew Jackson (after Powers); George Washington (after Houdon); Abraham Lincoln (after Volk); Henry Clay (after Hart); Benjamin Webster (after Clevenger); General Scott (after Coffee); Alexander Hamilton (after Cerrachi).

The profile of Jefferson on the 30 cents stamps now

current is from a statue by Powers; while the representation of Commodore Perry is after Walcott's statue of the famous officer. The splendid statue of Columbus erected at his reputed birthplace, Genoa, has been reproduced on a stamp of San Salvador. Several Grecian statues are also depicted on stamps, notably the statue by Praxiteles of Hermes on the 2 drachmae, and that of Victory by Peonias on the 5 drachmae (Figs. 62, 63). Other classical statues stamps represent gladiators (Fig. 65), and a quoit thrower. The favourite design on the Greek stamps, however, represents the profile of Hermes (the Grecian Mercury). He is shown on all the early issues and on the 1902 series with his petasus, as his winged headgear is termed (Fig. 58). On the issue of July 14th, 1901, the famous statue of Mercury by Giovanni da Bologna forms the central design. This shows the god with his caduceus, or wand, entwined with two serpents, which was the staff of office of the messenger of the gods. He is depicted running, his feet embellished with wings, and his right arm upraised (Fig. 66).

A number of statues of South American heroes have been reproduced on stamps. Among these effigies are Juan Santamana (Costa Rica), Suarez (Uruguay), and a fine equestrian statue of J. Rufino Barrios on the 2 centavos (1902) stamp of Guatemala.

Architecture, the lowest of the fine arts, has not much to do with stamp designs. Several of the Grecian stamps issued in 1896 depict some of those monuments of antiquity which still adorn Athens, "the eye of Greece, mother of arts and eloquence." On the 10 drachmae is a view of the Acropolis with the remains of Minerva's Temple; and on the 1 drachma is the Stadion where the Olympic games were held (Figs. 60, 64).

The Imperial Post Office at Berlin, a very handsome structure, is shown on the current 1 mark stamp of Germany (Fig. 51). The Post Office buildings at Lima and Adelaide are depicted on stamps of Peru (Fig. 146) and South Australia respectively. The Temple de Minerva and the Palace de la Reforma are shown on two recent specimens from Guatemala.

The Cathedrals of Guatemala (20 centavos, 1902), Mexico (5 pesos, 1899. Fig. 98), Monte Video (Uruguay 3 pesos, 1895) are included in stamp designs, that of Mexico being exceptionally handsome. On a private German local stamp is depicted the renowned Cathedral of Strasburg.

CHAPTER XX.

History in Postage Stamps.

It has often been claimed for stamp collecting that it teaches in some measure the history of our own times. It certainly adds considerable fascination to the study of history. Ancient scenes are recalled by stamps as well as modern ones, and it will surprise the uninitiated to learn that the earliest historical incident recorded on a postage stamp is Adam's fall. A local postage stamp issued at Viborg in 1887, though now obsolete, represents Adam and Eve in the garden. The pair are depicted standing one on each side of the tree, the *malum prohibitium*, on which is entwined the enticing, all-mischievous serpent (Fig. 39).

In the chapter on commemorative stamps, a number of instances of old time episodes recalled by stamp designs are given. The latter half of the nineteenth century saw the gradually increasing vogue of the adhesive postage stamp throughout the world. The eventful period that has elapsed since the forties has some of its most important episodes recorded in the pages of the stamp album.

Some months after Louis Philippe abdicated the throne of France, the newly constituted republic, under the presidency of Charles Louis Napoleon, issued its first stamps. These appeared in 1849, and bore a representation of the head of Ceres (Fig. 45).

Two years later the celebrated *coup d'état* occurred, and Napoleon III. was elected President for a term of ten years. Ceres was replaced by a portrait of the President, and two of the stamps were issued soon afterwards bearing the inscription "Repub. Franc" (Fig. 46). Having strengthened his

position by giving the chief offices of State to his own supporters, he appealed to the people this same year (1852) and by an almost unanimous vote the Empire was re-established on the 2nd of December. The same portrait appeared on the next stamps of 1853, but the inscription reads "Empire Franc." (Fig. 47). When new plates were prepared, Napoleon's victories in Italy were signalised by the addition of a wreath of laurel to his profile on the stamps of 1863 (Fig. 48). In 1870 the Franco-Prussian War broke out, and Napoleon and his army surrendered after the memorable struggle at Sedan on September 4th. In 1870 new French stamps appeared bearing the head of Ceres and the inscription "Repub. Franc.," since which time the Republic has been firmly re-established. The calmed state of the country is clearly denoted by the allegorical design which appeared on the stamps a few years later, depicting Commerce clasping hands with Peace across the globe. The Franco-German War has left another record in the stamp album. Reaching the States of Alsace and Lorraine on its way to Paris, the German army issued stamps and these were used for franking soldiers' letters home at a low charge.

The stamps of Spain bear indications of the long series of internal dissensions that have passed since the period of its premier issue of postal labels in 1850. Perhaps the most troubled of all the greater European States, the design on its issue of 1873 appears somewhat ironical. It shows a female figure with an olive branch in her hand, emblematical of Peace. Portraits of the succession of rulers since Isabella appear on the contemporary stamps (ante p. 94). During the revolution of 1868 the Provisional Government had the stamps bearing Isabella's portrait surcharged across the bust of the Queen. It also issued new stamps bearing the face values in large numerals. In 1873 again, during the Carlist insurrection, stamps were issued, several bearing the features of the Spanish pretender. After Amadeus abdicated in 1873 an attempt was made to form a Republic, and the design on the 1/4 de peseta stamp was changed from a royal to a mural or city crown, while other labels

were issued bearing the Arms of Castille, Leon, Aragon, Navarre, and Granada. Tiring of the Republican form of Government, the crown was offered in 1875 to and accepted by Alphonso XII., whose portrait appears on the stamps issued in August of that year.

The "Impuesto de Guerra" or War Tax stamps 1874—9 were for the payment of a tax on letters of 5 centimos. The object of the tax was to raise money for the expenses of the civil wars, and a similar tax was raised by means of special stamps issued from 1897—99 to defray the expenses of the war in Cuba and the Philippine Islands.

The year 1871 saw the consolidation of the German Empire; but stamps had been in use for years in thirteen independent States and cities, and the postage stamps of Germany illustrate the gradual bringing together of all the States which constituted first the North German Confederation and ultimately the German Empire.

The following States and free cities which were incorporated in the North German Confederation had stamps of their own:—Prussia (1850), Saxony (1850), Oldenburg (1852), Brunswick (1852), Bremen (1855), Mecklenburg Schwerin (1856), Lubeck (1859), Hamburg (1859), Mecklenburg Strelitz (1864).

Bergedorf, which had issued stamps since 1861, came under the jurisdiction of Hamburg in 1867, the stamps of the latter city superseding those of Bergedorf. Hanover and Schleswig Holstein, both of which issued stamps in 1850, were annexed to Prussia in 1866. Those parts of Germany not having postal systems of their own, were served by the Counts of Thurn and Taxis, who carried on the postal work under a monopoly granted by the Government. Stamps were used by the Thurn and Taxis administration, and these were stopped when the monopoly was handed over to Prussia, rather more than two years before the foundation of the new German Empire. Baden enjoyed separate postal administration until it was incorporated in the new German Empire in 1870. In 1902 the stamps of Wurtemburg were superseded by the Imperial issues. The

stamps of Alsace and Lorraine were only used during the Franco-German war, after which the ordinary stamps of the Empire came into use. So that out of sixteen separate stamp-issuing postal administrations only two remain to-day, those of the Empire and of Bavaria. The gradual absorption of the cities and the States which now form the German Empire is thus clearly defined in the history of its stamps.

The story of the coalescence of the Kingdom of Italy is a more stirring and adventurous one compared with the peaceable embodiment of the German Empire. Yet the changes in the postage stamps demarcate the chief episodes in the narrative.

The stamps of the Confederate States of America (Figs. 205, 206) are interesting historically, as they denote the great struggle that raged between the Northern and the Southern States. The Civil War broke out in 1861; and in the same year two stamps were issued by the Confederate States. The 2 cents bore a portrait of Andrew Jackson, the 5 cents one of Jefferson Davis, while in the following year a 10 cents stamp was added, with Madison's portrait. In 1862 also Calhoun was portrayed on a 1 cent stamp. Washington was shown on the 20 cents issued in 1863.

On several single specimens from Peru are indicated the changes that have taken place in the government of that country. For example, the 1 cent orange of 1874 was issued under the first Peruvian Government, which dates from 1867. During the occupation of Peru by the Chilians, the latter took the stock of Peruvian stamps and overprinted them with the design of the Chilian arms. Recovering their country, with the exception of the province of Tarapaca (ceded to Chili), the Peruvians took the stamps that had been stamped with the Chilian arms and again overprinted them with a Peruvian design. Thus this stamp (and others like it) marks the fall of the first Republic of Peru, the success of Chili, and then the return of the Peruvian Administration (Fig. 143).

The important steps in the history of the Transvaal are clearly illustrated in the stamp album.

(1) The first South African Republic began to issue stamps in 1870 (Fig. 177). The design shows the arms of the Republic. (2) Great Britain annexed the Transvaal in 1877, and then the stamps of the Republic were overprinted with the legend "V.R. Transvaal" (Figs. 178, 179). A year later a portrait of Queen Victoria appeared on the stamps. (3) Then came the great blow to British prestige at Majuba Hill in 1881. When the second Republic (under British suzerainty) was established, the stamps bearing the Queen's portrait were overprinted with the new values expressed in Dutch (Figs. 180, 181). These appeared in 1882, and in the following year a new series, bearing the arms of the South African Republic, was issued. (4) On June 5th, 1900, Lord Roberts entered Pretoria triumphant. This led to the overprinting of the Transvaal stamps with the familiar initials "V. R. I." (5) The next change was necessitated by the death of Queen Victoria in 1901, after which the initials of the surcharge were changed to "E. R. I.," and in 1902 the portrait of King Edward denotes the latest phase in the philatelic history of the Transvaal (Fig. 182).

The war in South Africa produced other stamp souvenirs apart from those described as denoting changes in the government of this new portion of the British Empire. The historic Mafeking siege stamps, particularly the "portrait" ones, will always excite interest so long as the impression (which was made from photographic negatives on ferro prussiate paper) remains unfaded.

During the early months of the siege the enemy's lines were too strong around Mafeking to allow of any communication between the Britons within and the Britons without. But after the relief of Kimberley by General French, the Boers had to withdraw some of their men from Mafeking, thus somewhat relaxing the cordon round the beleaguered city. Then Baden-Powell's comrades organised a regular system of Kaffir runners leaving the town twice weekly, once by the South and once by the North. The charge for letters was 6d. by the North and 1s. by the South, the latter being the more dangerous route. The Kaffir letter-

carriers had to dodge through the enemy's lines and pass either to Buluwayo in the North or to Kimberley in the South. It was on the letters carried by these runners that most of the Mafeking stamps were used. The two most interesting ones, however, were used chiefly within the town for a purely local post. One was designed by a Dr Hayes and showed Sergeant-Major Goodyear of the Cadet Corps on a bicycle (Fig. 91). The other, designed by Captain Greener, the Chief Paymaster, gave a portrait of the gallant defender of Mafeking, Baden-Powell himself (Fig. 92).

When the British troops were sent to China to relieve the legations they used Indian Stamps overprinted C. E. F., *i. e.* China Expeditionary Force (Fig. 83). These will long serve to keep philatelists in memory of those weeks of anxiety in 1901 when everyone was perturbed concerning the possible fate of the Embassies.

CHAPTER XXI.

Stamps as Instructors in Geography.

Stamps, when understood aright, are instructors. They instil pleasantly into the mind of the collector a large amount of useful and varied knowledge. Regarded in this light stamps are like books and to them may be applied much of what Richard de Bury says of books. "We must consider," wrote the venerable Prelate, "what pleasantness of teaching there is in books, how easy, how secret! How safely we lay bare the poverty of human ignorance to books without feeling shame!" Stamps, too, "are masters who instruct us without rod or ferule, without angry words. If you come to them they are not asleep; if you ask and inquire of them they do not withdraw themselves; they do not chide you if you make mistakes; they do not laugh at you if you are ignorant."

Philately will promote in the earnest student a knowledge of geography, not only in its physical but in its political branch. During the formation of a collection the philatelist becomes well acquainted with minor kingdoms and little known republics. He discovers their position on the surface of the globe, and arranges his stamps accordingly. Stamps are issued for such little known places as Angora, Angra, Bamra, Bussahir, Corrientes, Dedeagh, Djibouti, Eritrea, Horta, Las Bela, Marianne Islands, Negri Sembilan, Nossi Bé, Ponta Delgada, Poonch, San Marino, Sungei Ujong, and numerous others. To the average man "all beyond Hyde Park is a desert" and the majority of these places are entirely unknown, but the philatelist must needs be acquainted with them all, and with their respective situations on the map.

The philatelist, however, learns more than the mere names and geographical positions of the world's stamp issuing countries. On the political side stamps generally bear witness to the form of the Government of a country, whether monarchical or republican. Some specimens distinctly portray the race of people which inhabits the land from which the stamp hails.

For instance, the Dyak is familiar to stamp collecting youths who have never seen him in the flesh. This is because of the attractive figure of one of these men that appears on the 1 cent stamp of the 1897 issue of British North Borneo. The stamp, it should be said, is scarcely worth a penny, and is within the reach of every schoolboy collector (Fig. 130). "God's image done in ebony," as Fuller has described the negro, is pictured on the stamps of several of the countries inhabited by this race. The portraits of rulers, rajahs, and natives on stamps form a very representative picture gallery of the living races of mankind.

The topography of many countries is illustrated on their stamps. Take, for example, the handsome pictorial stamps issued by New Zealand in 1898. Two, the ½d. and 5s. values, show capital views of Mount Cooke, the 2½d. shows Lake Wakatipu, with Mount Earnslaw in the distance, the 5d. the Otira Gorge, with a miniature view of Lake Ruapehu, and the 2s. Milford Sound (Figs. 122-128). Turning over the leaves of his album, the collector catches glimpses of life on the Congo River (Figs. 25-27), in the African deserts, and half deserted Moroccan towns. On a stamp of the Soudan is shown a mounted Arab wending his way across the arid wastes, while on the Egyptian stamps are depicted the Sphinx, "whose veil," the poet tells us, "no man hath lifted," and the "star-pointing" pyramid of Cheops, both hoary monuments of a far distant past (Figs. 43, 44).

The stamps of the American Continent recall scenes of adventure in the Far West. The philatelist sees Fremont waving the Stars and Stripes from a newly reconnoitred peak in the Rockies, and Marquette's missionary and exploration work on the Mississipi is also the subject of a stamp

design. "Farming in the West" (Fig. 199) and the "Hardships of Emigration" are investigated by the intelligent and observing philatelist without leaving his study. A stamp design depicts each of these subjects. Mount Roraima and the Kaieteur Waterfall are shown on current British Guiana stamps (Figs. 15, 16); and the Queen's Staircase in the Bahamas, the landovery Falls at Jamaica, Hobart and local Tasmanian views are all to be seen on postage stamps (Figs. 6, 86, 174, 175). The fine new harbour at Port Rosario is illustrated on a long and handsome stamp issued by the Argentine Republic in 1903 (Fig. 5). Even Bermuda has depicted its great new floating dock on a recent issue (Fig. 11).

From some of his specimens the student may even gain a knowledge of the religion of the stamp issuing country (see p. 120).

The geographical distribution of plants and animals is also largely illustrated in the philatelist's album. The stamps of the Congo Free State show the stately palm, while New Zealand, Nyassa, Labuan, Liberia and other countries illustrate indigenous vegetation on their stamps. A specimen from Tonga displays several varieties of coral procured in the neighbourhood of the island (Fig. 176).

Animals are still more strongly represented in the philatelist's collection. The species vary from the wild King of Beasts and the ferocious jungle tiger to the tamest of birds. The horse may be seen on the stamps of Formosa and Brunswick; the camel on those of Nyassa and the Soudan; the elephant "wreaths his proboscis lithe" on a stamp of the Congo Free State, and on stamps of Liberia and the Malay States. The clumsy hippopotamus is on a Liberian stamp, and the repulsive saurian with gaping jaws appears on stamps of North Borneo. The handsome two cents stamp of the same colony shows a stately stag which is nearly if not quite as proud as the peacock, or rather Argus pheasant, which appears on the five cents stamp of the same issue (Figs. 131, 132).

Other zoological specimens illustrated on stamps are the reindeer on a Tromso stamp (Fig. 172), and the kangaroo, the

emu and the lyre bird of New South Wales (Figs. 120, 121). New Zealand has quite a philatelic aviary of its 1898 issue. The 3d. stamp shows a pair of huias, the 6d. a kiwi and the 1s. a pair of kakas (Figs. 124, 126, 127). Newfoundland, "where the dogs come from," has several canine subjects for stamp designs, as well as a seal and codfish to illustrate local industries (Figs. 109, 110).

The 1897 series of Newfoundland stamps is in itself a geographical lesson for every collector. Three of the stamps depict industries and the stamps impress all beholders with the fact that mining, sealfisheries, and logging are among the resources of the colony. The sports, illustrated on three more specimens, include salmon fishing, ptarmigan shooting, and caribou hunting. An Arctic touch is added by the view of an iceberg off St. John's shown on the 35 cents stamp. A portrait is given, on the 60 cents stamp, of King Henry VII., who granted a charter to Cabot to discover new lands. On the 10 cents specimen is a picture of Cabot's ship the "Matthew" leaving the Avon, while on the 3 cents stamp is shown Cape Bonavista "The Landfall of Cabot." The 2 cents stamp bears a portrait of Cabot himself with the informative inscription "Hym that found the new Isle" (Figs. 111-113).

The romance of geographical discovery is amply indicated in the numerous Columbus issues (ante p. 101) and other stamps issued to commemorate the exploits of great explorers.

Captain Cook, after circumnavigating and charting New Zealand, surveyed and took possession of the east coast of Australia on behalf of Great Britain. The colony of New South Wales, which was included in Captain Cook's annexation, when celebrating the hundredth anniversary of the settlement honoured the memory of that intrepid captain by placing his portrait on the 4d. stamp of 1889.

In addition to the exploits of Columbus, Cabot and Cook those of other navigators and pioneers are recorded on stamps. Among these may be mentioned Cartier, Fremont, Marquette, Prince Henry of Portugal, and Vasco da Gama.

There are further evidences of the value of stamp collecting

as a liberal aid to education in geography, but enough has been written here to indicate the lines on which an intellectually profitable study of stamps may be made. To the mere accumulator, stamps will teach nothing; but to the diligent and thoughtful student they can open up wide fields of knowledge in which the collector may plough his furrow to his heart's content. To him the stamp album becomes a "vast authentic Doomsday Book of nature."

CHAPTER XXII.

Stories About Stamps.

Every stamp has its story. In the following pages of this chapter a few only of the specimens of historic, romantic, and anecdotal interest will be described.

Several times large thefts of stamps from post offices have occurred, necessitating the demonetising of the type of stamp stolen. For instance, when a large quantity of the Persian stamps of 1897 were stolen, the postal authorities declared them obsolete and overprinted all that remained in stock with special designs; and these served provisionally until a new set of stamps was procured. A similar incident occurred in Greece when a supply of the Olympic Games and other stamps was looted during the war between Greece and Turkey.

The stamps issued for the Dominican Republic in 1900 almost caused a war (Fig. 41). The design on the stamps showed a map of the island of Hayti, the eastern portion of which is occupied by the Dominican Republic and the western by the Haytian Republic. But in their endeavour to show the world how the land of the Dominican lies, these people overstepped their boundary and appeared to have annexed no little part of the neighbouring republic. That is to say, the boundary line on the map stamp was misrepresented, much to the annoyance of the nigger republic of Hayti, whose government immediately resented the untruthful map issue. The stamps were withdrawn, and nearly $40,000 worth of them were destroyed in the furnace in 1902. But for the withdrawal there was some danger that fighting might have occurred between the two States.

Some of Canada's stamps are notably patriotic. The map stamp issued at Christmas 1898 shows the world on Mercator's Projection, with the British possessions indicated in red (Fig. 20). It is always difficult in printing such small designs in colour to get each plate accurately registered. On some of the map stamps the inaccurate registering of the red part of the design has resulted in the annexation of the greater part of the United States, while England invaded France and the Cape of Good Hope went out to sea. The inscription "we hold a vaster empire than has been," is quoted from a patriotic verse by Sir Lewis Morris.

The object of the issue of Canada's map stamp was to signalise the introduction of Imperial Penny Postage inaugurated at Christmas 1898. The large label did not find universal favour, some business folk complaining that it was "too large to lick and too small for wall paper." The teetotal enthusiasts, thinking that the enlarged gummed surface would have to be moistened by some people's tongues, seem to have suggested that the stamp was issued by a Government of publicans expressly to promote thirst.

In 1885 Corea was about to enter the Postal Union. Every arrangement had been completed and a banquet was held at the Foreign Office to rejoice over the great stride the country was then taking. During the banquet Min Yon Ik, the confidential agent of the King, staggered into the banqueting hall, covered with blood flowing from numerous wounds. An attempt had been made by some of the native officials to assassinate him, for he was believed to have been opposed to Corea's advance in joining the Postal Union. A riot ensued and for some days there was danger of a rising that would sweep away every "foreign devil" from the country. Gradually, however, the excitement subsided. The people saw that trouble was not due to the foreigners but to the hasty and ill-balanced officials. But the Post Office was defunct. The stamps prepared were never used, though they have been included among the curiosities of the philatelist's album (Fig. 30).

A strange story of vanity on the part of a Postmaster-

General is recalled by a stamp of New Brunswick. That official, a Mr Connell, had the audacity to substitute his own portrait for that of Queen Victoria on the 5 cents stamp of 1861. This action, was immediately resented not only in official circles but by the public. Postmaster Connell lost his position, which was worth £600 a year, and made a quiet retreat from the capital. After the first burst of anger at the ambitious Connell, the people amused themselves with the following couplet referring to what it cost Connell to see his portrait on a stamp:—

"Sax hundred pounds to see his face,
Posting around from place to place."

The stamps were withdrawn, but not before a few specimens had been circulated. These are counted among the rarities, being worth about £20 apiece.

The pony express stamps recall many of the most exciting escapades of the daring cowboy runners who carried the U. S. mails from St. Joseph to Sacramento. Colonel Cody, better known by the pseudonym of "Buffalo Bill," rode about 93 miles of the first of these rides. He figured in nearly all the most venturesome rides, and notably the record one, when young Cody was charged with President Buchanan's message to Congress on Secession.

Two Japanese stamps mark the silver wedding of the Emperor and his Empress (Fig. 84). Another specimen signalises the wedding of the Prince Imperial of Japan to Princess Sada. The design is illustrative of marriage customs in the land of the Mikado (Fig. 85). At the top is the chrysanthemum, which is the Imperial crest. In an oval is a box which is called the Yanagibako or willow box. This is covered with red paper, and in it the first letter which the bridegroom sends to his bride is kept. Behind this little box is a table, ornamented with pictures of cranes and pines. It is said in Japan that the crane lives a thousand years, and that the pine never dies; hence these are emblematic of long life.

On this table are placed cakes of mikka yo mochi, which

means "three days' and three nights' bread." It is so called because it is left in the bridal chamber for three days and nights after the wedding, so that the bride and bridegroom may eat it whenever they wish to do so. These cakes are made of rice flour, and there are always as many cakes as there are years in the bride's age—if she tell it correctly.

When Hayti joined the postal union its President was Saloman, a notorious sectary of "voodoo" or snake worship. This gentleman objected to having his own features pictured on his stamps, and so the head of Ceres was used instead. After these stamps had been in circulation for some time it was whispered about that the portrait was that of Mrs Saloman, and indeed there was a striking resemblance. Then the people began to say: "The President would not have *his* portrait on the stamps, but he put his wife's on instead. That is not what he was asked for!"

Saloman was finally bound to admit the likeness and then agreed to allow his own portrait to take its place. But alas! the life of a Haytian President, like that of the policeman in the opera, is not a happy one. Not long after the stamps were issued, President Saloman's political enemies began to get the better of him, until at last he fled, severely wounded, to Cuba.

At the time when the President fled there were in stock large quantities of these stamps bearing his portrait, and the economical postal authorities hesitated to destroy them. The enemies of the President were averse to using the portrait until all the stock was exhausted but did not want, or could not afford, to go to the expense of a new series. It was finally decided to use the stamps just as they were but to affix them to the envelopes upside down. By this device all concerned were satisfied and from that time forward all letters bearing the stamp the right way up were charged double postage on delivery just as though no postage had been paid.

CHAPTER XXIII.

The Religious Interest in Stamp Collecting.

It has been mentioned in a previous chapter that there are stamps which give an idea of the religion of the inhabitants of various countries. The centenary stamps of Portugal are highly typical of the Roman Catholic beliefs. The stamps all bear designs depicting scenes in the life of St. Anthony of Padua, who was born at Lisbon in 1195. As men refused to hear him, the saintly monk preached to the fishes, and this incident is pictorially recorded on the 5 reis stamp (Fig. 149). The $2\frac{1}{2}$ reis stamp illustrates a vision in which the Child Christ appeared to the holy friar. On the back of each of these St. Anthony stamps is printed an invocation quoted from St. Bonaventure :—

"O lingua benedicta quæ Dominum semper benedixisti et alios benedicere docuisti : nunc perspicue cernitur quanti meriti fueris apud Deum. S. Boaventura." (Oh blessed tongue which has always blessed the Lord and taught others to bless Him ; now more than ever do we see how great is your merit with God).

Features of the same religion are recalled by the stamps issued in the Roman States when the Pope was a temporal sovereign (Fig. 77). The stamps bear a design in which are included the mitre and the two keys, one of gold and the other of silver, which are the insignia of the Papacy. The stamps are now obsolete, for the Roman States succumbed to Victor Emmanuel II. of Italy, and separate emissions of postal labels were no longer required. The Pope, though earthly sovereignty was taken from him, still claims the charge of "the keys of the kingdom of heaven."

The actual scene of the shipwreck of St. Paul is a matter of much doubt. The "island called Melita" referred to in the account given in the Acts of the Apostles, chapter XXVIII., is generally considered to be the present isle of Malta, although there is an island near the Illyrian coast named Melita. Sailors and most theologians, however, argue in favour of Malta, and the people of the island themselves are quite confident on the subject. They can point out a cave in which St. Paul and St. Luke together lived for three months. On the ten shilling stamp now current in the colony the whole scene at St. Paul's arrival is depicted. In the foreground is the apostle, who has just shaken off the viper into the fire and "felt no harm." In the background is the wrecked ship, while two persons are shown struggling amid the violent waves. The whole scene makes a very effective postage stamp picture (Fig. 93).

The stamps of Duttia, one of the native States of India, depict a Hindu idol, the god Ganesh, or Gunputty, the elephant god (Fig. 80). In Hindu mythology this deity takes the place of the Greek Hermes and the Roman Mercury. The squatting creature on the stamps of Duttia, instead of suggesting *speed*, seems typical of sheer immobility. For a more lively deity the collector may turn to the stamps of Jhalawar, which depict a dancing figure, also a creation of the native myths.

The ancient deities of the Greeks and the Cretans are depicted on stamps. Among these are Hermes on many of the Grecian stamps (Fig. 58). On the 20 and 40 lepta stamps of the Olympic games series may be seen the figure of Pallas, the Virgin goddess, inaccessible to the passion of love, and the special protectress of Athens (Fig. 61). She is represented on the stamp clad in a coat of mail, her headgear is a helmet, and in her hand is a shield adorned with the hideous head of Medusa. As the cock, among other things, was sacred to Pallas, two of these birds are included in the stamp design. Hera, the Grecian Juno, appears on the 5 lepta stamp of Crete (Fig. 33).

Of the pictures of angels on stamps the foremost is

St. Michael, "of all celestial armies, Prince." He is pictured on a pair of Belgian stamps issued to advertise the Brussels Exhibition of 1897 (Fig. 7). Another angel is depicted flying "in the midst of heaven" on a Brazil commemorative stamp of 1900. The earliest stamps from the Shah's dominions show the Lion of Persia, an awe-inspiring figure, as dazzling as the Veiled Prophet himself (Fig. 140). One of its paws is upraised, and holds the sacred sword of the Khorassan. The Huia birds shown on the 3d. 1897 stamp of New Zealand used to be objects of worship among the aborigines in that country (Fig. 124).

Hidalgo, the priest, appears on a number of Mexican stamps (Fig. 96), while the Jesuit missionary Marquette is shown preaching to the Red Indians on the 1 cent stamps of the Omaha issue of the United States. Missionaries were responsible for the issue of the first stamps of Uganda, which were very crudely produced. They were all made by means of a typewriter by the Rev. E. Millar, of the Church Missionary Society, and were issued on March 13th, 1895. As each stamp had to be typewritten separately, the resulting stamps are not all exactly alike, consequently it is difficult to distinguish a forgery. About 2,000 specimens appear to have been issued between March, 1895, and June, 1896, when a stock of printed stamps was received in the Protectorate.

On the stamps of the Virgin Islands several curious stamp pictures are given. The 1866 issue depicts a virgin surrounded by ten lamps, suggestive of the parable of the wise and the foolish virgins. In 1868, however, the 4d. and 1s. stamps bore pictures of the Virgin Mary, "Mother of Mercies and of Divine Grace," crowned with stars. The current stamps show the "Mother of God" with the lily branch in her hand and her head adorned with a sacred aureola (Figs. 222-224).

The characteristic feature of the old Swiss stamps is a cross, and this symbol appears on many stamps emanating from various countries. A stamp of the Dominican Republic shows an open Bible and the reputed tomb of Columbus (Fig. 42).

Chinese local stamps depict a variety of temples or pagodas, and in the chapter on architecture reference has already been made to a number of cathedrals depicted on stamps. A Venezuelan stamp illustrates the planting of the cross of Christianity in the country (Fig. 220). The Portuguese division of the Red Cross Society is permitted by the Government of Portugal to issue postage stamps of its own. The design on the stamp shows the cross, which is in red on a white shield, surrounded by an oval figure bearing an inscription in Portuguese denoting "Portuguese Red Cross Society. Postage free." It is very rarely seen in the unused condition, for it is for the exclusive use of the Red Cross Society, and will only frank the letters sent by that institution (Fig. 151).

The handsome camel issue of stamps for use in the Soudan gave a considerable amount of trouble, which arose owing to a religious symbol (Fig. 44). The stamps were all printed on paper which was watermarked with a design of a cross. As the cross is an unmistakably Christian symbol, it gave rise to bitter feeling between the Moslem natives and the Britishers.

The Moslems abhorred the idea of moistening with their lips what to them was an unholy sign. If the crescent had been there instead, they would have applied their tongues eagerly to the mucilage on the back of the stamps. It was, of course, quite by an oversight that the stamps intended for a Mohammedan country bore a Christian symbol, yet the mistake was nearly the cause of an uprising among the natives in the Soudan. A subsequent issue of stamps depicts one of those curious vessels—possibly Cook's—that navigate the difficult waterways of the Nile. This bears the Mohammedan watermark of the crescent.

Faith without works is dead, and it is not merely the beliefs of religion that are illustrated on stamps. The works are included also. On the stamps of St. Nevis is a capital rendering of the sentiment of the Good Samaritan (Fig. 105). St. Nevis is noted for its sulphur springs, and on

the stamps in use in the colony until 1879 the Goddess of Health is depicted extending a life-giving "cup of cold water in His Name" to the "half dead" person who is being supported on the knee of a third figure. This interesting picture reappears on the issue of 1903.

The novel "Sunday stamps" of Belgium had for their object the lessening of postal work on Sundays. A small label was appended to the Belgian stamps in 1893, and this was easily detachable, on account of the line of perforation which separated it from the stamp proper. The label was inscribed in French and Flemish "Not to deliver on Sunday." When this label was left on the stamp on a letter the postal authorities would not burden their assistants with it on the Lord's Day, but would keep it back for delivery on the following day. The sender of a message the urgency of which required Sunday delivery had only to detach the label before affixing the stamp to the envelope. The system, ingenious as it was, has proved a source of continual annoyance both to the public and to the postal officials, and so it cannot be said to have been attended with much success (Figs. 7, 8).

CHAPTER XXIV.

Anent Postmarks.

The use of the word postmark is varied; but the term when applied in connection with philately refers to the cancellation of a postage stamp on a card, letter or postal packet. As early as the seventeenth century, letter covers had been impressed in the course of the post with signs by means of a hand stamp. It is not to these, however, that philatelic interest attaches, but to those applied to the obliterating of postage stamps on and after their first issue in 1840.

The earliest adhesive postage stamps were obliterated by a postmark, the design of which was a Maltese cross. It was impressed at first in red, but the cancellation was, it appears, easily removed. In order to prevent the cleaning of the stamps, therefore, the colour was altered to black. As already stated, with the penny black stamp, this black cancellation scarcely showed on many stamps, and it was frequently difficult to distinguish used specimens from unused ones. On this account the 1d. stamp was changed from black to a red colour, on which the postmark is readily discernible. The development of the postmark may be noted in the introduction of a figure to denote the post office in which it was cancelled; and, later, by the addition of the name of the place. To-day the postmark generally includes inscriptions showing the town or district of posting, together with the date and time of day when the letter was collected. Such information on an envelope has on several occasions been used in a court of law for deciding the time of posting of a letter.

There are three methods of postmarking in use in England, and these are similar throughout the other stamp issuing countries. The chief method is by means of a machine invented by Mr. Pearson Hill, son of the originator of Uniform Penny Postage. This consists of a hand stamp attached to a moveable arm, which springs up and down as quickly as the operator can manipulate it. Another machine, of which there are several at St. Martin's le Grand, and at Mount Pleasant, is the electrical rotating postmark. By means of a self-inking revolving wheel, letters are obliterated at the rate of 500 a minute, merely requiring one man to feed the apparatus. The third method is the ordinary hand stamp.

The designs of postmarks that have appeared on stamps are varied. France simply used a number of dots arranged in the form of a diamond for its early cancellations, This gave the stamp a speckled appearance, and was the cause of an amusing incident related by the author of "My Nephew's Collection" in *All the Year Round*. The words are the nephew's:—"A maid servant who made use of a postage stamp for the first time in her life, had noticed that all the letters she took in for her master were dotted with black over the stamp, like this head of the Republic. She supposed it was done to make the stamps stick better, and imitated it as well as she could with a pen. At the post office, it was at first suspected that someone had used an old stamp to cheat the Government. Inquiries were made, and learned experts set to work, who proved the girl's innocence of intentional wrong. She got off with an admonition, lucky enough to escape further trouble."

Most of the cancellations impressed by means of the electrical rotating postmark consist of an inscription in a circle bearing the usual figures and a series of long lines, similar to a musical stave though differing in the number of the lines. Others have, however, had more pretentious designs, notably a Canadian mark which depicts a long unfurled Union Jack.

In many cases, British stamps have been used in distant

colonies and even in foreign States, without any distinguishing surcharge or overprint. These may often be distinguished by the postmark.

The postmark used for cancelling the stamps of Sicily in 1859 (ante p. 94) owed its curious shape to a fad of King Ferdinand, or "Bomba." "A monarch who submits to a single insult is half dethroned," and King Bomba (who possibly knew this) thought that if his features were obliterated on his stamps by means of a postmark, it would be a first step towards obliterating himself from the face of Sicily For a postal clerk to smudge or strike out the picture of his King would be nothing short of *lèse-majesté*, argued Ferdinand. But his coffers made it necessary to deface the stamps in some way, or else the stamps might be used over and over again. This almost Gilbertian predicament led to the invention of a postmark bearing a frame design which was intended to cancel part of the stamp but leaving the King's portrait unmolested in the centre. The device was not very successful, for the postal clerks could not be expected to judge with perfect nicety the right place to cancel the stamps; and consequently the counterfeit presentment of Ferdinand's head received many a blow from the cancelling mark, which looks not unlike a formidable grid, or the framework which suspends a public-house sign.

Collectors of stamps should beware of bogus postmarks. Until a few years ago it was accepted almost as a matter of faith that a stamp bearing a postmark must be genuine. But time and experience have shown that postmarks as well as stamps may be counterfeited, and nearly all the bogus, stamps ever issued have also been accompanied with some form of cancelling mark in order to make the imposition doubly sure of fulfilling its fell purpose. A careful examination of the commoner postage stamps of the world —for it is not worth the counterfeiter's while to imitate comparatively worthless stamps—will soon give the collector a general knowledge of the type of postmark used in all countries.

CHAPTER XXV.

Famous Collectors and their Collections.

The stamp collection most talked about is that of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales. It is understood that the Prince has been a collector since his youthful days when he was a midshipman on the Bacchante. Many non-philatelists have doubted the reality of the interest taken in the hobby by His Royal Highness. But there is no question among collectors that he does take a lively concern in philatelic matters. Indeed on several occasions collectors have had to thank him for throwing light on uncertain scientific points in connection with the study of stamps. It is on record that the Prince wrote of stamp collecting to a friend saying, "it is one of the greatest pleasures of my life." An eminent philatelist has charge of the Prince's collection, which is probably worth between £10,000 and £15,000. It comprises only stamps of Britain and her colonies, and a special feature is the fine series of stamps cut from the *imprimatur* sheets at Somerset House. When plates are made for printing the stamps of Great Britain, the first impression is sent to the Stamp Department, Somerset House, as a proof, and for purposes of registration. These are termed the *imprimatur* sheets, and are all imperforate. Only a single sheet from each plate is issued in this form; and, owing to an official regulation, no more stamps may hereafter be cut from the sheets now at Somerset House.

Among other royal collectors may be mentioned the late Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, Prince Doria Pamphilj of Italy, and the Crown Prince of Siam. The Empress of

Germany has been said to encourage her sons in the pursuit, on account of its educational and recreative value.

The greatest stamp collection in the world is that of Herr Philip von Ferrary. He started collecting in the sixties, and is believed to have spent nearly a quarter of a million pounds in the formation of the collection and employs two secretaries to look after it. One of these has charge of the adhesive stamps, the other is entrusted with the section devoted to entires. Herr Ferrary is intensely keen in his search for varieties, He includes in his collection a used and an unused specimen of each stamp. His hunt for varieties brings him frequently to London and to other great centres of philatelic interest. Some of his purchases have been notable. The collection of Sir Daniel Cooper (a founder and the first President of the Philatelic Society) was acquired by Herr Ferrary in 1878 for £3,000. Judge Philbrick, also a President of the Philatelic Society, whose fine collection comprised many of the greatest rarities, disposed of his albums in 1882 to Ferrary for £8,000. A few of the chief gems of the Ferrary collection are the single known specimen of the One Cent British Guiana 1856, no fewer than three copies of the circular Two Cents British Guiana of 1850, and four Post Office Mauritius stamps.

Next to this collection may be placed in order of magnitude and value the splendid collection bequeathed to the British Nation in 1891 by Mr. T. K. Tapling, M.P. The value of this collection is certainly over £100,000. Had its compiler lived it would to-day have been practically on a par with that of Herr Ferrary; but, since the collection was handed over to the trustees of the British Museum, no effort has been made to add new issues or to fill any blanks, consequently the Parisian collector has far outdistanced his late English rival. The Tapling collection contains nearly all the great rarities. A very fine pair of the Post Office Mauritius stamps is included.

During the compilation of his own collection Mr. Tapling amalgamated with it a very good one by Mr. W. A. S.

Westoby and another formed by Mr. W. E. Image, paying £3,000 for the latter.

It is not easy to decide which is the next best collection to the Tapling one in Great Britain. There are two which are very nearly equal, those of Mr. W. B. Avery of Birmingham and Mr. H. J. Duveen. The former began collecting when he was only eight years old. By the time he was seventeen he had between 1500 and 1600 specimens which he sold in 1876. A couple of years later he started a fresh collection in a small "Lincoln" album. In 1887 he was going to sell his entire collection again; but, as he watched the gradual dispersal of some of his rarities, he changed his mind, kept what remained of his collection, and entered enthusiastically into the filling of spaces in a new "Senf" album. Soon afterwards he bought a fine collection of Australian stamps from a colonial collector, Mr. Bullock, which he added to his own accumulation. Since then Mr. Avery has specialised in the stamps of the British Empire, Switzerland, France and other European countries, and also a number of countries of the American continent. His collection now comprises about 100,000 stamps and is worth probably between £50,000 and £60,000.

Mr. H. J. Duveen's collection, regarded from the scientific philatelist's point of view, is exceptionally fine. Although it was not started until 1892 it is more complete in the minor varieties than the collection of Mr. Avery, but there is little to choose between these two fine collections. Both are what may be termed general collections, comprising as they do the stamps of the whole world.

Mr. Breitfuss, a Russian collector, started to hoard in 1860 and has a particularly fine collection, which comprises everything in the form of stamps and postal stationery. He collects not merely the adhesives of every country but also the postcards, envelopes and wrappers.

M. Paul Mirabaud, a Parisian banker, has a collection that may perhaps be valued immediately after those of Messrs. Duveen, Avery, and Breitfuss. It is a

general collection, but is particularly strong in the stamps of Switzerland. M. Mirabaud has published the most sumptuous philatelic publication ever issued in the form of a work on Swiss stamps.*

The Earl of Crawford, who is an omnivorous collector of *objets d'art*, has a very fine show of stamps, which ranks probably fourth among English collections. His lordship has not got a general collection, but the stamps of the several countries in which he has specialised are finer than those of any other collector. He is particularly strong in the postal emissions of Italy and the Italian States. The sections of his collection devoted to Great Britain and her Colonies and the United States are also among the finest specialised collections of these stamps.

Another collector whose name must be mentioned here is Mr. Mann. This gentleman has the finest collection of European stamps, at any rate in England. He purchased from Mr. M. P. Castle, J.P., a collection of the stamps of Europe for the record sum of £27,500.

Mr. M. P. Castle is a distinguished philatelist who has compiled two very important collections. Although a general collector at first, he in 1887 began to specialise in Australian stamps, meeting with great success and forming a practically complete collection within seven years. In 1894 he sold this vast accumulation for £10,000, and then turned his attention to European stamps with still greater success. In six years he had sixty-seven volumes containing a very fine and almost complete array of these stamps, which he sold, as already stated, for £27,500 in 1900.

Now he has returned to his early love, the stamps of Australia, not that he loved "Europeans" less, but that he loved "Australians" more.

Other gentlemen who have formed notable collections in

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*"The Stamps of Switzerland," by MM. A. De Reuterskiold and Paul Mirabaud. 150 copies in English, 200 in French, and 150 in German. Published at £6.

their particular fortes are Mr. Harold J. White (Great Britain), Mr. Vernon Roberts (Cape of Good Hope), the Earl of Kintore (Britain and Colonies),* and Major E. B. Evans (Afghanistan, Indian Native States).

There are several great collections also across the Atlantic. Among the most notable of these are the compilations of Mr. Crocker, Mr. Deats, and Mr. Paul.

The sales of great stamp collections have always been followed with much interest, not only by philatelists but by the public in general. The collection formed by Mr. F. W. Ayer, an American philatelist, was sold in parts by a firm of stamp dealers on commission, and realised in 1897 about £45,000.

The largest sum paid for a collection *en bloc* was for the Castle collection of Europeans already referred to. The profit on the sale of this collection was enormous, and is a splendid testimony to the reliability of a stamp collection as an investment. Mr. Hughes-Hughes, a member of the Philatelic Society, spent about £69 on his collection which he sold in 1890 for £3000.

A part of another great collection formed by Dr. Legrand, a distinguished veteran collector and philatelic writer, was sold in 1897 for £12,000. This price did not include the special section devoted to the stamps of France and Colonies.

The following is a resumé of some of the most notable sales of collections given in order of dates. Except where otherwise indicated, the accumulations were general ones and included stamps of all countries:—

DATE.	COLLECTOR.	COUNTRIES.	AMOUNT REALISED
1876	Ehrenbach	German Empire	£6,000.
1878	Cooper	General	£3,000.
1882	Philbrick	General	£8,000.

*The colonial section of the Earl of Kintore's collection has been disposed of to a London dealer since these pages were written.

Date.	Collector.	Countries.	Amount realised
1882	Image	General	£3,000.
1885	Burnett	General	£1,000.
1889	Bros. Caillebotte	General	£5,000.
1890	Hughes-Hughes	General	£3,000.
1894	Castle	Australia	£10,000.
1894	Philbrick	Great Britain	£1,500.
1895	Harrison	United States	£1,330.
1897	Ayer	General (dispersed gradually)	£45,000.
1897	Legrand	Part of General	£12,000.
1898	Pauwels	General	£4,000.
1900	Castle	Europe	£27,500.

CHAPTER XXVI.

Philatelic Treasure Trove.

The lovers of art and antiquities, the numismatists, and all connoisseurs have had occasion to rejoice over some turn of the tiller's spade, some upheaval which has brought to light a long lost treasure. Stamp collectors have been gladdened from time to time by the discovery in some out of the way place of a hitherto unknown stamp or of several copies of great rarities. Although there are numerous tales of "great finds" many are apocryphal, some, indeed, being the inventions of cute dealers who have sought the advertisement that the reports of the supposed great find would secure them in the stamp journals.

One of the 12d. stamps of Canada (ante p. 47) is said to have been discovered in a remarkable way. A Canadian gentleman, living in a house facing the St. Lawrence river, had a packet of valuable documents which he was about to post. It bore a 12d. stamp and the packet lay in a small iron cash box in the gentleman's room. Before he had the opportunity of posting it, however, a man in desperate straits tried to wrest it from its owner, and in the struggle that ensued a lamp was overturned, setting the place in flames. The intruder, after firing at his antagonist, made good his escape. The other, grievously injured, managed to throw the box out of the window and it fell breaking through the thin sheet of ice on the surface of the river and sank. The next day the remains of the victim were discovered but no trace could be found of the iron box and its contents.

That was in 1851 according to the story, which is a Canadian one. Forty-one years later, in 1892, one of the dredgers of the

Montreal Harbour Commissioners was in operation in the river when one of the men in charge noticed the iron box. After making enquiries, he was able to deliver the documents to the heirs of the rightful owner. In their gratitude they presented the finder with a cheque and the cover of the package which bore the 12d. stamp, by this time exceedingly scarce. The stamp, it is understood, was sold for about £70.

In 1895, the Court House at Louisville in Kentucky was being cleared out and the janitors were ordered to destroy a quantity of old papers which had been lying aside for nearly fifty years. The janitors, discovering some old stamps on some of the papers, showed them to a turnkey who undertook to sell them. The stamps were the St. Louis stamps issued between 1845 and 1847, the total "find" consisting of over 100 specimens and including no fewer than sixteen of the 20 cents variety (ante p. 46). Only two or three specimens of this 20 cents stamp had been known previously and the rush to secure the specimens led to their attaining very high prices. Most of the stamps were disposed of to five firms of dealers and a pair of the 20 cents stamp was sold by one of the firms for £1,026.

This great "find," perhaps the greatest in the annals of stamp collecting, naturally caused a considerable amount of excitement. It appears that before the stamps had been noticed a quantity of the Court House documents had been thrown away into the City refuse department. This place, according to the American newspapers, was quickly raided by numbers of enthusiastic searchers. Some of the papers, too, had been used for filling up some spaces beneath a new pavement around the Court House and it was proposed to tear this pavement up in order to discover if there were any more of the stamps.

A so-called "find" was reported a few years ago from Barbados, but no definite proof of its genuineness has since come to hand. Some years ago a quantity of old documents was ordered to be destroyed and for this purpose the papers were buried on a reef some distance off the coast. Here some nigger boys were bathing one day, according to the story, and they came upon some of the documents with rare

stamps on them. Displaying their treasures in the colony, stamp collectors and others who quickly caught the contagion spent long hours hunting for the buried philatelic treasure.

Whether anything really valuable was discovered or not is not known. Suffice it to say that no large supply of old Barbados stamps has lately been put upon the market and the Earl of Crawford, who was yachting in the neighbourhood a month or two later, could find no traces of the supposed great "find."

Although they cannot strictly be classed as philatelic treasure trove, several interesting "finds" have been made amongst old private documents. For instance, in 1896, a lady in Georgetown discovered on an envelope in her possession a pair of the Two Cent circular stamps of the 1860 issue of British Guiana. This she presented to the incumbent of Christ Church, Canon F. P. L. Josa, and a clergyman who was in the colony at the time assures the writer that the envelope was placed in the offertory bag at one of the regular services. Canon Josa sold the envelope with the two stamps on it by auction in the colony and the sum realised was £205. The further history of these stamps is recorded elsewhere (ante p. 45).

A similar instance of stamps being handed over to a church occurred at Hilo, Hawaii. A physician having found a small collection of stamps that had been laid aside for many years presented it to a fund for the furnishing of a new church in his town. This album contained the 2 Cents and 13 Cents values of the first issue of stamps of the Sandwich Islands. A private collector, anxious to obtain these two stamps, paid a very high price running into four figures for the collection, but preferred that the actual amount should not be made public. So the church at Hilo was furnished with the proceeds of the sale of this small collection.

CHAPTER XXVII.

Freak Collections.

The late Mr. William Ewart Gladstone is said to have written to a correspondent that stamp collecting was the most harmless and the most inexplicable of hobbies. Probably the late Prime Minister had encountered some freakish collections which inclined him to express such an opinion. Otherwise, it seems unlikely that he would have discredited the educational and recreative value of the stamp collector's pastime.

The vagaries of collectors are manifold ; but little can be said in favour of the fantastic whim of some who include only stamps of one colour. There are numbers of mono-coloured collections in existence, which include only stamps printed in blue, red, or some other particular colour.

Then there are capricious collectors whose interest is centred solely on queer shaped stamps. They will accept anything but the familiar rectangular specimens. Triangular, oval, circular, and diamond shaped stamps are their peculiar fancy. There are many stamps for such a collector to secure. "Three-cornered" stamps have been issued in the Cape of Good Hope, the United States of Columbia, Liberia, Obock, Djibouti and Sweden (local). Several of the Mexican and Russian local stamps are circular, and some of the latter are oval in form. A number of the Guadalajara circular stamps are perforated, but the majority of stamps of this shape are cut or punched out of the sheet on which they are printed.

An Australian collector formed an accumulation of stamp portraits of Queen Victoria in two series, one showing full

face pictures, the other side face heads. Another of the fads of this gentleman was an album containing only stamps of the facial values of 1d. and 2d.

Other curious collections have been formed comprising only "errors"; while a number of people restrict themselves to surcharged specimens.

But the most general form of fanciful collecting is the gathering together of stamps the designs of which are connected with each other. For instance, so-called "stamp zoos" are composed of stamps bearing pictures of animals.

Other collections are given up entirely to stamps with a biographical or botanical interest. Enthusiasts in heraldry have compiled albums full of stamps bearing heraldic emblems.

Collections of this class are apt to lose all their philatelic interest. The love for the design on the stamps tends to dispel the peculiar philatelic interest in the stamps themselves. and thus collecting in this whimsical fashion degenerates into an insipid form of scrap-book making.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

The Philatelist's Bookshelf.

No modern collecting hobby has been so much written about as that of the philatelist. A complete library of philatelic publications would number several thousands of volumes. There are many collectors of the literature of stamps, and among these one of the most notable is Mr. E. D. Bacon, whose book, "The Stamp Collector," written in collaboration with Mr. W. J. Hardy, is of high literary and philatelic merit. Mr. Bacon's library of stampic works contains over 2,000 volumes. The late Mr. T. K. Tiffany, of New York, was a large collector of books on philatelic subjects, and his collection has been sold since his decease to the Earl of Crawford. It is the finest library of its kind and neither trouble nor expense is being spared in keeping in touch with every new publication.

As in other subjects, the earliest works are often the best, though in many cases they cannot be procured to-day except on rare occasions during the breaking up of an old philatelic library, or in the deepest recesses of the domain of the second-hand bookseller. Hard and steady plodding workers were the early British writers. Mr. E. L. Pemberton, Judge Philbrick, Mr. W. A. S. Westoby, Dr. C. W. Viner, Major E. B. Evans (who still edits the *Monthly Journal*), Mr. Maitland Burnett, and others, were amongst the earliest and the best writers on the science of philately. Their mantle has fallen on a number of excellent philatelists in Great Britain. The magazines in this country are of a higher standard than those of any other nation. In America the scientific and literary standard is different. Apart from the few leading journals, hundreds of

"winking owls lord it in the eagle's nest," and "slothful Thersites handles the arms of Achilles, and the choice trappings of war horses are spread upon lazy (or rather ignorant) asses." Magazines of a fleeting character have been started in large numbers, owing to the second class mail rates in the States, which make it an easy matter for anyone to start a journal and circulate it at a trifling cost.

To follow the growth of philatelic literature in detail would require a volume of greater dimensions than the present one. But a brief sketch will show the most interesting episodes in the story.

Mr. F. J. Anderson, a Scottish collector, who has been called the archæologist of philately, has traced the first publication devoted exclusively to stamps in a 12 pp. booklet, without a title, and containing a list of stamps. This was issued privately at Strasburg in September, 1861, by Monsieur Oscar Berger-Levrault. The number of impressions taken is unknown, but a second edition was required in December, so that it may be reasonably estimated that the hobby of stamp collecting was in a fair way of becoming a popular pursuit.

About the time that the second edition of M. Berger-Levrault's booklet was issued, December, 1861, a more pretentious list of 44 pp. was published in Paris. This was a "Catalogue des Timbres Poste créés dans les divers Etats du Globe," compiled and published by M. Alfred Potiquet. A second edition of this list appeared in March, 1862. M. Moens, of Brussels, who has lately retired after a long and honourable career as a stamp dealer, published his earliest list in January of 1862. The title of his work was "Manuel du Collectionneur de Timbres Poste et Nomenclature générale de tous les Timbres adoptés dans les divers Pays de l'Univers," a title which led the writer of "My Nephew's Collection" to suggest that its compiler was on intimate terms with postmasters residing in the planets of Venus and Jupiter. M. Moens' book consisted of 72 pp., and this compilation also reached a second edition during the first year of its publication.

About the same time there appears to have been issued a catalogue by Laplante of Paris, which the writer in

"All the Year Round" already referred to, describes as "a severe libellus of ninety-seven pages, Timbres-Poste, without preface, commentary or peroration, but an index only, 'on sale chez Laplante, Dealer in Postage Stamps for Collectors, 1, Rue Christina 1, Paris.' This looked about as light reading as a list of fixed stars or the astronomical portions of Dietrichsen's Almanack."

In 1862 a commencement was made in England of a literature that has been surprisingly prolific. The first book contained a list compiled largely from the lists of Potiquet and Moens. It was by Mr. Frederick Booty, though it was published anonymously at first by the Brighton firm, still existing, of H. & C. Treacher. Its title was "Aids to Stamp Collectors: being a List of English and Foreign Stamps in Circulation since 1840." During 1862 the second and third editions were published; and an edition illustrated by lithography, entitled, "The Stamp Collector's Guide," followed during the same year. This was the first illustrated catalogue of stamps, and it represented pictorially about 200 specimens.

Mr. Mount Brown, who compiled the next English catalogue, is generally considered the pioneer of stamp collecting in this country for his list did more to promote a knowledge of stamps among collectors and was more widely circulated than the lists of Mr. Booty. Brown's catalogue was compiled chiefly with the aid of the collection formed by the Rev. F. J. Stainforth, perpetual curate of All Hallows Staining, London. Mr. Brown's list, entitled "Catalogue of British, Colonial, and Foreign Postage Stamps," was published by Passmore, of Cheapside, London, and passed through five editions. The first, appearing in May, 1862, listed 1,200 varieties of stamps; and in the last, issued in March, 1864, the number was doubled, the stamps totalling to 2,400.

The first American stamp publication was a pirated edition of Mount Brown's list and was issued in 1862 by A. C. Kline, of Philadelphia, and entitled "The Stamp Collectors' Manual: being a Complete Guide to the Col-

lectors of American and Foreign Postage and Despatch Stamps." An English piracy of Brown's catalogue appeared in 1863, and was suppressed by the rightful owner of the copyright.

In 1863, Dr. J. E. Gray, of the British Museum, issued his "Hand Catalogue of Postage Stamps for the Use of Collectors," which attained its second edition the same year, and illustrated editions appeared in 1865, 1866, 1870, and 1875. From the introduction to his first edition, it will be seen that even in 1862 the collecting of stamps was quickly taking hold of the popular mind. "The collecting of postage stamps," he says, "is a fashion not confined to this country or to a single class; for collections are frequently to be seen in the drawing-room of the luxurious, in the study of the enlightened, and the locker of the schoolboy."

Dr. Gray's plea for stamp collecting as an instructive hobby, written at this early date, is also worthy of note. "The fashion has been ridiculed, as all fashions will be; but if postage stamps are properly studied, collected and arranged, there is no reason why they may not be quite as instructive and entertaining as the collection of birds, butterflies, shells, books, engravings, coins and other objects."

In September, 1862, a magazine called the "Monthly Intelligencer," published by William Macmillan, of Birmingham, was started. This was largely, though not entirely, devoted to the interests of stamp collectors; but in the following December the "Monthly Advertiser," of Messrs. Edward Moore & Co., Liverpool, was started for treating with matters pertaining to the collecting of postage stamps. This, says Mr. F. J. Anderson, is the true literary progenitor of the copious philatelic press of to-day.

To-day the interchange of thought on philatelic matters is carried on in hundreds of journals published in nearly all the European languages. Specialists have written volumes on the stamps of nearly every country that has a postal service. To treat of these individually, or even to

name them, would be impossible here, but the carefully made selection given in the appended list should serve as a guide to the collector in securing for his bookshelf the most authoritative works on all subjects relating to stamps and stamp collecting.

GENERAL PHILATELIC LITERATURE.

THE STAMP COLLECTOR. E. J. Hardy and E. D. Bacon. 7s. 6d.

POSTAGE STAMPS AND THEIR COLLECTION. Oliver Firth. 3s. 6d.

STAMPS AND STAMP COLLECTING. Major E. B. Evans. 2s.

STAMP COLLECTING NOTES. W. S. Lincoln. 1s.

STAMP COLLECTING AS A PASTIME. E. J. Nankivell. 1s.

HANDBOOK FOR STAMP COLLECTORS. Percy C. Bishop. 6d.

THE PHILATELIC ALMANAC. C. J. Endle. 1s.

A COLOUR DICTIONARY, specially prepared for stamp collectors. B. W. Warhurst. 2s. 6d.

Reprints.

REPRINTS OF POSTAL ADHESIVE STAMPS. E. D. Bacon. 4s.

Forgeries.

ALBUM WEEDS. Rev. R. B. Earée. 10s. 6d.

Postmarks.

HISTORY OF BRITISH POSTMARKS. W. E. Daniells. 2s. 6d.

USEFUL BOOKS FOR SPECIALISTS.

A HISTORY OF THE ADHESIVE STAMPS OF THE BRITISH ISLES. Hastings E. Wright and A. B. Creeke, jun. 24s.

THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF OCEANIA. New and rewritten edition in preparation.

THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF TASMANIA. A. F. Basset Hull.

THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF BRITISH INDIA AND CEYLON.

THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF THE BRITISH COLONIES IN THE WEST INDIES.

THE POSTAGE AND TELEGRAPH STAMPS OF THE BRITISH COLONIES IN AFRICA.

THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF THE BRITISH COLONIES IN NORTH AMERICA.

The above seven works have been published by the Philatelic Society, London, and with the exception of the first are now out of print, though copies may be found in the libraries of philatelic societies.

THE PHILATELIC HANDBOOKS comprise the following:—

1. Portuguese India. The late Gilbert Harrison and Lieut. F. H. Napier, R.N. 4s. 6d.
2. South Australia. Lieut. Napier and Gordon Smith. 7s. 6d.
3. Shanghai. W. B. Thornhill. 7s. 6d.
4. Saint Vincent. Lieut. F. H. Napier and E. D. Bacon. 5s.
5. Barbados. E. D. Bacon and Lieut. F. H. Napier. 7s. 6d.

THE MULREADY ENVELOPE AND ITS CARICATURES. Major E. B. Evans. 6s.

POSTAGE STAMPS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE. H. Mackwood Millington and Gilbert Lockyer. 6s.

THE ADHESIVE POSTAGE STAMPS OF EUROPE. W. A. S. Westoby. In two vols. 7s. 6d. each.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN PROVISIONAL WAR STAMPS. Bertram W. H. Poole, vice-president of the Junior Philatelic Society. 1s.

THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. John K. Tiffany. $2.

THE STAMPS OF THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS. W. Brown. 15s.

CURRENT PERIODICALS.

THE LONDON PHILATELIST. Organ of the Philatelic Society. Effingham House, Arundel St., Strand W.C. Monthly 6s. per annum.

THE PHILATELIC RECORD. 1, Clarence St., Manchester. Monthly 5s. per annum.

THE STAMP COLLECTOR'S FORTNIGHTLY. 63 and 64, Chancery Lane, W.C. 3s. 3d. per annum.

THE PHILATELIC JOURNAL OF GREAT BRITAIN, 229, High Holborn W.C. Monthly 2s. 6d. per annum.

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL. 391, Strand, W.C. 2s. per annum.

THE MONTHLY CIRCULAR. 37 and 39, Essex Street, Strand, W.C. 1s. per annum.

THE STAMP COLLECTOR. Constitution Hill, Birmingham. Monthly 2s. per annum.

MORLEY'S PHILATELIC JOURNAL. 15, Brownhill Gardens, Catford, S.E. Monthly 2s. 6d. per annum, post free.

EWEN'S WEEKLY STAMP NEWS. 32, Palace Square, West Norwood. 6s. 6d. per annum, post free.

Special articles for Stamp Collectors appear regularly in the following journals:

THE CAPTAIN. 6d. monthly.

THE BAZAAR, EXCHANGE AND MART. 2d. three times a week.

THE PICTURE POSTCARD AND COLLECTOR'S CHRONICLE. Monthly 3s. per annum post free.

STANDARD CATALOGUES.

THE UNIVERSAL STANDARD CATALOGUE OF THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF WORLD, specially arranged for the convenience of beginners. 1s.

GIBBON'S PRICED CATALOGUE OF STAMPS, etc., in four parts.

1. Stamps of the British Empire. 2s.
2. Stamps of Foreign Countries. 2s.
3. The Local Postage Stamps of the World. 1s.
4. Envelopes and Postcards. 1s.

THE A.B.C. DESCRIPTIVE PRICED CATALOGUE OF THE WORLD'S POSTAGE STAMPS. 2s. 6d.

THE STANDARD POSTAGE STAMP CATALOGUE (American, Priced in cents and dollars). 2s.

A CATALOGUE FOR ADVANCED COLLECTORS. $25.00.

A POSTAL CARD CATALOGUE. 25 cents.

SENF'S ILLUSTRIERTER POSTWERTZEICHEN-KATALOG. 2s.

A CATALOGUE OF THE STAMPS OF GREAT BRITAIN. Walter Morley. 2s. 6d.

A CATALOGUE OF BRITISH STAMPS AND POSTMARKS. H. L'Estrange Ewen. 2s. 6d.

CHAPTER XXIX.

Societies learned in Philately.

"What religion" asks Robert Louis Stevenson, "knits us more closely together than a common sport?" The similarity of tastes first drew a number of philatelists to the rectory of All Hallows Staining, where lived, in 1861, the Rev. F. J. Stainforth (ante p. 141). In 1865 a collectors' club was formed in Paris; and, two years later, one was started in New York. Neither of these remained in existence for more than a few months; but in 1869 on April 10th, the Philatelic Society of London commenced its career of splendid usefulness. Among its founders were Sir Daniel Cooper, for some time Governor of New South Wales; Judge Philbrick, Mr. W. Hughes-Hughes, and Dr. C. W. Viner. Its Presidents have been Sir Daniel Cooper (1869-1878); Judge Philbrick (1878-1892); the late Earl of Kingston (1892-1896), and H.R.H. the Prince of Wales (since 1896).

The Philatelic Society has done great service to stamp collectors in general by a series of admirable publications, all compiled by the ablest of philatelists and from the most authoritative official sources. The papers read at the fortnightly meetings are published monthly in the organ of the Society *The London Philatelist*. They are thus available for reference by all collectors, whether members of the Society or not. The Exhibitions held under the auspices of the Society have also done much to increase the popularity of the hobby. The first of these exhibitions was held in 1890, and was opened by the late Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, who exhibited at it a large portion of his fine collection.

In 1894 a small exhibition of rare stamps was held to signalise the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Society's origination, and this was visited by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales (then Duke of York) and the late Duke of Saxe-Coburg, both of whom were exhibiting specimens. Another exhibition of larger proportions was held at the Gallery of the Royal Institution of Painters in Water Colours, Piccadilly, in 1897. This, opened by the present Prince of Wales, was attended by a large number of stamp collectors and others who visited it to see the rarities then displayed. Several smaller exhibitions have been held since in the rooms of the Philatelic Society at Effingham House. In December, 1902, a display of stamps of the South African Colonies was given. This was remarkable for the fact that no fewer than five specimens of the rare "Post Office" Mauritius stamps were included among the exhibits. The Prince of Wales showed some British Central African envelopes, with the values surcharged in manuscript. Mr. H. J. Duveen's exhibit on this occasion was valued at £5,000, and formed only a small section of his collection (ante p. 130). The exhibits on this occasion were insured for £20,000.

A very important feature of the Philatelic Society's work is that which is in the charge of the Expert Committee. This is composed of Mr. E. D. Bacon, Mr. M. P. Castle, and Mr. Gordon Smith, who meet together once a month (except during August and September) to examine stamps sent in for expert opinion as to their genuineness. A charge of 3s. is made for the examination of a single specimen and 2s. 6d. each for more than one stamp. If the stamp be found to be genuine, a photograph is taken of it in platinotype and is attached to a certificate signed by Mr. Bacon. But should the stamp turn out to be a forgery, no photograph is given with the certificate, but 1s. of the fee is refunded. The Expert Committee was formed as a result of a suggestion in a leading article in the *London Philatelist* of November, 1893, and since its formation in 1894 it has had many thousands of specimens

submitted to it for examination, and among these have been the rarest gems of the foremost philatelists of the day.

The Philatelic Society, in promoting the interests of philately, has devoted most of its labours to the needs of advanced collectors. To provide a similar institution for the young collector and the beginner "of a larger growth," the Junior Philatelic Society was formed in London in 1899. The objects of its founders were "to assist by all means in their power the best interests of young stamp collectors." Meetings are held on the first and third Saturdays of every month from October to May inclusive. On the first Saturday of each month a varied programme of three or more items is dealt with; while the third Saturday is generally devoted to the examination of a fine collection, or to a lantern lecture. The meetings are always bright and entertaining, and the social element is strong.

A small library of useful works has been formed and Mr. Charles Nissen (ante p. 69) examines and pronounces upon doubtful stamps submitted to him by members free of charge. To ensure the fulfilment of the society's object, which is to reach and train the young collector and beginner, the subscription is quite a nominal one, being one shilling and sixpence per annum. An exchange packet is in operation for the members to exchange specimens with each other, and thus add to their collections in an inexpensive way.

The officials of the Junior Philatelic Society realise that the young collector of to-day is the advanced collector of to-morrow; and the Society has been successful in training a number of recruits for membership in the societies for advanced collectors.

To encourage young collectors to take especial interest in the stamps of their own country an exhibition of the stamps of Great Britain was held in Clapham Hall in November, 1901, under the auspices of the Junior Philatelic Society. This was attended by a very large number of young collectors, and considerable interest was evinced by the juniors in

British stamps. So successful, indeed, was the exhibition, that there are already prospects that other exhibitions will form a prominent feature of the future programmes of London's young philatelists.

In the provinces are several important societies. The Birmingham Philatelic Society has a very large membership, and is one of the most enterprising associations of its kind. Manchester's Society is also an outstanding one. Under its auspices, a very interesting and highly successful competitive exhibition of stamps was held in August, 1899.

The International Philatelic Union is an old-established and well-supported society; and the Hertfordshire Philatelic Society, though young, is rapidly developing. Both of these hold their meetings in London.

Scotland has its philatelic societies of which the foremost is that of Edinburgh and Leith.

The American Philatelic Association is one of the chief societies in the United States. It was founded in 1886 and its first President was the late Mr. T. K. Tiffany, of St. Louis.

The principal club in France is the Société Française de Timbrologie, of which Baron Alphonse de Rothschild was a founder and first President. Several of the German philatelic societies are very large and influential bodies.

Duplicate copies of stamps are always being accumulated by the stamp collector and these may be disposed of through the medium of one of the good exchange clubs, of which there are several. The plan of the exchange club is necessarily a simple one, for otherwise confusing intricacies of system would land a busy secretary in a hopeless muddle. The member fixes his stamps on a sheet, and marks the price he is prepared to accept for each specimen. The sheet is then sent to the secretary of the exchange, who collects all the sheets he receives from his members and forms one big packet of the lot. This packet is posted round to each member in turn. The members may take stamps off the sheets at the prices marked and they remit that amount to the secretary. When at last every member has seen the packet, the secretary calculates the amount due to each

member for the stamps sold from his sheet. This he sends to the member together with any stamps that remain unsold.

This method of exchanging duplicates has become very general, and the result is that nearly every philatelic society has an exchange branch; and there are many clubs organised for exchange purposes alone.

Care should be taken, however, to join an exchange club that is thoroughly reliable, as there are many that are carried on in anything but a genuine businesslike way.

CHAPTER XXX.

Stamp Table Talk.

A young stamp collector has related a story of a boy who tried to trick a dealer, but in reality fooled himself. He purchased from a dealer a 15 cent United States stamp of the 1869 issue for 4s. 6d. He went back to the shop next day and declared that the dealer had sold him a bad stamp, "Look here," he pointed out, "the thing has got the centre printed upside down." The dealer, thinking he had overlooked the rarity which was worth over £25 was only too glad to take the stamp and give the boy a correct one in its place. But when the boy was leaving the shop, delighted at his success, he turned round and exclaimed—"Hi, mister, done yer again! I didn't get that damaged specimen from you, but from someone else."

Little did the clever youth think that he had put more than £20 into the dealer's hands.

Mr. E. S. Gibbons, the founder of one of the largest stamp-dealing firms, started to sell stamps in the shop of his father, a Plymouth chemist. One day a couple of sailors arrived in the town with a small sack of triangular Cape of Good Hope stamps which the astute young dealer readily purchased. The sack contained a number of the "Woodblocks" and Errors (ante p. 65), but those were not the days of high prices. The Errors were sold for half-a-crown apiece.

An American dealer has told of an amusing incident that occurred while he was on a tour in Germany in search of good stamps and good buyers. The Yankee, forgetting that he was in a European train, hung his overcoat on the side of the compartment near the door and consequently, when the con-

ductor opened the door the coat was blown away. In the same compartment was a Frankfort philatelist who was of a rather nervous temperament, and observing something flying through the air, at once concluded that it was his valise which contained stamps to the value of 15,000 marks or about £750.

"Gentlemen, for heaven's sake" he exclaimed, "I cannot stand this! What shall I do? I shall lose all my valuable stamps! Oh, heavens, I am a poor ruined man!"

"Quick, pull the alarm cord, and stop the train," shouted one.

"But it will cost you 33 marks," exclaimed another.

About two seconds were occupied evidently in a mental calculation of the difference between 33 marks and 15,000 marks, and then the Frankforter gave the cord a tug. A sharp long whistle followed, the train slowed down, and a few seconds later came to a standstill.

The short time that elapsed between the pulling of the alarm cord and the stop was full of interesting developments. Hardly had the whistle shrieked when the philatelist's excitement abated, and then he saw his valise still lying at his feet. The expression on his face will never be forgotten by the dealer as the collector exclaimed :—

"Why, there is my valise!"

In 1899 a gentleman discovered among some old papers a block of eight 5s. stamps of Great Britain, watermarked with the design of an anchor. He took the stamps to a Post Office and asked for the face value (£2) for them; but the clerks, not recognizing the stamps, refused to cash them. The gentleman happened to be passing a stamp dealer's shop in High Holborn a little later and called in to see if he would give him the face value of the stamps. This was done willingly, the dealer paying the £2 down. Within four days the dealer had disposed of the block of eight stamps for £75. It was and is still the largest block of these stamps known.

Much of the stamp table talk centres around the auction room and the bargains to be secured within its precincts. Sometimes a rarity will be overlooked among a quantity of commoner stamps and will not be listed by the auctioneer in his catalogue. Then the eagle-eyed collector, examining the lots

previous to the sale, discovers the gem but "lies low and says nothing" in order to get the stamp at the lowest price possible.

Mr. M. P. Castle, J.P., once attended an auction sale in London in order to bid for a lot of Turkish stamps which contained a rare 25 piastres stamp which he had been desirous of procuring for six years. He was prepared to pay £17 for the lot, but expected that as Turkey is an unfashionable philatelic country, the rarity might pass unnoticed. It did, for the lot was knocked down to the Sussex magistrate for eighteen shillings.

Mr. Edward J. Nankivell, the author of a pleasing argument for the philatelic hobby entitled *Stamp Collecting as a Pastime*, tells of a collector who made a tour of the unfrequented country towns of Spain in search of old stamps, with great success. He procured a large number of choice unused specimens. Before returning home, however, he decided to treat himself to a trip to Morocco and on this extension of his tour he lost nearly the whole of his acquisitions of rare Spanish stamps. During an inland journey some Bedouins swooped down upon his escort and carried off the whole of his baggage. The collector being some distance ahead of his escort, escaped, and brought home only a few samples of the grand things he found and lost.

Sometimes a too cute dealer has lost a good thing by sheer avarice. The dealer generally makes considerable profits on his purchases from the uninitiated people who, from time to time, turn up obsolete stamps in old bureaux or among ancient documents. When offered stamps found by such people the dealer will rarely if ever make an offer for them. He will ask "What do you want for them?" "Well," the answer will be, "I don't know what they're worth. What will you give?" "We *never* make offers," is the usual reply. Thereupon the green one probably ventures at a price which the dealer eagerly accepts if suitable.

At one of the meetings of the Junior Philatelic Society in London in 1902 a member related an amusing incident in which the would-be seller knew just a little more than the dealer suspected he knew. The incident commenced in a dealer's

shop in one of the principal thoroughfares of the metropolis. A youth brought nearly two dozen copies of a very good stamp and offered them. A conversation similar to that already described took place, but the dealer relented somewhat and offered 7s. 6d. for the lot. The boy turned round on his heels and walked out, although the dealer called him back. The narrator of the incident, believing that the youth would be going along to another dealer's shop in the neighbourhood, followed and commended him on his sharpness, recommending him not to part with the stamps for less than 7s. 6d. *each*.

A gentleman attending a lecture by the author on the stamps of Great Britain, passed up to the platform a strip of three stamps of which he desired to know the value. They were British stamps with the surcharge "Govt. Parcels" printed upside down. A specimen had lately been sold for £5, and the owner of the stamps was told so. Then he vouchsafed the information that an enterprising dealer had offered him 10s. for the three.

CHAPTER XXXI.

Philately in Fiction.

Time now clamours, as Richard de Bury has quaintly expressed it, for us to terminate this treatise concerning the love of stamps; in which we have endeavoured to give our contemporaries the reason why we have loved postage stamps so greatly. There is a peculiar fascination about stamp collecting that kindles enthusiasm in all its votaries. Nothing can exceed the joy of the philatelist as he adds to his album a perfect copy of a stamp for which he has been searching high and low. Several novelists of more or less distinction have recognised the charm of the hobby in their books.

Miss Gertrude Forde, in her novel "Lady Lanark's Paying Guest," gives an interesting and amusing view of stamp collecting. One of her characters, Miss Beauchamp, is made to say:—

"Change of scene (and stamp collecting) are wonderful remedies for love sickness. I knew one young man," she added thoughtfully, "who was completely cured of an unhappy attachment by stamp collecting. A philatelist caught him on the hop, as you may say, and transferred the delirium, and now I don't believe that young man would exchange his beloved album for the loveliest and most charming woman in England."

"The Robe of Lucifer," a work by F. M. White (published in 1896), contains a number of references of which the following are specimens:—

"Hope apparently had nothing to desire. True, he hadn't a tortoiseshell brown cat, or a blue Mauritius postage

stamp; but these were spots on the sun, and besides, he didn't want them."

"It may be asked what brought Death into so exclusive a coterie. In a word, philately. His fine collection of stamps was the envy of Mr. Joseph Nock's soul. The latter had money, influence and an assured literary position; but he lacked a maroon surcharge of the Riddlemaree Islands of 1874, and his heart was as lead in his bosom, Death had two. It is perhaps superfluous to speak further on this vital question."

The stamp album was brought into requisition by the late Mr. R. L. Stevenson and Mr. Lloyd Osborne in their collaborated novel, "The Wrecker." The chief character, Loudon Dodd, is seeking to discover the whereabouts of Mr. Norris Carthew, who is from home, "travelling." He visits the gentleman's residence at Stallbridge-le-Carthew and suffers a "stream of insignificant information" without learning anything at all about the one thing he desired to know.

He betook himself to the village inn, where, after dining with the family, the innkeeper's daughter, a child of seven years, climbed into his lap with her stamp album.

"There are few things I despise more than old stamps, unless perhaps it be crests," he says. Glancing carelessly and sleepily through the album he manages to capsize it, whereupon a number of loose specimens fall out upon the floor.

When picking up the scattered labels he was struck by the preponderance of the common 25 centimes stamp of France.

"Someone," he reasoned, "must write very regularly from France to the neighbourhood of Stallbridge-le-Carthew. Could it be Norris?"

On examining the postmarks he could make nothing of them. He was, however, about to place one specimen in his pocket in order to consult the local postmaster when the child detected him in the very act. Her mother, thinking that the gentleman was really interested in stamps,

suggested that he should see the collection of Mr. Denman, the butler at the home of the Carthews. This worthy had been collecting for forty years, and his collection was said to be worth a mint of money.

Mr. Denman was accordingly sent for, and he arrived half an hour later with "a most unconscionable volume under his arm."

"Ah, sir," said he, "when I 'eard you was a collector I dropped all. It's a saying of mine that collecting stamps makes all collectors kin. It's a bond, sir; it creates a bond."

The non-collector, Mr. Dodd, had now to play the hypocrite and pretend to understand and appreciate the beauties of the collection. This is how he describes the precarious situation in which he was placed:

"Ah, there's the second issue!" I would say after consulting the legend at the side. "The pink—no, I mean the mauve—yes, that's the beauty of this lot. Though, of course, as you say," I would hasten to add, "this yellow on the thin paper is more rare."

Had the sham collector not plied Mr. Denman with his favourite liquor—port, he would certainly have been detected. Mr. Dodd discovered that in this collection also there was a considerable surplus of that despicably common stamp, the French 25 centimes one. Making a stealthy review of the lot he came across the letters C. and C.H.; then something of an A just following; and then a terminal Y. After a careful scrutiny of many specimens the word was at last complete.

"Chailly, that was the name. Chailly-en-Biere, the post town of Barbizon—ah! there was the very place for any man to hide himself—there was the very place for Mr. Norris, who had rambled over England making sketches."

Loudon Dodd's interest in postage stamps died shamelessly away; the astonished Denman was bowed out; and ordering the horse to be put in, Dodd plunged into the study of the time-table.

In addition to the foregoing novels which contain allusions to the hobby, there is one interesting French work,

"The Stamp King," entirely devoted to the adventures of a couple of millionaire philatelists. It was written by MM. Beauregard & Gorsse and relates the incidents that occurred while the two wealthy collectors searched the world over for a copy of one of the rarest stamps in the world, a Brahmapootra specimen, which, it is needless to say, is entirely a fictitious stamp. The scene begins and ends in the New York Philatelic Club, and a strong love interest should hold the attention of not merely the stamp collecting reader but even of the grim-visaged person who is inclined to look upon all philatelists as bores.

It will readily be seen that these novelists, with the exception of the authors of "The Stamp King," had but a slight acquaintance with the real interest in stamp collecting. They all appear to have regarded the hobby as a species of dementia, and collectors can pity them for falling into so grievous an error. If stamp collecting be regarded as a madness then philatelists will readily subscribe to Dryden's axiom that "there is a pleasure in being mad which none but madmen know."

OMEGA

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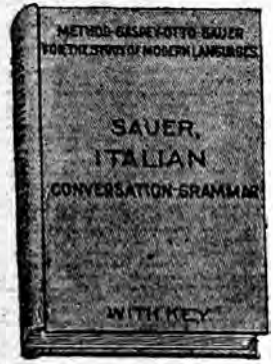

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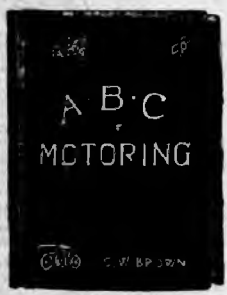

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