

# Ewen's Weekly Stamp News.

With which is incorporated EWEN'S WEEKLY CIRCULAR. (Established October, 1897.)

A JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

THE ONLY WEEKLY STAMP PAPER  
PUBLISHED IN EUROPE.

(Entered at Stationers' Hall. Illustrated by permission of the Board of Inland Revenue.)

Editor and Publisher: H. L'ESTRANGE EWEN, 32, PALACE SQUARE, NORWOOD, LONDON, S.E.

Wholesale Publishers: Messrs. W. R. RUSSELL & Co., Ltd., Paternoster Row, London, E.C.

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[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

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## The Week's News.

The advent of a new Century is not unlikely to leave its mark on present day methods of collecting. Already several collectors have been heard to express their intention of making a fresh start, by taking only those rarities which shall be issued on and after January 1st, 1901.

Others, however, intend to try the effect of collecting only, such issues as have been made prior to the first day of the New Century. In any case, it is evident that the wholesale multiplication of new issues must soon render it an absurdity for anyone to attempt a collection of the whole world, unless some method is found, by which a general collection may be more easily completed.

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Roughly the different settings of the V.R.I. overprint are as follows:—

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In reply to an enquiry, the Commandant of Rustenburg writes us that as far as he is aware all values of Transvaal stamps were issued there with "V.R." overprint, that all records of the numbers printed appear to be lost, no doubt owing to re-occupation by the Boers; and that they were issued by authority of General Baden-Powell, during the Boer investment of the town. The information is signed by Capt. J. M. Graham, Commandant, Rustenburg, and dated November 11th last. The italics are ours. "B.P." seems to have had a very strong inclination towards philately wherever he went.

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WILL readers hearing of any interesting item of News, kindly jot it down on a postcard and address to the Editor, "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News," Norwood, London. For every contribution we publish, we will send the author an interesting and newly issued stamp. (N.B.—Postcards preferred).

*Mr. R. A. Walter writes:—*

"I received last week a letter from Shanghai a letter stamped with ten cents worth of ordinary Chinese stamps of current issue, postmarked with the ordinary Shanghai postmark, but over these and hiding part of the stamps and postmark too is placed a French 25c. stamp surcharged "Chine," this being again postmarked with the French obliteration "Shanghai—Chine." Can any of your "Postcard Column" friends explain this business? If it is of interest to you I should be pleased to submit it for your inspection. I have also received to-day a copy of the new colour one anna India. It is a carmine tint rather than crimson as foretold by S.G. & Co. in their September Journal."

[In reply to Mr. Walter, we can state on the authority of a missionary just returned from China that the French stamps are placed on the letters by the Chinese postal officials, and that they are almost invariably used because they are fractionally cheaper than those of other nations. It is for the same reason that the

various post offices in the Levant surcharge their stamps with values in piastres. £1 sterling is roughly equal to 25 francs, but £1 will only buy 96 2½d. stamps, whereas for 25 francs one can get 100 stamps of 25 centimes. Consequently for a Chinese tael (value about 4/6), the Chinese post office can get one more French stamp than it can of English or German, and as the three stamps of 2½d., 25 centimes and 20 pfennig, have exactly the same franking power, this is an advantage not to be lost sight of.]

Although the new Indians were nominally on sale since October 1st, very few have yet been issued, and although our publishers have a considerable Indian correspondence, only one letter up to the present—from Bombay—has had any of the new stamps on, viz., 1a. rose and 2a. violet.

*Mr. P. R. Craft replies to Mr. Parry's note:—*

"In reference to Mr. J. H. Parry's remarks on Uganda stamps, the following may perhaps be interesting to you: When the missionaries first settled in Uganda it was found desirable that some sort of communication should be organized between the stations, and a sort of private post was established for the purpose, one gentleman undertaking the office of postmaster and making the stamps by the aid of a typewriter. These were purely 'local,' represented local money, and very few of them, I fancy, were saved; the gentlemen concerned having evidently no idea of their ornamental value after having served the useful purpose of franking a letter. I have only seen two, and do not possess any. Then correspondence grew, a printing press arrived, and it being found convenient to prepay correspondence to the coast, the organization was carried a step further. Another stamp was made by aid of the printing press (of coinage value). It was a type-set stamp, in black on white (in certain cases a yellow toned paper, wove), bearing an overprint of a large L also in black, and this issue was still under the direction of the missionary postmaster. I understand also that no great quantity of these stamps were printed, the supply being kept up only just in excess of the demand, so that remainders would probably be very few. But now comes the point of Mr. Parry's question. Up to this time there were no date stamps for cancelling used (in fact the missionaries did not possess one), the cancelling invariably being done with a blue pencil. There appears after this to have been another type-set issue made, but without the L overprint; but it is hardly likely, I think, that any date stamps came to hand before the arrival of the De La Rue issue. Mr. Parry does not say which of the type-set issues he saw post-marked, but if the later one it is quite possible that the stamps may have been legitimately used, though I fancy more likely that somebody suddenly awoke to the fact that there were buyers for used Uganda stamps, and that there was money in it, but after the L series I have no definite information."

*Mr. C. A. Cole also contributes on the same subject:—*

"Perhaps the enclosed specimen of the Uganda postmark will answer Mr. J. H. Parry's question. It is a pair of 1 anna B.E. Africa stamps used at and cancelled Eldoma, one of the post offices in the Uganda Protectorate, and reached me from the late Postmaster of Mombasa, who is now in the Uganda Transport Service. It is not quite clear if Mr. Parry means that the old type-set Uganda stamps were cancelled with the date only and no post town, if so, I venture to think the cancellation is of the "postmark to order variety" and postally bogus. Three of these type sets recently in my possession, and received direct from a Protectorate post office were unused and no gum. I have several of the current stamps postmarked Port Alice, Mumias, and Eldoma."

[The truth seems to be that when Messrs. De La Rue & Co. sent out the engraved postage stamps they also sent out a supply of postmarking dies, and these were used to cancel some of the old type set issue which were still on hand. Probably, too, sets have since been postmarked to order.—Ed.]

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## British Stamp Exchange.

A NEW CLUB FOR BRITISH SPECIALISTS.

*Every reader invited to join.  
No entrance fee, no subscription.*

- CIRCUIT I. BRITISH ADHESIVES (No Colonials).  
CIRCUIT II. ENVELOPE STAMPS (British and Colonial).  
CIRCUIT III. RAILWAY STAMPS (All kinds).  
CIRCUIT IV. POSTMARKS (British and Colonial).

In response to numerous enquiries, the Secretary has pleasure in announcing the following further particulars:—

CIRCUIT I. Sheets for this Circuit should consist as far as possible of adhesive British postage stamps, but no objection will be raised to a small proportion of other kinds. No colonial or foreign stamps whatever can be admitted.

CIRCUIT II. This Circuit is principally intended for cut square envelope stamps of Great Britain and Colonies. Entire stationery, post cards, etc., can only be accepted when of sufficient interest to justify the increase in the weight of the packet.

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Accounts will be rendered immediately on the return of each packet, and where balances are due to the Secretary, such must be settled within seven days. In lieu of entrance fee or annual subscription, the Club will charge 10% on sales.

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[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

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## The Week's News.

The new French stamps do not seem to have pleased our friends across the Channel. The five lower values are in fact almost unanimously condemned, and as regards the 15c. value matters have even gone so far that the Chamber of Deputies have been asked to sanction its withdrawal.

The 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 centimes are all printed from the same plate, the figures of value being printed in afterwards. These values, too, are without the initial "c" of "centimes" although the other values all have "c" or "f" indicated.

Elsewhere we reproduce from the *Australian Journal of Philately* an interesting article entitled "The Grand Old Stamp of Philately." We recommend the same particularly to the attention of our readers, as the author, Mr. A. F. Basset Hull, endorses the advice we are continually giving, namely, to specialize a single issue or even a single stamp, as a side hobby to a general collection. To properly specialize a whole country is now beyond the means of most collectors. Do not therefore attempt too much, but restrict your efforts to specializing a single stamp, and probably in time your efforts will be rewarded with the finest collection of its kind in existence. Such a collection carefully and wisely put together need not by any means partake of the nature of a mere accumulation.

According to a high authority in the G.P.O., Sydney, N.S.W., states the *Australian Philatelist*, no change is likely to occur in Australian postage stamps for some time. In July next, but more probably not until January, 1902, the various post-offices will be amalgamated under one head and one set of stamps issued for all the Colonies. There will be no surcharging of present issues and no alterations whatever until that date.

The first stamp, issued by the Commonwealth will probably be surface-printed from plates prepared in England; doubtless the De La Rue type similar to the Seychelles. The New South Wales or Victorian Government Printing Office will probably print them, until the Federal Office is ready, when no doubt a new set of line-engraved stamps will be issued.

The A.P. is also authority for the statement that the Tasmanian General Post Office has notified that after the 1st of December, 1900, the Platypus 1d., 3d., 6d. and 1/-, the St. George and Dragon 2/6, 5/- and 10/- and the De La Rue 20/- green and orange will be only available as duty stamps and cannot be used to prepay postage on letters. This decision is not incomprehensible, except as regards the 20/- De La Rue type. Why it should be repudiated as a postage stamp is a mystery.

It is reported that the postal department of Venezuela is seriously crippled, owing to the drowning of a number of prominent officials in the flood of new issues. [The *Australian Philatelist* is responsible].

In connection with the Tyson succession duty case now being heard in Australia, (Mr. Tyson was a well-known Australian millionaire), it is interesting to hear that when the question of old correspondence came up, the judge who was apparently a philatelist, suggested that the stamps on the letters might be a valuable asset of the estate. Counsel for the Crown stated however

that the other side had been given notice to produce the letters and envelopes, and that they came without the stamps.—*Sydney Herald*.

The Barbados Jubilee ½d., 1d., 2½d. and 2/6 stamps may be found on slightly bluish paper, but the discolouration of the paper is no doubt accidental and caused in much the same way as the brown gum occasionally found on De La Rue stamps, which have been on hand at post-offices some time. The gum of the 1884 issue of Great Britain is often found discoloured in this way, and gives the stamps the appearance of being in quite a different shade.

The current 5/- Lagos may be found with value printed in either blue or ultramarine. The shades are very distinct.

The new Turk's Islands stamps are only to be issued as the old types are exhausted.

## New Issues.

The Editor will be much obliged for early news of New Issues, or intended New Issues or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors. Full acknowledgment given. If possible, specimens should be sent in order that illustrations may be prepared.

ANJOUAN.—The 10c. and 25c. stamps for this colony are now issued in Postal Union colours, and this has also necessitated a change in the colours of the 15c. and 50c. The colours at present are:—

10 centimes	carmine on rose
15 "	grey-lilac on greyish
25 "	blue on bluish
50 "	brown on pale blue

DAHOMY.—This colony has also issued its 10c. and 25c. stamps in Postal Union colours. The changes involved are exactly similar to those described under the Anjouan heading.

DECCAN.—A provisional has appeared here, the ½ anna stamp being surcharged in native characters with the new value of ¼ anna.

FRENCH CONGO.—This colony has fallen into line with the others and has made changes similar to those described above for Anjouan.

GREAT COMORO.—This is another French colony for which colour changes have to be chronicled. These are similar to those issued for Anjouan, and we would thus refer readers to that heading.

HUNGARY.—A contemporary states that the colour of the new 1 heller stamp has been changed from grey to lilac.

HYDERABAD.—The ¼ anna stamp has been surcharged a ½ anna, native characters being used to give the necessary signification. A permanent ¼ anna stamp will probably be issued shortly.

MACAO.—According to the S.C.F., a new issue of stamps has been made here, viz.:—5a. brown, 10a. blue, 15a. pale green, and 20 avos pale green on buff. It is announced that a high value of the denomination 78 avos will be issued shortly.

MALTA.—At last the long prophesied ½d. stamp has appeared. Its general appearance is highly pleasing and altogether it is one of the most artistic of recently issued stamps. The central design is a view of the Grand Harbour at Valetta. Above this is the inscription "MALTA" with a Maltese Cross on either side, and at the base is the value "ONE FARTHING." The colour is dark brown, it is watermarked sideways Crown and CA., and the perforation gauges 14.

NEW CALEDONIA.—This colony has also made changes similar to those chronicled under our Anjouan heading.

ROUMANIA.—The following values have up-to-date been issued on the new thin unwatermarked paper, perf. 11½.

1 bani	pale brown
3 "	chocolate
5 "	emerald
15 "	black

SIAM.—An American contemporary announces several values of a new issue in which the portrait is shown three quarters profile to left.

1	att green
2	green and rose
3	carmine and blue

SPAIN.—We have received several values of the new issue. All have numbers in blue printed on the backs, those we have seen being:—

5 cent,	number 000,901,	reading upwards
25 "	" 001,273 "	downwards

Evidently each sheet will bear a different number. The 2c., 5c., 10c. and 15 cents are printed in sheets of 200, while the other values are printed in sheets of 100. The values and colours of the new issue are:—

2 cents	grey-green	30 cents	pale green
5 "	dark green	40 "	olive green
10 "	salmon	50 "	blue-green
15 "	blue-black	1 peseta	magenta
20 "	olive-grey	4 "	dark violet
25 "	sky blue	10 "	bright orange

SUDAN.—A set of four Postage Due stamps in a new design have just been issued. The central design is a Nile Boat, the inscription above being "Sudan Postage Tax." The numerals of value are in the lower corners. The following are the values and colours:—

2m.	red-brown,	centre in black
4m.	green	" " brown
10m.	violet	" " green
20m.	red	" " olive

TIMOR.—According to our Continental contemporaries a 78 avos stamp is to be issued for use here, as well as for Macao.

## Jottings.

In the "V.R.I." overprint now appearing on the Transvaal stamps a variety with dropped "1" has been found. This has been noticed on the ½d., 1d., 2d., 2½d., 3d., 4d. and 6d. values.

The ordinary postage stamps can now be employed in all the colonial possessions of the United States. In the same way the various stamps surcharged "GUAM," "PORTO RICO," &c., can be used on correspondence in all parts of the Republic. Cuba being only "under protection" does not come under the above arrangement, but has stamps of its own.

The sixpenny rose stamp of Fiji is said to exist distinctly printed on both sides, the impression on the gummed side being under the mucilage.

A correspondent, writing from France, says, that, owing to a change in the postal charges for the delivery of certain classes of printed matter, a stamp of the denomination ½ centime will be necessary.

It is rumoured that the opening of the new century is to be celebrated in Portuguese India by an issue of some high value stamps. Collectors will doubtless be highly pleased to read this welcome (?) news.

The 5 centavos value of the new issue for the Dominican Republic is known with the inscriptions, above and below the map in the centre, reversed. "Mar Caribe" is over the map instead of being underneath while "Atlantico" is under the map instead of being above.

For some reason or other "Provisorio" has been stamped diagonally in blue across the 2½ reis stamps of San Thome e Principe.

A contemporary hailing from the other side of the "herring pond" says that Uncle Sam is going to have an entirely new series of postage stamps, and these will not be commemorative, either. The date of issue is still in the distant future.

The 16 cents stamp of the Argentine Republic is reported to have been withdrawn from issue, there being no use for this value at present.

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**TRANSVAAL**, surcharged V.R.I., ½d., 1d., 2d., 2½d., 3d., 4d., 6d. and 1/-, fine. used, on original envelope, per set, 8/6. HENRY E. ENGLISH, 8, St. Mark's Street, Peterborough. [70]

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New Zealand, set of 11, ½d. to 1/-	4/5	7/5	5/9
Queensland, set of 9, ½d. to 1/-	3/0	4/5	3/6
South Australia, set of 10, ½d. to 1/-	3/9	5/8	4/4
Tasmania, set of 6, ½d. to 1/-	3/0	4/0	3/6
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½D. PINK.

- Die 1.—This die I have not seen showing any traces of wear.
- Die 2.—A small dot protruding from left hand side of the vertical stroke of the T of postage. Small dot beneath first N of halfpenny.
- Die 3.—In copies I have come across none show any traces of wear.
- Die 4.—Also without signs of wear.
- Die 5.—Small dot below F of halfpenny in later prints.

½D. VERMILION.

- Die 6.—Late impressions shew a slight tear in die between the H. and A. of halfpenny.
- Die 7.—I have not met with copies bearing this number.
- Die 8.—Small dot near back of neck above letter G.
- Dies 9-16.—I have not met with, probably these were all marked SH, in lieu of a die number.
- Die 17.—My copy shows no sign of wear, and I have not met with any others as yet.
- Die 18.—A small white dot opposite the eye and another just below the curl. I have only seen one specimen.
- Die 19.—A dot opposite the bridge of the nose.
- Die 20.—A dot below the T of postage touching the outer white line.
- Die 21.—Dot in the angle formed by the chin and neck, another touching the outer white line between G and E of postage.
- Die 22.—Two dots about 1mm. apart below the curl.
- Die 23.—Dot opposite and close to the front of neck.
- Die 24.—Dot midway between P of postage and bottom of left hand ornament.
- Die 25.—Large dot between the curl and right-hand ornament.
- Die 26.—Dot below F of halfpenny, one about 2mm. above the E of Postage and another about 4mm. above.
- Die 27 (?)—I have not met with.
- Die 28.—Small speck above the space between the P and O of Postage.
- Die 29.—Two spots opposite the front of the neck.
- Die 30 (?)—I have not seen this.
- Die 31.—Those I have seen show no sign of wear.
- Die 32.—I have not seen any showing signs of wear.
- Die 33.—Speck touching outer white line between T and A of Postage.
- Die 34.—Dot over space between A and G of Postage.
- Die 35.—Large dot over P of Postage.
- Die 36.—Dot midway between top of E of postage and centre of right hand ornament.
- Die 37.—Small dot opposite upper lip.
- Die 38.—I have not noticed wear marks on this die.
- Die 39.—Ditto.
- Die 40.—Ditto.
- Die 41.—Ditto.
- Die 42.—Dot under the second N of halfpenny.
- Die 43 (?)—I have not yet seen.
- Die 44.—Dot close to right hand corner of bust.
- Die 45 (?)—I have not yet seen.
- Die 46 (?)—Ditto.
- Die 47.—Triangular tear opposite front of neck.
- Die 48.—Large white blur under the curl.

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### Our Postcard Column.

WILL readers hearing of any interesting item of News, kindly jot it down on a postcard and address to the Editor, "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News," Norwood, London. For every contribution we publish, we will send the author an interesting and newly issued stamp. (N.B.—Postcards preferred).

*Mr. W. R. Gatt writes:—* [We give the note of the watermark "AO" on our correspondent's authority, as we have not seen it.—Ed.]

"The watermark on some of the halfpenny green stamps of Malta has been found to be AO instead of AC. It is very clear and it cannot possibly be taken for AC.

A pair of 4d. imperforated Malta has been sold for £6.

I see chronicled in some philatelic papers a one shilling and fourpenny Maltese stamp. This is a great mistake as it is the one farthing stamp that is ready and not issued—1/4 must have been taken for 1/4.

There will shortly be a halfpenny postcard—single and double for reply. The colour of the stamp is green on buff card. These have arrived here some time ago, and I do not see why they have not been sold as yet."

*Mr. W. Hart sends a challenge:*

"I have three current 1d. English stamps with the word "Post" written upon them 1523, 1260 and 1202 times respectively. I should like to know if any of your readers can produce a stamp of similar size with the word "Post" written thereon more frequently."

*Mr. E. G. Collins contributes:*

"Glancing over my collection of current English stamps, it struck me as rather curious that the word *inland* in connection with *revenue* only occurs on the humble lilac penny. The higher values from 5/- upwards do not even condescend to notice "Revenue" at all, but simply say *Postage*. I presume however that all our postage stamps are equally available for fiscal purposes."

*Mr. Ross O'Shaughnessy writes:—*

"In your *Stamp News* of Nov. 17th, you note having received a letter from Frisco, franked with Porto Rico surcharged stamps, and you ask for information about them. These stamps are accepted, the same as unsurcharged U.S. stamps, by the postal authorities. Some time ago the Third Assistant Postmaster-General, in his report, authorized the use of all U.S. stamps surcharged for Cuba, Philippines, Porto Rico and Guam, in the United States. The surcharged stamped envelopes can also be used in the United States. I am sending this letter in a Philippine envelope, franked with adhesive Guam and Puerto Rico stamps."

*Mr. C. C. Roberts writes:—*

"To the list of varieties of V.R.I. Transvaal stamps, in your Christmas number, may be added: Surcharge almost invisible, 2d. and 1/-."

*Dr. G. J. Bryant returns to the subject of "Cuba Y ½."*

"After a lengthened absence abroad, I find you have kindly sent me occasional copies of your valuable *E.W.S.N.*, and which I appreciate highly. I have therefore bought some dozen back numbers at your City agents, and mean to keep it up although I no longer collect. You were quite correct re the Cuba Y ½, which has always been so misunderstood. But perhaps you will find that instead of the 2 reales 1855 type being surcharged "Y ½" for local purposes only, it was so marked to pay postage between Havana, the capital, and all other parts of Cuba, which would then make the stamp one for the "YNTERIOR" i.e., insular as regards the *whole* of CUBA and not only and merely for Havana. In as much as the 2 reales value was very little used, (there were immense remainders of this value), it was surcharged as you mention. C.H.B. is ignorant of Spanish it would seem."

*Mr. J. N. Marsden sends us a postcard, which was addressed by a French collector to the Lisbon branch of an English bank, and which is interesting as a sample of "English," as foreigners sometimes write it. The reply of the "Master Director" of the Bank is not recorded:—*

"Dear Sir,—One collectionneur of stamp-post présente his most Humbles Greeting of Gentlemen the Master and Director and account upon all their Benevolence of much will give the presente of one of their Gentleman whom will much send one collection of stamp post of 21 Districts of Portugal include Iles Azores and Madeira, against which it im receive immediately one like quantity of Stamp French.—Address, C. G., etc., Rouen."



## The G.O.S. of Philately.

By A. F. BASSET HULL.

UNDOUBTEDLY the term "Grand Old Stamp" belongs by right of long service and beauty of design to the fivepenny of New South Wales. It holds the record of service over all other competitors the world over. No other stamp has remained in active use, unchanged in plate, design, or colour for such a period. It is one of the most artistically designed and executed labels that delight alike the philatelist and the artist; its splendid proportions and evenly balanced wealth of detail dwarf all the meretricious concoctions of later days into absolute insignificance, and its long and honoured service is without rival in the annals of philately. Truly it deserves more than a niche in the Temple of Fame—rather is it worthy of a special throne in the Philatelic Valhalla!

A glance at this magnificent square stamp, purchased at its modest face value at the General Post Office to day, reveals the fact that nearly fifty years of unbroken service has done little to impair its beauty. Although for two score and a quarter of years impressions have been periodically taken from the steel plate, the lines are as deep and the design as clear as on the day when its offspring first saw the light of sunny New South Wales.

More than forty-five years ago the first proof impressions were submitted for the approval of the authorities. Let us glance at the records, for they are full of interest.

Early in 1853 the question of providing a five-penny stamp for the payment of inland and ship postage combined was raised. Mr. S. Levinge, an officer of the General Post Office, submitted a design, and this was forwarded to the Colonial Secretary on the 27th May, 1853 (together with one for an 8d. stamp), and a request made that plates, books (of paper) and colours for printing 5d. and 8d. stamps should be procured from England. Matters were done leisurely in those far-off days, and on the 22nd September the Colonial Secretary referred to the request of four months before, and stated that the order had been duly forwarded to the Agent-General.

This gentleman placed himself in communication with Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., who had already engraved plates for the 6d. and 1s. stamps, and they were instructed to proceed with the work. The design furnished consisted of the Queen's head in a frame which it was suggested might be oval or pentagonal in shape. The engravers, knowing their work, turned out what they considered a suitable article. I believe William Humphrys was the artist who produced the die. Alas! that there is no such artist now! He took the crude design furnished, and threw into his work all his artistic capabilities and his experience of a lifetime of stamp engraving, and the result was a thing of beauty, indeed. One hundred impressions were rolled on a steel plate, proofs were struck, and plate and proofs despatched to the Colony.

When the case arrived at its destination, and was opened in September, 1855, a melancholy wail arose! The Postmaster-General—that grand old man, James Raymond, who anticipated by two years Rowland Hill's reduction of postage on pre-payment by covers sold by the Post Office—gravely wrote to the Colonial Secretary his regret that, although the execution of the stamps was unexceptionable, they had been engraved altogether different from the design furnished, and the directions forwarded to England with the order had been quite disregarded.

"Upon a close inspection," he proceeds, with the shocked tones of a Sunday school teacher detailing the delinquencies of a naughty scholar, "it will be perceived that they have been engraved from the dies of the 1s. and 6d. stamps, with merely a slight alteration in the machine work, thus retaining the only but serious fault to be found with those plates, viz., the large size of the labels, which was specially sought to be guarded against in the instructions forwarded to the Colonial Agent-General, added to which, the similarity of the design will lead to very great confusion."

Under these heinous circumstances Mr. Raymond recommended that the plates be rejected, returned to the engravers, and new plates more in conformity with the instructions demanded of them at their cost and expense!

That the designer felt hurt at the liberties taken with his darling creations is more than probable, and that his representations influenced the letter quoted is more than possible. Fortunately for philately, better counsels prevailed and the condemned plate was put to press, stamps were printed therefrom, gummed and duly issued to an expectant public on the 1st December, 1855.

For the first four years and two months of its existence, the fivepenny stamp was unperforated, and had to be severed from its companions by means of the humble, but necessary scissors. Notwithstanding its comparatively long existence

in this unpierced condition, it is very rare thus, and unused specimens in fair condition are among the *rarae aves* of philately. In February, 1860, it was perforated 12, and thus also it is scarce, later on the 12½-13 machine was used, and the shade was changed to lighter green, and even to almost yellow-green. Again, about 1870, it became a rich dark blue-green. All this time it was on the paper watermarked with double lined figure five, which came out with the plate. It was not until late in the eighties that the N.S.W. and crown paper was used for the grand old stamp, and during the last twenty years it has appeared on two varieties of that paper, with several varieties of perforation—10, 11, 12 and combinations.

In 1880 it received the letters O.S. in red, and later on in black, denoting its official use. Specimens of the former are rare, but the latter are easily obtainable.

It was reprinted, but only with the O.S. surcharge, both in red and black. All these reprints were cancelled lightly.

To any collector who would fain have one pet stamp upon which he could lavish all his latent affections—one whose beauty, variety, and general charm would repay almost any outlay of time and money, I would conscientiously recommend the *Grand Old Stamp*. (From the *Australian Journal of Philately*.)

## Extracts from the Foreign Press.

We are now able to resume the Foreign Extracts Column, and to make the award in connection with errors in our issue of December 22nd, of which there appear to have been several.

Mr. Karl Wielen was the first to point out a mistake, "1850" being omitted from the German sentence "die Werthe jeder Kolonie vom Januar 1901 . . . ." It would also have been correct to say "von Januar 1901."

A number of readers also pointed out the printer's error "I" for "1" before "intérieur."

Amongst other mistakes mentioned or suggested were the following:—

W.H.G. says "Georges" should be "George" in the French paragraph, but we must beg leave to prefer our own spelling. "George" is not the French spelling.

Major-General Lambton writes that "Crête" should be "Crète"; the former word signifies crest, cockscomb, &c. Mr. H. Becking, and others, point out that the word "dieser" has no dot to the "i." Mr. E. Hardy suggests that the insertion of commas after the words *chasse* and *Georges* would be an improvement, and that "mit" in the phrase, "bis mit 1 Mark," is superfluous; but the "mit" seems to us to be necessary, to signify that the set goes "up to 1 Mark inclusive."

This week we intend to make a slight alteration in the terms of our offer. The prize will in future go to the reader who points out the most mistakes, and provincial readers will thus have a better chance. Last week there were five mistakes, of which a Manchester reader pointed out three; the winner of the set of Northern Nigeria only pointed out one, however, but his postcard being received first, gained the award.

Postcards only may be sent, and should be addressed to the Editor, *E.W.S.N.*, 32, Palace Square, Norwood, S.E.

M. Louis Paulhan, dans un récent travail sur la poste aux lettres, à Paris, raconte l'anecdote suivante:

... Il s'agit de M. Cochery, ancien ministre des Postes et Télégraphes.

Que dirait M. Cochery, si je lui apprenais qu'une lettre qui lui était adressée, alors qu'il était ministre des Postes et Télégraphes, fut renvoyée au bureau des rebuts, avec ce mot: *Inconnu*?

La lettre était écrite en anglais et portait cette suscription: *Postmaster general, Paris*, ce qui, signifie: le maître général des Postes ou le ministre des Postes, à Paris.

Un employé chargé de faire le tri des lettres, trompé par le mot *général*, écrivit au crayon: "Voir au ministère de la Guerre!" Et, au ministère de la Guerre, on répondit que le général Postmaster était inconnu!

(*Le Philatériste Français*)

*Nos paysans*.—Dernièrement, un de nos amis ayant une communication à faire à un métayer, son locataire, lui adresse une carte-lettre à laquelle il attend vainement une réponse.

Enfin, un beau matin, il voit arriver chez lui notre paysan, la carte-lettre (non ouverte) à la main.

— Monsieur, lui dit l'homme des champs, j'ai reçu votre carte, j'ai reconnu votre écriture, mais vous avez oublié d'écrire au dos!

(*Le Philatériste Français*).

## Los nuevos sellos de España.

Se ha fijado por la Dirección general de Correos la fecha del 1.º de Enero de 1901 para poner en circulación la nueva serie postal, de la que podemos hablar con certeza, gracias á la amabilidad del dignísimo Administrador de Correos de esta ciudad que nos ha suministrado todos los datos necesarios y nos ha permitido observar detenidamente la serie completa. Esta consta de 12 valores, uno menos que la serie de 1889, pues se ha suprimido el de 75 céntimos. El tipo es el mismo para todos los valores.

La numeración que cada pliego de los nuevos sellos lleva, va reproducida al dorso de cada uno de estos, con objeto de evitar el fraude. Los sellos de 2, 5, 10 y 15 céntimos son en número de 200 para cada pliego, y los restantes, desde el 20 c. al 10 pesetas, solamente en número de 100.

Los sellos en curso seguirán circulando, en concurrencia con los del nuevo tipo, hasta que se agoten sus existencias.

## Postmark Notes.

By "DUPLEX."

ONCE again I am able to contribute my notes on postmarks and shall continue to do so weekly in future.

I trust that readers will send me interesting marks for inspection as many did when these notes were appearing some months ago.

\* \* \*

The postmarks that are attracting the most attention just now are, naturally, the Army postmarks used with the forces in South Africa. There are several interesting types, and I am compiling a list which I hope will appear during the next few weeks.

Will all readers who have any of these marks kindly send them to me for inspection? I shall be especially glad to see entires bearing these postmarks.

\* \* \*

It has been interesting to watch the transformation of the late Orange Free State postmarks into the present ones for the Orange River Colony.

For some time after the British occupied Bloemfontein, in fact till nearly the end of July,

the old Free State circle postmarks, with name at top and the initials "O.V.S." (Oranje Vrij Staat) below the date, were used to cancel the "V.R.I." stamps with. After a while the authorities at the head office—Bloemfontein—had the letters "O.V.S." punched out of the stamp

and other towns in the conquered territory followed suit.

Then a number of date-marks were distributed, about the same size as the accompanying illustration, having the letters "O.R.C." introduced at the base.

After a while another lot of O.R.C. postmarks were made, and this time Bloemfontein got one. These marks are used at the present time. They are smaller than the old ones, and the letters are neatly shaped and generally give a clear impression.

\* \* \*

The authorities at Smithfield were not content with merely punching out the letters "O.V.S.," but also cut away the lower half of the circle. One of these marks I have before me simply shows "SMITHFIELD" in a semi-circle with "O.C. 26" below.

\* \* \*

Some very interesting marks to collect at present are those stamped on letters in South African towns, to denote that they have passed the censor. Some of these have already been mentioned in the columns of *E.W.S.N.* Rubber stamps and violet or purple ink are used in impressing these marks.

One of the first types I saw consisted of a small circular stamp in which the words "CENSOR" and "WARRENTON" were curved round.

A new type which has just come under my notice has the words "PASSED CENSOR H. P. Y." in a straight line. This mark is now used at Bloemfontein. For a long time past letters from Bloemfontein have travelled without being censored, but doubtless owing to the military situation at the present time it is again found necessary to censor all communications.

\* \* \*

A very interesting censor mark I saw recently, emanated from St. Helena. This was impressed on all letters sent by the Boer prisoners to their friends. The mark was circular in shape and had curved round the inside "CENSOR—PRISONERS OF WAR."

\* \* \*

If any of my readers have any other types of censor marks I shall be pleased to inspect them so as to be able to describe them in future notes.



## British Stamp Exchange.

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In response to numerous enquiries, the Secretary has pleasure in announcing the following further particulars:—

CIRCUIT I. Sheets for this Circuit should consist as far as possible of adhesive British postage stamps, but no objection will be raised to a small proportion of other kinds. No colonial or foreign stamps whatever can be admitted.

CIRCUIT II. This Circuit is principally intended for cut square envelope stamps of Great Britain and Colonies. Entire stationery, post cards, etc., can only be accepted when of sufficient interest to justify the increase in the weight of the packet.

CIRCUIT III. is primarily intended for Collectors of Letter Fee Stamps, but Railway, Newspaper and Parcel Stamps (both British, Foreign and Colonial) are also admitted.

CIRCUIT IV. Only British and Colonial Postmarks are accepted. They need not necessarily be mounted on sheets, but may be sent loose in envelopes. Loose postmarks, however, must be offered at the uniform rate of 2d. per dozen. If other prices are asked by members for their duplicates, these must be mounted on sheets.

ALL PACKETS ARE DESPACHED ON THE 7TH OF EACH MONTH.

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Each circuit will despatch a packet on the 7th of each month, to those members who have expressed a wish to see same, and every collector, whether a member or not, is invited to contribute to such packets.

Accounts will be rendered immediately on the return of each packet, and where balances are due to the Secretary, such must be settled within seven days. In lieu of entrance fee or annual subscription, the Club will charge 10% on sales.

All communications should be addressed to

THE SECRETARY, BRITISH STAMP EXCHANGE,  
32 PALACE SQUARE, NORWOOD, S.E.

N.B.—The first packets will leave on Feb. 7th.

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No. 69. (Vol. VI.)  
(Whole Number, No. 155.)

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[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

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## The Week's News.

The new farthing Maltese stamps are very pleasing in appearance and are probably destined to have a very large sale amongst collectors. They are required for the purpose of stamping newspapers carried inland by the local post. Such papers in the past have always been carried free of charge, but now the opposition of the Council has decreed otherwise. The newspaper proprietors, who have considerable influence in the Council, have for a long time strenuously and successfully resisted the establishment of the rate, hence the long delay in the issue of the stamp. The design shows the entrance of the famous Grand Harbour, with a part of the bastions adjoining Fort St. Elmo on the left, and Fort Ricasoli on the right. A modern battleship and a Sicilian felucca are on the water between the two forts.

A rumour is again going round the public press to the effect that we are to have penny stamps printed in pink. Several newspapers add that the design is to be modified also. We doubt very much if there is any truth in the report. Our postal authorities have too strong an affection for lilac, or "purple" as it is officially termed.

The *Irish News* states that the reason the last issue of French stamps, now just becoming obsolete, bore as design the two allegorical figures, Commerce and Peace, was that M. Buffet, who was minister in 1871, anticipated that the Third Republic would not last, and refused therefore to allow any design which might be taken as representative of it. However the King did not recover his throne and "Commerce and Peace" have reigned down to the present year.

Mr. J. Muir has kindly sent us a list of prices realized at the last Stamp Auction Sale held in Glasgow.

Gt. Britain, £1 Anchor, used, 37/6  
" £5 orange. " 30/-  
" 5/- rose, V.R. Official, used, 42/-  
" 10/- blue, " " 40/-  
" £1 green, " " 41/-  
Mafeking, 3d. Baden-Powell, used, 23/-, 19/-, 18/-  
" 1d. Bicycle stamp, used, 10/-  
" 1d. ditto, pair, badly off-centre, 18/-

At Messrs. Plumridge & Co's sale a moderately fine unused copy of the rare Sweden "Tretio" error realized £11.

A novel scheme has been adopted by the French Government. It consists of a tricolour stamp, and every soldier and non-commissioned officer in the French Army will be gratuitously supplied with a couple of these stamps monthly, to enable them to keep up a correspondence with their relatives.

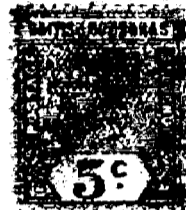
The stamp will cost the French Government very little, and so will not tax their exchequer very much.

Now is a chance for England to bring out a similar stamp, with the Union Jack on its face. If every Tommy at the war were furnished with these stamps and required to write home twice a month, it would save the War Office the trouble of making inquiries after a soldier whose relatives, as has often happened during the present war, have not heard from him for some considerable time.—(*The Expr.*)

Four values of the 1892 issue of the Argentine Republic have been seen in vertical pairs imperforate between the stamps. These values are the 1/2, 1, 5 and 10 cents.

## THE LATEST NEW ISSUES.

(TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS, BRITISH HONDURAS, MALTA, SPAIN, FRANCE AND SOUDAN.)



## Jottings.

The Leinster collection of postage stamps in the National Museum, Dublin, has lately been enriched by the addition of one of the rarest known stamps. This is the fourpence blue of the first issue of Western Australia with the swan in the centre inverted. This stamp was sent to the British Museum in error but has now been returned by the authorities and will in future occupy a place of honour in the Leinster collection.

The 10c. stamp of the 1874-83 issue of Mexico on thin vertically laid paper is known imperforate horizontally.

Quite recently nine stamps of various issues of Salvador have received 15 different surcharges. In these appear 9 errors so that altogether the collector of South Americans has another 24 varieties waiting to be included in his collection.

It is stated that on account of a change in the postal rates of the Argentine Republic, the 12 centavos stamps now current will be replaced by one of the value of 15 centavos.

A horizontal pair of the 5c. red-brown on salmon stamp of the Columbian Republic, 1899 issue, has been found imperforate vertically between.

The 1c. green official stamp, 1896 issue, of Salvador, has been seen with double surcharge.

Several values of the current issue of Réunion may be found without the accent on the "E" of "Réunion." The 20, 25 and 50 centimes stamps have been seen in this condition.

The 1c. value of the 1896 issue of Nicaragua is known imperforate vertically.

An error, "8.P." for "S.P." has been noticed on the 1c. stamp of Luxemburg.

It is reported that some little time ago the 1 kopeck stamp of Russia was surcharged "4 PARAS" instead of "5 PARAS" for use in the Levant. Despite this error the stamp was sold at the intended price (5 paras) and it is stated that the mistake would not be rectified until the entire stock was exhausted.

The surcharge "E.R.M." on the Venezuelan 50c. black stamp has been found inverted.

The Cape of Good Hope 2d. brown surcharged "British Bechuanaland," reading downwards, has been found with double overprint.

It is stated that the Dominican Republic has issued 500 sets of the Jubilee issue imperforate. One hundred of these reached the public in the ordinary way while the remaining 400 sets are in the hands of speculators.

Some few months ago a novel surcharge was issued in Mozambique. Having run out of the 50 reis value the 20r. were perforated down the centre and each half was surcharged "50 REIS" in small type.

A sheet of the Tonga 74d. current issue has been found with inverted head.

An American contemporary says there are two distinct varieties in the current 200 reis stamp of Brazil. It appears that the head has been re-engraved, the neck being shorter, the laurel leaves more heavily shaded, and a frame line now surrounds the medallion whereas no such line was formerly apparent.

A collector on the other side of the "herring-pond" possesses a sheet of the latest 5c. official stamp of Liberia in which the 1st three stamps in the top row escaped the surcharge.

The Mozambique 50r. pale blue has been noticed with the surcharge "NYASSA" inverted.

A specimen of the 2m. orange stamp of Porto Rico exists with the "Impuesto de Guerra 5 ctos" surcharge stamped twice.

A vertical pair of the 10c. 1889 issue of Costa Rica has been found imperforate horizontally between.

A continental contemporary states that the 1 centime of the current issue of French Congo exists with the ground work inverted.

A horizontal strip of four of the 1 cent stamp of New Brunswick, imperforate vertically, was found ately.

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4 insertions at the price of 3; 13 at the price of 8. Address, The Publisher, Ewen's Weekly Stamp News, Norwood, London, not later than Mondays.

**UNUSED TRANSVAAL**, 6d. blue surcharged 1d. Price 5d. each, 3 for 1/-, post free. Sure to become rare in a short time. Good investment.—WARD EVANS & Co., Stamp Importers, Carshalton, London.

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**GRAND SETS**.—50 different Cuba, all obsolete, clean and warranted genuine; many scarce old varieties are included. Price, only 4/6 per set, post free. (Cuban stamps are rising in value). A Whitfield King's catalogue will be given free with first set sold.—WARD EVANS & Co., Stamp Importers, Carshalton, London. [69]

**COLLECTORS** Duplicates from 6 a penny, upwards.—ARTHUR J. CHATT, Blackwater, Hants. [72]

**THOUSANDS** of collectors wanted to subscribe to the "Philatelic Monthly Referee." Best paper going. 1/- for 12 months. Published 25th of each month, commencing February. Serial article on the Stamps of Hayti (illustrated), and other good items. Advertisements from 1/9. Special advantages to advertisers. Circular free.—Address: EDITOR, P.M.R., 26, Beulah Hill, Upper Norwood. [72]

**POSTMARKS**.—Collection of over 2500 numeral English, mostly on 1d. reds, all numbers 1-999, districts, &c., £2 10s.—BRIDGER, 65, Bishopsgate Street Without, London, E.C. [72]

**VICTORIA**, laureated, 1863-67, good copies, shades, per dozen. 1d., watermark V, 3/-; 2d., watermark 2 or V, 2/-; 2d., watermark double 4, 4/6; 2d. on lilac, 5/6.—BRIDGER, 65, Bishopsgate Street Without, E.C. [72]

**OLD COLONIALS**, Europeans, &c., at 30% to 70% reduction from catalogue prices (S.G.)—Y. YARI, 31, Amesbury Avenue, Streatham Hill, London, S.W. [74]

**COLLECTORS' DUPLICATES**. Nice lot of used and unused African, Canada, West Indies, Australia, Foreign. Priced very cheap. References.—FRANK H. MADDISON, St. Neots, Hants. [71]

**10,000** well mixed Continentals, in packets of 1000, 2/-; by post 2/4. 100,000 for 17 6. carriage forward. Wholesale and Retail list free.—H. ROSS-SHIELDS & Co., Post department, 2, Chivalry Road, Clapham Junction, S.W. City Office, 75, Little Britain, London, E.C. [73]

**COLLECTION**—2000, all different, mounted, £3 15s. Bargain.—ARTHUR J. CHATT, Blackwater, Hants. [70]

**TRANSVAAL**, surcharged V.R.I., 1/4d., 1d., 2d., 3d., 3d., 4d., 6d. and 1/-, fine, used, on original envelope, per set, 8/6. HENRY E. ENGLISH, 8, St. Mark's Street, Peterborough. [70]

**FOREIGN DEALERS!** Why should you advertise in the *Montreal Philatelist*? Because if you are looking for business from this side of the water, or if you want to place your name before United States and Canadian collectors, the *Montreal Philatelist*, Canada's best stamp paper, will bring you customers. Advertising 2/- per inch, £1 per page. Dealers' Directory 7/- for 12 insertions. Circulation 1,500 to 2,000 monthly.—W. JAMES WURTELE, Publisher, 118, St. James' St., Montreal, Canada. [70]

**AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION.**

Australian Federation is sure to cause a boom in Australian stamps next year, and every wise collector will buy *before* the boom, and not when everyone else is rushing to get in at any price. We therefore ordered large supplies from New Zealand, New South Wales, Fiji Islands, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, Cook Islands, and Tasmania

AND CAN NOW OFFER:—

Sets in mint unused condition.

	Face Value.	Cat. Price.	Our Price
Cook Islands, set of 9, 1/4d. to 1/-	3/4	5/1	—
Fiji Islands, set of 8, 1/4d. to 1/-	2/9	4/4	3/3
New South Wales, set of 13, 1/4d. to 1/-	5/10	8/11	6/10
New Zealand, set of 11, 1/4d. to 1/-	4/5	7/5	5/9
Queensland, set of 9, 1/4d. to 1/-	3/0	4/5	3/6
South Australia, set of 10, 1/4d. to 1/-	3/9	5/8	4/4
Tasmania, set of 6, 1/4d. to 1/-	3/0	4/0	3/6
Victoria, set of 11, 1/4d. to 1/-	3/10	5/5	4/6
Western Australia, set of 8, 1/4d. to 1/-	2/9	3/10	3/3

THE ABOVE NINE SETS.

form a splendid foundation for a collection of Australian stamps. The 9 sets or 85 different stamps will be sent post free anywhere for 38/6, or only 5/6 over face value. All stamps are in mint condition just as they were sold at Australian post-offices, and all have full gum, never having been mounted.

**Official History of the Mafeking Siege Stamps.**

At the fortnightly meeting of the Junior London Philatelic Society, held in Clapham Hall on Saturday, the President, Mr. F. J. Melville, read to the members a statement which he had received in reply to inquiries addressed by him to Major-General Baden-Powell on the subject of the postage stamps issued during the siege of Mafeking. The president's letter was referred to the authorities of the General Post Office, Cape Town, whose communication in answer contains many particulars hitherto unpublished, corrects some erroneous statements that have got abroad, and will guide philatelists and dealers in avoiding forgeries when acquiring philatelic memorials of the historic siege and defence of Mafeking. The memorandum is in the following terms:—

"Postage Stamps Overprinted and Re-issued at Mafeking during the Siege.

"After careful inquiry into the matter, the following would appear to be the facts so far as can be ascertained in connection with the overprinting, surcharging and re-issue of the stamps now known as 'Mafeking Siege Stamps,' a complete list of which, showing the number of each denomination issued, is appended.

"Shortly before the 23rd of March, 1900, it was found possible to forward despatches by runners from Mafeking, both by the north and south routes, and a service was accordingly established by the military authorities. Owing to the high amounts which had to be paid to the runners it was decided to charge special rates for any private letters conveyed, and the following tariff was adopted, viz.:—Via the north, 1s. per 1/2-oz.; via the south, 6d. per 1/2-oz.

"From a statement made by the military authorities it would appear that, in order to provide a sufficiency of stamps to admit of the prepayment of private letters, it was further decided to surcharge all the unsold stamps in the possession of the local postmaster, and Lieut. Colonel Lord Edward Cecil, under whose supervision the post office was carried on during the siege, accordingly purchased the stamps at their face value and caused them to be overprinted and surcharged at the works of Messrs. Townshend & son, the publishers of the *Mafeking Mail* newspaper. On the 23rd of March the stamps as overprinted were issued for the first time at their enhanced values, and, it is understood, the whole of the overprinted issues had been disposed of before the relief of the town was effected.

"Owing to the interruption of communication, the postal authorities at Cape Town could not be consulted in the matter, either as regards the sale or the overprinting, and from the time the stamps originally passed out of the hand of the civil postmaster the Colonial Post Office Department ceased to have any control whatsoever over their treatment. In view of these circumstances, and of the fact that the whole of the additional revenue derived from the sale of the stamps at their surcharged value was retained by the military authorities, the Postal Administration of the Cape Colony and the Bechuanaland Protectorate have decided to regard the stamps in question as purely military issues, and (in the month of November last) official notices have consequently been published in the *Government Gazette* proclaiming their non-availability for the prepayment of mail matter posted either in the Cape Colony or in the Protectorate.

"The average number of letters per week forwarded via the north from the 23rd of March was, approximately, 60, a runner leaving Mafeking twice per week, and via south 30, once per week. It is, however, more than probable that many of the runners were captured by the Boer forces, and that the letters being conveyed by them never reached a British post office.

"The local stamps—viz., those actually manufactured in Mafeking and bearing representations of Major-General Baden-Powell and Sergeant-Major Goodyear, of the Cadet Corps, on a bicycle—were used entirely for a postal service which was arranged within the town and between the various outposts. The whole of the three varieties of these stamps were printed by means of photography, the photograph being taken by Dr. D. Taylor, and the gumming and perforating by Messrs. Townshend and Son. The two varieties of the 'Baden-Powell' pattern were designed by Captain Greener, the Chief Paymaster, whilst the one of the bicycle pattern was designed by Dr. W. A. Hayes.

"It is evident from specimens which have been submitted to the Postmaster-General at Cape Town that extensive forgeries of the overprinted stamps have taken place, the fraud consisting in the unofficial overprinting, surcharging, and, in many cases, date-stamping of genuine Cape Colony stamps.

"General Post Office, Cape Town, December 7, 1900."

**Extracts from the Foreign Press.**

At the moment of writing, seven mistakes in last week's Foreign Extracts Column have been pointed out. Messrs. F. W. D'Evelyn and G. Verméeren each pointed out five and should no one come forward with a more complete list before this number of *E.W.S.N.* goes to press, the prize will have to be divided between them.

[Wednesday, Mr. G. Verméeren has since sent a card pointing out the other two mistakes, so that the prize will have to go to this reader intact.—Ed.]

All seven mistakes occurred in the first French paragraph.

Line 2. For "letters" read "lettres."  
 " 7. For "adressée" read "adressée."  
 " 7. For "alors qu'il" read "lorsqu'il."  
 " 13. Comma superfluous after "qui."  
 " 13. For "maitre" read "maître."  
 " 16. For "général" read "general," it is the English word which is referred to (see line 12).  
 " 20. No stop after "Français."

We have decided to give two prizes in future; one will go to the reader who first points out a mistake; the other to the sender of the longest list before mid-day on the Wednesday after publication (on which day the following number goes to press). The first post card received this week was from Mr. Stearn. Readers will please remember therefore that there are in future two prizes to try for instead of one.

\* \* \*

*Perak*.—Die Aufdruckmarken wollen hier kein Ende nehmen, denn nachdem wir erst in den Nummern 18 und 22 (August und Oktober) von 1900 deren vier aufgeführt haben, müssen wir in der heutigen schon wieder zwei melden: *Three Cent* schwarz auf 8 cents lila und ultramarin, und die im Bilde wiedergegebene 1 Dollarmarke graugrün und hellgrün auf dieselbe wertstufe heruntersetzt. Auflagenhöhe, je 30,000 Stück. (*Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal*).

\* \* \*

Dépuis le 14 juin dernier les 93 bureaux de postes établis dans les différentes îles, qui forment le groupe d'Hawaï, employent les timbres en cours des Etats-Unis non surchargés.

(L'Essor Philatélique).

\* \* \*

*La Philatélie et la Chambre*. Nous avons cru devoir donner (écrit le rédacteur du *Philatéliste Français*), l'interpellation qui a eu lieu à la Chambre des députés, au cours de la discussion des Postes et Télégraphes. Dans ce compte-rendu nos lecteurs verront que les nouvelles vignettes françaises sont destinées à disparaître, ou tout à moins à être modifiées. Mais laissons la parole à—

M. Bouctot. Je n'ai qu'un simple mot à dire au sujet des nouveaux timbres-poste.

L'opinion publique a été assez émue de ces nouvelles émissions postales; elle a trouvé que c'était une véritable déception, que les vignettes nouvelles ne répondaient pas le moins du monde à ce qu'on en attendait. (*Très bien! très bien! sur divers bancs*).

Je comprends qu'on ait changé la couleur des timbres; il y avait un certain intérêt international contre lequel nous ne protestons pas, mais il a paru extraordinaire qu'on ait adopté pour les timbres de quinze centimes cette couleur de "brique lavée" à travers laquelle on ne voit pas du tout le dessin. (*Très bien! très bien!*).

N'y aurait-il pas lieu de remettre à l'étude une nouvelle vignette ou de revenir aux anciennes.

*A droite*. Les anciennes étaient mieux faites. M. le comte de Lanjuinais. Il vaudrait mieux y revenir.

M. Bouctot. Il est parfaitement évident que les compositions qui avaient été celles de M. Sage et, auparavant, celles qui étaient la reproduction d'une médaille syracusaine étaient infiniment supérieures. Ces tirages antérieurs avaient cet avantage qu'on y voyait mieux les chiffres. Dans les timbres de dix centimes et de quinze centimes, œuvre de M. Mouchon, il me semble que la gaucherie de l'exécution n'a d'égale que la pauvreté de l'invention; enfin, pour que la série des centimes, confiée à M. Blanc, il n'ait personne qui n'ait remarqué le manque d'originalité des figures et la confusion dans les lignes qui la caractérisent.

M. le sous-secrétaire d'Etat. C'est une question d'appréciation Je sais que l'avis n'est pas unanime sur nos nouveaux timbres. Cependant l'administration des Beaux Arts ne pense pas comme vous, mon cher collègue, car c'est après l'avoir consultée que nous avons décidé l'impression de ces timbres.

Peut-être y aura-t-il une modification à apporter au timbre de 15 centimes. Toutefois, ce qui nous avait déterminé dans le choix de la couleur nouvelle, c'est qu'elle permet moins que toute autre le lavage du timbre après son emploi.

## Our Postcard Column.

WILL readers hearing of any interesting item of News, kindly jot it down on a postcard and address to the Editor, "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News," Norwood, London. For every contribution we publish, we will send the author an interesting and newly issued stamp. (N.B.—Postcards preferred).

*Mr. W. Ward writes:—*

"The Paris correspondent to the 'Daily Chronicle,' writing Thursday night, says, 'France is to receive Gambia in exchange for her interests in Newfoundland'; and on Friday night he writes: 'My statement that the settlement would involve the parting with Gambia is confirmed, all official contradictions notwithstanding.'"

*Mr. T. S. Harvey writes:—*

*Re THE SWISS JUBILEE STAMPS.*

"Have you already chronicled the error which I hear, from reliable sources, occurred in the 25 centimes when it first appeared? I have not seen a specimen, but am told by a collector who has one that it consisted of the absence of half of the line outlining the top of the shield. On the discovery of the error, which occurred very soon, the sale was immediately stopped. Having examined a large quantity I find the most distinct difference between the 1st and 2nd engraving of the 5 centimes to be in the white line forming the side of the shield. In the re-engraved 5 centimes it is quite distinct, clear and unbroken; while in the old (of all values I notice) it is damaged where the arm of the cross would touch it if prolonged. Also the hyphen between the dates 1875-1900 is straight and plain in the new. In the old it is composed of two lines at an angle. These new stamps (5 cents.—10 cents, not being yet procurable) have only been on sale since the 18th here, and cease to be available for postage on 31st December; although they will be exchanged for the ordinary issue after that date so that holders of them will not lose their money."

*Mr. Lennox Nabier writes:—*

"I have lately received one or two new surcharges on the Malay Native States stamps which I have not seen mentioned in E.W.S.N. They are as follows:—

PERAK.—"Three Cents Revenue Only" surcharged on the five dollars green and blue in three lines in black. Stops are placed after "Cents" and "Only."

SELANGOR.—50 cents green and black surcharged "One Cent" and the same value surcharged "Three Cents."

*Mr. Wm. Cross contributes the following:—*

"By the recent River Plate mails I received used copies of a new provisional issued in Monte Video early last month. It will be remembered the 10 centesimos lake issued in 1897 (S.G., No. 229), was surcharged the same year with "PROVISORIO," in a half circle, and "1897" in a line below in red. This 1897 *provisoriamente* has now received a second surcharge in black, viz., "1900, 5 CENTESIMOS." The red surcharge "PROVISORIO" remains but the date "1897" is cancelled by an ornamental bar."

Several interesting letters are contributed this week to the "Postcard Column" on the subject of Uganda stamps and postmarks.

*The Rev. J. H. Astley writes:—*

"Apropos of Mr. Craft's and Mr. Cole's notes on the Uganda type set issue and postmarks may I inform your readers that amongst my entire envelopes, bearing Uganda stamps, which contained the letters of Missionaries to their friends at home, there is not one Uganda stamp overprinted L *postmarked*, also that the earliest examples of postmarked type set stamps are Kampala, December 2nd, 1898, and Lubas, December 24th, 1898. The De La Rue stamps postmarked began to come in early in 1899.

I look upon the genuinely used type set stamps as rarities and their study is very interesting."

*Mr. C. A. Cole writes on the same subject:—*

"Referring to Uganda stamps, perhaps it will interest your readers and Mr. Craft if you will permit me to point out that I have several specimens of the type set issue, without the 'L' overprint, all genuinely used, and simply cancelled with blue pencil as Mr. Craft describes. This, I think, conclusively proves that no date stamps existed at the time this issue—the last before the De La Rue issue—was put into circulation."

*Mrs. Parish also contributes a note on the subject.*

"In reference to Mr. J. H. Parry's remarks on Uganda stamps I wish to say I have one postmarked with a cross in red pencil. I showed it to a well known dealer before buying it and he told me it was a genuine stamp. I see Mr. Parry speaks of blue pencil."

*Mr. J. H. Parry writes:—*

"Allow me to thank your two correspondents for their interesting remarks respecting the stamps of Uganda. I may say the specimens referred to in my previous note were those of coinage value bearing the large L overprint in black and cancelled in the manner described by me and not with blue pencil. The Editor's remark at the end of the paragraph is probably a correct solution of the question that previously perplexed me, viz., that they were cancelled by means of the die sent out by Messrs. De la Rue and Co., with the engraved series."

"The notes on Chinese stamps by Mr. Walter and the Editor are also interesting. Nothing causes me much more annoyance than, as was the case only last week with a letter sent me from the same place (Shanghai) and franked with a variety of Chinese stamps, to find the two most interesting specimens spoilt by the addition of a French 25c. stamp, partially overlapping them in such a manner that they could not be separated without injury, but this method appears to be more usual than otherwise at the present time. As it appears that the 10 cent value is readily obtainable it seems strange so many low value stamps should be brought into use. My last letter, only just received, is franked with a pair of each 1 cent and 2 cent Chinese imperial and one pair of 2 cent surcharged revenue in addition to a 25c. French as already mentioned. Thus no less than seven stamps were brought into use where two would have sufficed. Perhaps they are more fond of licking in the Celestial than in the English Empire."

*Is there special virtue in a stamp surcharged "Army Official"? Mr. A. B. Church writes:—*

"I received this morning a letter bearing three stamps, viz., 1d English, "Army Official," and two 5 pfennig Germans. All three were postmarked Hamburg."

The explanation is; a cheque was sent, with a stamped envelope (1d. A.O.) for reply. The recipient, having gone to Germany used the stamp, but added 10 pfennigs to make up 2½d. The authorities, both German and English, were quite satisfied, and there was no charge on delivery."

*Mr. J. Preston Pearce offers a very probable explanation of the recent withdrawal of the £1 Tasmanian from use as a postage stamp:—*

"With reference to the notification of the Tasmanian General Post Office re postal fiscals, and your remarks thereon in the last number, it seems to me that the explanation of the dismissal of the 20/- De La Rue type from the list of postal issues will be found in the surmise that this stamp is almost exclusively used for revenue purposes. Tasmania has never had a regular fiscal stamp of higher face value than 10/-, and as under the new Commonwealth regulations it is necessary that each state shall be able to show separate accounts for its sales of postage and revenue stamps, it was doubtless necessary to have a fiscal label of the value of £1, and instead of providing a new one the course already indicated has been adopted."

*Mr. J. Mostyn also has something to say on the subject of Tasmanians:—*

"I have just received a letter from Hobart, Tasmania in which the writer informs me that the 3d. chestnut (Platypus Type surcharged "Revenue") has just been withdrawn from circulation."

*On the subject of varieties in the B.C.A. "Cheque" stamps, Miss Tracy writes:—*

"I have been looking over a large number of B. C. Africa 1d. stamps for Internal Postage, issued for a short time in 1898, and have found some varieties I have never seen mentioned in a catalogue or paper, and would be glad to know if anyone else has noticed them. In the imperf., ones are three distinct shades of colour, orange-red, pale dull red, and bright blood red, and I have two specimens of the first named colour in which the inscription is minus two letters, BRITISH CENTRAL AFRIC ROTECTOR-ATE, a vacant space being where the A and P should be, but no sign of the letters being embossed. The blue frames are also various sizes and shades for the perforate stamps. There is not so much difference in colour, but some of the impressions are very much worn and it is almost impossible to read the inscriptions. Some of them have also double perforations. All these stamps were affixed by the postmaster himself to the letters; none were sold unused."

*Mr. J. N. Mostyn sends an enquiry:—*

"The recent surcharge on the Perak stamps, 8c. blue and 2 dollar stamps, reads 'Three Cent' while in the surcharged Selangor 50c. it reads, 'Three Cents.' Is this an error?"

*Mr. J. Mitchley writes:—*

"Brandon Post Office is rather a progressive one; it is already well into the century!" [The

postmark on the letter sent, is "Brandon, JA. 7. 10." Have readers come across any other instances of progressiveness?—Ed.]

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W.A.G.—Your postcard does not seem to have reached us.

L.C.L.—We will see what can be done to meet your wishes.—Ed.

## Postmark Notes.

By "DUPLEX."

In response to my request that readers would kindly let me see any South African army postmarks they may have, Mr. H. J. Hore has sent 16 interesting entires for my inspection. On several of these are clear copies of different types of war obliterations which will be dealt with in a future article. The other envelopes contain interesting marks, some of which I describe.

\* \* \*

One entire despatched from Harrogate on Sept. 28th, 1899, and addressed to Bethlehem, O.F.S., was returned to the sender. On the front of the cover is a long rectangular mark in which are the words "MAIL SERVICE SUSPENDED." This mark is impressed in violet ink.

\* \* \*

Four letters without stamps were delivered to the addressees without surcharge. One posted from Keats Drift, Natal, has the "T" mark cancelled by the London "PAID" stamp. Another letter from Estcourt, Natal, was surcharged in the Colony "5" and "T" but these marks were obliterated in London with two thick lines. Another letter posted from Ladysmith and stamped "10" in the Colony had this mark cancelled in London by the "F.B." stamp.

\* \* \*

Two other entires sent by Mr. Hore, bear a 1d. Natal and a 1d. lilac English stamp respectively, and these are both cancelled with a mark containing the letters "P.O.A." and the number 43, below.

\* \* \*

One of the most curious postmarks yet made is that stated to be in use at the present time in East Clarendon, Vermont, U.S.A. The cancelling portion consists of a portrait of Admiral Dewey, with the name below. At the side of this appears the ordinary circular date stamp.

\* \* \*

I do not appear to have yet written anything concerning the varieties of the concentric circle London mark, so a few descriptive notes may be of interest. This cancellation is similar to the accompanying illustration, but has single instead of double lines between the circles.



I have noticed the following varieties:—

- Has "LONDON" at the top between the rings and a stamper's number at the bottom.
- Similar with district initials (E.C., &c.), following "LONDON."
- Similar, but has a letter instead of a number at the bottom between the rings.
- Has the name of a London district at the top between the circles, i.e., "LADDINGTON," &c.
- Has the name of a London suburb followed by district initials at the top between the rings.
- Similar, but with a letter instead of a number at the bottom.

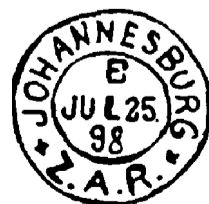
\* \* \*

I have an interesting mark, type (d), from the Bedford St. W.C. Sub-Office. This has the letters "(S.O.)" in parenthesis, between "BEDFORD ST." and "W.C." At the bottom between the rings is "No. 8."

Another sub-office mark I have from Hampstead, type (e), has the letters "S.O." before the district initials. Another interesting mark in my possession shows "ANERLEY—S.O." at the top, between the rings, while the district initials—"S.E."—are at the bottom.

\* \* \*

A variety of this concentric circle type exists without any lines between the rings. One I have is similar in size and general appearance to the illustration shown here and has "Lombard St. B.O." at the top and "E.C." below. Another I have slightly larger has simply "LONDON" between the circles.



## Approval Selections.

WE are now arranging and mounting a specially fine series of Approval Collections, comprising the stamps of all countries, and will have pleasure in sending same to any reader, on compliance with the conditions named below. Except where specially noted, any stamp may be selected at the price marked above it, and in most cases we allow a liberal discount off such prices. All communications for our Approval Department should be addressed to H. L. EWEN, 32, Palace Square, Norwood, S.E.

### CONDITIONS.

- 1.—Stamps can only be sent on approval on condition that those not purchased are returned within five days.
  - 2.—No stamps may be removed from the sheets or books until actually purchased.
  - 3.—Collectors are not permitted to deduct return postage from amount of purchase.
  - 4.—Discount is conditional on purchase exceeding 1/- and will be forfeited if selection is kept over the five days allowed.
  - 5.—Spaces should not be marked.
  - 6.—Sheets should be returned folded as sent.
  - 7.—When a selection is returned, another will be sent unless otherwise requested.
- N.B.—We hope collectors will assist us by observing the above very reasonable conditions and we will in return make it our endeavour to send out only the finest possible copies at the lowest possible quotations.

### NOW READY.

(Note.—We pay postage one way. Sheets, 1d.; small books, 1½d. or 2d.; large books, 4d. and 5d.; abroad extra; registration fee for the more valuable selections, 2d.)

### APPROVAL SHEETS.

No.	Discount.	Description.
202.	Nett.	New Issues and Special Bargains.
203.	"	Miscellaneous Colonials.
205.	25%	West Indies.
206.	Nett.	V.R.I.'s.
207.	50%	Mexico.
208.	25%	Miscellaneous.
211.	"	Russia.
212.	"	Norway.
213.	"	Sweden.
214.	"	Finland.
215.	"	Peru.
216.	"	Roumania.
217.	"	Old Europeans.
218.	"	Venezuela.

### BOOKLETS.

501.	Nett.	Fiji and Cook Islands.
503.	"	Unused English.
504.	"	Unused African Colonials.
505.	"	African Colonials.
506.	"	Unused Colonials.
507.	"	Choice Colonials.
508.	25%	Liberia.
509.	"	Denmark.
510.	"	Luxemburg.
511.	"	Austria.
512.	"	Austrian Italy.
513.	"	Timor.
514.	"	Macao.

### BOOKS.

101.	Nett.	Orange Free State.
103.	"	V.R.I.'s.
106.	"	Transvaal.
107.	"	Australians.
108.	"	Miscellaneous Colonials.
109.	20%	New Zealand.
110.	10%	Ceylon and other Colonials.
111.	"	Unused English (chiefly 1d. reds).
112.	"	New South Wales.

### LARGE BOOKS.

A1.	20%	Used English.
A2.	25%	Used English.
D.	"	Cut Envelopes.
Gob.	"	English with Foreign Postmarks.
H.	10%	Railway Letter Fee Stamps.

We can specially recommend our sheets to beginners as all the stamps are reasonably priced and most of them are picked specimens. General collectors, too, will find these sheets useful in filling up blank spaces in their albums.

\* \* \*

We have just acquired a nice selection of used English (Book A2) on which we can allow a discount of 25 per cent. Every stamp in this book is a perfect specimen, and we can strongly commend it to the attention of English specialists. Among other fine things, this selection includes 5/- watermark anchor, on blue and on white; £1, wmk. anchor, on blue; £1, wmk.

crown; £1, wmk. orbs; strips of three 2d. blue, no lines, &c., &c.

\* \* \*

Our books of V.R.I.'s show all the varieties of the different printings of these interesting stamps. First, second and third prints are shown in corner strips, and large and small blocks. Thick V's of all values are shown in pairs with normal stamps and pairs of the second print showing raised and level stops are also included. We are also making up a few booklets containing single copies of the different printings and varieties.

\* \* \*

Our Orange Free State and Transvaal books contain a goodly array of all issues and surcharges and we can confidently recommend them to the attention of all collectors interested in these countries. Applications to see these books will be dealt with in the order they are received.

\* \* \*

This week we are able to offer the following rare stamps:—

	Cat. Price.	Our Price.
Great Britain; mint block of 16, 3d. rose, plate 18 ...	9/6	48/
" £1 orbs, I.R. OFFICIAL "Specimen" ...	—	£6/10/0
Antigua; mint pair 1d. lake, Crown CC. perf. 12½; with inverted wmk.	—	15/
Bahamas; 1d. vermilion, unused, wmk. Crown CC. perf. 12½ ...	12/6	6/6
Barbados; Mint pair of 4d. brownish red, imperf. blued paper	20/	15/
" Mint pair of 1d. blue, imperf., blued paper	12/	8/6
" Mint pair of 6d. dull orange vermilion. No wmk., rough perf. ...	55/	37/6
British Honduras; 1882 issue, 6d. yellow, used, Crown CA. 14	80/	40/
Cape of Good Hope; superb used pair of 1/- yellow-green, fine margins ...	—	48/
" 4d. woodblock, pale blue, fair copy ...	50/	36/
Ceylon; 10d. imperf. unused no gum	80/	40/
Finland; 1 mark, used, 1867-70 issue one corner torn, S.G., No. 49	18/	7/6
Gambia; 6d. blue, used, 1880 issue, wmk. Crown C.C., perf. 14.	15/	7/6
" 1/- green, mint, 1880, wmk. Crown C.C., 14. ...	50/	42/
Griqualand; 5/- orange, used, S.G. No. 70, very rare ...	—	30/
" 5/- orange, used, S.G.No.116	—	2/6
Hawaii; 2 cent, 1864 issue	1/3	1/10
Jamaica; Mint pair, 5/- lilac, wmk. C.C. ...	35/	27/
Mauritius; 5/- violet used	7/	5/
New South Wales; 2d. Sidney View used, fair copy ...	25/	15/
" 5/- violet used S.G. No. 142/	10/	3/6
" 5/- map, used, perf. 10 ...	—	12/6
Orange Free State; 1896 issue, "1/2d. on 3d. Block of four with double surcharge	30/	22/6
St. Vincent; 1/- blue, used S.G. No. 13 ...	30/	15/
" 1/- claret, used, S.G. 19... 25/	25/	15/
" 1/- brown, used, S.G. 14	30/	15/
" 5/- wmk. Star. Has "REVENUE" printed across it otherwise would be worth £15. ...	—	30/
Tasmania. 1d. blue, used; first issue, fair copy ...	65/	45/

Any of the above stamps can be sent on approval if required. Immediate application is required, however, as in most instances we have only one copy in stock.

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With which is incorporated EWEN'S WEEKLY CIRCULAR. (Established October, 1897.)

A JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

THE ONLY WEEKLY STAMP PAPER PUBLISHED IN EUROPE.

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No. 70. (VOL. VI.)  
(Whole Number, No. 156.)

LONDON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 1901

[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

To the Memory  
of our Beloved Sovereign.

**Victoria,**  
Queen of Great Britain and  
Ireland,  
Empress of India.

Born 24th May, 1819.

Ascended the Throne, 20th June, 1837.

Died January 22nd, 1901.

## CONTENTS.

The Week's News. Postmark Notes.  
Our Postcard Column. Reviews. Jottings.  
Envelope Stamps. History by O. Marsh.  
Foreign Extracts. Federal Prospects.  
Colonial Stamp Market. New Issues.

## The Week's News.

**Canada.**—A French contemporary is informed that the high values of the jubilee set are not after all to be surcharged 7 cents, as was at first rumoured, for the simple reason that they are largely in demand for the prepayment of parcels of newspapers.

It is stated that some of the first printings of the new German stamps were perforated 11½ instead of 14 or 14½.

Switzerland is to have a new issue and the Government has offered prizes for the best designs for new stamps of the values of 2, 3, 5, 10, 12 and 15 centimes. A new type of postage dues will also probably be issued.

**La Revista de la Sociedad Filatélica Argentina** states that the following quantities have been sold of the Bolivian stamps overprinted "E.F. 1899."

1 centavo ...	9,730	10 centavos ...	9,530
2 ..	6,730	25 ..	3,230
5 ..	18,930		

**Germany.**—*L'Essor Philatélique* learns that the word "Reichspost" which figures on the new "Germania" type has been modified in the stamps of 25, 30, 40, 50 and 80 pfennig. The word was found too large for the space allotted to it and its size has been slightly reduced in later printings. There are thus two types for these five values.

The new stamps of Uruguay, printed as usual by Messrs. Waterlow & Sons, are now coming over. The values we have seen are hardly up to this firm's usual standard. The five values issued are as follows:—

1 centesimo, green; 2c. red; 5c. ultramarine; 7c. orange; 10c. violet.

**Uruguay.**—The Uruguayan provisionals described in our last issue were evidently not in use long, for Mr. Wm. Cross, in a letter dated January 20th, writes:—"The 5 centesimos Uruguayan provisionals described in your current number marked a very brief interval between the exhaustion of the blue engine type of that value and the issue of a totally new design. Copies to hand to-day were posted in Monte Video on Christmas Eve. They are deep blue in colour, of effective and handsome design, and perforated 14½. In a circular frame are the face and neck of a good looking young woman, with abundance of dark hair. Supporting the frame are two female figures of the mermaid type, fins or wings taking the place of hands and arms. I enclose you a fine block of six for inspection."

Following the example of Germany, Austria, France, Spain, Greece, Italy, Finland and Switzerland, announcements now come that Russia is thinking of having a new issue. The Continent generally seems to be going in for a new issue.

The International Philatelic Union was to have held an Exhibition to-day in the Philatelic Society's Rooms at Effingham House, Arundel Street, Strand, W.C., but owing to the demise of Her Majesty this has been postponed till Feb. 23rd.

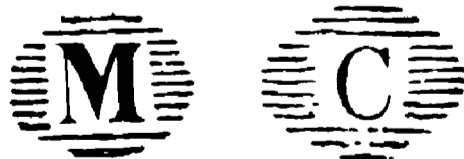
A recent decree of the Governor-General of Goa authorizes the use of the new values—12 tangas, 1 and 2 rupias—recently printed for Portuguese India. Accordingly to Mr. J. Godinho, the number received from the printers is 5,763.

The S.C.F. states that 40,000 of the new 1d. New Zealand sent from London by the s.s. San Francisco were due to reach the Colony on December 10th: 60,000 more, shipped on the Waiwera, due between the 15th and 20th, and then a further parcel of 900,000 by the Papanui, due to reach their destination on the last day of the Old Century, so that there can be no doubt the stamps were punctually issued on New Year's Day. Copies should reach England next week or the week after.

The new farthing Malts are coming over in several shades of brown; several sheets received by our Colonial Market have inverted watermark.

In reply to an enquiry respecting the places of issue of the stamps of Austrian Italy, the Editor of the *Monthly Journal* gives the following interesting history of these stamps: "All the issues given under Austrian Italy were also used in the Austrian post-offices in foreign countries, but the title originally given to them has been adhered to for the earlier series. In 1866 Austrian Italy ceased to exist, those provinces having become part of the kingdom of Italy, and it was therefore impossible to give that title to later issues. The *soldi* sets of 1867 and 1883 were used, according to Mr. Westoby's book, in the Austrian offices in the Danubian Principalities, in Turkey, and in Egypt. The Italian "Estero" stamps, in the same way, are used in all foreign countries where there are Italian post-offices. The Russian Levant stamps are used by the Russian Steam Navigation Co., carrying mails between Odessa and Russian and Turkish ports on the Black Sea and some parts of the Mediterranean. The Company has offices, no doubt, in the Turkish ports, as well as in Russian ports. There was an English office, we believe, using ordinary English stamps, long before the surcharged stamps were issued."

We can add to the above that British stamps have been issued in Constantinople since 1857, the same year that first saw their issue at Malta and Gibraltar. The first obliterating postmarks issued to these three offices consisted respectively of the letters C, M and G, surrounded by parallel lines (horizontal) broken in the centre to admit



the letters. In 1859, Malta and Gibraltar were placed on the list of postmark numbers compiled at the G.P.O. London, the numbers assigned to them being respectively A25 and A26, the postmarks now in use still bearing these numbers. Constantinople used the "C" type down to 1885, since when an ordinary circular date-mark has been used for cancelling purposes. Lately this office has also been placed on the list at the G.P.O. London as No. K66, but no postmarks bearing this number have yet been seen. The "G" postmark of Gibraltar is somewhat scarce and at one time the "M" of Malta was also difficult to find but later it turned up in considerable quantities.

## New Issues.

The Editor will be much obliged for early news of New Issues, or intended New Issues or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors. Full acknowledgment given. If possible, specimens should be sent in order that illustrations may be prepared.

**DENMARK.**—It is rumoured that the current 25 öre stamp is to be withdrawn in the near future and its place taken by a stamp of the value 24 öre for which, it is stated, there is now far greater need.

**MACAO.**—The *Philatelic Journal of India* gives the colour of the new issue 20 avos stamp as brown on buff and not green on buff as stated in our issue for Jan. 12th. From the same source we learn that the new value, 78 avos, has already been issued. The colour is black on bluish with value printed in red.

**NEW ZEALAND.**—The much talked of new penny stamp is thus described by the *New Zealand Times*:—

"It is of the ordinary size, printed in carmine—the Postal Union colour—and bears in crescent shape formation the words 'UNIVERSAL POSTAGE.' Above this is a full length female figure representing the Postal Union, a globe, and a steamship at sea, while a view of Mount Egmont forms the background. At each corner is a star, the four forming the Southern Cross."

As large shipments of this stamp were made to New Zealand from London early in November, there can be little doubt that the stamp was issued to the public on the first day of the New Century as originally intended.

**PARAGUAY.**—In addition to the values chronicled in our issue for Jan. 5th we have now to list two more values in the new set, i.e., 3c. brown and 8c. maroon.

**PORTUGUESE INDIA.**—New high values have recently been issued for this colony. They are in the old designs:—

- 12 tangas, blue on pink (value in black).
- 1 rupia, black on bluish (value in red).
- 2 rupias, purple on buff (value in black)

**TIMOR.**—New values have also been issued for this Portuguese colony. It will be remembered we stated a fortnight ago that a 78 avos value was about to be issued. The new stamps are:—

- 10 avos, blue on white (value in black).
- 20 .. brown on buff ( .. .. )
- 78 .. black on bluish ( .. red).

**FINLAND.**—After all Finland is to have a set of postage stamps of its own. The design of the new stamps will be exactly the same as that of the current Russian set but the values will be expressed in Finnish currency (penni and marks) instead of Russian. The new stamps are all ready and were to have been issued to the public on Monday last, the 14th inst. The full set will contain the following values:—2, 5, 10 and 20 penni and 1 and 10 marks.

**HONG KONG.**—One of our American contemporaries says that owing to the 10 cents stamp now being issued in blue the colour of the 5 cents has been changed to lilac to prevent confusion.

**TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.**—All values of the new issue are beginning to come over. The design is identical in all values and as the colours are bright and varied the whole form a very pretty set. The 2/- and 3/- values are printed in sheets of 30 i.e. five rows of six. The others are printed in ordinary sized sheets of sixty.

A pair of the 5 cents dark blue stamps of the 1893 issue of Nicaragua has been found imperforate vertically.

Still another commemorative is to be foisted on the philatelic public. On the date of the 25th anniversary of the accession of the Sultan of Turkey—Sept. 1st. next—two special stamps are to be issued and these will be available for postage for that particular day only.

**Undisplayed Advertisements:**

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**A**FINE Lot of New Issues, used and unused, for Sale, cheap, 50% discount.—BOLTON, 5, Elmwood Road, Croydon. [73]

**W**ILL soon be unobtainable, Transvaal, V.R.I., posted on original envelope, from Johannesburg to any address registered. Set 3d. to 1/-, inclusive price, 6/6; including 2/6, price 10/6. Apply at once.—E. W. NEWTON, Llewellyn House, Cumborne, Cornwall. [73]

**O**RANGE FREE STATE 1/- brown, unsurcharged and very scarce, 15/- each, fine mint condition. Pairs and blocks pro rata.—W. TERRY, Brooklands, Cheshire. [70]

**200** Stamps, 1/-; 200 ditto (superior), 1/6; 500 ditto, 6/-; 1,000 ditto, 16/-: each packet containing stamps all different, 9 Bosnia, 1891 (obsolete) 8d.; 9 ditto, 1900 (scarce), 1/-; 10 Bulgaria, 1890, 6d.; Sudan, 1898, 1 mil to 10 piastres (complete) 4/-; 3 Persia, 1897, unused, surcharged (cat. 8/6), 3/-; 10 Persia, 1894, unused, 1 sh. to 10 krans (cat. 21/-) at 10/6 per set. Wholesale offers respectfully requested for cash or exchange from our wholesale price list, post free on application.—THE WILLIAM STAMP CO., 120, Leadenhall Street, London, E.C. [73]

**U**NUSED TRANSVAAL, 6d. blue surcharged 1d. Price 5d. each, 3 for 1/-, post free. Sure to become rare in a short time. Good investment.—WARD EVANS & Co., Stamp Importers, Carshalton, London. [73]

**O**RANGE FREE STATE, surcharged TF, unused, 1d. violet, 6d. blue, 1/- brown, set of 3 pairs, 6/-.—CHAS. PURDOM, Neptune Street, South Lambeth, S.W. [73]

**H**AITI: All the oldest issues used and unused wanted in any quantity against cash. My Price List containing the prices of every Postage Stamp of Haiti issued, priced simply, in sets and in packets sent post free. Selections sent on approval, references or cash deposit required from collectors not known to me.—WM. WEIR-YOUNG, "Kenmore," Ashton-upon-Mersey. [71]

**C**OLLECTORS Duplicates from 6 a penny, upwards.—ARTHUR J. CHATT, Blackwater, Hants. [72]

**T**HOUSANDS of collectors wanted to subscribe to the "Philatelic Monthly Referee." Best paper going, 1/- for 12 months. Published 25th of each month, commencing February. Serial article on the Stamps of Hayti (illustrated), and other good items. Advertisements from 1/9. Special advantages to advertisers. Circular free.—Address: EDITOR, P.M.R., 26, Beulah Hill, Upper Norwood. [72]

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**V**ICTORIA, laureated, 1863-67, good copies, shades, per dozen, 1d., watermark V, 3/-; 2d., watermark 2 or V, 2/-; 2d., watermark double 4, 4/6; 2d. on lilac, 5/6.—BRIDGER, 65, Bishopsgate Street Without, E.C. [72]

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**10,000** well mixed Continentals, in packets of 1000, 2/-; by post 2/4. 100,000 for 17-6, carriage forward. Wholesale and Retail list free.—H. ROSS-SHIELDS & Co., Post department, 2, Chivalry Road, Clapham Junction, S.W. City Office, 75, Little Britain, London, E.C. [73]

**C**OLLECTION—2000, all different, mounted, £3 15s. Bargain.—ARTHUR J. CHATT, Blackwater, Hants. [70]

**T**RANSVAAL, surcharged V.R.I., 3d., 1d., 2d., 2 1/2d., 3d., 4d., 6d. and 1/-, fine, used, on original envelope, per set, 8/6. HENRY E. ENGLISH, 8, St. Mark's Street, Peterborough. [70]

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**Queen Victoria's Empire.**

THE following is a complete list of the Colonies which have issued stamps bearing a portrait of Queen Victoria.

Bahamas, Bermuda, Bechuanaland Protectorate, British Honduras, Canada, Ceylon, Cyprus, Falkland Islands, Fiji Islands, Gambia, Gibraltar, Gold Coast, Grenada, Hong Kong, India, Jamaica, Lagos, Leeward Islands, Malta, Natal, Newfoundland, New South Wales, Niger Coast, Queensland, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Australia, Straits Settlements, Tasmania, Trinidad, Victoria and Western Australia.

All the above still issue stamps, but in the following Colonies, special stamps are no longer used:—Antigua, British Columbia and Vancouver Islands, Dominica, Heligoland, Ionian Islands, Montserrat, Nevis, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and St. Kitts.

Six Colonies—Barbados, Mauritius, Turk's Islands, Labuan, Transvaal and New Zealand—have at one period or another issued stamps bearing Queen Victoria's portrait, but no longer do so.

**Federal Prospects**

(From the *Australian Journal of Philately*,  
December 7th).

THE Postal Conference which is still sitting in this city (Sydney) has arrived at several decisions. There is not to be a commemorative stamp, and it was not considered advisable to issue any kind of stamp for charitable purposes. A Federal series will not be issued until the various post-offices have been amalgamated, which event is likely to take place in six or twelve months.

The questions of Penny Universal Postage and intercolonial postal rates have been shelved for the present, to be dealt with by the Federal Postmaster-General.

As to the surcharging of the stamps at present in use through Australia on the 1st of January next, we understand this subject has not yet been finally disposed of. We are still of the opinion that they ought to be over-printed, and have reason to believe they will be. Other matters not affecting philatelic interest have been arranged, but from what we can gather, unofficially, there seems to have been a disposition on the part of the members of the Conference not to bind the hands of the First Federal Postmaster-General any more than could be avoided, which, we think, is very judicious; consequently only those arrangements are being made which are considered absolutely necessary.

We have been informed on good authority that Mr. S. H. Lambton, the New South Wales Deputy Postmaster-General, will retire on the 31st instant. This gentleman has proved himself to be one of the most capable officers in this service.

The Postmaster-General of Victoria has decided upon a design for Commemorative Post Cards to be issued on January 1st. About a quarter of a million of these cards will be printed and sold at one penny each. He has also introduced a Bill reducing the postage on inland letters to one penny per half ounce, from the 1st April next. Will this force the hands of the Conference?

Tasmania has already taken steps, by public notice, to sever the postal service from the Duty Department. On and after the 1st inst. those stamps which have hitherto been available for both postage and duty purposes will be available for the latter only. We have received the 3d. platypus surcharged revenue in small capitals, and we may add that we have also received a letter bearing one of these surcharged stamps posted on 30th November.

Until the post-offices are amalgamated the revenue derived from the sale of postage stamps will be the property of each State, but on and after the 1st January next the revenue derived from the stamp used for duty purposes will be the property of the Federal Government, consequently it is understood that from the beginning of next year those Australian Colonies which at present permit postage stamps to be used also for duty purposes will provide separate and distinct stamps for the latter.

In the *Australian Star* of 21st November appeared a letter by "C.A.G.," advocating the introduction of Halfpenny postcards. This is an excellent suggestion, and will no doubt be adopted by-and-by, but the Conference have decided not to advise any drastic changes until after the amalgamation.

**Extracts from the Foreign Press.**

Quite an alarming list of mistakes was discovered by our readers in last week's extracts, the winner, Mr. G. Vermèeren, pointing out no fewer than sixteen. The next longest lists received were from Mr. Becking (12); Baron de Reuterskiöld (9); and Mr. E. W. Stearn (8). The first reader to point out a mistake was Mr. J. N. Mostyn.

The mistakes were as follows:—

German—line 4, inverted comma superfluous; line 6, for *Cent* read *Cents*; line 8, for *auf* read *auf*; *wertstufe* should have a capital H; line 9, for *ie* read *je*.

French—par. 1, line 1, *depuis* should have no accent over *e*; *fin* should have a capital J; *dernier* should be followed by a comma, as also *etats-unis* in line 4; line 2, read *poste*; line 3, read *emploi*.

French—par. 2, *à* should have an accent in line 7; line 8 should read *tout au moins*; line 26, query omitted after *anciennes*; line 37, should be *oeuvres*; line 39 should be *pour la, que* being superfluous; line 40, *il n'ait* should be *il n'est* or *il n'y ait*; line 45, stop required after *appréciation*; line 47, *Beaux-Arts* should be joined by a hyphen.

The total number of mistakes which occurred we have therefore to put at nineteen, a record which we hope may not be broken for some time.

Two prizes are offered this week; one to the first reader who points out a mistake; the other to the reader who discovers the most errors before Wednesday mid-day. This week's extracts are given below.

Un abonné crétois nous écrit que les timbres de 20 et de 50 lepta de Crète, imprimés dans les nouvelles nuances, ne sont pas encore arrivés. A un moment donné il y a eu pénurie de timbres du 1 lepton à la Canée. L'Administration des postes s'était adressée au gouvernement de l'île pour être autorisée à transformer en 1 lepton une certaine quantité de timbres de 10 lepta mais cette demande a été refusée, et il a été ordonné aux autres bureaux de Crète d'envoyer à la Canée une partie de leurs approvisionnements de timbres de 1 lepton.

C'est une surcharge de moins à cataloguer pour ce pays.

**Les nouveaux timbres italiens.**

Rome, 13 janvier.—Le roi Victor-Emmanuel III a reçu ces jours derniers le peintre Cellini, qui lui a présenté les modèles des nouveaux timbres. Le roi a choisi celui où il est représenté de face; il a écarté tous ceux où il est de profil.

Tous les timbres auront la même vignette: la figure du roi, entourée d'un cadre orné de floritures.

Les dimensions des nouveaux timbres italiens seront un peu plus grandes que celles des timbres actuels. Les couleurs choisies restent en grande partie dans le bleu d'azur.

**Reviews.**

*A.B.C. Descriptive Priced Catalogue of the World's Postage Stamps (Fourth Edition, published by Messrs. Bright & Son, 164, Strand, W.C., 2/10 post free).*

We have received a copy of the above Catalogue in the new edition just published, and can recommend it to the notice of collectors preferring a catalogue of the world's stamps in one volume. We cannot, however, review the work as favourably as we might have wished, because the numerous advantages possessed by its method of compilation are to a considerable extent counterbalanced by inferior printing and illustrating. As indicated by its title, the "A.B.C." Catalogue describes each country's issue in strictly alphabetical order, a great advantage in a work to which frequent reference has to be made, although, no doubt, an arrangement of doubtful merit when applied to an album. A good idea (theoretically) is the inclusion of two columns for the prices of used British stamps, one for specimens with "light cancellation," and one for those with "usual cancellation." How the innovation answers in practice remains to be seen. We should imagine many collectors would have considerable difficulty in deciding when a stamp is "lightly" cancelled, although there is certainly seldom a doubt about the "usual" variety. We notice that the values are almost invariably written out, but this is hardly an advantage. "4d." is much more practical, and quite as easily understood as the cumbersome "4 pence." We are glad to see that philatelic stationery is not entirely thrown over, although relegated to a back position at the end of the book. As Messrs. Stanley Gibbons & Co., Ltd., have expressed the intention of, in future, ignoring this branch of philately, this section should add considerably to the usefulness of the catalogue for general collectors.



**Our Postcard Column.**

Will readers hearing of any interesting item of News, kindly jot it down on a postcard and address to the Editor, "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News," Norwood, London. For every contribution we publish, we will send the author an interesting and newly issued stamp. (N.B.—Postcards preferred).

Mr. J. N. Mostyn writes regarding the two issues of the Swiss Jubilee stamps:—

"I enclose specimens of the two issues of the 5 and 25c. Swiss Jubilee stamps.

In the first issue of the 5c. the "5" is roughly shaded while in the re-engraved issue the figure is distinctly lined. There are besides minor differences in design, but the above is the simplest method of distinguishing the two issues.

In the 25c. value the 1st issue shows a fine line at the top of the tablet in which the value is placed, while in the re-engraved stamp this line has been erased."

Mr. W. A. Gunner writes:—

"I shall be glad to hear if anything is known of an official India 4an. blue green (S.G. 61) surcharged SERVICE in equal capitals with serifs. The letters are unevenly placed, S being dropped and VI raised. The surcharge has every appearance of being genuine, being partly erased by postmark, but the variety does not appear to be catalogued."

Mr. E. Evans also sends a query respecting an un-chronicled variety (or is it a chemical changeling?):—

"In reading Mr. A. F. Basset Hull's article in last week's E.W.S.N., on the "G. O. S. of Philately," my curiosity was aroused respecting a specimen of the issue in question which was sent to me on approval about a fortnight since, it was an 8d. imperf. dark green on piece of original very lightly obliterated, I should fancy it to be a very rare stamp as I do not find it in any catalogue, perhaps Mr. Basset Hull could give a little information about the history of this error."

Mr. S. G. Pearce writes:—

"I notice that on a 4d. stamp I received on a parcel this week, that the centre part green, is much darker than the one I have to compare with, also that the outer part, instead of being a reddish brown, is just a plain brown, being lighter as well. I don't know if this has been chronicled."

The colours of current British stamps are very susceptible to change, but we believe there are really two distinct shades of green in the 4d. We have mint copies in yellow-green and grey-green.—Ed.]

**Stamps at Auction.**

The following prices were realised at Stamp Auctions during last week.

January 14th & 15th. Messrs. Plumridge & Co.

B.C.A. on B.S.A., 2/6, 5/- and 10/- mint	21	0
B.E.A. 1st type, set of 15, 1/2a. to 5c.	17	0
Brit. Guiana, 1876, 96c. drab, heavy post-mark	16	0
" 1877, 8c. rose, "Official"	10	0
Brit. Honduras, 6d. yellow, CA 14, used	32	0
Canada, 12d. black, sur. "Specimen" in red	34	0
Cape Triangular, De La Rue printing,		
" 1d. red, mint pair, superb	60	0
" 4d. slate-blue, mint pair superb	63	0
" 6d. mauve, mint pair, superb	80	0
Mafeking Siege Stamps, set of 18	280	0
Ceylon, 2/- blue, mint pair	19	0
" 1r. 12c. "On Service," mint block of 8	34	0
Dominica, 1/- lilac-rose, CA 14, mint	38	0
Gambia, 6d. blue, CC, imperf., mint	18	0
Gold Coast, 1891, 2/-, 5/- and 10/- mint	22	0
" 20/- lilac on red, mint	22	0
Great Britain, Mulready Letter Sheets, complete sheet of 12 in frame	120	0
Great Britain, £5 orange, mint, creased	92	6
Sydney View, 3d. pair, very lightly cancelled, but one cracked	105	0
Portugal, 1st issue, 100r. lilac, fine	20	0
Queensland, 2/- blue, 65 copies fiscally used	21	0
Russia, 10k. imperf., first issue...	20	0
St. Vincent, 1d. rose-red, compound perf.	63	0
" 1/- Indigo, 1/- slate, & 1/- claret	35	0
" 1/- vermilion, compd. p. unused	46	0
S. Australia, 1856, Colonial print, 1d. yellow-green, mint, fine	85	0
Switzerland, Basel, 2 1/2 rappen, blue black, and carmine, unused	130	0
Transvaal, 1900, surcharged V.R., in violet, in rubber type, the set from 1/2d. to 1s., all used on pieces of original	65	0
Transvaal, 1/2d. green, two copies used on entire, postmarked Dundee, Natal	2	0
Tuscany, 80c. pale red brown, unused	16	0
United States, State \$10, unused, v.f.	155	0
Victoria, 1865, 10d. slate, used...	14	0
" 5s. blue on yellow, heavy oblit.	63	0
Western Australia, 1d. black, rouletted, pair, used	36	0

**A REFERENCE LIST**

OF THE

**Embossed Envelope Stamps**

OF THE

UNITED KINGDOM.

BY OSWALD MARSH.

Embossed Envelope Stamps.

THREEHALFPENCE.—The envelope die of this value was like the adhesive, prepared for use in 1860 and "specimen" copies printed in pink may be found dated 2nd April 1860. It was not however brought into use until 1872, the earliest copy I have seen being dated 9. 7. 72. The shades of colour vary greatly from pale pink to brown pink. In 1874 or 1875 the colour was changed to dark brown, which however, gradually became lighter in shade. The colour was again changed early in 1892 to yellow of which both pale and dark shades may be found.

1 1/2d. PINK.

Die 1.—This die may always be distinguished apart from the die number, by a dot in the solid background under the first E of pence. After 1885, the outer line is broken into above the R of "three."

Die 2.—May be distinguished by a similar dot opposite the T of "postage."

Dies 3 & 4.—I have never seen and doubt if they were ever brought into use.

Die 5.—Some accident seems to have happened to the matrix as this and all succeeding dies have been minus the outside lines. This die seems to have met with a further mishap about the middle of 1892, getting the left hand angle damaged both above and below the date hole. Die 5 may be found in brown, dated, in yellow, dated, also in yellow with 9 dot florets. I have never seen it with 5 dot florets. Apart from the die number it has a dot before the T of three in the centre label.

Die 6.—Was not apparently brought into use until the practice of dating of the stamps had to be given up. Any copies I have come across show no distinguishing mark other than the number.

Die S.H.—Is the die now in use. It has two dots between the queen and the right hand floret. Beneath I give a table showing the earliest and latest dates I have met with on the above stamps.

DIE	EARLIEST	LATEST.
1ww pink	(specimen 2.4.60).	
	9.7.72	7.11.73
1ww brown	27.4.75	20.1.86
2ww brown	31.10.87	14.5.90
5ww brown	5.3.92	16.3.92
5ww yellow	11.5.92	25.11.93
5ww	with 9 dot florets.	
6ww	do.	
SH	do.	

Mr. F. J. Crick sends me the following record dates of the 1d. pink envelope stamps:

Earliest.			Latest.		
rd. die 89	14	11	61	rd. die 97	29
" 90	12	12	62	" 158	22
" 110	4	6	63	" 161	8
" 142	25	7	66	" 167	30
" 149	15	9	67	" 187	7
" 151	4	9	68		
" 156	20	1	71		
" 183	22	2	75		
" 184	22	10	74		
" 185	10	8	74		

I have also found a copy of 1d. die 202 dated 17/10/78, being one month earlier than that given in my list.

**Findings.**

It is reported that the Dhar State Post Offices were closed on January 1st, 1901. If this means that the offices are closed permanently it is good news indeed and it is to be hoped that other minor Indian States will follow suit, after having such a worthy example set them.

It is probable that two new values will be added to the current sets of Austria and Hungary i.e., 35 and 45 heller.

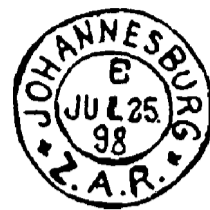
The United States Government are contemplating an issue of stamps for Tutuila, wherever that may be.

In a block of four "Halfpenny" on 1d. rose stamps of Tasmania we saw recently one stamp had the tail of the "P" completely cut off, viz:—"Halfpenny." In all four stamps, too, the letter "E" of the surcharge was broken.

**Postmark Notes.**

By "DUPLEX."

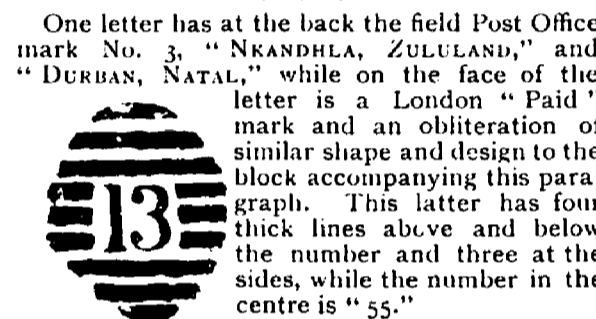
ANOTHER lot of interesting war envelopes has been sent to me for inspection by Mrs. Capell. One of these was sent to England from Machadodorp by an English officer while a prisoner in the hands of the Boers. On the face of the envelope is a postmark similar in shape to the accompanying illustration, shewing "MACHADODORP Z.A.R." between the rings and "15 JUN 00" in one line across the centre. The London "PAID" mark also appears. The envelope was opened by the Boer authorities and a pink label bearing a notice to that effect has been used to seal it again. The notice reads "POST DEPARTEMENT Z.A.R. Geopend onder Krijgswet."



Another entire also posted from Machadodorp bears similar marks to the previously described envelope, and in addition has a large oval mark on the face of the letter. This was impressed with a rubber stamp with ink of a purple colour and is very much blurred. At the top of the oval is "LANDDROST KANTOOR," across the centre is "5 JUN 1900," the rest of the mark being undecipherable.

Two other letters sent by prisoners of war from Barberton, Z.A.R., bear Transvaal 1d. and 1/2d. stamps. At the back of each envelope a large double-lined oval mark is stamped. At the top of this is "Publieke Aanklagers Kantoor," and at the base "Barberton Z.A.R." Across the centre the date appears enclosed in two parallel straight lines.

One letter has at the back the field Post Office mark No. 3, "NKANDHLA, ZULULAND," and "DURBAN, NATAL," while on the face of the letter is a London "Paid" mark and an obliteration of similar shape and design to the block accompanying this paragraph. This latter has four thick lines above and below the number and three at the sides, while the number in the centre is "55."



Another envelope bears on the front the Field Post Office No. 23 mark, the London E.C. "PAID" stamp, and a mark showing "P.O.A. 97" in two lines.

Mr. J. E. Kelsall sends me an interesting Parcels Post mark. This consists of a large single-line rectangle in which are the words "COACH—ROAD BORNE—MP" in large letters in three lines. The specimen sent me is impressed in black ink, but red and blue are also used for this purpose at times. This mark is impressed on all parcels that are conveyed by road on coaches.

The other day, I noticed on a postcard a mark that is quite new to me. This is the ordinary sized single-line circular date mark with "LONDON" at the top and "23 B" at the base. In the centre is "21 JA—01" in three lines. The number 23 B is the office number of Brixton, S.W. Have any readers seen similar marks shewing office numbers?

From Mr. J. W. Mitchley I have received an interesting envelope. This was posted by a soldier on active service in South Africa, and duly delivered in Norfolk, and the only mark impressed on it during the whole of its journey is a circular one containing "PLYMOUTH—PAID—6 JY 00."

The same correspondent sends me an envelope which was posted from Kings Lynn to Bloemfontein on May 7th, 1900, and as the authorities were unable to deliver it it was returned to the sender. On the front of the envelope is a large double lined flat oval printed in violet ink. Between the lines is "RETURNED LETTER BRANCH—G.P.O., Orange River Colony," while the date, "3 Nov 1900," is across the centre. At the back of the envelope is the Bloemfontein postmark in black, the Cape Town returned letter office mark in pink, and a small rectangular mark in which appears "Incomu—not known."

There was such a rush for the new French stamps that during the first ten hours they were issued to the public about £800 worth were sold.

# Approval Selections.

WE are now arranging and mounting a specially fine series of Approval Collections, comprising the stamps of all countries, and will have pleasure in sending same to any reader, on compliance with the conditions named below. Except where specially noted, any stamp may be selected at the price marked above it, and in most cases we allow a liberal discount off such prices. All communications for our Approval Department should be addressed to H. L. EWEN, 32, Palace Square, Norwood, S.E.

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- 1.—Stamps can only be sent on approval on condition that those not purchased are returned within five days.
- 2.—No stamps may be removed from the sheets or books until actually purchased.
- 3.—Collectors are not permitted to deduct return postage from amount of purchase.
- 4.—Discount is conditional on purchase exceeding 1. and will be forfeited if selection is kept over the five days allowed.
- 5.—Spaces should not be marked.
- 6.—Sheets should be returned folded as sent.
- 7.—When a selection is returned, another will be sent unless otherwise requested.

N.B.—We hope collectors will assist us by observing the above very reasonable conditions and we will in return make it our endeavour to send out only the finest possible copies at the lowest possible quotations.

## APPROVAL SHEETS.

No.	Discount.	Description.
202.	Nett.	New Issues and Special Bargains.
203.	"	Miscellaneous Colonials.
205.	25%	West Indies.
206.	Nett.	V.R.I's.
207.	50%	Mexico.
208.	25%	Miscellaneous.
211.	"	Russia.
212.	"	Norway.
213.	"	Sweden.
214.	"	Finland.
215.	"	Peru.
216.	"	Roumania.
217.	"	Old Europeans.
218.	"	Venezuela.
219.	"	Egypt
220.	"	Hayti.
221.	Nett.	V.R. Transvaals, &c.
223.	"	Unused African Colonials.
225.	25%	Bosnia. Bulgaria and Montenegro.

## BOOKLETS.

501.	Nett.	Fiji and Cook Islands.
503.	"	Unused English.
504.	"	Unused African Colonials.
505.	"	African Colonials.
506.	"	Unused Colonials.
507.	"	Choice Colonials.
508.	25%	Liberia.
509.	"	Denmark
510.	"	Luxemburg.
511.	"	Austria.
512.	"	Austrian Italy.
513.	"	Timor.
514.	"	Macao.
515.	"	Peru.
516.	"	Japan.
517.	"	Finland and Poland.

## BOOKS.

101.	Nett.	Orange Free State.
103.	"	V.R.I's.
106.	"	Transvaal.
107.	"	Australians.
108.	"	Miscellaneous Colonials.
109.	20%	New Zealand.
110.	10%	Ceylon and other Colonials.
111.	"	Unused English (chiefly rd. reds).
112.	"	New South Wales.

## LARGE BOOKS.

A1.	20%	Used English.
A2.	25%	Used English.
A3.	10%	Used English.
D.	25%	Cut Envelopes.
Go6.	"	English with Foreign Postmarks.
H.	10%	Railway Letter Fee Stamps.

We can specially recommend our sheets to beginners as all the stamps are reasonably priced and most of them are picked specimens. General collectors, too, will find these sheets useful in filling up blank spaces in their albums.

\* \* \*

Through an error in the paragraph describing the book of used English last week Book A2 was mentioned. This should have been Book A3.

This week we are able to offer the following rare stamps:—

	Cat. Price.	Our Price.
Great Britain; mint block of 16, 3d. rose, plate 18 ...	96/	48/
" £1 orbs, I.R. OFFICIAL "Specimen" ...	—	£6/10/0
" £1 green, used... ..	4/6	3/9
Antigua; mint pair 1d. lake, Crown CC. perf. 12½; with inverted wmk. ...	—	15/
Bahamas; 1d. vermilion, unused, wmk. Crown CC. perf. 12½ ...	12/6	6/6
Barbados; Mint pair of 3d. brownish red, imperf. blued paper ...	20/	15/
" Mint pair of 1d. blue, imperf., blued paper ...	12/	8/6
" Mint pair of 6d. dull orange vermilion. No wmk., rough perf. ...	55/	37/6
" 5/- dull rose, used ...	45/	37/6
" ditto, not so fine ...	45/	27/6
British Honduras; 1882 issue, 6d. yellow, used, Crown CA. 14 ...	80/	40/
Cape of Good Hope; superb used pair of 1/- yellow-green, fine margins ...	—	48/
" 4d. woodblock, pale blue, fair copy ...	50/	36/
Ceylon; 10d. imperf. unused no gum ...	80/	40/
Finland; 1 mark, used, 1867-70 issue one corner torn, S.G., No. 49 ...	18/	7/6
Gambia; 6d. blue, used, 1880 issue, wmk. Crown C.C., perf. 14. ...	15/	7/6
" 1/- green, mint, 1880, wmk. Crown C.C., 14. ...	50/	42/
" 2½d. blue, wmk. Crown CA. Entire sheet of 15 ...	10/	8/6
" 3d. grey, sheet of 15 ...	11/6	9/6
" 4d. brown, sheet of 15 ...	15/	12/6
" 6d. slate green, sheet of 15 ...	30/	25/
" 1/- violet, sheet of 15 ...	40/	33/
Griqualand; 5/- orange, used, S.G. No. 70, very rare ...	—	30/
" 5/- orange, used, S.G. No. 116 ...	—	2/6
Hawaii; 2 cent, 1864 issue ...	1/3	1/10
Jamaica; Mint pair, 5/- lilac, wmk. C.C. ...	35/	27/
Mauritius; 5/- violet used ...	7/	5/
New South Wales; 2d. Sidney View used, fair copy ...	25/	15/
" 5/- violet used S.G. No. 142 ...	10/	3/6
" 5/- map, used, perf. 10 ...	—	12/6
" 5/- coin "O.S." used, perf. 12½ ...	10/	6/6
Orange Free State; 1896 issue, ½d. on 3d. Block of four with double surcharge ...	30/	22/6
Queensland, 2/6 vermil. used, S.G. No. 114... ..	5/	4/
" 5/- rose, S.G. No. 110 ...	2/6	2/
" 10/- brown, S.G. No. 111 ...	12/6	8/6
St. Vincent; 1/- blue, used S.G. No. 13 ...	30/	15/
" 1/- claret, used, S.G. 19... ..	25/	15/
" 1/- brown, used, S.G. 14 ...	30/	15/
" 5/- wmk. Star. Has "REVENUE" printed across it otherwise would be worth £15. ...	—	30/
South Australia, 10/- green perf. 10, used ...	12/	9/6
Tasmania, 1d. blue, used; first issue, fair copy ...	65/	45/
" 4d. orange used, first issue, very fine ...	—	15/
" ditto, corners mended ...	15/	10/

Any of the above stamps can be sent on approval if required. Immediate application is required, however, as in most instances we have only one copy in stock.

## "E.W.S.N." AND NEWSAGENTS.

ONE PENNY WEEKLY. EVERY SATURDAY.

We hope every Collector will do his best to support the first and only Weekly Stamp Paper published in Europe. The cheapest way to get it is by asking your Newsagent, or the nearest Railway Bookstall, to procure it regularly. The price is the modest one of 1d. weekly, which every Collector should be able to spare. Should any difficulty be experienced in getting the paper through a Newsagent, we should be glad to be advised of same.

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W. R. RUSSELL & CO., Limited,  
Paternoster Row, E.C.

# Ewen's Weekly Stamp News.

With which is incorporated EWEN'S WEEKLY CIRCULAR. (Established October, 1897.)

A JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

THE ONLY WEEKLY STAMP PAPER  
PUBLISHED IN EUROPE.

(Entered at Stationers' Hall. Illustrated by permission of the Board of Inland Revenue.)

Editor and Publisher: H. L'ESTRANGE EWEN, 32, PALACE SQUARE, NORWOOD, LONDON, S.E.

Wholesale Publishers: Messrs. W. R. RUSSELL & Co., Ltd., Paternoster Row, London, E.C.

No. 71. (VOL. VI.)  
(Whole Number, No. 157.)

LONDON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1901.

[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

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The Week's News. New Issues. Jottings.  
Correspondence—Postal Stationery.  
Foreign Extracts. Postcard Notes.  
The Status of the Unpaid Letter, Registration,  
Too Late, and Official Stamps, &c.  
Colonial Stamp Market.

## The Week's News.

Each of the French Colonies has now been supplied with 10, 15, 25 and 50c. stamps in the new Postal Union colours, thus providing collectors with another 76 varieties to look for. Of one of these, the 10c. Soudan, a speculator is reported to have cornered the entire stock.

\* \* \*

In the list given last week of Colonies which have issued stamps bearing Queen Victoria's portrait, we inadvertently included Western Australia and omitted British East Africa, St. Helena, Tobago, Virgin Isles and Zululand.

\* \* \*

We do not know whether it is usual, but recent supplies, at any rate, of South Australian high values have been printed on paper intended for the 1d. value. A corner block of the £1 value recently shown us by our Colonial Market had the imprint in red "10. 595026," and one of the 2/6 the No. "10. 595003," whereas a similar block of the 5/- was printed on paper numbered "5/- 000427."

\* \* \*

We have recently met with two more "record" early dates for British stamps.

1/- plate 5, postmarked London, 16.5.71.

1/- " 8 " London, S.E. 1.9.73.

The latter is the official date of issue, and probably therefore the earliest date obtainable.

\* \* \*

Messrs. De la Rue & Co. have recently brought into use plate 3 of their general "Postage—Postage" type. This plate has been used for printing the new Cayman Islands stamps.

\* \* \*

ERITREA.—*La Revista del Francobollo* learns that the Italian Government have the intention of making a special issue for this Colony. The stamps will probably be of larger size than usual and in two different types, one representing a lion, the other an elephant.

\* \* \*

Transvaal.—Mr. J. N. Mostyn writes that a few days ago he received two Transvaal 1d. V.R.I. stamps, one of which had a comma after the letter 'R' i.e., 'V.R.I.'

\* \* \*

France.—Mr. Nicolas N. Khartoff writes that the special stamp to be distributed to French soldiers to allow them to post two letters free every month is not quite ready yet, and in the meantime the ordinary 15 centimes stamp surcharged "F.M." (*Française Militaire*) will be used.

## Jottings.

Our Colonial Market recently showed us some 3d. V.R.I. Orange River Colony stamps, which were on paper decidedly thicker than usual.

\* \* \*

The *London Philatelist* is our authority for the statement that there are two distinct printings of some of the lower values of the new French stamps. It is said that the first lot issued were obtained by two impressions, but now they are produced at one operation. The first issue is getting quite difficult to obtain. It is also stated that the colour of the 15 centimes is to be changed. According to all accounts, the entire issue has occasioned the liveliest dissatisfaction in France.

\* \* \*

We would warn our readers to be chary in buying the 25 bani blue error of the 1893-96 issue of Roumania. It appears that instead of destroying these the Postal Officials tried to sell them at £2 each. However sales at that figure were anything but brisk and now no less than 842 are offered to the highest bidder.

## New Issues.

The Editor will be much obliged for early news of New Issues, or intended New Issues or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors. Full acknowledgment given. If possible, specimens should be sent in order that illustrations may be prepared.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—Mr. Wm. Cross sends us a commemorative card and accompanies it with the following explanatory note:—

"The dawn of the 20th Century was doubtless commemorated in many stamp issuing countries by special stationery, and I have pleasure in sending you for inspection a letter card issued for sale on New Year's Eve by the Government of Argentina. The 5 centavos stamp embossed in white upon a deep blue ground is of the usual type for their postal stationery, its colour being the only novelty. Inside the sheet are two views contrasting *Los Mataderos* in the years 1800 and 1900 together with inscriptions above and below which read "Republica Argentina" and "Feliz ano Nuevo" respectively. At the base of the card is printed the date *1 de Enero de 1901*."

BRAZIL.—Fiscal collectors can now boast a special commemorative set all their own! During May and June, 1900, Brazil is reported by the *Courrier des Timbres-poste* to have placed in circulation a series of four new fiscal stamps of the values of 500, 1000, 2000, 10,000 reis, inscribed at the top: "*IV. Centenario de descoberta do Brazil. Estado do Amazonas 1500-1900*." The design shows in the centre a portrait of Columbus, and at either side two allegorical figures.

CANADA.—Another value has recently been added to the current set with numerals in the lower corners, viz.:—20 cents sage-green. This information appears in the *Metropolitan Philatelist*.

CAYMAN ISLANDS.—The new ½d. and 1d. stamps issued here are only intended for local postage. The supply received lately by our Colonial Market was franked with Jamaican stamps at Grand Cayman and travelled via Jamaica. The stamps are printed in sheets of 120, divided into two panes of 60 (10 rows of 6).

COLUMBIAN REPUBLIC.—An American contemporary states that the stamps issued provisionally during the past year now appear with a regular perforation gauging about 12 instead of being imperforate and pin perforate as hitherto. The values mentioned are, 5c., red on buff, 5c. purple on green, and 10c. red on salmon.

DHAR.—In our last issue we stated that the Post Offices of this Indian state were closed on Jan. 1st. It appears that the authorities managed, before this took place, to issue three new varieties i.e., ½ anna deep rose, 1 anna bright mauve, and 2 annas deep green.

ECUADOR.—The 10 centavos dark blue revenue stamp was recently used to frank a letter from Guayaquil. Thus another postal fiscal has to be added to an already long list emanating from this South American republic.

FERNANDO POO.—*Mekeel's Weekly* states that the 10 centavos, blue, revenue stamp has been surcharged "Correos" thus transforming it into a postage stamp.

FRENCH INDIA.—Some colour changes have just taken place in the 10, 15, 25 and 50 centimes stamps. According to the *Metropolitan Philatelist* the new colours are:—

10 centimes,	carmine on rose.
15 "	gray-lilac on grayish.
25 "	blue on bluish.
50 "	brown on pale blue.

GERMANY.—Mr. R. M. Angus, has sent us a specimen of the 25 pfennig Germania type in which the letters in "REICHSPOST" are slightly smaller than formerly. As stated in our last issue the 30, 40, 50 and 80 pfennig stamps have been treated in the same manner.

GUADELOUPE.—Colour changes have also taken place in this French Colony and as they are identical with those described above under "French India," we refer our readers to that paragraph.

INDIA.—Mr. J. N. Mostyn informs us that he lately received a specimen of the 3 pies rose with the "ON H.M.S." surcharge in black. We do not appear to have chronicled this variety before.

MALTA.—The new ½d. stamps are beginning to come over. A letter we received by a recent mail was franked with no less than 72 of these stamps! The current ½d. stamp has now been overprinted "REVENUE" in tall sans-serif type similar to the 1d. value, the surcharge being done in London. The local overprint, which is now obsolete, was ordinary Roman type with a capital R. An error, wrong fount "R," occurred in every pane of 60 stamps, the position of this being third in the eighth row. This error does not appear to have been chronicled before.

NEW ZEALAND.—Our Colonial Market has just shown us a sheet of an entirely new value, i.e., 1½d. This is the latest addition to the patriotic posters that have been issued by some of our Colonies. The design is entitled "The Empire's Call."

In the foreground is an allegorical figure blowing a trumpet. On the left hand side is an officer in khaki drawing his sword and on the right hand side is a trooper with bayonet fixed on his rifle, both being accompanied by their horses. In the background a troop of cavalry is shown advancing in line, while in the distance are tents and kopjes. On one side is a flag on which the Union Jack and Southern Cross are emblazoned. On a tablet in the left hand top corner is the value, "1½d.," while "NEW ZEALAND" appears at the top of the design and "POSTAGE AND REVENUE" at the base. The stamps are oblong in shape and are slightly larger than the 2/- pictorial issue. They are printed in sheets of 120 (10 rows of 12) and are watermarked "N.Z." and star. The perforation gauges 11½ and like most local points the stamps are badly off centre.

Altogether the design is one of the poorest we have yet had from New Zealand, and as the stamps are printed in a dark khaki colour the effect of the whole is anything but pleasing.

ORANGE RIVER COLONY.—Mr. J. J. Barratt has shown us a specimen of the 3d. blue V.R.I., raised stops, having the initials "B.D." between the "V.R.I." and "3d." This is a fiscal the letters meaning Bank Draft.

SARAWAK.—Stamps has quite a number of minor varieties listed in its January issue. The 1c. on 3c. (Gibbons No. 12) has been found imperf. horizontally and also without the ink of surcharge. The 4 cents value of the 1st issue exists imperf. horizontally, while the 3c. with stop after "THREE" (Gibbons No. 10) is known surcharged with types 3, 4 and 16. Nos. 41 and 43 have also been found with a small "s" in "CENTS" and Nos. 40, 41 and 42 are known with stop raised.

VICTORIA.—Some new stationery has been issued here recently. Mr. H. W. Lane sends us a specimen of a new 1d. reply card. The stamp is of the same design and is printed in the same colour as the 1d. adhesive—rosine. We notice the usual inscription "The address only to be written on this side" does not appear on the reply half of the card.—Mr. Norman C. Horwood sends us a new 1d. postcard which he states has been issued to celebrate the Australian Commonwealth. The first printing is to number 125,000, and will be issued in five colours—25,000 of each. So far only two colours have appeared, grey and blue. The stamp on the face of the card sent us is somewhat similar in design to the 1d. green adhesive of the 1870 issue. At the top the royal arms appear with the initials "A.C." for Australian Commonwealth. At the back of the card is a design in the centre of which are the arms of the six federated colonies. At the top is a portrait of her late Majesty Queen Victoria, to the left is a portrait of the Duke of York, and to the right is one of Lord Hopetown, the first governor of the Australian Commonwealth. At the base of the design is a scroll bearing the inscription "One people, one empire, one destiny."

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**C**OLLECTORS Duplicates from 6 a penny, upwards.—ARTHUR J. CHATT, Blackwater, Hants.

**T**HOUSANDS of collectors wanted to subscribe to the "Philatelic Monthly Referee." Best paper going. 1/- for 12 months. Published 25th of each month, commencing February. Serial article on the Stamps of Hayti (illustrated), and other good items. Advertisements from 1/9. Special advantages to advertisers. Circular free.—Address: EDITOR, P.M.R., 26, Beulah Hill, Upper Norwood.

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**P**OSTAL CARDS and COVERS. A quarterly Magazine, 1/- per annum, post free.—SCOTT & WILSON, Reginald Mount, Leeds.

**C**IRCULAR DELIVERY STAMPS.—Collection of 148, mostly genuine, £3— or sell separately.—KAY, 35, Bessborough Street, S.W.

**F**OREIGN DEALERS! Why should you advertise in the *Montreal Philatelist*? Because if you are looking for business from this side of the water, or if you want to place your name before United States and Canadian collectors, the *Montreal Philatelist*, Canada's best stamp paper, will bring you customers. Advertising 2/- per inch, £1 per page. Dealers' Directory 7/- for 12 insertions. Circulation 1,500 to 2,000 monthly.—W. JAMES WURTELE, Publisher, 118, St. James' St., Montreal, Canada.

**Philatelic Stationery.**To the Editor *E.W.S.N.*

DEAR SIR,

My attention has been drawn to an editorial notice in one of our prominent monthly philatelic journals, to the effect that the proprietors have decided to discontinue the importation of envelopes, postcards, etc.

The article further states that "vast numbers of collectors confine their attention to adhesives, and neglect postal stationery altogether, with the result that the most bulky portion of a dealer's stock is at the same time the most unprofitable." If I am not very much mistaken, the complaint as to "bulkiness" raised by the dealers is identical with the cool welcome accorded by collectors to this most interesting, nay, fascinating branch of our hobby.

After several years experience in the collecting of "cut squares," assisted by the very valuable advice given in the pages of "The English Specialist's Journal," and later on in *E.W.S.N.*, my only regret is that I did not commence to study and collect them in 1867, when I began the collecting of adhesives.

If collectors would only recognise the fact that it is the burdensome, "bulky" paper that surrounds these interesting stamps that causes them to be snubbed and discarded, we should not hear of dealers discontinuing their sale.

Knowing you, Sir, to have championed the cause of "cut squares" warmly at all times, is my only excuse for trespassing on your valuable space, coupled with a fear lest the discontinuance of the importation of the above stamps by a prominent firm of dealers might still further prejudice collectors against them.

Wishing your paper every success,

I am, faithfully yours,

HENRY J. CHAPMAN.

[We believe that it is the intention of our Colonial Stamp Market to, in future, import limited quantities of newly-issued Colonial postcards and envelopes. We strongly endorse our correspondent's suggestion that the unpopularity of envelope stamps is principally due to the mistaken belief, fostered by catalogue compilers, that it is necessary to include in an album with them the whole of the blank paper on which they are imprinted.—ED.]

**China and Postal Union Letters.**To the Editor, *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News.*

MY DEAR SIR,

Please accept the following for your "Post-card Column," which is rather too long to send in that manner.

In reply to Mr. Walter's query in No. 67, I may be able to clear up a few points. China has not yet entered the Postal Union, therefore her stamps are unavailable for international postage at the Union rates. At many of the Treaty Ports, however, various foreign governments have established postal agencies for the convenience of foreign residents, like they have in some of the Levantine and African ports. The ports at which such agencies exist are treated as being in the Postal Union, though the Imperial Chinese Post-office at the same port is not so considered.

The result is that all Postal Union letters must bear the stamps furnished by some one of the agencies. Now, pending the entrance of China into the Postal Union, an arrangement has been made by the Imperial Postal Department whereby international letters are supplied with the requisite foreign stamps without extra cost to the sender of the letter. For instance, a letter mailed at Amoy, addressed to London, and franked with 10c. in Chinese stamps (the equivalent of the international rate), is forwarded to Shanghai in the Chinese mails, the regulations providing that all inter-port mail-matter must be prepaid with Chinese stamps only and be sent through the Chinese mails. At the Imperial Post-office in Shanghai, the equivalent of the Postal Union rate already on the letter in Chinese stamps is added in stamps of one of the foreign agencies, the Imperial Postal Department itself paying the cost.

Within the past year all such stamps have been cancelled, or surcharged, across the corner after being placed on the cover, with an oblong frame containing the letters I.P.O. (Imperial Post Office). As there are in Shanghai agencies of the Hong Kong Post-office, of Japan, Germany, France, and the United States, any one of the corresponding stamps can be employed—convenience, destination, date of despatch of the mails, etc., as I understand it, being the factors determining to what agency any one mail is sent.

Mr. Walter's letter, mailed in Shanghai, need not have had the Chinese stamps on it had it been mailed at the French agency; but as local delivery and collection in Shanghai are by the Imperial Post-office, probably the sender, to save trouble, put on the Chinese stamps which he had handy, and let the Imperial Post-office deliver it to the agency, as it cost him no more.

I have a registered cover mailed in Shanghai in the same way, which bears 36c. in Chinese stamps, and has been supplied with 36 sen in Japanese stamps (the Japanese sen and Chinese cent being equivalent). This makes it a triple rate letter (30 sen = 7½d.), but the extra 6c. (1½d.) I cannot account for satisfactorily. I have also a registered cover from Soochow, which bears 50c. in Chinese stamps and 50 sen in Japanese, and another from Tientsin with 20c. in Chinese and 20 sen in Japanese. Perhaps someone else can add some more information to our knowledge of postal matters in this country of so much interest.

Very truly yours,

C. A. HOWES.

**Extracts from the Foreign Press.**

Only four readers succeeded in finding mistakes in last week's extracts. Mr. George Verneeren pointed out all four, and therefore again takes the prize.

Line 5—For "du 1 lepton" read "de 1 lepton."

" 3—Comma omitted after "lepta."

" 9—For "floritures" read "floritures."

As under our present conditions foreign readers have a distinct advantage in pointing out errors in paragraphs printed in their own language, we have decided to offer in future three prizes, each of which will take the form of several interesting new issues. These will be awarded as follows:—

- 1.—To the first reader who points out a mistake.
- 2.—To the British reader who discovers most errors.
- 3.—To the Foreign reader who discovers most errors.

Defective type and such like imperfections cannot be admitted as mistakes.

This week, it will be noticed, we have included a small paragraph from Stockholm, and to every reader who sends us a correct translation before Wednesday next (provided he is a regular subscriber to *E.W.S.N.*), we will present a set of the ½d. and 1d. Cayman Islands.

\* \* \*

**Toujours la Spéculation.**

M. Forbin nous informe que les nouveaux 10 centimes du Soudan français, émis il y a deux jours, ont tous été achetés le jour même de l'émission par un spéculateur.

Il n'en aurait été tiré que 10,000 exemplaires.

\* \* \*

**Les timbres du Congo Français.**

Intéressante information de M. Coyette dans la *Revue Philatologique*:—

"La vérité est qu'aucun approvisionnement de ces timbres n'a été envoyé à la Colonie qui serait suffisamment pourvue des anciens.

"Nous disons *serait* intentionnellement, car nous connaissons au moins un bureau qui n'est guère riche en timbres anciens; c'est le bureau de Brazzaville qui, en ces derniers temps, a dû créer les deux provisoires de 5 et de 15c.

"En tout cas cette situation va prendre fin.

"L'administration n'ayant pas été satisfaite du premier stock fabriqué, a changé de fournisseur; elle vient de confier la confection du nouveau stock à une autre imprimerie qui lui livrera sous peu un tirage irréprochable des très belles aquarelles du peintre Merwart.

"C'est avec ce nouveau tirage fait dans les mêmes teintes mais sur papier plus souple que la colonie sera approvisionnée."

S'il faut en croire M. Coyette, les timbres Congo n'ont donc jamais servi à affranchir les correspondances, et nous sommes tout simplement en présence d'un tour de fumiste qui, pour être officiel, n'en est pas moins amer.

\* \* \*

Ett Exemplar af det svenska feltrycket "20 Tretio" obegagnadt och sammanhängande med ett riktigt exemplar, således ett hittills obekant unicum, såldes nyligen af en handlare i Stockholm till Tyskland för ett pris af 800 mark.

(Svensk Filatelistisk Tidskrift).

\* \* \*

*Fernando Poo.*—Wieder eine Aushilfsfreimarke! Als ob es deren für das Kleine Postgebiet noch nicht genug gäbe! Mit dem bekannten violetten Aufdruck "Habilitado para Correos 50 Cent Pta." überdruckt ging uns kürzlich die gelbe 4 Centavos von 1899 zu. Weitere Provisorien befürchtend möchte man fast ängstlich fragen, "Welches steht uns nun bevor?"

(Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal).

A variety exists in the new surcharged stamps of the Dutch Indies without the dots over the "e" on "INDIA." This variety occurs about once in every 400 stamps, according to a contemporary.

\* \* \*

The current 1 heller lilac stamp of Austria has been seen with numerals inverted.

**Postmark Notes.**

By "DUPLEX."

ANOTHER censor mark was shown me by the Editor this week, which was stamped on his Bloemfontein correspondence. The mark consists simply of the letters "F.P.R." impressed in violet ink with a rubber stamp. These letters are probably the initials of the officer who censored the correspondence.

\* \* \*

Mr. W. H. Earl sends for inspection several interesting war envelopes bearing censor and other marks. One of these was posted from Winburg to a Boer prisoner of war at Cape Town. The "V.R.I." stamp in this letter was cancelled by a postmark similar to that shown in the accompanying illustration. The date in the centre reads "AU 4-0." On the front of the envelope is a small double lined circle containing the words "CENSOR—PRISONERS OF WAR." This is stamped in violet ink. A large double lined oval mark is also shown. At the top of this is "Resident Magistrate's Office" and at the base "WINBURG." No date is shown in this mark.



\* \* \*

Another envelope sent from Ladybrand to Cape Town bears the euphonious sounding word "Krygsgevangene" which being translated means "prisoner of war." This letter has the "V.R.I." postage stamp cancelled with a mark like that shown along with this paragraph containing the number "17"—the office number of Ladybrand.



By the side of this is a circular date mark containing "Ladybrand O.V.S." The circular censor mark described in the preceding paragraph is impressed on the front of the envelope.

\* \* \*

Another letter bears marks showing it was posted from Klerksdorp during the Boer occupation to a Boer prisoner of war at Simonstown via Lourenco Marques. The letter is franked with three rd. Transvaal stamps which are cancelled with a concentric circle postmark in which "Klerksdorp Z.A.R." appears between the rings. The date across the centre is "17 MEI 00." The letter was opened by the Boer officials and then re-sealed with a red label. Reaching the coast it was stamped with a circular mark containing the words "Correio Ambulante Lourenco Marques," and the date "20 MAI 00." Later the letter was stamped with the Durban postmark and also the censor mark described above.

\* \* \*

One letter was sent from St. Helena to a Boer prisoner in Simonstown but bears no marks of interest beyond the circular "Censor Prisoners of War" stamp.

\* \* \*

Mr. Earl also sends an envelope which was sent from Pretoria to Cape Town. It was franked with four rd. current penny English stamps and these were cancelled with the single line Army P.O. mark No. 60—evidently the office number of the Pretoria branch.

**Seychelles Stamps.**

L'Echo de la Timbrologie publishes the following list showing the number of Seychelles stamps which were issued from April 5th, 1890, to June 1st, 1890.

	Quantity Issued.	On hand June, 1896
1890 2c. green and rose ..	169,440	81,000
4c. rose and green ..	156,720	79,000
8c. lilac and blue ..	145,680	69,000
10c. blue and brown ..	99,960	96,560
13c. grey and black ..	28,800	15,000
16c. brown and blue ..	161,200	12,000
48c. bistre and green ..	28,200	3,000
96c. lilac and rose ..	16,800	None.
1893 3c. on 4c. ..	90,480	None.
12c. on 16c. ..	23,760	5,880
15c. on 16c. ..	24,000	5,160
45c. on 48c. ..	13,200	None.
90c. on 96c. ..	8,160	None.
1893 3c. brown and orange ..	131,880	72,000
12c. bistre and green ..	107,880	90,000
15c. olive and lilac ..	100,860	60,000
45c. bistre and rose ..	47,160	37,200
Envelopes, 8c. ..	30,700	23,200
" 15c. ..	31,175	22,100
" 30c. ..	31,300	26,770

**The Status of the Unpaid Letter, Registration, Too Late and Official Stamps, &c.**

A very interesting paper on the above subject has recently been read by Mr. R. Ehrenbach before the Philatelic Society, London. Although not intended for publication, the Editor of the London Philatelist has been fortunate enough to get permission to reproduce the notes, so that the philatelic public in general may have a chance to share in the discussion which is bound to arise. The question of the survival of the fittest, in connection with philately, is one that has been brought prominently to the front lately by the action of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., in excluding philatelic stationery from their stock. Will the ever-increasing number of postage stamps proper render necessary the extension of this fate to the many classes of semi-postage issues?

Local stamps are now to be ignored. Is it to be the turn of "Unpaid Letter" stamps to morrow? Mr. M. P. Castle defines a "postage stamp" as being "a label that denotes prepayment of a postal rate," whereas the unpaid letter stamp is "an official notification that the letter in question was not prepaid, and is therefore subject to a fine of double the amount payable, in coin and not in stamps, by the addressee."

Mr. Ehrenbach's opinion is in direct contradiction of this:—

"UNPAID LETTER STAMPS.—A mere glance through any of the leading catalogues will show that, as set forth roughly in the appended list, between fifty and sixty countries or possessions thereof have issued such stamps, and this to the tune of about 800. I have purposely left out in this list, as also in the others, to which I shall refer later on, practically all varieties of types, shades, and perforations, as I think a question like the present one is likely to bear only on the subject of general collections; in fact, it can hardly have any influence on specialists' collections in any way. The chief argument which should be put forth to decide their status one way or the other is, I take it, 'Do they defray postage, or do they not?' I say they do; others say the contrary. My view is, that it is *de facto* quite immaterial whether postage, or freight or carriage of any kind, is paid in advance or on delivery; it has to be paid somehow or other. No firm, whether it be the Post Office or a railway company, or a steamship company or any other company, would undertake the work of a carrier without remuneration. If they were not paid they would decline the business. But the Post Office cannot, in accordance with the Convention of the Postal Union, decline to carry letters or cards, whether they are franked in advance or not.

One of the Acts of the Berne Convention distinctly deals with this matter, and says that the Postal Authorities of every country belonging to the Union shall carry letters or post cards to destination whether the postage fees have been prepaid or not. The same Act fixes the amount to be prepaid at a maximum of 2½d. (25 centimes gold)—an amendment allowing countries to make special arrangements with each other with a view to reducing their rates—the amount of prepaid postages to go to the forwarding Post Office of the respective country. They likewise, however, stipulate, and this is the point on which I specially lay stress, that should the postage not be prepaid, or only partly prepaid by the sender, the deficiency shall then be collected in double from the addressee, and the single postage, or deficiency, shall be accounted for and credited to the country whence the letter comes, and the balance kept by the collecting office. If such a letter be not accepted by the addressee, then the letter is returned to the sender, who is legally liable for the amount due to the Post Office. I know of cases where this rule has been strictly enforced. The point just referred to distinctly shows, to my mind, that the Postage Due Stamps are not intended as a mere receipt or check on officials, or even as a fine. If this were the case, then it would be optional for any office to say: "On this letter no stamp has been affixed; we will therefore not carry it, or we will only carry it as a favour," which, under the terms of the Convention, they cannot do. The only risk they run is that in case of non-acceptance by the addressee they may fail to trace the sender, and this risk is on the balance *nil*, considering that they charge double postage if paid on delivery."

Continuing, Mr. Ehrenbach goes on to show that official stamps like unpaid letter stamps, are equally worthy of attention, but is of opinion that if anything could be discarded, it should be the registration labels, too late stamps, return receipt labels and special delivery adhesives. [If any reader would care to give his views on the subject, our columns are at his disposal.—ED.]

Mr. Ehrenbach concludes his paper by giving the following very interesting list, showing the number of these special classes of stamps which have been issued (excluding minor varieties.)

**Unpaid Letter Stamps.**

33 Austria.	34 Nicaragua.
13 Bavaria.	21 Holland.
7 Belgium.	21 Dutch Indies.
22 Brazil.	16 North Borneo.
15 Bulgaria.	5 Norway.
18 Chili.	6 Portugal.
4 Cuba.	3 Porto Rico.
20 Curaçao.	26 Roumania.
7 Ecuador.	40 Salvador.
19 Egypt.	8 San Marino.
7 Grenada.	17 Shanghai.
24 Greece.	15 Sweden.
200 (about) France and Possessions.	23 Switzerland.
4 Hayti.	6 Servia.
20 Italy.	4 Soudan.
5 Colombian Confederation.	9 Trinidad.
9 Liberia.	22 Tunis.
8 Montenegro.	30 Turkey.
10 New Zealand.	28 U.S. of America.
10 New South Wales.	21 Victoria.
	5 Philippines.

**Registration Stamps.**

5 Afghanistan.	3 Panama.
4 Antioquia.	2 Philippines.
3 Canada.	2 Queensland.
20 Colombia, excluding the large labels (also of Tolima).	2 Salvador.
4 Liberia.	1 Venezuela.
3 New South Wales.	1 Victoria.
	1 French Congo.
	1 Montenegro.

**Too Late Stamps.**

1 Antioquia.	1 Victoria.
1 Colombia.	2 Trinidad (doubtful).

**Special Delivery Labels.**

1 Canada.	7 U.S. of America.
1 Cuba.	1 Guam.

**Return Receipt Stamps.**

2 Chili.	1 Salvador.
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**Official Stamps.**

30 Argentine Republic.	109 Nicaragua.
10 British Guiana.	9 North German Confederation.
32 India.	28 Paraguay.
16 Ceylon.	20 Puttialla.
10 Chamba.	10 Perak.
34 Costa Rica.	25 Peru.
7 Denmark.	5 Poonch.
50 Ecuador.	88 Salvador.
8 Faridkot.	16 Sweden.
1 Fiji Islands.	8 Sirmoor.
30 Great Britain.	11 Spain.
7 Gwalior.	36 Suaheliland (?).
10 Hyderabad.	24 South Australia (not including Departmentals, only the O.S.).
22 Honduras.	10 Tonga.
8 Iceland.	82 Uruguay.
9 Italy.	7 Venezuela.
3 Jamaica.	10 Wurtemberg.
14 Jhind.	92 United States of America (not included in the list).
10 Cashmere.	
38 Liberia.	
70 Luxemburg.	
13 Mexico.	
15 Nabha.	
8 New Zealand.	
28 New South Wales.	

**British Stamp Exchange.**

- Circuit I. British and Colonial Adhesives.
- Circuit II. British and Colonial Envelope Stamps.
- Circuit III. Railway Stamps (all).
- Circuit IV. Postmarks (all).

The first packets were despatched to their respective circuits on January 8th, Circuits II. and IV. having already returned. Accounts will be sent out immediately on receipt of packets I. and III.

The B.S.E. is open to all readers of E.W.N.S., and anyone may contribute to the monthly packets, whether they see them or not. Ten per cent. commission is charged by the Club on sales made to cover working expenses.

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- 1.—Stamps can only be sent on approval on condition that those not purchased are returned within five days.
  - 2.—No stamps may be removed from the sheets or books until actually purchased.
  - 3.—Collectors are not permitted to deduct return postage from amount of purchase.
  - 4.—Discount is conditional on purchase exceeding 1. and will be forfeited if selection is kept over the five days allowed.
  - 5.—Spaces should not be marked.
  - 6.—Sheets should be returned folded as sent.
  - 7.—When a selection is returned, another will be sent unless otherwise requested.
- N.B.—We hope collectors will assist us by observing the above very reasonable conditions and we will in return make it our endeavour to send out only the finest possible copies at the lowest possible quotations.

### APPROVAL SHEETS.

No.	Discount.	Description.
202.	Nett.	New Issues and Special Bargains.
203.	"	Miscellaneous Colonials.
205.	25%	West Indies.
206.	Nett.	V.R.I.'s.
207.	50%	Mexico.
208.	25%	Miscellaneous.
211.	"	Russia.
212.	"	Norway.
213.	"	Sweden.
214.	"	Finland.
216.	"	Roumania.
217.	"	Old Europeans.
218.	"	Venezuela.
219.	"	Egypt.
220.	"	Hayti.
221.	Nett.	V.R. Transvaals, &c.
223.	"	Unused African Colonials.
225.	25%	Bosnia, Bulgaria and Montenegro.
228.	"	Miscellaneous Colonials.

### BOOKLETS.

501.	Nett.	Fiji and Cook Islands.
504.	"	Unused African Colonials.
505.	"	African Colonials.
506.	"	Unused Colonials.
507.	"	Choice Colonials.
508.	25%	Liberia.
509.	"	Denmark
510.	"	Luxemburg.
511.	"	Austria.
512.	"	Austrian Italy.
513.	"	Timor.
514.	"	Macao.
515.	"	Peru.
516.	"	Japan.
517.	"	Finland and Poland.
518.	"	Queensland.
519.	"	Tasmania.
522.	"	Australian (common)
523.	Nett.	Unused English.

### BOOKS.

101.	Nett.	Orange Free State.
106.	"	Transvaal.
107.	"	Australians.
108.	"	Miscellaneous Colonials.
109.	20%	New Zealand.
110.	10%	Ceylon and other Colonials.
111.	"	Unused English (chiefly rd. reds).
112.	"	New South Wales.
113.	Nett.	V.R.I. Errors and Varieties.
114.	"	V.R.I. Strips and Blocks.

### LARGE BOOKS.

A1.	20%	Used English.
A2.	25%	Used English.
A3.	10%	Used English.
D.	25%	Cut Envelopes.
G06.	"	English with Foreign Postmarks.
H.	10%	Railway Letter Fee Stamps.

We have just remounted our booklet of V.R.I. errors and varieties (No. 113) and will be pleased to forward it on approval. Applications to see this book will be dealt with in the order they are received.

Our booklets of Queensland and Tasmania contain some fine copies of the early issues of these countries and a good selection of shades.

\* \* \*

This week we are able to offer the following rare stamps:—

	Cat. Price.	Our Price.
Great Britain; mint block of 16, 3d. rose, plate 18 ...	96/	48/
" £1 orbs, I.R. OFFICIAL "Specimen" ...	—	£6/10/0
Antigua; mint pair 1d. lake, Crown CC. perf. 12½; with inverted wmk.	—	15/
Bahamas; 1d. vermilion, unused, wmk. Crown CC. perf. 12½ ...	12/6	6/6
Barbados; Mint pair of 6d. dull orange vermilion. No wmk., rough perf. ...	55/	37/6
" 5/- dull rose, used ...	45/	37/6
" ditto, not so fine ...	45/	27/6
British Honduras; 1882 issue, 6d. yellow, used, Crown CA. 14	80/	40/
Cape of Good Hope; superb used pair of 1/- yellow-green, fine margins ...	—	48/
" 4d. woodblock, pale blue, fair copy ...	50/	36/
Ceylon; 10d. imperf. unused no gum	80/	40/
Finland; 1 mark, used, 1867-70 issue one corner torn, S.G., No. 49	18/	7/6
Gambia; 6d. blue, used, 1880 issue, wmk. Crown C.C., perf. 14.	15/	7/6
" 1/- green, mint, 1880, wmk. Crown C.C., 14. ...	50/	42/
Griqualand; 5/- orange, used, S.G. No. 70, very rare ...	—	30/
" 5/- orange, used, S.G. No. 116	—	2/6
Hawaii; 2 cent, 1864 issue ...	1/3	1/10
Mauritius; 5/- violet used ...	7/	5/
New South Wales; 2d. Sidney View used, fair copy ...	25/	15/
" 5/- violet used S.G. No. 142	10/	3/6
" 5/- map, used, perf. 10 ...	—	12/6
" 5/- coin "O.S." used, perf. 12½ ...	10/	6/6
Orange Free State; 1896 issue, ½d. on 3d. Block of four with double surcharge ...	30/	22/6
Queensland, 2/6 vermil. used, S.G. No. 114. ...	5/	4/
" 5/- rose, S.G. No. 110 ...	2/6	2/
" 10/- brown, S.G. No. 111 ...	12/6	8/6
St. Vincent; 1/- claret, used, S.G. 19	25/	15/
" 5/- wmk. Star. Has "REVENUE" printed across it otherwise would be worth £15. ...	—	30/
South Australia, 10/- green perf. 10, used ...	12/	9/6
Tasmania, 1d. blue, used; first issue, fair copy ...	65/	45/
" 4d. orange used, first issue, very fine ...	—	15/
" ditto, corners mended ...	15/	10/
Turks Islands, 1/- dull blue, first issue, used ...	20/	15/
Victoria, 1d. green, S.G. No. 46, fine pair, used ...	20/	17/6
" 5/- red and blue, fine used copy ...	—	6/
Wurtemberg, 5 marks pale blue, unused ...	—	7/
Zululand, 5/- on British, fine used copy ...	60/	45/

Any of the above stamps can be sent on approval if required. Immediate application is required, however, as in most instances we have only one copy in stock.

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THE PUBLISHER.

# Ewen's Weekly Stamp News.

With which is incorporated EWEN'S WEEKLY CIRCULAR. (Established October, 1897.)

A JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

THE ONLY WEEKLY STAMP PAPER PUBLISHED IN EUROPE.

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[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

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Colonial Stamp Market.

## The Week's News.

*L'Essor Philatelique* for January contains a very interesting article on the Russian stamps of Rethymo, Crete. The official decrees, authorizing the establishment of postal communication, and the issue of postage stamps, are given. The first post-offices established were those of Roustika, Pighi, Amari, Nelambes, Spili, Selia and Agros Galinios, and the postal rates were fixed at one metallik for newspapers, 2m. for letters, and 3m. for registered letters and telegrams. The post was established as from May 1st, 1899. The remainders of the postage stamps were burnt, one of the witnesses to the destruction being a Mr. Itadjigrigoraki.

Some further facts concerning the new French Congo and Soudan stamps have come to light. Every French Colony recently had a new printing of the 10, 15, 25, and 50c. stamps, in Postal Union colours, but in the case of the two Colonies we specially mention, the order was given by mistake, and never countermanded. When the stamps arrived, they were, however, placed in circulation! We have, therefore, eight "new issues" which have the edifying record of not only never having seen the Colony, the name of which they bear, but of having been created through a blunder of some official. There are now two series of stamps for French Congo which have never been out of Paris. The other has the distinction of probably being the ugliest set of stamps ever issued.

A contemporary warns its readers against excellent forgeries of the 1, 2 and 5 francs (red brown) Postage Due stamps of French Colonies.

The first general issue for French Colonies, known as the Eagle type, was made in 1859. What stamps were used previously, if any, is a question that has often been asked, and thanks to some interesting documents communicated by M. Langlois, the *Schweiser Briefmarken-Zeitung* is able to furnish the answer. Letters were paid in money until 1851, but in June of that year, supplies of the then current French stamps were sent out to the following Colonies, the quantities of stamps being as indicated.

	10c.	20c.	1fr.
Martinique ...	2500	9000	5000
Guadeloupe ...	2500	9000	5000
French Guinea	400	2000	1500
Réunion ..	2500	3500	6000

Later, on October 14th, 1851, a supply of 1000 10c., 1,500 25c. and 3,575 1fr. was sent to the French establishments in India, but as a post could not be inaugurated, the stamps were transferred to Réunion. A further discovery of a large correspondence from the Colonies in 1850-60 shows that probably only the one supply was ever sent out, as after 1854 and until the regular issue of 1859, letters were again despatched unfranked. The discovery of the above particulars throws an interesting side-light on the history of the two famous "Ile de la Réunion" stamps of 15c. and 30c. issued in 1852, and the 10c. of New Caledonia made in 1860.

A slight change has recently been made in the overprint of the Orange River Colony fiscal stamps states the *S.C.F.* The letters are slightly different and are set much closer together, there being just enough room for the stops between the letters.

The King of Italy has examined the different designs for the new issue of postage stamps and has chosen one in which he is represented full face.

## New Issues.

The Editor will be much obliged for early news of New Issues, or intended New Issues or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors. Full acknowledgment given. If possible, specimens should be sent in order that illustrations may be prepared.

**ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.**—*Le C. de Timbres-Poste* states that the new 16c. has already become obsolete, and that the 10 and 30 centavos are to have their colours changed. The *M.P.Z.* however, states that it is the 12 and 15c. which are to be altered, the postal rate for foreign letters having been increased from 12c. to 15c. presumably rendering it advisable for the latter to take the colour of the former, and vice-versa.

**BERMUDA.**—The *London Philatelist* states that a farthing stamp will be issued here shortly. In fact, it is said that a supply is already on the way to the Colony. The same journal states that the 1/- grey has been surcharged "1d.," pending the arrival of the regular farthing stamps, but of this provisional further particulars are wanting.

**BOSNIA.**—The new 1k. and 2k. stamps are slightly different in design from the others. They are a little larger than the lower values, and the numerals of value, too, appear in all four corners.

**BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA.**—The colours of the 1d., 4d., and 6d. values have recently been changed, and are now:—1d., rose; 4d., olive green; and 6d., brown. The central design in each case is printed in violet.

**BULGARIA.**—The 15 stotinki of the current type is now printed in brown on white paper according to several of our contemporaries.

**CANADA.**—The *Weekly Philatelic Era* says that the new 20c., numeral type, was issued on the 29th December. It is printed on machine wove paper exactly like that used for the other values (except the 5c.) and like them has 100 stamps to the sheet.

**CEYLON.**—We are informed that two more values have appeared with the "On Service" overprint *i.e.*, 4 cents yellow and 12 cents olive-green and carmine.

**CHILI.**—The *S.C.F.* states that the current 30 centavos carmine has been overprinted with an enormous "5." The provisional is said to have been issued on December 28th last. A considerable number of stamps were surcharged, the figures given in the official document being 1,750,000.

**CHINA.**—**JAPANESE POST OFFICES.**—The newly issued 1½sen. stamp has already been surcharged for use here.

**COOK ISLANDS.**—The *M. J.* states that a specimen of the "ONE-HALF-PENNY" on 1d. stamp has been found with the overprint inverted.

**CURACAO.**—The *M. J.* reports the existence of a pair of 10 cents stamps, one of which has the "2½c." surcharge of 1895, while the other is without the overprint.

**FARIDKOT.**—The current Indian 12 annas stamp has been overprinted in black for use in this state.

**FEDERATED MALAY STATES.**—The lower values of the permanent issue have already been sent out though particulars of colours and values are not yet to hand.

**FINLAND.**—Our Colonial Market has just shown us a set of the new stamps. The colours are:—

2 penni orange.
5 " green.
10 " deep rose.
20 " dark blue.
1 mark mauve with green centre.
10 " black with grey centre.

As stated in a previous number of *E.W.S.N.* the designs are identical with those of the current Russian stamps. The lower values are printed in sheets of 100 (10 rows of 10).

**FRENCH COLONIES.**—Colour changes are the order of the day throughout the French Colonies. In addition to those chronicled in our last issue, French Guinea, Indo-China, Mada-

gascar and Martinique have fallen into line with the following changes:—

10 centimes,	carmine on rose.
15 " "	gray-lilac on grayish.
25 " "	blue on bluish.
50 " "	brown on pale blue.

**GUATEMALA.**—The *M. J.* states that a copy of the 1c. on 2c. of 1886 has been found with the date printed twice the rest of the surcharge being normal.

**HAYTI.**—It is rumoured that this country is to have another new set of stamps though no particulars as to design, colours, &c., are yet to hand.

**HOLLAND.**—Mr. H. Becking sends us a specimen of a new inland post card. The 2½ cents stamp on the face of the card is identical in design and colour to the adhesive of the same value. To the left are the arms of Holland, while in the centre is "BRIEFKAART." It is printed in green on greenish card.

**HONG KONG.**—A supply of 5 cents orange-yellow, and 30 cents brown stamps, are on the way to the Colony we are informed by the *London Philatelist*. The American journals state that a 5c. lilac, has already been issued in the place of the 5c. blue. Which is correct, time alone will show.

**MAURITIUS.**—The *American Journal of Philately* states that several copies of the 4 cents revenue stamp have been used for postal purposes.

**INDIA.**—According to our American contemporaries, several of the Indian stamps in the new colours have received the "C.E.F." surcharge. The values recorded are:—

3 pies,	slate-grey.
½ anna,	yellow green.
1 " "	carmine.
2 " "	violet.
2½ " "	ultramarine.

**ROUMANIA.**—On the occasion of the inauguration of the new Post Office at Bucarest, a series of 10 commemorative stamps is to be issued. These are at present in course of preparation at the manufactory of the Boulevard Brune, Paris. According to *Le C. de Timbres Poste* the design of the values from 1 to 50 bani represent a Roumanian postman, whilst the higher values of 1, 2 and 5 lei are of double the ordinary size, and show a portrait of the King above and a view of the new Post Office buildings below. The series is to be ready in about two months.

**SELANGOR.**—The surcharging epidemic has again broken out here. The authorities, availing themselves of a last opportunity before the Federated Malay States stamps come into use, have had the 50 cents green and black stamp surcharged "One Cent." in one line, and also "Three Cents." in two lines, in each case with a bar above.

**SERVIA.**—Following the bad example set by Greece, this country has now imposed a surcharge on the philatelic world. This consists of the current 20 paras rose surcharged at the foot with "10 HAPA" in black.

**SOUTHERN NIGERIA.**—The Niger Coast Protectorate stamps will shortly be replaced by a set bearing the inscription "Southern Nigeria," in fact a supply is already on the way there. The design will probably be somewhat similar to that now in use while the values and colours will be as follows:—

¼d. green and black.	6d. violet and black.
1d. carmine " "	1/- olive-green " "
2d. red-brown " "	2/6 brown " "
4d. sage-green " "	5/- orange-yellow " "
	10/- violet and black on yellow.

**TRANSVAAL.**—The 6d. V.R.I. stamp has been seen with no stop after the "V." The *M. J.* chronicles the ¼d. post cards with "V.R.I." surcharge and states they were issued at Pretoria on November 21st.

**VICTORIA.**—The Rev. H. W. Lane sends us a specimen of the "Commonwealth" post card, similar to that described last week, but with the design and stamp printed in orange-brown.

## New Stamps and Coins with Portrait of King Edward VII.

SUGGESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC PRESS.

THE accession to the throne of King Edward VII. must necessarily result in a change being made in the stamps and coins at present in use. We publish here a few extracts from the Public Press on the subject, which may not be without interest:—

From *The Morning Post* (Jan. 26).

A correspondent makes a suggestion which is by no means inappropriate with regard to the design of the new stamps that will doubtless be issued early in the reign of King Edward VII. The years during which Queen Victoria ruled over the British Empire saw many changes in the life of the nation, but few were more important than the establishment of the penny post. It is impossible for the present generation to realise how great an effect this event has had, but there can be few who have not cause to be thankful every day in their lives that it ever came to pass. Our correspondent suggests that the portrait of the Queen should not disappear from all our stamps. In the United States Washington, Lincoln, Garfield, and others of the men who have helped to make that country great are commemorated by the issue of stamps which bear their portraits. It would seem an appropriate thing that there should still be among the stamps of this country some which showed the likeness of the best-loved Monarch our race has ever known. Probably, as in the case of some of the stamps of Canada and Newfoundland, it would best accord with the sentiment of the nation that the portrait should show her in the aspect familiar to us in the latter years of her life. Of course, there may be reasons why the suggestion of our correspondent should not be adopted by the authorities, but it seems on the whole distinctly happy.

*The Bristol Mercury* (Jan. 25th).

No more stamps will be printed with the head of Queen Victoria and no more coins will be minted. It will be one of the earliest duties of the Department concerned to bring out a new design embodying the head of the new King, and no doubt he will see that some of our ablest artists are consulted so as to secure a satisfactory result. The coins already made will of course be issued, and as those dated 1901 would not go forth to the public till towards the end of the year there is time to make up for the delay caused by the new arrangement. In the same way there is bound to be a large stock of stamps in hand, and those will be exhausted before the new ones are issued. From time to time alterations in the colour of halfpenny and penny stamps have been decreed, but it has taken some time to exhaust the stock in hand and to bring the new style into general use.

*The Nottingham Guardian* (Feb. 1st).

When will the new coins and the new stamps be issued? No definite information is forthcoming on the subject either at the Mint or at the Post Office, the Master of the Mint contenting himself with the statement that the preparation of the new coinage will necessarily occupy some time. Anyone who knows anything about the subject must have been prepared for this. It will be interesting to see, however, whether the design for the new coinage will be offered for public competition. I hear a rumour that the commission is to be given direct to a medallist of foreign nationality. I can hardly think, however, that this can be true, since the feeling in favour of the coinage being done by a British born subject is strong, and the selection of a foreigner would be sure to excite some criticism. The preparation of the new stamps should not, of course, occupy so long as the coin, though the new issue will hardly be made before the present reserve of stamps bearing the Queen's effigy has been exhausted. By Act of Parliament the authorities are allowed to keep stamps representing ten million sterling at Somerset House, so if their powers have been taken advantage of to the full the supply will not be quickly exhausted. I hear that collectors, however, are preparing for any emergency, by purchasing sets of unused "Victorias." Coin collectors are also showing themselves very keen to obtain coins bearing date of 1901. There was an impression that these would become extremely rare, but the announcement of the Master of the Mint should disillusionise collectors on this subject. As late as yesterday, however, I noticed 1901 pennies offered in the shop windows at threepence each.

EVERY STAMP COLLECTOR  
SHOULD SUBSCRIBE TO  
EWEN'S WEEKLY STAMP NEWS.

## Our Postcard Column

WILL readers hearing of any interesting item of News, kindly jot it down on a postcard and address to the Editor, "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News," Norwood, London. For every contribution we publish, we will send the author an interesting and newly issued stamp. (N.B.—Postcards preferred).

A correspondent writing from St. Moritz says:—

"Please find enclosed a new stamp (it seems an error) which was on sale at the Post Office on the 26th ultimo. You will notice that the colour is very distinct from the ordinary stamps. It was on sale the one day only." [The stamp sent by our correspondent is the current 25c. of Switzerland, printed in a light steely-blue colour, very different from the usual deep blue. Whether an error or not we are unable to state and will gladly welcome further particulars regarding this stamp.—Ed.]

Mr. J. H. Parry writes:—

"On looking over a few letters from the Australian Colonies I find the colour of the 2½d. Queensland Stamp has been considerably altered since its first appearance. The first of the current type I received was sent me direct on the 15th October, 1899, and was of a violet or light purple, printed on paper of a bluish colour, whilst those now reaching me are considerably darker, more of a brown than violet. I find I have only saved one of the lighter colour and this causes me to think that the colour was changed early in 1900. If this is so, those of the 1899 colour should be worth retaining. I enclose one of the darker ones for inspection and if compared with those of 99 date, the difference will be found to be very considerable. I have glanced through several stamp journals but I do not find any mention of this change in colour."

Mr. G. Vermeeren writes:—

"If this may interest your readers, I have a 6d. violet, plate 6 on piece of original post-marked: "Paquebots de la Méditerranée" in red. The mark is in three lines in an oblong frame."

"I have also a ¼d. green (1880), postmarked "IONA STEAMER, May 10th, 83, GREENOCK," this mark being in a circle."

Mr. C. A. Wilson sends the following note, but we think he must be in error as regards the first statement. Can any reader furnish a complete list of the exceptions?

"Has it ever struck your readers that our stamps are the only ones in the world that do not bear on their face the name of the country they emanate from? Also that no other English Monarch except our beloved Queen Victoria had seen a postage stamp, and that her head has appeared on every stamp that we have issued."

Mr. E. G. Collins writes:—

"There is a very interesting article in to-day's *Daily News*, "The Queen's head on our letters," which will commend itself to all lovers of English stamps. The only startling item in it is (to me at least) the news that Docwra, who introduced a Penny Post for London in 1861, used a "little triangular affair." If some of these could be found, they would eclipse our old Colonial favorites of Cape of Good Hope fame." The *Daily News* correspondent has evidently mistaken Docwra's postmarks for stamps.—Ed.]

"K" writes:—

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The 10/- Transvaal V.R.I. has been found with the stop after the "I" omitted.

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From the 1st April next the inland postal charges in Victoria will be at the uniform rate of one penny.

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CONGO-SOUDAN, 1900.

C'est vraiment par erreur que les nouvelles couleurs ont été imprimées pour ces Colonies. Voici ce qui est arrivé: au moment où l'on a fait la commande (cela doit déjà remonter assez loin), le Congo et le Soudan étaient encore, aux points de vue administratif et postal, sous le même régime que les autres colonies françaises. Depuis, le Congo a reçu une série spéciale et le Soudan a vu ses territoires réunis à nos autres colonies de l'Ouest africain. Ces événements se sont passés, naturellement, sans qu'on pense aux timbres antérieurement commandés. La fabrication continua son petit train-train, et ce n'est qu'au moment de prendre livraison de sa commande que le ministère des colonies s'aperçut de l'erreur. Le vin était tiré, on le fit boire aux collectionneurs! C'est-à-dire qu'on vendit à Paris, en même temps que tous les nouveaux coloniaux, ceux du Soudan et du Congo. Tirés en petit nombre, ceux-ci furent d'autant plus rapidement épuisés qu'on se rendit compte qu'ayant été imprimés par erreur, ils ne seraient jamais réimprimés.

Et voilà pourquoi, du jour au lendemain, la plupart des nouveaux Congo-Soudan sont devenues de véritables raretés.

Pour notre part, nous pûmes en fournir, à peu près à la valeur faciale, aux premiers acheteurs qui nous passèrent leurs commandes, mais cet heureux temps n'est plus. Nous sommes obligés de demander maintenant les prix suivants, sans garantir que nous puissions les maintenir longtemps

Congo, 10 centimes, rouge	..	0 fr. 75
" 15 " gris	..	0 " 75
" 25 " bleu	..	1 " 50
" 50 " brun s. azur.	..	0 " 75
Soudan, 10 " rouge	..	0 " 75
" 15 " gris	..	0 " 90
" 25 " bleu	..	0 " 40
" 50 " brun s. azur.	..	0 " 75

(*L'Echo de la Timbrologie*.)

\* \* \*

La Mort de la Reine.—C'est un événement philatélique que la mort de la Reine Victoria. Aucun souverain n'a jamais vu son effigie sur un aussi grand nombre de timbres, et il n'est pas de collectionneurs qui ne connaisse par cœur son visage, jeune et vieux.

(*L'Echo de la Timbrologie*.)

\* \* \*

Le même correspondant nous apprend que lors du départ des Russes de Rettimo une grande partie des timbres non vendus, qui formaient la réserve du bureau de poste, fut distribuée à l'un et à l'autre amateur de la ville.

Ces timbres étaient sans valeur aucune car ils ne portaient ni les armoiries russes ni le cachet officiel de la poste. Soigneusement récoltés par un sieur Stiliano Spyridakis celui-ci, flairant les bénéfices qu'il pouvait entirer en les rendant *bons à collectionner*, n'a pas hésité de se rendre à Athènes où des mains expertes—si pas les siennes—ont pourvu les timbres en question de la marque de contrôle et de la griffe postale dont ils étaient vierges.

Depuis lors les affaires de Spyridakis prospèrent, les ordres affluent et non content du résultat obtenu il s'est adjoint un nouvel article: les premiers timbres émis à Candie habilement imités et qui il vend 50 francs pièce.

(*L'Essor Philatélique*.)

## WANTED TO PURCHASE

Immediately, one or two fine specialised collections of British and Australian stamps, unused only. Collections containing blocks preferred. Price not exceeding £2000.

Address:—X.Y.Z., c/o Editor,  
Ewen's Weekly Stamp News, Norwood, E.S.



## Postmark Notes.

By "DUPLEX."

NEXT to the Field Post Office marks emanating from South Africa those used with the Expeditionary Force in China, are of the greatest interest. Capt. Hincks sends a letter for inspection bearing two Indian ½ anna stamps with the "C.E.F." surcharge. These are cancelled by a large double lined circular mark containing at the top between the rings "F.P.O. No. 7." Across the middle of both circles are two parallel straight lines between which the date—28 00 00—appears. At the back of the envelope is a single line circular mark containing the words "BASE OFFICE" and the date.

\* \* \*

Lieut. T. Edw. Kelsall forwards me an official envelope from the Front in China. This is an ordinary blue "On Her Majesty's Service" envelope on which a rectangular Indian postmark is stamped, but the only words I can decipher in this are "POSTAGE" and "ANNA." The London "PAID" mark has been struck over this one. At the back of the envelope is a single line circular mark containing at the top "F.P.O. No. 13" while the date "5 DE 00" is printed in two lines below. Another mark on the same envelope contains "BASE OFFICE" in small type curved round the top, while the date—"25 DE 00" is immediately below. Under the date is "9.—"

\* \* \*

The same correspondent sends a number of interesting entires for my inspection. One of these has on the front, the South African F.P.O. No. 3 mark, and one, "ALDERSHOT CAMP," of exactly similar type. The same envelope also shows a circular mark containing "SOUTHAMPTON PACKET LETTER."

\* \* \*

Another entire posted from South Australia to Cape Town has a circular mark stamped on the back in which are the words "EXPRESS RAILWAY, S.A." and the date. The same envelope has London, Cape Town, Newcastle Natal, Ladysmith, and Field Post Office marks on it so it has evidently had some fairly extensive travels.

\* \* \*

One letter bears a very fine specimen of a Field Post Office postmark in blue. It is a single line circular mark having "ARMY P.O. 55." at the top, "S. AFRICA" below and the date in the centre.

\* \* \*

Another entire has a circular mark on the back, at the top of which is "RANGOON." Below this, between parallel straight lines, is "SPECIAL DELV," and lower still is "11 AP 00."

\* \* \*

The Editor has shown me an interesting envelope from South Africa. This was franked with a current English ½d. stamp and a 3 pies Indian carmine. These stamps were obliterated with the large double-lined Army Post Office mark, with "VOLKSRUST" at the bottom and date across centre. This mark is stamped with purple ink.

\* \* \*

A correspondent, writing in an American contemporary, states that he received a letter from Canada, the stamp on which was almost entirely torn off, and in its place was a cancellation, apparently made by a rubber stamp, containing "Postage Stamp N.Y. Post Office." The postage stamp had evidently fallen or been torn off, in transit, and the cancellation was impressed by the New York stamper, to show that he knew the stamp had been properly affixed, and the letter was therefore allowed to pass without surcharge.

\* \* \*

In a recent issue of *Hobbies* a few brief notes about the postmarks of China are given, and these the writer describes as being "more curious than even the stamps" of this country. Some of the postmarks used by the wily "Celestial" are distinctly curious, that employed in Pekin having a very strange appearance. Some of the marks used in the treaty ports are in English, and show the words "CUSTOMS" and the name of the town. Other marks show both English and Chinese characters.

\* \* \*

Several items relating to interesting postmarks are unavoidably held over until next week.

The new 1½ sen stamp issued in Japan is only available for use on postcards.

\* \* \*

The interesting find of first issue Samoa *imperfurate*, which was reported in several of our contemporaries a few months ago turns out to be merely "waste" sheets found in the printers office Samoa.

## Parisian Dealers raided by Post Office Detectives.

THE theft of stamps some two years ago from the Postal administration of France resulted, during January, in a raid being made by the Post Office detectives on the premises of the more important Parisian dealers. Some anonymous persons, it appears, informed the authorities that some of the stolen property had been sold to the dealers, who were practically under arrest, together with their employés, for the greater part of a day, while their stocks of stamps were searched. In the end, however, everything seems to have come all right, the honesty of the dealers being fully vindicated. An interesting account of his unpleasant experience is given by M. Maury in the January number of his Journal. Here in England one can hardly imagine such an occurrence taking place, where a reputable merchant is concerned.

It appears that the collection of the Administration—largely recruited from the stamps distributed from Berne by the Postal Union—is carefully mounted in huge books with thick cardboard leaves, the stamps being firmly gummed down. The albums are not shown to the public, and no one in the Administration concerns himself much with looking after the collection. It is hardly surprising therefore that one day a number of stamps were found to be missing.

Some months later, another theft was made, but this time the objects stolen were rejected sheets of stamps, including both those for Home and Colonial use, as also a number for Tunis, all of which are printed at the establishment on the boulevard, Brune. These stamps are known as "fautes" and are supposed to be cancelled with a special mark, pending an order being made for their destruction. This is either hexagonal in shape, inscribed "Annulé" or circular, with "Administration des Postes," etc., or if either of these marks are not used, the stamps are merely penmarked.

About eight or ten months since, a number of 5 franc stamps of Tunis so cancelled were placed in the market by a Parisian dealer, and that the number must have been considerable is evidenced by the fact that the regency of Tunis found it necessary to complain that the sale of unused 5fr. stamps had almost ceased. Collectors are almost the only purchasers for stamps of this value, and evidently preferred the article sold in Paris to that manufactured and sold by the original firm. The claims of Tunis notwithstanding, the sale of the presumably stolen sheets does not appear to have been stopped, although an enquiry was held. (The present value of the 5 francs Tunis used is given as 5/- in the Catalogues, whilst the face value is a little less.)

The Postal Administration does not seem to have taken any steps to trace the culprits, until a third theft occurred, the duplicates of the collection mentioned above being this time removed. Two officials in the Post Office were arrested, and stimulated by this success, the department seems to have gone to the other extreme and energetically organized a search for the missing stamps amongst the stocks of the leading Parisian dealers. The raid seems to have been carefully planned, the premises of the various *marchands de timbres-poste* being seized simultaneously and everyone, including both employés and clients, placed under arrest. M. Maury plaintively describes how he had to parley at the door before M. Cochefert, chef de la Sûreté, at the head of a dozen agents, would admit him to his own premises; how even an attendant who was on his way to a restaurant to order lunch was detained, and how ultimately his staff and he were expelled for four hours whilst a fruitless search was being made.

More concerning this *affaire ridicule*, as M. Maury describes it, we have not space to write here, but it is fully described, to the extent of eight pages, in *Le Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste*.

## Jottings.

According to the *Philatelic Journal of India* the 8c. and 1r., 12c., stamps of Ceylon have been withdrawn from use.

Not content with the numerous "wheel" and date surcharges they have perpetrated during the last two months, the postal authorities of Salvador have now discarded these and brought into use another overprint which an American contemporary aptly describes as a "sunburst." Collectors will be pleased to hear that already fifteen stamps with this new surcharge have appeared.

An interesting variety of the 5c. blue, Peru, 1895 issue, has been found. In this the inked impression is missing for a space of about 2mm. at the bottom of the specimen.

## Undisplayed Advertisements:

Every Four Words, 1d.

4 insertions at the price of 3; 13 at the price of 8. Address, The Publisher, Ewen's Weekly Stamp News, Norwood, London, not later than Mondays.

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VICTORIA, laureated, 1863-67, good copies, shades, per dozen. 1d., watermark V, 3/-; 2d., watermark 2 or V, 2/-; 2d., watermark double 4, 1/6; 2d. on lilac, 5/6.—BRIDGER, 65, Bishopgate Street Without, E.C.

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A FINE Lot of New Issues, used and unused, for Sale, cheap. 50% discount.—BOLTON, 5, Elmwood Road, Croydon.

WILL soon be unobtainable. Transvaal, V.R.I., posted on original envelope, from Johannesburg to any address registered. Set ½d. to 1/-, inclusive price, 6/6; including 2/6, price 10/6. Apply at once.—E. W. NEWTON, Llewellyn House, Cumborne, Cornwall.

WANTED (collections or loose) English cut squares College stamps, telegraphs, imperforates, good departments, etc. Exchange—Colonials, rare unused English adhesives.—CHAPMAN, Melrose, Whitton, Middlesex.

HAITI: All the oldest issues used and unused wanted in any quantity against cash. My Price List containing the prices of every Postage Stamp of Haiti issued, priced simply, in sets and in packets sent post free. Selections sent on approval, references or cash deposit required from collectors not known to me.—WM. WEIR-YOUNG, "Kennure," Ashton-upon-Mersey.

COLLECTORS Duplicates from 0 a penny, upwards.—ARTHUR J. CHATT, Blackwater, Hants.

THOUSANDS of collectors wanted to subscribe to the "Philatelic Monthly Referee." Best paper going. 1/- for 12 months. Published 25th of each month, commencing February. Serial article on the Stamps of Hayti (illustrated), and other good items. Advertisements from 1/9. Special advantages to advertisers. Cash or free.—Address: EDITOR, P.M.R., 26, Beulah Hill, Upper Norwood.

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200 Stamps, 1/-; 200 ditto (superior), 1/6; 500 ditto, 6/-; 1,000 ditto, 16/-; each packet containing stamps all different, 9 Bosnia, 1891 (obsolete) 8d.; 9 ditto, 1/00 (scarce), 1/-; 10 Bulgaria, 1890, 6d.; Sudan, 1898, 1 mil to 10 piastres (complete) 4/-; 3 Persia, 1897, unused, surcharged (cat. 8/6), 3/-; 10 Persia, 1894, unused, 1 sh. to 10 krans (cat. 21/-) at 10/6 per set. Wholesale offers respectfully requested for cash or exchange from our wholesale price list, post free on application.—THE WILLIAM STAMP CO., 120, Leadenhall Street, London, E.C.

SMALL STAMP COLLECTION, mounted in Album, also duplicates, price 1/6 the lot; catalogued over £1.—FRANKMAN, 58, Claremont Road, Highgate.

DO you want Medium Class Stamps at really moderate prices? If you do, write to us for a selection on approval; many genuine bargains. (N.B.—We don't sell "Reprints," "Mafekings" or other waste paper).—WARD, EVANS & Co., Foreign Stamp Importers, Carshalton, London.

DEALERS! If you want the best class of Canadian and American trade you must advertise in the *Montreal Philatelist*. The only journal on this side used by the big stamp firms. Why? It brings business to them and it will to you. Advertising rates low, circulation large. 1 inch, 2/-; 2 inches, 3/9; ½ column, 6/-; 1 column, 11/-; 1 page, 20/- 14 inches to the page. Discount on contracts. W. JAMES WURTELE, publisher, 118, St. James' St., Montreal, Canada.

## New Stamps and Coins with Portrait of King Edward VII.

SUGGESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC PRESS.

THE accession to the throne of King Edward VII. must necessarily result in a change being made in the stamps and coins at present in use. We publish here a few extracts from the Public Press on the subject, which may not be without interest:—

From *The Morning Post* (Jan. 26).

A correspondent makes a suggestion which is by no means inappropriate with regard to the design of the new stamps that will doubtless be issued early in the reign of King Edward VII. The years during which Queen Victoria ruled over the British Empire saw many changes in the life of the nation, but few were more important than the establishment of the penny post. It is impossible for the present generation to realise how great an effect this event has had, but there can be few who have not cause to be thankful every day in their lives that it ever came to pass. Our correspondent suggests that the portrait of the Queen should not disappear from all our stamps. In the United States Washington, Lincoln, Garfield, and others of the men who have helped to make that country great are commemorated by the issue of stamps which bear their portraits. It would seem an appropriate thing that there should still be among the stamps of this country some which showed the likeness of the best-loved Monarch our race has ever known. Probably, as in the case of some of the stamps of Canada and Newfoundland, it would best accord with the sentiment of the nation that the portrait should show her in the aspect familiar to us in the latter years of her life. Of course, there may be reasons why the suggestion of our correspondent should not be adopted by the authorities, but it seems on the whole distinctly happy.

*The Bristol Mercury* (Jan. 25th).

No more stamps will be printed with the head of Queen Victoria and no more coins will be minted. It will be one of the earliest duties of the Department concerned to bring out a new design embodying the head of the new King, and no doubt he will see that some of our ablest artists are consulted so as to secure a satisfactory result. The coins already made will of course be issued, and as those dated 1901 would not go forth to the public till towards the end of the year there is time to make up for the delay caused by the new arrangement. In the same way there is bound to be a large stock of stamps in hand, and those will be exhausted before the new ones are issued. From time to time alterations in the colour of halfpenny and penny stamps have been decreed, but it has taken some time to exhaust the stock in hand and to bring the new style into general use.

*The Nottingham Guardian* (Feb. 1st).

When will the new coins and the new stamps be issued? No definite information is forthcoming on the subject either at the Mint or at the Post Office, the Master of the Mint contenting himself with the statement that the preparation of the new coinage will necessarily occupy some time. Anyone who knows anything about the subject must have been prepared for this. It will be interesting to see, however, whether the design for the new coinage will be offered for public competition. I hear a rumour that the commission is to be given direct to a medallist of foreign nationality. I can hardly think, however, that this can be true, since the feeling in favour of the coinage being done by a British born subject is strong, and the selection of a foreigner would be sure to excite some criticism. The preparation of the new stamps should not, of course, occupy so long as the coin, though the new issue will hardly be made before the present reserve of stamps bearing the Queen's effigy has been exhausted. By Act of Parliament the authorities are allowed to keep stamps representing ten million sterling at Somerset House, so if their powers have been taken advantage of to the full the supply will not be quickly exhausted. I hear that collectors, however, are preparing for any emergency, by purchasing sets of unused "Victorias." Coin collectors are also showing themselves very keen to obtain coins bearing date of 1901. There was an impression that these would become extremely rare, but the announcement of the Master of the Mint should disillusionise collectors on this subject. As late as yesterday, however, I noticed 1901 pennies offered in the shop windows at threepence each.

EVERY STAMP COLLECTOR  
SHOULD SUBSCRIBE TO  
EWEN'S WEEKLY STAMP NEWS.

## Our Postcard Column

WILL readers hearing of any interesting item of News, kindly jot it down on a postcard and address to the Editor, "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News," Norwood, London. For every contribution we publish, we will send the author an interesting and newly issued stamp. (N.B.—Postcards preferred).

*A correspondent writing from St. Moritz says:—*

"Please find enclosed a new stamp (it seems an error) which was on sale at the Post Office on the 26th ultimo. You will notice that the colour is very distinct from the ordinary stamps. It was on sale the one day only." [The stamp sent by our correspondent is the current 25c. of Switzerland, printed in a light steely-blue colour, very different from the usual deep blue. Whether an error or not we are unable to state and will gladly welcome further particulars regarding this stamp.—Ed.]

*Mr. J. H. Parry writes:—*

"On looking over a few letters from the Australian Colonies I find the colour of the 2½d. Queensland Stamp has been considerably altered since its first appearance. The first of the current type I received was sent me direct on the 15th October, 1899, and was of a violet or light purple, printed on paper of a bluish colour, whilst those now reaching me are considerably darker, more of a brown than violet. I find I have only saved one of the lighter colour and this causes me to think that the colour was changed early in 1900. If this is so, those of the 1899 colour should be worth retaining. I enclose one of the darker ones for inspection and if compared with those of 99 date, the difference will be found to be very considerable. I have glanced through several stamp journals but I do not find any mention of this change in colour."

*Mr. G. Vermèren writes:—*

"If this may interest your readers, I have a 6d. violet, plate 6 on piece of original post-marked: "Paquebots de la Méditerranée" in red. The mark is in three lines in an oblong frame."

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CONGO-SOUDAN, 1900.

C'est vraiment par erreur que les nouvelles couleurs ont été imprimées pour ces Colonies. Voici ce qui est arrivé: au moment où l'on a fait la commande (cela doit déjà remonter assez loin), le Congo et le Soudan étaient encore, aux points de vue administratif et postal, sous le même régime que les autres colonies françaises. Depuis, le Congo a reçu une série spéciale et le Soudan a vu ses territoires réunis à nos autres colonies de l'Ouest africain. Ces événements se sont passés, naturellement, sans qu'on pense aux timbres antérieurement commandés. La fabrication continua son petit train-train, et ce n'est qu'au moment de prendre livraison de sa commande que le ministère des colonies s'aperçut de l'erreur. Le vin était tiré, on le fit boire aux collectionneurs! C'est-à-dire qu'on vendit à Paris, en même temps que tous les nouveaux coloniaux, ceux du Soudan et du Congo. Tirés en petit nombre, ceux-ci furent d'autant plus rapidement épuisés qu'on se rendit compte qu'ayant été imprimés par erreur, ils ne seraient jamais réimprimés.

Et voilà pourquoi, du jour au lendemain, la plupart des nouveaux Congo-Soudan sont devenues de véritables raretés.

Pour notre part, nous pûmes en fournir, à peu près à la valeur faciale, aux premiers acheteurs qui nous passèrent leurs commandes, mais cet heureux temps n'est plus. Nous sommes obligés de demander maintenant les prix suivants, sans garantir que nous puissions les maintenir longtemps

Congo,	10 centimes,	rouge	..	0 fr. 75
"	15 "	gris	..	0 " 75
"	25 "	bleu	..	1 " 50
"	50 "	brun s. azur.	..	0 " 75
Soudan,	10 "	rouge	..	0 " 75
"	15 "	gris	..	0 " 90
"	25 "	bleu	..	0 " 40
"	50 "	brun s. azur.	..	0 " 75

(*L'Echo de la Timbrologie.*)

\* \* \*

*La Mort de la Reine.*—C'est un événement philatélique que la mort de la Reine Victoria. Aucun souverain n'a jamais vu son effigie sur un aussi grand nombre de timbres, et il n'est pas de collectionneurs qui ne connaisse par cœur son visage, jeune et vieux.

(*L'Echo de la Timbrologie.*)

\* \* \*

Le même correspondant nous apprend que lors du départ des Russes de Rettimo une grande partie des timbres non vendus, qui formaient la réserve du bureau de poste, fut distribuée à l'un et à l'autre amateur de la ville.

Ces timbres étaient sans valeur aucune car ils ne portaient ni les armoiries russes ni le cachet officiel de la poste. Soigneusement récoltés par un sieur Stiliano Spyridakis celui-ci, flairant les bénéfices qu'il pouvait entrer en les rendant *bons à collectionner*, n'a pas hésité de se rendre à Athènes où des mains expertes—si pas les siennes—ont pourvu les timbres en question de la marque de contrôle et de la griffe postale dont ils étaient vierges.

Depuis lors les affaires de Spyridakis prospèrent, les ordres affluent et non content du résultat obtenu il s'est adjoint un nouvel article: les premiers timbres émis à Candie habilement imités et qui il vend 50 francs pièce.

(*L'Essor Philatélique.*)

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Ewen's Weekly Stamp News, Norwood, E.S.

## Postmark Notes.

BY "DUPLEX."

NEXT to the Field Post Office marks emanating from South Africa those used with the Expeditionary Force in China, are of the greatest interest. Capt. Hincks sends a letter for inspection bearing two Indian ½ anna stamps with the "C.E.F." surcharge. These are cancelled by a large double lined circular mark containing at the top between the rings "F.P.O. No. 7." Across the middle of both circles are two parallel straight lines between which the date—28 oc 00—appears. At the back of the envelope is a single line circular mark containing the words "BASE OFFICE" and the date.

Lieut. T. Edw. Kellsall forwards me an official envelope from the Front in China. This is an ordinary blue "On Her Majesty's Service" envelope on which a rectangular Indian postmark is stamped, but the only words I can decipher in this are "POSTAGE" and "ANNA." The London "PAID" mark has been struck over this one. At the back of the envelope is a single line circular mark containing at the top "F.P.O. No. 13" while the date "5 DE—00" is printed in two lines below. Another mark on the same envelope contains "BASE OFFICE" in small type curved round the top, while the date—"25 DE 00" is immediately below. Under the date is "9.—"

The same correspondent sends a number of interesting entires for my inspection. One of these has on the front, the South African F.P.O. No. 3 mark, and one, "ALDERSHOT CAMP," of exactly similar type. The same envelope also shows a circular mark containing "SOUTHAMPTON PACKET LETTER."

Another entire posted from South Australia to Cape Town has a circular mark stamped on the back in which are the words "EXPRESS RAILWAY, S.A." and the date. The same envelope has London, Cape Town, Newcastle Natal, Ladysmith, and Field Post Office marks on it so it has evidently had some fairly extensive travels.

One letter bears a very fine specimen of a Field Post Office postmark in blue. It is a single line circular mark having "ARMY P.O. 55." at the top, "S. AFRICA" below and the date in the centre.

Another entire has a circular mark on the back, at the top of which is "RANGOON." Below this, between parallel straight lines, is "SPECIAL DELV," and lower still is "11 AP 00."

The Editor has shown me an interesting envelope from South Africa. This was franked with a current English ½d. stamp and a 3 pies Indian carmine. These stamps were obliterated with the large double-lined Army Post Office mark, with "VOLKSRUST" at the bottom and date across centre. This mark is stamped with purple ink.

A correspondent, writing in an American contemporary, states that he received a letter from Canada, the stamp on which was almost entirely torn off, and in its place was a cancellation, apparently made by a rubber stamp, containing "Postage Stamp N.Y. Post Office." The postage stamp had evidently fallen or been torn off, in transit, and the cancellation was impressed by the New York stamper, to show that he knew the stamp had been properly affixed, and the letter was therefore allowed to pass without surcharge.

In a recent issue of *Hobbies* a few brief notes about the postmarks of China are given, and these the writer describes as being "more curious than even the stamps" of this country. Some of the postmarks used by the wily "Celestial" are distinctly curious, that employed in Peking having a very strange appearance. Some of the marks used in the treaty ports are in English, and show the words "customs" and the name of the town. Other marks show both English and Chinese characters.

Several items relating to interesting postmarks are unavoidably held over until next week.

The new 1½ sen stamp issued in Japan is only available for use on postcards.

The interesting find of first issue Samoa *imperforate*, which was reported in several of our contemporaries a few months ago turns out to be merely "waste" sheets found in the printers office Samoa.

## Parisian Dealers raided by Post Office Detectives.

THE theft of stamps some two years ago from the Postal administration of France resulted, during January, in a raid being made by the Post Office detectives on the premises of the more important Parisian dealers. Some anonymous persons, it appears, informed the authorities that some of the stolen property had been sold to the dealers, who were practically under arrest, together with their employés, for the greater part of a day, while their stocks of stamps were searched. In the end, however, everything seems to have come all right, the honesty of the dealers being fully vindicated. An interesting account of his unpleasant experience is given by M. Maury in the January number of his *Journal*. Here in England one can hardly imagine such an occurrence taking place, where a reputable merchant is concerned.

It appears that the collection of the Administration—largely recruited from the stamps distributed from Berne by the Postal Union—is carefully mounted in huge books with thick cardboard leaves, the stamps being firmly gummed down. The albums are not shown to the public, and no one in the Administration concerns himself much with looking after the collection. It is hardly surprising therefore that one day a number of stamps were found to be missing.

Some months later, another theft was made, but this time the objects stolen were rejected sheets of stamps, including both those for Home and Colonial use, as also a number for Tunis, all of which are printed at the establishment on the boulevard, Brune. These stamps are known as "fautes" and are supposed to be cancelled with a special mark, pending an order being made for their destruction. This is either hexagonal in shape, inscribed "Annulé" or circular, with "Administration des Postes," etc., or if either of these marks are not used, the stamps are merely penmarked.

About eight or ten months since, a number of 5 franc stamps of Tunis so cancelled were placed in the market by a Parisian dealer, and that the number must have been considerable is evidenced by the fact that the regency of Tunis found it necessary to complain that the sale of unused 5fr. stamps had almost ceased. Collectors are almost the only purchasers for stamps of this value, and evidently preferred the article sold in Paris to that manufactured and sold by the original firm. The claims of Tunis notwithstanding, the sale of the presumably stolen sheets does not appear to have been stopped, although an enquiry was held. (The present value of the 5 francs Tunis used is given as 5/- in the Catalogues, whilst the face value is a little less.)

The Postal Administration does not seem to have taken any steps to trace the culprits, until a third theft occurred, the duplicates of the collection mentioned above being this time removed. Two officials in the Post Office were arrested, and stimulated by this success, the department seems to have gone to the other extreme and energetically organized a search for the missing stamps amongst the stocks of the leading Parisian dealers. The raid seems to have been carefully planned, the premises of the various *marchands de timbres-poste* being seized simultaneously and everyone, including both employés and clients, placed under arrest. M. Maury plaintively describes how he had to parley at the door before M. Cochefert, chef de la Sûreté, at the head of a dozen agents, would admit him to his own premises; how even an attendant who was on his way to a restaurant to order lunch was detained, and how ultimately his staff and he were expelled for four hours whilst a fruitless search was being made.

More concerning this *affaire ridicule*, as M. Maury describes it, we have not space to write here, but it is fully described, to the extent of eight pages, in *Le Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste*.

## Jottings.

According to the *Philatelic Journal of India* the 8c. and 1r., 12c., stamps of Ceylon have been withdrawn from use.

Not content with the numerous "wheel" and date surcharges they have perpetrated during the last two months, the postal authorities of Salvador have now discarded these and brought into use another overprint which an American contemporary aptly describes as a "sunburst." Collectors will be pleased to hear that already fifteen stamps with this new surcharge have appeared.

An interesting variety of the 5c. blue, Peru, 1895 issue, has been found. In this the inked impression is missing for a space of about 2mm. at the bottom of the specimen.

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207.	50%	Mexico.
208.	25%	Miscellaneous
211.	..	Russia.
212.	..	Norway.
213.	..	Sweden.
214.	..	Finland.
216.	..	Roumania.
217.	..	Old Europeans.
218.	..	Venezuela.
219.	..	Egypt
220.	..	Hayti.
221.	Nett.	V.R. Transvaals, &c.
223.	..	Unused African Colonials.
225.	25%	Bosnia, Bulgaria and Montenegro.
228.	..	Miscellaneous Colonials.

### BOOKLETS.

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504.	..	Unused African Colonials.
505.	..	African Colonials.
506.	..	Unused Colonials.
507.	..	Choice Colonials.
508.	25%	Liberia.
509.	..	Denmark
510.	..	Luxemburg.
511.	..	Austria.
512.	..	Austrian Italy.
513.	..	Timor.
514.	..	Macao.
515.	..	Peru.
516.	..	Japan.
517.	..	Finland and Poland.
518.	..	Queensland.
519.	..	Tasmania.
522.	..	Australian (common)
523.	Nett.	Unused English.
524.	25%	Gambia, Gold Coast, Lagos, &c.
524.	..	French Colonies.

### BOOKS.

101.	Nett.	Orange Free State.
106.	..	Transvaal.
107.	..	Australians.
108.	..	Miscellaneous Colonials.
109.	20%	New Zealand.
110.	10%	Ceylon and other Colonials.
111.	..	Unused English (chiefly 1d. reds).
112.	..	New South Wales.
113.	Nett.	V.R.I. Errors and Varieties.
114.	..	V.R.I. Strips and Blocks.

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A3.	10%	Used English.
D.	25%	Cut Envelopes.
G06.	..	English with Foreign Postmarks.
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	Cat. Price.	Our Price.
Great Britain; mint block of 16, 3d. rose, plate 18 ...	96	48/
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Bahamas; 1d. vermilion, unused, wmk. Crown CC. perf. 12½ ...	12 6	6/6
Barbados; Mint pair of 6d. dull orange vermilion. No wmk., rough perf. ...	55	37/6
" 5/- dull rose, used ...	45	37/6
" ditto, not so fine ...	45	27/6
British Honduras; 1882 issue, 6d. yellow, used, Crown CA. 14 ...	80/	40/
Cape of Good Hope; superb used pair of 1/- yellow-green, fine margins ...	—	48/
" 4d. woodblock, pale blue, fair copy ...	50/	36/
Ceylon; 10d. imperf. unused no gum ...	80/	40/
Finland; 1 mark, used, 1867-70 issue one corner torn, S.G., No. 49 ...	18/	7/6
Gambia; 6d. blue, used, 1880 issue, wmk. Crown C.C., perf. 14. ...	15	7/6
" 1/- green, mint, 1880, wmk. Crown C.C., 14. ...	50	42/
Griqualand; 5/- orange, used, S.G. No. 70, rare ...	—	10/
" 5/- orange, used, S.G. No. 116 ...	—	2/6
Hawaii; 2 cent, 1864 issue ...	1/3	1/10
Mauritius; 5/- violet used ...	7/	5/
New South Wales; 2d. Sidney View used, fair copy ...	25/	15/
" 5/- violet used S.G. No. 142 ...	10/	3/6
" 5/- map, used, perf. 10 ...	—	12/6
" 5/- coin "O.S." used, perf. 12½ ...	10/	6/6
Orange Free State; 1896 issue, "¼d. on 3d. Block of four with double surcharge ...	30	22/0
Queensland, 2/6 vermil. used, S.G. No. 114. ...	5	4/
" 5/- rose, S.G. No. 110 ...	2/6	2/
St. Vincent; 5/- wmk. Star. Has "REVENUE" printed across it otherwise would be worth £15. ...	—	30/
Tasmania, 1d. blue, used; first issue, fair copy ...	65	45/
" 4d. orange used, first issue, very fine ...	—	15/
" ditto, corners mended ...	15/	10/
Turks Islands, 1/- dull blue, first issue, used ...	20	15/
Victoria, 1d. green, S.G. No. 46, fine pair, used ...	20/	17/6
" 5/- red and blue, fine used copy ...	—	6/
Wurtemberg, 5 marks pale blue, unused ...	—	7/
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# Ewen's Weekly Stamp News.

With which is incorporated EWEN'S WEEKLY CIRCULAR. (Established October, 1897.)

A JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

THE ONLY WEEKLY STAMP PAPER  
PUBLISHED IN EUROPE.

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LONDON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1901.

[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

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### The Week's News.

The number of letters, postal packets, etc., posted in German Colonies during 1899 is as follows:—German E. Africa, 605,210; S.W. Africa, 483,285; Kiaoutschou, 459,921; Kamerun, 123,355; Togo, 83,608; New Guinea, 41,591; Samoa, 29,168; Marshall Isles, 12,922.

\* \* \*

A 1c. Gnam is reported by an American firm to have been found with inverted surcharge.

\* \* \*

Mr. A. Sabadell kindly points out that the surcharge F.M. on the French stamps stands for "Franchise Militaire," and not "Française," as stated last week.

\* \* \*

A Philatelic Club for Ireland is to be formed, and a meeting with that end in view was to have been held on February 12th. From all accounts, philately in Ireland is booming, and the *Weekly Irish Times* intends in future to devote a column regularly to philatelic news.

\* \* \*

The *Daily Chronicle* states that green is a colour which will not appear in our new stamps, as the Post Office have discovered that this ink is poisonous. Carmine is to be substituted. How much truth there is in this, we should not like to say. In some cases, there is stated to be at least a two years supply of the old stamps on hand, and in any case the preparation of new plates will probably take a twelvemonth. A contributor to one of the dailies suggests that "Queen's Head" stamps should be surcharged "E.R.I." in the meantime, but this course is hardly likely to be adopted.

\* \* \*

Great Britain.—Mr. F. Taylor sends us a specimen of the current ½d. reply post card with the stamps and inscription printed in green. The stamps on both halves are type III. and the arms are type II. The cards are the thick kind and the inscriptions are exactly similar to those on the cards with brown stamps lately in use. The ½d. vermilion stamps now embossed on envelopes will soon give way to green ones, and in like manner the ½d. wrapper stamps will be changed from brown to green in which colour, by the way, they were first issued. We are told, too, that in future 1d. wrappers will be printed in carmine.

\* \* \*

A copy of the Guatemala, 1881 issue, 1 centavo on ½ real, brown and green has been found on which only the letters "TAV" of the surcharge "CENTAVO" appear.

\* \* \*

It is stated that the current issue of the Dominican Republic stamps (map design) will be withdrawn, owing to a protest having been lodged by the Haytian Government against their further use for postal purposes. The reason on which the protest is made is that the boundary line separating Hayti from the Dominican Republic is incorrectly placed and it is requested that this should at once be corrected or the stamps withdrawn from sale.

\* \* \*

A New York journal says that the revenue derived from the sale of postage stamps in Labuan and Borneo last year totalled \$100,000. Of this amount only \$4,000 worth of stamps were actually used to convey letters, the difference being absorbed by stamp collectors.

### Our Postcard Column.

WILL readers hearing of any interesting item of News, kindly jot it down on a postcard and address to the Editor, "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News," Norwood, London. For every contribution we publish, we will send the author an interesting and newly issued stamp. (N.B.—Postcards preferred.)

Mr. N. C. Horwood, writes:—

"I have been offered some Virgin Island stamps (Gibbons numbers 28, 31, 32, 35, 38, and 41), lightly postmarked "Ag1." If I remember rightly I saw some mention of these stamps so postmarked in *E.W.S.N.* some time ago, I shall be glad if you will let me know if they are all right and if you think them a good investment at about one-third of Gibbons prices for used copies as I can get them for that." [The specimens referred to are very probably part of a large batch (postmarked to order), that have recently come on the market. Genuinely used copies are very scarce as may be seen from the following prices given in Gibbons' last catalogue.

28 Virgin Is., ½d. green,	unused, 6d.; used, 4/6
31 .. 2½d. blue	.. 2/6; .. 7/6
32 .. 1d. red	.. 6d.; .. 15/-
35 .. ¼d. chestnut	.. 12/6; .. 25/-
38 .. 6d. violet	.. 7/6; .. 40/-
41 .. 1s. brown	.. 12/6; .. 60/-

It would appear that a considerable quantity of the Virgin Is. remainders that were sold about 1891 were shipped back to the Islands (in 1899 or 1900?) and lightly cancelled with the Ag1 postmark. The owner has recently been trying to unload these on collectors on the basis of the catalogue prices of genuinely used copies, and we advise every reader to have nothing to do with them. All of which is another point in favour of collecting stamps unused.—ED.]

Mr. A. F. Clarke writes:—

"In addition to the instance given in *E.W.S.N.* a fortnight or three weeks ago, I have come across two other postmarks in which the year is shewn as '10,' instead of '01,' viz.: 'Leamington Spa, registered 6 p.m., 11 Jan., 10,' and 'Gt. Northern T.P.O., mid-day mail down, 23 Jan., 10.'"

To Miss Tracy we are indebted for the following list of countries which have at one time or another issued stamps without name—

"List of countries that have at some time issued stamps without the name of the country on them besides Great Britain. They are mostly the earlier issues of 1843 to about '70, but some are much later, as the present and last issue of Germany.

Austria	Schleswig Holstein	Luxemburg
Hungary	Wurtemberg	Persia
Bosnia	Alsace Lorraine	Peru
Belgium	German Empire	Portugal
Brazil	Holland	Roumania
Denmark	Modena	Finland
Danish W. Indies	Neapolitan Provinces	Spain
Dominican Republic	Roman States	Cuba
Bremen, 5 and 7 grs.	Sardinia	Philippines
Brunswick ½ gr.	Italy	Norway, 4sh., 5s
Prussia	Liberia (inland stamp)	Swiss
		Venezuela

The following I am not certain about as the words on them are in the characters of the language of the country and I cannot read them. Egypt (the early issue), do. Japan, Greece, Bulgaria, Montenegro, Russia, Poland, Servia, Siam, Turkey.

Mr. J. Frazer writes:—

"I have a 4d. blue O.R.C. (not V.R.I.) stamp without a dot after the word "(Vier) pence." I see S.G. gives it with a dot. Is mine an error or not?"

[It is a peculiarity of the various values of the Orange Free State stamps, that whilst all are apparently similar in design they differ slightly in detail. The 4d. value is the only one without stop after "Pence," whilst the 6d. is the only one with small "p" to that word. In the latter value the stop is slightly raised, but in the other values its position is normal.—ED.]

Mr. R. Moore writes:—

"About a fortnight ago I received from South Africa one of our present issue of postcards, which was allowed to come through from a soldier in Cape Colony. I have seen in your paper about English stamps being used to frank letters home, but I have not seen anything about a postcard being allowed to come through."

We have to thank the Rev. J. H. Astley for a second list of countries which have issued "nameless" stamps, as also Mr. Parry for a postcard on the same subject.

V.S. (Birmingham).—The Holland 10c. of 1872-88 is probably Gibbons No. 61a; see footnote to this issue.

H.J.C. (Whitton).—We are quite unable to say how the present value of British stamps with foreign postmarks can be arrived at; at the best such varieties can only have a fancy value and no prices can reliably be fixed for them. There is a fair market for really fine and interesting examples on "Entires" or "pieces of original."

W.W.—We are much obliged for the cutting.

For an explanation of the B.W. overprint on O.F.S. stamps, we have to thank Mr. A. P. Pearce (note also received from Mr. B. W. Warhurst, Editor of "Stamps"):

"K's" query re 3d. blue, O.V.S. overprinted 'B.W.' in small capitals is fully answered in the current number of 'Stamps,' but it may be briefly stated that they are the initial letters of Bank Wissel, signifying Bank Draft. The fiscal Note relating to these stamps announces a significant change in the overprint to 'B.D.' in conjunction with one of the later V.R.I. overprints on the 3d. blue postal.

Fiscal stamp collectors would be glad to know if any 'B.W.' stamps received the V.R.I. addition."

Mrs. Hine writes:—

"I have just seen a mint specimen of 1d. Transvaal surcharged V.R.I. with 3d. also surcharged on it. The type of the V.R.I. is quite different to the ordinary die, the letters being thinner and closer together, and the stops larger. I also saw the ½d. green with the same type of lettering. Can any of your readers give me any information as to whether these stamps are genuine?"

### New Issues.

The Editor will be much obliged for early news of New Issues or intended New Issues or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors. Full acknowledgment given. If possible, specimens should be sent in order that illustrations may be prepared.

FERNANDO POO.—More surcharging has recently taken place here. The *Monthly Circular* reports that the 4 centavos of 1899 has been surcharged "HABILITADO PARA CORREOS 50 CENT PTA" in both green and violet, while the 20 centavos has received the old "HABILITADO 50. DE PESO" surcharge. It is stated that the 50c. provisional exists with double surcharge, green and violet together.

HUNGARY.—According to the *I.B.J.*, three new values of the current type have been issued, i.e., 20 filler brown, 35 filler red-lilac, and 2 kronen, blue.

ITALY.—The designs for the stamps bearing the portrait of the new King have been submitted to His Majesty, and he has chosen one in which he is represented full face. We are informed that the new design will show the portrait surrounded by a small frame ornamented with a frieze. This will be the same for all values. In size the stamps will be slightly larger than the "Humbert" issue.

PERSIA.—The postal authorities are working off more old stock by the simple expedient of surcharging. In addition to the numerous "lion" and other unmeaning surcharges that have appeared lately, the 8cl. of 1894, has now been overprinted with a large double-line figure "5" and various Arabic characters. The overprint is in violet.

SERVIA.—The 20 and 25 paras stamps of the current issue have appeared on paper without threads according to *Der Philatelist*.

URUGUAY.—Another value of the new pictorial set of the Waterlow printing has appeared. The central design shows a girl leading a lamb which the *S.C.F.* interprets as "Commerce controlling the cattle industry of the country." This is surrounded by a suitable frame with the value in the lower corners.

EVERY STAMP COLLECTOR  
SHOULD SUBSCRIBE TO  
EWEN'S WEEKLY STAMP NEWS.

## Postmark Notes.

By "DUPLEX."

FROM Mr. J. E. Heginbottom I have received a number of interesting postmarks, including several coloured cancellations, *i.e.*, red, yellow and violet on 1d. reds.

\* \* \*

Amongst the other curious marks sent is one on a 1d. red, evidently made with the seal that is impressed on the sealing wax when the post-bags are closed. Probably the usual obliterator was lost or mislaid and the seal was requisitioned as a "provisional."

\* \* \*

Mr. Heginbottom also sends a registered mark which is slightly different from the ordinary type. The mark is oval in form and has the word "REGISTERED" printed across the centre between parallel straight lines. At the top of oval is "LIVERPOOL" and "N.D.," while under "Registered" is the date and the stamper's letter "A." This type of Registered obliteration is, I believe, only used at Liverpool.

\* \* \*

The same correspondent sends me an interesting entire franked with a current 1d. British stamp, which is obliterated with the "Barbados" postmark. On the front of the envelope is the inscription, "POSTED ON THE HIGH SEAS," impressed in violet ink with a rubber stamp. This latter mark was impressed on board the vessel carrying the sender of the letter, and the mails for England were evidently landed at Barbados, to be forwarded on the first opportunity.

\* \* \*

Amongst other marks sent by Mr. Heginbottom are the following:—

A large flat oval solid mark with a star cut in the centre.

An upright obliterating mark in which is the number 931 (Easingwold) with short thick lines at the sides.

A "PAID" mark in blue on 1d. red, and the number "683" and "E" in a small circle on 1d. red.

\* \* \*

Mr. J. G. Cairns sends for inspection a batch of war envelopes from South Africa. Some of these are stamped with the "A01" mark similar to the illustration shown herewith. "A01" is (or was) the office number of Kingston, Jamaica, and it seems curious that it should be used with the troops in South Africa. Can any reader offer an explanation?



Other envelopes posted from England to soldiers at the front and returned to the sender show the Natal "RETURNED LETTER OFFICE" mark and "UNCLAIMED" in a long rectangular frame.

\* \* \*

In addition to the above there are a number of Field Post Office marks of various types in the collection.

\* \* \*

Mr. Cairns at the same time sends an envelope bearing date postmarks for seven consecutive days, *i.e.* from 31st July to 6th August, 1891 and also a parcel label bearing the "Coach Road Borne" mark in black.

\* \* \*

A correspondent writes that he has several letters from South Africa, bearing a circular postmark in which "CANADIAN CONTINGENT" appears at the top, "South Africa" at the base, and the date in the centre. It would thus seem that the contingent of volunteers from Canada had their own post-office and a special post-mark. All sorts of stamps were used on the envelopes, *viz.*:—1d. British, ½d. and 1d. Transvaal, V.R.I., 1d. Orange River, V.R.I. and Canadian, 2c. rose. One of the 2c. Canadian stamps was cancelled with the octagonal mark used with the Natal Field Force at Standerton.

\* \* \*

Mr. W. H. Clarke describes several curious marks used in the U.S.A. post-offices. These include a circle with a large cross in it, three thick lines, nine large square dots and other equal strange ones.

\* \* \*

Possibly some of my readers may have had United States postmarks in which the word "TRANSIT" appears. These marks as a general thing are placed on the backs of letters passing through an office en route for some other destination. Sometimes, however, these marks are used to obliterate stamps that have escaped cancellation at their originating office.

## A REFERENCE LIST OF THE Embossed Envelope Stamps OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

BY OSWALD MARSH.

TWOPENCE.—This value was brought into use in April, 1841, for stamping Size B of the Government envelopes, on which it may be found in shades of blue, light blue and dark blue. Dies 1 and 2 were used for this purpose. There does not appear to have been much demand for envelopes of this value, and it would seem that the dies were not used again for stamping them. Probably in 1855 the dies were drilled to admit of the insertion of date plugs, though I have not yet seen any impressions from the altered dies dated previous to 8th December, 1858. After the dies had been altered, Die 2 was brought into use, and it was not until it was worn out that Die 1 was again used. Dies 1, 3, 4 and 5 were used temporarily during 1877 and 1878, for stamping registration envelopes. Die 4 seems to have been worn out whilst in use for this purpose, as I have never met with any copies, except those from registration envelopes. In 1892 the colour was changed from blue to lake, owing to the fact that blue was the Postal Union colour for the 2½d. stamps, which had till that date been printed in lake, and were now changed to blue. Seven dies have been brought into use (excluding die 4, which does not appear to have been used for a postage stamp at all); they may be told, apart from the numbers, by the under-noted wear marks:—

- Die 1.—Dot opposite the lower lip, another almost touching the inner circle over the down stroke of the first E in pence.
- Die 2.—Dot just touching the inner line over the first stroke of P of Pence, two small dots opposite the O of Postage, also a small tear near the left hand corner of the bust.
- Die 3.—A small dot above, and another below the network, midway between the central and right hand date holes.
- Die 4.—Only found on registered envelopes.
- Die 5.—The outer line is broken below the A and again below the G of Postage.
- Die 6.—Dot opposite the upper lip, another at the back of the neck.
- Die 7.—The outer line cut into below the O of Postage.
- Die 8.—Shows no signs of wear as yet.

The following are the earliest and latest dates I have seen on the above stamps:—

Die	Color	Originally issued	Undated
1	blue	27.2.63	7.4.81
2	blue	8.12.58	19.1.63
3	blue	9.2.82	20.1.86
5	blue	20.12.83	31.10.85
6	blue	24.10.87	1.3.92
6	lake	11.5.92	16.3.93
7	blue	18.11.89	14.4.91
7	lake	19.9.92	15.5.93
7	lake, 5 dot florets.		
7	lake, 9 dot florets.		
8	lake, 9 dot florets.*		

Since last writing I have met with the following stamps bearing earlier or later dates than those previously given.

1d. pink, die 102	...	10.8.63
1d. " " 115	...	8.4.64
1d. " " 181	...	16.9.75
1d. " " 187	...	4.1.77
1d. " " 189	...	20.9.75
1½d. brown .. 1	...	19.4.75
1½d. " " 2	...	11.2.87
1½d. yellow .. 5	...	30.1.94
1d. pink, die 220, surcharged specimen,	14.12.80	

\* \* \*

½d. die 49 has been brought into use, the copies I have seen being printed in vermilion, like the former dies, though I hear it stated that the ½d. envelopes are to be printed in green in future, as are the ½d. post cards and ½d. news wrappers, the 1d. news wrappers are also to be changed to carmine.

\* \* \*

Mr. B. W. Warhurst has kindly sent me for inspection some further record dates of envelope stamps as below.

1d. pink, die 146	...	16. 5.68
1d. " " 153	...	8.10.70
1d. " " 207	...	5. 7.79
1d. " " 218	...	29. 8.81
1d. " " 223	...	29. 6.82
1d. " " 226	...	10. 3.83
1½d. brown " 5	...	23. 2.91

I shall be glad to see or hear of any others. Communications may be addressed c/o the Editor.

\* I have never met with a dated copy that I could be certain was die 8.

## Extracts from the Foreign Press.

The following ten mistakes occurred in the extracts given last week:—

Par.	Line.	Read	devenus.
I.	26.	"	puissions (double 's).
II.	1.	"	événements.
II.	5.	"	collectionneur (singular).
III.	10.	"	benéfices.
III.	10.	"	en tirer in two words.
III.	20.	"	qu'il.

In addition to the above the following less important errors occurred:—

Par.	Line.	Read	devenus.
I.	2.	Colonies	does require capital C.
I.	15.	Comma	required after commande.
I.	32.	Full stop	required after longtemps.
III.	2.	Rethymo	is the more usual spelling.
III.	9.	Comma	required after Spyridakis.

We have purposely omitted from the above list one or two instances of broken letters. The omission of the stop in paragraph I. is included in the unimportant list, as it is an obvious printer's error.

Counting the mistakes in our first list as 1 each, and those in the second as ½, we have to award a highest possible of 9½ points (taking with it the prize for Foreign readers) to Mr. G. Vermèeren. The prize for British readers is awarded to Miss D. Hayman (4½ marks). The next longest lists were received from Baron A. de Renterskiöld (6 points), Miss O. Hayman (4½) and Mr. A. de Sterne (4). Several hitherto very regular competitors have failed to send in lists this week. We are always glad to hear from readers, but cannot award the prize to everyone.

\* \* \*

*La poste au Groenland.* On est généralement sous l'impression que le service de la poste au Groenland est limité à l'échange de correspondances entre les Européens immigrés et le Danemark. Cependant, même dans l'extrême Nord, il existe des relations très suivies entre les différents groupes de population indigène. Aussi il existe au Groenland un journal: *Atnagugadliut*, dont le rédacteurs, les compositeurs et les imprimeurs sont tous les Groenlandais. Il est inutile d'ajouter qu'il n'y a dans le pays ni routes ni chemins de fer. La seule voie est la voie de mer. L'Entrée d'un bateau de poste danois est un des grands événements de l'année. Il se produit une activité générale; bien que les dépêches aient été les dernières embarquées, ce sont elles que l'on porte tout d'abord à terre. S'il y a des lettres pour les autres points de la Colonie, on prépare le kayak. Tous ceux qui veulent lui confier des lettres peuvent le faire gratuitement.

(*La Revue Philatélique Française.*)

\* \* \*

### CACUTA-MARKEN.

Heute bringen wir weiteren Stoff zu den Cacuta-Marken, nachdem uns die sechs unten aufgeführten aus Hamburg zur Ansicht eingeschickt worden sind. Sämtliche Stücke sind abgestempelt mit dem runden, violetten Stempel "Correo del comercio" und "Cacuta" in der Mitte, und oben und unten geschnitten, dagegen seitlich gezähnt 12. An der rechten langen Seite, von unten nach oben zu lesen, steht der Name Andrés B. Fernández.

Da der Einsender die Marken über Venezuela auf Briefen erhalten hat, so ist an ihrer Echtheit wohl nicht zu zweifeln.

#### Freimarken der Revolutionspartei in Cacuta:

- 1 ctvo. schwarz auf grün. Name schwarz.
- 2 ctvos. schwarz " grün. " schwarz.
- 5 " schwarz " weiss. " grün.
- 10 " schwarz " rosa. " schwarz.
- (Abart: ohne Namen und Wertbenennung ohne "t" in gerader Schrift).
- 20 ctvos. schwarz auf gelb. Name grün.

(*Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal.*)

\* \* \*

*Colombia.—Cúcuta.*—La revolución que ha ensangrentado á este país y que por algún tiempo ha tenido aisladas unas provincias de otras, ha sido causa de que el Correo se haya visto en la necesidad de emitir nuevos sellos provisionales. Los aparecidos últimamente en Cúcuta tienen al centro el escudo de armas de Colombia, abajo el valor, y arriba, en dos líneas, *Gobierno provisorio—Correos*. Estos sellos tienen de particular, además de ser muy feos, que han sido perforados únicamente en los costados verticales.

Sellos de correos, papel de color, perforación vertical 11½ 5 centavos, negro sobre rosa.

- 10 " " " amarillo.
- 20 " " " " amarillo.

(*Anales de la Sdad Filatélica de Chile.*)

### WANTED TO PURCHASE

Immediately, one or two fine specialised collections of British and Australian stamps, unused only. Collections containing blocks preferred. Price not exceeding £2000.

Address:—X. Y. Z., c/o Editor.

Ewen's Weekly Stamp News, Norwood, S.E.



## Approval Selections.

WE are now arranging and mounting a specially fine series of Approval Collections, comprising the stamps of all countries, and will have pleasure in sending same to any reader, on compliance with the conditions named below. Except where specially noted, any stamp may be selected at the price marked above it, and in most cases we allow a liberal discount off such prices. All communications for our Approval Department should be addressed to H. L. EWEN, 32, Palace Square, Norwood, S.E.

### CONDITIONS.

- 1.—Stamps can only be sent on approval on condition that those not purchased are returned within five days.
- 2.—No stamps may be removed from the sheets or books until actually purchased.
- 3.—Collectors are not permitted to deduct return postage from amount of purchase.
- 4.—Discount is conditional on purchase exceeding 1/- and will be forfeited if selection is kept over the five days allowed.
- 5.—Spaces should not be marked.
- 6.—Sheets should be returned folded as sent.
- 7.—When a selection is returned, another will be sent unless otherwise requested.

N.B.—We hope collectors will assist us by observing the above very reasonable conditions and we will in return make it our endeavour to send out only the finest possible copies at the lowest possible quotations.

### APPROVAL SHEETS.

No.	Discount.	Description.
202.	Nett.	New Issues and Special Bargains.
203.	..	Miscellaneous Colonials.
205.	25%	West Indies.
206.	Nett.	V.R.I's.
207.	50%	Mexico.
208.	25%	Miscellaneous
211.	..	Russia.
212.	..	Norway.
213.	..	Sweden.
214.	..	Finland.
216.	..	Roumania.
217.	..	Old Europeans.
218.	..	Venezuela.
219.	..	Egypt
220.	..	Haiti.
221.	Nett.	V.R. Transvaals, &c.
223.	..	Unused African Colonials.
225.	25%	Bosnia, Bulgaria and Montenegro.
228.	..	Miscellaneous Colonials.
229.	..	Thurn and Taxis.
230.	..	Saxony.
231.	..	Spain (early issues).
232.	..	Spain (War Tax, Official, &c.)
233.	..	Spain (Carlist Stamps).

### BOOKLETS.

501.	Nett.	Fiji and Cook Islands.
504.	..	Unused African Colonials.
505.	..	African Colonials.
506.	..	Unused Colonials.
507.	..	Choice Colonials.
508.	25%	Liberia.
509.	..	Denmark
510.	..	Luxemburg.
511.	..	Austria.
512.	..	Austrian Italy.
513.	..	Timor.
514.	..	Macao.
515.	..	Peru.
516.	..	Japan.
517.	..	Finland and Poland.
518.	..	Queensland.
519.	..	Tasmania.
522.	..	Australian (common).
523.	Nett.	Unused English.
524.	25%	Gambia, Gold Coast, Lagos, &c.
525.	..	French Colonies.
526.	..	Straits Settlements
527.	..	Used English.

### BOOKS.

101.	Nett	Orange Free State.
106.	..	Transvaal.
107.	..	Australians.
108.	..	Miscellaneous Colonials.
109.	20%	New Zealand.
110.	10%	Ceylon and other Colonials.
111.	..	Unused English (chiefly 1d. reds).
112.	..	New South Wales.
113.	Nett.	V.R.I. Errors and Varieties.
114.	..	V.R.I. Strips and Blocks.

### LARGE BOOKS.

A1.	20%	Used English.
A2.	25%	Used English.
A3.	10%	Used English.
D.	25%	Cut Envelopes.
Gob.	..	English with Foreign Postmarks.
H.	10%	Railway Letter Fee Stamps.

Collectors interested in the stamps of Japan will find a fair variety in our booklet 516.

\* \* \*

Our book 108 contains a fine lot of blocks of rare colonials all reasonably priced. Included are some superb mint blocks of Ceylon, viz.:- block of 4, 1/-, star wmk; ditto, 2/- blue, block of 15, Gibbons No. 194; and a number of blocks and strips of surcharge varieties. The book also contains several nice Transvaal and Orange River Colony Stamps.

\* \* \*

This week we are able to offer the following choice stamps:-

	PRICE.
Barbados, mint pair 6d. orange-vermilion, imperf., very fine ... ..	24/-
British Columbia, 50c. on 3d. violet. fine mint pair.. ..	30/-
Ceylon, 9d. brown, CC., superb mint block of four ... ..	50/-
Natal, 6d. rose, wmk. CC., superb mint block of 4, imperf.... ..	40/-
St. Vincent, 4d. blue CA.; nice unused copy, cat. 95/- only ... ..	40/-
South Australia, 3d. on 4d. blue. superb mint, block of four ... ..	40/-
Turks Islands, 1/-, dull blue, first issue used, nice copy ... ..	15/-
Zululand, 5/- on British, fine used copy ... ..	45/-

Any of the above stamps can be sent on approval if required, but immediate application is necessary, as in most instances we have no duplicates of the lots offered.

\* \* \*

We have for sale a few blocks of six 1d. V.R.I. Transvaals, one stamp of which shows the error, no stop after "I." These we can supply at 3/6 each. We have also blocks of six Transvaal V.R.I. 1/4d. stamps, one specimen having a very thick stop after the "I." Our price for these is 1/6 each.

We can strongly commend to the notice of collectors interested in plate numbers of the 1d. red British stamps, our book 111. In it a fine assortment of 1d. red plates is shown, in strips and blocks.

Several sheets of old Europeans have been added to our list this week, including a good assortment of Spain. Applications to see these will be dealt with in the order they are received.

\* \* \*

We are this week able to offer fine used copies of the Russian error, 3 kopies printed on the paper of 5k. stamps at 1/6 each.

\* \* \*

A few specimens of the following rare surcharged Philippines are in stock at the moment of going to press:-

8c. on 100m. carmine (S.G. No. 91), mint pair, cat. 30/- for ... ..	14/6
22c. on 1c. (S.G. No. 126), fine mint pair, magenta surcharge ... ..	1/6
22c. on 10 cuartos bistre, mint pair, black surcharge (S.G. No. 128) ... ..	2/6
2c. on 200m. green, unused, yellow surcharge (S.G. No. 141) ... ..	1/6

\* \* \*

We can still offer the following:-  
Cape of Good Hope, superb used pair of 1/- yellow-green ... .. 48/-  
Ceylon, 1r. 12c. lilac rose, used... .. 2/-  
Hawaii, 2c., 1864 issue, mint ... .. 9d.  
.. 15c. red-brown, 1882 issue, used... .. 5/-  
Tasmania, 1d. blue, first issue, used ... .. 45/-  
.. 4d. orange, first issue, used, superb specimen ... .. 15/-  
Any of the above stamps can be sent on approval if required

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THE PUBLISHER.



# Ewen's Weekly Stamp News.

With which is incorporated EWEN'S WEEKLY CIRCULAR. (Established October, 1897.)

A JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

THE ONLY WEEKLY STAMP PAPER PUBLISHED IN EUROPE.

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## The Week's News.

A would-be contributor to our Postcard Column recently sent a note on a Dutch stamp, on each of three sides of which he had succeeded in gauging a different perforation. Out of consideration for our readers we suppressed it, however, but it has since occurred to us that it would be of interest to know just how many different perforations can be found on a single stamp. Capt. Norris-Newman, in his article on "Stamps and Stamp Collectors in Japan," now appearing in the *Bazaar, Exchange & Mart*, mentions the following unchronicled variety.

Japan, 1876, 6sen, brown, with compound perforation: top, 11½; bottom, 13; left side, top half, 11; bottom half, 9; and right side, 9½.

How is that for a record?

\* \* \*

We have received a copy of the British Stamp Directory (Twentieth Century Edition) and can recommend it as a useful work of reference. We are glad to see that considerable pains have been taken to include the names and addresses of those who are actively interested in collecting at the present time. This has necessitated the removal of 605 names which appeared in the old list, but 640 new names are added, making a total of some 2400.

\* \* \*

A largely attended meeting of philatelists was held last week in Dublin for the purpose of founding an Irish Philatelic Club. A committee, consisting of Mrs. Beauchamp and Messrs. W. Lane Joynt, T. A. Stodart, J. N. Mostyn and W. G. Williams, was appointed to make enquiries as to the acquisition of suitable premises and to draft the necessary rules. The club will not be limited to residents in Dublin but will be open to collectors in all parts of the world.

\* \* \*

Mr. Bertram W. H. Poole, who went out to S. Africa as our special correspondent, is giving a lecture on his experiences, in Clapham Town Hall, to-day (Saturday).

\* \* \*

Stamps which are likely to rise in value before long are those of Hawaii. Report says that Mr. C. J. Phillips found such a strong demand for them in the States that he had to cable home for his firm's stock-books.

\* \* \*

Excluding all surcharged, provisional and official varieties, as also those of shade, perforation, etc., the number of different adhesive postage stamps now current throughout the world is about 2500, and the face value of a complete set would amount to something like £130. These totals also exclude local and postal-fiscal issues, as also the £25 B.C.A. (not the £10), and the values over £1 of South Australian "Postage and Revenue" stamps. More than half the total of £130 is contributed by stamps of face value between 2/- and 10/-. British Colonies are by far the worst offenders in the matter of high value stamps.

\* \* \*

The highest value postage stamp issued on the Continent is the 7 roubles of Russia (about 14/-)! At least twelve British Colonies can go better than this. British Central Africa heads the list with a £25 stamp, and South Australia is a good second with one of £20. Great Britain finds the £5 value quite high enough for practical purposes. We believe it is a fact that only three European countries issue stamps over 4/- or 5/- in face value, namely, Russia, Finland and Spain.

\* \* \*

Outside Europe we meet several examples of high value stamps. The Congo Free State has a fine label for which stamp collectors have to pay

10 francs, when they want it "mint." The little island of Fernando Poo has a stamp of 2 pesos, about equal to the 10 pesetas of Spain. China has stamps of \$5, whilst Persia has a set up to 50 kran (£1). The United States and Liberia each have stamps of \$2 and \$5, and South American States and Republics boast several 3, 5, 10 and 20 pesos. The record for foreign countries is held by two French Colonies—Djibouti and Obock—which have each issued a hideous monstrosity purporting to be worth 50 francs.

\* \* \*

The record in low values is surely held by the Indian State of Nowanuggur, which issues a set of three stamps, 1, 2 and 3 docras. The approximate face value of the complete set is 1d. Spain issues a stamp of which a complete sheet of 200 can be bought at a post office for the equivalent of 3½d.!

## New Issues.

The Editor will be much obliged for early news of New Issues or intended New Issues or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors. Full acknowledgment given. If possible, specimens should be sent in order that illustrations may be prepared.

**ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.**—Mr. Wm. Cross writes:—"Your notes on the stamps of the Argentine Republic, quoting news from *Le C. de Timbres-Poste* and the *M.P.Z.*, seem rather contradictory, and, at the best, do not exactly convey the real state of affairs. For twelve months past it has been rumoured that a change of colour would be made in the 30 centavos stamp, in order to prevent confusion with that of 5 centavos value, which is almost identical. Owing to a recent change in postal rates, the 12 centavos blue stamp is *obsolete*, and the Argentine Postal Authorities have issued a 15 centavos stamp in its stead, adopting the same colour. My letters to hand this (and the preceding) mail were franked with it. I should imagine the 24c. will now be of little postal service. This morning's mail brings an un-announced arrival in the shape of a 3 centavos orange, identical in colour and design with the 16c. orange recently withdrawn from use. The changes therefore actually effected to date appear to be:—

3c. orange	} new issues.
15c. blue	} withdrawn from
12c. blue	} postal service."
16c. orange	

**COSTA RICA.**—We have just received the 20c. value of the new issue. The central design, printed in black, shows a view of the national theatre—"TEATRO NACIONAL." Around this is a nicely designed border printed in carmine. At the top are the inscriptions "COSTA RICA" and "Correos y Telegraphos," and at the base—"VEINTE CENTIMOS" and "U.P.U. 1900." The figures of value appear in the top corners.

**ECUADOR.**—The colour of the current 10 centavos has just been changed from black and mauve to black and deep blue.

**GREECE.**—Mr. W. H. Earl informs us of the following additions to the long list of surcharge varieties Greece has just perpetrated. viz., the Olympian Games type 5l., 25l., 50l., 1dr. and 2dr., surcharged on 1dr., 40l., 2dr., 5dr. and 10dr. respectively. As we have not yet published a list of the numerous surcharges we take this opportunity of compiling the following which have appeared up to date:—

(a) LARGE HEAD. ATHENS PRINT.

(1) With figures on back.

1. 50 lepta on 40 lepta buff on cream.
2. 5 drachmai on 40 lepta lake on blue.
- (2) Without figures on back.
3. 30 lepta on 40 lepta pale lilac on cream.
4. 30 " 40 " purple on cream.
5. 40 " 2 " stone on cream.
6. 3 drachmai on 10 lepta orange on cream.

(b) SMALL HEAD. (1) BELGIUM PRINT.

7. 2 drachmai on 40 lepta violet.

(2) ATHENS PRINT.

8. 20 lepta on 25 lepta blue.
9. 20 " 25 " ultramarine.
10. 20 " 25 " indigo.
11. 1 drachme on 40 lepta purple.
12. 2 drachmai " 40 " purple.

Two complete sets of the above may be made, one imperf. and the other perf. 11½. No. 12 may also be found perf. 13½.

We also have to chronicle the following stamps with the additional "A.M." (Axia Metalliki) surcharge. We are informed that these are intended for international postage. The list stands as follows (so far):—

(a) LARGE HEAD. ATHENS PRINT.

(1) With figures at back.

13. 1 drachme on 40 lepta bistre on blue.

(2) Without figures at back.

14. 2 drachmai on 5 lepta green on cream.

(b) SMALL HEAD. (1). BELGIUM PRINT.

15. 25 lepta on 40 lepta, purple.

16. 50 " on 25 " blue.

(2). ATHENS PRINT.

17. 50 lepta on 40 lepta, purple.

The above may be found both imperf. and perf. 11½.

(c). OLYMPIC GAMES TYPE.

18. 5 lepta on 1 drachme, blue.

19. 25 " " 40 lepta, purple.

20. 50 " " 2 drachmai, bistre.

21. 1 drachma " 5 " green.

22. 4 " " 10 " brown.

There are two types of "O" in the 20, 30, 40, and 50 lepta values, one broad and one narrow. There are also sheets perf. one way and imperf. the other way. When we add that there are also various unofficial perforations and the prospect of a further batch of surcharges it must be admitted that the collector of Greece is in for an altogether lively time.

**PARAGUAY.**—Another value of the new set has appeared i.e., 24 centavos, dark-blue. The set issued to date stands as follows:—

1 centimos, grey.	8 centimos, dark-brown.
3 " brown,	10 " rose.
5 " green,	24 " dark blue.

**SARAWAK.**—A new value has been added to the current issue, i.e., 1 cent blue and red. The value is in the latter colour. The design shows a portrait of Rajah Brooke and is uniform in all particulars with the values of the current set.

**SPAIN.**—Our Colonial Market has shown us several entire sheets of the new issue. We find that the 2c. is printed in sheets of 100 (ten rows of 10) and not 200 as previously stated, while the 5c., 10c., 15c. and 25c. are in sheets of 200 (10 rows of 20). At the top of the sheets of the 5c. is "Peninsula—Comunicaciones—200 sellos de 5 centimos de peseta" and "No. 1." In the top right hand corner is "0.008,136." The numbers printed on the backs do not improve the appearance of the stamps, as in many cases they are so heavily impressed as to show through on the face.

We have seen the following numbers on the stamps, all printed in blue. viz.:—

2 centimos, number 002,541	reading downwards.
5 " " 008,125	" "
10 " " 007,430	" "
15 " " 130,801	" "
20 " " 000,694	" "
25 " " 009,389	" upwards
30 " " 001,307	" downwards.
40 " " 000,657	" "
50 " " 002,914	" "
1 peseta " 001,673	" "
4 " " 000,445	" "
10 " " 000,211	" "

**TRANSVAAL.**—Mr. Adolf Sonn sends us specimens of registered envelopes, the stamps on which have received the V.R.I. surcharge. The type employed is similar to that overprinted on the adhesives though the stops after the letters "V.R.I." are much larger.

**URUGUAY.**—Mr. Wm. Cross informs us that the current 20 cents blue is perf. 13 now, a variety that has, we believe, not yet been chronicled.

**VICTORIA.**—Mr. Norman C. Horwood again writes regarding the 1d. Commemorative Post Card, and states it has been printed in two more colours—purple-brown and green. Thus altogether the card has appeared in five colours, viz.: grey, blue, orange, purple-brown and green.

## Postmark Notes.

By "DUPLEX."

MR. ADOLF SONN sends for inspection several particularly interesting specimens of South Africa "war" envelopes and cards used with the Boer forces.

The first is a Transvaal ½d. post-card post-marked "Hoofdlager, 24th Dec. 1899." On the back of which the arms of the Z.A.R. and Germany are impressed together with several inscriptions in German, viz.: "Im Kampfe für Freiheit & Recht vereint," "God en de MAUSER," and "Grusz von den Schlachtfeldern Süd-Afrika's." These cards, my correspondent informs me, were mostly used by members of the German corps fighting for the Boers and were posted from the Ladysmith camp.

The second is an envelope franked with a 1d. Transvaal stamp and postmarked Charlestown. The postmark is a large flat oval in shape, and has "CHARLESTOWN" at the top, and the date, "12 FEB. 1900," across the centre. This mark is evidently made with a rubber stamp, and is impressed in violet ink. The envelope had been opened by the Boer authorities, and closed again with the pink label used under such circumstances.

Another envelope, posted from Charlestown, has the stamp cancelled by a mark of similar shape, but in this instance the name "CHARLESTOWN" is at the bottom. At the top is, "Veld-Post Z.A.R.," so evidently it is a "field post" mark of the Boer army.

The next entire I have to describe was posted at Newcastle and franked with two halfpenny Transvaal stamps. The stamps were cancelled in violet, with a makeshift postmark consisting of the following: "P.K. Newcastle, 30.10.99," in one line. This mark is made in violet ink with a rubber stamp.

Another envelope bears a similar mark to the Charlestown one described above, but containing the name "ELANDSLAAGTE." This is also a makeshift mark, and for some reason or other the bottom part has been cut away.

My correspondent also sends two rubber stamp marks of the same type as described above. At the top is "HOOFD-LAGER," across the centre the date, and at the bottom "Mafeking Z.A.R." in one instance, and "Kimberley Z.A.R." in the other. One of these marks is dated 28th December, 1899, and the other 29th December, and both are also impressed on pairs of ½d. Transvaal stamps upside down. They do not appear to have been used for genuine postal service. Regarding these two marks Mr. Sonn says: "I do not know if the rubber stamps were ordered with 'Z.A.R.' by the Government. Anyhow they were delivered like that by the maker (Johannesburg). Then being used, someone in the camp directed the attention of the postmaster to the fact that 'Kimberley Z.A.R.' and 'Mafeking Z.A.R.' were a little premature. The P.M. therefore ordered new rubber stamps without the 'Z.A.R.' The others were only in use for three days."

The same correspondent also sends a Zuid Afrikaansche Republiek Official Envelope, used, "In veld dienst"—on field service. On this "VELDDIENST" is stamped with a rubber mark, and across one corner the following is written in blue chalk:—"Lager Post Kantoer Kliprivier." This envelope was sent to Johannesburg from the Boers' Kliprivier Lager, Ladysmith, during the investment of the latter town.

Mr. Sonn also sends a ½d. Transvaal Reply Card, posted and postmarked at Colesberg, C.G.H., on December 30th, 1899.

The Editor has shown me an entirely new type of censor mark emanating from the Orange River Colony. This mark consists of a large double triangle, between the lines of which are the words "PASSED PRESS CENSOR," one word being on each side of the triangle. This mark was impressed in violet ink on a letter posted from "Winburg, O.R.C.," on January 17th, 1901.

I have just received a variety of parcels post cancellation, which is quite new to me. This consists of a large rectangular divided into two parts, of which the left hand portion is the larger. In this portion is the name of the office, details as to the date of posting, &c., while the other part forms the obliterator. In this smaller portion are the letters G.P.O., and a number of parallel lines.

## New South Wales Perforations.

THE *Australian Journal of Philately* gives a very interesting account in its January number of a visit to the Government Printing Office, Sydney. After describing the manner in which the plates and dies are brought into use and the stamps printed and gummed, the author of the article gives the following valuable information on the subject of the perforating machines now in use.

"Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4, triple cutters, all gauge 11½, and have been 12 to 14 years in use.

Nos. 5 and 7, single cutters, all gauge 12, and have been 12 to 14 years in use.

No. 6, single cutter, gauges 11, and has been 15 years in use.

No. 8, triple cutter, gauges 12, is an Adelaide machine, and has been in use since 1897. This is a good machine and works on a different principle to all the others, but it is seldom used, for the simple reason that unless all the stamps are printed at equal distances and are of the same size, the perforations cut into the design.

When one set of needles, or perforators, is broken, another is made on the premises to fit into the same bed, and are presumably the same gauge. The authorities do not, however, worry themselves over a matter of this sort, so long as the stamps are properly turned out they are satisfied.

We have also made the discovery that it is possible for a number of stamps, all of the same denomination, to be issued on the same day, some of which may have been perforated on each of the eight machines. This can, of course, only apply to those stamps which can be perforated on the triple cutters. There could, however, be simple and compound perforations of machines numbers 5, 6, and 7, all in one day, of the 3d., 5d., 5/-, 10/-, and 20/- values. For instance, supposing a triple cutter breaks down, the man working that machine may go to any single cutter according to choice. Then again, if two men are perforating on the single cutters, the same denominations, one perforates horizontally and the other vertically, one of the two may go to another job and the other goes on perforating vertically and horizontally on the same machine. Therefore it is quite possible to have on the same day one value, some of which are perforated 11½ all round, 12 all round, or 11½ by 12, and *vice versa*.

There are eight perforating machines in use. Each is furnished with a number of needles or perforators. Five machines are triple cutters, viz.: Perforate three sides at a time, and three are single cutting, perforating one line at a time. The first four are alike, and mostly used, but as the sizes of the stamps vary, while the three sides of these cutters are all alike and fixed, some values have to be perforated on the single cutters. Before being perforated, each sheet of 240 stamps has to be cut in two, the perforators only being wide enough to take twelve in a row. About eight or ten sheets can be perforated at once, a row being done at a time. With four men working, about five thousand sheets of 120 stamps, making a total of 600,000 stamps can be put through in a day.

The 3d., 5d., 5s., and 20s. postage values, as well as most of the duty and railway stamps, have to be perforated on the single cutters.

We have been enabled to gauge the perforations of the eight machines, and the following information, will, no doubt, be of special interest to the advanced philatelist."

## Jottings.

Collectors would be well advised to have nothing to do with the 1898 surcharges of Porto Rico. These have been very extensively forged recently and it is practically an impossibility for the ordinary collector to distinguish the genuine from the false.

Referring to the new type of overprint on Orange River Colony fiscal stamps, mentioned in a recent issue of *E.W.S.N.*, we now learn that the values and quantities overprinted are as follows:—

£4 ..	12,000 stamps.	5 ..	54,000 stamps.
£3 ..	36,000 ..	4/- ..	30,000 ..
£2 ..	48,000 ..	3/- ..	114,000 ..
10/- ..	48,000 ..	2/- ..	234,000 ..
8/- ..	7,200 ..	1/6 ..	324,000 ..
7/- ..	8,400 ..	1/- ..	84,000 ..
6/- ..	30,000 ..	6d. ..	120,000 ..

It is reported that the whole set of Transvaal revenue stamps from 1d. to £20 has been surcharged "V.R.L." in the same manner as the adhesives. So far only the 1d. stamp has been seen in this country thus over-printed.

An official intimation has been issued by the Government of New South Wales to the effect that postage stamps may no longer be used for duty purposes.

## Extracts from the Foreign Press.

The following four mistakes occurred in the extracts given last week:—

- Par. Line.
- I. 5. Read *extrême* (without accent on first e).
- I. 7. " *indigène* (with grave instead of acute accent).
- I. 9. " *le rédacteur* or *les rédacteurs*
- I. 10. " *des groenlandais*.

In addition to the above the following less important errors occurred:—

- Par. Line.
- I. 4. *europiens* does not require capital E.
- I. 6. For *Nord* read *nord*.
- I. 10. Read *groenlandais*.
- I. 13. For *L'Entrée* read *L'entrée*.
- I. 19. " *Colonie* " *colonie*.
- III. 4. " *Correo* " *correo*.

It is rather curious that neither of our two foreign competitors noticed the mistake, "le rédacteurs." Only one reader, Miss D. Hayman, pointed out all four principal mistakes. Mr. A. de Sterne overlooked the wrong accent on "indigène," but named the other three errors.

As for the less important errors, all six consisted in wrongly commencing words with capital letters. Such mistakes cannot, however, be considered as worth more than ¼ mark each, when they occur in a French or Spanish paragraph. Looking over a French magazine (printed in Amiens), we notice that similar use (or misuse) of capital letters occurs very frequently. In German the matter stands differently.

The best list of mistakes sent in this week are as follows:—

HIGHEST POSSIBLE, 5½ POINTS.

Foreign Readers:—

- 4½ marks ... Mr. G. Vermèeren (prize).
- 3½ " ... Baron A. de Reuterskiöld.

British Readers:—

- 4½ marks ... Miss D. Hayman (prize).
- 3½ " ... A. de Sterne.
- 3½ " ... (C. R. W. Harnall.
- 3½ " ... (E. L. James.

Miss Hayman also points out that in the German paragraph *sämtliche* should be *sämmtliche*, but we are not quite sure whether the former is not a permissible spelling. Of course, in manuscript, it is a very common practice to cut down words in this way, although a line is generally placed over the letter to signify it should be double.

Le gouvernement anglais va créer une série de timbres, au type Seychelles, pour les îles Malouines (Iles Falkland). Les timbres actuels de Falkland seraient réservés aux 2 seules îles de l'Archipel qui porte ce nom: *East Falkland* et *West Falkland*, et les nouveaux aux 200 et quelques autres îles qui forment l'Archipel des Malouines.

(*Revue Philatélique Belge*.)

Une chose dont il est bon de prendre note, c'est qu'au 31 décembre 1900, le nombre total des timbres-poste taxe et télégraphe émis par tous les pays du monde s'élevait à 14,948 exemplaires. Si l'on veut bien tenir compte qu'en raison des variétés de couleurs, papiers, filigranes, dentelures, etc., ce nombre pourrait être multiplié par 4 (ce qui donnerait déjà 59,792 pièces) on comprendra qu'il est opportun de dire aux éditeurs d'albums: Arrêtez ces ouvrages à l'année 1900 inclusivement.

(*L'Univers Philatélique*.)

Grecia.—Con una impudenza, che non diciamo unica solo per il recente esempio dato dal Salvator, ma che purtuttavia trova pochi riscontri, la Grecia si è divertita a sovraccaricare nei più svariati ed assurdi modi i francobolli delle vecchie emissioni, appositamente ristampati, ed in parte anche dentellati, per l'occasione. Riteniamo decoroso di non insistere oltre su questa sfrontata speculazione. [Poor Greece!—ED.]

(*Rivista del Francobollo*.)

## Correspondence.

THE COLLECTION OF ENTIRES.

To the Editor, *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*.

DEAR SIR,

I have been highly amused by the "fluttering" which has taken place in the philatelic dove-cote of late, owing to the fact that one firm has decided to discontinue the selling of entires.

History always repeats itself, and 70 or 80 years ago, the people in this country were crying out against the introduction of the Locomotive, for they felt sure that "the horses were doomed," but has it been so?

One swallow does not make a summer. Many men have many minds (and hobbies), and the rising and falling of the philatelic tide is not, and never will be, controlled by the doings of any individual firm; at least, that is the opinion of the writer, who has been collecting entires, &c., for 21 years.

Yours truly,  
W. H. CLARKE.

## Our Postcard Column.

WILL readers hearing of any interesting item of News, kindly jot it down on a postcard and address to the Editor, "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News," Norwood, London. For every contribution we publish, we will send the author an interesting and newly issued stamp. (N.B.—Postcards preferred).

Mr. Edw. Hudson contributes the following:—

"I have to-day seen a halfpenny reply-paid British postcard bearing green stamps posted in London yesterday—the 15th inst. This is the first I have seen printed in green."

[We have a specimen used on February 7th. Can any reader give an earlier date than this? —Ed.]

The Rev. C. Stanley writes:—

"I have a green halfpenny English stamp surcharged Army Official with the tail of the Y entirely missing. I presume it is merely a broken letter, but should like to know whether you or any of your readers have met with the error?"

Mr. J. F. C. Sieber is anxious to hear from brother Specialists in Parcel Post Labels:—

"During the last few years a new variety of hobby has made its appearance, namely, the collection of Parcel Post Labels. I know of two large collections, and there are a large number of varieties of design, type, errors of spelling and lately of colour. It would be interesting to know if this hobby has spread to any extent."

Mr. F. C. Scarr writes:—

"A new control letter X has appeared on the penny stamps, and I presume this will be the last of the Victorian series. Had our Gracious Queen lived a few years longer, the alphabet would have been exhausted. The two present control letters (½d. to 1d.) are curiously enough R.X. (Rex.)"

Mr. W. H. Maling writes:—

"I have just received a copy of the 'One Farthing' surcharged on 1/- grey Bermuda. The new value is in words, in two lines, without stop; the original value being obliterated with a bar. My correspondent informs me that the issue was all bought up the day they were brought out, one speculator investing in £50 worth."

Mr. F. C. Baker writes:—

"In case you have not heard from any of your regular sources, I think it may be of interest to the readers of your Weekly News to know that the new issue of Natal ½d. and 1d. envelopes and 4d. registration ditto were placed on sale in Durban on the 25th, and after being on sale for 45 minutes were withdrawn owing to the death of the Queen. This of course was the first time such things have been issued in the country and it seems not to have been thought right to continue the issue seeing that it had taken place only after the Queen's death. You can of course use this for your paper if you think it of sufficient interest. One shilling each was being asked for the registration envelopes when my letter left."

## Hinges.

### THEIR USE AND ABUSE.

By P. M. WOLSEFFER.

HINGES, or stickers as they are familiarly called by the novice, may justly be classed with the "little things" of philately.

It is very important that a proper hinge be used, and that it be properly adjusted, so that it will not injure the stamp in any way, either when it is in your album, on a sheet, in your exchange book, or on an auction slip.

For permanent mounting, if the stamp is not to be turned up for examination, I find that placing the hinge in the centre of the stamp will hold it more firmly. Particularly is this the case with long revenues, cut square envelopes, and all large stamps. If so placed on uncanceled stamps with full gum, it will protect to a large extent their curling up or cracking.

If the stamp is only mounted for temporary use, such as approval sheets, duplicate books, auction or for exhibition purposes, I would advocate the hinge being placed just a shade beyond the perforation or edge, so that it can be turned over without cracking either the perforation or the stamp. This would also apply to any stamps placed permanently in your collection which would require examination for watermark or variety of paper. The stamp in such cases should be hinged either at top or side. Some objection is offered to this style of mounting because the hinge can be seen at the edge of the stamp, but it is simply a question of appearance or safety.

A very good hinge is being largely sold by a prominent concern, yet it has an illustration on the envelope showing the hinge affixed to the back of the stamp about two millimetres below the edge, which is very misleading indeed to the

novice, notwithstanding the additional correct instructions for use. It is stated on the envelope that these hinges are made in England and I have noticed that many stamps coming from abroad are hinged in this fashion, indicating that the illustration is more closely followed than the instructions.

I do not remember when hinges first came into use, but they certainly marked an advance and progress in stamp collecting. While I doubt if I was ever guilty of sticking stamps down solid or tight, except on letters to be mailed, yet I distinctly remember using election pasters, drug labels, home-made gummed paper and the edges of sheets of stamps, one side of which was always perforated.

Possibly from this idea some fiend invented that great stamp destroyer commonly called the perforated hinge and supplied in sheets, and another fiend then thought out the rouletted hinge. There is nothing that I can think of, not even sticking stamps down solid that has spoiled and destroyed more good stamps than these same perforated and rouletted hinges, and yet we have daily calls for them over the retail counter, simply because several firms have sold and advertised them in the past, and I am informed they are still to be had from one of these firms, who are responsible for their introduction and use.

When a collection is offered for sale and the stamps are stuck down solid we offer much less than if each stamp was properly hinged, but if a collection comes in mounted with these ruinous perforated or rouletted hinges we offer still less, as we know what it means to try to remove them from the stamps without injury to a large number.

—Weekly Philatelic Era.

## Hawaiian Reprints & Fac-similes.

MR. J. LUFF refutes in an authoritative way statements that were made in the article on the "Reprints of Hawaiian Islands" that appeared in Stanley Gibbon's *Monthly Journal* and which was commended in our review of that paper. Concerning the stamps that are the centre of discussion—the 5c. deep blue and 13c. dull rose, ordinary white wove paper, 1853 issue—Mr. Luff says:—

"Now let us consider the claim that these two stamps are reprints. So far as I am aware, no Hawaiian stamps were declared obsolete until very recent years. So long as they remained current and available for postage, they cannot be called reprints. Even if we allow that there was little or no use for the 13c. and that the printing of that stamp in dull rose was superfluous, no such claim can be made against the 5 cents. In February, 1865, they had no 5c. stamps in the Post Office; they were awaiting a fresh supply and had issued a provisional 5c. stamp. There was surely need of the regular 5c. stamp when it arrived and abundant reason to expect it to be put into use. Again, about 1866, the stock of 5c. stamps was exhausted and a second provisional of that value (the variety with "Inter island" at the left) was issued. Once more there was use for the 1853 5c. if any remained in stock and had not already been surcharged "Specimen." This stamp cannot be a reprint.

Before leaving the subject, I wish to call attention to a small error in the article. The author shows that the die of the 5 cents was made from that of the 13 cents and from this argues that the latter value must have been issued first. I fail to see that the fact that the die of the 13 cents was first engraved conferred any permanent priority on that value. There was nothing to prevent the plate of the 5 cents being the first made and put to press.

Lastly, I wish to say a few words about the printings of these two stamps made by the American Bank Note Company, in 1889. Some fairly accurate guesses have been made about these printings, but I am now in position to state, for the first time, exactly how they were produced. On December 16th, 1887, the Hawaiian postal administration sent to the American Bank Note Company the die of the 5 cent stamp, specimen sheets of each value, and nothing more of that issue. (We are not now discussing the 2 cents of the 1869 issue). The die of the 13 cents was not sent, nor the plate of either value. The 5 cent die was somewhat defaced, and was ordered to be restored. It was accordingly retouched and, incidentally, cleaned up. One of the notable points in the latter process was the removal of the two little dots of colour from the square in the upper right corner. The portrait and the word "postage" above it were transferred upon another block of steel and the appropriate inscriptions for the 13 cents were added. From these two dies new plates were made. On these plates the irregularities of spacing of the original plates are very closely imitated. I am unable to say whether this was done by order or was merely the fancy of the workman. From these new plates 10,000 stamps

of each value were printed and delivered in Honolulu on September 6, 1889. There would appear to be no question that the 13 cent stamps are fac-similes. My readers must decide for themselves whether the 5 cents are to be called by this term or are reprints."

—Meekel's Weekly Stamp News.

## Notes from America.

By J. M. BARTELS.

Two stamps of the Pan-American series are now finished, and it is stated that the printing has commenced. This, however, does not seem probable, as there are only two plates completed to date, both of which are for the border of the 2c. stamp. The engraver says there was a large amount of work on the border of the 2c. which required a skilled hand. The entire work on this set has now received a set-back on account of large extra orders for the inauguration, and it may be several weeks before any progress can be made in this line.

\* \* \*

The first printing by the Bureau of stamps in two colours is awaited with much curiosity. The great difficulty seems to lie in getting the sheets to register properly for the second printing. The first is made on slightly damped sheets which are immediately dried. This always causes a slight shrinkage in the paper; even if it is only a quarter of an inch in the whole sheet, it will make considerable difference. This shrinkage is mostly the cause of the large percentage of poorly perforated stamps of our government. However, this poor perforation does not worry the officials nearly as much as it would to have the centre vignette "off centre." Stamp collectors, as a rule, will probably be more particular about the former than the latter, although a properly spaced centre will certainly add to the beauty of the stamp.

\* \* \*

We are once more in a position to delight (?) collectors with a new list of plates recently completed at the Bureau. Judging from the large percentage of 1c. plates apparently required since the change of colour from blue to green, it would seem that the new colour is decidedly more wearing to the plates than the old blue.

1050	1c ordinary.	1061	1c ordinary.
1051	1c ordinary.	1062	1c ordinary.
1052	1c ordinary.	1063	1c ordinary.
1053	1c ordinary.	1064	1c ordinary.
1054	2c ordinary.	1065	1c ordinary.
1055	2c ordinary.	1066	2c ordinary.
1056	2c ordinary.	1067	2c ordinary.
1057	2c ordinary.	1068	2c ordinary.
1058	1c ordinary.	1069	2c ordinary.
1059	1c ordinary.	1070	2c ordinary.
1060	1c ordinary.	1071	2c ordinary.

Collectors may discontinue their search for strips of plate 909, as this one was never finished for some unknown reason. 1c. Nos. 965, 966, 968 and 969 seem to be somewhat scarce. Upon closer investigation we find that these four were in use from Feb. 26th to March 13th, 1900. This is a comparative short life for a set of plates, but sufficiently long to prevent them from becoming a rarity.

\* \* \*

The revenue reduction bill has not yet become a law and when it does, it will not take effect until July first. It now appears that the tax on proprietary articles is to be only partially removed, whereas it will remain on cheques and money orders. It is to be removed from express receipts and telegrams. This bill, however, has not yet passed the Senate and may be changed again.

(The Weekly Philatelic Era).

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  - 4.—Discount is conditional on purchase exceeding 1/- and will be forfeited if selection is kept over the five days allowed.
  - 5.—Spaces should not be marked.
  - 6.—Sheets should be returned folded as sent.
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- N.B.—We hope collectors will assist us by observing the above very reasonable conditions and we will in return make it our endeavour to send out only the finest possible copies at the lowest possible quotations.

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211.	"	Russia.
212.	"	Norway.
213.	"	Sweden.
214.	"	Finland.
216.	"	Roumania.
217.	"	Old Europeans.
218.	"	Venezuela.
219.	"	Egypt.
220.	"	Hayti.
225.	"	Bosnia, Bulgaria and Montenegro.
228.	"	Miscellaneous Colonials.
229.	"	Thurn and Taxis.
230.	"	Saxony.
231.	"	Spain (early issues).
232.	"	Spain (War Tax, Official, &c.)
233.	"	Spain (Carlist Stamps).
235.	"	Philippines.

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505.	"	African Colonials.
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510.	"	Luxemburg.
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514.	"	Macao.
515.	"	Peru.
516.	"	Japan.
517.	"	Finland and Poland.
518.	"	Queensland.
519.	"	Tasmania.
522.	"	Australian (common)
523.	Nett.	Unused English.
524.	25%	Gambia, Gold Coast, Lagos, &c.
525.	"	French Colonies.
526.	"	Straits Settlements
527.	"	Used English.
529.	"	Sarawak
530.	"	Indian Native States

### BOOKS.

101.	Nett	Orange Free State.
106.	"	Transvaal.
107.	"	Australians.
108.	"	Miscellaneous Colonials.
109.	20%	New Zealand.
110.	10%	Ceylon and other Colonials.
111.	"	Unused English (chiefly 1d. reds, in strips
112.	"	New South Wales. [and blocks].
113.	Nett.	V.R.I. Errors and Varieties.
114.	"	V.R.I. Strips and Blocks.

### LARGE BOOKS.

A1.	20%	Used English.
A2.	45%	Used English.
A3.	10%	Used English.
D.	25%	Cut Envelopes.
G06.	"	English with Foreign Postmarks.
11.	10%	Railway Letter Fee Stamps.

This week we are able to offer the following choice stamps:—

	PRICE.
Barbados, mint pair 6d. orange-vermilion, imperf., very fine ... ..	24/-
British Columbia, 50c. on 3d. violet, fine mint pair... ..	30/-
Ceylon, 9d. brown, CC., superb mint block of four ... ..	50/-
Natal, 6d. rose, wmk. CC., superb mint block of 4, imperf.... ..	40/-
St. Vincent, 4d. blue CA.; nice unused copy, cat. 95/- only ... ..	40/-
South Australia, 3d. on 4d. blue, superb mint, block of four ... ..	40/-
Turks Islands, 1/-, dull blue, first issue used, nice copy ... ..	15/-
Zululand, 5/- on British, fine used copy	45/-
Cape of Good Hope, superb used pair of 1/- yellow-green ... ..	48/-
Ceylon, 1r. 12c. lilac rose, used... ..	2/-
Hawaii, 2c., 1864 issue, mint ... ..	9d.
" 15c. red-brown, 1882 issue, used ... ..	5/-
Tasmania, 1d. blue, first issue, used ... ..	45/-
" 4d. orange, first issue, used, superb specimen ... ..	15/-

Any of the above stamps can be sent on approval if required, but immediate application is necessary, as in most instances we have no duplicates of the lots offered.

\* \* \*

We have for sale a few blocks of six 1d. V.R.I. Transvaals, one stamp of which shows the error, no stop after "I." These we can supply at 3/6 each. We have also blocks of six Transvaal V.R.I. d. stamps, one specimen having a very thick stop after the "I." Our price for these is 1/6 each.

\* \* \*

A few specimens of the following rare surcharged Philippines are in stock at the moment of going to press:—

8c. on 100m. carmine (S.G. No. 91), mint pair, cat. 30/- for ... ..	14/6
2½c. on 1c. (S.G. No. 126), fine mint pair, magenta surcharge ... ..	1/6
2½c. on 10 cuartos bistre, mint pair, black surcharge (S.G. No. 128) ... ..	2/9
2c. on 200m. green, unused, yellow surcharge (S.G. No. 141) ... ..	1/6

\* \* \*

We have just made up a nice selection of Indian Native States surcharged on Indian stamps (booklet 530). A number of rupee values are included and altogether a very representative selection of these stamps is shown.

\* \* \*

We have for sale a few fine used copies of the Russian error—3 Kopecs with background of "V's," the groundwork of the 5 kopecs. These we are offering at 1/6 each.

\* \* \*

This week we are able to offer a few corner blocks of six ½d. green Cape surcharged "Orange River Colony," one stamp being the error with no stop after "Colony." We are asking 2/6 each for these.

\* \* \*

We have recently acquired a fine used specimen of the Ceylon 1r. 12c. red-lilac stamp surcharged "On Service." This we offer for 10/6 and will send on approval if requested to do so.

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With which is incorporated EWEN'S WEEKLY CIRCULAR. (Established October, 1897.)

A JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

THE ONLY WEEKLY STAMP PAPER  
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[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

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## The Week's News.

A copy of the British and Colonial Philatelic Directory (1st edition) has just reached us, and will doubtless, prove a useful work of reference. The work includes lists of British dealers and collectors, and an attempt is made at compiling the names and addresses of Colonial dealers and collectors. There is also a list of Exchange Clubs with information as to the number of members, subscriptions, &c., and a few philatelic papers are listed together.

\* \* \*

At a recent auction held by Mr. J. C. Stevens, three complete sets of 19 Mafeking Siege Stamps were sold respectively for 20, 20 and 19 guineas. The same auctioneer has previously sold sets for as much as £36 and £39 18s., and as little as £17.

\* \* \*

It is reported that the Chilean government has run out of 2c. stamps, and in order to supply the emergency a stock of the 30c. stamps was to be punched with a round hole and sold as two cent stamps. This is, indeed, a novel way of supplying an emergency, and we should think preferable from a philatelic standpoint to surcharging them. In this case we may hope that we shall not be called upon to recognize them, as any one could, without much trouble, change one stamp to the other without fear of being detected. The philatelic interest in a provisional of this nature will be but a passing one.

\* \* \*

With reference to the early date of the half-penny reply paid post-card with green stamp, mentioned in our last issue, Mr. G. H. Marks writes to say that he has one postmarked at Plymouth on January 31st, 1901, thus beating the previous earliest date by a week. Can any reader go one better?

\* \* \*

According to our American contemporaries the engraving of the "Buffalo" commemoratives is progressing apace. The 1 cent value is practically ready, and ere very long the complete set should be finished.

\* \* \*

It is stated that the new set of Dominican Republic stamps may be bought in New York from the company who printed them, so that American collectors are saved the trouble of sending to the Dominican Republic for the stamps.

\* \* \*

It is rumoured that Canada is shortly to have a new set of stamps. A paragraph recently appeared in an Ottawa newspaper to the effect that new designs are now being prepared.

\* \* \*

The designs of the new stamps now being issued by Costa Rica have a decidedly pleasing appearance. They are produced by Messrs. Waterlow, whose artistic work in the way of picture stamps is now well known. It is nearly nine years since Costa Rica's last issue appeared—quite a creditable record for a South American Republic.

\* \* \*

An ingenious automatic device for weighing and indicating the necessary postage for samples and third-class mail packages has been regularly installed in the French G.P.O., writes a Paris correspondent. Instead of handing such packages to the employés for weighing, one simply places them on the scales, and almost instantly there appears a little card stamped with the weight and the denomination of the stamp or stamps required. Any package placed on the scale that exceeds the maximum amount allowed for that class of mail matter immediately causes to appear a card with the words, "Too heavy."—S.C.F.

## New Issues.

The Editor will be much obliged for early news of New Issues or intended New Issues or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors. Full acknowledgment given. If possible, specimens should be sent in order that illustrations may be prepared.

**ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.**—We are now informed that the new colours and values issued here are as follows:—

3c. orange.  
12c. olive.  
15c. blue (taking the place of 16c. withdrawn).

**CHAMBA.**—The 3 pies carmine Indian stamp has been surcharged in the usual manner for use in this Native State.

**COSTA RICA.**—In addition to the 20c. stamp mentioned in our last issue, we now chronicle four more values in the new set, on the authority of *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, viz.: 1c., 2c., 5c. and 10c. The set issued to date is, therefore, as follows:—

1 centimo green and black.  
2 centimos red and black.  
5 " blue and black.  
10 " bistre and black.  
20 " carmine and black.

In addition to the above the *I.B.Z.* states that a 50c. lilac and blue and a 5c. dark brown and black have also appeared.

**CURACAO.**—The 30c. Postage Due stamp of the current type is now in use, states the *P.J.G.B.*, though up to the present neither the 40c. or 50c. has appeared.

**DJIBOUTI (Somali Coast).**—A new set of stamps is in preparation for this French Colony, and is to be of two designs.

1. For the lower values, 18×24mm. in size. In centre, camel with two native riders in oval frame; below "*Côte française des Somalis*"; above *Postes*. At each upper corner are the figures (or figure) of value, and at each lower angle, the letters "RF."

2. For the higher values, 24×36mm. in size. In centre, three armed natives, with swords, etc., in upper right-hand corner. Below, the inscription *Côte française des Somalis* and above *RF Postes*. This type is said to be of very fine appearance.

According to *L'Echo de la Timbrologie* a set of postage due stamps is also being prepared for use here, size 18×24mm.

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.**—The *R. P. Belge* chronicles two errors of colour in the current issue:—5c. black and 20c. rose.

**FRENCH CONGO.**—A set of postage due stamps (*timbres-taxe*) is in preparation for issue here. We say "for issue" advisedly, as it is well known that the last two issues were on sale in Paris only. The design measures 18 by 24 mm. and consists of a large figure of value in the centre, with an elephant's tusk on either side; inscription *Postes* at top, *Congo français* below. At the upper corners are the letters "RF" and on each elephant's tusk is the further inscription *centimes à percevoir*.

**ICELAND.**—According to *Der Philatelist* a new value has been added to the current set, viz.: 25 aur. It is printed in blue and yellow-brown, and is uniform in design with the other values. From the same source we learn that the official set has been augmented by the addition of a 4 aur value, which is printed in grey. Both of the above stamps are perf. 14×13½.

**LOURENÇO MARQUES.**—A provisional 5r. has been made here by horizontally bisecting the 10r. fiscal and overprinting each half with the words "Correio de Lourenço Marques 5 reis." The surcharge occupies 5 lines. *Mekel's Weekly* is our authority for the above statement.

**MALTA.**—The *P.J.G.B.* says that for some days at the beginning of December there was a shortage of ¼d. stamps at the little village of Mellicha, so 1d. stamps were cut diagonally and each half was then used as a halfpenny stamp.

**MOROCCO.**—The new 5 marks German stamp has been surcharged "6pes. 25cts." for use here. The set is thus now complete.

**NEW ZEALAND.**—Our Colonial Market has shown us an entire sheet of the new 1d. Universal Postage stamp. The design is tasteful and well executed, and altogether the stamp has a very handsome appearance. The central design shows a full length female figure emblematic of the Postal Union, a globe, a steamship at sea, and a distant view of Mount Egmont. Underneath, are the words "UNIVERSAL POSTAGE." At the top in a scroll is the name "NEW ZEALAND," while an artistic border surrounds the whole. The value "ONE PENNY" appears at the foot. The stamps are printed in sheets of 240—ten rows of twelve, and the colour is carmine. The perforating (14 gauge) and printing were both done in London. Mr. W. C. Young sends us a specimen of this stamp used on the first day of the century—the date of issue.

We also note that *La Revue Philatélique Belge* chronicles the 1s. red-brown on the new paper, wmk. N.Z. (double-lined) and star.

**NORTH BORNEO.**—The 8 cents lilac and black of the 1897 issue is reported to have recently been surcharged "POSTAGE DUE."

**ORANGE RIVER COLONY.**—According to the *S.C.F.* a new post card will appear very shortly. This will consist of the current Cape Colony card over printed "Orange River Colony" in the same manner as the ¼d. and 2½d. adhesives. The 1d. single will most probably be the first value issued, as the 1d. V.R.I. cards were exhausted some time ago.

**PERAK.**—*Der Philatelist* states that the following quantities have been issued of the recent surcharges.

1c. on 2c.	110,000	3c. on 8c.	30,000.
1c. on 4c.	40,000	3c. on \$1	30,000.
1c. on 5c.	70,000		

**PORTUGAL.**—The *P.J.G.B.* states that the 500 reis is being perforated 11½ instead of 12½, and thus the set in that perforation is now complete.—Several of our contemporaries state that two high values are shortly to be issued for the following Colonies, i.e.:—Angola, Cape Verde, Congo, Lourenço Marques, Mozambique, St. Thome é Principe, and Zambesia. The values are to be 500 and 700 reis, but the colours have not yet been decided on.

**RUSSIA.**—The 10 kopecs now appears in a pale blue shade according to *Le T. Belge*. A foreign contemporary states that the 7 and 14 kopecs are soon to be altered. The new issue will be of the type of the current 4, 10, 20, and 50 kopecs.

**SAMOA.**—A specimen of the 1d. green surcharged 2½d. in red has been noticed with the overprint inverted.

**TRANSVAAL.**—Mr. Adolf Sonn sends us a specimen of the 1d. postcard surcharged "V.R.I." in the same type as the adhesives. The specimen sent us is postmarked 25th Jan., 1901.

**URUGUAY.**—We have now to chronicle another value of the new set, viz.:—1 centesimo green. The design shows a herd of cattle. So far the values issued are:—

1 centesimo green.
5 " blue.
10 " purple.

**VENEZUELA.**—Mr. J. N. Mostyn informs us that he has a copy of the 10 centavos red, surcharged "Resellada 1900" with the surcharge inverted.

**WEST AUSTRALIA.**—Messrs. Smyth & Nicolle have favoured us with a specimen of a 2½d. stamp which we presume is the forerunner of a new issue. The central design is, of course, the usual swan contained in an oval and this part of the stamp seems in every way similar to the old one. The border, however, is very different. At the top of the oval is "TWO PENCE HALFPENNY" in a scroll and on either side a spray of flowers and leaves appears. At the base is "WESTERN AUSTRALIA." The stamp is printed in blue, the perforation gauges 14, and the watermark consists of a Crown and W.A.

## Postmark Notes.

By "DUPLEX."

MR. J. G. CAIRNS sends me an envelope which has the large "V.R." machine mark stamped on it twice, i.e., at the top and bottom. It is evident that the envelope was first run under the machine wrong way up and the error being immediately detected it was again run under the obliterator and this time the postage stamp was cancelled.

Regarding the "AO1" mark, which I have referred to before in this column as appearing on letters from the Front, it seems that this mark is impressed in London and not in South Africa. Mr. W. Kermeen writes to tell me that a few days ago he received a postcard from Bulgaria on which this mark was stamped.



Mr. Kermeen also sends me a copy of the new Liverpool postage due obliterator. This consists of a large "2d.," with the office number of the town (466) below, enclosed in a circle.

Mr. P. R. Craft informs me that the envelope enclosing a recent number of *E.W.S.N.*, he received, had on it no postage stamp, and yet he was not called upon to pay anything on delivery. Evidently the stamp had fallen off in the post. The space where it had been stamped with a circular mark of the newspaper branch department, containing "15 N.P.B.," and this was initialled by a postal official.

Mr. E. Heginbottom sends for inspection three specimens of imperf. 1d. reds, cancelled with 1860-70 obliterations of the duplex type. These are curious as examples of stamps used a long while after their issue. There is, however, I am afraid, very little interest attaching to freaks of this character, as all British stamps that have been issued are still available for postage, and thus it would not be a very difficult matter to get a 1d. red imperf. shewing a current cancellation.

## Stamp Exhibition of the International Philatelic Union.

A PRIVATE competitive exhibition under the auspices of the above Union was held at the London Philatelic Society's rooms on Saturday last. A large number of philatelists were present, to view the many choice stamps shown; indeed at times the rooms were very crowded. There were five classes open for competition, viz:—Class I., 1, 2, or 3 consecutive issues of Great Britain or of any one Colony; Class II., 1, 2, or 3 consecutive issues of any country not comprised in Class I.; Class III., fiscal stamps of any country; Class IV., envelopes and postcards of any country; and Class V., stamps of any country not specified in Gibbons' catalogue. Altogether there were 72 entries and in Classes I. and II. there was keen competition. Messrs. M. P. Castle, J.P., W. Schwabacher, H. R. Oldfield and W. Dorning-Beckton officiated as judges. The first prize in Class I. was awarded to Mr. L. L. R. Hansburg for a superb display of Sydney Views and 2nd honours fell to Mr. B. W. Neave for a fine show of the first three issues of Canada.

In Class II. an excellent collection of Mexican locals shown by Mr. R. Frenzler was successful in obtaining the first prize while second place was accorded to Mr. M. H. Lombard for an admirable show of first issue French Colonies. The Grand Prize of the Exhibition was awarded to Mr. Vernon Roberts for a superb collection of triangular Capes. Among these were large blocks of the 1d., 4d., and 6d. values in mint condition, woodblocks in pairs and blocks, and some grand specimens of the errors. In Class IV. Mr. B. W. Warhurst had a nice display of O.F.S. and O.R.C. post cards, whilst Mr. I. H. Hinton had on view a fine selection of British cards and Mulready envelopes. In Class V., Mr. L. L. Hansburg exhibited the set of Trinidad, surcharged 9d., for H.R.H. the Duke of Cornwall and York, which it will be remembered fetched 50 guineas at the War Fund Auction. A number of interesting exhibits not for competition were shown, including Mr. W. Dorning Beckton's fine collection of first issue Roumania in entire sheets. Mr. H. R. Oldfield displayed some Mafeking Siege stamps and Mr. B. W. Warhurst had on view several rare stamps. Mr. T. H. Hinton, the indefatigable hon. secretary of the I.P.U., had a number of exhibits on view, the one attracting most general attention being a frame of stamps, post cards and envelopes of the British Empire with various portraits on adhesive stamps of Her late Majesty, Queen Victoria, arranged in the form of the letters "V.R.I." as a central design.

## A REFERENCE LIST OF THE Embossed Envelope Stamps

OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

BY OSWALD MARSH.

TWOPENCE HALFPENNY.—The earliest copy of this value I have met with is dated 25.4.77, although the die was approved on 28th March, 1876. The colour was originally carmine but may be found in all shades varying from chocolate to pink. It was changed during 1892 to a grey-blue, and again in December, 1900, to a deep blue. As yet only three dies have been brought into use; below I give the earliest and latest dates I have met with:—

Die 1, carmine ...	25.4.77	25.11.90
" 2, " ...	23.2.91	7. 3.92
" 2, grey-blue ...	3.8.92	15. 5.93
" 2, " with 5 dot florets.		
" 2, " with 9 dot florets.		
" 3, deep blue with 9 dot florets.		

THREEPENCE.—Die 1 of this value was registered on 20th May, 1859. Dies 6 and 7 on 27th July, 1874. These are the only dies of which official records exist, although another would appear to have been used from the beginning of 1868 until the middle of 1874.

Die 1.—Has in later impressions a small white spot between the C of pence and the back of the neck.

Die 2.—Has a niche out of the outer line, immediately above the O of postage. The die number is very indistinct.

Die 6.—Has a white spot under the chin.

Die 7.—Has a small flaw in it over the first E of pence.

Earliest and latest dates I have seen:—

Die 1, carmine ...	11.8.59	18.7.67
" ? " ...	12.2.68	24.4.73
" 6 " ...	26.4.75	15.11.92
" 7 " ...	22.11.92	5.10.93
" " " ...		with 5 dot florets
" " " ...		with 9 dot florets

Mr. Ewen has shown me the following record dates:—

1d. pink, die 227 ...	26.2.85.
1½d. brown, die 5 ...	1.11.90.
2d. blue, die 1 ...	11.8.81.
2d. lake, die 7 ...	1.2.94.

I have recently obtained a specimen of the 2d. blue stamp, die 2, dated 25.10.55. This is the earliest date I have seen on any envelope stamp, and I think will be a hard record to beat, the dies having been re-registered on 9.10.55 with the date plugs fitted.

On page 15, *E.W.S.N.*, in the list of dates sent by Mr. F. J. Crick, 1d. dies 89, 90 and 151, were wrongly placed in the first column as being early date records, instead of in the second as being latest dates. The foot note also states 1d. die 202 to be one month earlier, instead of later, than that in my list, but probably most readers will have noted these slips already.

## Scott's Postage Stamp Catalogue.

SIXTIETH EDITION, 1901.

WE have to thank our Publishers, Messrs. W. R. Russell & Co., Ltd., for a copy of *Scott's Postage Stamp Catalogue* for 1901. This work is best known as the Standard American Catalogue, but the enterprising firm of New York dealers, who are responsible for its regular annual production, are now seeking to popularize it in Great Britain as well as the States. A very serious drawback to success is, however, to be found in the fact that prices are given in dollars and cents, and we imagine that the average British collector will not want to worry himself translating United States currency into shillings and pence. The work being published primarily for the benefit of American collectors, this can hardly be considered a fault, although it must necessarily tend to depreciate the value of the work over here, especially as 90 per cent. of collectors—if not indeed a larger percentage—buy these catalogues simply to ascertain the values of stamps. With this exception, the work is strongly to be recommended to the notice of British collectors. It is neatly printed on opaque paper (scoring in this matter over our own representative catalogue—Bright's "A.B.C.") and neatly bound. The increase of 5% in the number of pages bears evidence of numerous "new issues," the total number devoted to the catalogue proper being now 658. It is interesting to note that philatelic stationery still retains a place in the volume.

Published by Messrs. W. R. Russell & Co., Ltd., Paternoster Row, E.C.4, 2/4 post free, and in New York by the Scott Stamp and Coin Co., Ltd.

## Extracts from the Foreign Press.

The following five mistakes occurred in the extracts given last week:—

Par. Line.	
I. 2.	For <i>au</i> read <i>du</i> .
I. 4.	" <i>seraient</i> read <i>seront</i> .
I. 5.	" <i>porte</i> read <i>portent</i> .
II. 7.	" <i>être</i> read <i>étre</i> .
II. 10.	" <i>Arrêtez</i> read <i>Arrêtez</i> .

In addition to the above the following less important errors occurred:—

Par. Line.	
I. 4.	<i>Archipel</i> should have small "a."
II. 3.	Comma omitted after <i>timbres-poste</i> .
II. 9.	" " " <i>pièces</i> .

The following were the best lists of errors sent in by readers.

Foreign Readers:—

Mr. G. Vermèeren (3 marks).

British Readers:—

A de Sterne (4½ marks).

Miss D. Hayman (3½ marks).

The first postcard pointing out a mistake was received from Mr. E. W. Stearn.

A printer's error occurred in the note last week referring to the spelling of the German word "sämtliche." There is, of course, no such word as "säntliche" (with letter "n.")

This week's paragraphs are given below, and for the benefit of readers who have not seen our previous offers, we may mention that the Editor of *E.W.S.N.* every week awards several interesting new issues to the British and Foreign readers who respectively send in the best list of mistakes occurring in the extracts, it being necessary that such lists should be delivered not later than Wednesdays.

Il circule, en ce moment, en France, des 1 centime, type actuel de France, imprimés sur papiers de toutes couleurs, qu'on tâche de vendre comme *essais*. Ces pseudo-essais ne sont en réalité que des découpages de bandes privées, que l'Administration exécute sur n'importe quel papier, pour le compte des particuliers.

LE FILIGRANE.

Pour obtenir un filigrane dans le papier, différents procédés sont en usage dans sa fabrication.

Qu'il s'agisse de papiers fabriqués à la main ou à la machine, le plus ancien procédé consiste à fixer sur une toile métallique un dessin ou des lettres en fil de fer.

La pâte, qui arrive avec un fort courant d'eau charge la toile, mais reste plus mince là où le fil de fer est en relief, et de cette façon, on obtient l'image désirée.

Le filigrane obtenu par ce procédé s'appelle *filigrane en creux*, et c'est le mode le plus usité dans la fabrication du papier.

Si l'on regarde un papier filigrané à la lumière le papier paraît plus mince aux places où se trouve le filigrane.

Nous rappelons à cette occasion les enveloppes de Sardaigne, les timbres de la Nouvelle Galles du Sud, de Ceylan, Espagne, Toscane, ainsi que les timbres de Bavière, où le fil de fer est soudé en serpent sur la toile métallique.

Un procédé plus moderne pour obtenir le filigrane en creux, consiste à découper des dessins dans du laiton ou du carton à satiner et de les appliquer sur la feuille de papier encore humide. On exerce ensuite une forte pression sur les lettres en se vitrifiant légèrement, et le dessin ressort en creux.

En opposition au *filigrane en creux* dans la fabrication du papier, on produit quelquefois le *filigrane en relief*.

Pour obtenir ce résultat inverse, il faut que le dessin se trouve légèrement en creux dans la toile métallique. La pâte du papier s'amasse aux endroits creusés et produit naturellement un léger relief. Vu à la lumière, le papier dont le filigrane est en relief paraît plus foncé aux endroits désignés, et on obtient ainsi l'image désirée.

On trouve des filigranes en relief dans les premières enveloppes de Russie et dans les premiers timbres de Norwège.

L'industrie moderne, toujours en quête de simplifications, emploie maintenant une nouvelle méthode pour obtenir un filigrane, en gravant un relief sur un des rouleaux d'acier entrant dans une calandre (machine à satiner) et le filigrane s'obtient alors en même temps que le satinage du papier.

L'avantage de ce dernier procédé, c'est d'être simple et rapide.

EVERY STAMP COLLECTOR  
SHOULD SUBSCRIBE TO

EWEN'S WEEKLY STAMP NEWS.

## Our Postcard Column.

WILL readers hearing of any interesting item of News, kindly jot it down on a postcard and address to the Editor, "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News," Norwood, London. For every contribution we publish, we will send the author an interesting and newly issued stamp. (N.B.—Postcards preferred.)

Mr. C. Hoblyn writes:—

"I enclose for your inspection a few varieties which may interest the readers of your postcard column. They are as follows:—

NORWAY, 5 öre, 1883 issue with larger letters than usual.

NORWAY, 10 öre, 1883 issue with two stops after 'Postfrim.'

FINLAND, 20 penni, 1875 issue, perf. 11, in which the heraldic lion on the shield is minus its tail and the sword. The letters in the wording, too, are thicker than is usual."

Brother Specialists in Parcel Post Labels have replied in force to Mr. Sieber's enquiry. (See Postcard Column of last week.)

Mr. J. H. Daniels writes:—

"I notice Mr. Sieber's enquiry in *E.W.S.N.* re Collectors of Parcel Post Labels. I have collected these labels for the past seven years in all varieties of printings. The first type read "Parcels" and is very scarce, as also the local London parcel labels on yellow paper (now blue). I know a few collectors of them, but only one who really collects all varieties and types as I do."

Mr. Oswald Marsh writes:—

"In reply to Mr. J. F. C. Sieber's query in this week's number of *E.W.S.N.* about Parcel Post Labels, it may be of interest to some of your readers to know that there have been at least five varieties of English labels and eight of Irish. I have not been able to secure enough Scottish to be in a position to describe them. The earliest type would appear to be that in which the words PARCEL POST or PARCELS POST appear in "pica diamond" type, with the Royal Arms between, and extending right across the top of the label. This is followed in the second line by the name of the town or village in "Great Primer bold Latin" type; and in the third line, if the office be a sub-office, the name of the head office is given in brackets thus, (under Selby). Beneath this third line are a thick and a thin rule and below the inscription (For postage stamps and—where used—for the date stamp.) This type was used all over the United Kingdom, those that followed appear to have been used only in one country, each country having a distinct type. Besides the varieties issued by the Post Office, several private firms have been granted the privilege of printing parcel post labels, these being in all cases printed on to their address labels, and usually of the current official type though sometimes printed in colour."

Mr. W. H. Earl also contributes a valuable note on the same subject:—

"I am very much interested to see some one has taken up these parcel post labels. Between 1883 and 1886, I kept all I came across, and on reading that Mr. Sieber is making a study of them, I looked through what I had and was surprised to find I had no less than ten quite distinct types used in London alone between August, 1883, and May, 1886. I enclose these herewith for inspection. You will note two much smaller than the rest, measuring only about 3x1½ inches. One is on blue paper and the other on white, dated respectively 'Mark Lane, Dec. 3, 85,' and 'G.P.O. London—Parcels Post Depot—24, No. 85.' Both are inscribed at top "Parcel [Arms] Post—(For Postage Stamps and Date Stamp.)"

The others are all about 3½x2 inches in size and inscribed:—

(a) "Parcels Post—[Name of Office]—(For Postage Stamps and Date Stamp.)"

(b) Same, but "Parcel Post."

(c) "Parcel Post—[Name of Office]—(For Postage Stamps—[in space ruled off] Date Stamp."

Type (a) is on blue, white or pink paper; the others on blue or white paper. The latest date of type (a) is May, 1885 (the pink one being dated "G.P.O., Aug. 18th, 1883), and the earliest of type (b), Jan. 13th, 1885. The earliest of type (c), showing for the first time the abbreviation by which the office is known (e.g., ML for Mark Lane), is May 3rd, 1886.

I also send a copy of the official label, issued May 1st, 1886, advertising the rates for parcels."

Mr. F. Grove Powell contributes the following:—

"I send for your inspection a specimen of 1d. red, with Boyd's overprint showing the error, "FRIDAY STREET." This may be common, but I have not noticed it before." [The stamp sent is plate 206 and is lettered LK—KL being the twelfth stamp in the eleventh row.—ED.]

Mr. Powell also writes:—

"I enclose a 1d. red, plate 72, which at first sight appears to be lettered OP—PC, but on examination you will notice that the colour of the top 'C' has run, making it look like the letter 'O.' Query, did the well-known 1½d. error OP—PC occur in the same way?"

## Australian Federation.

It seems that there is a likelihood of the Australian stamps receiving a federal surcharge, after all. This and other matters have engaged the attention of a Federal Postal Conference sitting at Sydney. The following extracts from the report of the Conference are of interest and importance to philatelists:—

### AUSTRALIAN PENNY POSTAGE.

We have carefully considered the important question of Australian Penny Postage, and find that, as accurately as can be estimated, the annual loss of revenue to each State by the adoption of the penny postage within the Commonwealth, allowing for no increase of correspondence, would be, approximately, as follows:—New South Wales, £83,000; Victoria, £55,000; Queensland, £58,886; South Australia, £40,000; Western Australia, £34,200; Tasmania, £24,000; total, £295,586. The further loss, by extending the penny postage to the United Kingdom and all other British possessions, would be £20,924, or an aggregate of about £316,510.

Against this loss there would probably be a gain of about £45,000 per annum by imposing a postage on newspapers in New South Wales, Western Australia and Tasmania, and the reduced rates on letters would result in a large increase in correspondence.

In view, however, of the loss of revenue we refrain from making any definite recommendation.

### FEDERAL POSTAL ISSUES, &c.

Several suggestions (the report proceeds) respecting the issue of Federal postage stamps have been made, and one proposal was that a special set of postage stamps should be issued, the design of which should be symbolical of the birth of the Commonwealth; that these stamps should be procurable for a period of, say, three months, and the proceeds from their sale, or a portion thereof, be devoted towards the establishment of a public institution, such as a hospital in the Federal City. It is pointed out that under the Washington Convention, so-called commemorative postage stamps of temporary validity, such as those for hospital purposes, could not be used for correspondence outside the colony of origin, and in the opinion of the conference there are obvious difficulties in the way of issuing Federal postage stamps before the transfer of Postal Departments to the Government of the Commonwealth.

The issue of a new halfpenny postage stamp in each State, to commemorate the contemplated visit of the Duke and Duchess of York, is recommended, the design of the stamp being a bust of the Duke of York.

It is further recommended:—(1) That pending the introduction of special postage stamps and postal notes upon the transfer of the post offices to the Federal Government, all postage stamps and postal notes of the Federating Colonies be valid within any part of the Commonwealth; and (2) that all such postage stamps and postal notes be overprinted with the letters "A.C." (Australian Commonwealth.)—*Hobbies.*

## Venezuelan Varieties.

A recent number of *Le Philatliste Française* contains an article descriptive of the 1898, commemorative issue of Venezuela, giving a list of varieties and errors that have been discovered. The 50c. has already been chronicled tête-bêche, but we are now informed that all the other values also exist in this condition. Of these the 10c. is the rarest, followed by the 5c., 1b. and 25c. in the order named. The 5c., 25c. and 50c. are said to have been found with an error "GUANANA" instead of "GUAYANA," the letter "N" being perfectly formed, and not caused by bad printing. The 10c. is also found with the word "CORREOS" spelled "COERROS," and the 1b. with the same word varied to "CORROEOS."

In the normal stamps of the 10c. value, the contraction "Cs" is in a circle at the top right hand corner, while the number "10" occupies similar circles in the remaining three corners. An error of this has been found with "Cs" in the bottom left hand corner, and the "10" in the upper right hand corner, and a specimen of the 1 bolivar has been found with the "1" and "B" similarly transposed.

## Alleged Frauds on Stamp Dealers.

Henri Gauche (34), a commercial traveller, was charged, on remand, at Bow-street, last week with obtaining by false pretences, from Mr. W. Hadlow, of 331, Strand, foreign stamps of the value of £53.

Mr. Harry Wilson, who prosecuted, said further charges, involving considerable amounts, would now be preferred against the prisoner. Another remand would then be asked for, in order that the forged stamps alleged to have been negotiated by the prisoner might be submitted to an expert at the British Museum.

Mr. J. W. Jones, a stamp dealer, of 61, Cheapside, said prisoner called on him on Wednesday of last week and submitted two sheets of stamps, which he said he wished to exchange. In consequence of something he had heard, witness's suspicions were aroused, and he made an appointment with the prisoner for the following day. In the meantime, he communicated with other dealers and the police. When prisoner called witness pointed out that some of the stamps were "fishy" looking—particularly a Four-Cent Vaud (used), which, if genuine, would be worth £25—but he assured witness that they were genuine. He asked for stamps to the value of £12 in exchange for his, or else £10 in cash. Prisoner was then taken into custody by Sergeant Haines.

Mr. Joseph Field, another dealer, of the Royal Arcade, Old Bond Street, said prisoner called on him on Feb. 4, with a quantity of stamps, among them being several which appeared to be valuable Swiss Cantons. Eventually witness exchanged specimens with the prisoner to the value of £95, among those he received being eight or ten Swiss, a double Geneva (unused), with wrong sides joined, a Four-Cent Vaud (unused), and a Geneva envelope. Witness subsequently ascertained that they were all forgeries.

Fredk. Robert Ginn, 143, Strand, said he exchanged stamps to the value of £84 with the prisoner. Those witness received were, he afterwards found, forgeries, and they included two Four-Cent Vauds (used and unused), and a double Geneva.

Mr. M. P. Castle, J.P., of Kingston Lodge, Brighton, Vice-President of the London Philatelic Society, who for thirty years has made a study of foreign stamps and forgeries, said he had examined the stamps produced. All those of any apparent value were forgeries. A Four-Cent Vaud (unused), was extremely rare; witness had only seen six in the course of his experience—and it would be worth over £100.

In reply to Mr. Caldicott, who defended, all the witnesses agreed that the forgeries were remarkably good ones, and could only be detected by experts in the particular class of stamp in question.

Prisoner was again remanded in custody.

## British Stamp Exchange.

- Circuit I. British Adhesives.
- Circuit II. British and Colonial Envelope Stamps.
- Circuit III. Railway Stamps (all).
- Circuit IV. Postmarks (all).

The January packets have all returned; accounts were sent out on February 18th, and members having balances due to them were paid on February 26th.

The February packet has not yet returned, but accounts will be sent out immediately on receipt.

The B.S.E. is open to all readers of *E.W.S.N.*, and anyone may contribute to the monthly packets, whether they see them or not. Ten per cent. commission is charged on sales made to cover working expenses.

NO ENTRANCE FEE.

NO SUBSCRIPTION.

MONTHLY ACCOUNTS.

Next packet starts March 7th.

Address: SECRETARY, British Stamp Exchange, 45, Palace Road, Norwood, S.E.

## Undisplayed Advertisements:

FREE.—Canada Price Lists and copy Canadian Philatelic Magazine. Speciality, Canada postage and revenues, cheap.—WM. LADAMS, Toronto, Ont. [82

BRITISH STAMP DIRECTORY, 1901 edition, just published, 1/- post free.—PHILATELIC PUBLISHING CO., Fentham Road, Birmingham. Specimen copy P.C. & A., (28 pages) post free on application. [76

## Approval Selections.

WE are now arranging and mounting a specially fine series of Approval Collections, comprising the stamps of all countries, and will have pleasure in sending same to any reader, on compliance with the conditions named below. Except where specially noted, any stamp may be selected at the price marked above it, and in most cases we allow a liberal discount off such prices. All communications for our Approval Department should be addressed to H. L. EWEN, 32, Palace Square, Norwood, S.E.

### CONDITIONS.

- 1.—Stamps can only be sent on approval on condition that those not purchased are returned within five days.
  - 2.—No stamps may be removed from the sheets or books until actually purchased.
  - 3.—Collectors are not permitted to deduct return postage from amount of purchase.
  - 4.—Discount is conditional on purchase exceeding 1/- and will be forfeited if selection is kept over the five days allowed.
  - 5.—Spaces should not be marked.
  - 6.—Sheets should be returned folded as sent.
  - 7.—When a selection is returned, another will be sent unless otherwise requested.
- N.B.—We hope collectors will assist us by observing the above very reasonable conditions and we will in return make it our endeavour to send out only the finest possible copies at the lowest possible quotations.

### APPROVAL SHEETS.

No.	Discount.	Description.
202.	Nett.	New Issues and Special Bargains.
203.	..	Miscellaneous Colonials.
205.	25%	West Indies.
206.	Nett.	V.R.I.'s.
207.	50%	Mexico.
208.	25%	Miscellaneous
211.	..	Russia.
212.	..	Norway.
213.	..	Sweden.
214.	..	Finland.
216.	..	Roumania.
217.	..	Old Europeans.
218.	..	Venezuela.
219.	..	Egypt
220.	..	Hayti.
225.	..	Bosnia, Bulgaria and Montenegro.
228.	..	Miscellaneous Colonials.
229.	..	Thurn and Taxis.
230.	..	Saxony.
231.	..	Spain (early issues).
232.	..	Spain (War Tax, Official, &c.)
233.	..	Spain (Carlist Stamps).
235.	..	Philippines.

### BOOKLETS.

501.	Nett.	Fiji and Cook Islands.
504.	..	Unused African Colonials.
505.	..	African Colonials.
506.	..	Unused Colonials.
508.	25%	Liberia.
509.	..	Denmark
510.	..	Luxemburg.
511.	..	Austria.
512.	..	Austrian Italy.
513.	..	Timor.
514.	..	Macao.
515.	..	Peru.
516.	..	Japan.
517.	..	Finland and Poland.
518.	..	Queensland.
519.	..	Tasmania.
522.	..	Australian (common).
523.	Nett.	Unused English.
524.	25%	Gambia, Gold Coast, Lagos, &c.
525.	..	French Colonies.
526.	..	Straits Settlements
527.	..	Used English.
529.	..	Sarawak.
530.	..	Indian Native States

### BOOKS.

101.	Nett.	Orange Free State.
106.	..	Transvaal.
107.	..	Australians.
108.	..	Miscellaneous Colonials.
109.	20%	New Zealand.
110.	10%	Ceylon and other Colonials.
111.	..	Unused English (chiefly 1d. reds, in strips
112.	..	New South Wales. [and blocks].
113.	Nett.	V.R.I. Errors and Varieties.
114.	..	V.R.I. Strips and Blocks.

### LARGE BOOKS.

A1.	20%	Used English.
A2.	25%	Used English.
A3.	10%	Used English.
D.	25%	Cut Envelopes.
G106.	..	English with Foreign Postmarks.
H.	10%	Railway Letter Fee Stamps.

This week we are able to offer the following choice stamps:—

	PRICE.
Barbados, mint pair 6d. orange-vermilion, imperf., very fine ... ..	24/-
British Columbia, 50c. on 3d. violet, fine mint pair... ..	30/-
Ceylon, 9d. brown, CC., superb mint block of four ... ..	50/-
Natal, 6d. rose, wmk. CC., superb mint block of 4, imperf....	40/-
St. Vincent, 4d. blue CA.; nice unused copy, cat. 95/- only ... ..	40/-
South Australia, 3d. on 4d. blue, superb mint, block of four ... ..	40/-
Turks Islands, 1/-, dull blue, first issue used, nice copy ... ..	15/-
Zululand, 5/- on British, fine used copy	45/-
Cape of Good Hope, superb used pair of 1/- yellow-green ... ..	48/-
Ceylon, 1r. 12c. lilac rose, used... ..	2/-
Hawaii, 2c., 1864 issue, mint ... ..	9d.
.. 15c. red-brown, 1882 issue, used ... ..	5/-
Tasmania, 1d. blue, first issue, used ... ..	45/-
.. 4d. orange, first issue, used, superb specimen ... ..	15/-

Any of the above stamps can be sent on approval if required, but immediate application is necessary, as in most instances we have no duplicates of the lots offered.

\* \* \*

We have for sale a few blocks of six 1d. V.R.I. Transvaals, one stamp of which shows the error, no stop after "I." These we can supply at 3/6 each. We have also blocks of six Transvaal V.R.I. d. stamps, one specimen having a very thick stop after the "I." Our price for these is 1/6 each.

\* \* \*

We have just made up a nice selection of Indian Native States surcharged on Indian stamps (booklet 530). A number of rupee values are included and altogether a very representative selection of these stamps is shown.

\* \* \*

We have for sale a few fine used copies of the Russian error—3 Kopecs with background of "V's," the groundwork of the 5 kopecs. These we are offering at 1/6 each.

\* \* \*

This week we are able to offer a few corner blocks of six 1/4d. green Cape surcharged "Orange River Colony," one stamp being the error with no stop after "Colony." We are asking 2/6 each for these.

\* \* \*

We have recently acquired a fine used specimen of the Ceylon 1r. 12c. red-lilac stamp surcharged "On Service." This we offer for 10/6 and will send on approval if requested to do so.

## Wanted to Purchase.

UNUSED POSTAGE STAMPS  
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THE PUBLISHER.



# Ewen's Weekly Stamp News.

With which is incorporated EWEN'S WEEKLY CIRCULAR. (Established October, 1897.)

A JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

THE ONLY WEEKLY STAMP PAPER  
PUBLISHED IN EUROPE.

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## The Week's News.

The Danish West Indies will very likely in future be administered by a Danish steamship company, which has made an acceptable offer to the Danish Government to look after the welfare of the islands. Negotiations with the United States have been broken off.

\* \* \*

A mint block of four of the 5/- orange St. Helena realised 24/- at the Birmingham Philatelic Society's auction on February 15th. It could have been obtained for 8d. less from our Colonial Stamp Market. This stamp, by the way, is still current in the Island, being the only 5/- value in use. The De La Rue types only go up to 10d.

\* \* \*

The only known used copy of the rare 6d. deep brown, plate 12 of Great Britain (colour of the first printings from plate 11) realised only £4 at auction last Monday. It was postmarked August 24th, 1872 (the record date for plate 12) and had once previously changed hands for £5.

\* \* \*

It is incomprehensible why the ½d. on 1/- Bermuda was printed. Report states that about £250 worth were placed on sale and sold in 24 hours. Where was the postal necessity for the issue? If there was any real need for the stamp, why did the postmaster allow a few speculators to buy up the greater part of the issue? It is open to doubt whether a stamp which was issued under such circumstances is a legitimate postal issue at all.

\* \* \*

In a recent number of the *Egyptian Gazette* appears an advertisement inserted by the Post Office Administration regarding the sale of an immense quantity of used Egyptian and other stamps which have been taken off undelivered correspondence and parcel despatch notes destroyed at the expiration of the regulation periods.

\* \* \*

An American contemporary states that the first complete sheet of the two cents value of the new Pan-American stamps was recently submitted to the Third Assistant Postmaster-General for inspection and was approved by him. Work on the other values is now being rapidly pushed forward. The die proof of the one cent value has been officially approved and die proofs of the other values of the series will soon be submitted to the Postal Department. It has been decided to cut each sheet of stamps in half, so that when delivered to postmasters they will be in sheets of 100 stamps. There will be two plate numbers to each sheet.

\* \* \*

Writing with regard to the surcharges now appearing on the old Greek stamps (Head type), a correspondent informs the *M.J.* that an extra charge is made for perforating these stamps for those who desire them in that condition *i.e.*, 10 lepta each for the drachmai values, and 3 drachmai per sheet for the lower values, but at those prices you can have the stamps perforated across the middle or in any direction you please.

\* \* \*

The Junior London Philatelic Society is holding its second annual conversazione and dance in Raleigh College Hall, Brixton, this (Saturday) evening.

\* \* \*

A curiosity in Puttialla stamps is described in the *M.J.* This consists of a used specimen of the 1 anna service stamps bearing one complete impression and portions of two others of the red curved overprint. In explanation it is suggested that the sheet was first put into the press somewhat out of position, and was then passed through a second time correctly placed.

## New Issues.

The Editor will be much obliged for early news of New Issues or intended New Issues or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors. Full acknowledgment given. If possible, specimens should be sent in order that illustrations may be prepared.

**ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.**—Another value is stated to have changed its colour. The 30 centavos, hitherto carmine, is now appearing in bright rose-vermilion.

**CHILI.**—*Stamps* says that the new 5c. fiscals are being used postally, and that the 1c. has also been authorized for general use.

**CHINA.**—Two more errors are reported in the surcharges of 1897, large figures, viz.: ½c. on 3c. with "CEN" only, and 2c. on 3c. with the surcharge inverted.

**COSTA RICA.**—*L'Echo de la Timbrologie* states that several more high values of the pictorial issue have now made their appearance. In addition to the 20c. value chronicled in *E.W.S.N.* of Feb. 23rd, and the 1, 2, 5, 10 and 50 centimes, and 5 colones described in last week's issue, there are now values of 1, 2 and 10 colones. The five high values are as follows:—

50 centimos	violet and blue (Jose M. Castro).
1 colon	bistre and black (Bridge of Birres).
2 colones	rose and black (Juan Rafael Mora).
5 "	brown and black (Jesus Jimenez).
10 "	green and rose (Arms).

The reason for the new issue is the change of currency, which was made in July, 1900, by which centimos and colones replace centavos and pesos. The value of a colon is 2/- and of a centavo about ½d.

**CRETE.**—A new series of postage-due stamps is stated to have been issued here, the design resembling that of the current Norwegians, although rather a poor imitation. All the eight values are printed in dark rose-red, with a wide space between each stamp. A foreign contemporary states that owing to the carelessness with which the perforation has been done only 5% of the stamps are well-centred.

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.**—We have now to chronicle two more errors. A block of the 10c. of 1899 has been found, in which one of the stamps is inverted, and a specimen of the 1 centavo, 1880 issue, has been discovered with the surcharge "Centimos" upside down, and no figure of value.

**GREAT BRITAIN.**—The *S.C.F.* states that it has information to the effect that two distinct dies of the current ½d. green exist and, further, that the stamp may be found on both laid and wove paper.

**LEEWARD ISLANDS.**—According to the *London Philatelist*, the 5/- stamp now appears with white gum, instead of brown as formerly. The difference is stated to be very marked.

**NATAL.**—Mr. Jas. Colman has sent for inspection specimens of the new embossed envelope stamps—the halfpenny in green and the penny in carmine. The design shows the head of Queen Victoria embossed in white in the centre and around this is an oval band containing "NATAL POSTAGE" and the value on a ground-work of crossed lines. Around the whole is an ornamental oval border.

**NORWAY.**—We are informed by several of our contemporaries that the 60 öre blue has now appeared with the name "NORGE" in roman capitals being thus uniform with the other values in the set.

**PARAGUAY.**—*Mekeel's Weekly* chronicles a new set of officials, consisting of seven values as below:—

1 centavo, blue.	8 centavos, brown.
2 centavos, red.	10 " rose.
4 " dark brown.	20 " blue.
5 " dark green.	

**PERU.**—A new stamp of the value 1sol. has just been issued here. The design is similar to Gibbons' type 28, with date at each side. The perforation gauges 12.

Three commemorative stamps have been issued here—to commemorate the advent of the 20th Century, it is said! It is doubtful whether

they are more than locals, but the values may be mentioned.

1c. green and black.  
2c. red and black.  
5c. violet and black.

**QUEENSLAND.**—The *London Philatelist* has received a block of six of the 6d. green stamps of 1899, in which the top stamp on the left has a distinct coloured dot or circle between the bottom of the figure "6" and the oval band enclosing the word "QUEENSLAND," while the corresponding stamp on the right side has a white patch or break in the band extending to the same figure "6."

**TUNIS.**—*L'Echo de la Timbrologie* chronicles three values in new colours:—10c. carmine, 15c. grey and 25c. blue.

**TURKEY.**—A new issue is to be made here on the 14th March, the designs being somewhat similar to those of the first type, and the size about 28×22mm. There are to be two series.

Series for the Interior.	Series for Foreign Postage.
5 paras, lilac.	5 paras, yellow.
10 " green.	10 " pale green.
20 " rose.	20 " dark lilac.
1 piastre, dark blue.	1 piastre blue.
2 " orange.	2 " blue.
5 " lilac.	5 " brown.
25 " brown.	25 " green.
50 " brown-orange.	50 " yellow.

There is also to be a new set of 4 postage due stamps, similar in type to the issue of 1892, but printed on bright red paper.

10 paras, black on red.
20 " black on red.
1 piastre, black on red.
2 " black on red.

## Jottings.

A specimen of the 1 atts. on 64 atts. of Siam has been found with the surcharge inverted.

\* \* \*

With regard to the new series of stamps which is said to be in preparation for the United States nothing has yet been definitely decided. It is practically certain, however, that the set will consist of the same denominations as are now in use ranging from 1 cent to \$5.

\* \* \*

Salvador has apparently wearied of provisional issues for the time being for it is reported that a new set is in preparation similar in design to the 1899 issue but with the date altered to 1900.

\* \* \*

In a recent number of the *A. J. of P.* a variety of the 2 cents rose of Hong Kong, wmk. Crown and C.A., and perforated 12 is described. This stamp is stated to have been acknowledged by Messrs. De la Rue & Co., to have been printed at a time when their regular perforating machine had broken down. Consequently they were obliged to employ a hand machine of another gauge.

\* \* \*

The 1 rupee stamp of Bussahir now appears rouletted (or pin-perf.) instead of with the large hole perforation.

\* \* \*

The current issue of Austria is getting nearly as prolific in the matter of perforation varieties as any of the preceding sets. We are informed that the 6, 20, 25, 30, 40 and 50 heller, and 1 and 2 kronen may be found perf. 10½ and the 50 heller perf. 10½×12, while the 3 and 100 heller unpaid letter stamps have been noted with a perforation, gauging 10½.

\* \* \*

Perforation varieties are also beginning to appear in the heller issue of Bosnia. The 5h. stamp has been seen perf. both 11½ and 10½. We also hear that a specimen of the ½ novitch has been found perf. 11½ and 10½.

\* \* \*

A copy of the 5c. rose-red of the 1854-7 issue of Chili has been discovered printed on both sides.

## Hawaiian Reminders.

### DESTRUCTION AT WASHINGTON.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Metropolitan Philatelist* thus graphically describes the dire deed of destruction recently perpetrated by the United States Government, the stamps burnt being the remainders of the handsome Hawaiian Pictorial Adhesives issued in 1894.

#### DESTRUCTION OF HAWAIIAN REMAINDERS.

Through the courtesy of Third Assistant Postmaster-General Edward C. Madden, and his chief clerk, Mr. Traverse, and Mr. G. D. Scott, chief of the redemption division, last Saturday I was permitted to witness the destruction of the remainders of Hawaiian stamps. While the "committee" and three or four young ladies made merry, I stood with bowed head and permitted a tear to fall upon the cement floor.

Some people say "the boy who stood on the burning deck whence all but he had fled," was a hero. Personally I think he was a fool. I did not stand on any burning deck, but I stood by the Post Office Department furnace and saw \$58,000 worth of Hawaiian stamps fed into its hungry maw. All the Government got out of that proceeding was a few degrees extra heat in the furnace room and a bushel of charred paper.

At the time the United States Government assumed control of the Hawaiian Islands, all current postage stamps were recalled and the stamps of the United States substituted. These stamps were shipped to the Post Office Department where they have been stored. The destruction of the stamps has been deferred so as to give every possible opportunity for parties in the Islands and elsewhere having Hawaiian stamps to exchange them for U.S. stamps.

It appears that none of the surcharged provisional issues were sent in to the Department. The officials said the Hawaiian postmasters were given permission to sell them up to a certain time, and all the provisional issues were bought up.

The stamps burned were contained in two boxes about four feet square and eighteen inches deep. In addition there were a couple of mail bags filled with loose sheets and single specimens. Every stamp has been counted and must be accounted for.

The stamps in the two boxes were in original packages, just as they came from the American Bank Note Company. Each package contained two hundred and fifty sheets of fifty stamps to the sheet. It was not a pleasant thing to stand by and see the wrappers jerked off and the sheets of crisp, bright stamps chucked into a sooty furnace.

The stamps were burned in a furnace built for this special purpose. Years ago it was the custom to destroy stamps condemned by feeding them into the fireplace in the redemption division room, then they were at a later period taken to the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and run through the macerator along with millions of dollars worth of mutilated currency. Finally, however, the quantity of stamps to be destroyed became so large that this furnace was designed. It resembles an ordinary house furnace, save that there are two doors, one near the top, and the usual door at the bottom. At the top a screen or sieve is placed to prevent the escape of partially burned sheets or parts of stamps up the flue and thence out of doors.

Saturday the upper door was opened, the bundle of stamps torn open and thrown in helter skelter. Then the match was applied at the lower door, both doors closed and locked with padlocks, and the cruel flames did the rest. The burning was under direct supervision of Chief Geo. D. Scott, of the redemption division, and a committee of three gentlemen and one lady. They did their work well.

The stamps destroyed were the last issues, being of the years of 1894, 1, 2, 5, 10, 12, 25 cents; 1899, 1, 2 and 5 cents. There were none of the official stamps in the lot sent over. There were, however, quite a large lot of postal cards, and I believe some envelopes, which will probably go into the crematory in a few days. The total numbers of each value destroyed are as follows, the Department having kept no separate account of the different colors of the same denomination:

1 cent,	51,012 stamps.
2 cents,	125,506 stamps.
5 cents,	42,225 stamps.
10 cents,	81,160 stamps.
12 cents,	18 stamps.
25 cents,	6,862 stamps.

Total 306,783 stamps.

The burning of these three hundred thousand stamps caused about as much commotion in the Post Office Department as the burning of a handful of paper would in the average kitchen. With the redemption division folks such affairs are almost of daily occurrence. Last summer when the remainders of periodicals were destroyed the division was several months in counting the stamps, and three days were con-

sumed in burning the lot. The job last Saturday required about ten minutes.

#### COMPARATIVE VALUES OF HAWAIIAN STAMPS.

In connection with the recent destruction of Hawaiian stamp remainders, it is not without interest to compare past and present values of these stamps. The following table shows the catalogue values of Senf (1901), Scott (1901), Gibbons (early in 1900), Whitfield King (1900), and Gibbons (1895). All prices are for unused stamps:—

	Gibbons.	King.	Gibbons.	Scott.	Senf.
	1895.	1900.	1900.	1901.	1901.
1853, 5c. blue ..	15/0	25/0	20/0	20/0	15/0
" 13c. red ..	20/0	60/0	60/0	60/0	30/0
1871, 6c. green ..	1/3	1/3	1/6	2/6	1/3
" 18c. pink ..	2/0	5/0	3/6	3/0	2/6
1875, 12c. black ..	2/0	5/0	5/6	6/0	5/0
" 12c. violet ..	3/0	10/0	12/6	10/0	7/6
1882, 10c. black ..	1/6	5/6	5/0	5/0	3/6
" 15c. brown ..	1/3	10/0	10/0	10/0	7/0
1883, 10c. red ..	2/6	8/0	7/6	5/0	3/6
" 10c. brown ..	1/0	2/6	3/0	3/0	5/0
" 25c. lilac ..	3/6	10/0	15/0	12/0	10/0
" 50c. red ..	6/6	20/0	30/0	30/0	25/0
" \$1 rose ..	15/0	25/0	40/0	40/0	27/6
1894, 1c. orange ..	0/1	0/3	0/2	0 2	0/1
" 2c. brown ..	0/2	0/4	0/4	0/4	0/2
" 5c. rose ..	0/4	0/9	0/6	0/8	0/5
" 10c. green ..	0/9	1/0	0/10	1/0	0/9
" 12c. blue ..	0/10	1 0	1/0	1/3	1/0
" 25c. blue ..	1 6	2/0	1 9	2/6	2/0
	78/5	192/7	218/1	206/5	147/2

It is interesting to note that the quotations for 1900-1901 are just about 180 or 185 % above those of 5 or 6 years ago; also that present day values are apparently 30 % lower on the Continent than elsewhere, although it is open to doubt whether the catalogue of Messrs. Gebrüder Senf is a reliable criterion in this matter. Probably few Continental dealers would care to sell mint unused copies of the 13c. red of 1853 for 30/-. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., who may be said to represent the general collector in this country value the set of 19 stamps at £9 12s. 7d. as against the 'specialist' value of £10 18s. 1d. placed on them by Gibbons. Seeing that the boom in Hawaiians is so strong in the States just now, it is a little surprising to find that Scott's newly issued catalogue values the set at only £10 6s. 5d., or 13/- less than Gibbons.

## Stamps at Auction.

Sale by Ventom, Bull & Cooper, February 28th and March 1st.

	s.	d.
Monaco, 5fr., 1st issue, used on piece ..	30	0
India, 1/2a. blue, entire sheet of 96 ..	£9	
" 1a. red ..	£12	
" 2a. green ..	£40	
Gold Coast, 20/- green and red, unused, gum ..	130	0
Transvaal, Queen's Head, 2 .., unused, 34/- and ..	40	0
Brit. Honduras, 50c. on 1/- grey, "Revenue" ..	23	0
Brit. Columbia, 2 1/2d. brown-rose, imperf. ..	£15	
Canada, 12d. black, laid paper, very fine and lightly cancelled ..	£66	
Newfoundland, 1/- carmine-vermillion ..	£10	
" 1/- orange, lightly obliterated ..	£12/10	
St. Louis, 5c. black on grey, used, fine ..	£11 10	
" 10c. black on grey, used, fine ..	£13 10	
U.S.A. Periodicals, set up to \$60, very fine, the 9c. surcharged "specimen" ..	£9/9	
British Guiana, 1856, 4c. on magenta ..	£15	
" 1862, 1c. black on rose, border of pearls, superb (No. 16) ..	£11 10	
" 1862, 2c. black on yellow, border of grapes, full roulettes, v.f. ..	£10 10	
" 1862, 4c. black on blue, trefoil border, full roulettes, superb ..	£15	
" 1862, 4c. black on blue, pearl in heart border, unused and signed ..	£11	
St. Vincent, 5 .. rose, wmk. star (and lines) ..	£10	
Turk's Islands, 1/- prune, cut one side, v.f. ..	£12	
" 2 1/2d. on 1/- dull blue, type 10, mint ..	£10	
Antioquia, 2 1/2c. blue, 1st issue, unused ..	£9	
Collection of 8232 stamps, in 12 blank albums, mostly issues before 1892, but best stamps removed ..	£275	

Sale by John Edwards & Co., March 4th.

Great Britain, 2 1/2d. pl. 2. error LH-FL, poor... ..	28	0
" 3d. rose, pl. 3. perf., unused, poor... ..	105	0
" 1857, 6d. lilac, imperf., good margins, postmarked Demerara (A03), v.f. ..	57	6
" 1857, 2d. blue, L.C. 14, 'Specimen' ... ..	15	0
" 1870, 1/2d. red, pl. 9, strip of 3, used, showing entire watermark ... ..	20	0

Great Britain, 1870, 6d. violet, plate 8, imperf., postmarked Boi (Alexandria) ... ..	57	6
" wmk. Crowns, £1 brown, 'specimen' ... ..	13	0
" wmk. Orbs, £1 brown, 'specimen' ... ..	18	0
" 1876, 8d. brown, 'specimen' ..	34	0
Orange River Colony, 1/- brown, dotless V, poor ... ..	21	0
" 6d. rose, level stops, used ..	26	0
" 6d. rose, raised stops, and 2 1/2d. level stops, used on entire ... ..	40	0
" 3d. blue, surch. B.W., block of 6, mint ... ..	9	0

## Extracts from the Foreign Press.

The following eleven mistakes occurred in the extracts given last week:—

Par.	Line.	
I.	2.	<i>imprimés</i> should have acute accent.
I.	5.	<i>découpures</i> should have acute accent.
I.	5.	<i>privées</i> should have acute accent.
I.	6.	<i>exécute</i> should have acute accent.
II.	19.	For <i>de la Nouvelle</i> read <i>des Nouvelles</i>
II.	20.	de omitted before <i>Espagne, Toscane</i> .
II.	28.	Line omitted.
II.	35.	For <i>pâte</i> read <i>pâte</i> .
II.	38.	" <i>parait</i> read <i>parait</i> .
II.	43.	" <i>Norwège</i> read <i>Norvège</i> .
II.	44.	" <i>quête</i> read <i>quête</i> .

In addition to the above the following less important errors occurred:—

Par.	Line.	
I.	6.	<i>Administration</i> does not require <i>Capital A</i> .
II.	8.	Comma omitted after <i>d'eau</i> .
II.	15.	" " " <i>lumière</i> .
II.	48.	" " " <i>Satiner</i> .

The following were the best lists of errors sent in by readers.

#### Foreign Readers:—

Mr. G. Verméeren (11 1/2 marks).  
Baron A. de Reutershiöld (8 1/2 marks).  
Mr. Ch. Benaert (7 marks).

#### British Readers:—

Mr. A. de Sterne (9 1/2 marks).  
Mr. F. F. Harrison (9 marks).  
Miss D. Hayman (8 marks).  
Mr. L. M. Rosten (7 marks).  
Mrs. A. Robinson (7 marks).  
Mr. C. F. Dendy Marshall (6 1/2 marks).

\* \* \*

That extreme care is necessary to discover all the mistakes, is evidenced by the fact that even expert competitors generally fail to give the full list. Readers who are not as yet far advanced in the study of French or German need not therefore despair of one day gaining one of our prizes. To a certain extent it is true that the more readily one reads a foreign language, the more likely one is to overlook a slight mistake in spelling.

\* \* \*

Our printers seem determined not to get the German word *sämtliche* correct. The week before last it was spelt *sämtliche*; and last week *sämtliche*: it should of course be *sämtliche*.

We have been taken to task by two of our foreign readers—Baron A. de Reutershiöld and Mr. Georges Verméeren—for including *porte* in our list of mistakes last week. It will be remembered that the sentence ran:—

*Les timbres actuels de Falkland seraient réservés aux 2 seules îles de l'Archipel qui porte ce nom: East Falkland et West Falkland.*

\* \* \*

Mr. G. Verméeren writes:—"As regards last week's extracts, *porte* is quite right: *l'archipel* (singular) *qui porte ce nom*. In the case of the correction *portent*, the phrase ought to have been: *les îles* (plural) *de l'archipel qui portent ces noms*, but the first sense is the right one, as the phrase follows immediately the parenthesis (*Îles Falkland*."

\* \* \*

With all due respect to our two correspondents, we must, however, adhere to the opinion that *porte* is wrong. The verb obviously refers to *îles*. The sentence should be: *Les timbres seront réservés aux deux seules îles de l'archipel qui portent ce nom [de Falkland]: East Falkland et West Falkland*. If *porte* be used, the sense is surely conveyed that there are only two islands in the Archipelago *qui porte ce nom*. This could have been avoided by saying *aux deux îles suivantes*.

\* \* \*

Objection is also taken to our correction of *seraient*. Baron A. de Reutershiöld states that both this and *seront* are equally right in the sense intended to be conveyed in the paragraph.

(Continued on next page.)

A third correction we made is also questioned, but here our correspondents do not agree. Baron de Reuterskiöld claims that *au type Seychelles* is as correct as *du type Seychelles*, and we are inclined to agree with him. The correction to *du* was however made on the advice of several readers, including Mr. G. Vermèeren.

\* \* \*

This week's paragraphs are given below, and for the benefit of readers who have not seen our previous offers, we may mention that the Editor of *E.W.S.N.* every week awards several interesting new issues to the British and Foreign readers who respectively send in the best list of mistakes occurring in the extracts, it being necessary that such lists should be delivered not later than Wednesdays.

\* \* \*

*Les Nouveaux Timbres Français.*—C'en est fait. Le changement de la couleur du 15c. est décidée: quoique orange il n'aura vécu que ce que vivent les roses...Non seulement la couleur sera modifiée, mais il est question aussi de retoucher le type, si l'on en croit le *Petit Journal*, qui s'exprime ainsi:

"Le nouveau timbre-poste de 15 centimes n'a pas reçu du public, il faut bien le reconnaître, un très flatteur accueil. Remarquons, du reste, que la vignette de cette valeur postale a également servi pour les timbres de 10, 20, 25 et 30 centimes, qui n'ont pas été aussi vivement critiqués, ce qui semble indiquer que la couleur choisie pour le timbre de 15 centimes a été pour quelque chose dans son infortune.

"Au sous-secrétariat des postes, on s'est ému de ces critiques, et M. Mougeot a fait étudier le moyen de modifier la vignette et la couleur du timbre à 15 centimes. L'auteur de la vignette, M. Monchon, a été le premier à reconnaître la nécessité de modifier son œuvre et il travaille en ce moment à éclairer son dessin et à habiller davantage le cartouche portant la valeur.

"Cela fait, l'administration donnera au timbre de 15 centimes une teinte plus franche, et l'on choisira sans doute le rouge clair, le rouge vif étant dévolu à une autre valeur postale. Et, souhaitons-le tout le monde sera ainsi satisfait."

(*L'Echo de la Timbrologie.*)

\* \* \*

On nous annonce que le 15 c. orange a été vu avec le mill. 1.

### Our Postcard Column

Will readers hearing of any interesting item of News, kindly jot it down on a postcard and address to the Editor, "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News," Norwood, London. For every contribution we publish, we will send the author an interesting and newly issued stamp. (N.B.—Postcards preferred).

*Mr. Lennox Napier writes:*

"In your answer to Mr. Frazer's question in last week's *E.W.S.N.* that the 6d. value of the O.R.C. stamp was the only one with small 'p' to the word 'pence,' whereas all my 4d. and 1d. as well as that value have small 'p.'"

"Mr. Napier overlooks the fact that the 4d. and 1d. stamps have the word 'penny' and not 'pence.'—Ed.]

*Mr. W. H. Clarke writes:*

"In reply to Mr. J. F. C. Sieber, in your 'Postcard Column,' I may say that I started to collect parcel post labels six months after the introduction of the 'parcel post,' and have continued the collection since. I have many curious and rare specimens. It is a three fold hobby, and embraces stamp, postmark and entire collecting."

*Mr. Wm. Cross contributes the following:—*

"I received a fine strip of four 10 centesimos Uruguay stamps (S.G., No. 229) to-day, posted in Monte Video on January 13th, 1901. This is rather interesting as showing possibly that some of these were re-issued at the beginning of January concurrently with the dupli-surcharged specimens described by me a few weeks ago. If so it shows that the entire stock of No. 229 was not surcharged in 1897 'provisorio' as in No. 232."

*Mr. W. H. Budd describes some minor varieties:*

"I have in my possession the New Zealand 1d. pictorial issue, London print, on two kinds of paper—one very thick and the other thin. I also have the 2½d. pictorial, London print, perf. 11, 14, 14½, 15 and 15½—five different varieties of perforation."

*Mr. H. C. Napier writes:—*

"I do not believe the attention has hitherto been called to the fact that a difference exists in the lettering of the current 1d. vermilion post-cards of Great Britain. A variety exists in which the the letter "L" of "POSTALE" is from a wrong fount smaller than the other letters."

## Field Post Office Marks USED WITH THE China Expeditionary Force.

By "DUPLEX."

When the British Contingent of the China Expeditionary Force was sent from India, it was accompanied by eighteen field post-offices and a base-office, so that all mail matter might be dealt with promptly. At the same time a supply of Indian stamps surcharged "C.E.F." was sent out for use with the troops and also a number of special "field" post-marks. In this article I shall endeavour to describe the varieties of these postmarks that have come under my observation.

After a short time it was found that one base-office was insufficient to cope with all the matter properly, so field post-office No. 4 was converted into a base-office and was designated "B. Base Office." This latter is an advanced base, situated at Tientsin, while the original base-office is stationed at Hong-Kong. According to the *Philatelic Journal of India* the other 17 offices when last heard of were distributed as follows:—

- |                |                                      |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| F.P.O., No. 1. | Pekin (Legation Lines).              |
| " " 2.         | Pekin (Temple of Heaven).            |
| " " 3.         | Tungchoo.                            |
| " " 5.         | Shanghai.                            |
| " " 6.         | Jersfield (10½ miles from Shanghai). |
| " " 7.         | Tartar City, Pekin.                  |
| " " 8.         | Shanghai.                            |
| " " 9.         | Yangstun.                            |
| " " 10.        | Shanghai (in reserve).               |
| " " 11.        | Sinho.                               |
| " " 12.        | Hoshiwu.                             |
| " " 13.        | Linkangtao.                          |
| " " 14.        | Shanghaiquan.                        |
| " " 15.        | Changwantao.                         |
| " " 17.        | Wei-Hai-Wei.                         |
| " " 18.        | Tientsin (Taku Gate).                |

The same journal also states that there is a Field Post Office, No. 25, at Camp Khar, a No. 5A at Zam, and a No. 22 at Jani Khel. So far No. 25 seems to be the highest that has appeared.

#### TYPE I.

This type, as will be seen by the accompanying illustration, is similar to the general style of obliteration used in India. It consists of two concentric circles, with parallel lines with date between, running straight across the centre. At the top between the rings is the distinguishing number of the office, while the semi-circular spaces immediately above and below the date are filled in with short thick lines. There are two varieties, one containing "FIELD P.O." and the other "F.P.O."



#### TYPE II.

This type also consists of two concentric circles, similar to the one previously described. It is much larger, however, and has a wider space between the central parallel lines. In addition to the date, the time of posting is also given. At the top, between the rings, are the words, "BASE OFFICE." The mark employed at the original base office at Hong Kong has the lower space between the circles quite empty, while the advanced base office at Tientsin shows the letter "B" in its cancellation.



#### TYPE III.

The next mark I have to describe is very different to the foregoing ones. It consists of a single line circle, at the top of which is "F.P.O. No. 13," while the date—5 DE 00—is in two lines below. This style of cancellation is, I find, generally impressed on the backs of letters. So far, I have not seen it used as an obliterator.



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#### TYPE IV.

This is also a single-line circular mark. At the top in a curve are the words BASE OFFICE. immediately below this is the date, in one line and under the date is "9—." This cancellation, too, is stamped on the backs of letters. It will be noted that, in general appearance, it is exactly similar to a type of post-mark now largely used in India.



So far the above are the only types of Chinese war marks I have seen, but if readers have any others I shall be glad if they will send them on for inspection.

### Postmark Notes.

By "DUPLEX."

MR. ADOLF SONN sends me another interesting batch of war envelopes, &c., used with the Boer forces. One of these sent to Johannesburg during the Boer occupation of Dundee is franked with a 1d. violet "Oranje Vrij Staat" stamp and cancelled with a small circular post-mark in which is the date and "DUNDEE, NATAL."

\* \* \*

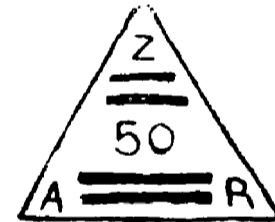
A most interesting mark is one impressed on a 1d. "Z.A.R." wrapper. This consists of a large double lined circle in which the date, "10 JAN., 1900," appears across the centre between two parallel straight lines. Above this is "Veld-Post" and "G.F. FLEISCHER" and below is "DUITSCH & JOHANNESBURG," then three stars, and lower still the word "COMMANDO." The mark is stamped in blue ink. In explanation of this Mr. Sonn writes:—"The Johannesburg Commando and the German Commando had more correspondence than any of the others and therefore had a special postmaster. All letters sent by the German Commando were cancelled with this mark, and all the others were forwarded by the postmaster to the Hoofdlager P.O. Of course this was only during the siege of Ladysmith. The official postmaster had his office, i.e., his tent, near Modderspruit Station."

\* \* \*

The same correspondent sends me an envelope used on "velddienst" on which is a Newcastle postmark slightly different from the one previously described in these columns. This consists of "P.K. Newcastle," with the date "10 Nov. 1899," below, stamped across one corner in violet ink.

\* \* \*

Two envelopes are also sent, which though posted without stamps were delivered without fine. One of these sent from Barberton to Johannesburg is stamped with the "BARBERTON Z.A.R." circular post-mark and also a large rectangular mark in which is "TELAAT." The other letter sent from Barberton or Ermelo, bears a postmark similar to that illustrated but with the number 4 in the centre. Over this the Johannesburg mark is stamped.



Mr. Sonn also sends two official envelopes. One sent from Rustenburg bears a large red cross and the inscriptions "IS DIENST," "Vereeniging het Koode Kruis van Geneve," and "Bestuur Afd. Krugersdorp." The other envelope is an ordinary Z.A.R. official one, bearing the Z.A.R. postmaster-general's rubber stamp.

\* \* \*

Perhaps the most interesting mark sent by Mr. Sonn is the one I have yet to describe. This is a large cancellation of fantastic shape containing the words "STANDERTON—18 JAN. 1901—TRANSVAAL." In the present instance it has been used to obliterate two current 1d. English stamps franking a newspaper.

\* \* \*

The same correspondent forwards me a letter posted in Berlin franked with a Natal 1d. stamp. The postmark contains "BERLIN, S.W." at the top and has the date, 12th February, 1901 in the centre. The curious thing is that the letter reached its destination without being surcharged in any way and there is nothing on the envelope to indicate that the authorities had noticed the error.

### Undisplayed Advertisements:

FREE.—Canada Price Lists and copy Canadian Philatelic Magazine. Specialty, Canada postage and revenues, cheap. W. L. ADAMS, Toronto, Ont. [82]  
BRITISH STAMP DIRECTORY, 1901 edition, just published, 1/- post free—PHILATELIC PUBLISHING Co., Fentham Road, Birmingham. Specimen copy P.C. & A., (28 pages) post free on application. [76]

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  - 3.—Collectors are not permitted to deduct return postage from amount of purchase.
  - 4.—Discount is conditional on purchase exceeding 10s. and will be forfeited if selection is kept over the five days allowed.
  - 5.—Spaces should not be marked.
  - 6.—Sheets should be returned folded as sent.
  - 7.—When a selection is returned, another will be sent unless otherwise requested.
- N.B.—We hope collectors will assist us by observing the above very reasonable conditions and we will in return make it our endeavour to send out only the finest possible copies at the lowest possible quotations.

### APPROVAL SHEETS.

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202.	Nett.	New Issues and Special Bargains.
203.	"	Miscellaneous Colonials.
205.	25%	West Indies.
206.	Nett.	V.R.I.'s.
207.	50%	Mexico.
208.	25%	Miscellaneous
211.	"	Russia.
212.	"	Norway.
213.	"	Sweden.
214.	"	Finland.
216.	"	Roumania.
217.	"	Old Europeans.
218.	"	Venezuela.
219.	"	Egypt
220.	"	Hayti.
225.	"	Bosnia, Bulgaria and Montenegro.
228.	"	Miscellaneous Colonials.
229.	"	Thurn and Taxis.
230.	"	Saxony.
231.	"	Spain (early issues).
232.	"	Spain (War Tax, Official, &c.)
233.	"	Spain (Carlist Stamps).
235.	"	Philippines.

### BOOKLETS.

501.	Nett.	Fiji and Cook Islands.
504.	"	Unused African Colonials.
505.	"	African Colonials.
506.	"	Unused Colonials.
508.	25%	Liberia.
509.	"	Denmark
510.	"	Luxemburg.
511.	"	Austria.
512.	"	Austrian Italy.
513.	"	Timor.
514.	"	Macao.
515.	"	Peru.
516.	"	Japan.
517.	"	Finland and Poland.
518.	"	Queensland.
519.	"	Tasmania.
522.	"	Australian (common)
523.	Nett.	Unused English.
524.	25%	Gambia, Gold Coast, Lagos, &c.
525.	"	French Colonies.
526.	"	Straits Settlements
527.	"	Used English.
529.	"	Sarawak
530.	"	Indian Native States

### BOOKS.

101.	Nett.	Orange Free State.
106.	"	Transvaal.
107.	"	Australians.
108.	"	Miscellaneous Colonials.
109.	20%	New Zealand.
110.	10%	Ceylon and other Colonials.
111.	"	Unused English (chiefly 1d. reds, in strips
112.	"	New South Wales. (and blocks).
113.	Nett.	V.R.I. Errors and Varieties.
114.	"	V.R.I. Strips and Blocks.

### LARGE BOOKS.

A1.	20%	Used English.
A2.	25%	Used English.
A3.	10%	Used English.
D.	25%	Cut Envelopes.
G106.	"	English with Foreign Postmarks.
H.	10%	Railway Letter Fee Stamps.

This week we are able to offer the following choice stamps:—

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British Columbia, 50c. on 3d. violet, fine mint pair... ..	30/-
Ceylon, 9d. brown, CC., superb mint block of four ... ..	50/-
Natal, 6d. rose, wmk. CC., superb mint block of 4, imperf.... ..	40/-
St. Vincent, 4d. blue CA.; nice unused copy, cat. 95/- only ... ..	40/-
South Australia, 3d. on 4d. blue, superb mint, block of four ... ..	40/-
Turks Islands, 1/-, dull blue, first issue used, nice copy ... ..	15/-
Zululand, 5/- on British, fine used copy	45/-
Cape of Good Hope, superb used pair of 1/- yellow-green ... ..	48/-
Ceylon, 1r. 12c. lilac rose, used... ..	2/-
Hawaii, 2c., 1864 issue, mint ... ..	9d.
" 15c. red-brown, 1882 issue, used... ..	5/-
Tasmania, 1d. blue, first issue, used ... ..	45/-
" 4d. orange, first issue, used, superb specimen ... ..	15/-

Any of the above stamps can be sent on approval if required, but immediate application is necessary, as in most instances we have no duplicates of the lots offered.

\* \* \*

We have for sale a few blocks of six 1d. V.R.I. Transvaals, one stamp of which shows the error, no stop after "I." These we can supply at 3/6 each. We have also blocks of six Transvaal V.R.I. d. stamps, one specimen having a very thick stop after the "I." Our price for these is 1/6 each.

\* \* \*

We have just made up a nice selection of Indian Native States surcharged on Indian stamps (booklet 530). A number of rupee values are included and altogether a very representative selection of these stamps is shown.

\* \* \*

We have for sale a few fine used copies of the Russian error—3 Kopecs with background of "V's," the groundwork of the 5 kopecs. These we are offering at 1/6 each.

\* \* \*

This week we are able to offer a few corner blocks of six 1/4d. green Cape surcharged "Orange River Colony," one stamp being the error with no stop after "Colony." We are asking 2/6 each for these.

\* \* \*

We have recently acquired a fine used specimen of the Ceylon 1r. 12c. red-lilac stamp surcharged "On Service." This we offer for 10/6 and will send on approval if requested to do so.

## Wanted to Purchase.

UNUSED POSTAGE STAMPS  
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Readers having above for sale would greatly oblige by submitting them to the Secretary, Colonial Stamp Market, who will make a cash offer by return of post. Rare or common stamps equally required.

### RAILWAY LETTER FEE STAMPS.

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With which is incorporated EWEN'S WEEKLY CIRCULAR. (Established October, 1897.)

A JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

THE ONLY WEEKLY STAMP PAPER PUBLISHED IN EUROPE.

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[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

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## The Week's News.

With regard to the "provisional" surcharge on the high value stamps of Crete the *Monthly Journal* publishes some interesting information which is said to have been derived from an official source. It appears that although the stamps had the values expressed in lepta and drachmai the money previously in use has been piastres of Turkey which are worth 21 lepta each. The 25 lepta and higher value stamps were, however, sold at the rate of 25l. to 1 piastre for the convenience of the public, and it was therefore necessary to surcharge them to show that they were sold below their actual value. It is stated that when Greek currency is introduced the surcharge will no longer be needed, but it has been previously reported that the overprinting would cease on Crete joining the Postal Union. The number of stamps surcharged is said to be:—25 lepta, 100,000; 50 lepta, 25,000; 1 drach., 7,500; 2 drach., 5,000; and 5 drach., 2,500.

\* \* \*

It appears that the new Siamese stamps, showing the ruler's portrait three-quarter face, that have been largely chronicled as new issues lately, must have been issued by mistake in one of the provinces, as the design was not approved of by the king. Only the 1, 2, and 3 atts of this issue are known. \* \* \*

In one of the daily papers this week appeared a statement to the effect that the stamp and coins of the new reign in Italy are to be issued very shortly. \* \* \*

*The New Postage Stamps in Parliament.*—We extract the two following paragraphs having reference to the new postage stamps from the *Times*:—

Mr. Henniker Heaton, on Monday, gave notice of his intention to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General:—"If he can state what steps are being taken to issue new postage stamps; will he take care that a clearly visible mark of the value of the stamp, such as that on the present 2d. stamp, be impressed on each new stamp; will he give the public an opportunity of seeing the designs of the proposed stamps; and will he provide for the issue of the new penny stamp in royal scarlet or red colour in place of the present mauve colour; also whether he will arrange with the present contractors to issue the new postal orders with a counterfoil to be torn off by the senders; and whether, if the present contractors decline to do this without extra charge, he will give an opportunity to other printers to print and supply the new postal orders at even a reduced price and with the counterfoil desired by the public."

\* \* \*

On Tuesday—in answer to Mr. Henniker Heaton—Mr. Austen Chamberlain said: "The necessary steps are being taken for the issue of new postage stamps, but it is not expected that they will be ready for some months to come. The Postmaster-General would point out to the hon. member that, with the exception of the half-penny, penny, and shilling stamps, all the adhesive stamps now in use do bear figures clearly indicating their value, and the same plan will probably be continued. In the case of the three stamps particularized, they are of so distinctive a character that it was not thought necessary to print on them the value in figures as well as in words, and the Postmaster-General is not aware of any inconvenience having resulted. He does not think it desirable to submit the designs of the proposed stamps to the public. The Postmaster-General is not satisfied that any sufficient reason exists for altering the colour of the penny stamp, as suggested by the hon. member."

## New Issues.

The Editor will be much obliged for early news of New Issues or intended New Issues or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors. Full acknowledgment given. If possible, specimens should be sent in order that illustrations may be prepared.

**AFGHANISTAN.**—In the *M. J.*, mention is made of three varieties that have not hitherto been chronicled. The 2 abasi of the 1880 type has been found in dull black on white wove paper. Two varieties of a new 2 abasi stamp are also described, viz.:—"It is in the type of the 1 abasi of 1893, but is dated 1316, in Arabic, in the upper corners, instead of 1310, and is inscribed, at the lower left, 'do miskal,' 'do abasi,' instead of 'ek miskal,' 'ek abasi.'" It is printed in black on the usual coloured tissue paper, of which, so far, only two varieties have been seen, i.e., dull pink and magenta. These stamps are said to have appeared towards the end of last August.

**ALWAR.**—According to the *M. J.* the ½ anna stamp now appears in a new colour, i.e., emerald-green. The type is the same as that of the perforated stamps of 1899. These, however, are printed from a new stone, the impressions on which are as close together as in the early sheets. There are now 66 stamps on the sheet in eleven horizontal rows, and they are pin-perf. about 12.

**COLOMBIA.**—We are informed that to the list of provisionals issued at Cucuta, which were chronicled last year, a 2c. stamp on dark blue-green paper should be added.—A specimen of the 5c. blue stamp, 1883 issue, has been found printed on both sides.

**GREAT BRITAIN.**—Envelopes.—A new die, which has just been brought into use, of the ½d. vermilion stamp has been shown us by our Colonial Market, i.e., die 54.

**INDIA.**—Mr. W. C. Abrey sends us a specimen of the 1 anna stamp in the new colour (rose) with the "On H.M.S." overprint used on the 14th February, 1901.

**MOZAMBIQUE COMPANY.**—The *M. J.* chronicles the 2½ reis doubly surcharged with the "Centenario da India" overprint, one impression being straight and the other sloping.

**NEW ZEALAND.**—We learn that the 6d. stamp of 1873, perf. 10 × 12½, has been seen on blued paper.

**PERAK.**—*Le Phil. Français* says that the 2 dollars, green and carmine, stamp has been surcharged "ONE CENT" in black.

**RUSSIA.**—The 1 kopeck stamp surcharged "4 PARA" for use in the Levant now has the overprint in black instead of blue according to *Le T. Belge*.

**SERVIA.**—The *Monthly Journal* reports that two new stamps, of the value of 3 and 5 dinars respectively, have just been issued. They are larger in size than the current issue and have the name in a straight line at the top, a crown and mantle over the oval containing the head, and numerals in shields below. The colour of the 3 dinars is bright pink, while that of the 5 dinars is mauve. Both are on white wove paper, perf. 11½.

**SIRMOOR.**—A copy of the 3 pies orange has been seen with another variety of the "On S.S.S." overprint. The word "On" is stated to be in large letters, while the letters "S" are taller than before and have no stops after them.

**TOLIMA.**—The *M. J.* states that the 2 pesos value of the 1887 issue has been seen in the colour of the 5 pesos. In a block of four stamps three were 5p. and one was 2p. From the same source we learn that in a block of four stamps of the 5 pesos value recently seen one stamp was upside down.

**UNITED STATES.**—In a parcel of 16,000 stamps, a specimen of the 3 cents of 1855, variety C, in pale dull red, was found with a clear impression on both sides says the *M. J.*

**VICTORIA.**—Messrs. Smyth & Nicolle have favoured us with specimens of a new issue consisting of old types in new colours which come as a great surprise. In explanation our correspondents write that "in consequence of Federation, postage and duty stamps have to be

kept separate, and thus Victoria has found it necessary to issue a new series, as their stamps were marked "Stamp Duty," and were available for fiscal as well as postal purposes. They have made use of old dies printed in new colours, except in the 2½d. and 5d. values, in which instances they have simply taken out the inscription "Stamp Duty" and inserted "Postage." Of the values sent us the ½d. is that of the type of 1873, printed in dark green; the 1d. is like the 1883 issue but has the word "POSTAGE" inserted below the bust; the design of the 2d. and 4d. values is like Gibbons' type 25; the 3d. is like type 16; while the 6d. stamp is like that of the 1865 issue.

The complete list of values and colours is as below:—

½d. dark green, Gibbons' type 21, 1873 issue.	
1d. rose	" " 27, 1883 "
2d. mauve	" " 25, 1881 "
2½d. blue	" " 42, 1887 "
3d. orange-brown	" " 16, 1866 "
4d. bistre	" " 25, 1881 "
5d. chocolate	" " 44, 1887 "
6d. emerald	" " 13, 1865 "
1/- dull orange	" " 24, 1873 "
2/- blue on pink	" " 26, 1881 "
5/- blue & vermilion	" " 17, 1868 "

The 5/- value has the crown and inscription in blue and the rest of the design in vermilion. All the values sent us are watermarked with the usual "V and Crown" and are perforated 12½.

## Jottings.

An old envelope from Gold Coast was recently unearthed franked with a 6d orange and one and a half 1d. blue stamps of the 1876 issue to make up a 7½d. rate. The perforation gauges 12½.

\* \* \*

The 5c. stamps issued for New Caledonia last year have been overprinted with the letter "T" in a dotted triangle for use as Unpaid Letter Stamps.

\* \* \*

A specimen of the 2c. Interisland stamps of Hawaii, in black on white wove paper, has been found lately printed on both sides says the *Monthly Journal*. The stamp is used and on part of the original envelope and both impressions are stated to be quite distinct.

\* \* \*

Specialists in Japanese stamps will, doubtless, be interested in the following varieties which are noted in a contemporary. The 10 sen of the 1872 issue, perf. 12 × 9½, is known in a pale yellow-green shade as well as blue-green, while the 20 sen stamp of the same issue may be found on their native laid paper. The 20 sen value of the 1874 value exists in plate 1 as well as 2 and 3, and of the 6 sen orange, a horizontal pair of plate 20 has been found imperf. between the stamps.

\* \* \*

There seems to be no end to the provisional issues of Panama. The very latest is the 5c. postage stamp overprinted with "A. R. Colon Colombia" in violet, in three lines, for use as a registration stamp.

\* \* \*

Specimens of the 1 avo on 5 reis and 31 avos on 200 reis of the 1894 provisional issue of Macao have been found with the overprint inverted. Of the same issue a copy of the 8 avos on 50 reis has been seen doubly surcharged, one impression being in the normal position and the other one upside down.

\* \* \*

Another Jubilee set is being prepared in Paris for Roumania says a contemporary. This time it is Coronation Day (May 10th) that is to be "celebrated." The set will include all values now in circulation, and in addition 5 and 10 lei stamps are to be issued.

\* \* \*

The 20 paras brown violet stamp of Turkey has been surcharged in black for use on newspapers.

## Postmark Notes.

By "DUPLEX."

I HAVE received for inspection from the Rev. Hayman Cummings an old entire on which is a 1d. red cancelled with a very curious postmark. This is of the shape of a six-pointed star with a circle in the middle in which are the letters "F.O.R." (or "P.O.R.") and "S.C." This is probably an old type of sorting carriage or examiner's mark which was sometimes used to obliterate the stamps on letters that had escaped previous cancellation. By the side of the stamp is a Hoddeston postmark dated December 10th, 1869.

\* \* \*

Mr. C. F. Dendy Marshall sends a record early date for a duplex type of postmark, i.e., May 21st, 1853.

\* \* \*

Mr. W. Alder Ridley writes describing the postmarks on a letter he recently received from South Africa, in both of which the contractions for 1901 are curious. One mark impressed at Hout Kraal has the date "FE 2-0" while the other stamped on the letter at De Aar shows the date as "FE 2-1" which gives one the idea that Hout Kraal is the trifle of twelve months behind the times!

\* \* \*

Referring to my note on 1d. reds cancelled with 1868-70 duplex type obliterations Mr. Heginbottom writes: "Is it worth while to buy an unused 1d. red imperf. and have it obliterated with recent types of postmarks? I say, certainly not: therefore when you do get a 1d. red with a late style of cancellation it is simply curious."

\* \* \*

Mr. Gnitner sends for inspection an envelope franked with a 1d. current British and a 1d. and 6d. Transvaal V.R.I. stamps which are obliterated with a new postmark. This consists of a single line circle of fairly large size, with "POTCHERSTROOM" curved at the top, "TRANSVAAL" at the base, and the date "JA 12-01" in two lines in the centre. This type of postmark will probably soon become general throughout our new colony—the Transvaal.

\* \* \*

Jerusalem now has its own Hebrew cancellation. Hitherto all manner of stamps have been current in payment of outward bound mails, but now only Turkish stamps are available and these are cancelled with a postmark in which the name "Jersusalem" appears in neat square Hebrew characters.

\* \* \*

Mr. W. H. Clarke writes enquiring the meaning of the letters "P.O.A." which he has observed in postmarks cancelling Natal stamps. These letters stand for Post Office Agency, the name by which all the smaller post offices in South Africa are designated. There are Post Office Agencies in Cape Colony, Natal, Transvaal, Orange River Colony, Rhodesia, and British Bechuanaland, but Natal is the only one of these that has postmarks showing the letters "P.O.A." so far as I know.

\* \* \*

The following excellent description of a machine postage stamp obliterator now largely used is culled from a recent number of *Work*, and I include it here thinking it may be of interest to most of my readers:—

"The Pickerdike Postage Stamp Cancellor is an American machine that has been used in this country and Germany, and has just been adopted by the big post offices of Paris. With it, an experienced operator is able to cancel from 180 to 200 letters per minute. In appearance the machine resembles a small work-table supported on one column or leg. The letters to be cancelled are placed vertically one after another in a conduit to the right of the machine, and are carried between two vertical rollers by two endless belts, one vertical, and the other horizontal; one of the rollers having inserted and inked types leaves its imprint just as the right-hand top corner of the letter comes in contact with it. The other roller has a movable axis, and is so controlled by a spring as to allow just one letter to pass at a time. The letters, as they escape from the rollers, are thrown by a cam upon a plane to the left of the apparatus. All the parts are controlled by a shaft upon which is keyed a pinion that gears with the pieces which distribute motion to the entire mechanism. Upon this shaft is a fast-and-loose pulley permitting the machine to be quickly stopped and started. The shafts of a series of from six to twelve cancelling machines are driven by one small electric motor."

The *Daily Mail* states that over 34 million of the Swiss Postal Union stamps were issued.

## A REFERENCE LIST OF THE Embossed Envelope Stamps

OF THE  
UNITED KINGDOM.

BY OSWALD MARSH.

FOURPENCE.—As yet only three dies of this value have been brought into use. It is a curious fact that, though dies 2 and 4 were approved in 1855, dies 1 and 3 (die 3 does not appear to have been used yet) were not approved until 1889. Die 2 was the first to be brought into use, specimen copies being found dated 8.12.55.

Die 2 may be distinguished by a very prominent dot before the P of Postage, it also has a smaller one under, and close to, the bust, above the centre date plug.

Die 4 has the letter S of Postage badly damaged.

Die 1 as yet shows no signs of wear.

Earliest and latest dates I have met with are as follows:

Die 2.W.W	25. 4.63.	8.6.78
Die 4.W.W	1. 5.84.	29.7.89
Die 1.W.W.	9.10.91.	16.3.93
Die 1.W.W.	with 9 dot florets.	

\* \* \*

SIXPENCE.—Dies 1 to 4 of this value were originally constructed for making the embossed adhesive stamps. Die 1 was, however, the only one actually used for this purpose, dies 2, 3 and 4 being fitted with date plugs, and used only for embossing envelopes, telegram forms, &c. Since 1885, when the rate for inland telegrams was reduced from 1/- to 6d., a large number of dies have been brought into use, mainly for stamping telegram forms, the present consumption of which appears to be about four and a half millions per annum. I have not been able to examine a sufficient quantity of these stamps to give distinguishing marks for all of them, I append, however, some of those I have noted.

Die 2 has a small dot opposite and close to the upper lip. In later impressions this disappears, and a large dot appears close to the inner line of the octagon and opposite the space between the S and T of Postage.

Die 5 has a spot midway between the back of the neck and the C of pence.

Die 8 has two dots between the chin and the S of Postage.

Die 14 has a large spot just inside the inner line of the octagon opposite the O of Postage.

Die 20 shows, with the exception of a few early impressions, a large spot immediately below the left-hand corner of the bust.

Die 21 may be distinguished by a white dot midway between the bottom of the P of Postage and the neck of the bust.

Die 23 has a string of 3 dots from the bottom of the chin to the left-hand corner of the bust.

Die 24 has a large dot under the chin.

Dies numbered 31 and over may be found showing various marks of wear, those in later impressions being entirely different from the earlier ones. This is due to the fact that a system has now been introduced by which a film of steel can be deposited on the die, filling up any flaws that previously existed. When this wears off and fresh wear marks appear, the die is again put through the process and renovated, and so on until it is finally worn out.

Die 1. Used for Adhesive Stamps.

Die	Earliest.	Latest.
Die 2.	13. 5.61	12. 8.87.
.. 3.	17. 9.85	22. 9.85.
.. 4.	2. 9.85	15.10.85.
.. 5.	22. 9.87	22. 9.87.
.. 6.	21. 2.87	21. 2.87.
.. 7.	—	—
.. 8.	25.10.87	15. 2.88.
.. 9.	31. 5.88	29. 8.88.
.. 10.	24. 7.88	24. 7.88.
.. 11.	8.11.88	13.11.88.
.. 12.	19.12.88	19.12.88.
.. 13.	—	—
.. 14.	8. 7.89	8. 7.89.
.. 15.	12. 4.89	19.11.89.
.. 16.	29. 8.89	27.11.89.
.. 17.	17.10.89	17.10.89.
.. 18.	19. 3.90	30. 7.90.
.. 19.	2. 9.90	2. 9.90.
.. 20.	13.10.91	7. 2.91.
.. 21.	9.10.91	3.11.91.
.. 22.	5. 5.91	5. 5.91.
.. 23.	29. 4.92	8. 8.92.
.. 24.	2. 5.92	15. 5.93.
.. 25.	21. 2.93	10. 7.93.
.. 26.	17.10.93	10. 1.94.
.. 26.	9 dot florets.	
.. 27.	5 dot florets.	
.. 27.	9 dot florets.	
.. 28.	9 dot florets.	
.. 29.	9 dot florets.	
.. 30.	5 dot florets.	

Dies 31 to 42, 44 and 46 undated.

Die 43 I have not yet met with.

## Extracts from the Foreign Press.

The following two mistakes occurred in the extracts given last week:—

- Par. Line.  
I. 3. For *decidée* read *decidé*.  
III. 4. For *timbe* read *timbre*.

In addition to the above the following less important errors occurred:—

- Par. Line.  
I. 1. Capitals unnecessary.  
I. 3. Comma omitted after *orange*.  
III. 6. " " " *oeuvre*.  
IV. 5. " " " *souhaitons-le*.

The following were the best lists of errors sent in by readers.

Foreign Readers:—

- Mr. Ch. Benaert (4 marks).  
Baron A. de Reuterskiöld (3 marks).  
Mr. G. Vermèeren (3 marks).

British Readers:—

- Mr. C. F. Dendy Marshall (3 marks).  
Mr. L. M. Rosten (2½ marks).  
Mr. A. de Sterne (2½ marks).  
Mr. F. F. Harrison (2 marks).

\* \* \*

We have to acknowledge the receipt of a list of errors from Herr Theodor Haas, Editor of *Senf's Illustriertes Briefmarken-Journal*. It unfortunately arrived too late for inclusion in our list last week.

\* \* \*

This week's paragraphs are given below, and for the benefit of readers who have not seen our previous offers, we may mention that the Editor of *E.W.S.N.* every week awards several interesting new issues to the British and Foreign readers who respectively send in the best list of mistakes occurring in the extracts, it being necessary that such lists should be delivered not later than Wednesdays.

La Belgique prépare une émission de timbres à un nouveau type. Ce sera encore l'effigie de Léopold II. mais dans un cadre différent de celui des timbres en cours. Le dessin est dû à M. Omer Dierickz.

\* \* \*

Pour savoir si un timbre est vraiment neuf ou si son oblitération a été enlevée par un acide ou un lavage il suffit de le photographier. Si le timbre est de nuance pâle, de préférence bleu ciel ou vert d'eau, le moyen est infailible; ces nuances n'impressionneront pas la couche sensible, tandis que l'encre noire qui a pénétré dans la pâte du papier apparaîtra très nettement. Même si à l'œil nu ou au microscope, on ne distingue aucune trace d'oblitération, celle-ci apparaîtra, sur la photographie, quelque bien lavée qu'elle ait été. Avec des timbres rouges ou vert foncé, la lecture de l'oblitération enlevée pourra être plus difficile, mais elle se fera quand même d'une façon indéniable.

\* \* \*

Un de nos confrères et ami M. S. Farges vient d'avoir la bonne fortune de trouver un exemplaire de la circulaire, par laquelle la maison de Papeterie Susse, offrait la vente de sa machine à perforer. Cette circulaire donnait le fac-simile d'un bloc de 25 timbres perforés de cette manière. M. Farges a eu la bonne idée de reproduire cette circulaire dans son intéressant journal, donnant ainsi, un moyen aux amateurs de timbres français, de pouvoir contrôler l'authenticité des piquages Susse, qu'ils ont dans leur collection, car une de ces machines est devenue la propriété d'un marchand parisien, qui s'en est servi pour perforer des timbres usés, qu'il a d'ailleurs annoncés et vendus comme piqués par lui. Une autre machine avait été également vendue à la Société de Métallurgie de la Vieille-Montagne sur la correspondance de laquelle on a retrouvé un certain nombre d'exemplaires authentiques.

(*Le Philatéliste Française*).

\* \* \*

Schweden.—Von der roten 10-Oeremarke von 1891 wurde uns neuerdings ein zusammenhängendes Pärchen aus Stockholm ungezähnt vorgelegt. Der Herr Einsender schreibt dazu, das derartige Stücke erst kürzlich bekannt geworden wären und dass es davon nur ungefähr 300 gäbe.

(*Illustriertes Briefmarken-Journal*).

\* \* \*

Sous peu les timbres français en usage dans les bureaux étrangers seront remplacés par un nouveau type dont le dessin n'est pas encore arrêté. Ces nouvelles figurines auront pour inscriptions dans le haut POSTE-FRANÇAISE et au bas, dans un cartouche, le nom du pays ou de la localité où elles seront employées.

Huit séries verront ainsi le jour: Alexandrie, Cavalle, Chine, Dédéagh, Levant, Maroc, Port-Saïd et Zanzibar.

(*L'Essor Philatélique*).

## The Postage Stamps of Corrientes.

IN the February number of the *Monthly Journal* appears an article of great interest dealing with the origin of the Corrientes issue of postage stamps, from which we extract the information given here.

Probably most collectors know the roughly executed stamps of the Corrientes province of the Argentine Republic, which were issued in 1856, and were an obvious copy of the first stamps issued by France a few years before. But it is only now that the history of this quaint issue has been unravelled. The story is a curious one. It will not surprise anybody to hear that half a century ago the monetary system of the Argentine Republic was in some confusion, and there was great difficulty in obtaining a circulating medium. The province of Corrientes had its own paper money, but in 1856 there was none in circulation of a less value than a dollar, and various expedients had to be adopted to meet the situation. Mr. Paul Coni, who was at that time director of the State printing establishment, suggested to the provincial Governor that some of the inconvenience might be overcome by the issue of postage stamps, which were then more or less of a novelty. The Governor was extremely pleased with the idea, and at once authorised Mr. Coni to carry out his suggestion, and here a difficulty arose. Mr. Coni could find no engraver in Corrientes who could make him a plate or die for the stamps. He was one day by chance lamenting this to a friend when the baker's boy called with the daily supply of bread. The lad overheard the conversation, and offered to execute the work, as he had been apprenticed to an engraver in Italy before emigrating to South America. Mr. Coni gave the boy a copper plate and a stamp of the French Republic as a copy. A few days later the boy came with the plate on which he had engraved eight stamps of the value of one real each. The work was so roughly done that Mr. Coni was greatly disappointed, but he showed it to the governor, who promptly accepted it, and the stamps were printed and issued. Unfortunately the name of the Italian baker boy who is the hero of this little philatelic romance has escaped the memory of Mr. Coni, who is himself still alive to tell the tale.

## Our Postcard Column

WILL readers hearing of any interesting item of News, kindly jot it down on a postcard and address to the Editor, "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News," Norwood, London. For every contribution we publish, we will send the author an interesting and newly issued stamp. (N.B.—Postcards preferred.)

Mr. T. S. Tyrrell writes:—

"There is a difference in the current 5d. English stamp which I have not seen recorded. In the early issue the bottom of the figure 5 touches the outer blue line of the design and in the latter one there is a distinct white line between them."

The probable reason seems to be that in printing the earlier issues the plate was more heavily inked; early impressions are generally in deeper blue, judging from the specimens we have been able to examine.—Ed.]

Mr. W. H. Budd writes:—

"I have the current 4d. English stamp in a decided blue colour. Can you inform me how this is brought about?"

Referring to the same subject Mr. E. W. Stearn contributes the following:—

"Being employed in the Post office I have opportunities of seeing more stamps than most people having no connection with the department. On three occasions since their issue I have noticed our current 4d. stamps in light blue, and recently I secured a nice pair on entire posted at Romford."

At different times we have had a large number of these blue 4d. stamps sent us for inspection. We shall be glad to hear from any reader who can inform us how the colour change is caused.—Ed.]

Mr. C. H. McDiarmid Fish writes:—

"There are two types of the new 10c. of France, viz.:—(1) In this type the vignette was printed first. The figures of value are often in a darker shade than the rest of the stamp. In this die the figure "1" has a straight base.

(2) In the second drawing, the vignette and figures of value are printed at the same time. The figure "1" has been retouched and the base is curved upwards."

[The first printing of all the lower values of the new French stamps were obtained by means of two impressions—one for the vignette and the other for the value. Now one impression is made to suffice.—Ed.]

## The Case of James Bulmer.

### SENTENCE.

AT Clerkenwell Sessions, on the 7th inst., James Bulmer, 20, described as a clerk, surrendered to his bail, and pleaded "Guilty" to indictments for having stolen three books containing foreign postage stamps, valued at £20, the property of Charles Daly, and for having obtained other stamps by false pretences from three different people. Mr. A. Hutton was for the prosecution; Mr. Grain and Mr. Rowsell appeared for the prisoner. Mr. Hutton said that Mr. Daly was a dealer in stamps at Great Portland-street, W. In January last the prisoner went to his shop, and said that an uncle of his living in Portland-place wanted a collection of stamps to select some as a present to him. While he was there a telegram, which was in fact forged, arrived, which purported to give the assistant on duty in the shop authority to let him have the stamps, and he was allowed to take away three albums, which he never returned. In the other cases his method was different. He would answer advertisements put into a stamp collectors' journal by people who had stamps to sell, giving a false name and the address of a newspaper shop at which he had arranged to have letters received for him; he would then give another false name and the address of another newspaper shop as a reference, and himself answer the letter asking for his character. He thus obtained stamps of considerable value from a number of people. These frauds had been going on for some time. Complaints first reached the police in the beginning of 1898, but they ceased in March, 1899. Then he seemed to have desisted for more than a year, but began his fraudulent practices again in January last. When he was arrested a collection of 8,000 stamps was found in his possession, and it would seem that he had sold only a few of those he obtained. Mr. Grain said the prisoner lived with his parents, who were thoroughly respectable people, and he was now studying at a certain well-known college with the view of becoming a schoolmaster. Of course, his career would be ruined by this conviction. He had with the knowledge of his parents been collecting stamps since he was a little boy, and it must have become a mania, for he did not commit these frauds for purposes of gain, and only sold those stamps of which he had duplicates. Several gentlemen were called to speak to the good character borne by the prisoner, and his counsel appealed to the Court to discharge him as a first offender. Mr. McConnell said it was difficult to understand how a young man in the prisoner's position could have been tempted to perpetrate such frauds, but they had been continuous, and the least sentence which could be passed upon him was one of three months' imprisonment in the second division.

## The Junior London Philatelic Society.

### CONVERSAZIONE AND DANCE.

THE second conversazione and dance, under the auspices of the Junior London Philatelic Society, was held in Raleigh Hall, Brixton, on Saturday last, and passed off in a highly successful manner. A large number of members of the Society and their friends were present, and one and all spent a most enjoyable evening.

The proceedings opened with a well rendered pianoforte solo by Miss Esther Molton, followed by a recitation, "My first and last appearance," by Mr. John Stanley, which was delivered in an excellent manner. Miss Rosa Crooks was down for two songs, and was warmly received on each appearance, while the violin duet by Messrs. G. and W. Phillips was much appreciated. The farce, "Number one round the corner," in which Mr. S. Marsh enacted the part of "Flipper," while Mr. V. Marsh made a splendid "Nobbler," brought the conversazione to a close. A few minutes later a merry crowd was "tripping the light fantastic toe" to the strains of an excellent string band, and, until within a few minutes of 12 o'clock, dancing was kept up with much gusto. A noteworthy feature of this part of the proceedings was the "Philatelic Quadrilles."

Great credit is due to Mr. Fred J. Melville, President of the Society, and to Mr. Crosby Blunsum, the Hon. Secretary, for the admirable manner in which the arrangements were carried out.

EVERY STAMP COLLECTOR  
SHOULD SUBSCRIBE TO  
EWEN'S WEEKLY STAMP NEWS

## Notes from America.

THE Governor of Guam is greatly annoyed at the persistent attentions of stamp collectors, and is reported to have declared that he will not issue any more surcharged stamps. The Third Assistant Postmaster-General states, however, that the Post Office Department at Washington is supreme in the matter and will do as it likes.

\* \* \*

Briefly stated, the situation is this: At the outset the Department decided upon the policy of surcharged stamps for Guam. This policy has not been changed, and no change is contemplated. If stamps are ordered for Guam, they will be surcharged. Should Governor Schroeder request that unsurcharged stamps be sent, which request would involve a change of policy, the request would be given consideration, and the department would be governed in its action by what it deemed to be most expedient. It may be assumed, however, that the Department was moved by considerations of importance in deciding upon the use of surcharged stamps for Guam. The question is, would it swerve from this policy because Governor Schroeder does not wish to be annoyed by the importunities of stamp collectors.

\* \* \*

Supplies of U.S. postage stamps have recently been sent to Tutuila an island in the Samoan group. None were surcharged.

\* \* \*

The Washington correspondent of the *Metropolitan Philatelist* writes as follows respecting the progress made with the new bi-coloured Pan-American Exhibitors' stamp:—

"The first complete sheet of the new Pan-American stamps of the two cent value was delivered by the Bureau to the Third Assistant Postmaster-General for inspection on Tuesday, February 19th. The Third Assistant was very much delighted with this the Bureau's first official specimens of two-color stamp printing, and predicts that the series will meet with great popular favor. I am informed by the chief of the Bureau that the second printing of the two cent stamp in red is progressing rapidly, and that less difficulty in securing perfect register is being experienced than was anticipated. It has been decided practically to cut each sheet in half so that they will be received by postmasters in sheets of one hundred stamps, there being two plate numbers to each sheet of one hundred stamps. The die proof of the 1 cent value has been officially approved by the Department, and printing from the first vignette plate will begin the latter part of this week. The dies for the remaining values of the series are practically completed, and die proofs will probably be submitted to the Third Assistant next week."

\* \* \*

The same journal states that the Post Office Department has informally taken up the matter of a regular new series of stamps to which reference was made several weeks ago. Nothing definite has developed save that it has been practically decided that the series will consist of stamps of the same denomination as at present in use, from 1 cent to \$5.

\* \* \*

*American "Pre-Cancelled" Stamps.*—Now that the collecting of pre-cancelled stamps has become so general it may be interesting to note the post office requirements in their regard, which are as follows:—

The concern desiring to use the pre-cancelled stamps makes application to the local postmaster, and if there seems to be no valid ground for objection, permission is granted. At the time the application is made it is to be specified what value stamps are desired. The firm then buys the desired number of sheets of stamps, and a sworn official of the Government is detailed to be a party to the pre-cancelling. This may be done by means of a rubber stamp, or by running the sheet through a printing press. Then the stamps are affixed in the presence of the post office official, the number of pieces of mail corresponding with the number of stamps purchased.

(The Canada Stamp Sheet.)

The demand for the newly introduced booklets of stamps continues steadily. The present output is about 20,000 a day. This seems to be a pretty large figure, but when compared with the regular number of stamps issued, it is quite small. Preparations were made in the beginning for a daily supply of 100,000 books, which is just about five times the amount of the present demand.

Cuba, too, now finds that these booklets of stamps with wax paper would be a good thing for a damp and warm climate and has made inquiries as to cost, etc., at the Bureau. These particulars have been furnished and probably an order will soon be received for booklets of 2c. Cuban stamps.

## Approval Selections.

WE are now arranging and mounting a specially fine series of Approval Collections, comprising the stamps of all countries, and will have pleasure in sending same to any reader, on compliance with the conditions named below. Except where specially noted, any stamp may be selected at the price marked above it, and in most cases we allow a liberal discount off such prices. All communications for our Approval Department should be addressed to H. L. EWEN, 32, Palace Square, Norwood, S.E.

### CONDITIONS.

- 1.—Stamps can only be sent on approval on condition that those not purchased are returned within five days.
  - 2.—No stamps may be removed from the sheets or books until actually purchased.
  - 3.—Collectors are not permitted to deduct return postage from amount of purchase.
  - 4.—Discount is conditional on purchase exceeding 10/- and will be forfeited if selection is kept over the five days allowed.
  - 5.—Spaces should not be marked.
  - 6.—Sheets should be returned folded as sent.
  - 7.—When a selection is returned, another will be sent unless otherwise requested.
- N.B.—We hope collectors will assist us by observing the above very reasonable conditions and we will in return make it our endeavour to send out only the finest possible copies at the lowest possible quotations.

### APPROVAL SHEETS.

No.	Discount.	Description.
203.	Nett.	Miscellaneous Colonials.
205.	25%.	West Indies.
206.	Nett.	V.R.I's.
207.	50%.	Mexico.
208.	25%.	Miscellaneous.
211.	"	Russia.
212.	"	Norway.
213.	"	Sweden.
214.	"	Finland.
216.	"	Roumania.
217.	"	Old Europeans.
218.	"	Venezuela.
219.	"	Egypt.
220.	"	Hayti.
225.	"	Bosnia, Bulgaria and Montenegro.
228.	"	Miscellaneous Colonials.
229.	"	Thurn and Taxis.
230.	"	Saxony.
231.	"	Spain (early issues).
232.	"	Spain (War Tax, Official, &c.)
233.	"	Spain (Carlist Stamps).
235.	"	Philippines.
237.	Nett.	Hawaiian Islands.

### BOOKLETS.

501.	Nett.	Fiji and Cook Islands.
504.	"	Unused African Colonials.
505.	"	African Colonials.
506.	"	Unused Colonials.
508.	25%.	Liberia.
509.	"	Denmark
510.	"	Luxemburg.
511.	"	Austria.
512.	"	Austrian Italy.
513.	"	Timor.
514.	"	Macao.
515.	"	Peru.
516.	"	Japan.
517.	"	Finland and Poland.
518.	"	Queensland.
519.	"	Tasmania.
522.	"	Australian (common).
523.	Nett.	Unused English.
524.	25%.	Gambia, Gold Coast, Lagos, &c.
525.	"	French Colonies.
527.	"	Used English.
529.	"	Sarawak.
531.	Nett.	Unused Colonials.
532.	25%.	Ceylon.

### BOOKS.

111.	10%.	Unused English (chiefly 1d. reds, in strips)
112.	"	New South Wales. (and blocks).
113.	Nett.	V.R.I. Errors and Varieties.
114.	"	V.R.I. Strips and Blocks.
115.	10%.	Orange Free State.
116.	"	Transvaal.

### LARGE BOOKS.

A1.	20%.	Used English.
A2.	25%.	Used English.
A3.	10%.	Used English.
D.	25%.	Cut Envelopes.
G6b.	"	English with Foreign Postmarks.
H.	10%.	Railway Letter Fee Stamps.

We have for sale a few fine used copies of the Russian error—3 Kopecs with background of "V's," the groundwork of the 5 kopecs. These we are offering at 1/6 each.

This week we are able to offer the following choice stamps:—

	PRICE.
Barbados, mint pair 6d. orange-vermilion, imperf., very fine ...	24/-
British Columbia, 50c. on 3d. violet, fine mint pair...	30/-
Natal, 6d. rose, wmk. CC., superb mint block of 4, imperf....	40/-
South Australia, 3d. on 4d. blue, superb mint, block of four ...	40/-
Turks Islands, 1/-, dull blue, first issue used, nice copy ...	15/-
Zululand, 5/- on British, fine used copy ...	45/-
Ceylon, 1r. 12c. lilac rose, used... ..	2/-
Tasmania, 1d. blue, first issue, used ...	45/-
" 4d. orange, first issue, used, superb specimen ...	15/-
Antigua; mint pair 1d. lake, Crown CC. perf. 12½; with inverted wmk. ...	15/-
Bahamas; 1d. vermilion, unused, wmk. Crown CC. perf. 12½ ...	6/6
Barbados; Mint pair of 6d. dull orange vermilion. No wmk., rough perf. ...	37/6
Barbados; 5/- dull rose, used ...	37/6
" ditto, not so fine ...	27/6
British Honduras; 1882 issue, 6d. yellow, used, Crown CA. 14 ...	40/-
Finland; 1 mark, used, 1867-70 issue one corner torn, S.G., No. 49 ...	7/6
Gambia; 6d. blue, used, 1880 issue, wmk. Crown C.C., perf. 14. ...	7/6
Griqualand; 5/- orange, used, S.G. No. 70, very rare ...	12/-
Griqualand; 5/- orange, used, S.G. No. 116	2/6
Mauritius; 5/- violet used ...	5/-
New South Wales; 2d. Sidney View used, fair copy ...	15/-
" 5/- violet used S.G. No. 142 ...	3/6
" 5/- map, used, perf. 10 ...	12/6
" 5/- coin "O.S." used, perf. 12½ ...	6/6
Queensland; 2/6 vermil. used, S.G. No. 114	4/-
St. Vincent; 5/- wmk.* has "REVENUE" printed across it otherwise would be worth £15 ...	30/-
Victoria; 1d. green, S.G. No. 46, fine pair, used ...	17/6
" 5/- red and blue, fine used copy	6/-
Wurtemberg; 5 marks pale blue, unused...	7/-

Any of the above stamps can be sent on approval if required, but immediate application is necessary, as in most instances we have no duplicates of the lots offered.

\* \* \*

### WHOLESALE LOTS FOR SALE.

We can offer this week the following cheap wholesale lots, viz. :—

Ceylon, 5 cents lilac, C.A., 4,280... price	8/-
" ditto 2,788... price	5/-
" 5 cents on 8 cents, Gibbons' No. 146, 600 ... price	10/6
British Guiana, 2c. lilac and orange, 4097 price	18/-
Gold Coast, 1d. carmine, 1884 issue, 683 price	10/6
Straits Settlements, 2 cents C.A., Gibbons' No. 48, 1,073 ... price	10/-
Transvaal, 2d. bistre, Gibbons' type 20, 794 ... price	21/-
Canada Map Stamps, a fine lot of 1,549 on pieces of original ... price	45/-
Great Britain, 1d. red, plate numbers unexamined ... 1,000 for	1/6
— A fine lot of 10,333, 1d. red and 2d. blue, imperf. including fine strips and blocks ...	£7.

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# Ewen's Weekly Stamp News.

With which is incorporated EWEN'S WEEKLY CIRCULAR. (Established October, 1897.)

A JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

THE ONLY WEEKLY STAMP PAPER PUBLISHED IN EUROPE.

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No. 78. (VOL. VI.)  
(Whole Number, No. 164.)

LONDON, SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 1901.

[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

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Colonial Stamp Market. Stamps at Auction.

## The Week's News.

With regard to the reported new issue for Canada, which has been rumoured for some little time past, an official denial has been published in Ottawa, couched in the following terms:—  
"The Postmaster-General authorizes a denial of the statement that he is consulting with the contractors for printing postage stamps, with respect to the design of a new issue. Canada is the only British colony possessing stamps on which are engraved a portrait of the late Queen as she appeared at the time of her jubilee. In every other case Her Majesty is represented on the stamps as a young woman. For many reasons, and especially in view of the long and glorious reign of the late Queen, it is considered desirable that the present stamps be retained. It is likely that the Postmaster-General will await the action of the Imperial authorities before coming to any decision regarding new stamps for Canada."

The new issue of the Dominican Republic seems to be fairly fruitful in the matter of errors. We have now to chronicle the 20c. in rose, the colour of the ½c. This is stated to have been caused by the insertion of a transfer of that value in the stone of the ½c. One is bound to wonder whether these "errors" were entirely accidental or not. It seems rather doubtful.

A continental contemporary states that the new French stamps are engraved on wood, and thus gives them a rather indistinct appearance. It is said new copper plate dies are to be engraved, from which fresh plates will be made, and then it is expected much clearer and better impressions will be printed.

A foreign contemporary states that some dangerous forgeries of the 2 bolivianos of Bolivia (issue 1897) are in circulation. The forgeries may be detected by measuring the portion printed in black, the width of which is 29½ × 22½, instead of 30 × 23mm., whilst the word "Correos" is smaller than "Bolivia," whereas it should be of the same size.

The following new plate-numbers may be looked for on United States stamps:—

1047 to 1049 ..	2c.
1050 to 1053 ..	1c.
1054 to 1057 ..	2c.
1058 to 1065 ..	1c.
1066 to 1080 ..	2c.

Plates 1078 and 1079 are for the Pan-American stamps (1078 border, 1079 vignette).

The *A. J. of P.* states that the New Zealand Government have issued trade discount stamps, which will be redeemable at any post office. Can any reader give us a further description?

The Washington correspondent to the *Metro-politan Philatelist* says that it is proposed by the various nations comprising the Universal Postal Union, to erect a commemorative monument at Berne, Switzerland, at a cost of about £8,000. To avoid direct legislation to meet this expense, an amount equivalent to the difference between actual cost of maintaining the Bureau and the estimated cost, is being laid aside each year, and within a comparatively short time funds sufficient for the undertaking will be available.

The remainders of the Hawaii postal cards were destroyed at Washington on Feb. 27th. 20,000 1 cent, and 34,000 2 cents cards were consigned to the furnace.

## New Issues.

The Editor will be much obliged for early news of New Issues or intended New Issues or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors. Full acknowledgment given. If possible, specimens should be sent in order that illustrations may be prepared.

**CEYLON.**—Our Colonial Market has shown us the new 1 rupee 50 cents rose, which although catalogued by Gibbons for some time past has only just been issued.

**COREA.**—The *Montreal Philatelist* says that the 5 poon green of the 1895 issue has been surcharged 1 poon in the same manner as the 25 poon, which we chronicled in our number for Jan. 5th.

**ECUADOR.**—In addition to the colour change in the 10 centavos value reported in our issue for Feb. 23rd, we are informed that changes have now taken place in the colours of the current 1, 2, and 5 centavos stamps. The list to date is as below:—

1 centavo scarlet and black.	
2 centavos green .. ..	
5 .. grey .. ..	
10 .. blue .. ..	

**FEDERATED MALAY STATES.**—Mr. Lennox Napier has sent us specimens of the new 3 cents value. The central design, in black, shows a tiger in the act of springing from out of the jungle. Around this is a plain border, printed in dark brown, in which the inscription "FEDERATED MALAY STATES" and "POSTAGE AND REVENUE" appear. The value, "3c.," is plainly shown in all four corners. The perforation gauges 14.

**FERNANDO POO.**—A new set dated 1900, has appeared here recently with high values in pesos instead of pesetas. The following are the values that have already been issued:—

2 centavos mauve.	15 centavos deep violet.
3 .. pink.	20 .. brown.
4 .. chocolate.	40 .. orange-brown
5 .. bright blue.	60 .. green.
6 .. orange.	80 .. deep blue.
8 .. bronze-green.	1 peso red-brown.
10 .. lake.	2 pesos orange-vermilion.

**GREAT BRITAIN.**—At last the change of colour in the ½d. envelope stamps has taken place. Mr. O. Marsh has shown us specimens in a dark green colour instead of the bright vermilion that was formerly in use. This week the envelopes in which we send out *E.W.S.N.* will be embossed with the new stamp.

**NEW ZEALAND.**—The *Montreal Philatelist* says that the 1½d. letter card has been surcharged "ONE PENNY," on account of the reduction in the postal rates.—The *S.C.F.* states that the new Universal Penny Postage Stamp has already been printed in New Zealand. The stamp is printed on the new watermarked paper, showing a double lined star and N.Z., and the perforation is somewhat roughly done, gauging about 11.

**NICARAGUA.**—It is reported that the 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 30 and 50 centavos value of the 1896 issue of the unpaid letter stamps have been overprinted with "FRANQUEO OFICIAL," in two lines, for use as official stamps.

**ORANGE RIVER COLONY.**—The new provisional 1d. postcard has now appeared, having been issued on February 8th. It consists of the 1½d. Cape of Good Hope postcard, with the stamp surcharged "O.R.C. One Penny," in three lines in black. The inscriptions, "Cape of Good Hope" and "Cap de Bonne Espérance," are barred out, and "Orange River Colony Post Card" overprinted in black. The above information we cull from the *S.C.F.*

**TRANSVAAL.**—The 6d. value of the "V.R.I." issue is said to have been found with the surcharge inverted.

**URUGUAY.**—*L'Echo de la Timbrologie* reports that five more values of the new set have appeared, i.e., 2, 7, 25, and 50c., and 1 peso. The list of values and colours that have been issued to date now stands as below:—

1 centesimo green.	10 centesimos purple.
2 centesimos vermilion.	25 .. black-brn.
5 .. blue.	50 .. carmine.
7 .. orange.	1 peso green

## Our Postcard Column.

WILL readers hearing of any interesting item of News, kindly jot it down on a postcard and address to the Editor, "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News," Norwood, London. For every contribution we publish, we will send the author an interesting and newly issued stamp. (N.B.—Postcards preferred.)

Regarding the current ½d. stamps in blue, Mr. G. W. J. Potter writes:—

"Having had occasion to remove some unused ½d. green stamps from an envelope by soaking in water, I employed a little "stickbite" (a paste similar to stickphast) to make them adhere firmly to the new envelope. When dry I found that the green colour had changed into blue; perhaps, more accurately, a greenish blue."

Mr. L. Normington contributes a note on the same subject:—

"Regarding the current ½d. British stamp of blue colour—I have two completely blue and several half blue and half green. The alteration is due to chemical action of the ink used in cancelling the stamp which changes the green to blue. This is especially the case when the stamps are heavily cancelled and the ink is a long time in drying."

Mr. J. G. Cairns also writes:—

"I enclose for inspection a block of four current ½d. stamps which are of quite a blue colour. They are off a letter from Hull, from a paint manufacturer's place. Can you give me any information as to how the change of colour is brought about?"

Mr. L. M. Kosten writes:—

"In reference to your enquiry concerning current halfpenny stamps in blue, I have several which I have obtained by dipping the green stamps in dilute Hydrochloric Acid."

Mr. G. H. Southwood also writes regarding the blue halfpennies:—

"Referring to the enquiry in your last issue re blue halfpennies—I secured some time ago a pair perfectly blue on an envelope with a single stamp which was of the orthodox green colour they were postmarked 'Glasgow'."

[We soaked a few halfpenny green stamps in water and found the colour turn to blue fairly readily. It would thus seem that the change in colour is simply caused by the stamps getting damp either by the application of too much ink in cancelling or by being soaked in water.—Ed.]

Mr. G. H. Southwood writes:—

"In looking through some 1d. red plate numbers the other day I came across a specimen of plate 176 perforated with an anchor and C.C.—the letters being one on either side of the anchor. It is postmarked and as far as I can make out is cancelled with the figures "27." Can any of your readers tell me what the perforation refers to?"

Mr. Allen Moorhouse contributes the following note:—

"Amongst some stamps I lately purchased is a provisional which will, perhaps, be worth noting. It is a Togo 3d. cut diagonally to represent 1½d. and used with a 1d. stamp to make up the postage of 2½d."

Mr. G. C. Gardner contributes the following:—

"I recently received a Ceylon Telegraph stamp cut in half and used postally on Slave Island. The date of the postmark is April 30th, 1896. Can you give me any information respecting this stamp?"

Mr. J. N. Mostyn writes:—

"I have just received a letter from Straits Settlements franked with a 2c. Selangor stamp and two 1 cent Perak stamps and postmarked "KUALA LUMPUR." Can one State use the stamps of another State?"

## Jottings.

More than 504,000,000 postage stamps were printed by the United States bureau of engraving and printing during January, and of this number over nine millions were put up in the little booklets.

## Field Post Office Marks

USED WITH THE

### British Army in South Africa.

BY "DUPLEX."

FROM time to time many paragraphs have appeared in *E.W.S.N.*, regarding the army obliterations stamped on our soldiers' letters from South Africa. My endeavour in this article will be to evolve something approaching order out of the budget of miscellaneous information that has already been published, and supplement it wherever possible with new items.

When the first detachment of our soldier boys went out to the front, suitable arrangements had, of course, to be made for dealing with the letters, &c., that would pass between them and their friends.

As the different columns and regiments were continually on the move, this was rather a difficult matter.

The difficulty was overcome by stationing head or base offices at Cape Town and Pietermaritzburg, and attaching field post offices to various columns and regiments which moved about with their particular detachments. Each of these field post offices was distinguished by a number and the base offices by the letters "B.O." After a while, as detachment followed detachment to South Africa, the post offices sent out originally were found to be inadequate to deal with the enormous amount of mail matter and their number was considerably augmented, and at the same time advanced bases were stationed at various points.

At first only one type of postmark, consisting of two concentric circles, was employed, but at the present time there are several in use.

#### TYPE I.

This type consists of two concentric circles with FIELD POST OFFICE—BRITISH ARMY S. AFRICA between the rings. In the inner circle is the office number and the date. The highest number I have seen in this type is 36, and all numbers between that and 1 exist. Specimens may be found with no number at all above the date.

A variety of this mark used at the Base Offices has the letters "B.O." after "Field Post Office," and an asterisk (\*) instead of a number over the date.

This was the first type of Army Postmark used in South Africa with the troops, and it was doubtless copied from the type that is in use at Aldershot, and other camps.

#### TYPE II.

This is a single line circular mark having a very thick ring. Curved around inside is "FIELD P.O." at the top, and "BRITISH ARMY S. AFRICA" at the base. The date appears in the centre but no office number is given. There are several variations in the date. Sometimes, as in the illustration, no year is shown and in

other cases an inverted C is used instead of one of the "O's" i.e., "JO." The following are the varieties I have noticed:—

- (a) No year given—"AP 20"  
 (b) Ditto, but date inverted—"E n f"  
 (c) Date in two lines—"JY 7—00"  
 (d) "OC" instead of "OO" in date—"SP 5—OC"  
 (e) Ditto, but inverted—"JU 6—JO"  
 (f) Has one "O" in date sideways—"JY 20—0 o"

#### TYPE III.

A single line circle also constitutes this type, but as will be seen by the accompanying cut the letters are much larger. At the top is "ARMY P.O." and at the base is "S. AFRICA." The date is in smaller lettering in the centre. The lowest number I have seen in this type is 43 and the highest is 60. Probably the numbering is a continuation from type I. No. 60 is, I believe, the number of one of the Pretoria Offices.

#### TYPE IV.

This type consists of a large double lined circle, the outer line being thick and the inner one thin. Arranged in a curve at the top of the mark is "ARMY POST OFFICE" and at the base is "SOUTH AFRICA." The date—"29 JUN 1900"

—occupies one line in the centre. Above the date is "3 MB" or "3 NB," most probably the latter, meaning "Natal Branch." As this mark is made with a rubber stamp the letters and lines are roughly formed. Violet ink is used.



A variety of this mark I received some time ago has "VOLKSRUST" instead of "South Africa" at the base. In this instance there is

no number over the date and the ink used is purple.

Another variety has "SOUTH AFRICA" at the top and "FIELD FORCE" at the base with date across the centre. This mark is printed in blue ink.

#### TYPE V.



This obliteration is composed of a small thick lined circle containing the letters "F.P.O." and "13." This is the only mark of this type I have seen. It was used to frank a newspaper.

#### TYPE VI.

This cancellation is similar in general appearance to type II., but the circle consists of a thin and not a thick line. At the top is "NATAL" and at the base "FIELD FORCE." The date in the centre is in two lines, viz.: "MAR 15—1900."

#### TYPE VII.

This mark is composed of a double octagon, between the lines of which are "ARMY POST OFFICE" and "NATAL FIELD FORCE." The letters "V" and "R" appear at the sides. In the centre is the date in two lines and the number "81."



This is the number of the Godwan Rivier Station Office, I believe. A variety of this type has "STANDERTON" instead of a number below the date and another I saw recently had the name "VOLKSRUST."

Another variety of this obliteration has no number or name below the date. Evidently special arrangements were made in the Colony for dealing with the mail matter to and from members of the Natal Field Force and this accounts for the special types of postmarks they use.

#### TYPE VIII.

This is also a Natal Field Force mark, consisting of a large circle in which the letters "N F F" appear in white on a black ground.

With the exception of types IV. all the Field Post Office marks are impressed in black ink. Types I. and II. may occasionally be met with in blue, the latter being the commoner.

## Stamps at Auction.

The following prices were realized last week at Stamp Auctions:—

*Tuesday and Wednesday, March 12th and 13th, Messrs. Puttick & Simpson.*

Cyprus on Great Britain, 1/- used, fine ...	23/-
Great Britain, 1d. red-brown, imperf. block of 23, showing on the margin at one corner pl. No. 94 ...	£9
Great Britain, £1 brown, vert. pair, mint ...	£6/5
" " £5 orange, used ...	31/-
Tuscany, 1851, 1 soldo yellow on grey, fine strip of 3, unused with gum ...	97/6
Tuscany, 2s. red on azure, pair, used ...	£14/10
" " 6ocr., unused, cut into, not v.f. ...	£15/10
Cape Triangular, 1d. on blenté, block 4, used... ...	21/-
Orange Free State, 1/- brown, used blk. 4 ...	12/-
Orange R. Colony, V.R.I. 5/- strip of 4, mint ...	24/-

*Thursday and Friday, March 14th and 15th, Messrs. Venton, Bull & Cooper.*

Ceylon, 8d. brown, imperf., used, v.f. ...	£11
" " 1/9 green, mint, slightly cut into ...	£3
" " thinned at back ...	58/-
" " 2/- blue, imperf., used, v.f. ...	£5
" " 2r. 50c. lilac-rose, perf., 12½ × 14, mint ...	£5/10
India, ¼a. red, 9½ arches, unused, v.f. ...	122/6
Cape, 1d. red, woodblock, v.f. ...	92/6
" " 4d. pale blue, do. used on piece ...	72/6

Cape, 4d. dark blue, v.f. but repaired ...	67/6
" " do. v.f. but slightly cut into ...	£6/10
" " 1/- emerald green, unused, not fine ...	£3
" " Errors, "Three Pence" and "The.ee Pence" ...	72/6
Gold Coast, 10/- lilac and red and current £1, mint ...	40/-
Lagos, 2/6 olive-black, mint ...	84/-
Mauritius, post paid, 1d. vermilion on bluish, early state, a superb horizontal pair with large margins, used on entire ...	£19
" " Do., 2d. blue, early state, v.f. ...	£9
" " Another, v.f., but not so early ...	£6/10
St. Helena, CC 12½, 6d. blue, unused, v.f. ...	38/-
Zululand, 5/- carmine, unused, but thinned ...	42/-
" " £1 purple on red, mint ...	33/-

## Extracts from the Foreign Press.

The following ten mistakes occurred in the extracts given last week:—

Par.	Line.	
I.	1.	For à read d'.
II.	10.	Oblitération should have acute accent.
III.	1.	For ami read amis.
III.	11.	" piquages read piquages.
III.	15.	cé of annonces transposed.
III.	21.	Française does not require final e.
IV.	3.	For Parchen read Pärchen.
IV.	5.	" das read dass.
V.	4.	" arrête read arrêté.
V.	7.	" scront read seront.

In addition to the above the following less important errors occurred:—

Par.	Line.	
II.	11.	Comma unnecessary after <i>ap-paraitra</i> .
III.	1.	Commas required before and after "M. S. Farges."
III.	4.	Small p to <i>Papeterie</i> .
III.	4.	Comma after <i>Susse</i> is superfluous.
III.	9.	" " <i>ainsi</i> " "
III.	17.	Capitals unnecessary.

Commas were omitted after *Léopold II., neuf, lavage, Montagne, Waren, and inscriptions*. In these six instances opinion is almost unanimous, but there are at least six other cases with a few supporters.

The following were the best lists of errors sent in by readers.

#### Foreign Readers:—

Mr. G. Vermèeren (13½ marks).  
 Baron A. de Reuterskiöld (12 marks).  
 Mr. Ch. Benaert (11 marks).  
 Mr. H. Becking (9½ marks).

#### British Readers:—

Miss D. Hayman (12 marks).  
 Mr. F. F. Harrison (11 marks).  
 Mr. A. de Sterne (9 marks).

Other lists were also received from Mrs. A. Robinson (6 marks), and Messrs. C. F. Dendy Marshall (5½), H. L. Beris (5½), Adolf Sonn (6), L. M. Rosten (5) and T. S. Harvey (4½). Miss D. Hayman, who heads the list of British readers this week, pointed out all the principal mistakes except *scront* (with c instead of e). Mr. G. Vermèeren did not notice *das* for *dass*.

This week's paragraphs are given below, and for the benefit of readers who have not seen our previous offers, we may mention that the Editor of *E.W.S.N.* every week awards several interesting new issues to the British and Foreign readers who respectively send in the best list of mistakes occurring in the extracts, it being necessary that such lists should be delivered not later than Wednesdays.

M. Everaert informe qu'un industriel M. B. vient de mettre en vente à Anvers des timbres truqués de 5c. du Congo belge, qu'il présente comme appartenant à l'émission 1894 (couleurs: bleu et noir), alors que ce sont tout simplement des 5c. de 1900, dont la couleur verte a été transformée à l'aide d'un acide. Les exemplaires que notre correspondant a eus sous les yeux portent tous l'oblitération suivante: "BOMA—16—11-M" sur trois lignes; cette oblitération est fautive.

(Revue Philatélique Belge.)

La grande nouvelle du jour est la liquidation qu'opère depuis une quinzaine le grand marchand de timbres de la rue de la Victoire. Comme vous le savez, sa spécialité était surtout la France et ses colonies. Il vient d'en vendre pour 145.000 fr. à divers marchands et amateurs. Comme les prix sont relativement avantageux, c'est une vraie curée; si la vente se continue avec le même entrain, tout le stock, estimé à près d'un million, ne tardera pas à être écoulé!

Notes from Australia.

FEDERAL PROSPECTS. FROM A PHILATELIC STANDPOINT.

(From the Australian Journal of Philately, Feb. 7th).

CONSEQUENT upon the death of Sir James Dickson, Federal Minister for Defence, Sir John Forrest has been transferred to that department, and Mr. J. G. Drake has been appointed Federal Postmaster-General in his stead. While we regret the cause of the change, we are pleased that a Queenslander is at the head of affairs. Sir John Forrest is a very able man, but postal matters were altogether out of his line. He is wrapt up heart and soul in the interests of West Australia, and that far-off State would have claimed a large share of his attention.

\* \* \*

Mr. Drake is not a man with a strong individuality. His credentials are good. He has been a writer for the press, and is now a rising barrister and has worked his way up the political ladder in honest fashion. Prior to his acceptance of his present office he was Minister for Education and Postmaster-General of Queensland. Whether or not he has discharged the latter duties satisfactorily we cannot say. They were not very onerous. Everything points to the belief, however, that he will be very much guided by the opinions of the permanent heads of the postal departments, and quite right too.

\* \* \*

During the past five weeks, pending the appointment of Mr. Drake, little or nothing has been done regarding the amalgamation of the State Post Offices. The conference of Ministerial heads in Melbourne this month is still spoken of, but we have not heard anything definite about it. We have, however, heard that the Cabinets of both New South Wales and Victoria will be reconstructed within the next few weeks, and that the office of State Postmaster-General will be abolished in both. It is on the cards that the Postal Departments will be nominally transferred by proclamation at an early date, but that matters will go on as hitherto for some months.

\* \* \*

Mr. Drake does not consider a conference of State Postmasters-General necessary to the taking over and effective working of the post and telegraph services. At the same time, he has requested that all the permanent heads shall meet him in Melbourne on February 13th.

\* \* \*

An apparent flaw has been discovered by Sir John Forrest in the Constitution Act which is construed to mean that the revenues of the Postal Departments cannot be amalgamated for five years. This difficulty can be easily overcome by an Amending Act after Parliament meets. Meantime everyone is "on the horns of a dilemma."

\* \* \*

The only subject which seems to agitate our local philatelists at present is the surcharging of the stamps. Mr. Basset Hull, the energetic Secretary of the Sydney Philatelic Club, and a few other members having taken umbrage at the prospects of the stamps being surcharged, a committee meeting was called by Mr. Hull at which a motion was passed appointing a deputation to ask Sir John Forrest to put his veto on it. The substance of the report of the deputation is as follows:—Mr. Hull said, "What we wish to ask is for you to place your veto upon any interference with the stamps until such time as you are prepared, under the Commonwealth, to issue a uniform stamp." Sir John Forrest replied:—"I am not sufficiently conversant with what is thought on the matter by others, but that is my opinion." His answer seems rather ambiguous. It seems as if he were referring to the five years' limit. Sir John having vacated the position, the deputation will have to begin de novo.

\* \* \*

At the deputation the Committee appointed by the Sydney Philatelic Club to wait on Sir John Forrest, the latter admitted that he knew nothing about the "Craze" for postage stamps, although Lady Forrest had collected for many years.

\* \* \*

Can anyone explain why West Australia has issued a new 2½d. stamp? We cannot.

\* \* \*

One of our readers has informed us that there is a likelihood of "On Service" stamps being revived, or special stamps issued for the use of the State Governments.

\* \* \*

It is stated that Queensland lost £123 on its "Patriotic" stamp venture.

\* \* \*

Owing to the issue of N.Z. locally printed 1d. Universal Postage Stamps, the first issue sent from London has advanced in price, and is now quoted 4d. instead of 2d. by Australian dealers.

Stray Notes on Sheets of Stamps.

WE reproduce the following very interesting notes by Mr. R. R. Thiele, on the above subject, from our American contemporary, the Adhesive. The collection of stamps in entire sheets is somewhat expensive, but we believe most collectors would find themselves well repaid by the addition of a few of such to their albums, say, by way of frontispiece. A considerable interest is attached to the quaint inscriptions often found on sheets printed 20, 30 or more years ago (or even in more recent times) apart from that attached to the varying shapes and arrangements.

An odd arrangement, one of the few cases of its kind, is that of the first issue of Brazil—the olho de boi, as they are affectionately termed by the Brazilian collectors; the name meaning "bull's eye," quite appropriately. The three values all come on the same sheet. There are ten horizontal rows of six in each sheet. The three upper rows consist of 30 reis stamps; then come four rows of 60 reis stamps; the lower three rows are made up of 90 reis stamps. There are thus on each sheet 18 30 reis stamps, 24 60 reis and 18 90 reis. The stamps on the sheet were divided by lines forming rectangles; from various differences in these lines it would appear that there must have been more than one plate for this issue; some specialists assume three plates.

\* \* \*

It has been said that there are as many varieties as stamps; I doubt that they are real type-varieties, as by all I can learn there was but one original die of each value. Presumably the methods of manufacture in Brazil were a little crude at that time and it may have been necessary to retouch each transfer somewhat, which would account for the variations.

\* \* \*

A striking example of British conservatism, which cannot conceive of any other way of doing a thing than the one to which it has been accustomed, is presented by the first issue of Chile. This issue was manufactured by Perkins, Bacon & Co., the celebrated London firm, which at that time printed the old British 1d. and 2d. stamps. Chile had decimal currency, which would have made sheets of 100 the natural thing. But the British stamps made by this firm were in sheets of 240, corresponding to sterling currency, and so these Chilean stamps were printed in the same style of sheets: 240, in 20 rows of 12. Except in the case of the 1c. this still gives round values for each sheet; the sheets would have these face values:

Table with 2 columns: denomination, value. 1c. sheet equals \$2.40, 5c. sheet equals 12.00, 10c. sheet equals 24.00, 20c. sheet equals 48.00.

\* \* \*

The stamps of all the later issues were made by the American Bank Note Co., of New York (except the present set, which, I believe, is made by the Waterlows of London) and come in sheets of 100. But the unpaid stamps are all of local manufacture and offer an arrangement of sheets which affords a veritable paradise for the specialist, nothing like these sheets being known in any other country. Perhaps the editor will permit me to describe a few of these issues, although diagrams of some of them have already been printed elsewhere, notably the American Journal of Philately and various European papers.

\* \* \*

The first set (Scott's Type U1 and U2) was produced by means of the ordinary handstamps then employed at Valparaiso for indicating the postage due. It was "printed" in sheets of 64, in 8 rows of 8, the values being arranged in this manner:

Table with 8 columns of stamp values: 2, 4, 6, 10, 10, 16, 20, 30.

I cannot understand why there should have been such a howling demand for 16c. stamps. Another "printing" was afterwards made in sheets of 30, in 5 rows of 6, arranged in this manner:

Table with 6 columns of stamp values: 2, 2, 10, 10, 40, 40.

\* \* \*

An enterprising Chilean postmaster (also a philatelist, which goes to explain a great deal in this matter) who was then in charge of the post office at Valparaiso, conceived that it would be an improvement to have an issue with more pre-

tensions to beauty; hence he obtained authority to have one lithographed by the printing house of H. C. Gillet, at Valparaiso. Of this type (Scott Type U3) there were three printings, all arranged differently. The first printing comprised all values, the highest one being expressed as 1 peso; the sheet consists of 100, 10x10, the values being arranged as follows:

Table with 10 columns of stamp values: 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 40, 40, 40, 40, 40, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 20, 20, 20, 20, 20, 20, 20, 20, 20, 20, 50, 50, 50, 60, 60, 60, 80, 80, 1 peso, 1 peso.

\* \* \*

The next printing contained more of the low values, for which no doubt there was more demand (for postal uses and for collectors), and the highest value is expressed as 100 centavos; these sheets also contain 100 and are arranged in the following manner:

Table with 10 columns of stamp values: 1, 2, 2, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 20, 20, 20, 20, 20, 20, 20, 20, 20, 20, 50, 60, 80, 100.

\* \* \*

Sometime in 1897 still a third printing was made which consisted entirely of the low values. The sheet also consists of 100 and is arranged in this manner:

Table with 10 columns of stamp values: 1, 2, 2, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 20, 20, 20, 20, 20, 20, 20, 20, 20, 20.

\* \* \*

The next issue was for all Chilean offices and made by the Post Office Department itself, the others being more of a local nature, not a great deal more official than those employed at some Mexican offices a while ago. This last issue (Scott's Type U4) was in sheets of 100, but there was only one value on each plate.

\* \* \*

Philately knows no geographical bounds, hence I will exercise my privilege and stray away to the other side of the world from Chile. The next note before me concerns the Austrian newspaper stamps, the so-called Mercuries of 1851. At the time of their issue Austrian currency was based on the gulden (or florin) Conventionsmünze (hence the abbreviation C. M. on the revenue stamps) divided into 60 kreuzer, but these newspaper stamps were printed in sheets of 100, 10x10. The blue stamps were good for the carriage of one paper and were sold to the publishers at the rate of 1 gulden per sheet, so that the value of 1kr. usually given for this stamp is not strictly correct, the exact value being 3-5kr. The yellow stamps were good for the postage on 10 papers and were sold to the publishers at 10 gulden per sheet, so that the value of each stamp was 6kr. The rose stamps were good for 50 papers and were sold to the publishers at 50 gulden per sheet, so that the value of each stamp was 30kr.

\* \* \*

On October 9, 1852, the rose stamp lost its 30kr. value and was thereafter sold at the same rate as the blue stamps, though presumably but few were issued at this rate. On March 21, 1856, the yellow stamps also lost their 6kr. value and were thereafter likewise sold at the rate of the blue stamps. But the publishers again demanded a high value stamp and the scarlet stamp was therefore issued in 1856 to represent the rate on 10 papers; it was finally retired on October 14, 1858. Its value of 10kr., as given by Scott's Catalogue, is incorrect; it represents 10 papers, to be sure, but only 6 kreuzer in money. I said above that all these stamps came in sheets of 100; they were issued in this way, but they were printed in sheets of 400, in 4 panes of 100 each.

The 1d. green, of the 1882-97 issue of New Zealand has been seen on the new paper water-marked with a double lined N.Z. and star.

\* \* \*

The 10 paras on 20 paras provisional lately issued in Servia may be found in two perforations, i.e., 11x11½ and 13½.

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  - 4.—Discount is conditional on purchase exceeding 1/- and will be forfeited if selection is kept over the five days allowed.
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206.	Nett.	V.R.I's.
207.	50%.	Mexico.
208.	25%.	Miscellaneous
211.	"	Russia.
212.	"	Norway.
213.	"	Sweden.
214.	"	Finland.
216.	"	Roumania.
217.	"	Old Europeans.
218.	"	Venezuela.
219.	"	Egypt.
220.	"	Hayti.
225.	"	Bosnia, Bulgaria and Montenegro.
228.	"	Miscellaneous Colonials.
229.	"	Thurn and Taxis.
230.	"	Saxony.
231.	"	Spain (early issues).
232.	"	Spain (War Tax, Official, &c.)
233.	"	Spain (Carlist Stamps).
235.	"	Philippines.
237.	Nett.	Hawaiian Islands.
BOOKLETS.		
501.	Nett.	Fiji and Cook Islands.
504.	"	Unused African Colonials.
505.	"	African Colonials.
506.	"	Unused Colonials.
508.	25%.	Liberia.
509.	"	Denmark.
510.	"	Luxemburg.
511.	"	Austria.
512.	"	Austrian Italy.
513.	"	Timor.
514.	"	Macao.
515.	"	Peru.
516.	"	Japan.
517.	"	Finland and Poland.
518.	"	Queensland.
519.	"	Tasmania.
522.	"	Australian (common).
523.	Nett.	Unused English.
524.	25%.	Gambia, Gold Coast, Lagos, &c.
525.	"	French Colonies.
527.	"	Used English.
529.	"	Sarawak.
531.	Nett.	Unused Colonials.
532.	25%.	Ceylon.
BOOKS.		
111.	10%.	Unused English (chiefly 1d. reds, in strips)
112.	"	New South Wales. [and blocks].
113.	Nett.	V.R.I. Errors and Varieties.
114.	"	V.R.I. Strips and Blocks.
115.	10%.	Orange Free State.
116.	"	Transvaal.
LARGE BOOKS.		
A1.	20%.	Used English.
A2.	25%.	Used English.
A3.	10%.	Used English.
D.	25%.	Cut Envelopes.
Go6.	"	English with Foreign Postmarks.
H.	10%.	Railway Letter Fee Stamps.

We have for sale a few fine used copies of the Russian error—3 Kopecs with background of "V's," the groundwork of the 5 kopecs. These we are offering at 1/6 each.

This week we are able to offer the following choice stamps:—

	PRICE.
Barbados, mint pair 6d. orange-vermilion, imperf., very fine ... ..	24/-
British Columbia, 50c. on 3d. violet, fine mint pair... ..	30/-
Natal, 6d. rose, wmk. CC., superb mint block of 4, imperf.... ..	40/-
South Australia, 3d. on 4d. blue, superb mint, block of four ... ..	40/-
Turks Islands, 1/-, dull blue, first issue used, nice copy ... ..	15/-
Zululand, 5/- on British, fine used copy	45/-
Ceylon, 1r. 12c. lilac rose, used... ..	2/-
Tasmania, 1d. blue, first issue, used ... ..	45/-
" 4d. orange, first issue, used, superb specimen ... ..	15/-
Antigua; mint pair 1d. lake, Crown CC. perf. 12½; with inverted wmk. ... ..	15/-
Barbados; 5/- dull rose, used ... ..	37/6
" ditto, not so fine ... ..	27/6
British Honduras; 1882 issue, 6d. yellow, used, Crown CA. 14 ... ..	40/-
Finland; 1 mark, used, 1867-70 issue one corner torn, S.G., No. 49 ... ..	7/6
Gambia; 6d. blue, used, 1880 issue, wmk. Crown C.C., perf. 14. ... ..	7/6
Griqualand; 5/- orange, used, S.G. No. 70, very rare ... ..	12/-
Griqualand; 5/- orange, used, S.G. No. 116	2/6
Mauritius; 5/- violet used ... ..	5/-
New South Wales; 2d. Sidney View used, fair copy ... ..	15/-
" 5/- violet used S.G. No. 142 ... ..	3/6
" 5/- map, used, perf. 10 ... ..	12/6
" 5/- coin "O.S." used, perf. 12½ ... ..	6/6
Queensland; 2/6 vermil. used, S.G. No. 114	4/-
St. Vincent; 5/- wmk. *, has "REVENUE" printed across it otherwise would be worth £15 ... ..	30/-
Victoria; 1d. green, S.G. No. 46, fine pair, used ... ..	17/6
" 5/- red and blue, fine used copy	6/-
Wurtemberg; 5 marks pale blue, unused...	7/-

Any of the above stamps can be sent on approval if required, but immediate application is necessary, as in most instances we have no duplicates of the lots offered.

### Wholesale Lots for Sale.

We can offer this week the following cheap wholesale lots, viz:—

Ceylon, 5 cents lilac. CA., 4,280... ..	price	8/-
" ditto 2,788... ..	price	5/-
" 5 cents on 8 cents, Gibbons' No. 146, 600 ... ..	price	10/6
British Guiana, 2c. lilac and orange, 4097	price	18/-
Gold Coast, 1d. carmine, 1884 issue, 683	price	10/6
Straits Settlements, 2 cents C.A., Gibbons' No. 48, 1,073 ... ..	price	10/-
Transvaal, 2d. bistre, Gibbons' type 20, 794 ... ..	price	21/-
Canada Map Stamps, a fine lot of 1549 on pieces of original ... ..	price	45/-
Great Britain, 1d. red, plate numbers unexamined ... ..	1,000 for	1/6
— A fine lot of 10,333. 1d. red and 2d. blue, imperf. including fine strips and blocks ... ..		£7.

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# Ewen's Weekly Stamp News.

With which is incorporated EWEN'S WEEKLY CIRCULAR. (Established October, 1897.)

A JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

THE ONLY WEEKLY STAMP PAPER PUBLISHED IN EUROPE.

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[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

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## The Week's News.

Philatelists will be pleased to hear that several of the Indian Native States Post Offices are to be closed. The *Philatelic Journal of India* announces that the Imperial Post Office will take over the postal administration of Rampur Bussahir from the 1st April, which means that Bussahir stamps will cease to be available for postage after the end of this month. It is probable that the weird stamps of this State will still be issued, but as they will have no franking power, their interest as far as philately is concerned, will be nil. The postal system of the State of Dhar is also to cease on the 31st March. The Jhallawar post is said to have ceased on the 31st October, last year.

The U.S.A. Buffalo series of picture stamps will be placed on sale to the public on May 1st, the date of the opening of the exposition.

An experiment of a rather novel nature is to be tried at some of the larger Indian post-offices. During the season, a small stock of British penny postage stamps will be on hand for sale to the public at the Presidency post-offices at Calcutta, Bombay and Madras, the Rangoon post-office, and the Simla post-office. We cull the following details of the scheme from the *Philatelic Journal of India*, viz.:—"It is believed that certain classes of the European community will find it a convenience to be able to purchase British postage stamps from post-offices in this country, for the purpose of prepaying replies from the United Kingdom, and these stamps will also be found useful by the purchasers of British Postal Orders, for the purpose of making up broken amounts. These penny postage stamps will be sold for 1 anna each; and should the results of the experiment show that there is a real demand for them in the country, measures will be taken to procure regular supplies for sale at all the important offices in India."

Judging from a paragraph that recently appeared in a newspaper, the Swiss jubilee issue will not rise in the estimation of stamp collectors. It is stated that the post-office authorities will not receive or exchange any of this now obsolete issue, which, to all intents and purposes, means that the stamps are demonitized.

We give the following list of quantities issued of surcharged Greek stamps, on the authority of the *Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal*:—

20l. on 25l. blue.	1889 ...	865,000
30l. on 40l. violet.	1880 ...	160,000
40l. on 2l. brown.	1882 ...	170,000
50l. on 40l. flesh.	1876 ...	160,000
1dr. on 40l. violet.	1889 ...	120,000
2dr. on 40l. violet.	1891 ...	100,000
3dr. on 10l. orange.	1880 ...	80,000
5dr. on 40l. violet.	...	70,000
Surcharged A.M.		
25l. on 40l. violet.	1888 ...	40,000
50l. on 25l. blue.	1888 ...	12,000
1dr. on 40l. red-brown.	1872 ...	10,000
2dr. on 5l. green.	1880 ...	14,000

We extract the following from the *Daily Chronicle* of Monday's date:—Councillor C. Townley, of Islington, having written to Mr. Henniker-Heaton, M.P., suggesting an international postage stamp, Mr. Henniker-Heaton has replied pointing out that England would lose by the change. He says:—"Under the Postal Union each country keeps all its own postage receipts. Under this arrangement England enormously benefits. Englishmen write five letters abroad and only receive four. The British Government receive postage on five letters, and only delivers four. The foreigner receives postage on four letters and delivers five."

## New Issues.

The Editor will be much obliged for early news of New Issues or intended New Issues or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors. Full acknowledgment given. If possible, specimens should be sent in order that illustrations may be prepared.

**CEYLON.**—We are informed that the 1 rupee 12 cents stamp may be found on distinct *bleuté* paper.—A used specimen of the 15 cents, olive, with the "Five Cents" overprint, has been found doubly surcharged.

**MONACO.**—M. Jacques Wendling sends us specimens of the 5 and 10 cents values in new colours. The 5c. now appears in a yellow-green tint and the 10c. in a bright carmine. The design is not altered in any way and the perforation, gauging 14 by 13½, is the same as the other stamps.

**NATAL.**—Mr. J. Coltman sends us a specimen of the new penny letter card which was issued on the 23rd of February. The stamp is similar in design and colour to the adhesive of that value. The Royal Arms and "LETTER CARD—NATAL" also appear in carmine.

**ORANGE RIVER COLONY.**—Mr. Wm. Lane Joynt sends for inspection another variety in the 1d. value of the 1st V.R.I. printing. This shows the letters V.R. close together with a raised stop after the R. viz:—"V.R. I." This variety is caused by the imperfect correction of a former error i.e. the stamp with letter "I" missing. The "I" is included, but the corrector omitted to alter the spacing between the letters V.R. and put a new stop after the R.

**PERU.**—The design of the 1c. commemorative listed in our issue for March 9th, is stated to be somewhat similar to the 22 cents value.

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA.**—In addition to the 2/6, 5/., 10/., £1 and £5 values listed in Gibbon's catalogue, perf. 11½, we have just been shown the £2 venetian red, 50/- dull pink, £3 sage green, and £4 lemon all with this perforation. We have also seen "SPECIMEN" copies of the £10, £15, and £20 stamp, perf. 11½, but have not yet met with ordinary copies of these values with this perforation.

## Jottings.

The surcharge on the current stamps of Salvador, which has up to the present rejoiced in the name of a sunburst, and has been very indistinctly stamped, is now printed more clearly and can be deciphered fairly easily. It consists of an anchor surrounded by rays. Against the anchor is a shield bearing the letters "D.G.C." which a contemporary translates as meaning "Deo Gratia Constitutione"—"God bless the constitution."

A specimen of the ¼ anna "Service" stamp of India has been found with the surcharge inverted.

In the recently issued shilling grey Bermuda stamps surcharged "ONE FARTHING" a variety showing defected "G" occurs twice on each sheet.

During the past twelve months something like 248½ millions of postcards and envelopes were used in India, and the only charge made by the Post Office for these was the bare face value of the stamps impressed on them. Taking the cost at ¼d. per dozen, which is what our own Post Office charges for its cards, we find that the Indian Post Office gave away more than £43,200 of material to its customers. This is a worthy example that might well be commended to the attention of our own postal authorities.

Remarking on the enormous number of ¼ anna stamps sold in India last year the *Philatelic Journal of India* says:—"The Native of India has taken to these low value stamps greedily, as he gets more of them for his money and finds them useful along the flaps of his envelopes where an ordinary person would use seals or wafers. The idea of making the Government supply free wafers is, to say the least of it, ingenious."

## Our Postcard Column.

WILL readers hearing of any interesting item of News, kindly jot it down on a postcard and address to the Editor, "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News," Norwood, London. For every contribution we publish, we will send the author an interesting and newly issued stamp. (N.B.—Postcards preferred.)

Mr. W. H. Maunder writes:—

"I enclose for inspection a specimen of the 'Opened under Martial Law' label, in which you will notice the Royal Arms between 'V.R.' are inverted. Have you ever seen it like this before?"

"K" sends an enquiry:—

"Can you tell me what is the meaning of the surcharge 'S.A.R.' on the penny stamp of Natal? I presume it is for 'South African Railways,' as if it were affixed by the Boers, to denote occupation, it would surely be 'Z.A.R.'"

Mr. W. Darling tells how to soak off ½d. and other green coloured stamps without causing the colour to "run" or change:—

"Take a piece of clean white blotting paper and wet it with clean cold water, shake the surplus water off and then fold several times. Place the stamp on the blotting paper face side upwards with a light weight on top to keep it evenly pressed. After a few minutes the stamp will leave the paper it is stuck on to quite easily and if dried at once between sheets of clean white blotting paper no alteration in the colour of the stamp will take place."

Mr. H. W. Cooper contributes the following:—

"I received by the last South African Mail a letter from Naauwpoort franked with five different halfpenny stamps, viz:—current ½d. British, ½d. vermilion, ½d. V.R.I. Transvaal, ½d. V.R.I. Orange Free State and ½d. Orange River Colony."

Mr. J. Cohen writes:—

"I have in my possession a pair of ½d. Transvaal stamps surcharged "V.R.I." in very dark blue letters. Do you know anything of this or can you give me any information?"

Mr. A. Preston Pearce sends the following note regarding Mr. Gardner's query in our last issue:—

"Unless Mr. Gardner's Ceylon Telegraph Stamps is on the entire envelope, unfranked by any other means, his copy is like all other used Cingalese Telegraphs. Indian and Ceylon Telegraph stamps are placed on a certain portion of the form which is then cut in two across the middle of the labels, the part bearing the upper halves being returned to the sender duly post-marked."

Mr. R. L. Smith writes:—

"I should be obliged if any of your readers could inform me through the medium of your post-card column the meaning of the device of three joined legs on the stamps of Naples. You will notice that two of the feet point in a different direction from the third, while in the arms of the Isle of man (in which a somewhat similar device appears) the feet all point in the same direction."

## Early Dates.

Mr. C. F. Dendy Marshall sends five new records for early dates of the 1d. reds, viz:—

Plate 83	Glasgow	30.5.64
" 188	London, S.E.	4.3.76
" 192	Oxford	23.5.76
" 199	London, W.C.	24.4.77
" 210	Brighton	6.2.78

We shall re-publish our list of record early dates for 1d. reds in our Easter number. Readers who can beat any of the dates given in our previous list should send on the stamps for inspection so as to reach us not later than the first post on Wednesday morning next.

## Postmark Notes.

By "DUPLEX."

MR. E. HEGINBOTTOM has sent for inspection a number of interesting postmarks, including a type of Newspaper Branch mark, which is altogether new to me. This is circular in shape and consists of a number of straight parallel lines. In a rectangle in the centre the letters "N.P.B." in bold, neat characters appear, and underneath in a square is the figure "1." This mark is very clearly and evenly stamped—very different to the majority of "N.P.B." cancellations.

\* \* \*

The same correspondent sends a 1d. red obliterated with a mark of the suburban type as illustrated here. It is flat oval in shape and consists of nine parallel thick lines. In the centre of the circle is "11B," the office number of Poplar, E. Have any readers noticed other numbers in this type.



My correspondent also forwards several types of London obliterations containing the initials "C," "T," and "F," respectively. The letter "C" is probably the office initial for Cannon Street, but what T and F are for I am unable to state.

\* \* \*

I have also received a Lombard Street mark with the number 6 in roman figures, viz.: "VI." under the letter "L.S."

\* \* \*

Regarding the "star" postmark described in my notes a fortnight ago, Mr. Heginbottom now sends me a copy in which it is very clear that the letters are "P.O.R." and "S.C."

\* \* \*

Mr. J. H. Taylor sends me a Board of Education official envelope in which the word "HER" in the inscription "On Her Majesty's Service" is barred out and "HIS" substituted. Most of the departmental official envelopes may now be found with this "provisional" alteration.

\* \* \*

Mr. W. H. Clarke writes:—"As one who takes a great interest in entire collecting I have frequently been puzzled as to the meaning of small oval marks containing numbers struck on the backs of envelopes or alongside the postmark. After making several enquiries of advanced collectors and failing to elicit any practical information I wrote to the Postmaster of Liverpool asking if he could explain the meaning of these marks and enclose a copy of his reply with this."

The Postmaster's reply to Mr. Clarke was couched in the following terms:—"I beg to inform you that the marking '42' on the enclosed portion of a letter cover was made for an official purpose, viz.:—that of identifying an officer into whose hands the letter would fall for treatment in London and has no significance so far as the public is concerned."

The little oval marks referred to above may also be found on newspapers, as well as letters, coming from abroad. Sometimes the marks are stamped in red and sometimes in black.

Mr. F. C. Scarr sends two Indian stamps obliterated with a small circular mark in which the following appears in three lines, i.e., "C. 8. IN—SEF. No. 4—JU 7." Can any reader explain the meaning of this?

Under the heading "Items from the Hub" the following amusing paragraph appeared in a recent number of the *Weekly Philatelic Era*:—

"The Director of Posts in Paraguay appears to be a public spirited gentleman. I am informed that a few months ago he noticed a shortage in the five and ten cent denominations, and at once saw how inconvenient it would be for the public to be without these two values, therefore he ordered 20,000 telegraph stamps to be surcharged 5 for postage, and a similar number to be surcharged 10. A new issue of a new design was expected daily, so he thought that number would be sufficient. Although the stamps were ready he forgot to inform the public of the fact, and they were only on sale between five and seven o'clock one evening, when about 1,000 of each value were sold. However, rather than have the department bothered with the remainder, I understand the Director appropriated the lot."

EVERY STAMP COLLECTOR  
SHOULD SUBSCRIBE TO  
EWEN'S WEEKLY STAMP NEWS.

## A REFERENCE LIST OF THE Embossed Envelope Stamps OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

By OSWALD MARSH.

ONE SHILLING.—As with the 6d. value, the first dies were prepared for making adhesive stamps. Dies 1 and 2 were actually used for this purpose. Die 3 was not brought into use until it had been fitted with date plugs. "Specimen" copies may be found dated 7.12.55. Very few of the shilling dies show any marked signs of wear, but the die numbers are usually very distinct, and the dies can therefore be easily distinguished from one another, without the assistance of other distinctive marks.

Earliest and latest dates I have met with are as follows:—

Die	Used for Adhesive Stamps.	Earliest.	Latest.
1.			
2.			
3.		8.11.64	1. 2.72.
4.		6. 2.72	24.10.72.
5.		27.11.69	14. 3.74.
6.		11. 5.75	31. 5.78.
7.			
8.		15.11.81	1.12.81.
9.		15.11.81	24. 1.82.
10.		15. 3.82	29.10.83.
11.		13. 6.82	7. 2.84.
12.		30. 5.84	28. 2.85.
13.		7. 3.85	3. 4.90.
14.		24. 3.85	18.10.93.

I have purposely omitted saying anything about the 10d. dies, as these were described in *E.W.S.N.*, No. 66, under the heading, "Notes on Envelope Stamps."

\* \* \*

I have obtained, since last writing, copies of 6d. dies 43 and 45, in violet, and ½d. die 54, in vermilion; also the ½d. Government Envelope, size O, with stamp in blue-green (no die number).

\* \* \*

I have also received the following record dates of the 1d. and 6d. values:—

1d. die 158, dated	6.10.71	6d. die 14	20. 7.89
6d. " 8	1. 8.88	6d. " 22	27 11.91
6d. " 10	20. 4.88	6d. " 26	22. 8.93
6d. " 13	11. 1.89		

## Notes on the Stamps of Hayti.

A LETTER addressed to M. Victor Flandrin, the well-known French philatelic writer, gives some interesting facts about the stamps of Hayti. It was not until 1881 that the little West Indian Republic began to issue stamps. Before that time letters for the interior of the island were prepaid in cash, and letters going out of the country were taken to the various foreign consuls by whom they were forwarded.

The writer of the letter to M. Flandrin is one of the original members of a philatelic society called into being by the first issue of stamps in Hayti in 1881. An uncle of the writer was a member of the Haytian senate, and from his relative he learned that the stamps under consideration by the republic would consist of an allegorical representation of the arms of Hayti. With his fellow philatelists he earnestly desired that the stamps should have a series of effigies or portraits, and he promptly set about considering the best means of protesting against the contemplated designs. Finally a deputation of philatelists of Hayti waited upon the president, General Solomon, who listened to their views with close attention. The most the president would do was to abandon the arms and agree to a head of Liberty instead.

Thus it happened that the first stamps of Hayti bore the effigy of Liberty. They were engraved and printed by T. Richard, of Paris, in sheets of 300 stamps, composed of six panes of 50 stamps each. The first issue was of 1,025,000 stamps of the six values, but of these only 25,000 of the 20c. value were printed.

The most curious part of this interesting letter is its concluding paragraph, in which he says: "Now you will undoubtedly want to know why General Solomon so completely changed his views that he allowed his own portrait to appear on the stamps of 1887. The reason is rather a curious one. When our stamps were put in circulation, someone stated that the head of Liberty resembled Madame Solomon. This statement spread, and one journal said, 'the president would not have his portrait on the stamps, but he put his wife's on instead. That was not what was asked for!' The president was finally bound to admit that the likeness, by a singular coincidence, was very marked, and he agreed to the portrayal of his own features on the issue of 1887."

(From *Filatelic Facts and Fallacies*.)

## Extracts from the Foreign Press.

No important mistakes occurred in the extracts given last week but the following less important have been noted by readers.

Par.	Line.	
I.	1.	Comma omitted after <i>industriel</i> .
I.	2.	" " " " M.B.—.
II.	3.	Capital V unnecessary.
II.	2.	Insert commas before <i>depuis</i> and after <i>quinzaine</i> .

The following were the best lists of errors sent in by readers.

Foreign Readers:—

Mr. G. Vermèeren (1½ marks).  
Baron A. de Reuterskiöld (2 marks).  
Mr. Ch. Benaert (1 mark).  
Mr. Theodor Haas (1½ marks).

British Readers:—

Mr. A. Cooper (2 marks).

The gaining of a prize this week is an empty honour, as the few "mistakes" we have been able to get together are extremely trivial. We are, however, giving an extra number of extracts this week to make up for last week's deficiency, and owing to pressure of work, there has only been time to roughly glance through the proofs before sending *E.W.S.N.* to press. Consequently there may be a fair number of mistakes awaiting discovery by diligent competitors.

Baron A. de Reuterskiöld writes:—"I hardly think these comma errors are interesting, except when they are important enough to alter the meaning of a sentence." With this we must certainly agree, as there is generally considerable diversity of opinion as to many of the omissions sent in by competitors. This week we have no choice but to pillory them, but if the list of really important errors should be large, we may elect to omit mentioning the "commas omitted."

We have to thank Mr. C. Benaert for a criticism of one or two of our decisions last week. He writes that *un de nos confrères et ami* is quite correct. Our correspondent also states that *informe qu'un* is only Belgian French; the verb *informer* used alone signifies the act of "holding an inquest on" or better "a legal inquiry against somebody." In this case it ought to be "donner information" or "fait savoir" (Par. I., line I).

This week's paragraphs are given below, and for the benefit of readers who have not seen our previous offers, we may mention that the Editor of *E.W.S.N.* every week awards several interesting new issues to the British and Foreign readers who respectively send in the best list of mistakes occurring in the extracts, it being necessary that such lists should be delivered not later than Wednesdays.

Mr. W. Cross sends the following paragraph culled from the January issue of *La Revista De La Sociedad Filatélica Argentina*, which gives interesting information about the Uruguayan dupli-surcharged provisional of 5 centesimos value issued in December last.

*Dirección General de Correos.—Aviso.*—Siendo muy limitada la existencia actual de sellos postales de cinco centésimos, la Dirección General, con autorización superior, ha dispuesto poner en circulación desde el 1.º de diciembre próximo, una emisión provisoria de dicho valor, revalidando al efecto los sellos sobrantes de diez centésimos, que con la inscripción "Provisorio 1897," impresa en tinta carmin, se retiraron de la circulación el 21 de septiembre de 1897.

La emisión provisoria á que se refiere este aviso, llevará textado el año 1897, é impresa en tinta negra en la parte superior "1900" y "cinco centésimos" en el centro.

Hasta ulterior resolución los sellos referidos pueden emplearse indistintamente en el franqueo de la correspondencia con los que están actualmente en uso.—Montevideo, noviembre 28 de 1900.—*La Dirección.*

Exactement 3000 timbres de 1 fr. du bureau française de Shanghai ont été transformés en timbres de 25 centimes par la surcharge que nous avons signalée en décembre.

Cette opération a été autorisée le 25 octobre 1900 par le Consul de France M. Bezaure, sur la proposition de M. Dopfela, receveur des postes françaises à Shanghai.

Le entrate postali e telegrafiche del febbraio superano di L. 311.614,52 quelle del febbraio del 1900.

I prodotti del 1º luglio a tutto febbraio superano di L. 2.875.648,44 quelli dello stesso periodo dell'esercizio anteriore.

E una prova non dubbia e una brillante affermazione di questo sport geniale della Cartolina Illustrata.

(Il Francobollo e la Cartoline.)

*Les timbres-taxe français de 1859 à 1863.*—Ce fut vers l'année 1859 que l'on commença à faire usage en France des timbres-taxe. Tout d'abord de cette époque jusqu'en 1863, on ne se servit que du timbre de 10 centimes. Deux types différents furent mis en circulation: l'un lithographié et l'autre typographié.

Ces timbres sont du même modèle. Les différences qui existent entre l'un et l'autre sont peu sensibles. Nous pouvons dire qu'il faut un œil très exercé, pour distinguer le lithographié du typographié et encore faut-il les examiner avec la plus minutieuse attention.

Essayons cependant de signaler les principales différences que nous avons remarquées:

D'abord au verso du timbre typographié, on perçoit un foulage qui n'existe pas sur le verso du lithographié. Ce dernier étant imprimé sur pierre, par là même son verso est absolument uni; tandis que la pression des caractères d'imprimerie produit sur le verso du premier une sorte de relief.

Sont-ce là les seules différences? Dans l'impression de ces deux vignettes nous trouvons les suivantes:

Sur le timbre lithographié, les caractères: 10 CENTIMES à percevoir sont plus légers; le mot: CENTIMES est en lettres sensiblement moins hautes, de plus l'accent grave de l'a est couché, enfin la petite barre horizontale supérieure de la boucle du p de percevoir dépasse très peu le jambage vertical de cette lettre.

Sur le timbre typographié au contraire, ces mêmes caractères sont plus gras et généralement moins nets, les lettres un peu plus hautes, l'accent de l'a est plus vertical en sorte que la pointe intérieure traverserait l'a, si on la prolongeait, enfin la petite barre supérieure du p dépasse davantage vers la gauche le jambage vertical.

Puis les lettres et les ornements blancs qui se détachent sur le fond noir du cadre sont plus nets sur le lithographié que sur le typographié. De plus les traits des flèches, qui se trouvent aux quatre angles du cadre, sont plus longs dans le lithographié.

Voici les principales différences.

Je crois qu'à l'aide de ces remarques, qu'il sera facile maintenant de distinguer le type lithographié du type typographié.

—(Le Philatliste International).

\* \* \*

*Postämter der Insel Kreta.*—Seit 1. März 1900 besitzt die Insel Kreta 25 Postämter; daneben giebt es österreichische und französische in Canea, Candia und Retimo, und ein italienisches in Canea.

Jetzt, ein Jahr später, dürften noch weitere Anstalten der Landespost hinzugekommen sein, denn im Punktenstempel von uns vorliegenden postalisch gebrauchten Marken treffen wir höhere Zahlen als 25 an. Interessant wäre es für manchen Sammler jedenfalls, wenn uns ein mit den kretischen Postverhältnissen vertrauter Herr Anzahl, Namen und Nummerierung sämtlicher Postanstalten mitteilen und uns stets darin auf dem Laufenden halten wollte.

## Stamps at Auction.

The following prices were realized last week at Stamp Auctions:—

Friday, March 15th, Messrs. Ventom, Bull & Cooper.

Bahamas, 1883, 4d. on 6d. violet, unused	24/-
Br. Guiana, 1888-89, \$2, \$4 and \$5, mint	34/-
Grenada, L. star, 6d. vermilion, unused	56/-
St. Lucia, 1885, 1/- red-brown, mint	70/-
St. Vincent, 4d. on 1/- vermilion, fine	£8
Turks, 2½d. on 1/- blue, type 13, mint	£10/10
" 2½d. on 1/- lilac, type 11, mint	£9
Fiji, Times Express, 1d. black on rose on quadrillé paper, unused	42/-
Fiji, 2d. in red on 6c. green, with Gothic V.R., unused	70/-
Sydney View, 1d. plate II., superb	£4
N.S.W., 5d. green, imperf., v.f.	56/-

Friday, March 22nd, Mr. W. Hadlow.

Peru, medio peso, rose, repaired	40/-
Levant, 40 paras on ½d. Great Britain inverted surcharge	30/-
Canada, 6d. purple, perf. with perfs., trimmed at top	£3
Sweden, "Tretio" error unused	£8
Spain, Madrid, 3 cuartos, unused	£10/5
Mafeking Besieged, set of 19	£17/10 and £16

Monday, March 25th, Messrs. John Edwards & Co.

Great Britain, O.W. Official, ½d. mint	21/-
" " ditto 1d. mint	21/-
" " 2d. blue. S.G. 14, "specimen"	21/-
" " 1d. red, pl. 140, horizontal pair imperf	42/-
Tuscany, 1853, 9 crazie lilac on white, thinned	35/-

## New Zealand—Unpaid Letter Stamps.

In examining a number of sheets of various values, we note several peculiarities that may interest readers. The main portion of the stamps—that printed in green—is evidently lithographed, four impressions from a transfer of thirty types being made on the machining stone. A number of these types are quite easily distinguishable.

Transfer I. in which each type has fourteen little dots or circles in the ornamentation round the figure of value in the centre, also shows the following distinguishing marks of individual types:—

- Type 4. Triangle in N.W. corner is badly drawn.
- Type 9 (3rd in 2nd row). Left outline defective at top.
- Types 25 to 30. Line over "ED" of "Postage Due" sometimes blurred.
- Types 12 and 16. "O" of "Postage" sometimes defective at bottom.
- Type 3. Line broken under "E" of "Postage."

Transfer II. was made from an entirely redrawn design, the main differences common to all the types composing it being as follows:—There are 13 instead of 14 circles round the value in the centre, 22 instead of 24 dots over "Postage Due," and 15 instead of 17 dots over "N.Z." The inscription, "Postage Due," is 13 instead of 14mm. long. "N.Z." is smaller. These alterations are all consequent on the reduction in the size of each stamp from 18½ × 22mm. to 17½ × 22mm. This reduction does not affect the size of the sheet, as a larger space is left between each stamp, thus rendering regular perforation easier. The chief distinguishing marks of individual types on Transfer II. are as given below:

- Types 12 and 25. Top outline broken towards right hand end.
- Types 17, 23 and 26. Ornamentation sometimes defective to left of figure of value.
- Type 29. Lower side of S.E. triangle defective.
- Type 12. Centre circle broken above S.E. triangle.

## Who do you Collect for?

We take the following extract from the *Singapore Free Press*:—

If accounts of the sales of collections of postage stamps are to be credited, they have without doubt a very distinct monetary value, equally, comparatively speaking, with old China, old coins, and other ancient dilapidated gear. Neither are the collectors of such treasures ashamed of their hobby, though to be sure, there is no reason why they should be. Many interesting matters of history and art have been discovered and published by the aid of these collections, and as they always represent a certain recognised value, even the strictly business and money-making man can hardly afford to sneer at them. But although stamp collections also have their pecuniary value in the market, and people of mature age collect stamps and take great interest in their possessions, as a rule they seem somewhat ashamed of their hobby, and afraid of being jeered at. When they ask you for used stamps which they see lying about, it is not for themselves that they want them, but for "the kids," "they are great on stamps just now, and will be awfully pleased with those Borneo's. I don't think they have any specimens from that district," (knowing very well that he hasn't any). Or, "My young brother is very keen on getting new stamps, you know, and other friends of mine are always bothering me for them, so I just pick'em up when they come my way." Curious, isn't it? There must be something behind this plea of collecting stamps for other people, some mysterious, inenarrable and infandous scheme, perchance connected with Nihilists, Boxers, or Triads, and defaced stamps will some day be discovered to be the secret means of communication between the members. We know one man who must be nearer old than middle-age, a hoary old specimen of an officer in the mercantile marine, whose very language would deface an unused stamp. "He collects them for his son," but he treasures that stamp-album in his own cabin, and, if he has a son, we should be inclined to doubt if the youngster would be permitted to touch that sacred book.

We ourselves have a liking for fairy-tales, Hans Andersen and Grimm have a fascination for us that Kipling's sordid and restricted imagination and Correlli's blood-and-thunder melo-drama have not. But we don't buy fairy-tales for our own enjoyment, we get them for the kids, and sometimes read them just to kill time, so to speak. Our maturer intellect is supplied with more advanced literature from the great publisher's Colonial issues (to be read in India and the Colonies only).

## Notes from America.

The entire supply of Hawaiian postal cards, as well as the few remaining envelopes, have met with the same fate as the remainders of the stamps of these islands. They were burnt in the same way in the furnace of the Department a few days ago.

About once a week there is something to be destroyed in this manner and to the officials in charge of the work it is an ordinary occurrence. Generally the condemned lots consist of stamps returned by post offices; frequently they are sheets which have been stuck together in a damp vault or moist climate.

Envelopes are not, as a rule, destroyed in this way. There is a large machine made for the purpose of cutting off the corners of the envelope through the middle of the stamp, after which they are sold as waste paper.

\* \* \*

It is now definitely stated that the Pan-American stamps will be issued to postmasters on April 26th, so as to be on hand in time for the opening of the exposition May 1st. No doubt they will in most cases be sold as soon as received, even if it be a few days ahead of the date fixed.

The die of the 5c. stamp, showing the Niagara Falls bridge, has just been approved by the Department. It is said to be a beautiful stamp in every way. This makes the third die of the series to be accepted, namely the 1c., 2c. and 5c. The others are to follow in short order.

(Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News.)

\* \* \*

The Bureau of Engraving and Printing is pushing work on the Pan-American series of stamps, the one cent value having been put upon the press last week. The plates are No. 1112 for the border, and No. 1113 for the vignette. The printing is proceeding at a satisfactory pace and the quality is first-class. The second set of plates of the two cents value have also been put upon the presses, No. 1092 for the border, and No. 1093 for the vignette. It is ultimately expected to have eight plates of each of these denominations in use. The die proof of the five cents value was approved by the Post Office Department last week and the first plate is about ready for working, in fact, it will doubtless be on the press before this is in print. The four, eight and ten cents values will have been submitted for the approval of the Post Office Department within a week, and work will be begun on the entire series within two weeks. The Department is greatly delighted with the series and the mechanical excellence, achieved by the Bureau, and well they may be. The new series cannot fail of quickening the blood of many an old time philatelist whose enthusiasm has waned, with the net result of adding many hundreds to the ranks of active collectors. So mote it be.

\* \* \*

Talk of a special stamp for registration purposes finds no favour with the Post Office Department, its need being denied emphatically. The proposition to provide such a stamp and then make it possible to drop registered letters in the mail box, as is done with unregistered matter, would render void one of the principal safe-guards about such registered mail. There will be no registration stamp.

(The Metropolitan Philatelist.)

\* \* \*

There is already an effort made to induce some collectors, who are just now beginning, to collect any stamps issued after the beginning of the century. This is a class of collector who will probably tire of the boundary line between the two centuries, and if he does not leave off collecting entirely he is likely to drift into specialism, which, if the entire postal issues of one or more countries is included, would be more sensible. If philately has any value as a training of the faculties, or of illustrating the chronology and history of a country, the whole historic period covered by the use of postage stamps in the country selected should be included.

\* \* \*

There is a growing demand for pre-cancelled postage stamps, and the reader may be interested in the regulations of the post office department regarding their issue and use, which are as follows: The concern desiring to use pre-cancelled stamps makes application to the local postmaster, and if there seems to be no valid ground for objection, permission is granted. At the time application is made it is to be specified what value stamps are desired. The firm then buys the desired number of sheets of stamps, and a sworn official of the government is detailed to be a party to the pre-cancelling. This may be done by means of a rubber stamp or by running the sheets through a printing press. Then the stamps are affixed in the presence of the post office official, the number of pieces of mail corresponding with the number of stamps purchased.

(Filatelic Facts and Fallacies.)

## Approval Selections.

WE are now arranging and mounting a specially fine series of Approval Collections, comprising the stamps of all countries, and will have pleasure in sending same to any reader, on compliance with the conditions named below. Except where specially noted, any stamp may be selected at the price marked above it, and in most cases we allow a liberal discount off such prices. All communications for our Approval Department should be addressed to H. L. EWEN, 32, Palace Square, Norwood, S.E.

### CONDITIONS.

- 1.—Stamps can only be sent on approval on condition that those not purchased are returned within five days.
  - 2.—No stamps may be removed from the sheets or books until actually purchased.
  - 3.—Collectors are not permitted to deduct return postage from amount of purchase.
  - 4.—Discount is conditional on purchase exceeding 10s. and will be forfeited if selection is kept over the five days allowed.
  - 5.—Spaces should not be marked.
  - 6.—Sheets should be returned folded as sent.
  - 7.—When a selection is returned, another will be sent unless otherwise requested.
- N.B.—We hope collectors will assist us by observing the above very reasonable conditions and we will in return make it our endeavour to send out only the finest possible copies at the lowest possible quotations.

### APPROVAL SHEETS.

No.	Discount	Description.
203.	Nett.	Miscellaneous Colonials.
205.	25%	West Indies.
206.	Nett.	V.R.I's.
207.	50%	Mexico.
208.	25%	Miscellaneous
211.	"	Russia.
212.	"	Norway.
213.	"	Sweden.
214.	"	Finland.
216.	"	Roumania.
217.	"	Old Europeans.
218.	"	Venezuela.
219.	"	Egypt
220.	"	Hayti.
225.	"	Besnia, Bulgaria and Montenegro.
228.	"	Miscellaneous Colonials.
229.	"	Thurn and Taxis.
230.	"	Saxony.
231.	"	Spain (early issues).
232.	"	Spain (War Tax, Official, &c.)
233.	"	Spain (Carlist Stamps).
235.	"	Philippines.
237.	Nett.	Hawaiian Islands.

### BOOKLETS.

501.	Nett.	Fiji and Cook Islands.
504.	"	Unused African Colonials.
505.	"	African Colonials.
506.	"	Unused Colonials.
508.	25%	Liberia.
509.	"	Denmark.
510.	"	Luxemburg.
511.	"	Austria.
512.	"	Austrian Italy.
513.	"	Timor.
514.	"	Macao.
515.	"	Peru.
516.	"	Japan.
517.	"	Finland and Poland.
518.	"	Queensland.
519.	"	Tasmania.
522.	"	Australian (common)
523.	Nett.	Unused English.
524.	25%	Gambia, Gold Coast, Lagos, &c.
525.	"	French Colonies.
527.	"	Used English.
529.	"	Saravak
531.	Nett.	Unused Colonials.
532.	25%	Ceylon.

### BOOKS.

111.	10%	Unused English (chiefly 1d. reds, in strips)
112.	"	New South Wales. [and blocks].
113.	Nett.	V.R.I. Errors and Varieties.
114.	"	V.R.I. Strips and Blocks.
115.	10%	Orange Free State.
116.	"	Transvaal.

### LARGE BOOKS.

A1.	20%	Used English.
A2.	25%	Used English.
A3.	10%	Used English.
D.	25%	Cut Envelopes.
G06.	"	English with Foreign Postmarks.
H.	10%	Railway Letter Fee Stamps.

We have for sale a few fine used copies of the Russian error—3 Kopecs with background of "V's." the groundwork of the 5 kopecs. These we are offering at 1/6 each.

This week we are able to offer the following choice stamps:—

	PRICE.
Barbados, mint pair 6d. orange-vermilion, imperf., very fine ... ..	24/-
British Columbia, 50c. on 3d. violet, fine mint pair... ..	30/-
South Australia, 3d. on 4d. blue, superb mint, block of four ... ..	40/-
Turks Islands, 1/-, dull blue, first issue used, nice copy ... ..	15/-
Zululand, 5/- on British, fine used copy ... ..	45/-
Ceylon, 1r. 12c. lilac rose, used... ..	2/-
Tasmania, 1d. blue, first issue, used ... ..	45/-
" 4d. orange, first issue, used, superb specimen ... ..	15/-
Antigua; mint pair 1d. lake, Crown CC, perf. 12½; with inverted wmk. ... ..	15/-
Barbados; 5/- dull rose, used ... ..	37/6
" ditto, not so fine ... ..	27/6
British Honduras; 1882 issue, 6d. yellow, used, Crown CA. 14 ... ..	40/-
Finland; 1 mark, used, 1867-70 issue one corner torn, S.G., No. 49 ... ..	7/6
Gambia; 6d. blue, used, 1880 issue, wmk. Crown C.C., perf. 14. ... ..	7/6
Griqualand; 5/- orange, used, S.G. No. 70, very rare ... ..	12/-
Griqualand; 5/- orange, used, S.G. No. 116 ... ..	2/6
Mauritius; 5/- violet used ... ..	5/-
New South Wales; 2d. Sidney View used, fair copy ... ..	15/-
" 5/- violet used S.G. No. 142 ... ..	3/6
" 5/- map, used, perf. 10 ... ..	12/6
" 5/- coin "O.S." used, perf. 12½ ... ..	6/6
Queensland; 2/6 vermil. used, S.G. No. 114 ... ..	4/-
St. Vincent; 5/- wmk., has "REVENUE" printed across it otherwise would be worth £15 ... ..	30/-
Victoria; 1d. green, S.G. No. 46, fine pair, used ... ..	17/6
" 5/- red and blue, fine used copy ... ..	6/-
Wurtemberg; 5 marks pale blue, unused... ..	7/-

Any of the above stamps can be sent on approval if required, but immediate application is necessary, as in most instances we have no duplicates of the lots offered.

### Wholesale Lots for Sale.

We can offer this week the following cheap wholesale lots, viz.:—

Ceylon, 5 cents lilac, C.A., 4,280... ..	price	8/-
" ditto 2,788... ..	price	5/-
" 5 cents on 8 cents, Gibbons' No. 146, 600 ... ..	price	10/6
British Guiana, 2c. lilac and orange, 4097 ... ..	price	18/-
Gold Coast, 1d. carmine, 1884 issue, 683 ... ..	price	10/6
Straits Settlements, 2 cents C.A., Gibbons' No. 48, 1,073 ... ..	price	10/-
Transvaal, 2d. bistre, Gibbons' type 20, 794 ... ..	price	21/-
Canada Map Stamps, a fine lot of 1549 on pieces of original ... ..	price	45/-
Great Britain, 1d. red, plate numbers unexamined ... ..	1,000 for	1/6
" A fine lot of 10,333, 1d. red and 2d. blue, imperf. including fine strips and blocks ... ..		£7.

## "E.W.S.N." AND NEWSAGENTS.

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# Ewen's Weekly Stamp News.

With which is incorporated EWEN'S WEEKLY CIRCULAR. (Established October, 1897.)

A JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

THE ONLY WEEKLY STAMP PAPER  
PUBLISHED IN EUROPE.

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LONDON, SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 1901.

[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

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## The Week's News.

It is reported that the new issue of Italian stamps will be placed on issue very shortly. The new set are described in a newspaper message from Rome as being "handsomely floriated with the King represented in three-quarter face."

\* \* \*

The following interesting item relating to a machine to lick postage stamps, which, it is said, will be adopted by the French post-office, appeared in a contemporary a short while ago:—"As a result of the persistent complaints of persons to licking postage stamps, the Minister of Posts, Telephones and Telegraph, instructed the engineers attached to his department to design a slot stamping machine. Two types are now being experimented with. In one, after the coin is inserted, the machine wets and affixes the stamp automatically if the letter is properly placed. The other weighs the letter, shows the amount of postage required, and immediately upon the insertion of the price the stamp is printed directly from the inked plates. Both machines are speedy and reliable. Every French post-office will be provided with several as soon as they can be manufactured."

\* \* \*

Various reports are current regarding the negotiations of the United States with Denmark for the purchase of the Danish West Indies. It has been stated that the U.S.A. Government had addressed a note to the Danish Government intimating a threat in case the matter was not closed up or in case there was a disposition to turn the other powers with a view to making a sale. However, "Optimist," writing in the *Metropolitan Philatelist*, say that the U.S.A. Government emphatically denies this allegation and that enquiry at the State Department elicits the information that the negotiations are still in progress, but it is not yet thought practicable to give out the details.

\* \* \*

The *Monthly Journal* issues a warning regarding some "faked" Barbados stamps. These consist of the 1d. value of 1882, surcharged "Revenue" in script type in black, and is intended to pass as a fiscal used postally. Enquiries in the Colony have elicited the information that no such stamp as this ever existed, even as a fiscal!

Another fraud of the same stamp exists. In this instance the stamp is perforated diagonally and each half is surcharged "HALF PENNY" vertically.

\* \* \*

We are informed that the obsolete stamps of the Congo Free State were demonitized on January 1st last. From a contemporary we learn that the postcards described some nine months ago have not yet reached the Congo.

\* \* \*

Some little time ago owing to a shortage of stamps in Negri Sembilan a supply of Perak stamps was obtained for use there. Collectors will thus now be able to collect Perak stamps with Negri Sembilan postmarks—truly an interesting combination!

\* \* \*

Many of our readers may perhaps have wondered why the 25c. French Empire stamp is so much rarer in a used condition than any of the other values of the same series. The following explanation, though by no means new, may be of interest. The 25c. Presidency stamp was issued in August 1852, and was used on letters until so late as June 1854. The 25c. Empire made its appearance in November, 1853, before the supply of its predecessor was exhausted. As the postal reform reducing the rate of prepayment to 20c. came into force in July 1854 the 25c. Empire stamp had but a few days actual currency.

## New Issues.

The Editor will be much obliged for early news of New Issues or intended New Issues or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors. Full acknowledgment given. If possible, specimens should be sent in order that illustrations may be prepared.

**BELGIUM.**—The M.C. says that a change has just taken place in the colour of the 10 centimes envelopes. The stamps and inscriptions are now printed in carmine instead of red-brown.

**CHINA.**—*Le T. Belge* announces a stamp which appears to belong to the surcharged set of 1897. This is the 3c. fiscal surcharged with Chinese characters and "5 dollars" in similar type to the "1 dollar" on the same stamp.

**COLUMBIAN REPUBLIC.**—There seems to be no end to the provisional issues emanating from this Republic. The very latest was issued at Tumaco about the end of January and according to the *Metropolitan Philatelist* it is of crude manufacture being simply a small oblong piece of white paper on which the following is printed in black in three lines, viz: "Pago \$0.20—El agente Postal—Manuel E. Jimenez." A specimen has been seen obliterated with the regular cancelling mark and date stamp.

**FRENCH CHINA.**—It is reported that the 15 centimes French stamps surcharged "Chine" for use here are now overprinted in carmine instead of vermilion as was formerly the case.

**GREAT BRITAIN.**—Mr. J. E. Moss sends us a specimen of the ½d. thick post card with stamp and inscriptions in green. The stamp is type II. The card sent us was used on April 2nd. — Mr. O. Marsh has shown us a specimen of the ½d. vermilion envelope stamp in a new die, i.e., 50 used on the 21st March.

**GRENADA.**—This colony has just issued an envelope with 1d. stamp in red in the usual Colonial type.

**PORTUGAL.**—According to the *London Philatelist* the 5 reis and 25 reis of the current set have been noticed without numerals of value *se tenant* with normal specimens. These are stated to have been sold over the counter at the post office in Oporto in the usual course and are apparently therefore genuine errors.

**SPAIN.**—M. Alfonso Sabadell sends us specimens of the new Telegraph Stamps and informs us that in future only these will be available for telegraphic purposes. The design has for a centrepiece, coat of arms on a shield surmounted by a crown. A spray of leaves and berries appears on each side of the shield. At the top, in a scroll, is the inscription "TELEGRAFOS" and at the base the value appears. The stamps are all numbered on the back in blue figures in the same manner as the current postage set.

The values and colours are:—

5 cents. black	50 cents. red
10 " blue	1 peseta dark blue
15 " chestnut	4 " dark rose
30 " violet	10 " green

**URUGUAY.**—Mr. Wm. Cross sends for inspection two specimens of the new 2 centesimos stamps, in very distinct shades of vermilion. The design of this value shows a seated cherub, holding a cornucopia, and is well executed. The new 25c. stamp is the design of the 1890 issue, with the colour changed to yellow-brown.

## Jottings.

An American contemporary states that a specimen of the U.S.A. 30 cents of 1868 with "grille" covering the entire stamp recently changed hands for £30.

\* \* \*

The *London Philatelist* states that the 1872 issue of Mexico comprises two distinct types, instead of one only, as has hitherto been generally accepted; these are distinguishable by the shading of the ornamental part outside the ovals in the upper and lower frame holding the inscriptions "Correos" at top and "Mexico" at bottom. The 6 and 25 centavos values are shaded by vertical lines while the values 12, 50 and 100 centavos are shaded by horizontal lines.

## Our Postcard Column.

WILL readers hearing of any interesting item of News, kindly jot it down on a postcard and address to the Editor, "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News," Norwood, London. For every contribution we publish, we will send the author an interesting and newly issued stamp. (N.B.—Postcards preferred).

Mr. G. Vermeeren writes:—

"I have been offered this week a mint unused pair of the 2 reales carmine, 1877 issue of Guatemala *tête bêche*. I do not find it mentioned in any of the catalogues."

Mr. J. E. Munro contributes the following:—

"In reply to Mr. R. L. Smith's query in your last number regarding the three joined legs on the old Neapolitan stamps, the meaning is that they were the heraldic device of Sicily called by the ancient Greeks 'Trinacria' (or the three-caped) on account of its triangular shape. The three legs are supposed to be pointing to the three prominent capes of the island."

Regarding the same subject Mr. R. M. Angus writes:—

"In answer to Mr. R. L. Smith's enquiry as to the meaning of the three legs on the stamps of Naples, I am able to inform him that this symbol is commonly known as the 'Trinacria' from the Greek three and 'AKROS' which may be loosely translated as a 'corner' or 'boundary.' The feet point to the three capes forming the outskirts of the two Sicilys, namely Faro, on the north; Passero, on the south; and Buco, on the west. The feet point exactly to their positions on the map. At the junction of the three legs you will observe, in those stamps which are clearly enough printed, the head of Medusa."

Mr. C. A. Martin writes:—

"Can you inform me who is the original of the portrait on the postage stamps of Chile?"

[The portrait is popularly supposed to be that of Christopher Columbus though for what reason we are unable to state. On referring to an old number of the *Stamp Collectors Magazine* we find there a note to the effect that it is a portrait of President Freire, one of the first presidents of the country, who is stated to have been intimately associated with those events which culminated in freeing Chile from the Spanish yoke and establishing it as one of the most flourishing of South American republics. We believe the question has never yet been definitely settled.—ED.]

The following query is from Mr. J. Taylor:—

"I should be obliged if any of your readers could tell me the meaning of the letters 'F.R.' which appear on the breast of the eagle on the Prussian stamps."

[These initials doubtless stand for the name of the King, i.e., Frederick Rex.—ED.]

Mr. A. Clough writes:—

"While examining my early Tasmanians the other day I noticed on the neck of the portrait of the 1d. and 4d. first issue the letters 'C.W.C.' in small characters. I shall be glad if you can explain the meaning of these."

Miss C. Hoblyn writes:—

"I enclose for your inspection two current 1d. English stamps with control letter X. You will notice that the used one has two small stops after the word 'PENNY,' while the unused specimen has a short break in the outer line of the oval, opposite the first 'E' in 'REVENUE.'"

Mr. J. E. Moss sends a query:—

"Is the current 1d. Bankruptcy stamp available for postage on letters? I recently received one on a letter, and it was delivered without tax, being postmarked in the usual way."

Mr. Wm. Cross writes:—

"I enclose for your inspection two interesting varieties of perforation, occurring in most of the current Uruguayan stamps."

[The specimens sent us are very distinct. In one the holes are very small and wide apart gauging about 14, while in the other the holes are larger, close together, and gauge 16.—ED.]

## Postmark Notes.

By "DUPLEX."

MR. T. E. KELSALL sends me an envelope franked with a current 1d. stamp, which was first of all obliterated with the "Official Paid" mark, and afterwards with the ordinary City cancellation. Evidently this letter got mixed with some official correspondence, and was obliterated with the paid mark by mistake, and the error being immediately detected was at once rectified.

Mr. E. Heginbottom sends for inspection two small marks of the early London suburban type. They are of the shape of a flat oval, and have in the centre an oval containing a number. The numbers of the two specimens sent are 59 and 62. Have readers seen any others?

The same correspondent sends a curious variety of early obliterating mark. It is somewhat similar to the annexed illustration, with the number "2" in the central diamond and with a continuous line surrounding the whole mark making it oval in shape.



Mr. C. F. Dendy Marshall sends a note regarding the obliterations containing the initials "C," "T" or "F" mentioned last week. From this I gather the "C" stands for Chiswick and "T" for Turnham Green, as Mr. Marshall has duplex marks on entires T1, T2, T3 and C4 with Turnham Green and Chiswick respectively in the date stamps, all 1876.

The same correspondent states that he has an obliterating mark used without date stamp, with "L.S." (Lombard St.) having "E.C." in the lower portion instead of a number.

Regarding the "star" postmark that has been frequently mentioned in my notes of late, Mr. Marshall states that this appears to have been the usual Railway type at a certain date. He has one with the letters "B. & E., R.P.O.," meaning Bristol and Exeter, used alongside a date stamp of Totnes, Ap. 1st, 1869.

The same correspondent informs me that "the large figures stamped on letters unpaid or partially so, now have at the foot 'I.S.' instead of 'I.B.' signifying 'Inland Service' instead of 'Inland Branch' and probably the Foreign Branch ones will follow suit."

Mr. H. Clark sends for inspection an interesting war envelope. This was sent by a British prisoner of war at Pretoria to his friends in England. On the front of the envelope is a large circular mark in violet evidently made with a rubber stamp. In the top portion of the circle are the arms of the Zuid Afrikaansche Republiek with a large star on each side. Under this is the date "15 MRT. 1900" and at the base in a curve the words "COMMANDANT GENERAL" appear. At the back of the envelope is a Lourenço Marques postmark in blue and also a London delivery stamp. Although franked with no stamps the letter arrived at its destination without being taxed.

## The British Stamp Exchange.

PACKETS were despatched to the various circuits on March 12th. There are still 13 members to see the packet in Circuit I. The February packets have returned, and accounts have been sent to members having debit balances, but there has not yet been time to receive settlements from all members. Several members have suggested the formation of a Circuit for British Colonial stamps only; the Secretary will be glad to hear from any who would like to see the proposed circuit, should it eventually be decided to form one.

For the benefit of readers who may not have seen former notices, the Secretary again states that he will have pleasure in enclosing in the next packet, which will probably not start until Wednesday, April 10th, owing to Easter holidays, any sheets of British stamps which readers or others may send. He will also be glad to hear from any who would care to see the packets. There is no subscription or entrance fee, but 10% commission is charged on sales made. Anyone desiring further information should write to OSWALD MARSH, Secretary, 45, Palace Road, Norwood, S.E.

## Notes from America.

We should like this week to say a word to those who are inclined to be particular about condition. We have no argument with those who demand perfection in condition if they are willing to pay for it. And we are pleased to say that there are many who realise that stamps in fine condition are worth more than average specimens. They have also learned by study and experience what constitutes fine condition. On the other hand, very many smaller collectors emulating the example set them by advanced collectors, but without this knowledge demand impossibilities. A few instances have recently come to my notice. Some Hayti surcharged 2c. on 3c. were returned because the surcharge was not clear and distinct. Needless to say that if they were clear and distinct they must be frauds. Another would like the issue of Surinam with O. G. when they were never gummed except as used. Another objects to the late issues of Nicaragua because they are perfectly centered and lightly postmarked as the stamps of some English colonies. Seebeck stamps are generally badly perforated and nicely perforated sheets might almost be called errors. Also the cancelling stamps of Central American countries are generally ugly and often smudgy. Many such illustrations might be mentioned, but we would like our young friends to gather knowledge of proper condition and what is obtainable from different countries. If all collectors should demand the condition which some are willing to pay for not one stamp in one hundred would be saleable. What would then become of the immense quantities of stamps held by dealers, and where would collectors get stamps for their collections? A reasonable demand for condition is being met by most of the dealers, but many unreasonable demands that are being made will result in what we learn one large firm has done, dropping the names of many collectors from their lists who want the highest decree of perfection at bargain counter prices.

The Pan-American exhibit is to leave next week for Buffalo as far as the Post Office Department is concerned. Everything is being mounted in fine shape and very much more will be shown than in Paris. Both United States and foreign stamps will be there in abundance, but the statement contained in this evening's *Washington Star* that all were entirely complete and that this collection is stated by authorities to be the most complete in the world, would doubtless evoke a smile from any advanced collector. The foreign part of the collection is made up entirely of stamps which have been sent out through the international postal union during the past ten years. Naturally most of the older issues are lacking, as well as many common stamps of more recent date. Yet what there is looks well and is arranged in a most artistic manner. No effort had been made until a year ago to have a collection of United States stamps, but now these too are splendidly represented, the arrangement being the work of a well-known collector, Mr. H. G. Mandel, of New York.

Very little attention is paid to the so-called pre-cancelled stamp officially. No records are kept of them, none were exhibited at Paris nor will any be in Buffalo. Yet many collectors are saving them and unless the supply is materially increased, or speculation takes hold of it, they will always form an interesting collection.

We have heard of a good many articles made of postage stamps, but one of the most interesting has just been added to the postal museum. It is a walking cane, the body of which is made entirely of stamps. It is the work of a Colorado prisoner and represents one year's labour. An immense quantity of stamps were strung on a string, which was afterwards subjected to some kind of extreme pressure, so as to become perfectly round, resembling a stick. The surface was afterwards covered with one and two-cent Columbian stamps. With a brass knob and tip the stick makes a most interesting appearance. The price paid for it is said to have been \$10.

(From *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*.)

The Post Office Department is after the Washington Business High School with a hot stick. It seems that the High School has been accorded the privilege to dispense with the use of postage stamps on certain classes of letters, where the subject matter related to the Government. It appears, however, that letters dealing with other matters have been franked in penalty envelopes, and even newspapers have been mailed with only a penalty envelope for a wrapper. First Assistant Postmaster General Johnson has called the attention of the High School officials to the matter, and the case is being investigated. (From the *Metropolitan Philatelist*.)

## Extracts from the Foreign Press.

As anticipated last week, the number of errors in our foreign extracts last week was unfortunately rather large. In fact, there were so many that most of our competitors did not essay the task of pointing them out. Of those readers who did so, Mr. Theodor Haas heads the list, having found 19. We shall hope in future to keep the number of mistakes more in check.

Space will not permit us to record so large a number, but the more important we may note:—

Par. Line.  
II. 2. Read *français* and *transformés*.  
IV. 29. Read *Couché*.  
IV. 24. Read *nous*.

We may mention that most of the other 19 were of a trivial character.

The two prizes go to Messrs. Haas and Woodthorpe.

Mr. Ch. Benaert again criticizes one of our decisions. He says: I see by your paper of this morning that you do not count 'fr.' as a mistake (Par. II, line 6). I can assure you, this should be 'frs.' As a Frenchman I know the language very well. Make enquiries and you will see we write '1 franc,' '2 francs' and when abbreviating, '1 fr.' and '2 frs.' Mr. Benaert may be right, but "2 fr." is we believe more generally used. Look through a French philatelic journal, we do not notice the contraction "frs." once. We agree with Mr. Benaert however that "*Victoire*" should not have appeared in our pillory.

This week's paragraphs are given below, and for the benefit of readers who have not seen our previous offers, we may mention that the Editor of *E.W.S.N.* every week awards several interesting new issues to the British and Foreign readers who respectively send in the best list of mistakes occurring in the extracts, it being necessary that such lists should be delivered not later than Wednesdays.

Le Ministère des Colonies s'est ému des accaparements dont certains timbres coloniaux ont été dernièrement l'objet. M. Decrais serait entré dans une violente colère contre ces hommes néfastes; il aurait même lavé la tête de ses subordonnés, qui n'y étaient cependant pour rien et, afin de couper court à de telles manœuvres, aurait ordonné un tirage supplémentaire de 60.000 pour toutes les valeurs épuisées, même de l'ancien 1 centime du Soudan français.

Certes, voilà bien du bruit pour pas grand'chose. (L'*Echo de la Timbrologie*.)

Au début du commerce de timbres-poste. M. Moëns, ayant consacré près d'un demi-siècle à la philatélie, s'est retiré des affaires en emportant les hommages unanimes de la presse philatélique.

En détruisant sa volumineuse correspondance, M. Moëns a bien voulu nous garder une lettre qui jette un jour curieux sur les premiers temps de la philatélie.

Il faut remonter 40 ans en arrière... A cette époque, il n'existait aucun journal philatélique, car ce n'est que deux ans plus tard que M. Moëns devait fonder le *Timbre-poste* et, qu'en Allemagne, parut *Magazin für Briefmarkensammler*.

Il n'existait pas non plus de sociétés, la plus ancienne avait naître cinq ans plus tard à Paris. Les principaux collectionneurs étaient, en France: de Rothschild, de Bosredon, Herpin, De Saulcy, Comte Primoli, Donatis, Ferrari, Dr Legrand, tous décédés, sauf les deux derniers. En Allemagne: Zschische, Schauback, Moschau. Ailleurs, peu ou point ayant quelque notoriété.

En fait de marchands, il n'y en avait guère en 1861. Stanley Gibbons vendait des pilules et non des timbres; on n'a conservé le souvenir d'aucun, sauf de Laplante, et, bien entendu, de M. Moëns, qui vendait des timbres depuis 1852.

La lettre en question est précisément écrite par ce Laplante.

La voici: Paris, 27 mai 1861.

Monsieur,  
Ayant dessin de faire à Paris le commerce de Timbres Postes, afin de plus facilement établir une collection, sans trop de frais; je désire être en rapport avec les antiquaires qui se livrent à Bruxelles à ce genre de commerce, et surtout avec vous, Monsieur.

J'ai appris que vous aviez un catalogue-prix-courant, je vous demande de me l'envoyer, courrier par courrier.....

[We have not sufficient space to give here the letter in full, but must refer readers for the continuation to the *Schweizer Briefmarken Zeitung*.—Ed.]

EVERY STAMP COLLECTOR  
SHOULD SUBSCRIBE TO  
EWEN'S WEEKLY STAMP NEWS.

Early Dates of "1d. Red."

17 MORE RECORDS BROKEN.

A very large number of early dated specimens have again been submitted to us. Many of these clash, but after careful comparison, it has been found that 17 of the 151 records have been broken.

Table with 4 columns: Plate No., Plate put to press, Record (Earliest date of use), Record-holder. Lists 185 records for various locations like London, Glasgow, York, etc.

Table with 4 columns: Plate No., Plate put to press, Record (Earliest date of use), Record-holder. Continues the list of records for plates 186-225.

LIST OF COMPETITORS.

MR. P. P. WOOD STILL HEADS THE LIST. The following is a summary of the number of records held by each competitor on three of the dates on which the complete list has been published.

Table with 4 columns: Competitor Name, Mch. 24, 1900, Ap. 28, 1900, Ap. 6, 1901. Lists names like P. P. Wood, H. P. Stewart, C. F. D. Marshall, etc.

Most plate-numbers appear to have been issued very shortly after being put to press, the following records being the nearest: 29 days. Plate 151, S. G. Dudley.

On the other hand, the earliest dates yet recorded for the following plate numbers are exceptionally late. No doubt, however, the diligence of our readers will soon result in their being considerably improved upon.

Table with 4 columns: Plate No., Record (Earliest date of use), Record-holder. Lists late records for plates 175-225.

The records for plates 142, 143, 145, 148, 158, 168, 196 and 200 are also rather late.

The average period which elapsed between the printing and first issue to the public was evidently between five and ten weeks. Most of the record dates yet chronicled can probably be improved on to the extent of 20 or 30 days.

Our record for the rare plate 225 is 81 days later than the officially recorded date of putting the plate to press. It is interesting to note that whilst it was only put to press by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. on October 27th, 1879.

The years 1864, 1868 and 1877 claim the most records, whilst 1867 has none and can never have.

The record dates for 1/4d. red plate numbers are as follows:-

Table with 4 columns: Plate No., Plate put to press, Record (Earliest date of use), Record-holder. Lists records for plates 1-20.

For the three halfpence and twopence, the tables stand as follows:-

Table with 4 columns: Plate No., Plate put to press, Record (Earliest date of use), Record-holder. Lists records for 1/2d. RED and 2d. BLUE.

The tables of records for plate-numbers of other values will be found in the following numbers of E.W.S.N.:-

- 2 1/4d. Vol. II., No. 22, page 99.
3d. Vol. II., No. 22, page 99.
4d. Vol. II., No. 24, page 115.

Several of the records were broken subsequently, the new dates being given in E.W.S.N., Vol. III., No. 32, p. 33, and No. 38, p. 79.

Lost Opportunities.

THE first number of Ewen's Weekly Stamp News made its appearance on September 30th, 1899, and No. 8, published on the 18th of November of that year, contained the first quotations made by the Colonial Stamp Market.

Table with 2 columns: Description of Stamp, Latest date obtainable. Lists various stamps like Brit. Central Africa, Brit. Honduras, etc.

Despite the "warnings" given in certain quarters that the importation of unused Colonial stamps was being overdone, and that recent issues will not in consequence advance in price as quickly as those of former years, it is nevertheless a fact that the above stamps are already very scarce on the market.

## Approval Selections.

WE are now arranging and mounting a specially fine series of Approval Collections, comprising the stamps of all countries, and will have pleasure in sending same to any reader, on compliance with the conditions named below. Except where specially noted, any stamp may be selected at the price marked above it, and in most cases we allow a liberal discount off such prices. All communications for our Approval Department should be addressed to H. L. EWEN, 32, Palace Square, Norwood, S.E.

### CONDITIONS.

- 1.—Stamps can only be sent on approval on condition that those not purchased are returned within five days.
  - 2.—No stamps may be removed from the sheets or books until actually purchased.
  - 3.—Collectors are not permitted to deduct return postage from amount of purchase.
  - 4.—Discount is conditional on purchase exceeding 1/- and will be forfeited if selection is kept over the five days allowed.
  - 5.—Spaces should not be marked.
  - 6.—Sheets should be returned folded as sent.
  - 7.—When a selection is returned, another will be sent unless otherwise requested.
- N.B.—We hope collectors will assist us by observing the above very reasonable conditions and we will in return make it our endeavour to send out only the finest possible copies at the lowest possible quotations.

### APPROVAL SHEETS.

No.	Discount.	Description.
203.	Nett.	Miscellaneous Colonials.
205.	25%	West Indies.
206.	Nett.	V.R.I's.
207.	50%	Mexico.
208.	25%	Miscellaneous.
211.	"	Russia.
212.	"	Norway.
214.	"	Finland.
216.	"	Roumania.
217.	"	Old Europeans.
218.	"	Venezuela.
219.	"	Egypt.
220.	"	Hayti.
225.	"	Bosnia, Bulgaria and Montenegro.
228.	"	Miscellaneous Colonials.
229.	"	Thurn and Taxis.
230.	"	Saxony.
231.	"	Spain (early issues).
232.	"	Spain (War Tax, Official, &c.)
233.	"	Spain (Carlist Stamps).
235.	"	Philippines.
237.	Nett.	Hawaiin Islands.
239.	25%	Holland and Colonies.
240.	"	Antigua, Bahamas, &c.

### BOOKLETS.

501.	Nett.	Fiji and Cook Islands.
504.	"	Unused African Colonials.
505.	"	African Colonials.
506.	"	Unused Colonials.
508.	25%	Liberia.
509.	"	Denmark
510.	"	Luxemburg.
511.	"	Austria.
512.	"	Austrian Italy.
513.	"	Timor.
514.	"	Macao.
515.	"	Peru.
516.	"	Japan.
517.	"	Finland and Poland.
518.	"	Queensland.
519.	"	Tasmania.
522.	"	Australian (common)
523.	Nett.	Unused English.
524.	25%	Gambia, Gold Coast, Lagos, &c.
525.	"	French Colonies.
527.	"	Used English.
529.	"	Sarawak.
531.	Nett.	Unused Colonials.
532.	25%	Ceylon.
534.	"	Indian Native States.
536.	"	Sweden.
538.	"	Switzerland.
539.	"	India.

### BOOKS.

111.	10%	Unused English (chiefly 1d. reds, in strips
112.	"	New South Wales. [and blocks].
113.	Nett.	V.R.I. Errors and Varieties.
114.	"	V.R.I. Strips and Blocks.
115.	10%	Orange Free State.
116.	"	Transvaal.
117.	"	Unused Australians.

### LARGE BOOKS.

A1.	20%	Used English.
A2.	25%	Used English.
A3.	10%	Used English.
D.	25%	Cut Envelopes.
G106.	"	English with Foreign Postmarks.
H.	10%	Railway Letter Fee Stamps.

We have for sale a few fine used copies of the Russian error—3 Kopecs with background of "V's," the groundwork of the 5 kopecs. These we are offering at 1/6 each.

\* \* \*

This week we are able to offer the following choice stamps:—

	PRICE.
British Columbia, 50c. on 3d. violet, fine mint pair... ..	30/-
South Australia, 3d. on 4d. blue, superb mint, block of four ... ..	40/-
Turks Islands, 1/-, dull blue, first issue used, nice copy ... ..	15/-
Zululand, 5/- on British, fine used copy ... ..	45/-
Tasmania, 1d. blue, first issue, used ... ..	45/-
" 4d. orange, first issue, used, superb specimen ... ..	15/-
Antigua; mint pair 1d. lake, Crown CC. perf. 12½; with inverted wmk. ... ..	15/-
Barbados; 5/- dull rose, used ... ..	37/6
" ditto, not so fine ... ..	27/6
British Honduras; 1882 issue, 6d. yellow, used, Crown CA. 14 ... ..	40/-
Finland; 1 mark, used, 1867-70 issue one corner torn, S.G., No. 49 ... ..	7/6
Griqualand; 5/- orange, used, S.G. No. 70, very rare ... ..	12/-
Griqualand; 5/- orange, used, S.G. No. 116 ... ..	2/6
Mauritius; 5/- violet used ... ..	5/-
New South Wales; 2d. Sidney View used, fair copy ... ..	15/-
" 5/- map, used, perf. 10 ... ..	12/6
" 5/- coin "O.S." used, perf. 12½ ... ..	6/6
Queensland; 2/6 vermil. used, S.G. No. 114 ... ..	4/-
St. Vincent; 5/- wmk.*, has "REVENUE" printed across it otherwise would be worth £15 ... ..	30/-
Victoria; 1d. green, S.G. No. 46, fine pair, used ... ..	17/6
Wurtemberg; 5 marks pale blue, unused... ..	7/-

Any of the above stamps can be sent on approval if required, but immediate application is necessary, as in most instances we have no duplicates of the lots offered.

### Wholesale Lots for Sale.

We can offer this week the following cheap wholesale lots, viz. :—

Ceylon, 5 cents lilac, CA., 4,280... ..	price	8/-
" ditto 2,788... ..	price	5/-
" 5 cents on 8 cents, Gibbons' No. 146, 600 ... ..	price	10/6
British Guiana, 2c. lilac and orange, 4097 ... ..	price	18/-
Gold Coast, 1d. carmine, 1884 issue, 683 ... ..	price	10/6
Straits Settlements, 2 cents C.A., Gibbons' No. 48, 1,073 ... ..	price	10/-
Transvaal, 2d. bistre, Gibbons' type 20, 794 ... ..	price	21/-
Canada Map Stamps, a fine lot of 1549 on pieces of original ... ..	price	45/-
Great Britain, 1d. red, plate numbers unexamined ... ..	1,000 for	1/6
----- A fine lot of 10,333. 1d. red and 2d. blue, imperf. including fine strips and blocks ... ..		£7.

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THE PUBLISHER.

# Ewen's Weekly Stamp News.

With which is incorporated EWEN'S WEEKLY CIRCULAR. (Established October, 1897.)

A JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

THE ONLY WEEKLY STAMP PAPER  
PUBLISHED IN EUROPE.

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LONDON, SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 1901.

[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

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## The Week's News.

It is rumoured that M. Mouchon, the designer of the new French stamps, is at present at work retouching the designs owing to the unfavourable criticism their issue has evoked.

\* \* \*

A correspondent writing to the *M.C.* with regard to the reported change of colour of the 1 filler stamps of Hungary says, "I have seen the statement in the English stamp papers, but I can assure you that the colour has not been altered. There are many varieties of shade in this stamp, but I have never seen one that could be called dark violet, and I have positive information that no change has been made."

\* \* \*

The "Optimist" writing in the *Metropolitan Philatelist* states that sharply on the day of the closing of the Pan American Exposition, October 31st, all the Pan American stamps will be immediately withdrawn from sale and returned to Washington and promptly destroyed. It would thus seem that the forthcoming issue will be speculative and unnecessary in the widest sense of the term.

\* \* \*

Mr. Henniker Heaton evidently means to have a good try to get the colour of the current 1d. stamp changed. One day last week he forwarded a memorial, to the Postmaster General, Lord Londonderry, signed by about 100 members of the House of Commons in favour of Royal Scarlet or red stamps being substituted for the present penny lilac stamp.

\* \* \*

We take the following extract from a recent number of *Vanity Fair*:-

Mr. Henniker Heaton's ardour for postal reform is so far-reaching and unquenchable that, not content with letters being read, he wants the stamps to be red too!

He will be satisfied, however, he says, with "Royal scarlet"; and, unless our national sense of humour is dead, I suppose that the postmen will in future be known as Royal scarlet-runners or (in the alternative) as "Might-have-Beans."

\* \* \*

Our special correspondent at Malta sends us the following account of the recent visit of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York to the Island:-

The festivities for the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York's visit have been really a success. On the 27th ult., the Duke opened an Art Exhibition, a section of which was allotted to postage stamps. The collections were many. Among the most prominent were Mr. Micallef's Maltese collection which is unique in the whole Island. In it there were the yellow ½d. stamp with pin perforation, and another with watermark crown CC. inverted, the latter the only specimen known. Blocks of the 5/- watermark inverted and of the 4d. imperforated, used and unused were in abundance. The Duke was presented with a collection of Maltese stamps, dating since 1866, by the Exhibition Committee. He also accepted a general collection from Baron Testaferrata, CMG., which he had been uniting since 40 years ago. Mr. R. Leonandini very kindly filled some valuable gaps in the Duke's collection.

\* \* \*

The Federal Government of Australia decided to take over the Post Office of the Commonwealth on the 1st of March, so the question as to whether a new issue is to be made should soon be settled. Some collectors want the current issues to be surcharged "A.C." or "C.A." whilst others are loudly protesting against any alteration.

## New Issues.

The Editor will be much obliged for early news of New Issues or intended New Issues or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors. Full acknowledgment given. If possible, specimens should be sent in order that illustrations may be prepared.

**BOLIVIA.**—A correspondent has shown the *M.J.* an apparently imperforate copy of the 20c. stamp of the 1897 issue. It is stated to have good margins, with ragged edges, and shows no sign of perforation. The copy is on an entire envelope and was used in October, 1898.

**BRAZIL.**—The *A.J. of Ph.* states that it has seen a copy of the 1000 reis of the 1894 type, perf. 9 all round.—From the same source we learn that the 50 reis unpaid letter stamp has been issued in yellow-green, perforated.

**BULGARIA.**—According to the *M.C.*, another provisional has appeared here—the 50 stotinki being surcharged 10 stotinki.

**CHILI.**—It is reported that five sheets of the surcharged "5" on 30 cents were issued with the overprint inverted.

**CHINA.**—The *M.J.* lists a number of varieties which do not yet appear to have been chronicled, viz.:—The 10c. on 9c. of 1897, small figures with double surcharge; the ½c. on 3c., large figures, imperforate; the 30c. on 24c., large figures, with the Chinese character for "3" different in shape from the normal type; and the "2 cents" on 3c. revenue stamp with the "s" of cents inverted.

**COLOMBIAN REPUBLIC.**—The *I.B.J.* lists several Cucuta provisionals which do not yet appear to have been chronicled. The upper inscription reads "GOBIERNO PROVISIONAL" and the value at the bottom is described by "CINCO" and "CINCO." The following is a list of the values and colours:—

1c. black on green.	10c. black on rose
2c. " "	20c. " yellow
5c. " white	

**CRETE.**—The 20 lepta stamp now appears in orange-yellow and the 50 lepta in ultramarine. It is also reported that the 25 lepta value is issued in dull yellow and that the 50 lepta exists in the same colour.

**GERMAN CHINA.**—A correspondent informs the *Monthly Journal* that there is a variety of the 5 pf. on 10 pf. issued at Tsingtau, doubly surcharged in two different types, one being much smaller than the other.

**GUATEMALA.**—The surcharge 1c. on 10c. issued last year has been found with the overprint inverted—quite the usual thing with Guatemala surcharges.

**KISHENGARH.**—On the authority of the *M.J.*, we list two new values issued for this State, i.e., 2 and 4 annas. The 2 annas bears a portrait, presumably of the Rajah, in an oval frame. The inscription, "POSTAGE & REVENUE," is above this, while the name is below. The value appears in native characters in the upper corners and in English in the lower. The 4a. is of similar type to the current 1 anna stamp. Both are apparently printed singly, as before, on paper marked with rectangles in pencil. The 2a. is pin perf., and is printed in pale orange, while the 4a. is imperf., and the colour is chocolate.

**MEXICO.**—The following values of the 1896 to 1898 issues, which have been overprinted for official use do not appear to have been chronicled yet i.e. 5c. blue with watermark "R.M." in a monogram; the 1c. green and 5c. blue with watermark Eagle and "R.M."; and the 1c. green and 5c. blue unwatermarked.

**NATAL.**—Mr. James Coltman sends for inspection a specimen of the new registration envelope which was posted on March 16th last. The stamp is printed in blue and has Queen Victoria's head embossed in white in the centre. It is circular in shape with an ornamental border and bears the following inscriptions, i.e., "NATAL REGISTRATION" at the top and "FOURPENCE" below. In the Newcastle-on-Tyne postmark at the back of the envelope, the date appears as "6. Ap. 11" so that this town is apparently ten years ahead of the times.

**QUEENSLAND.**—The *M.C.* chronicles the current ½d. stamp on unwatermarked paper.

## Our Postcard Column.

WILL readers hearing of any interesting item of News, kindly jot it down on a postcard and address to the Editor, "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News," Norwood, London. For every contribution we publish, we will send the author an interesting and newly issued stamp. (N.B.—Postcards preferred.)

Mr. C. R. Hanson contributes the following:—

"Re Mr. Clough's enquiry in your last number. The letters, 'C.W.C.,' he mentions on the 1st issue of Tasmania, are the initials of the engraver of these stamps—C. W. Coard."

The following additional note regarding the design on the Neapolitan stamps is sent by Mr. E. W. Richardson:—

"In reply to Mr. R. L. Smith; the device of three joined legs upon the stamps of Naples is known as the Trinacria—the ancient name of Sicily. This device is the arms of the Two Sicilies, and comes from the older, i.e., the island, the triangular shape of which was thus represented in symbolic form by the Greeks. Full details of this curious sign are given in M. Moëns 'Timbres de Naples et de Sicile.'"

Mr. W. Heath writes:—

"Re your note in the 'New Issues' column last week as to dated copy of Great Britain ½d. single postcard in green, I have one dated earlier than the specimen mentioned, mine being April 1st, 1901."

Mr. C. J. Dawn writes:—

"You will no doubt be interested to hear that I have a copy of the 6d. carmine, V.R.I., with thick 'V,' which conclusively proves that this stamp exists in the third printing."

Miss C. Hoblyn contributes the following:—

"I enclose for your inspection four varieties of the new 25c. French stamp, in one of which you will notice the figures of value are well centred while in the remaining three they occupy various positions in the frame."

The various positions of the figures of value on three of the stamps is the result of the stamps being produced in two printings, one for the vignette and the other for the value. The stamps are now produced in one operation, both vignette and figures of value being printed simultaneously, with the result that the figures are well centred in the frame as in the specimen mentioned above.—ED.]

## Jottings.

A specimen of the 1 peso, brown, of Chili has been found imperforate horizontally.

\* \* \*

A pair of the 1 centavo of the 1892 issue of Costa Rica is known imperforate vertically between.

\* \* \*

A contemporary reports a pair of the 2 chuckram rose of Travancore imperforate between vertically.

\* \* \*

A copy of the 10c. red-brown and black of the 1893 issue of Venezuela has been discovered with the surcharge inverted.

\* \* \*

Possibly many collectors have wondered why the stamps of the 1882 issue of Cuba were surcharged in fancy characters of various designs in the following year. An American contemporary puts forward as a feasible explanation the fact that a great quantity of unused stamps were stolen and the government destroyed their value by overprinting these that remained in this manner.

\* \* \*

We are informed that some American forgers have been busy lately "faking" Porto Rico surcharges on the 1, 2, 3, 5, 8 and 10 cents U.S.A. stamps. The imitation of the surcharge is said to be very good being practically the same as the genuine. However, it is no difficult matter to distinguish the real and the false, as the forgers were not quite clever enough, and used the stamps without triangles in the corners.

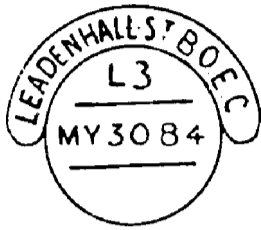
## Postmark Notes.

By "DUPLEX."

MR. H. CLARK sends for inspection several interesting marks including two Birmingham concentric circular date stamps similar to the type illustrated here with the letters "C.H." and "A.M." respectively after the name "BIRMINGHAM." The letters "C.H." probably stand for Constitution Hill, while the initials "A.M." may be for Aston Manor.



The same correspondent sends several varieties of the type illustrated here. One of these has "LONDON" only in the scroll at the top with date across the centre between double lines and a stamper's number below. Another variety with "LONDON, E.C." in the scroll has the curved at the bottom of the circle while the time of posting occupies the central space.



Referring to my recent article on South African Field Post Office Marks, Mr. Raymond A. Eddy says he has a number 46 of the concentric circles type. This is the highest number in this type I have heard of yet.

Mr. W. L. Hall sends me a South Lambeth circular postmark, showing a curious error of date, viz.:—"AP 3—o," certainly a record early date! Another variety of wrong date is described under "Natal" in our New Issues column.

The type of duplex mark shown here is one of the most interesting of the London types. As will be seen by the accompanying cut, it consists of a hexagonal date stamp adjoining an obliterator composed of parallel lines. In the obliterator spaces are made for the insertion of district initials and a stamper's number. These are, I believe, "late fee" marks.



## Cuttings from the Press.

We give the following extracts from the general press as they appear to be of more than usual interest:—

From the *Birmingham Post*:—

I learn from a high postal authority that the difficulty which lies in the way of providing a Royal red stamp for the penny denomination is one of chemistry. It is said that no ink of that tint procurable at a reasonable price is fast to sunlight, water, and exagents, and it is of supreme importance that the postage stamp most frequently used should be, in postal phraseology, treble fast, because otherwise it would be affected by the action of the saliva, if not also by atmospheric moisture. Many experiments have been made of late in the production of a new range of treble fast colours for the new issue, but no fresh discoveries have resulted, and the existing colours will almost certainly be perpetuated, although not necessarily for the same denominations as now.

From the *Leicester Post*:—

Those philatelists who have been impatiently expecting the issue of the new Australian Federation stamps will have yet, I learn, some months to wait. Indeed, according to one authority five years must elapse, that being the period during which the keeping of separate accounts will prevent the complete union of the State Post Offices; but it seems to be straining the meaning of the Constitution Act to suggest that mere difficulties of book-keeping should prevent the issue of a uniform stamp in the near future. It has been recommended that the present stamps should be continued for a few months, but be surcharged with the letters "A. C." (Australian Commonwealth), and a meeting of the postmasters is being held this week definitely to decide this matter, among other questions. If the surcharge is decided on, stamp collectors to be up to date will have to secure fresh specimens of all Australian stamps bearing the superimposed letters; but these, naturally, cannot for many years command a high figure. On the whole, philatelic opinion points to the issue of a uniform series of Federal stamps somewhere in September next.

## The Arms of Madrid.

Most collectors are aware that the arms of Madrid—a bear and a tree—form the central design of the two stamps value 1 and 3 cuartos issued in 1853, for use in the Spanish Capital, but probably few have any idea of the origin of the device. The following story was told in an ancient number of *Le Timbrophile* to account for its adoption by the city of Madrid and though we cannot vouch for its truth, it is nevertheless interesting.

Long years ago when the site of Madrid was occupied by only a few peasants' cottages, a young girl, resident in one of them, left her home to go and pluck *madronos*. On approaching the tree she was about to despoil she observed a huge bear seated in its branches busily engaged in munching the fruit. Horror stricken, the girl hastily retreated; but on telling her mother what she had seen received in reply a blow from her distaff. "Indeed *Madre*," (mother) said the girl, "if you do not believe go into the orchard and see, and you will soon believe I am speaking the truth." Nothing loth, the mother went; the bear saw and seized her; and the justice of heaven was accomplished by her destruction. In memory of the fact the government of the day conferred on the infant community the name of *Madre-id* (corrupted in time to Madrid) and granted it permission to take for its arms the "Bear and the Tree."

## Rare Stamps at Auction.

Sale by Messrs. Ventom, Bull & Cooper, March 14th and 15th, 1901.

	s.	d.
Great Britain, £5 orange, used	32	0
" I.R. Official, 10/- blue	37	0
" " £1 green	42	0
Ceylon, 4d. rose, imperf., fair	8	0
" 8d. brown, " fine	9	10
" 2/- blue, " fine	5	0
" 1/9 green, design cut into	3	0
" 2r. 50c. rose, unused	5	10
Gold Coast, 1894, 10/- and 20/-, unused	2	0
Lagos, 1887, 2/6 olive-back	88	0
Zululand, £1 purple on red, unused	33	0
Mafeking, complete sets of 19	19	0
St. Vincent, 4d. on 1/- vermilion	18	10
Turks Is., 2½d. on 1/- dull blue, type 13, mint	10	10
New South Wales, current 20/-, mint	24	0

Sale by Messrs. Plumridge & Co., March 19th and 20th, 1901.

Gambia, 1/- green, used, fine	34	0
Great Britain, 10/- wmk., Cross	14	0
Newfoundland, 6½d. carmine, mint	6	10

Sale by Messrs. Puttick & Simpson, March 26th and 27th, 1901.

Gibraltar, error, carmine, value omitted	167	6
Ceylon, 1/9 green, perf., mint	92	6
B.C.A. on B.S.A., £2 rose-red	122	6
" " £5 green	122	6
" " 1892, 3/- on 4/- and 4/- on 5/-	28	0
B.S.A., £1 black and red on green	30	0
Cape Woodblock, 1d. blue, error, two tears	40	0
Zululand, £5, unused	132	6
Canada, 12d. black, unused, poor	20	0
Newfoundland, 1/- scarlet, fine	11	0
Trinidad, 1896, 5/- green and brown and 10/- green and blue, mint	34	0
Turk's Islands, 2½d. on 1/- blue, type 10, mint	9	0
" 2½d. on 1/- lilac, type 11, mint	13	0
Sydney View, 2d. deep blue	80	0
" " ditto, plate 2	50	0
New South Wales, 2d. blue "WAEES"	87	6
India, 1854, ¼a. red, unused, but no gum	112	6
Labuan, 1891, 6c. on 40c., with surcharge inverted, mint	90	0
Mauritius, 1859, large fillet, 2d. dark blue, three small tears	126	0
" 2d. blue on bluish, error 'PENOE'	60	0
Niger Coast, 10/- surcharged on 5d.	7	5
British Columbia, 1 dollar, mint	58	0
New Brunswick, 1/- mauve, thinned and slightly cut	137	6
Newfoundland, 6d. scarlet	95	0
" 1/- orange, torn	127	6
St. Lucia, 1883-4, CA, 1/- orange	42	0
St. Vincent, 1880, 5/- rose, star, unused	11	10
British Guiana, 1852, 1c. magenta repaired	75	0
" 4c. blue, defective	63	0
" 1856, 4c. magenta	11	0
Great Britain, £1 anchor, on bluish	46	0
Ceylon, 4d. rose imperf. thinned	102	0
" 8d. brown, tear in top corner	6	10
" 1/9 green, unused, no gum	52	6

## Extracts from the Foreign Press.

Owing presumably to the Easter Holidays, very few readers appear to have had time to look through our Foreign Extracts in last Saturday's issue. In fact, only one reader has pointed out any errors—Mr. A. Cooper, of Nice—the prize being accordingly awarded to him. The following are found by him:

- Par. Line.  
 II. 15. "d" belongs to *devait*.  
 II. 32. Hyphen omitted between *timbres-poste*  
 II. 38. No comma after *envoyes*.

There are in addition several other mistakes, but we have not had time this week to go carefully through. Capitals are unnecessary for *timbres-poste* as also the hyphen joining the two first syllables of *envoyes*.

We expect the late issue of *E.W.S.N.* last week has had some effect on the entries this time. It was our intention to send the paper to press on Wednesday instead of Thursday, but the printers were unable to find sufficient time on the earlier day. Accordingly *E.W.S.N.* did not reach our London publishers till early on the morning of Good Friday, which prevented its distribution till after the holidays. Every reader should, however, have received our Easter number by last Wednesday.

Mr. C. de Grave Sells writes from Cornigliano, to point out a few errors in our issue No. 79.

4th line. Read *dal*.  
 7th line. Mr. Sells says "E" should have a grave accent, and so it would have had, but our printers do not keep any accented capitals.

7th line. The 6th word should be *ed* as it comes before a vowel.

9th line. The last two words should be *la Cartolina* or *le Cartoline*.

This latter mistake was also pointed out by another reader.

This week's paragraphs are given below, and for the benefit of readers who have not seen our previous offers, we may mention that the Editor of *E.W.S.N.* every week awards several interesting new issues to the British and Foreign readers who respectively send in the best list of mistakes occurring in the extracts, it being necessary that such lists should be delivered not later than Wednesdays.

Une curieuse erreur a été vendue en fevrier 1899 par le bureau de poste de Colombo, Ceylan. Parmi les enveloppes enregistrées on en a débitées portant le timbre de Ceylan, mais ayant les inscriptions des enveloppes enregistrées de la République Sud-Africaine.

Cette erreur, involontaire ou non, sort des presses de la firme De la Rue & Co., de Londres, qui imprime les valeurs postales deux pays.

Il se confirme que le 25 centimes retouché de la vignette commémorative suisse du jubilé de l'Union Postale n'a pas été mise en circulation, quoique la planche en ait été refaite.

Il en a été tiré 4200 exemplaires dont 50 ont été déposés aux archives fédérales, le restant sera incinéré avec les réserves non vendues des autres valeurs mises en retrait depuis le 1r janvier dernier.

(*L'Essor Philatélique*.)

Italie.—Le *Corriere della Sera* dit qu'on s'occupe activement à l'atelier de Turin, de la fabrication des nouveaux timbres à l'effigie du roi Victor-Emmanuel III. Le 20 centesimi sera prêt le premier, puis viendra ensuite le 25 c. Ces timbres seront imprimés en taille-douce.

Les basses valeurs de 1, 2 et 5 cent, auront pour type un aigle, selon le désir exprimé par le roi-lui-même.

La carte-lettre de 20 cent. a paru avec le timbre en cours, l'émission remonte à la fin l'année dernière.

(*Le Collectionneur de Timbres-poste*.)

Deux nouvelles surcharges de Nouvelle Calédonie viennent d'arriver à Paris. Elles concernent les valeurs 15 sur 75 et 5 sur 2. Les griffes employées sont les mêmes qui ont servi pour celles de l'an passé. Il a été fait 6.000 surcharges de chaque espèce. Elles se vendent probablement un franc la paire.

(*L'Echo de la Timbrologie*.)

Importante vente publique en perspective.— Sous la direction de Me. Albinet, commissaire-priseur, M. Jules Bernichon, l'expert bien connu, dispersera aux enchères, à l'Hôtel Drouot, à Paris, vers fin mai prochain, la collection de feu Robert Lynck, plus connu sous le nom de Robert, dont la valeur représente environ 200,000 à 250,000 fr.

(*L'Echo de la Timbrologie*.)

**Buried Stamps.**

WE take the following interesting extract from the *Monthly Journal* :—

Stamp collectors (in Barbados) were wild two weeks ago when they learnt that thousands of valuable old stamps had been thrown away on the reef as rubbish. It appears that the records of the Official Assignee's Office, in the shape of bankrupt's ledgers, day books, account books, etc., had accumulated during the last fifty years to such an extent that they were some ten years ago removed to a room in the Court House. This room had also got filled up, and a short time back the Official Assignee decided to have the old ledgers carted away to the reef and buried. But, besides the old books, there was a vast mass of correspondence from England and various West India Islands relative to bankrupts, and numbers of old and valuable stamps remained on the envelopes, as in those days the stamp-collecting craze had not yet arisen. It is one of the peculiar ironies of fate that, when we have so many persons in our midst smitten with the philatelic mania, and when such heavy catalogue prices are offered for old West India stamps, a mine of unexplored stamp wealth should have remained hidden away in this musty old lumber-room. But the manner in which they were brought to light was even more peculiar. The order to throw away the ledgers was taken to mean clearing away everything in the room. Deep trenches were dug on the reef and some twenty cart loads of old ledgers and correspondence deposited therein. The matter would have possibly been forgotten but for the fact that a few street arabs picked up some of the envelopes that had blown away, and finding stamps on them determined to search for others. Dozens of these grubbing arabs were soon at work, and they unearthed thousands of stamps. But the methods of the Philatelist and the street arab are very different, and the latter's treatment spoiled hundreds of splendid specimens. When, moreover, a block of five or six was found on one envelope, a scrimmage usually ensued and the victor often only secured a useless fragment. But, even with all this, a few well-known purchasers have secured hundreds of stamps at prices which should leave them a very handsome margin of profit.—*From a Barbados paper.*

We have since been informed by a correspondent recently in Barbados that when the Government heard of this matter, they had the lot of ledgers, correspondence, etc., dug up and burnt.

**The Surcharged Spanish Stamps.**

WE append below a short article, regarding the 1868 surcharges of Spain, taken from an old number of *Le Timbre Post* which we believe will be of interest to many of our readers.

Just after the revolution of 1868, the Spanish government gave orders that the mark *HABILITADO POR LA NACION* should be impressed on all the stamps bearing the royal arms or the effigy of Queen Isabella. For the execution of this decree the government had from five to six hundred stamps made in bronze and these were sent to the revenue officials and to those who sold stamps for the account of the government. The hurry which occurred in preparing these stamps accounts for the want of resemblance between them, although they all bore the same legend, and also for the existence of the varieties of characters. With regard to the colour in which the inscriptions were struck, it will be easily understood that the stamps being distributed among many hands, each employé used what colour he pleased—black or blue, more or less clear.

The government order to apply the mark *HABILITADO* upon the stamps of 1868 and 1869 bearing the effigy of the Queen, was fully carried out with the stamped paper, but it was not the same with the postage stamps. The clerks, during the first few days which followed the promulgation of the order, complied with its provisions, but afterwards—probably because it was found that the work was too great—they disobeyed orders, and ceased to affix the mark, and the government finding this to be the case withdrew its decree, and interdicted the circulation of the "Habilitados" stamps.

The Madrid office sent to the provinces and colonies a certain number of hand stamps but the colonial administration, after marking some hundreds of stamps permitted the law to fall into obedience. From these facts it results that authentically surcharged stamps are somewhat rare, a statement well borne out as will be seen on reference to any current catalogue.

With regard to the mark "*HABILITADO POR LA JUNTA REBOLUTIONARIA*," the writer of the above observes, genuine specimens bearing this mark must be extremely rare for the hand stamp was never used except at Madrid, and there only for a few days.

**The V.R.I. Surcharged of the late Orange Free State.**

PAPER READ BEFORE THE SYDNEY PHILATELIC CLUB, BY THE PRESIDENT,

COLONEL W. D. C. WILLIAMS, P.M.O.

ON the 13th March, 1900, Lord Roberts with his army entered and occupied Bloemfontein. The Post Office and Treasury were at once taken possession of by the Intelligence Department of the Army, and arrangements made for all the then current Orange Free State Stamps, both at the Post Office and in the Treasury, to be at once Surcharged "V.R.I." with the figure of value.

This work was carried out by Mr. Curling, a general printer in a large way of business at Bloemfontein. The machine used was an American press, called the "Pearl"—only capable however, of printing a pane of 60 stamps (one quarter of the whole sheet) at each stroke. The greatest care was taken to prevent errors. Prior to any sheet being surcharged, several impressions were taken off on blank paper, the results carefully scrutinised, and all errors that did occur can be fairly put down to the slipping of type during the process of printing.

On 19th March, six days after the occupation, the ¼d., 1d., 2½d. and 1s. values came out, and were sold at the post office. On 21st March the 4d., 6d. carmine and 5s. appeared. On 24th March the 6d. carmine were all disposed of. There were only 30 sheets in all of 240 stamps per sheet available for surcharge—but there were at least three distinct printings of this value during their brief existence of three days.\*

The 6d. blue, was issued on the same date that saw the end of the 6d. carmine, viz.: the 24th March.

On 30th March the 2d. value came to hand.

On 2nd April the 3d. value was on sale—this completed the series.

The actual number of stamps which was available for surcharge on the entry of the British troops, was given to me by the officials at Bloemfontein on 26th March 1900, and in regard to many values, was considerably less than those quoted below—which are taken from the latest official return on 2nd June; but this can be accounted for, as a number of stamps came in from outside post offices, as they fell into the hands of the British—these numbers were not very great, as it was the Boer habit to destroy stamps prior to evacuating a town. The return given me on 2nd June, which I believe has already been published, as to the number of sheets available (240 stamps per sheet) is as under :

¼d.	1d.	2d.	2½d.	3d.
5770	13100	5130	80	4270
4d.	6d. red.	6d. blue.	1s.	5s.
310	30	2800	1830	970

With the exception of the 2½d., no value had all its sheets surcharged in one printing, and the 2½d. has also another peculiarity, in that it is the only value, as far as I know, in which there is marked difference as to the depth of spacing between the "V.R.I." and the figure of value—wide at the top of the pane, and gradually narrowing down until the two almost touch at the bottom of the pane. The quarter sheet exhibited shows this very clearly. The sheets of the various values were surcharged in separate printings according to postal requirements, the printer receiving a certain number of sheets of different values one day, and other values later on. It was generally accepted when I was in Bloemfontein that the printings, which showed marked distinctions, were carried out in the following order :

- 1st printing. Stops level with bottom of letters.
- 2nd " Stops mixed, some high, some low.
- 3rd " Stops higher up and smaller.
- 4th " Stops low down, but much heavier than first printing.

The list above differs somewhat from that given in Bright's last catalogue under the head of "Types." Is not the term "Print" more correct than that of "Type" in these cases? I am writing however to Mr. Curling at Bloemfontein to ask if he can definitely state in which order the various printings appeared.

Now a few words about the rare "Brown penny," V.R.I. surcharge, and the yellow 1s, similarly dealt with. When the British took over the postal arrangements, the National Bank of South Africa at Bloemfontein had a number of O.F.S. stamps on hand, and asked permission to have them surcharged "V.R.I." by payment to the Imperial authorities.

We publish this extremely interesting paper *in toto*, although not entirely in accord with Colonel Williams. As regards the 6d. carmine, it is more likely that several issues took place, the later ones appearing as the stamps were brought in from outlying towns and consequently after the 6d. blue had appeared.

This was granted and the work carried out by the official printer. Amongst the stamps were a few brown pennies and yellow shillings of the previous issue, and these went along to the printer with the others. *Black and White* of 4th August, 1900, stated that there were only 8 stamps of the 1d. value and 20 of the 1s. This is under the mark, for I have the authority of the printer to state that he surcharged over 50 of the 1d. value and 100 of the yellow 1s.

As soon as the Intelligence Department discovered that an obsolete issue had been surcharged in error, every endeavour was made to get in all the copies that had left the printer, and with marked success, although some did pass through the post in the ordinary way—specimens of which I have seen. I am indebted to Major O'Meara, R.E., Chief of the Intelligence Department at Bloemfontein, for the specimens I am able to exhibit to the Society this evening.

All stamps printed for the National Bank were surcharged on both sides—and many have pin-holes through them, showing where certain small blocks of stamps were affixed to the frame. This double printing is one great guide against fraudulent copies.

Before concluding, a few words re "Commando Stamps," (as to whose postal value there seems some doubt), may be of interest.

I take it that the Commando Stamp is a genuine postage stamp, and not one issued merely for "the private speculation of a chemist" as stated by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons.

Their history is this. In the very early days of the war all letters from Boer Commandos were sent unstamped, but franked by the Boer Commandant. As the Boer forces increased this became somewhat of a task and the Commandants and Mr. Hochapfel, a chemist in Bloemfontein, who had gone out on Commando with the Boers as principal of their Field Post, was directed to produce a stamp which would answer the purpose—hence the Commando stamp. The entire envelopes shown with dates of 26th October and 31st October, 1899—some 5½ months prior to British occupation, rather dispel the speculative theory.

*(The Australian Philatelist.)*

**Greek Surcharges.**

Most of our readers are probably aware that in the recently surcharged stamps of Greece two varieties of the "O" in the overprinted figures of value may be found, one being broader than the other. We have examined sheets of three different values to see in what proportion the broad is to the narrow "O" and find the former is the most uncommon.

The values we examined were the imperf. Athen's print of the large head "Mercury" type, viz.: 30 lepta on 40 lepta, purple on cream; 40 lepta on 2 lepta, stone on cream; and 50 lepta on 40 lepta, buff on cream, with figures on the back. The stamps are in sheets of 150 in fifteen rows of ten, and the positions of the two types of "O" are identical in all three values. In the list given below "B" signifies broad "O" and "N" narrow "O." The two varieties are distributed as follows :—

B	B	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	B	B
B	B	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	B	B
B	B	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	B	B
B	B	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	B	B
B	B	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	B	B
B	B	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	B	B
B	B	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	B	B
B	B	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	B	B
B	B	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	B	B
B	B	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	B	B
B	B	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	B	B
B	B	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	B	B
B	B	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	B	B
B	B	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	B	B
B	B	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	B	B

It will thus be seen that in every sheet of 150 stamps 53 of them have broad "Os" and 97 have narrow "Os."

In each sheet, too, there is an error of spelling, viz.:—"AEP<sup>T</sup>A" instead of "AEP<sup>T</sup>A," which occurs twice, i.e., on the fifth stamp in the fourth row and on the last stamp in the fifth row.

One imperforate sheet we examined was quite rich in errors. This was the 30 lepta on 40 lepta, purple on cream, Athen's print, large head of "Mercury." The following are the errors we noted :—

- (a) AEP<sup>T</sup>A instead of AEP<sup>T</sup>A, with broad "O" in the value.
- (b) Similar with narrow "O" in the value.
- (c) AEP<sup>T</sup>A instead of AEP<sup>T</sup>A.
- (d) TEPTA instead of AEP<sup>T</sup>A.
- (e) Has the "T" inverted, viz.:—"AEP<sup>L</sup>A."

The three last varieties have the narrow "O" in the figures of value.

## Postmark Notes.

By "DUPLEX."

MR. H. CLARK sends for inspection several interesting marks including two Birmingham concentric circular date stamps similar to the type illustrated here with the letters "C.H." and "A.M." respectively after the name "BIRMINGHAM." The letters "C.H." probably stand for Constitution Hill, while the initials "A.M." may be for Aston Manor.



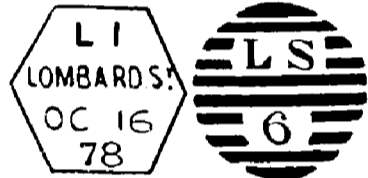
The same correspondent sends several varieties of the type illustrated here. One of these has "LONDON" only in the scroll at the top with date across the centre between double lines and a stamper's number below. Another variety with "LONDON, E.C." in the scroll has the curved at the bottom of the circle while the time of posting occupies the central space.



Referring to my recent article on South African Field Post Office Marks, Mr. Raymond A. Eddy says he has a number 46 of the concentric circles type. This is the highest number in this type I have heard of yet.

Mr. W. L. Hall sends me a South Lambeth circular postmark, showing a curious error of date, viz.:—"AP 3—-0," certainly a record early date! Another variety of wrong date is described under "Natal" in our New Issues column.

The type of duplex mark shown here is one of the most interesting of the London types. As will be seen by the accompanying cut, it consists of a hexagonal date stamp adjoining an obliterator composed of parallel lines. In the obliterator spaces are made for the insertion of district initials and a stamper's number. These are, I believe, "late fee" marks.



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We give the following extracts from the general press as they appear to be of more than usual interest:—

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I learn from a high postal authority that the difficulty which lies in the way of providing a Royal red stamp for the penny denomination is one of chemistry. It is said that no ink of that tint procurable at a reasonable price is fast to sunlight, water, and exagents, and it is of supreme importance that the postage stamp most frequently used should be, in postal phraseology, treble fast, because otherwise it would be affected by the action of the saliva, if not also by atmospheric moisture. Many experiments have been made of late in the production of a new range of treble fast colours for the new issue, but no fresh discoveries have resulted, and the existing colours will almost certainly be perpetuated, although not necessarily for the same denominations as now.

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## The Arms of Madrid.

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Long years ago when the site of Madrid was occupied by only a few peasants' cottages, a young girl, resident in one of them, left her home to go and pluck *madronos*. On approaching the tree she was about to despoil she observed a huge bear seated in its branches busily engaged in munching the fruit. Horror stricken, the girl hastily retreated; but on telling her mother what she had seen received in reply a blow from her distaff. "Indeed *Madre*," (mother) said the girl, "if you do not believe go into the orchard and see, and you will soon believe I am speaking the truth." Nothing loth, the mother went; the bear saw and seized her; and the justice of heaven was accomplished by her destruction. In memory of the fact the government of the day conferred on the infant community the name of *Madre-id* (corrupted in time to Madrid) and granted it permission to take for its arms the "Bear and the Tree."

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" I.R. Official, 10/- blue	37	0
" " £1 green	42	0
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" 8d. brown, " fine	£9/10	
" 2/- blue, " fine	£5	
" 1/9 green, design cut into	£3	
" 2r. 50c. rose, unused	£5/10	
Gold Coast, 1894, 10/- and 20/-, unused	£2	
Lagos, 1887, 2/6 olive-back	88	0
Zululand, £1 purple on red, unused	33	0
Mafeking, complete sets of 19	£19	and £18/10
St. Vincent, 4d. on 1/- vermilion	£8	
Turks Is., 2½d. on 1/- dull blue, type 13, mint	£10/10	
New South Wales, current 20/-, mint	24	0

Sale by Messrs. Plumridge & Co., March 19th and 20th, 1901.

Gambia, 1/- green, used, fine	34	0
Great Britain, 10/- wmk., Cross	14	0
Newfoundland, 6½d. carmine, mint	£6/10	

Sale by Messrs. Puttick & Simpson, March 26th and 27th, 1901.

Gibraltar, error, carmine, value omitted	167	6
Ceylon, 1/9 green, perf., mint	92	6
B.C.A. on B.S.A., £2 rose-red	122	6
" " £5 green	122	6
" " 1892, 3/- on 4/- and 4/- on 5/-	28	0
B.S.A., £1 black and red on green	30	0
Cape Woodblock, 1d. blue, error, two tears	£40	
Zululand, £5, unused	132	6
Canada, 12d. black, unused, poor	£20	
Newfoundland, 1/- scarlet, fine	£11	
Trinidad, 1896, 5/- green and brown and 10/- green and blue, mint	34	0
Turk's Islands, 2½d. on 1/- blue, type 10, mint	£9	
" 2½d. on 1/- lilac, type 11, mint	£13	
Sydney View, 2d. deep blue	80	0
" ditto, plate 2	50	0
New South Wales, 2d. blue "WALES"	87	6
India, 1854, ¼a. red, unused, but no gum	112	6
Labuan, 1891, 6c. on 40c., with surcharge inverted, mint	90	0
Mauritius, 1859, large fillet, 2d. dark blue, three small tears	126	0
" 2d. blue on bluish, error 'PENOE'	60	0
Niger Coast, 10/- surcharged on 5d.	£7/5	
British Columbia, 1 dollar, mint	58	0
New Brunswick, 1/- mauve, thinned and slightly cut	137	6
Newfoundland, 6d. scarlet	95	0
" 1/- orange, torn	127	6
St. Lucia, 1883-4, C.A., 1/- orange	42	0
St. Vincent, 1880, 5/- rose, star, unused	£11/10	
British Guiana, 1852, 1c. magenta repaired	75	0
" 4c. blue, defective	63	0
" 1856, 4c. magenta	£11	
Great Britain, £1 anchor, on bluish	46	0
Ceylon, 4d. rose imperf. thinned	102	0
" 8d. brown, tear in top corner	£6/10	
" 1/9 green, unused, no gum	52	6

## Extracts from the Foreign Press.

OWING presumably to the Easter Holidays, very few readers appear to have had time to look through our Foreign Extracts in last Saturday's issue. In fact, only one reader has pointed out any errors—Mr. A. Cooper, of Nice—the prize being accordingly awarded to him. The following are found by him:

- Par. Line.  
 II. 15. "d" belongs to *devait*.  
 II. 32. Hyphen omitted between *timbres-poste*  
 II. 38. No comma after *envoyes*.

There are in addition several other mistakes, but we have not had time this week to go carefully through. Capitals are unnecessary for *timbres-poste* as also the hyphen joining the two first syllables of *envoyes*.

We expect the late issue of *E.W.S.N.* last week has had some effect on the entries this time. It was our intention to send the paper to press on Wednesday instead of Thursday, but the printers were unable to find sufficient time on the earlier day. Accordingly *E.W.S.N.* did not reach our London publishers till early on the morning of Good Friday, which prevented its distribution till after the holidays. Every reader should, however, have received our Easter number by last Wednesday.

Mr. C. de Grave Sells writes from Cornigliano, to point out a few errors in our issue No. 79.

4th line. Read *dal*.  
 7th line. Mr. Sells says "E" should have a grave accent, and so it would have had, but our printers do not keep any accented capitals.

7th line. The 6th word should be *ed* as it comes before a vowel.  
 9th line. The last two words should be *la Carlolina* or *le Carloline*.

This latter mistake was also pointed out by another reader.

This week's paragraphs are given below, and for the benefit of readers who have not seen our previous offers, we may mention that the Editor of *E.W.S.N.* every week awards several interesting new issues to the British and Foreign readers who respectively send in the best list of mistakes occurring in the extracts, it being necessary that such lists should be delivered not later than Wednesdays.

Une curieuse erreur a été vendue en février 1899 par le bureau de poste de Colombo, Ceylan. Parmi les enveloppes enregistrées on en a débitées portant le timbre de Ceylan, mais ayant les inscriptions des enveloppes enregistrées de la République Sud-Africaine.

Cette erreur, involontaire ou non, sort des presses de la firme De la Rue & Co., de Londres, qui imprime les valeurs postales deux pays.

Il se confirme que le 25 centimes retouché de la vignette commémorative suisse du jubilé de l'Union Postale n'a pas été mise en circulation, quoique la planche en ait été refaite.

Il en a été tiré 4200 exemplaires dont 50 ont été déposés aux archives fédérales, le restant sera incinéré avec les réserves non vendues des autres valeurs mises en retrait depuis le 11 janvier dernier.

(*L'Essor Philatélique*.)

Italie.—Le *Corriere della Sera* dit qu'on s'occupe activement à l'atelier de Turin, de la fabrication des nouveaux timbres à l'effigie du roi Victor-Emmanuel III. Le 20 centesimi sera prêt le premier, puis viendra ensuite le 25 c. Ces timbres seront imprimés en taille-douce.

Les basses valeurs de 1, 2 et 5 cent, auront pour type un aigle, selon le désir exprimé par le roi-lui-même.

La carte-lettre de 20 cent. a paru avec le timbre en cours, l'émission remonte à la fin l'année dernière.

(*Le Collectionneur de Timbres-poste*.)

Deux nouvelles surcharges de Nouvelle Calédonie viennent d'arriver à Paris. Elles concernent les valeurs 15 sur 75 et 5 sur 2. Les griffes employées sont les mêmes qui ont servi pour celles de l'an passé. Il a été fait 6.000 surcharges de chaque espèce. Elles se vendent probablement un franc la paire.

(*L'Echo de la Timbrologie*.)

Importante vente publique en perspective.—Sous la direction de Me. Albinet, commissaire-priseur, M. Jules Bernichon, l'expert bien connu, dispersera aux enchères, à l'Hôtel Drouot, à Paris, vers fin mai prochain, la collection de feu Robert Lynck, plus connu sous le nom de Robert, dont la valeur représente environ 200,000 à 250,000 fr.

(*L'Echo de la Timbrologie*.)



**Buried Stamps.**

WE take the following interesting extract from the *Monthly Journal* :—

Stamp collectors (in Barbados) were wild two weeks ago when they learnt that thousands of valuable old stamps had been thrown away on the reef as rubbish. It appears that the records of the Official Assignee's Office, in the shape of bankrupt's ledgers, day books, account books, etc., had accumulated during the last fifty years to such an extent that they were some ten years ago removed to a room in the Court House. This room had also got filled up, and a short time back the Official Assignee decided to have the old ledgers carted away to the reef and buried. But, besides the old books, there was a vast mass of correspondence from England and various West India Islands relative to bankrupts, and numbers of old and valuable stamps remained on the envelopes, as in those days the stamp-collecting craze had not yet arisen. It is one of the peculiar ironies of fate that, when we have so many persons in our midst smitten with the philatelic mania, and when such heavy catalogue prices are offered for old West India stamps, a mine of unexplored stamp wealth should have remained hidden away in this musty old lumber-room. But the manner in which they were brought to light was even more peculiar. The order to throw away the ledgers was taken to mean clearing away everything in the room. Deep trenches were dug on the reef and some twenty cart loads of old ledgers and correspondence deposited therein. The matter would have possibly been forgotten but for the fact that a few street arabs picked up some of the envelopes that had blown away, and finding stamps on them determined to search for others. Dozens of these grubbing arabs were soon at work, and they unearthed thousands of stamps. But the methods of the Philatelist and the street arab are very different, and the latter's treatment spoiled hundreds of splendid specimens. When, moreover, a block of five or six was found on one envelope, a scrimmage usually ensued and the victor often only secured a useless fragment. But, even with all this, a few well-known purchasers have secured hundreds of stamps at prices which should leave them a very handsome margin of profit.—*From a Barbados paper.*

We have since been informed by a correspondent recently in Barbados that when the Government heard of this matter, they had the lot of ledgers, correspondence, etc., dug up and burnt.

**The Surcharged Spanish Stamps.**

WE append below a short article, regarding the 1868 surcharges of Spain, taken from an old number of *Le Timbre Post* which we believe will be of interest to many of our readers.

Just after the revolution of 1868, the Spanish government gave orders that the mark *HABILITADO POR LA NACION* should be impressed on all the stamps bearing the royal arms or the effigy of Queen Isabella. For the execution of this decree the government had from five to six hundred stamps made in bronze and these were sent to the revenue officials and to those who sold stamps for the account of the government. The hurry which occurred in preparing these stamps accounts for the want of resemblance between them, although they all bore the same legend, and also for the existence of the varieties of characters. With regard to the colour in which the inscriptions were struck, it will be easily understood that the stamps being distributed among many hands, each employé used what colour he pleased—black or blue, more or less clear.

The government order to apply the mark *HABILITADO* upon the stamps of 1868 and 1869 bearing the effigy of the Queen, was fully carried out with the stamped paper, but it was not the same with the postage stamps. The clerks, during the first few days which followed the promulgation of the order, complied with its provisions, but afterwards—probably because it was found that the work was too great—they disobeyed orders, and ceased to affix the mark, and the government finding this to be the case withdrew its decree, and interdicted the circulation of the "*Habilitados*" stamps.

The Madrid office sent to the provinces and colonies a certain number of hand stamps but the colonial administration, after marking some hundreds of stamps permitted the law to fall into obedience. From these facts it results that authentically surcharged stamps are somewhat rare, a statement well borne out as will be seen on reference to any current catalogue.

With regard to the mark "*HABILITADO POR LA JUNTA REVOLUTIONARIA*," the writer of the above observes, genuine specimens bearing this mark must be extremely rare for the hand stamp was never used except at Madrid, and there only for a few days.

**The V.R.I. Surcharged of the late Orange Free State.**

PAPER READ BEFORE THE SYDNEY PHILATELIC CLUB, BY THE PRESIDENT,

COLONEL W. D. C. WILLIAMS, P.M.O.

ON the 13th March, 1900, Lord Roberts with his army entered and occupied Bloemfontein. The Post Office and Treasury were at once taken possession of by the Intelligence Department of the Army, and arrangements made for all the then current Orange Free State Stamps, both at the Post Office and in the Treasury, to be at once surcharged "*V.R.I.*" with the figure of value.

This work was carried out by Mr. Curling, a general printer in a large way of business at Bloemfontein. The machine used was an American press, called the "*Pearl*"—only capable however, of printing a pane of 60 stamps (one quarter of the whole sheet) at each stroke. The greatest care was taken to prevent errors. Prior to any sheet being surcharged, several impressions were taken off on blank paper, the results carefully scrutinised, and all errors that did occur can be fairly put down to the slipping of type during the process of printing.

On 19th March, six days after the occupation, the ½d., 1d., 2½d. and 1s. values came out, and were sold at the post office. On 21st March the 4d., 6d. carmine and 5s. appeared. On 24th March the 6d. carmine were all disposed of. There were only 30 sheets in all of 240 stamps per sheet available for surcharge—but there were at least three distinct printings of this value during their brief existence of three days.\*

The 6d. blue, was issued on the same date that saw the end of the 6d. carmine, viz.: the 24th March.

On 30th March the 2d. value came to hand.

On 2nd April the 3d. value was on sale—this completed the series.

The actual number of stamps which was available for surcharge on the entry of the British troops, was given to me by the officials at Bloemfontein on 26th March 1900, and in regard to many values, was considerably less than those quoted below—which are taken from the latest official return on 2nd June; but this can be accounted for, as a number of stamps came in from outside post offices, as they fell into the hands of the British—these numbers were not very great, as it was the Boer habit to destroy stamps prior to evacuating a town. The return given me on 2nd June, which I believe has already been published, as to the number of sheets available (240 stamps per sheet) is as under :

½d.	1d.	2d.	2½d.	3d.
5770	13100	5130	80	4270
4d.	6d. red.	6d. blue.	1s.	5s.
310	30	2800	1830	970

With the exception of the 2½d., no value had all its sheets surcharged in one printing, and the 2½d. has also another peculiarity, in that it is the only value, as far as I know, in which there is marked difference as to the depth of spacing between the "*V.R.I.*" and the figure of value—wide at the top of the pane, and gradually narrowing down until the two almost touch at the bottom of the pane. The quarter sheet exhibited shows this very clearly. The sheets of the various values were surcharged in separate printings according to postal requirements, the printer receiving a certain number of sheets of different values one day, and other values later on. It was generally accepted when I was in Bloemfontein that the printings, which showed marked distinctions, were carried out in the following order :

- 1st printing. Stops level with bottom of letters.
- 2nd " Stops mixed, some high, some low.
- 3rd " Stops higher up and smaller.
- 4th " Stops low down, but much heavier than first printing.

The list above differs somewhat from that given in Bright's last catalogue under the head of "*Types.*" Is not the term "*Print*" more correct than that of "*Type*" in these cases? I am writing however to Mr. Curling at Bloemfontein to ask if he can definitely state in which order the various printings appeared.

Now a few words about the rare "*Brown penny,*" *V.R.I.* surcharge, and the yellow 1s. similarly dealt with. When the British took over the postal arrangements, the National Bank of South Africa at Bloemfontein had a number of *O.F.S.* stamps on hand, and asked permission to have them surcharged "*V.R.I.*" by payment to the Imperial authorities.

We publish this extremely interesting paper *in toto*, although not entirely in accord with Colonel Williams. As regards the 6d. carmine, it is more likely that several issues took place, the later ones appearing as the stamps were brought in from outlying towns and consequently after the 6d. blue had appeared.

This was granted and the work carried out by the official printer. Amongst the stamps were a few brown pennies and yellow shillings of the previous issue, and these went along to the printer with the others. *Black and White* of 4th August, 1900, stated that there were only 8 stamps of the 1d. value and 20 of the 1s. This is under the mark, for I have the authority of the printer to state that he surcharged over 50 of the 1d. value and 100 of the yellow 1s.

As soon as the Intelligence Department discovered that an obsolete issue had been surcharged in error, every endeavour was made to get in all the copies that had left the printer, and with marked success, although some did pass through the post in the ordinary way—specimens of which I have seen. I am indebted to Major O'Meara, R.E., Chief of the Intelligence Department at Bloemfontein, for the specimens I am able to exhibit to the Society this evening.

All stamps printed for the National Bank were surcharged on both sides—and many have pinholes through them, showing where certain small blocks of stamps were affixed to the frame. This double printing is one great guide against fraudulent copies.

Before concluding, a few words *re* "*Commando Stamps,*" (as to whose postal value there seems some doubt), may be of interest.

I take it that the *Commando Stamp* is a genuine postage stamp, and not one issued merely for "the private speculation of a chemist" as stated by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons.

Their history is this. In the very early days of the war all letters from Boer Commandos were sent unstamped, but franked by the Boer Commandant. As the Boer forces increased this became somewhat of a task and the Commandants and Mr. Hochapfel, a chemist in Bloemfontein, who had gone out on *Commando* with the Boers as principal of their Field Post, was directed to produce a stamp which would answer the purpose—hence the *Commando stamp*. The entire envelopes shown with dates of 26th October and 31st October, 1899—some 5½ months prior to British occupation, rather dispel the speculative theory.

(*The Australian Philatelist.*)

**Greek Surcharges.**

Most of our readers are probably aware that in the recently surcharged stamps of Greece two varieties of the "*O*" in the overprinted figures of value may be found, one being broader than the other. We have examined sheets of three different values to see in what proportion the broad is to the narrow "*O*" and find the former is the most uncommon.

The values we examined were the imperf. Athen's print of the large head "*Mercury*" type, viz.: 30 lepta on 40 lepta, purple on cream; 40 lepta on 2 lepta, stone on cream; and 50 lepta on 40 lepta, buff on cream, with figures on the back. The stamps are in sheets of 150 in fifteen rows of ten, and the positions of the two types of "*O*" are identical in all three values. In the list given below "*B*" signifies broad "*O*" and "*N*" narrow "*O*." The two varieties are distributed as follows :—

B	B	N	B	N	N	N	N	B	B
B	B	N	B	N	N	N	N	B	N
B	B	N	B	N	N	N	N	B	N
B	B	N	B	N	N	N	N	B	N
B	B	N	B	N	N	N	N	B	N
B	B	N	B	N	N	N	N	B	N
B	B	N	B	N	N	N	N	B	N
B	B	N	B	N	N	N	N	B	N
B	B	N	B	N	N	N	N	B	N
B	B	N	B	N	N	N	N	B	N
B	B	N	B	N	N	N	N	B	N
B	B	N	B	N	N	N	N	B	N
B	B	N	B	N	N	N	N	B	N
B	B	N	B	N	N	N	N	B	N
B	B	N	B	N	N	N	N	B	N

It will thus be seen that in every sheet of 150 stamps 53 of them have broad "*Os*" and 97 have narrow "*Os*."

In each sheet, too, there is an error of spelling, viz.:—"AEPTA" instead of "AEPTA," which occurs twice, *i.e.*, on the fifth stamp in the fourth row and on the last stamp in the fifth row.

One imperforate sheet we examined was quite rich in errors. This was the 30 lepta on 40 lepta, purple on cream, Athen's print, large head of "*Mercury.*" The following are the errors we noted :—

- (a) AEPTA instead of AEPTA, with broad "*O*" in the value.
- (b) Similar with narrow "*O*" in the value.
- (c) AEPTA instead of AEPTA.
- (d) TEPTA instead of AEPTA.
- (e) Has the "*T*" inverted, viz.:—"AEPLA."

The three last varieties have the narrow "*O*" in the figures of value.

## Approval Selections.

WE are now arranging and mounting a specially fine series of Approval Collections, comprising the stamps of all countries, and will have pleasure in sending same to any reader, on compliance with the conditions named below. Except where specially noted, any stamp may be selected at the price marked above it, and in most cases we allow a liberal discount off such prices. All communications for our Approval Department should be addressed to H. L. EWEN, 32, Palace Square, Norwood, S.E.

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  - 3.—Collectors are not permitted to deduct return postage from amount of purchase.
  - 4.—Discount is conditional on purchase exceeding 1/- and will be forfeited if selection is kept over the five days allowed.
  - 5.—Spaces should not be marked.
  - 6.—Sheets should be returned folded as sent.
  - 7.—When a selection is returned, another will be sent unless otherwise requested.
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### APPROVAL SHEETS.

No.	Discount.	Description.
203.	Nett.	Miscellaneous Colonials.
205.	25%	West Indies.
206.	Nett.	V.R.I.'s.
207.	50%	Mexico.
208.	25%	Miscellaneous.
211.	"	Russia.
212.	"	Norway.
214.	"	Finland.
216.	"	Roumania.
217.	"	Old Europeans.
218.	"	Venezuela.
219.	"	Egypt.
220.	"	Hayti.
225.	"	Bosnia, Bulgaria and Montenegro.
228.	"	Miscellaneous Colonials.
229.	"	Thurn and Taxis.
230.	"	Saxony.
231.	"	Spain (early issues).
232.	"	Spain (War Tax, Official, &c.)
233.	"	Spain (Carlist Stamps).
235.	"	Philippines.
237.	Nett.	Hawaii Islands.
239.	25%	Holland and Colonies.
240.	"	Antigua, Bahamas, &c.
BOOKLETS.		
501.	Nett.	Fiji and Cook Islands.
504.	"	Unused African Colonials.
505.	"	African Colonials.
506.	"	Unused Colonials.
508.	25%	Liberia.
509.	"	Denmark.
510.	"	Luxemburg.
511.	"	Austria.
512.	"	Austrian Italy.
513.	"	Timor.
514.	"	Macao.
515.	"	Peru.
516.	"	Japan.
517.	"	Finland and Poland.
518.	"	Queensland.
519.	"	Tasmania.
522.	"	Australian (common).
523.	Nett.	Unused English.
524.	25%	Gambia, Gold Coast, Lagos, &c.
525.	"	French Colonies.
527.	"	Used English.
529.	"	Saravak.
531.	Nett.	Unused Colonials.
534.	25%	Ceylon.
534.	"	Indian Native States.
536.	"	Sweden.
538.	"	Switzerland.
539.	"	India.
BOOKS.		
111.	10%	Unused English (chiefly 1d. reds. in strips
112.	"	New South Wales. [and blocks].
113.	Nett.	V.R.I. Errors and Varieties.
114.	"	V.R.I. Strips and Blocks.
115.	10%	Orange Free State.
116.	"	Transvaal.
117.	"	Unused Australians.
LARGE BOOKS.		
A1.	20%	Used English.
A2.	25%	Used English.
A3.	10%	Used English.
D.	25%	Cut Envelopes.
G06.	"	English with Foreign Postmarks.
H.	10%	Railway Letter Fee Stamps.

We have for sale a few fine used copies of the Russian error—3 Kopecs with background of "V's," the groundwork of the 5 kopecs. These we are offering at 1/6 each.

\* \* \*

This week we are able to offer the following choice stamps:—

	PRICE.
British Columbia, 50c. on 3d. violet, fine mint pair... ..	30/-
South Australia, 3d. on 4d. blue, superb mint, block of four ... ..	40/-
Turks Islands, 1/-, dull blue, first issue used, nice copy ... ..	15/-
B.C.A. on B.S.A., 3/- on 4/- mint ... ..	25/-
Tasmania, 1d. blue, first issue, used ... ..	45/-
" 4d. orange, first issue, used, superb specimen ... ..	15/-
Antigua; mint pair 1d. lake, Crown CC. perf. 12½; with inverted wmk. ... ..	15/-
Barbados; 5/- dull rose, used ... ..	37/6
" ditto, not so fine ... ..	27/6
British Honduras; 1882 issue, 6d. yellow, used, Crown CA. 14 ... ..	40/-
Finland; 1 mark, used, 1867-70 issue one corner torn, S.G., No. 49 ... ..	7/6
Griqualand; 5/- orange, used, S.G. No. 70, very rare ... ..	12/-
Griqualand; 5/- orange, used, S.G. No. 116 ... ..	2/6
Mauritius; 5/- violet used ... ..	5/-
New South Wales; 2d. Sidney View used, fair copy ... ..	15/-
" 5/- map, used, perf. 10 ... ..	12/6
" 5/- coin "O.S." used, perf. 12½ ... ..	6/6
Queensland; 2/6 vermil. used, S.G. No. 114 ... ..	4/-
St. Vincent; 5/- wmk. *, has "REVENUE" printed across it otherwise would be worth £15 ... ..	30/-
Victoria; 1d. green, S.G. No. 46, fine pair, used ... ..	17/6
Wurtemberg; 5 marks pale blue, unused... ..	7/-

Any of the above stamps can be sent on approval if required, but immediate application is necessary, as in most instances we have no duplicates of the lots offered.

### Wholesale Lots for Sale.

We can offer this week the following cheap wholesale lots, viz. :—

Ceylon, 5 cents lilac, CA., 4,280... ..	price	8/-
" ditto 2,788... ..	price	5/-
" 5 cents on 8 cents, Gibbons' No. 146, 600 ... ..	price	10/6
British Guiana, 2c. lilac and orange, 4097 ... ..	price	18/-
Gold Coast, 1d. carmine, 1884 issue, 683 ... ..	price	10/6
Straits Settlements, 2 cents C.A., Gibbons' No. 48, 1,073 ... ..	price	10/-
Transvaal, 2d. bistre, Gibbons' type 20, 794 ... ..	price	21/-
Canada Map Stamps, a fine lot of 1549 on pieces of original ... ..	price	45/-
Great Britain, 1d. red, plate numbers unexamined ... ..	...1,000 for	1/6
— A fine lot of 10,333. 1d. red and 2d. blue, imperf. including fine strips and blocks ... ..		£7.

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# Ewen's Weekly Stamp News.

With which is incorporated EWEN'S WEEKLY CIRCULAR. (Established October, 1897.)

A JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

THE ONLY WEEKLY STAMP PAPER  
PUBLISHED IN EUROPE.

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## The Week's News.

Our American contemporaries state that owing to the enormously increased demand for stamps it will be necessary for the Bureau of Printing and Engraving at Washington to work night and day for some time to prevent a positive postage stamp famine. The demand is said to be much in excess of the estimates of the post office department, and the only reason to account for it is the establishing of rural mail routes, in connection with the commercial prosperity of the country.

\* \* \*

The vessel pictured on the 10 cents stamp of the Pan-American series is stated by *Mekeel's Weekly* to represent the American line steamer *St. Paul*.

\* \* \*

The *Weekly Philatelic Era* says that another great exposition is to be held at Charlestown, S.C., from December 1st, 1901, to June 1st, 1902, and wonders whether, in consequence, another commemorative issue of postage stamps is to be perpetrated upon a patient and long suffering philatelic public.

\* \* \*

Mr. R. W. Reid, the *Daily Mail's* special war correspondent, cabling from Pretoria on Tuesday, says that during their occupation of Pietersburg, the Boers issued a special set of stamps inscribed "Z.A.R."

We learn from the *Australian Philatelist* that a stamp is being prepared to commemorate the visit of the Duke of Cornwall and York to Australia. The design will consist of the current halfpenny green stamp of New South Wales, with the Duke's head in the place of that of Queen Victoria. The stamp will be issued when His Royal Highness arrives in the colony.

\* \* \*

Writing in his usual interesting style in the columns of the *Metropolitan Philatelist*, the "Optimist" makes some observations regarding the proposed new issue of stamps for the United States. With the Pan-American series just about to appear it is not likely the new issue will be brought out just yet—probably not until well on in 1902. After some preliminary remarks the writer states:—"It may be said at the outset, that the new series, if issued, will consist of the same number and denominations of stamps now in use. It is also probable that the stamps will be of the same colors and general shape and size as at present. The chief points of change will be in the designs. It is altogether likely that some of the old and familiar faces will disappear from the higher valued stamps and that other faces will take their places. It seems also quite probable that upon each stamp of the series will appear the date of issue, the name of the person whose likeness appears thereon and possibly the date of his birth and death. Whose likenesses may disappear and whose may replace them cannot be even guessed at with any basis for the belief as no one knows. However, these changes will doubtless be made.

It is hinted that there may be some changes in the position of some of the faces, notably that of Washington on the two cents value. At present an extreme side view or profile appears. In place of this it is likely that Washington will appear front facing, as in the ten cents 1847 stamp. All the points of possible or probable change mentioned will at once appeal to stamp collectors and the public generally as sensible and in good taste."

EVERY STAMP COLLECTOR  
SHOULD SUBSCRIBE TO  
EWEN'S WEEKLY STAMP NEWS.

## New Issues.

The Editor will be much obliged for early news of New Issues or intended New Issues or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors. Full acknowledgment given. If possible, specimens should be sent in order that illustrations may be prepared.

**DENMARK.**—A new stamp of the value 24 öre has just been issued here. The colour is brown and the design is similar to that of the other values of the current set.

**FEDERATED MALAY STATES.**—Mr. Lennox Napier writes, that in addition to the 3 cents value described in our issue for March 23rd, he has also received the 4, 10, and 20c. values.

**GREAT BRITAIN.**—Mr. Oswald Marsh sends the following list of record dates of British Envelope stamps:—

1d. pink, die 91, dated 17.10.61
1d. " " 94, " 1.11.59
1d. " " 110, " 25.11.65
1d. " " 184, " 5.12.76
1d. " " 228, " 1.4.84
6d. violet " 2, " 5.12.55 (specimen)
6d. " " 5, " 17.12.86

He has also shown us 1d. pink, type II., die 4, undated, and ½d. vermilion, die 45.

**PARAGUAY.**—Six new letter cards have been issued to commemorate the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries. The values are 2 and 4 centavos, and there are three varieties of each. The 2c. is printed in carmine and black on cream, yellow and buff papers, while the 4c. value is in blue-green and brown on pale yellow, yellow and buff. The designs of the stamps show portraits of two Paraguayan notabilities.

**TRANSVAAL.**—Mr. Nic. J. Heller informs us that the change of overprint from "V.R.I." to "E.R.I." is now an accomplished fact. Our correspondent says he has received a pair of the 1d. carmine bearing the latter surcharge in the same type as the "V.R.I."

**VICTORIA.**—The *A. J. of P.* says that the ½d., 2d., 2½d., 4d. and 5d. stamps of the previous issue are being withdrawn from sale; the issue of the other values will still be continued for duty purposes.

## Finland's Mourning Stamp.

MR. WILLIAM CROSS sends us the following interesting item relating to the Mourning Stamp recently issued by the Finns:—

Not content with conquering and annexing long ago Finland from Sweden, Russia has since then endeavoured, by every means in her power, to crush all national spirit out of the Finns. The officials are Russian, the only official and commercial language allowed is Russian, and Russian was recently decreed the only language to be taught in the schools. The last oppression is the suppression of Finland postage stamps and substitution of Russian ones.

Finland has discovered a clever method of protesting against the suppression of its individuality by the superior force of Russia. The determination of the Tsar's government to Russianise the Finns has created much trouble; and the suppression of Finnish stamps was one of the great causes of offence.

When this measure was promulgated (says the *Anglo-Russian*) the Finns issued a black stamp with the words "Suomi Finland" and the national coat of arms on it. This stamp they affixed to the top right corner of the envelope simply as a sign of mourning and protest, whilst affixing the Russian stamp on the centre of the other side of the envelope.

The Imperial Government interdicted the practice, and the Finns began to use very thin transparent envelopes, putting the black stamp inside so that it could be well seen from the outside.

The Governor-General declared this ruse to be illegal practice too, and forbade it: but the people still would not give in, and the very latest "black stamp protest" is that the Finns have an india rubber stamp made in the form of a square with "Grand Duchy of Finland" round it, and in the centre a space just large enough to take the hated Russian stamp. Of course this also will be stopped.

## Our Postcard Column.

WILL readers hearing of any interesting item of News, kindly jot it down on a postcard and address to the Editor, "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News," Norwood, London. For every contribution we publish, we will send the author an interesting and newly issued stamp. (N.B.—Postcards preferred.)

Mr. C. W. Ward contributes the following:—

"The ½d. stamp is not now included in the list of stamps issued by the post-office (see the Post-office Guide for this quarter), so that this value is at last to be dispensed with, and is likely to become exhausted very soon."

Mr. Wm. Ward writes:—

"Is there not an error or a misprint in your note re New Zealand Universal Penny Postage Stamps? You say the local print is perf. 11 and the London print 16. A block of the latter I had from you some weeks back is perf. 14."

Mr. O. Marsh also contributes a note on the same subject:—

"I have three New Zealand Universal Penny Postage stamps of the London printing, all gauging different perforations. One is 15½ on three sides and 16 at the top; another gauges 14 at the top and on the right hand side, and 13½ on the remaining sides; while the third gauges 14 on three sides and 12 at the bottom."

[The perforation of the London prints varies greatly between 12 and 16 and may be simple or compound. In fact, sometimes it is very much compound, gauging differently on each side of the stamps!—Ed.]

Mr. A. Bottoms writes:—

"I have in my possession a 1d. Queensland stamp, Gibbons' type 12, in a deep yellow colour. It has no watermark but has a blue burelé band on the back. Can you please inform me if this is genuine as I do not find it catalogued."

[Mr. Wm. Cross has shown us a pair of these stamps. They are in a distinct shade of yellow exactly similar to the 4d. value of the same type. Miss C. Hoblyn also informs us that she has a specimen of the 1d. stamp in this yellow shade. We shall be glad to hear from readers who can furnish us with any information on the subject.—Ed.]

Mr. H. Crawford Spain contributes the following:—

"There are evidently still bargains to be picked up in the stamp line. A few days ago I had occasion to go to a country post office for a 9d. stamp, and, to my surprise and gratification, one of the old oblong green 1883-4 issue was tendered me. Of course I enquired for more and was lucky enough to obtain altogether ten specimens. Gibbons' latest catalogue values them at 5/6 each."

Mr. A. H. Thompson writes:—

"Although I have seen the post cards and ½d. embossed envelopes in new colours frequently referred to in your columns, I have as yet seen no mention of the ½d. wrapper in green. I have just received a specimen postmarked Chelsea Av. 16-01."

Mr. C. N. Karmore writes:—

"If the 2, 3 and 5 rupee stamps of the current issue of India are examined carefully, it will be seen that the four corner scrolls are filled with the words, "INDIA POST," in minute characters."

Mr. L. A. Murray sends a query:—

"Can you inform me why a pineapple and a shell are shown on the stamps of Bahamas in the small shields at the base of the design?"

[We believe the pineapple and shell are shown on the stamps as typifying the products of the islands. Shells were at one time (and may be now) largely exported from the Bahamas for the purpose of being cut up into cameos.—Ed.]

Mr. J. E. Crane writes:—

"I shall be obliged if any of your readers can inform me through the medium of your postcard column whose is the portrait on the 1863 issue of Mexico."

## Postmark Notes.

By "DUPLEX."

FROM Miss M. E. Revis I have received a parcel of old entires, on some of which are interesting types of postmarks. On one is rd. red obliterated with a Liverpool duplex type, which consists of an oval shaped date-mark adjoined to a numbered obliterator. The obliterator has the number 466 in centre with three lines above and below and two at the sides. The date-mark contains "LIVERPOOL" at the top, with date "12 FE—1855," in two lines below, and at the base is "O16." The line of the dating part of the mark is continued into the middle lines of the three above and below the office number.

\* \* \*

A somewhat similar type sent has the name "LIVERPOOL," date, &c. sideways, and in this instance the line surrounding the date stamp is adjoined to the lines immediately above and below the number in the obliterator.

\* \* \*

One entire dated May 10th, 1840, bears an interesting local postmark. This consists of the words "UPPER PARADE—LEAMINGTON," printed in red ink in two lines.

\* \* \*

Another interesting postmark consists simply of the name "ST. ASAPH" arranged in a curve with "1" below, then the date 1841, and below that a small Maltese Cross. This mark is stamped in red.

\* \* \*

A "paid" mark of early type sent me consists of a double-lined square with the corners slightly rounded, containing the words "PAID—FEB 5 E—1840," in three lines. The colour of the mark is red.

\* \* \*

Mr. L. Bissenden has also sent me a large parcel of entires for inspection, on which I notice the marks described in the following paragraphs.

\* \* \*

A mark without lines of any description, with "STROUD" arranged in a curve and the date, "MR 27—1844," in two lines below. This mark is impressed in black, though others of this type may frequently be met with in red.

\* \* \*

One entire sent bears on the back a College Green mark in black, a Bristol mark in yellow, and a Pershore mark in bright carmine, while another one has marks in red, blue, green and black impressed on it.

\* \* \*

On one letter is an early London "Paid" mark in red, dated 1844, and also a mark in two lines in black, shewing the words, "Grenville St 1<sup>o</sup>. PAID."

\* \* \*

Another entire bears a similar mark, inscribed "Moorgate St 1<sup>o</sup>. PAID," in red. This type may also be found impressed in blue.

\* \* \*

Amongst the more modern types of postmarks is a duplex one from Northampton, in which the date mark is above the adjoined obliterator. The date stamp consists of the name "Northampton" in a curve, with a short line to complete the circle, the date, &c., being in the centre. The obliterator consists of the office number of the town, "570," between thick lines—three above, three below, and two on either side.

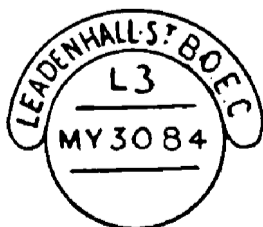
\* \* \*

I have received from Mr. E. Heginbottom a postmark as illustrated here. This consists of a double lined octagonal converted into a square by the addition of small triangles on four sides. In each triangle there are three short parallel straight lines. In the inner octagonal is "LONDON · EC" and the date. A variety of this type exists in which the small triangles are quite separate from the octagon.



\* \* \*

Mr. G. Vermèeren sends for inspection two varieties of the London type of postmark illustrated here. Both of these have "LONDON, E.C." in the scroll above the circle. One of them has "R5" in the centre of the circle with three lines above and below and two on either side. The date "22 JV 85" is curved at the bottom of the circle, and at the top is the letter "A."



The other variety has the date "MR 12 83" printed across the centre of the circle with three parallel lines above and below. At the top is the figure "6" and at the bottom the letter "A."

## Stray Notes on Sheets of Stamps.

WE reproduce the following interesting notes relating to the above subject, which appeared in our contemporary, the *Adhesive*, from the pen of Mr. R. R. Thiele:—

Our cousins to the north, in British North America, have about as fascinating a lot of stamps to their credit as the most exacting collector could well desire. The sheets of the various provincial issues also offer interesting peculiarities, though, except of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, entire sheets are no doubt as scarce as hen's teeth. Many of the early issues were made by British firms and have the peculiar sheet arrangements due to British custom and British currency. Such is the case with the stamps of Nova Scotia, which were made by Perkins, Bacon & Co., the firm which at that time furnished the line-engraved stamps of Great Britain. The 1851 issue is not all in sheets of the same size: the 1 penny stamps came in sheets of 120; the 3 pence, 6 pence and 1 shilling in sheets of 160. This arrangement was in accordance with sterling currency, the sheets having this face value:—

1 penny = 1/2 pounds.  
3 pence = 2 pounds.  
6 pence = 4 pounds.  
1 shilling = 8 pounds.

Nova Scotia changed from sterling currency to dollar coinage at about the time of the other Canadian provinces—or rather, British North American provinces, since Canada at that time did not include the other provinces—and the 1860 set is therefore in sheets of 100, 10 X 10, to correspond with the coinage; it was made by the American Bank Note Company of New York.

\* \* \*

The first issue of New Brunswick, which is an almost exact copy of the Nova Scotia issue of the same date, comes from the same firm. The 1 penny value is not represented here; the 3d., 6d. and 1sh. are all in sheets of 160, like those of Nova Scotia, and of course had the same face values. The 1860 issue, also made necessary by the change to dollar currency, was of American manufacture (the American Bank Note Co., if I remember right) and came in sheets of 100, 10 X 10.

\* \* \*

By long odds the homeliest of all British North American stamps are those of Prince Edward Island, except the 4d. of 1870. I suppose the tiny colony could not afford the luxury of line engraved stamps; at all events all its stamps with the exception already noted were typographed from electrotyped plates by Charles Whiting of London, England. The 1, 3, 4, 6 and 9 pence values are all in sheets of 30, 6 rows of 5, but the 2 pence came in sheets of 60, in 6 rows of 10. These sheets conform to some extent to the currency, these being their face values:

1 penny = 2sh. 6d.  
3 pence = 7sh. 6d.  
4 pence = 10sh.  
6 pence = 15sh.  
9 pence = 22sh. 6d. (1 1/2 pound).  
2 pence = 10sh.

The 4d. stamp (which was made necessary by the reduction of the letter rate to Great Britain to 3d. sterling instead of 6d. sterling, 4d. currency being the equivalent of the new rate) was manufactured by the British American Bank Note Co., of Montreal and Ottawa, and, if I am correctly informed, came in sheets of 100, 10 X 10; the sheet would be worth 37sh. 6d. currency or 25sh. sterling. The island was rather behind the other provinces in the change to decimal currency; the cent set did not appear until 1872. It was also typographed from electrotype plates by Charles Whiting of London, but this time in sheets of 50, 5 rows of 10.

## Rare Stamps at Auction.

Sale by Messrs. Ventom, Bull & Cooper, April 11th and 12th, 1901.

	s.	d.
Naples, 1/2 tornese blue "Cross," unused	£11	10
Tuscany, 1860, 3 lire yellow with a small tear in one corner	£30	
" Vertical strips of five 2 soldi, brick-red, used on entire	£21	
Ceylon, 4d. rose, imperf.	£7	
British Central Africa, £2 rose-red, mint	£6	10
Mauritius, 1d. and 2d., post-paid, early impression used together on large piece...	£25	
" 1d. vermilion, ditto, vertical pair	£10	
" ditto, ditto, horizontal pair	£10	10
" 2d. blue, error PENOE, slightly thinned	£12	15
Buenos Ayres, 4 pesos vermilion, unused	£17	10
" another without margins	£7	
St. Vincent, "4d." on 1/- vermilion	£8	12
Madrid, 3 cuartos bronze, used	£12	10
Nova Scotia, 1/- violet	£7	5

## Extracts from the Foreign Press.

THE following important errors occurred in our Extracts last month:—

Par. Line.

- I. 1. The first E of *février* requires an acute accent.
- I. 3. *Debité* is better.
- I. 9. *des* is omitted before *deux*.
- II. 2. First e of *commémorative* requires an acute accent.
- II. 3. *mise* should be *mis*.
- II. 6. First e of *fédérales* requires acute accent.
- II. 8. *1r.* should be *1er*.
- III. 11. *de* is omitted after *fin*.

The following less important mistakes also occurred:—

- II. 6. Semi-colon required after *fédérales*
- III. 9. Hyphen after *roi* is superfluous.
- III. 11. Semi-colon required after *Cours*.
- IV. 1. Hyphen omitted after *Calé*.
- V. 7. 250.00 *fr.* should be 250.000 *fr.*

\* \* \*

The following were the best lists sent in.

Foreign Readers:—

Theodor Haas (7 1/2 marks).  
G. Vermèeren (7 marks).  
Baron A. de Reuterskiöld (7 1/2 marks).

British Readers:—

F. F. Harrison (8 marks).  
Rev. F. W. S. le Lièvre (6 1/2 marks).

Other lists were received from R. Woodthorpe (3 1/2 marks), R. M. Angus (2 1/2 marks), J. P. O'Connor (2 marks), and others.

\* \* \*

There seem to be always a certain number of mistakes on which opinion is not unanimous. M. Vermèeren, for instance, questions the gender of *aigle*, maintaining that it is used in a heraldic sense and should be feminine, e.g., *aigles impériales*, *aigles romaines*.

\* \* \*

The word *concernent* should be separated between the *r* and *n* and not after the *n*. Another reader considers 250,000 *frs.* better than 250,000 *fr.* but we do not pillory the latter as a mistake, as *fr.* seems to be invariably used in print, although *frs.* is generally met with in manuscript, or at any rate, in French correspondence received at our offices.

\* \* \*

Several readers object to *Echo* without the acute accent on the capital E, but as we pointed out previously, our printers had no accented capital E's in stock. A space should have been left after 25c. in par. III, line 5.

\* \* \*

This week's paragraphs are given below, and for the benefit of readers who have not seen our previous offers, we may mention that the Editor of *E.W.S.N.* every week awards several interesting new issues to the British and Foreign readers who respectively send in the best list of mistakes occurring in the extracts, it being necessary that such lists should be delivered not later than Wednesdays.

\* \* \*

(Extrait du *Schweizer Briefmarken Zeitung*).  
Les jubilés ne sont plus, pour le plus grand bonheur des employés des postes, dont ils étaient la bête noire. Au guichet, du matin au soir, c'était le dialogue suivant:

LE CLIENT: 10 timbres de 5c., s. v. p.

L'employé donne des ordinaires.

LE CLIENT: Ah! n'avez-vous pas des Jubilés?

L'employé reprend ses timbres et donne des Jubilés!

Un instant après, le client demande à changer un jubilé contre un ordinaire, parce qu'il a une petite enveloppe, où il n'y a pas suffisamment de place pour celui-là.

Un autre client demande 50 timbres de 10c. toujours sans préciser de quelle sorte.

L'employé donne des Jubilés.

LE CLIENT: Que voulez-vous que je fasse de votre contre-basse? donnez-moi des autres. . .

Dans quelques grands bureaux on n'en vendait même plus du tout, si on en demandait, on prétendait n'en plus avoir, ce qui était parfaitement faux, car à l'heure qu'il est il en reste encore un grand stock qui sera détruit.

Si cette émission n'a pas été un four, elle n'a pas rencontré la faveur du public non collectionneur.

Les émissions jubilaires n'ont pas de chance en Suisse.

\* \* \*

*Varietades en sellos de la Argentina (El 10c. verde de 1867)*. En la emisión argentina que comenzó el 1.º de Septiembre de 1867, existen, como ninguno ignora, tres valores: 5c. bermellón, efígie de Rivadavia; 10c. verde, efígie de Belgrano, y 15c. azul, efígie de San Martín.

En el primero y tercero de estos sellos (5 y 15 centavos) existen dos variedades en cada uno, que se diferencian en que el fondo sobre el cual se destacan las efígies está formado por líneas

cruzadas en unos y por líneas horizontales en otros. El 5c. existe también cortado en líneas, en vez de puntos. El 10c. verde presenta también una importante variedad, impresa sobre papel vetado, que es bastante rara.

Estas siete variedades son todas las conocidas hasta ahora; pero con el presente artículo me he propuesto dar á conocer una octava variedad que existe en el 10 centavos y que es la misma y con la misma razón de ser, que la que existe en el 5 y en el 15; es decir:

1867.—10c. verde Belgrano, fondo de líneas cruzadas.

10c. verde Belgrano, fondo de líneas horizontales.

[Comunicacion de Sr. Doello de Gualaguaychù en *Filatelía*.]

## Federal Prospects.

FROM A PHILATELIC STANDPOINT.

[We take the liberty of reproducing the following very interesting notes from our enterprising contemporary, the "Australian Journal of Philately." Nothing definite seems to have been decided with regard to a federal issue of stamps, but there seems a likelihood of such not being long delayed after the first meeting of Parliament. In view of the statements made by the A.J. of P., collectors would be well advised to collect recent and current Australian stamps in unused condition only. It is not unlikely that remainders may eventually be postmarked and sold at a fraction of present catalogue value, whilst on the other hand, there is no precedent in the history of any of the Australian post offices to show that unused stamps will be sold under face value. They have been invariably cancelled "specimen" or "post-marked to order" first. Federation will probably increase the value of unused Australians and decrease that of used specimens.—Ed. E.W.S.N.]

THE amalgamation of the State Post and Telegraph Departments is nominally an accomplished fact, but nothing more. They were transferred on the 1st of March, but the officials received instructions that "business would be carried on as usual under the new management."

From what we can gather no change is likely to take place until after the Federal Government has received a vote of confidence in the Federal Parliament, and probably not until a postal bill, which is being drafted, has become law.

The permanent heads met in conference last month and made several recommendations, some of which, however, have not been accepted by the Federal P.M.G. In the daily papers a few weeks ago it was announced that it was practically settled that the State stamps would be surcharged "A.C." but the Federal P.M.G. has since informed us that he has no intention of doing so.

A deputation of the Sydney Philatelic Club waited on Mr. Drake on the 25th February and we also had an interview on behalf of our readers on the same date with the Federal P.M.G., whom we found most courteous, but in a negative mood. The following is a report of our interview:—

Question:—Do you intend making any alterations on 1st March?

Answer:—No. Nothing will be done until after Parliament meets.

Question:—Will stamps be interchangeable?

Answer:—No.

Question:—Will they be surcharged?

Answer:—No.

Question:—Will deficient postage and fine be charged on letters if posted with stamps of other States?

Answer:—Yes.

Question:—Do you purpose having the clause in the book-keeping period amended at the earliest opportunity?

Answer:—I cannot say. That is a matter of policy, but I do not intend to interfere with the Constitution.

Question:—Is it your intention to conduct your department strictly in accordance with postal requirements?

Answer:—Yes.

Question:—Will you avoid catering for speculators for the purpose of increasing revenue?

Mr. Drake replied that he was not aware of what had been done in that respect, but that the requirements of revenue must receive prior consideration.

Question:—Do you purpose recognizing the existence of stamp collectors as a body?

Answer:—No. I shall always be happy to receive suggestions and will treat stamp collectors the same as the general public. I look upon stamp collecting as an excrescence so far as the postal department is concerned.

Having thanked Mr. Drake and his private secretary, Mr. Oxenham, for their courtesy, we withdrew, feeling that the former's hands were tied by the Cabinet, and that he was not free to act on his own responsibility.

Considering that the Government is only a provisional one, and has not been elected by the people, we can understand their hesitancy at doing anything which can be allowed to stand over.

Some are delighted that the stamps are not to be surcharged, others are sorry, for ourselves we are indifferent. The whole proceedings in connection with the transfer of the Post and Telegraph Departments seem to have been bungled. Steps ought to have been taken earlier and preparations made months ago. No one seems to know when we are likely to have a Federal issue of stamps, or uniformity of any kind, but the public have a right to demand the benefits of the Commonwealth as soon as possible. It is to be sincerely hoped that when it is decided to issue a Federal series that it will not be rushed through with undue haste, but that every care will be taken to see that something worthy of Australia is offered to the public.

The discovery that the "Braddon Blot" covers the Postal Department has complicated matters considerably. We do not think it was ever intended that the "Braddon Blot" should cover the postal service, and steps should be taken to have the Constitution amended in this respect as it will have to be in others.

As to Mr. Drake's remark that stamp collecting is an excrescence, well, we feel sorry—for Mr. Drake. It would pay the Federal P.M.G. to acknowledge the existence of the stamp collectors as a body and run straight. Our firm purchases annually hundreds of pounds' worth of unused stamps at face value, none of which are used postally, thereby adding the full sum to profit on the year's working. Other stamp dealers do the same, and many collectors purchase from time to time pounds upon pounds' worth of stamps which are never used postally. The sale of cancelled stamps at less than face value is an illegitimate means of raising revenue. They represent the performance of specific service, but none has been performed. For instance, the Victorian Postal Department recently advertised for sale current stamps representing about £200 face value, lightly postmarked, for £5, which, costing say 2s. to produce, would leave the department the net gainer by £4 18s., whereas the stamps themselves would indicate that a performance to the value of £200 had been completed.

The sale of postmarked sets of Postage Dues by the N.S.W. Department is not quite so bad, as these stamps are not on sale to the public unused; but even that is an illegitimate transaction. Surely the Federal Post and Telegraph Department will be able to make ends meet without having recourse to such paltry means. We would not speak so strongly on this point, but the Federal P.M.G. was, to us, beautifully indefinite as to his intentions in this respect.

As to the revenue requirements of the P. & T. Department, we have long since held the principle that they should be maintained purely and solely for the convenience of the people, that business should be conducted as economically as possible, and that no surplus should be sought for. We would go further and recommend that the Federal P. & T. Department ought to be conducted on the same lines as the N.S.W. Government Railways—free from political control. It does seem a farce to find a gentleman taking charge of a department, such as the P. & T., who has had no practical experience in postal matters, overriding the opinions and recommendations of gentlemen who, besides having served a lifetime, have all the details at their finger ends, and have gradually worked their way to the top of the ladder.

Mr. S. H. Lambton retired from the position of N.S.W. Deputy P.M.G. on the 21st ultimo. His term of office was marked by a high state of efficiency in the department, and his worth has been evidenced by the fact that he has since been appointed postal adviser to the Federal P.M.G. at a salary of £50 per month in addition to his pension of £600 per annum from the State Government.

Mr. J. Delgarno, who succeeds Mr. Lambton, has been Secretary of the Department for many years, and will, no doubt, maintain the prestige of the position to which he has been promoted. He has our hearty congratulations and best wishes.

Proofs of the Duke of York Commemorative stamp have been submitted. They are similar to the present N.S.W. ½d. with the late Queen's head removed and a full-face portrait of the Duke inserted. We cannot see how the Federal P.M.G. with any degree of consistency can sanction its issue, and we are at a loss to know why the Sydney Philatelic Club did not taboo it. Mr. Bassett Hull, the Hon. Sec., said in our January issue: "The other class—those who advocate the Commemorative Stamp—are beyond the pale of sympathy or consideration. The deputation to the P.M.G. which included Mr. Hull never mentioned the subject, nor were commemorative stamps referred to in Mr. Parry's resolutions. There is a screw loose somewhere."

While we agree with most of the suggestions carried at the last meeting of the Sydney Philatelic Club (from which we were unavoidably absent) and submitted to the P.M.G., still we think they were too comprehensive and calcu-

lated to make that gentleman think the S.P.C. wanted to "run the show."

We have just heard that postmarked sets of current issues up to £1 of the six Australian States are being prepared for the purpose of being presented to members of Parliament in all the States, i.e., each member of Parliament in each State will receive six different sets—not marked "specimen"—but postmarked, or obliterated in the same manner as if the stamps had done postal duty. This is a matter with which the Federal P.M.G. had nothing to do. It was approved by the State Postmasters-General before they retired from office. It means the issue of about 600 sets in each State, and while the authorities may have considered it a right and proper thing to do, by way of a souvenir, we question the wisdom of such a proceeding in view of the fact, well-known, that every used stamp has a fixed market value, and that in all probability many of the recipients will sell the sets to the first buyer. Besides, the stamps being obliterated as if used in the usual manner will carry on the face of them a certain amount of deception which ought to be beneath the dignity of Government institutions forming part of the British Empire. Further, the Postal and Telegraph Departments being maintained at the public expense, have no right to go outside their functions, and create an illegitimate supply of stock calculated to depreciate the market value of similar goods in the hands of those who make their living as stamp-dealers. We trust, for the sake of common decency, that the idea will be abandoned; if, however, the project be persisted in, we shall make it our business to have those responsible taken to task for such an outrage on official behaviour.

What are we coming too!! We have just been informed that the Victorian Postal Authorities have announced for sale postmarked sets of the new issue at 4s. per set. This is "killing the goose with the golden eggs" without doubt.

## Canada's First 8-Cent Postage.

UNDER the above heading our contemporary, *Meekel's Weekly Stamp News*, publishes the following interesting item contributed by Capt. H. J. McIntyre:—

"The Canada 8-cent slate was issued first in the year 1894, and I understand it is now rather scarce among the Canada dealers. It was issued during the years 1894-5-6-7. Being followed by the Jubilee issue. It appears by Canada Government Blue Books that there were in all about 5,885,000 issued during the four years of its use, and applying an ordinary method of calculation there is probably not over 2,500,000 of these stamps now in existence. For the first few years after 1894, the Scott catalogue gives only the 8-cent slate, but for the last two years a lilac gray variety is listed also, which apparently is considered the more valuable.

I consider that this stamp may possess a sentimental interest to collectors of British Colonials, in that it was the last of the Canadian postage stamps bearing the old familiar effigy of our late Queen in her youthful days and having the additional point that it is the only Canadian postage stamp since the 2-cent rose of 1859 on which the effigy of the Queen faces to the left. All the intervening Canadian postage stamps having the profile facing to the right of the stamp."

The twin colonies of British Columbia and Vancouver Island were the only ones in British North America which had any dealings with the De la Rue firm of London. All their issues came from this firm and show their usual workmanship, though the design of the British Columbian 3d. is certainly out of the common. All the values—the 2½d. issued for both colonies jointly, the 5 and 10c. issued by Vancouver Island, the 3d. of British Columbia, and the surcharged set of the same—were printed in sheets of 240, arranged in four panes of 60 each, these being arranged in six horizontal rows of ten each. This is not quite the usual arrangement of the De la Rue products as they are usually arranged in panes of 60, arranged in ten rows of 6. This 240 sheet was, of course adapted to the 2½d. and 3d. values, the sheets having this face value:

$$\begin{aligned} 2\frac{1}{2}d. &= \text{£}2 \text{ 10s.} \\ 3d. &= \text{£}3. \end{aligned}$$

But as to the 5 and 10c. of Vancouver, and the surcharged set of British Columbia, that, of course, is another story, though it happens that all these sheets also come out even, except the 2c. of British Columbia.

In a recent number of the *American Philatelic Magazine* a correspondent contributes a few interesting notes on the stamps of China. He states that the native characters in the inscription translated into English mean "Started from this country" and "To be delivered to whom addressed."

## Approval Selections.

WE are now arranging and mounting a specially fine series of Approval Collections, comprising the stamps of all countries, and will have pleasure in sending same to any reader, on compliance with the conditions named below. Except where specially noted, any stamp may be selected at the price marked above it, and in most cases we allow a liberal discount off such prices. All communications for our Approval Department should be addressed to H. L. EWEN, 32, Palace Square, Norwood, S.E.

### CONDITIONS.

- 1.—Stamps can only be sent on approval on condition that those not purchased are returned within five days.
  - 2.—No stamps may be removed from the sheets or books until actually purchased.
  - 3.—Collectors are not permitted to deduct return postage from amount of purchase.
  - 4.—Discount is conditional on purchase exceeding 1/- and will be forfeited if selection is kept over the five days allowed.
  - 5.—Spaces should not be marked.
  - 6.—Sheets should be returned folded as sent.
  - 7.—When a selection is returned, another will be sent unless otherwise requested.
- N.B.—We hope collectors will assist us by observing the above very reasonable conditions and we will in return make it our endeavour to send out only the finest possible copies at the lowest possible quotations.

### APPROVAL SHEETS.

No.	Discount.	Description.
203.	Nett.	Miscellaneous Colonials.
205.	25%	West Indies.
206.	Nett.	V.R.I's.
207.	50%	Mexico.
208.	25%	Miscellaneous.
211.	"	Russia.
212.	"	Norway.
214.	"	Finland.
216.	"	Roumania.
217.	"	Old Europeans.
218.	"	Venezuela.
219.	"	Egypt.
220.	"	Hayti.
225.	"	Bosnia, Bulgaria and Montenegro.
228.	"	Miscellaneous Colonials.
229.	"	Thurn and Taxis.
230.	"	Saxony.
231.	"	Spain (early issues).
232.	"	Spain (War Tax, Official, &c.)
233.	"	Spain (Carlist Stamps).
235.	"	Philippines.
237.	Nett.	Hawaii Islands.
239.	25%	Holland and Colonies.
240.	"	Antigua, Bahamas, &c.
BOOKLETS.		
501.	Nett.	Fiji and Cook Islands.
504.	"	Unused African Colonials.
505.	"	African Colonials.
506.	"	Unused Colonials.
508.	25%	Liberia.
509.	"	Denmark
510.	"	Luxemburg.
511.	"	Austria.
512.	"	Austrian Italy.
513.	"	Timor.
514.	"	Macao.
515.	"	Peru.
516.	"	Japan.
517.	"	Finland and Poland.
518.	"	Queensland.
519.	"	Tasmania.
522.	"	Australian (common)
523.	Nett.	Unused English.
524.	25%	Gambia, Gold Coast, Lagos, &c.
525.	"	French Colonies.
527.	"	Used English.
529.	"	Sarawak.
531.	Nett.	Unused Colonials.
532.	25%	Ceylon.
534.	"	Indian Native States.
536.	"	Sweden.
538.	"	Switzerland.
539.	"	India.
BOOKS.		
111.	10%	Unused English (chiefly 1d. reds, in strips
112.	"	New South Wales. {and blocks).
113.	Nett.	V.R.I. Errors and Varieties.
114.	"	V.R.I. Strips and Blocks.
115.	10%	Orange Free State.
116.	"	Transvaal.
117.	"	Unused Australians.
LARGE BOOKS.		
A1.	20%	Used English.
A2.	25%	Used English.
A3.	10%	Used English.
D.	25%	Cut Envelopes.
G06.	"	English with Foreign Postmarks.
H.	10%	Railway Letter Fee Stamps.

We have for sale a few fine used copies of the Russian error—3 Kopecs with background of "V's," the groundwork of the 5 kopecs. These we are offering at 1/6 each.

\* \* \*

This week we are able to offer the following choice stamps:—

	PRICE.
British Columbia, 50c. on 3d. violet, fine mint pair... ..	30/-
South Australia, 3d. on 4d. blue, superb mint, block of four ... ..	40/-
Turks Islands, 1/-, dull blue, first issue used, nice copy ... ..	15/-
Tasmania, 1d. blue, first issue, used ... ..	45/-
" 4d. orange, first issue, used, superb specimen ... ..	15/-
Antigua; mint pair 1d. lake, Crown CC. perf. 12½; with inverted wmk. ... ..	15/-
Barbados; 5/- dull rose, used ... ..	37/6
" ditto, not so fine ... ..	27/6
British Honduras; 1882 issue, 6d. yellow, used, Crown CA. 14 ... ..	40/-
Finland; 1 mark, used, 1867-70 issue one corner torn, S.G., No. 49 ... ..	7/6
Griqualand; 5/- orange, used, S.G. No. 70, very rare ... ..	12/-
Griqualand; 5/- orange, used, S.G. No. 116 ... ..	2/6
Mauritius; 5/- violet used ... ..	5/-
New South Wales; 2d. Sidney View used, fair copy ... ..	15/-
" 5/- map, used, perf. 10 ... ..	12/6
Queensland; 2/6 vermilion, used, S.G. No. 114 ... ..	4/-
St. Vincent; 5/- wmk.*, has "REVENUE" printed across it otherwise would be worth £15 ... ..	30/-
Victoria; 1d. green, S.G. No. 46, fine pair, used ... ..	17/6
Wurtemberg; 5 marks pale blue, unused... ..	7/-

Any of the above stamps can be sent on approval if required, but immediate application is necessary, as in most instances we have no duplicates of the lots offered.

### Wholesale Lots for Sale.

We can offer this week the following cheap wholesale lots, viz. :—

Ceylon, 5 cents lilac, CA., 4,280... ..	price	8/-
" ditto 2,788... ..	price	5/-
" 5 cents on 8 cents, Gibbons' No. 146, 600 ... ..	price	10/6
British Guiana, 2c. lilac and orange, 4097 ... ..	price	18/-
Gold Coast, 1d. carmine, 1884 issue, 683 ... ..	price	10/6
Straits Settlements, 2 cents C.A., Gibbons' No. 48, 1,073 ... ..	price	10/-
Transvaal, 2d. bistre, Gibbons' type 20, 794 ... ..	price	21/-
Canada Map Stamps, a fine lot of 1549 on pieces of original ... ..	price	45/-
Great Britain, 1d. red, plate numbers unexamined ... ..	1,000 for	1/6
— A fine lot of 10,333, 1d. red and 2d. blue, imperf. including fine strips and blocks ... ..		£7.

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# Ewen's Weekly Stamp News.

With which is incorporated EWEN'S WEEKLY CIRCULAR. (Established October, 1897.)

A JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

THE ONLY WEEKLY STAMP PAPER  
PUBLISHED IN EUROPE.

(Entered at Stationers' Hall. Illustrated by permission of the Board of Inland Revenue.)

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[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

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## The Week's News.

There are again a lot of rumours floating around relating to the acquisition of the Danish West Indies by the United States Government, but nothing definite has yet been arrived at, and to all intents and purposes the situation remains unchanged.

\* \* \*

Regarding the proposed new issue for the United States, referred to in this column last week, we take the following extract from a Washington newspaper which appeared in *Mekeel's Weekly* :—

The question of changing the design of the regular issue of postage is under consideration at the Post Office Department. Third Assistant Postmaster-General Madden said to-day it was probable that the name of the person will be printed under the head borne on the stamps.

Other changes suggested which may receive serious consideration are that the dates of birth and death of the person may be printed under the name, and that the design also bear an inscription giving the year of issue of the particular series of stamps.

If the suggestion that each year of issue be engraved on the stamps is seriously entertained, and ultimately becomes an accomplished fact, we are afraid the stamps will be rather on a level with Nicaraguas and others of that ilk.

\* \* \*

There has recently been much controversy in our American contemporaries, as to whether future supplies of stamps for Guam would be surcharged, or not. Some few weeks ago the Governor of Guam sent an order to the Washington Post Office Department for a further supply of stamps, and a number were surcharged by the Bureau for this purpose. Eventually, however, it was decided that the postal affairs of Guam should come within the direct jurisdiction of the United States Post Office Department, and that surcharged stamps would, therefore, be unnecessary. We are informed that the stamps that have been surcharged will be destroyed, and that Guam will now use ordinary United States stamps, in like manner to Hawaii, Porto Rico, and Tutuila.

\* \* \*

The Transvaal 1d. stamps surcharged "E.R.I.," which we noted in our "New Issues" column last week, are said to have been issued in Johannesburg on March 20th. They are, by the way, the first stamps to be issued under King Edward's rule.

\* \* \*

A contemporary says that the Swedish postal department is introducing a system by which letters are automatically stamped in a sort of penny-in-the-slot machine. Successful tests have been made with the first machines and they are now to be supplied to all post offices in Sweden and Norway. Our contemporary opines that the general introduction of the machine will practically put an end to the use of postage stamps in Scandinavia.

\* \* \*

According to several of our American contemporaries, a number of "Mafeking Besieged" stamps, with fraudulent overprint, are being hawked round in various places in the States.

\* \* \*

The *Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste* states that Hayti is contemplating a new issue. So far, nothing is known as to the design that will be adopted.

\* \* \*

The same journal also states that a new set is in preparation for Bolivia, but gives no details.

## New Issues.

The Editor will be much obliged for early news of New Issues or intended New Issues or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors. Full acknowledgment given. If possible, specimens should be sent in order that illustrations may be prepared.

**DENMARK.**—The *Monthly Journal* chronicles the 8 ore value of the 1875-79 issue on thick paper, having the letters "RE" of the word of value quite invisible.

**GREAT BRITAIN.**—Mr. A. F. Clarke informs us that he has seen a copy of the current ½d. green stamp, bearing the surcharge, "I.R. OFFICIAL."

**NICARAGUA.**—The *Metropolitan Philatelist* says that a provisional issue of official stamps has just appeared. This consists of the 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 centavos values of the 1896 postage due stamps, in orange, surcharged "FRANQUEO OFICIAL" in two lines.

**ROUMANIA.**—The *A. J. of P.* chronicles three values of the current set on rose paper and watermarked, viz. :—

1 bani, pale brown.  
3 " brown.  
5 " emerald green.

**SALVADOR.**—Yet another value has received the 1900 and wheel surcharge. This time it is the 50 centavos rose red stamp, the overprint being in violet. The provisional official set has been augmented by the addition of another value, the 25 centavos orange postage-due stamp of 1899 having received the usual surcharge.

**TOHAD.**—Under this name our Gallic neighbours have established a new colony and in the usual course of events an issue of stamps may be expected shortly.

**VENEZUELA.**—The surcharging epidemic has broken out again here. According to the *Metropolitan Philatelist*, the official set has been surcharged "1900" diagonally across each upper corner. The values so treated are :—

5 centimos, dark green, surcharged in black.  
10 " rose " "  
25 " blue " "  
50 " yellow " "  
1 bolivar, violet " "

## Stamp-Collecting.

UNDER the above heading, our contemporary, the *Australian Journal of Philately*, publishes the following extract from the *Sydney Morning Herald* :—"The deputation that waited on the Federal Postmaster-General in the interests of Philatelists, as stamp-collectors term themselves, brought forward a number of suggestions with regard to the changes that are likely to be effected under the Commonwealth. The proposals emanating from this body of gentlemen were so detailed and so precise that it is evident these ardent collectors are very much in earnest with their pet pursuit. The Federal Postmaster-General seems to have received their suggestions in a rather testy spirit. He reminded them that though the stamp-collecting might be amusing as well as instructive, it was but an excrescence so far as the Postal Department was concerned. He might with propriety, however, have recognised that stamp-collecting means an important source of revenue, and that for this reason the claims of its votaries were entitled to consideration. What was once a mere pastime has developed into something akin to science. Collectors have formed themselves into important bodies with agencies all over the world, and the business thus fostered has grown to gigantic dimensions. At the close of the Spanish-American war, Spain seeking for a sure and ready means of raising money, decided on the issue of a mourning stamp. Various States also have from time to time brought out a complete new issue of stamps as a means of bringing in revenue. In New Zealand recently it was found that the new issue of stamps was almost exhausted in a few days, so eager were collectors to become possessed of them. As a revenue producing agency, therefore, the philatelist bodies are entitled to respect, though doubtless they could make good their claims on higher grounds than this."

## Our Postcard Column.

WILL readers hearing of any interesting item of News, kindly jot it down on a postcard and address to the Editor, "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News," Norwood, London. For every contribution we publish, we will send the author an interesting and newly issued stamp. (N.B.—Postcards preferred).

Mrs. A. C. Hine writes :—

"Regarding the 1d. Queensland in a yellow colour with burelé band on thick paper mentioned in your last week's number, I have a copy that is exactly the same shade as the 4d stamp."

Mr. J. H. Parry writes :—

"I have just received a mint pair of 4c. surcharged British Guiana, 1888 issue, one of which has the figure "4" shorter and smaller than the other. I see no mention of this in the catalogue and shall be glad if you can tell me what it is."

[We should imagine the stamps are Gibbons' varieties a and b numbered 137 and 149 respectively in the catalogue.—ED.]

Mr. T. Le Ryt contributes the following :—

"I have the new green post-cards, thick court size, in types 2 and 3 and curiously enough, all the reply cards of the same size I have seen are type 3 in the outer card and type 2 in the reply half,—a combination not known in any previous issue I believe."

Mr. J. L. Raye writes :—

"It may perhaps be new to many of your readers to know that on the first issue of Wurtemberg a date may be found. This is '6th April, 1850,' situated in the frame on the right hand side of the design, and presumably refers to the date when the stamps were issued." [Our correspondent is in error in thinking the date refers to the day of issue of these stamps. It is part of the inscription on the stamps, which, fully translated, means "German-Austrian Postal Union, Treaty of 6th April, 1850."—ED.]

Mr. C. Wade contributes a query :—

"I notice that on all the stamps of Bergeford the letters 'L H P A' appear—one in each corner of the frame enclosing the central design. Can any of your readers tell me the meaning of these letters?"

Mr. W. H. Budd writes :—

"In reference to Mr. Bottom's letter, which appeared in your last issue, regarding the colour of the 1d. Queensland, type 12, I write to remind you that you published a letter of mine dealing with the same matter some time ago. In it I stated that I possessed both types 12 and 16 of the 1d. value in the colour of the 4d. yellow."

"I also possess type 21, the 2½d. stamp, in three distinct colours—purple on blue, brown on blue, and lilac-grey on blue. The first named is used and the two last are in mint pairs, and were sent to me direct from Queensland."

Mr. H. S. Freestone sends a query :—

"The enclosed Northern Nigeria stamp was given to me sometime since, by a friend, who informed me that the reason it had been written across was because they had not then got the post office into working order and had as yet no post mark. Can you tell me if such is the case?"

[The stamp sent by our correspondent is a 1d. Northern Nigeria with "Post Office, Jebba, 31.8.1900" written across it in three lines, in red ink.—ED.]

Mr. E. H. T. Nowers writes :—

"Referring to your notes in last week's 'News' it may interest you to know that I have a Queensland 1d. yellow (Gibbons' type 12) watermarked Crown over Q, perf. 12½. From the date of the postmark it would appear to belong to the 1890-94 issue."

Mr. Charles B. Aylward also contributes a note on this subject :—

"Respecting the 1d. Queensland yellow with burelé band, I have a block of 4, one of which has the "LA" joined and has some recollection of it being catalogued in Bright's 1898 Edition."

## Postmark Notes.

By "DUPLEX."

NOT only are our American cousins issuing a series of stamps to commemorate the forthcoming Pan-American Exposition but special postmarks are being issued as well. One that has already appeared consists of a double triangle containing the words "PAN-AMERICAN EXPOSITION 1901" between the lines.

\* \* \*

Mr. G. Vermèeren sends me an interesting variety of the type of postmark illustrated here. This has three lines above and below the central number but instead of the two lines curved at each side there are five short lines parallel with the larger ones above and below the number.



\* \* \*

The same correspondent sends me two current 1d. lilac stamps obliterated with the letters "SE" in very large type. Can any reader explain the meaning of this mark?

\* \* \*

Owing to a printer's error in setting up Mr. C. F. Dendy-Marshall's paragraph relating to the large stamp impressed on unpaid or partially unpaid letters, with the letters "I.S." at the foot, these letters were stated to signify "Inland Service." It should have been "Inland Section." Mr. Marshall and several other readers have called my attention to the error.

\* \* \*

Mr. A. F. Clarke writes:—"I believe that the 'Birmingham C.H.' mark mentioned in last week's issue is used at Camp Hill, and not Constitution Hill."

\* \* \*

The same correspondent writes:—"I do not know if you have previously mentioned the Birmingham registered stamp showing 'G. H. St.' under the word 'REGISTERED.' This of course is used at Great Hampton Street."

\* \* \*

Mr. N. M. Billimoria sends me two more varieties of postmarks used with the China Expeditionary Force. One of these is of the double circle type with "Base Office" between the circles (type II. in my recent article without "B"). This variety has a hyphen between "BASE" and "OFFICE."



The other variety is of the single line circle type similar to that illustrated here (type IV.) This has

the letters "REG" under "Base Office," just above the date. This mark is, of course, used on registered letters.

\* \* \*

Mr. H. Clark sends for inspection a specimen of the octagonal mark with lined triangles on four sides similar to the one illustrated in my notes last week. The one I now write of, however, has "LONDON E.C." in much smaller type.

\* \* \*

The same correspondent sends me several varieties of London concentric circle marks. One of these has simply "LONDON" between the rings, the details of time of posting, date, &c. occupying the central circle. The date is in two lines, arranged "JY 22—99," with a stamper's number below. Another variety of the same type has larger rings and letters, and has the date arranged, "28 JU—97."

\* \* \*

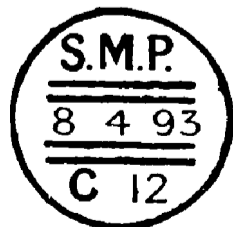
One type sent consists of large concentric circles with "LONDON" and a semi-circular line between the rings. In the smaller circle the date, &c. is situated with a letter "Y," to signify the stamper, underneath.

\* \* \*

A variety of this type has parallel lines between each item of the date, &c. dividing the circle into four. Regarding this mark Mr. Clark points out that he has only seen it with the time of posting "6 P.M."

\* \* \*

One of the most interesting types of the many Newspaper Branch departments cancellations is that consisting of a circle with the details divided by lines as in the accompanying illustration. The are numerous varieties most of which I believe, I described in these columns some twelve months ago. A variety I obtained this week, with a large square type "E" at the top of the mark, has not, I think been noted before.



## Notes from America.

A young German, apparently considering himself a genius, offered during the past week a quantity of "Mafeking Besieged" stamps. He demanded a very high figure for the lot, but as the stamps bore a counterfeit surcharge it is doubtful whether he found a buyer for the stuff.

\* \* \*

It may be of interest to know that the Postmaster-General has issued an order barring intoxicants from the mails. While such an order has been in effect it was broken so many times it was necessary to issue a special order.

\* \* \*

The writer looks forward to the time when rural free delivery will be an accomplished fact all over the United States. Many new routes are being established through the Central States at different points. Those which have been in operation are well received by the people, and a paying investment to the government.

(Weekly Philatelic Era).

\* \* \*

As the time for the issue of the Pan-American stamps approaches the tolerancy that succeeded the antagonism exhibited by the one-time opponents of the issue changes to a feeling of cordiality toward the stamps. Those who submitted somewhat sullenly to the inevitable now have experienced a change of heart and are prepared to join in the chorus of acclaim for the issue.

\* \* \*

The quite unanimous sentiment of friendliness to the Pan-American stamps has developed through the fact that the range of denominations is so modest a one, and that the two color scheme will add to the distinction of the stamps; this, in connection with the impression, generally prevalent, that the issue was actuated by a sincere wish of the government authorities to foster and favor the ambition of Buffalo, the exhibition city, by lending all sentimental assistance that has had precedent. The intention to profit through the stamp collector through the issue is not prominent if it is present at all.

(Mekel's Weekly Stamp News).

\* \* \*

The exhibit made by the Post Office Department at the Pan-American Exposition will be more elaborate and comprehensive than that made by any other branch of the Government service. The exhibit is just arriving at Buffalo, where it will be under the charge of J. B. Brownlow and Curator Slack of the Post Office Museum. The space apportioned to the postal exhibit is 5,000 square feet, much more than was allotted to the postal exhibit at the Paris Exposition. The plan of the Post Office Department is to illustrate the development of the service in the United States and other countries, and institute a comparison between the present methods and those of the earlier day.

\* \* \*

It is a very dull week when some new and unique rumour does not escape from somewhere relative to the Danish West Indies. The latest asserted that the Danish Government had fixed the price at \$4,000,000 and built up certain conditions which would obviously preclude the purchase of the islands by the United States. The State Department makes the specific statement that there have been no changes in the situation or developments that it is practicable at this time to make public.

(The Metropolitan Philatelist).

\* \* \*

That the French authorities are becoming perniciously active in the production of colonial issues is shown by the events of the past year. Particularly is this true in the case of French Congo. The pictorial set of last year, dubbed the ugliest set of stamps ever issued yet designed to be very artistic, has never been placed on sale (according to reliable information) in the local colonial offices. The same is true of the four values "issued in error" a short time since and cornered by speculators. Of course these stamps will be offered for sale. The average dealer will meet the requirements of the hour. The collector must work out this problem for himself.

\* \* \*

A departmental order is expected soon that will place Cuba on the domestic postage basis. A Washington dispatch dated March 22nd says: "At the meeting of the Cabinet this morning, it was decided to place Cuba on the same basis as Canada and Mexico in regard to postal relations with the United States. The postage on all letters weighing not more than one ounce between Cuba and this country will therefore be 2 cents, instead of 5 cents as heretofore. The rates of domestic postage on other classes of mail matter will also prevail." (Mekel's Weekly Stamp News).

## Extracts from the Foreign Press.

The following important errors occurred in our Extracts last week:—

Par. Line.

- I. 11. *Après* should have grave accent.
- II. 3. Read *Setiembre*.
- II. 10. Read *destacan*.
- II. 18. Read *propuesto*.

The following less important mistakes also occurred:—

- I. 21. Semi-colon required after *tout*.
- I. 26. Hyphen required between *non* and *collectionneur*.
- I. 10. *Jubilés* does not require capital J. (Nor on other occasions.)

\* \* \*

The following were the best lists sent in.

Foreign Readers:—

G. Stötzer (4 marks).

British Readers:—

J. P. O'Connor (3½ marks).

Rev. F. W. S. le Lièvre (2 marks, French only).

\* \* \*

A reader considers that *rara* in paragraph II., line 15, should be *raro*, but we are not of that opinion, because *rara* evidently refers to *variedad* and not *papel*.

\* \* \*

With reference to certain errors pilloried as having occurred in the extract from *L'Essor Philatélique* ("E.W.S.N.", No. 81, April 13th). M. Questiaux, editor of that journal, acknowledges *mise* as having been an error of his printers, but claims that *debitées* was correct, because *en* which precedes refers to *enveloppes*. But we always supposed that a past participle was not affected by *en* unless *en* was itself preceded by an adverb.

\* \* \*

This week's paragraphs are given below, and for the benefit of readers who have not seen our previous offers, we may mention that the Editor of *E.W.S.N.* every week awards several interesting new issues to the British and Foreign readers who respectively send in the best list of mistakes occurring in the extracts, it being necessary that such lists should be delivered not later than Wednesdays.

\* \* \*

— Le Sultan vient de décider que les timbres des lettres émanant de Jérusalem seront, à l'avenir, oblitérés à l'aide de caractères hébraïques.

\* \* \*

— Pour enrayer la spéculation sur les nouveaux coloniaux du Soudan et du Congo (10, 15, 25 et 50c.), le Ministre des Colonies en a commandé aux ateliers du Boul, Brune un tirage supplémentaire de 60,000 exemplaires.

On retirerait même paraît-il, l'ancien 1 centime du Soudan Français.

\* \* \*

— Le stock restant des timbres et cartes suisses du Jubilé de l'Union Postale a été détruit, les 8 et 9 Mars à Biberist, sous le contrôle de MM. Schwegler, Boss et Girod.

\* \* \*

— Le jury du concours pour le nouveau timbre-poste suisse a choisi un dessin représentant Guillaume Tell et son fils.

(L'Annonce Timbrologique).

\* \* \*

— L'Echo de la Timbr. raconte que la poste de Djibouti refuse d'accepter pour l'affranchissement le nouveau timbre de 40 centimes, de ce pays, qui se vend depuis quelque temps à Paris.

Les dentelures d'Autriche.—A propos des dentelures de timbres Autrichiens, dont il est question dans le dernier numéro de l'Echo, un de nos lecteurs nous informe que le 25 heller bleu existe avec la pique 10½ sur 10½. De même le 1 krone rouge rose 10½, et le 4 krone vert clair 10½.

Dans l'émission de 1890, bien que j'aie, nous dit-il, mesuré des milliers d'exemplaires de toutes les valeurs, je n'ai jamais pu découvrir un seul timbre dentelé 12 sur 12. Faut-il en conclure que ce type n'existe pas?

(L'Echo de la Timbrologie.)


\* \* \*

Pour les Carthophiles.—En Grèce, le gouvernement de S. M. le roi Georges s'est arrogé le monopole de la fabrication des cartes avec vues. Toute commande doit porter sur un minimum de 1000 cartes. Outre la valeur nominale des cartes (toutes ces cartes portent le timbre imprimé de leur valeur), le demandeur aura à payer les frais occasionnés par l'impression, la fabrication des clichés, etc. Des cartes reproduisant des vignettes ou dessins obscènes ne sont pas fournies.

Les cartes avec vues émanant de l'industrie privée ne sont plus transportées par la poste, à moins que leur impression ne soit antérieure au 30 août 1900 et qu'elles aient été présentées au contrôle, afin de timbrage, avant le 31 décembre 1900.

(Moniteur du Coll.).



**Südneria.**—Endlich wird auch die für die Marken dieser englischen Kronkolonie gewählte Zeichnung bekannt. Unsere Befürchtung, als würde man uns mit dem Muster von De La Rue langweilen, hat sich glücklicherweise nicht verwirklicht, denn die Postwertzeichen haben das Aussehen der nebenstehenden Abbildung. Zweif. Dr., w. o. f. P., Wz. , gez. 14; Grösse ohne Zähnung 19x22½ mm. CA

Bisher sahen wir nur den niedrigsten Wert, dessen Farbe des Mittelstücks wir mit grau bezeichnen müssen; die andern Marken nebst der Karte 1 Penny karmin auf rahmfarben, 140x88 mm, melden wir nach "Ph." und "D. B.-Z." Der Vordruck ist dreizeilig und lautet: POST (Wappen) CARD — SOUTHERN NIGERIA—THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE IN DER FARBE DES WERTSTEMPELS.

Es ist wohl mit Gewissheit anzunehmen, dass die Druckauflage, schon um das Gedächtnis der Königin auch in jenen Gebieten zu ehren, aufgebraucht wird, so dass wir die Marken ohne Bedenken aufführen können.

**Freimarken:**

Half ½ Penny	gelbgrün,	Mitte grau,
One 1 "	karmin,	" "
Two 2 Pence	rotbraun,	" "
Four 4 "	olivengrün,	" "
Six 6 "	violett,	" "
One 1 Shilling	schwarz,	stumpfgrün,
Two 2 Sh Six Pence	braun,	grau,
Five 5 Shillings	gelb,	" "
Ten 10 "	violett a. gelb,	schwarz.

**Postkarte:**

One 1 Penny karmin auf rahmfarbigem Karton.

(Illustriertes Briefmarken Zeitung.)

**Stamps at Auction.**

Sale by Messrs. Puttick & Simpson on April

	s.	d.
Cape Woodblock, 1d. scarlet fair	30	0
Gold Coast, 20/- green and red, wmk. CA. fair	60	0
Lagos, 5s. blue	63	0
Mauritius, 1d. post paid, orange on bluish, early impression	90	0
" ditto, defective	32	0
" ditto, 1d. orange on white medium impression, a pair	147	0
" ditto, cut close, unused	32	0
" ditto, 2d. blue, early impression fair	42	0
" 1859, large fillet, 2d. blue	160	0
" 1858-59, 4d. green, mint, pair	98	0
Sierra Leone, 6d. violet, imperf, slight defect at top	32	0
Swaziland, 2/6 mint, block of 4	31	0
" 5/- ditto	36	0
British Colombia, 1 dol. green, p. 12½, mint	55	0
" ditto, used, fair	52	0
New Brunswick, 1/- mauve, torn	80	0
Newfoundland, 2d. scarlet, cut close	26	0
" 6½. scarlet, unused, repaired	54	0
" 6d. orange	36	0
" 1/- orange, fair	87	6
" 5c. brown, 1866, fine	22	0
Barbados, 5/- rose, star, unused, no gum	34	0
" ditto used off centre...	17	0
Nevis, 4d. orange, unused	67	6
" 6d. grey, unused	75	0
St. Vincent, 5/ rose, heavily cancelled	£7	
Turks Islands, 4 on 1/- lilac, unused	42	0
British Guiana, 1852, 4c. blue, defective	70	0
" 1856, 4c. magenta	£7/15	
Buenos Ayres, Tres pesos green	70	0
" Cinco pesos orange	£12	

**New Guatemala Counterfeits.**

WE take the following interesting extract from the current issue of the *American Journal of Philately*:

"A correspondent in Guatemala has sent us samples of a lot of the stamps of that country which he offers for sale, and, as the samples are counterfeit, we presume that the entire lot is of the same ilk. In the first place, there are the ½, 2 and 4 reales of 1878, which appear to be photographic counterfeits, no difference in the type being apparent, the character of the stamps being revealed only by the roughness of the impression and the gauge of the perforation. The other counterfeits consist of the following surcharges:

1894, 1c. on 2c. brown
1898, 1c. revenue, surcharged
2c. on 1c. revenue, both normal and inverted
6c. on 5c. violet
6c. on 10c. red

All of these are very excellent counterfeits of the original surcharges, the differences being apparent only upon close inspection.

We deem it unwise to give the exact differences between the genuine and the fraudulent, but would advise collectors to be careful in buying stamps of this class."

**An Overturn.**

WRITING in the current month's number of the *Adhesive*, under the heading shown above, Mr. Albert H. Hall remarks in an interesting manner on the changes that have recently taken place in the stamps of so many of the European countries. As the article makes very entertaining reading we reprint it here for the benefit of our readers:—

There are some things which seem to be established permanently. The stamps of the staid old countries of Europe have come to be looked upon as something nearly as unchangeable as fate. We expect frequent rainbow outbursts from such centres of epistolary activity as Roumania, Bulgaria, Servia and all the other little "ias," which could not possibly wear out a plate in printing the stamps used on their correspondence. But it is a rare and great event when one of the world powers pauses a moment in its career of conquest and colonization to notice what kind of a postage stamp it is using and to make a change.

Yet that is what is happening in Europe now, and happening with almost all of the great powers at the same time. The heavy part of the old continent is turning over all at once; and how it makes us hustle to attend to countries that we have not bothered about for years and to fill spaces that we never realized would be created. A while ago we scorned offers of correspondence from Germany, France, Austria and Spain, while we sought frantically to find someone who would exchange with us from San Marino and Montenegro. But now all that is changed. France, which has used one design on her postage stamp for twenty-five years, has adopted a new one and brought out the series, and now we welcome a 15 centime French to our album and even to our exchange sheets while the novelty lasts. Poor old 15 centime blue! How we shall miss it! Someone ought to write a poem to it, to match Eugene Field's farewell to our 3c. green. What a familiar happening it was in our collecting career to open one of those 500 mixtures for 25 cents and turn out about 200 of the 15 centime blue.

And there was another stamp that we could always count on in the mixture—the 10 pfennig German. But soon that will be less abundant, for Germany too has made a change after a lapse of eleven years. No longer do we scorn the German exchanger, but pathetically beseech him to send us the mark values. Austria also has broken a ten year stretch to keep us busy with gathering hellers instead of kreuzers. Spain, after twelve years of the baby king, is beginning to force us with cabinet photos of a very spruce young man. And Italy, with a new ruler, is setting aside the pictures of Humbert which she has used for ten years and picking out a new design.

Almost all of them are at it at once. Only Russia and Great Britain are left. The last time that the great powers turned over a new leaf in the stamp album, in 1889, 1890 and 1891, Russia was with them, although she only added two thunderbolts to a design which she had used for thirty years. Will she be with them again? And Great Britain! She led the way then, in 1887. Will she change now? Will she put forth the features of her new ruler? Or will she still keep the idealized picture of the girl-queen which has come to be looked upon less as a portrait and almost as an allegorical representation of the genius of Britannia? Another year may tell. But if the change comes, and the colonies as well, oh, what a hustle we will have!

**Jottings.**

A correspondent has shown the *A. J. of P.* the 90 cents carmine of the 1879 issue, and the 5 cents indigo of the 1888 issue of the United States stamps in imperforate pairs. Specialists in U.S.A. stamps will doubtless be interested to hear of such varieties.

From a contemporary we learn that the Executive Power of the Dominican Republic has issued a decree authorizing the issue of a new set of postage stamps. The issue will comprise three millions of stamps which, according to present advices, will be divided as follows:— Postage stamps, ½c., 150,000; 1c., 460,000; 2c., 900,000; 5c., 600,000; 10c., 280,000; 20c., 50,000; 50c., 35,000; and \$1, 25,000: Unpaid letter stamps, 2c., 175,000; 4c., 175,000; 5c., 90,000; and 10c., 60,000.

Another new issue, after the recent appearance of a new set, would at first sight seem altogether unnecessary. The present step is, however, probably due to the protest made by the Haytian authorities against the series now current owing to the improper delineation on the map of the boundary line between the republic of Hayti and San Domingo which makes it appear that San Domingo owns a greater share of the island than is really the case.

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219.	"	Egypt.
220.	"	Hayti.
225.	"	Bosnia, Bulgaria and Montenegro.
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231.	"	Spain (early issues).
232.	"	Spain (War Tax, Official, &c.)
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510.	"	Luxemburg.
511.	"	Austria.
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513.	"	Timor.
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515.	"	Peru.
516.	"	Japan.
517.	"	Finland and Poland.
518.	"	Queensland.
519.	"	Tasmania.
522.	"	Australian (common).
523.	Nett.	Unused English.
524.	25%	Gambia, Gold Coast, Lagos, &c.
525.	"	French Colonies.
527.	"	Used English.
529.	"	Sarawak.
531.	Nett.	Unused Colonials.
532.	25%	Ceylon.
534.	"	Indian Native States.
536.	"	Sweden.
538.	"	Switzerland.
539.	"	India.

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116.	"	Transvaal.
117.	"	Unused Australians.

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Gob.	"	English with Foreign Postmarks.
H.	10%	Railway Letter Fee Stamps.

We have for sale a few fine used copies of the Russian error—3 Kopecs with background of "V's," the groundwork of the 5 kopecs. These we are offering at 1/6 each.

\* \* \*

This week we are able to offer the following choice stamps:—

	PRICE.
British Columbia, 50c. on 3d. violet, fine mint pair... ..	30/-
South Australia, 3d. on 4d. blue, superb mint, block of four ... ..	40/-
Tasmania, 1d. blue, first issue, used ... ..	45/-
" 4d. orange, first issue, used, superb specimen ... ..	15/-
Antigua; mint pair 1d. lake, Crown CC. perf. 12½; with inverted wmk. ... ..	15/-
Barbados; 5/- dull rose, used ... ..	37/6
British Honduras; 1882 issue, 6d. yellow, used, Crown CA. 14 ... ..	40/-
Finland; 1 mark, used, 1867-70 issue one corner torn, S.G., No. 49 ... ..	7/6
Mauritius; 5/- violet used ... ..	5/-
New South Wales; 2d. Sidney View used, fair copy ... ..	15/-
" 5/- map, used, perf. 10 ... ..	12/6
Queensland; 2/6 vermil. used, S.G. No. 114 ... ..	4/-
St. Vincent; 5/- wmk.*, has "REVENUE" printed across it otherwise would be worth £15 ... ..	30/-
Victoria; 1d. green, S.G. No. 46, fine pair, used ... ..	17/6
Wurtemberg; 5 marks pale blue, unused... ..	7/-

Any of the above stamps can be sent on approval if required, but immediate application is necessary, as in most instances we have no duplicates of the lots offered.

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We can offer this week the following cheap wholesale lots, viz. :—

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5 cents on 8c., Gibbons' No. 146. 600 stamps, price	12/-
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## "E.W.S.N." AND NEWSAGENTS.

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We hope every Collector will do his best to support the first and only Weekly Stamp Paper published in Europe. The cheapest way to get it is by asking your Newsagent, or the nearest Railway Bookstall, to procure it regularly. The price is the modest one of 1d. weekly, which every Collector should be able to spare. Should any difficulty be experienced in getting the paper through a Newsagent, we should be glad to be advised of same.

THE PUBLISHER.

# Ewen's Weekly Stamp News.

With which is incorporated EWEN'S WEEKLY CIRCULAR. (Established October, 1897.)

A JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

THE ONLY WEEKLY STAMP PAPER PUBLISHED IN EUROPE.

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LONDON, SATURDAY, MAY 4, 1901.

[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

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## The Week's News.

The *Philatelic Journal of India* announces that another Native State Post Office was closed on the 31st March. This time it is Faridkot, and special interest attaches to this case, as it is the first of the "convention" States to give in. The State is retaining the stock-in-hand of unprinted stamps.

\* \* \*

The new Finnish stamps and cards are printed at Helsingfors.

\* \* \*

It is rumoured that Belgium is to have a new issue very shortly. The new issue epidemic seems to be taking a pretty good hold on the Continent.

\* \* \*

Mr. Oswald Marsh writes that he has seen the small size ½d. Government envelope of Great Britain with stamp embossed in green, the copy being postmarked LONDON E C — 27 AP 1901. The colour change of the ½d. stamps is now completed, having taken just a year. The change commenced with the issue of the ½d. green adhesive in April of last year.

\* \* \*

A contemporary states that several sheets of the 4c. (Ceres type) of the 1871 issue of France, in imperforate condition, have recently turned up in Paris. These stamps are very similar to the scarce 4c. grey of the French Colonies and, already, unscrupulous French dealers are trying to dispose of them at the price of the stamps so that collectors will do well to be careful in buying. We learn that it is rather a difficult matter to distinguish between the genuine Colonial stamps and this printer's waste. There is, however, a curious yellowish tinge about the latter which at once attracts suspicion. Our contemporary opines that these are some of a quantity of stamps that have recently leaked out from the French Government Printing works.

\* \* \*

Under the title "The Romance of a Baden-Powell," Mr. J. R. F. Turner contributed a readable article to the *London Philatelist*, in which he describes the finding of an altogether new Mafeking stamp with head of Baden-Powell looking to right. It appears that Mr. Turner's attention to the stamp was first called by seeing it mentioned in a siege slip issued on May 10th, in which a list of the siege stamps appeared. In a slip bearing the following day's date was an advertisement for the stamp with head to right affording additional evidence that such a stamp was known. Mr. Turner relates in an interesting manner his search for the stamp and how he eventually obtained a copy in a mixed lot at one of the London auctions.

\* \* \*

An International Philatelic Exhibition (Internationale Postzegeltonstelling) is to be held at the Hague from June 22nd to September 3rd of this year, under the auspices of the Nederlandsche Vereeniging van Postzegelverzamelaars. There will be 15 classes for collectors and 6 for dealers. An International Jury consisting of reputable philatelists of all countries will adjudge the merits of the various exhibits.

\* \* \*

There are still a number of conflicting reports floating around in the daily and weekly press regarding the design of the new issue for Italy. However, as the stamps may appear at any moment now we shall soon know for certain what the design is really to be.

## New Issues.

The Editor will be much obliged for early news of New Issues or intended New Issues or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors. Full acknowledgment given. If possible, specimens should be sent in order that illustrations may be prepared.

**BOLIVIA.**—According to *Stamps* the current 5 centavos stamp has had its colour changed to dark-red.

**BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA.**—A correspondent, writing to the *London Philatelist*, states that he has a sheet of sixty B.C.A. One Penny on 3/- green (Gibbons' No. 53), on which the eleventh stamp of the last row has the surcharge "ONE PENNY." It seems decidedly curious that such an apparent error should not have been noted before.

**FIJI.**—The *Philatelic Record* announces that the current 6d. rose has appeared perf. 11 × 12.

**FRANCE.**—A curious variety in the current 15 centimes stamps exists, attention to which seems to have been first called by our contemporary *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*. It appears that the sheets of 300 stamps are divided into six blocks of fifty stamps each. The figure "1" of "15" of the twenty-ninth stamp in five out of the six blocks cuts into the double-lined border of the square containing the figures of value. This variety only occurs on sheets printed before May 1900.

**GERMANY.**—A correspondent informs the *London Philatelist* that the current 10 pfennig stamps are printed on both thick and thin paper and that the latter shows the design through, looking at the back.

**INDIA.**—We learn from the *Philatelic Journal of India* that none of the new coloured stamps have received the "C.E.F." surcharge, nor is it likely that they ever will.—From the same source we extract the following list of the numbers of "C.E.F." stamps, &c., despatched from India to China up to the end of February of this year:—

3 pies carmine	76,640	3a. brown-orange	5,280
½ anna green	205,440	4a. slate-green	7,200
1 " brown	67,280	8a. mauve	8,880
2 " blue	17,240	12a. brown on red	7,520
2½ " green	9,600	1 rupee carmine and green	9,240
½ anna postcards	411,120		
1 " "	4,520		
½ " envelopes	195,840		

**MEXICO.**—The 50c. value of the current issue has appeared with the "OFICIAL" surcharge in black thus completing the set up to 1 peso.

**ORANGE RIVER COLONY.**—The *Philatelic Record* chronicles three new varieties in the "V.R.I." overprints, viz.:—

- 5/-, first print, with inverted stop after the "R"—"V.R.I."
- 1d., raised stops, third printing, thick "V," having a wider space between the letters "V." and "R."—"V R I"
- 1d., raised stops, third printing, thick "V" with dropped "I"—"V R I"

The same journal states that the position of the error in the first printing of the 6d. without figure of value is the fifth stamp in the seventh row of the two left hand panes.

**VICTORIA.**—Mr. Norman C. Horwood kindly sends us specimens of the new envelope and newspaper wrapper stamps. The envelope stamps—1d. and 2d. values—are in rose and mauve respectively and are similar to the recently current type with the words "Stamp Duty" removed. The ½d. and 1d. newspaper wrapper stamps are similar to the new adhesives of those values. The ½d. wrapper sent us has no inscriptions at all, but has double-lines in green at the sides, and one side is apparently rouletted in coloured lines.

Our correspondent also writes:—"No doubt you have heard that the recently current adhesives ½d. green, 2d. lilac, 2½d. blue, 4d. rose and 5d. chocolate with the words "Stamp Duty" have been called in and are no longer obtainable as they are not required for duty purposes and the new issues have taken their places as regards postage."

## Our Postcard Column.

WILL readers hearing of any interesting item of News, kindly jot it down on a postcard and address to the Editor, "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News," Norwood, London. For every contribution we publish, we will send the author an interesting and newly issued stamp. (N.B.—Postcards preferred.)

Mr. H. Clarke writes:—

"The following is an answer to Mr. J. E. Crane's enquiry (in No. 82 of *E.W.S.N.*) as to whose portrait is on the 1863 issue of Mexico:—The photo is that of Don Miguel Hidalgo, a Mexican priest. In 1810 he was leader of the malcontents at Guanajuato, but his leadership was short lived, as he was defeated and executed in 1811. As he was one of the first to lay down his life in the Republican cause, it was only natural for his countrymen to have immortalized his memory by placing his portrait on their stamps."

Mr. W. J. Elliot contributes a note in similar strain:—

"The portrait on the 1863 issue of Mexico is that of Don Miguel Hidalgo-y-Costilla, or 'the liberator,' who was a Mexican priest. In 1810, a revolt broke out owing to the oppression of the natives and half-castes by the true-blooded Spaniards. Hidalgo was the leader of the malcontents at Guanajuato, but his leadership did not last long, for he was defeated and executed in 1811. Being one of the first to lay down his life for the Republican cause, it was only natural that his memory should be immortalized by his compatriots by their placing his portrait on their postage stamps."

Mr. F. Grove Powell writes:—

"In the enclosed copy of the 1856 green shilling stamp of Great Britain, the roses of the 'emblems' watermark have a stalk attached to them, making them resemble the 'spray' watermark. This stalk is, however, apparently a piece attaching the 'bit' of the rosette to the 'bit' of the shamrock and thistle of the adjoining stamp. Can you tell me whether this occurs in every pane, or whether it is unusual?"

Mr. E. Heginbottom, B.A., describes a surcharge variety:—

"I have a variety of the Barbados 1878 provisional "1d." on half of 5/- dull rose which does not seem to tally with either of Gibbons' three types. I have both halves of Gibbons' types 86, 87 and 88, but the left half of No. 88 whilst having smaller s and smaller numeral has a curved serif to the "I." Though not as large as No. 86 it is still a distinct curve and not a straight serif. It seems to me that another type should be included to take in small "D" and "I" with serif slightly curved forming a sort of intermediate between the long curve in No. 86 and the straight serifs in Nos. 87 and 88."

Mr. Walter T. Wilson writes:—

"In reference to Mr. T. Le Ryts remarks re the new green post cards, in addition to the reply cards with type 3 (or as we now say C) on the outer card and 2 (or B) on the reply half, I have seen one with the dies in the reverse positions. Mr. Le Ryt is wrong in believing the former combination to be unique for it exists in the small white card with linen hinge, also in the small buff perf. card, and still again in the large buff card, perf. hinge."

Mr. E. H. T. Nowers replies to Mr. Wade:—

"In answer to Mr. C. Wade's query in your last issue regarding the letters on the stamps of Bergeedorf, Westoby in his *Adhesive Postage Stamps of Europe* says:—"The design is similar in all, being composed of half the arms of Lubeck on the left and half those of Hamburg on the right. . . . and in the spandrels are the letters L H P A the initial letters of Lubeck, Hamburg Post Amt.'"

## Postmark Notes.

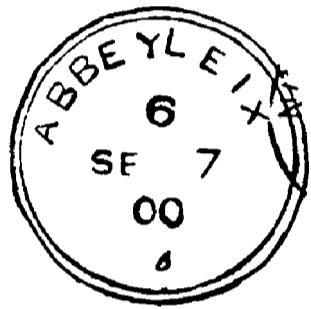
By "DUPLEX."

LUXEMBURG now issues pre-cancelled stamps to be used on printed matter, in the same way as the United States. The obliteration consists of an oblong containing the word "LUXEMBOURGVILLE" and "1901" in two straight lines. Stamps thus cancelled are available for use any time during the year and any not used may be exchanged at the beginning of next year for those bearing the date "1902." The values so obliterated are 1, 2, 5, and 10 centimes and not less than 200 of each are sold. They can only be obtained in the town of Luxemburg.

The French contingent of the China Expeditionary Force enjoys a special Field Post Office mark in the same manner as the British section. A specimen is illustrated in the last issue of the *Philatelic Journal of India*. It consists of two concentric circles with the words "TRESSOR ET POSTES AUX ARMEES" between the rings. At the base is "1 CHINE 1." The date is in three lines in the smaller circle.

I recently obtained a curious variety of a London circular cancellation. This was one of the common type used to cancel book packages, &c., but the "LONDON, W." at the top was in white letters on a black background.

I am this week able to illustrate the double-lined skeleton type of circular postmark used at "ABBEYLEIN." This is the only variety I have seen of this. Of the single line type I have noted several variations, viz.:



- (a) With month first in date line.
- (b) With day of month first in date line.
- (c) With stamper's number under date.
- (d) With letter, to denote stamper, under date.
- (e) With no number or letter under date.
- (f) With figure to indicate time of posting above date.
- (g) With letter to shew time of posting.
- (h) With no figure or letter to indicate when posted.

The other day I was shown an old "Penn Post" mark which was dated. I don't recollect having seen one with date before although I have handled large quantities of "Penny Post" marks of all varieties.

The long-lined "V.R." and numbered machine postmarks seem to have quite gone out of use in the London offices lately. I haven't seen any for the last two or three months.

## OLD BRITISH STAMPS

TO BECOME UNAVAILABLE.

MR. WALTER T. WILSON contributes the following interesting item:—

Perhaps your readers have not noticed that by a notice issued in the London Gazette, of the 19th inst., the famous "Mulready" Letter Sheet and Envelope and various Adhesive Dies have been "discontinued," and after June 1st, 1901, will be no longer available. The adhesives thus demonetised are: All 1d. except that in current use, first issued 13th December, 1881; all ½d., 1½d., 2d., 2½d., 3d., 4d., 5d., 6d., 9d., 1/-, previous to set first issued 1st January, 1887; all 10d. except current one, first issued 22nd February, 1890; all 5/-, 10/-, £1, previous to those issued 1st April, 1884; all Telegraph Dies. Certain fiscals are also mentioned in same notice.

## The British Stamp Exchange.

THE next packets will start on Monday, May 6th. The March packets have not, as yet, all returned, but accounts will be sent out immediately on receipt. All the February accounts have been settled. A Circuit for Colonials has been formed, and a packet will be sent off on May 7th. The Secretary will be glad to hear from any who desire to see this Circuit. It is open to anyone to contribute to any of the circuits. Stamps should be marked at nett prices, but ten per cent. commission is charged by the Club on all sales made. Further particulars may be had from the Secretary, OSWALD MARSH, 45, Palace Road, Norwood, S.E.

## Notes from America.

There has been considerable talk of late in regard to an altogether new issue of postage stamps. In addition to the name of the subject of the portrait a little more information may be given the public. It is probable that both the date of birth and death will be given on the stamp. No doubt the majority of the subjects will be retained, but it is possible that different pictures will be selected in some instances. Washington may appear again in full face similar to the 10c. stamp of 1847. Some of the higher denominations may be adorned by altogether new subjects, but nothing has been definitely settled. These things have to be prepared long ahead of time and it may be 1903 before the set will be ready to be placed on sale. It seems to be pretty certain, however, that the stamps will be of the present size and that the denominations will remain the same.

The Postmaster-General has promulgated an order regulating "rates of postage and classification of mails between the United States and its insular possessions and Cuba, and the military and naval service in China," establishing between them the rates now existing in the domestic mails. Note 1 may be of interest:

Hawaii and Porto Rico are included in the term "United States"; and Guam, Tutuila (including all adjacent islands of the Samoan group which are possessions of the United States) and the Philippine Archipelago are included in the term "island possessions."

This order already took effect April 1st. (*Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*).

The question of taking such measures as will absolutely make impossible the second use of revenue stamps is engrossing the attention of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue to a considerable extent, just now. The recent washings of the gray dollar values at New York is being thoroughly investigated and it seems probable that the final result will be the issuance of a rule compelling the use of a machine for cancelling the dollar values. The machine under consideration at this time is a sort of punch that perforates the stamp, as well as the document to which it is affixed, with small pin holes. In case this is done the rule will go into effect, probably, July 1st next.

Within the past few days the Department received an order for 50,000 two cents due stamps from Cuba, and the requisition was filled at once with the usual United States dues, surcharged, as heretofore.

(*The Metropolitan Philatelist*).

A new philatelic term "Perforated in the effigy." Did you ever hear of it? I never did until the other day. A dealer has a customer who, when writing for stamps, instead of saying, do not send stamps off centre requests that stamps must not be perforated in the effigy. This party resides in a near-by state and should a dealer receive an order from this eccentric individual he will save himself time, trouble, and annoyance if he will return his money with the notation "all out." At least so says one of our prominent Boston dealers. However, I have seen some unused stamps returned by this crank because he claims they were perforated in the effigy. I examined these stamps in question and found them perfectly centered, full gum never had a hinge, brilliant colour, in fact mint state. I have noticed one of our prominent philatelic papers has occasionally illustrated philatelic terms, and I would like to see their artist illustrate "perforated in the effigy," as no doubt he could produce something which would be quite startling.

The Post Office Department reports that books of 2 cent postage stamps are averaging a sale of 18,500 a day throughout the United States. The fraction of a cent which the government earns on the sale of a single book has amounted, in the eleven months during which they have been on sale at all post offices, to the handsome net profit of \$33,672.

The following clipping received from Press Department of the Pan-American Exposition may prove of interest to convention goers:

"There are 5,000,000 or more persons in the United States who devote more or less of their time to the collection of stamps, coins, pictures, curios, etc., and the majority of them are members of the various societies of collectors. Most of these collector's associations will hold their annual meetings in Buffalo during the week beginning August 19th, while the Pan-American is in progress.

On account of the many attractions offered by the Exposition and Niagara Falls, and the extraordinary opportunities which the collectors

will have for adding to their specimens, it is expected that this will be the most largely attended meeting of the different associations ever held.

(*The Weekly Philatelic Era*.)

## Extracts from the Foreign Press.

THE following important errors occurred in our Extracts last week:—

- | Par. | Line. |   |
|------|-------|---|
| II.  | 4.    | For <i>Boul</i> , read <i>boulevard</i> .                 |
| V.   | 9.    | <i>piqûre</i> should have circumflex.                     |
| V.   | 14.   | Read <i>découvrir</i> .                                   |
| VI.  | 1.    | Read <i>cartophiles</i> .                                 |
| VI.  | 15.   | <i>Afin de timbrage</i> is incorrect (see remarks below). |
| VII. | 12.   | Read <i>bezeichnen</i> .                                  |
| VII. | 20.   | „ <i>Gedächtnis</i> .                                     |
| VII. | 22.   | For <i>Markin</i> read <i>Marken</i> .                    |
| VII. | 36.   | For <i>Zeitung</i> read <i>Journal</i> .                  |

The following less important mistakes also occurred:—

- |      |    |  |
|------|----|--|
| I.   | 2. | Omit comma after <i>Seront</i> .             |
| II.  | 6. | Insert comma after <i>même</i> .             |
| III. | 2. | Capital unnecessary to <i>jubilé</i> .       |
| III. | 3. | <i>mars</i> does not require capital.        |
| V.   | 3. | Omit comma after <i>centimes</i> .           |
| V.   | 6. | <i>Antrichiens</i> requires small <i>a</i> . |
| VI.  | 1. | <i>Cartophiles</i> requires small <i>c</i> . |

The following were the best lists sent in.

Foreign Readers:—

- Baron A. de Reutershiöld (7 marks).
- G. Vermèeren (6 marks).
- Theodor Haas (6 marks).

British Readers:—

- F. F. Harrison (10½ marks).
- M. J. Hart (4½ marks).
- Rev. F. W. S. le Lièvre (4½ marks).
- J. P. O'Connor (4 marks).

With regard to the phrase *afin de timbrage*, Mr. F. F. Harrison writes:—"Afin de" is rarely used before a noun. Better, *pour timbrage*, or *afin d'être timbrées* or *afin qu'elles soient timbrées*. On the same subject M. Vermèeren states that the sentence was probably intended to read *à fin de timbrage* or *aux fins de*.

On the subject of *débitées*, concerning which we gave a note last week, Mr. Vermèeren writes:—M. Questiaux is surely right. The rule is: *Toutes les fois que le pronom en'est précédé du régime direct le participe qui suit s'accorde avec le régime direct*. In the case under the notice, the sentence should be: *Parmi les enveloppes enregistrées, on en a débitées*.

This week's paragraphs are given below, and for the benefit of readers who have not seen our previous offers, we may mention that the Editor of *E.W.S.N.* every week awards several interesting new issues to the British and Foreign readers who respectively send in the best list of mistakes occurring in the extracts, it being necessary that such lists should be delivered not later than Wednesdays.

Un employé de la poste de Porto a vu une feuille de timbres de 25 reis, type actuel, de la couleur du 5 reis, orange. Cette feuille n'a pas été vendue.

(*Rev. Phil. Port.*)

Se défier des 5c. bleu du Congo, soidisant de 1894, qu'un industriel vient de mettre en vente à Anvers. Ce sont tout simplement des 5c. de 1900 (vert et noir), dont la couleur verte est passée au bleu sous l'influence de l'acide chlorhydrique dilué.

Il circule, en ce moment, dit le *Cour. des T.P.*, des imitations dangereuses du 2 bolivianos de Bolivie 1897. Impression sur papier rugueux, tandis que le papier des originaux est satiné; les dimensions de la partie imprimée en noir sont 29½ x 22½, au lieu de 30 x 23 mm.; le mot *Correas* est plus petit que *Bolivia*, dans les faux; enfin, dans les originaux, l'écu du centre ne touche pas la partie inférieure du cercle qui le contient.

(*L'Annonce Timbrologique*.)

Les timbres française de 1849, de 10c., 25c. et 1 fr., ont servi en 1851, c'est-à-dire 9 ans avant la création de timbres spéciaux pour les colonies fr., dans les possessions suivantes: Martinique, Guadeloupe, Guyane et Réunion.

Ils portent l'une ou l'autre des oblitérations suivantes: 1° Oblit. à larges losanges, faite au moyen d'un rouleau; 2° Oblit. au rouleau à gros points carrés; 3° Losange de points contenant la mention P. C. 1 (Paris-Calais, Ambulanl No. 1); 4° Id. avec la mention P. C. 2.

(*Schw. Br. Zeit.*)

## The First Issue of Samoa.

UNDER this heading Mr. John Peltz contributes the following interesting article to the columns of our American contemporary, *The Philatelic Chronicle* :—

The writer has been busy during the last few months compiling some information regarding the first issue of stamps of Samoa, and especially has made some important discoveries anent the first issue. The sudden popularity which these stamps have lately attained has awakened a desire for some knowledge of these stamps in the mind of many a collector. It is with the object of satisfying this desire that I have taken the pains of jotting down some information I have very recently acquired in re these stamps and which I have herewith put into an article. The first issue was as follows :

- 1p. blue.
- 1p. ultramarine.
- 2p. lilac-rose.
- 3p. red.
- 3p. vermilion.
- 6p. purple.
- 6p. mauve.
- 9p. yellow-brown.
- 9p. orange-brown.
- 1sh. yellow.
- 1sh. orange-yellow.
- 2sh. brown.
- 2sh. carmine-brown.
- 5sh. green.

The second colour given in the list of each value is of course a shade, but as minor varieties are very collectable they may be included in any collection, according to the taste and desire of its owner;

The first issue in unused condition—original state—is indeed beyond the reach of many a collector; those who have or can procure at or near catalogue price are indeed to be envied; the fine delicate colours and the unique designs make them indeed treasures,—hard to procure.

The plates for this issue were hand-engraved, which, by the way, offers an opportunity for reconstructing whole sheets (consisting of ten stamps for each denomination) to those so minded. The originals were always perforated either 12 or 12½.

The printing of the first issue for supplying stamp collectors continued after they were retired from use, and for their special benefit another stamp (the 2p.) was added, which had not been in circulation at all. It is therefore a surprise to many a collector why Scott still includes this stamp in his catalogue, for it was only printed and sold for the exclusive benefit of the philatelist, and not from any requirements of the postal service. Therefore in my opinion it is not a postage stamp in the true sense of the word and ought to be dropped from the catalogue.

Scott's 59th catalogue says of the first issue: "The reprints can be distinguished from the originals by the colours and also by the perforation, which in the originals is generally very ragged, the perforating machine having often made holes without removing any of the paper." As a fact the colours of the reprints vary from those of the genuine but the variation cannot be detected except by comparison with the originals, and genuine stamps in which the perforations are clear cut are almost unknown. The above information has been furnished me by my friend, Mr. Brightman, and he further adds "there is no difference in design between originals and reprints." I am not so sure of this last statement, for it is my opinion that some such variation does exist; for instance, if I am not greatly mistaken, the reprints were made from the original plates, which had become somewhat worn from long usage, must needs show some broken places on the stamps. The perforation between the originals and reprints is often different, all copies of reprints that I have seen thus far were perforated either 12½ or 12¾, or a still larger gauge, whereas the originals are perforated either 12 or 12½. In many cases, however, it is difficult to detect originals from the reprints, and it is always safest to submit specimens to an expert for a decision.

I have recently come across a clumsy counterfeit of the 3p. but the difference between this and the original is so marked that none but a very indifferent or unobserving collector could fail to detect it. In the first place the colour of the forgery is almost an orange, while in the original it is red or vermilion; the paper of the counterfeit is slightly thicker and has a yellowish tinge, in the genuine the paper is very thin and white. The gum on the original and reprint is more adhesive than on the forgery. Next the perforation: the reprints are perforated 12½ or 12¾, while the counterfeit is perforated 11½, and the genuine are perforated 12 or 12½. The engraving is clear cut on the counterfeit, the lines of ornamentation are broader, the letters in "express" are wider and placed nearer together, the first letter of the word "postage" and the last letter "E" of "pence" are placed a one-half em from the end of the tablet on

which they are engraved, the two dots under GE of postage and E of three under the tablet are missing—all this in the counterfeit. On the contrary in the genuine (and reprints) the engraving is not so fine, the lines of ornamentation are noticeably thinner, and several curves which are missing in the forgery are seen here, the letters in "express" are narrower and placed further apart (in the reprints the last letter, S, in "express" is slightly blurred), the first and last letters in the words "postage" and "pence" respectively are about one-fifth em from the end of the tablet mentioned in the counterfeit, and the two small dots lacking in the forgery are plainly to be seen on the genuine and reprints.

## Schweizer Reneke Besieged.

SURPRISES in the way of Provisional war stamps from South Africa seem to be never-ending. The very latest emanate from Schweizer Reneke, in the Transvaal, and bid fair to arouse nearly as much controversy as the now historic Mafekings brought forth. The *London Philatelist* publishes a letter from Colonel H. G. Chamier, who was in command of the garrison at Schweizer Reneke, giving full particulars of the surcharge adopted and the description and numbers of stamps overprinted. It appears that on August 19th, 1900, the garrison at Schweizer Reneke was invested by a large Boer force and two days later all communication with the outer world was cut off. Letters and despatches had to be carried by native runners and as the officer in command found it necessary to limit the number of letters that could be sent by runners, orders were issued that no letters would be forwarded unless officially stamped. At that time stamps could only be procured at two local stores, and these were called in by the military authorities and issued as required at face value. The stamps thus issued consisted of ¼d. and 1d. Capes and ¼d., 1d., 2d. and 6d. Transvaals and the official numbers for the various values are :

Cape Colony, ¼d. (presumably current type)	529
" " 1d. (Gibbons type 14)	368
Transvaal, ¼d. ... ..	781
" " 1d. ... ..	1572
" " 2d. ... ..	568
" " 6d. ... ..	178
Total ...	3996

In addition to these, four of the old type ¼d. Capes were overprinted and also four of the 1d. Table Bay design.

The stamps were surcharged by an india-rubber stamp with the word "BESIEGED" in black in large thick capitals. This Col. Chamier says was made up of a collection of old letters found in the post office. The stamps were cancelled with the Z.A.R. post office steel stamp, i.e. "SCHWEIZER RENEKE Z.A.R." with the date in centre.

The whole supply of stamps was exhausted before the end of September and no further issues could be made although the garrison was not finally relieved until January 9th, 1901.

The only genuine dates therefore are from August 21st to September 1900. Something like 3,300 of the total supply of stamps were bought by the non-coms and men of the garrison to be used on the letters they forwarded to their friends.

Colonel Chamier adds, "I think forgery will be difficult, as I kept the steel stamp while my staff officers kept the india-rubber one."

## Jottings.

The *Philatelic Journal of India* has seen a copy of the Jhind carmine and green 1 rupee stamp with a "lead" after the word "STATE" making it appear "STATEL" \* \* \*

Specimens of the 3 pies Indian carmine stamps surcharged "C.E.F." have been seen with the top stroke of the "F" of the overprint broken and copies have also been found minus the top corner of the "E." \* \* \*

The *Philatelic Record* says:—Of the Servian 2 pare stamp black, of 1872, type I., there seem to exist two printings, which can be distinguished by the paper and the execution. The newly discovered printing is on soft, thinnish paper, and the colour is deep black; it is therefore similar to the second type, but minus broken "T" and the spot in the hair. \* \* \*

The average number of articles posted per day during 1899 in the Marshall Islands was 30 and yet the authorities consider it necessary to keep 5 mark stamps in stock for postal purposes!

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220.	"	Hayti.
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505.	"	African Colonials.
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We have for sale a few fine used copies of the Russian error—3 Kopecs with background of "V's," the groundwork of the 5 kopecs. These we are offering at 1/6 each.

\* \* \*

This week we are able to offer the following choice stamps:—

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British Columbia, 50c. on 3d. violet, fine mint pair... ..	30/-
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Barbados; 5/- dull rose, used ... ..	37/6
British Honduras; 1882 issue, 6d. yellow, used, Crown CA. 14 ... ..	40/-
Finland; 1 mark, used, 1867-70 issue one corner torn, S.G., No. 49 ... ..	7/6
Mauritius; 5/- violet used ... ..	5/-
New South Wales; 2d. Sidney View used, fair copy ... ..	15/-
" 5/- map, used, perf. 10 ... ..	12/6
Queensland; 2/6 vermil. used, S.G. No. 114 ... ..	4/-
St. Vincent; 5/- wmk.*, has "REVENUE" printed across it otherwise would be worth £15 ... ..	30/-
Victoria; 1d. green, S.G. No. 46, fine pair, used ... ..	17/6
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Any of the above stamps can be sent on approval if required, but immediate application is necessary, as in most instances we have no duplicates of the lots offered.

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With which is incorporated EWEN'S WEEKLY CIRCULAR. (Established October, 1897.)

A JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

THE ONLY WEEKLY STAMP PAPER  
PUBLISHED IN EUROPE.

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LONDON, SATURDAY, MAY 11, 1901.

[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

## CONTENTS.

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Our Postcard Column.  
Notes from America.  
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Two Printings of Current French Stamps.

## The Week's News.

Montenegro will shortly adopt a currency of hellers and kronen similar to that of Austria. Thus we may expect to see a complete new issue with values in the new currency very soon.

\* \* \*

A French dealer is offering the complete set of current Abyssinian stamps used or unused for 1/6 the set! There seems a doubt as to the authenticity of the postage due set, which is now being offered at 2/- per set. The reason of the sudden fall in price seems to be that a new issue is about to appear and King Menelik is clearing out the old stock for what it will fetch. *Le Collectionneur* states that the currency is to be changed, a thaler or talari (said to be worth 3/4 in British money), being henceforth divided into centimes (equal to 3 or 4 centimes of francs, according to variation in exchange), instead of 16 guerches as hitherto.

Work on the new Italian stamps is being rapidly pushed forward. The 20 centesimi value is now being printed and is said to be produced at the rate of a million a day.

\* \* \*

We are informed that a notice has been issued by the Victorian G.P.O. to the effect that the late issues and duty stamps will be available for postage up to June 1st.

\* \* \*

The career of Mr. J. Davis, who enjoyed the distinction of being Postmaster of Samoa both under the King and the Treaty Powers, is one of great interest. We cull the following information concerning him from a recent issue of the *Australian Philatelist*. It appears that Mr. Davis was first appointed to the position in 1885 by the three Consuls—British, American and German—who were then managing affairs at Apia. In the following year he was appointed by King Malietoa as postmaster of the Kingdom of Samoa, and he occupied this position until the end of February, 1900. Several revolutions and civil wars occurred during Mr. Davis' term of office, but his position was always maintained by the party in power. His latest appointment was from the young King Malietoa whom the Powers put into the kingship in 1898. Mr. Davis had the designing of all the stamps used while he was postmaster, the dies being in the hands of the New Zealand Government, who also printed the stamps. One of the most interesting of the postal issues is that known as the "black error." The head of the King was printed in black and his majesty considered it a reflection on his complexion. Another interesting issue was that overprinted "Provisional Govt.," which was printed by the authority of the Chief Justice during the late Samoan war. This was the last to appear ere Germany took over the island. It is said that Mr. Davis will journey to Wellington, New Zealand, to break the dies of his stamps and thus conclude the final scene in one of the most interesting and unique careers that has ever fallen to the lot of a postmaster.

\* \* \*

New Caledonia is suffering from another attack of the surcharging fever. Let us hope it will not be a prolonged one. It appears that the 2 cents stamp has been surcharged 5c. while the 75c. and 1fr. stamps have been surcharged 15 cents. It is said that the Postal Officials will only sell a few at a time presumably to prevent speculation. Of course an "error" has already been discovered, two stamps of the 75c. value being found on one sheet minus the surcharge. This is accounted for by the fact that two stamps from another sheet became gummed on this one and so received the overprint instead of the stamps underneath.

## New Issues.

The Editor will be much obliged for early news of New Issues or intended New Issues or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors. Full acknowledgment given. If possible, specimens should be sent in order that illustrations may be prepared.

**AUSTRIA.**—The 1 piastre on 25 heller blue has appeared perf. 10½.

**BAVARIA.**—The M.C. says that the current 20 pfennig stamp has been re-engraved, the numerals "20" being less open than before.

**CHINA.**—The M.J. has seen a pair of the ½c. on 3c., large figures, imperforate vertically, with one of the stamps showing the error "CEN" for "CENT."

**COSTA RICA.**—The new 1, 2 and 5 centimos stamps are said to have already appeared with the "OFICIAL" overprint. The word is impressed in violet across the centre of the stamps.

**GIBRALTAR.**—An error with wrong fount "M" occurs in the London overprint of "Morocco Agencies." The letter is shorter than the rest and has a long serif projecting to the left at the top. The variety occurs once in the sheet of 120 stamps and may be found in all the values.

**GRIQUALAND.**—A specimen of the 4d. blue, Cape of Good Hope, variety b has been found with the italic G surcharge inverted.

**GWALIOR.**—The M.J. chronicles the following minor varieties in the "GWALIOR" surcharge on Indian stamps:—

- (a) With small "A"—3 pies.
- (b) With small "G"—3 pies, ½, 1 and 2 annas.
- (c) With small "R"—3 pies and 2 annas.

The small "G" and "R" are very distinct from the other letters while the "A" is a letter with broken top.

- (d) With a "lead" before the "G"—1 & 2 annas.
- (e) With the "A" above the level of the other letters—2 annas.

All are in the now obsolete colours and have the long Hindu surcharge.

**HONDURAS.**—According to the M.J. a pair of the 1st issue 2 reales, black on green, has been found, one stamp of which is surcharged "un real" in black while the other is without the overprint.

**INDIA.**—An error occurs in the 1 anna stamps with "C.E.F." surcharge, one stamp showing the overprint "O.E.F."

**LIBERIA.**—Copies of the 4 cents and 5 dollars stamps of the 1892 issue have been found with the centres inverted.

**MONTENEGRO.**—The following errors of the surcharged Jubilee issue of 1893 are noted by the M.J.:—

- (a) With "1494" for "1493," black surcharge—3 nov.
- (b) With "1495" for "1493," black surcharge—3, 2, 5, 7, 10 and 25 nov.; red surcharge—10 and 15 nov.
- (c) With the surcharge inverted. Black surcharge—2, 3, 5, 7, 15 and 25 nov.; red surcharge—10 nov.

**SERVIA.**—Mr. E. Heginbottom informs us that he has a specimen of the 15p. orange, 1867-78 issue, perf. 12 all round—a variety not catalogued by Gibbons. The *London Philatelist* states that the 5 paras value has appeared on the ordinary white wove paper.

**TRANSVAAL.**—Another value—the 2d. brown—has been seen with the "V.R.I." surcharge inverted.

**TRAVANCORE.**—A new value—¾ chuckram—has just been issued printed in black. The design is similar to those of the current set.

**VICTORIA.**—The Rev. H. W. Lane and Mr. N. C. Horwood have both kindly forwarded us specimens of the new 1d. letter-card. The stamp is exactly similar in design to the new 1d. adhesive, and is printed in carmine. We are informed that the cards are sold at the rate of 1/3 per dozen, not less than two being supplied at one time. The recently current letter cards were sold at 2d. each, no extra charge being made for the card itself, as is now the case.

## Our Postcard Column.

WILL readers hearing of any interesting item of News, kindly jot it down on a postcard and address to the Editor, "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News," Norwood, London. For every contribution we publish, we will send the author an interesting and newly issued stamp. (N.B.—Postcards preferred.)

Mr. R. B. Harrison writes:—

"When examining a friend's collection recently I came across a 1d. black of Great Britain which was perforated. Can you inform me if this is likely to be official as I have every reason to suppose it is a genuine copy?"

Mr. George F. M. Camroux writes:—

"With reference to Mr. Freestone's query in your issue for April 27th—Northern Nigeria stamps were pen-cancelled to start with in several post offices. Rubber stamps were also used, as I have some from Lokoja cancelled in this manner."

Mrs. A. C. Hine contributes the following:—

"A friend from South Africa has just shewn me the 10/- Transvaal V.R.I. in two different types. The letters of the surcharge on one are shorter than those of the ordinary type and the stops are smaller. Do you know of this variety?"

Capt. M. Connolly writes:—

"I have a copy of the rare Ceylon post-card, 8 cents on 2, 'Naples, Marseilles and Southampton,' postmarked 'Colombo Courts, 23.9.79' and 'London E.C. 27.10.79.' Gibbons gives the date of issue of this provisional as 1882 and both Scott and Bright as 1880, so that my specimen is a record date, a year earlier than seems to have been catalogued."

Mr. R. A. Walter describes a new variety:—

"I enclose a French stamp for your inspection which appears to me to be of considerable interest as I find it catalogued by neither Gibbons nor Bright. It is the 50c. carmine of the 1876 type variety a with the "N" of "INV" under the "B" of "REPUBLIQUE".

[The stamp sent for our inspection is undoubtedly variety a.—ED.]

Mr. W. H. Budd writes:—

"I enclose for your inspection a used British Bechuanaland on 1/- English stamp, the colour being grey, instead of green. Can you account for the change of colour?"

Baron de Reuterskiold sends a query:—

"Can any of your readers explain why so many of the sheets of O.R.C. surcharged V.R.I. have an inverted and uninked impression of the surcharge on the back of the stamps?"

Miss C. I. Bryan writes:—

"I notice that the 2nd printing of the "ONE FARTHING" on 1/- grey Bermuda, is a slightly different shade of grey from that of the 1st printing."

Mr. H. A. King contributes the following:—

"In December last I wrote you as to the 'Schweizer Reneke Besieged' stamps which I then had brought to me. You inserted the query in *E.W.S.N.* and I made many enquiries but never received any explanation as to the cause of issue. I had two ½d. and two 1d. Transvaals used on a telegram envelope surcharged and postmarked, the date being in September. I see in your issue of May 4th it is now fully explained. The stamps I had exactly correspond as to your description as to postmark and surcharge."

Mr. C. R. Anstey writes:—

"I notice that in the top corner ornaments of the new 1d. Victorian stamps the letters "C" and "H" in minute characters appear. These letters also appear in the old die (without the word "postage") of 1883. Are they the initials of the designer of the stamps?"

Mr. John Hayes sends a note:—

"Have you noted that in the current 10c. and 25c. stamps of France the name of the engraver appears just inside the frame at the right hand side of the stamp, while in the 1c. and 5c. values it appears at the bottom of the design."

## Notes from America.

THE first requisitions filed of the Pan-American stamps were for post offices in the far West, the middle States coming next, and the near-by offices coming last. Thus, New York would be among the last to be filled, possibly the stamps not leaving Washington until Monday, the 29th. It was the purpose of the Department that the stamps should arrive at their destinations about the 30th, giving the postmaster just time to get the packages opened and the stamps on sale at the appointed time.

It appears that the policy of the Department was to send stamps to all presidential offices and to such minor ones as it may be deemed advisable in the light of previous sales to supply. Thus on the first day of May the Pan-American stamps were not on sale at every post office in the United States. There are 75,000 of these offices and manifestly it would be a physical impossibility to perform the actual work of wrapping up, registering and keeping account of 75,000 packages of stamps, involving six denominations, within so short a space of time. After the more pretentious offices have been supplied, if the smaller offices make requisition, it is thought they will be supplied.

It is said that without exception postmasters (and I am told there are not far from 6,000 in this list) who have made special requisition for the Pan-American series, have called for the entire set. This would seem to indicate that the stamp collectors in each town have been active in their representations to their respective postmasters. As intimated before, the requisitions will be materially cut down, at the outset. Of course Buffalo has ordered the stamps in tremendous quantity, as the people there will doubtless use only the new series, and Buffalo will be given all the stamps asked for, but other post offices will have to be content for the time being with a partial filling of their orders, with the assurance that when the present stock shows indications of exhaustion, they will be furnished additional supplies.

\* \* \*

A report comes from Omaha that a private corporation has been infringing somewhat upon what might be considered the preserves of Uncle Sam's Post Office Department. This corporation, which either has or it is said, will, establish offices in all the large cities, transports letter mail and other matter for anyone and the fee charged is said to be only about one-half regular postage rates. It is not understood that any sort of stamps are used, but that a contract is entered into for the delivery of certain amounts of matter that ordinarily would be dispatched by post, at a specified rate, either per pound or hundred pounds. It is understood that this transportation is largely within the cities, including their suburbs, and has not yet been extended so as to cover points distantly located from one another. The solicitor for the Post Office Department, having in charge matters relating to violations of postal regulations, has rendered an opinion adverse to the private mail carriers. He says the new plan is a direct violation of postal regulations and that it will not be permitted. Thus do visions of reduced rates for transportation of mail matter go a glimmering.

(The Metropolitan Philatelist.)

\* \* \*

The listing of the two types of Cuba, Philippines and Porto Rico, has attracted some attention. The points of difference, while not great, are yet discernible. An authority to whom the types were shown said that a careful study of the stamps of less important countries would reveal minor variations of like interest; and Bosnia was mentioned as a case in point.

\* \* \*

There has been a veritable scramble for Guam stamps since the announcement of the news that there are to be no more of them. Neither has the end come yet. Many will want them long after dealer's stocks have become exhausted and prices will stand a very healthy rise for some time to come. The little lot printed a few weeks ago at the Bureau has already been destroyed.

\* \* \*

A census of the population of the Samoan group has been taken. The number of inhabitants in Upola and other islands under the German Government is 32,000, while the population of Tutuila and the other five islands under the United States Government is returned at 5,800. Many places with a much smaller population have been supplied with a special set of postage stamps in the past, but let us be thankful for once, that Uncle Sam has spared us in this instance and did not follow the example of Guam.

\* \* \*

Porto Rico is still well supplied with the provisional revenue stamps which will last for some time yet. After a few months trial the authorities there may have gained sufficient

experience in regard to the needs of the island, as to make more definite and extensive arrangements for the future. In the meantime, collectors of United States revenues would not go amiss by trying to secure a few of these stamps of which the number issued was but small.

There have also been a number of provisionals in this line issued by the United States authorities in the Philippines. These are mostly coarse lithographs, poorly perforated, which were made there. They can be readily distinguished by the American eagle or the stars and stripes. Should there ever be much demand for these stamps, some of them will doubtless be very hard to get.

The telegraph stamps of our island possessions should come in for a greater share of attention than they have in the past. There are not very many of them and generally they are not hard to obtain. In Europe, especially France and Spain, there is considerable demand for them; there they are listed in the stamp catalogues and even included in some of the albums. In design most of them correspond to the postage stamp of same date, except that the inscriptions are of course different.

Finally the regular revenue stamps of these countries should receive more attention. They are attractive in design and size and would make a very pretty collection. Thus far no one has undertaken to catalogue them for American collectors, which renders them somewhat unpopular. There is a fine field for study for some enterprising philatelist with a little time on his hands and sufficient material to work on.

(Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News).

## The Two Printings of the Current French Stamps.

As most of our readers are aware varieties are to be found in some of the values of the French set now current owing to their having been produced in two different printings. The values in which these variations occur are the 10c., 20c., 25c. and 30c., the design for which is the handiwork of M. Mouchon. Much has appeared in several of our contemporaries regarding these two printings, but by far the best account that has yet been written is published in the latest number of the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*. This is founded on an article that appeared in *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, as the result of the researches of Dr. Henri Voisiu, a well-known French philatelist.

The stamps, although only issued last December, were prepared and printed many months beforehand. The first sheets of those of the Mouchon type, with the exception of the 15c. value were produced in two operations, the vignette being printed first and the figures of value being printed in afterwards. After a short time the stamps were produced in one operation, the figures of value being engraved on the plates.

The double-printed stamps are getting somewhat difficult to obtain, especially the 10c. value. Generally it is a fairly easy matter to distinguish between the two printings. In the stamps produced in two operations the figures of value are often different in shade from the rest of the design being sometimes darker and sometimes lighter. This, however, is not an infallible test, as it occasionally happened that both figures and design were printed in exactly the same shade.

The figures of value in this printing are more or less off-centre in the tablet in which they are placed, frequently touching the sides of the frame. Another good test is that in the double-printed stamps the figures show plainer at the backs of the stamps than is the case with those printed in one operation.

There should be no difficulty in distinguishing between the two varieties of the 10c. value, as in the single printing the foot of the "1" is distinctly curved.

Dr. Voisiu has a specimen of the 30c., first printing, in which the figures of value are entirely missing.

An interesting variety occurred on some of the first sheets printed from the completed plate of the 15c. value. In this, the figure "1" has an unduly long serif that extends to the inner double-lined border, which runs downwards from the bottom of the "P" of "POSTES." The variety is very plain, and is not caused by the figures being too much to the left, as they occupy the same position on the tablet as the numerals on the other stamps of the sheets. This variety occurs once in the pane of 50 stamps, in five of the six panes of which the sheets are composed. Although apparently such a small thing, this variation was detected and corrected, as it only appears on sheets printed before May of last year.

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES "E.W.S.N.":

One year, 6/6; 6 months, 3/3; 3 months, 1/7½; or ONE PENNY WEEKLY through all News-Agents.

## Extracts from the Foreign Press.

THE following important errors occurred in our Extracts last week:—

Par.	Line.	
I.	4.	For <i>vendu</i> read <i>vendue</i> .
II.	1.	Read <i>soi-disant</i> (with hyphen.)
IV.	1.	" <i>français</i> .
IV.	4.	" <i>franç</i> or better, <i>françaises</i> , as a contraction is not usual under such circumstances.
IV.	10.	Read <i>Ambulant</i> .
I.	3.	Omit comma after <i>reis</i> .
III.	1.	Omit comma after <i>circule</i> .
III.	7.	Comma is unnecessary after <i>Bolivia</i> .

\* \* \*

The question whether *debité* or *debitées* is correct seems not to be settled yet. Last week we gave the opinion of M. Vermèeren, but the accuracy of this correspondent is now challenged by M. Benaert, states:—"To write *Parmi les enveloppes enregistrées on en a débitées* is about one of the grossest mistakes one can make in French." We accordingly decide in favour of *debité*. This discussion must now be closed.

\* \* \*

This week's paragraphs are given below, and for the benefit of readers who have not seen our previous offers, we may mention that the Editor of *E.W.S.N.* every week awards several interesting new issues to the British and Foreign readers who respectively send in the best list of mistakes occurring in the extracts, it being necessary that such lists should be delivered not later than Wednesdays.

\* \* \*

L'Espagne se propose de faire partie de l'Union latine et d'adopter le franc, en remplacement de la peseta, pour unité monétaire. Ce changement dans le système monétaire aurait pour conséquence immédiate le retrait des timbres actuels qui seraient remplacés par une nouvelle série avec valeur en francs et centimes. (*L'Essor Philatélique*).

\* \* \*

Il résulte d'un document officiel, publié par *El Curioso Americano*, que la fameuse surcharge Y 1/4 de Cuba, 1855, a été appliquée exactement sur 200,000 timbres de 2 reales.

\* \* \*

Pas moins de 300 dessins ont été présentés au concours ouvert par le Conseil fédéral Suisse, pour la création d'un nouveau modèle de timbre-poste, pour les valeurs de 2, 3, 5, 10, 12 et 15 centimes.

Il paraît que la commission d'experts, à laquelle ces dessins ont été soumis, s'est arrêtée au modèle représentant Guillaume Tell le légendaire héros national.

\* \* \*

*Les timbres-taxe d'Abyssinie.*—

L'an dernier j'ai écrit (communiqué M. Marconnet à *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*) à M. E. T., négociant, à Addis-Ababa, pour le prier de m'envoyer quelques séries timbres-taxe d'Abyssinie oblitérés, je vous adresse ci-inclus sa réponse ainsi conçue:

Addis-Ababa, le 9 janvier, 1900.

MONSIEUR,

Je puis vous envoyer autant de séries de timbres que vous pouvez désirer, mais nous ne connaissons pas encore ici les timbres-taxe; il n'y a en circulation pour la poste que les timbres ordinaires; une série complète se compose de 7 timbres, que je puis vous faire oblitérer comme vous me le demandez; le prix d'une série est de 6 francs, franco.

Comme j'avais acheté une série de ces timbres-taxe à un marchand de Paris pour 14 fr. j'écrivis de suite à ce marchand pour lui demander si ses timbres étaient authentiques et avaient cours en Abyssinie. Sur sa réponse affirmative j'ai cru que mon correspondant, qui n'est pas collectionneur, n'avait pas voulu se donner la peine de me procurer ces timbres: je lui envoyai donc la série que je possédais pour lui prouver qu'elle existait, en le priant d'aller trouver le Directeur des Postes et Télégraphes d'Abyssinie et de lui demander des taxes que le receveur ne voulait sans doute pas lui donner; je le priais de faire oblitérer ma série et de m'en envoyer encore plusieurs autres, oblitérées également. Voici la réponse que je reçus:

Addis-Ababa, le 9 juin, 1900.

MONSIEUR,

J'ai bien reçu votre estimée du 1<sup>er</sup> avril; je vous retourne votre collection de timbres-taxe.

Vous m'affirmez qu'il y a des timbres-taxe en Abyssinie, moi je vous affirme que ce sont ceux que vous m'envoyez dans votre lettre que je vois pour la première fois ainsi que *Monsieur M....., Directeur des Postes et Télégraphes Ethiopiens*. A chaque courrier qui m'arrive d'Europe, je suis obligé de payer 2, 3 et 4 thalers de supplément de taxe pour les journaux. On ne met jamais de timbre de surtaxe. On indique simplement au crayon le montant de la somme à percevoir.



**Special Offers.**

**MINT UNUSED COLONIAL STAMPS.**

(Continued from Supplement.)

**SOUTH AFRICA—V.R.I. PROVISIONALS etc.**

<i>Orange Free State, surcharged V.R.I., (Level stops).</i>		s.	d.
2391*	½d. orange (No. 101) ...	2	6
2392*	2d. violet (No. 107) ...	0	6
2393*	2½d. on 3d. blue (No. 109) ...	12	6
2394*	3d. blue (No. 113) ...	0	6
2395*	6d. blue (No. 122) ...	1	6
2396*	1s. brown (No. 125) ...	1	9

<i>Orange Free State, V.R.I. (Raised stops).</i>		s.	d.
2397*	½d. orange (No. 102) ...	0	1
2398*	1d. violet (No. 105) ...	0	2
2400*	3d. blue (No. 114) ...	0	5
2401*	4d. blue (No. 117) ...	2	6
2402*	6d. blue (No. 123) ...	0	8
2403*	1s. brown (No. 126) ...	1	3

<i>Orange River Colony on Cape.</i>		s.	d.
2404*	½d. green (No. 163) ...	0	1
2405*	2½d. blue (No. 164) ...	0	4

<i>Orange Free State V.R.I. (side pairs with thick V).</i>		s.	d.
2406*	½d. orange (Nos. 102 and 156) ...	0	6
2407*	1d. violet (Nos. 105 and 157) ...	0	4
2408*	2d. violet (Nos. 108 and 158) ...	1	6
2409*	3d. blue (Nos. 114 and 159) ...	2	6
2410*	6d. blue (Nos. 123 and 160) ...	3	6
2411*	1s. brown (Nos. 126 and 161) ...	6	6

<i>O.F.S.—V.R.I. with thick V. Singles.</i>		s.	d.
2412*	½d. orange thick V (No. 156) ...	0	4
2413*	1d. violet " (No. 157) ...	0	3

<i>Transvaal, V.R.I.</i>		s.	d.
2416*	1d. rose and green (No. 302) ...	0	2
2417*	2d. brown and green (No. 303) ...	0	3
2418*	2½d. blue and green (No. 304) ...	0	4
2419*	3d. purple and green (No. 305) ...	0	5

<i>Mafeking Siege Stamps.</i>		s.	d.
2421*	1d. blue, Cyclist (No. 17, cat. 22/6) ...	11	3
2422*	1d. grey-blue, Cyclist (No. 17a) ...	11	6
2423*	1d. grey, Cyclist (No. 17b) ...	11	9
2424*	3d. blue, Head of Baden Powell (No. 18, cat. 32/6) ...	22	6

**OBSOLETE TRANSVAAL.**

<i>Transvaal, Queen's Heads, 1878.</i>		s.	d.
2425*	1d. brown-red (No. 149) ...	2	6
2426*	3d. lilac-rose (No. 150) ...	3	0
2427*	6d. drab (No. 152) ...	3	6

<i>Transvaal, Arms types.</i>		s.	d.
2428*	3d. mauve, 1885 (No. 188) ...	2	6
2429*	1d. on 2½d. violet (No. 252) ...	0	4
2430*	½d. on 1/- green (No. 251) ...	0	4
2431*	½d. grey, Pole (No. 242) ...	0	3
2432*	1s. green shafts, v. rare (No. 240) ...	11	6
2433*	2½d. on 1/- grn., inverted (No. 234) ...	4	9

**GREAT BRITAIN.**

2438*	4½d. green and carmine, just obsolete ...	0	6
2439*	1d. red, various plates ...	0	6
2440*	1d. venetian-red, 1880 ...	0	2

**LEEWARD ISLES.**

<i>Antigua.</i>		s.	d.
2445*	½d. green (S.G. No. 21) ...	0	2
2446*	1d. carmine-ed (No. 25) ...	0	3
2447*	2½d. ultramarine (No. 27) ...	0	6
2448*	4d. chestnut-brown (No. 28) ...	0	9
2449*	6d. green, old type (No. 29) ...	3	6

<i>Dominica.</i>		s.	d.
2451*	½d. dull green (No. 20) ...	0	2
2452*	1d. carmine (No. 23) ...	0	3
2453*	4d. grey (No. 22) ...	1	9
2454*	6d. orange (No. 25) ...	8	6

<i>Nevis.</i>		s.	d.
2455*	4d. grey (No. 40) ...	3	0
2456*	6d. red-brown (No. 42) ...	7	6
2457*	1s. lilac (No. 43), rare ...	27	6

<i>St. Christopher.</i>		s.	d.
2458*	½d. dull green (No. 11) ...	0	2
2459*	" full sheet of 20 ...	3	3
2460*	1d. carmine-rose (No. 13) ...	0	2
2461*	2½d. ultramarine (No. 16) ...	0	6
2462*	4d. grey (No. 18) ...	0	8
2463*	1s. deep lilac (No. 21), rare ...	19	6

<i>Virgin Islands.</i>		s.	d.
2464*	1d. rose, full sheet of 24 ...	8	6
2465*	" (No. 34) ...	0	5
2466*	4d. brown-red (No. 37) ...	4	3
2467*	6d. deep violet (No. 39) ...	5	3

NOTE.—Corner Stamps of Nos. 2458-67 can be supplied at same rates. Blocks of four are in stock, if required.

**Quotations for Used British Stamps.**

SOME of our readers may perhaps remember that early in 1899 we gave market quotations for all British stamps, listing the price we were willing to pay for each stamp and the prices at which we were open to sell. At the conclusion of the 1898-99 philatelic season, the quotations were discontinued, but we are now considering the possibility of reviving them. If readers take any interest in the idea or can suggest any improvements, we should be glad to hear from them. The quotations are only for fine copies—perfect, lightly cancelled, well-centred—and we have no intention of either buying or selling second-rate specimens.

The first column gives the prices at which we can purchase and the second those at which we can sell. It is impossible to make closer quotations, especially for low priced stamps, as 20 or 30 deals in some kinds may only represent a turnover of 10/- or 15/-, and the value of time has to be considered.

All communications relative to these quotations should be addressed to

THE SECRETARY,  
Ewen's British Stamp Market,  
32, Palace Square, Norwood, S.E.

		PURCHASE.	SALE.
		s. d.	s. d.
1840	1d. black ...	0 4	0 5
1841	2d. blue, no lines ...	1 0	1 4
1841	2d. blue, with lines, per 100 ...	4 0	6 0
1854	1d. red, S.C. perf. 16 ...	0 1	0 2
	2d. blue, S.C. 16 ..	0 2	0 4
1855	1d. red, S.C. 14 ...	0 2	0 4
	2d. blue, S.C. 14 ...	0 9	1 0
1855	1d. red, L.C. 16 ...	0 6	0 9
	2d. blue, L.C. 19 ..	1 6	2 3
	2d. blue, L.C. 14 ...	0 1	0 2
1870	1½d. red, per 100 ...	6 0	8 0
1870	½d. red, per 100 ...	2 0	3 0
1847	1/- green, octagonal ...	1 3	1 9
1848	10d. red-brown, octagonal ...	5 0	6 6
1854	6d. violet, octagonal ...	1 0	1 6
1855	4d. S.G. on blue ...	2 0	3 0
	4d. M.G. on blue ...	3 0	4 0
1856	4d. M.G. on white ...	1 0	1 6
	1s. green, no letters ...	0 3	0 5
1862	3d. rose, small letters ...	1 0	1 6
	9d. bistre, small letters ...	2 0	3 0

The above list will be continued next week. We are open to purchase small or large parcels of all kinds of used British stamps. Line-Engraved varieties particularly wanted.

A good price can be given for used or unused 2/- brown, in fine condition.

We are still buying railway letter fee stamps, but no other railway stamps, such as those used for newspapers, are required. Good prices for almost any bearing postmarks prior to 1898. Unused blocks particularly wanted.

We are in want of the following Colonial stamps in mint unused condition, any watermark or perforation.

- Bahamas, 4d. rose, 6d. lilac (1st type).
- Barbados, 4d. red, 4d. rose (1st type).
- " 3d. brown, 6d. red (2nd type).
- " 6d. brown, Queen's Head type.
- Bermuda, 3d. buff, 1873.
- British Honduras, 1s. green.
- British Guiana, large type, 1863, 6c., 24c., 48c.
- Grenada, 2½d. rose (1st type).
- Montserrat, 2½d. red-brown, 4d. blue.
- St. Christopher, 6d. green, 6d. brown.
- St. Lucia, 4d. blue (1st type).
- St. Vincent, 1/- grey (1st type), well-centred.
- Tobago, 4d. green, 1880.
- Trinidad, 4d. lilac, 1/- blue (1st type).
- " 10/- green and blue (30/- cash offered).
- Virgin Isles, 1/- rose, 1/- brown (1st type).
- " ½d. yellow, ½d. green, 1d. green (Queen's Head).
- Gold Coast, £1 green and rose.

All communications to be addressed to  
THE SECRETARY,  
Ewen's British Stamp Market,  
32, Palace Square, Norwood, S.E.

**NOTICE!**

One or two large Collections are wanted immediately for prompt cash. Offers willingly made for scarce British and Colonial stamps. Where catalogue value of a stamp is under 5/- we cannot undertake to make separate offers, and such stamps should be sent on approval with price required marked over each.

**SPECIAL ALBUMS FOR BRITISH STAMPS.**

FOURTH EDITION. JUST READY.

THESE ALBUMS are specially designed for those Collectors who wish to take all varieties of British stamps—postage, railway, telegraph and postal-fiscal, whether adhesive or not—but of course, the larger amount of space is provided for the adhesive postage stamps, together with their varieties of watermark, perforation, plate numbers and control letters.

This Album gained the highest award for Specialist Albums at the London Philatelic Exhibition, 1897. It is oblong in shape and 11½ by 8½ in. in size, containing about 90 pages, being liberally interleaved with blank pages.

POPULAR EDITION, 3/6

EDITION DE LUXE, 5/6

Postage extra (4d. and 5d. respectively).

**BLANK ALBUMS**

TO MATCH THE ABOVE.

The Albums are specially recommended to collectors wishing to make small specialist collections, whether of British, Foreign or Colonial Stamps. They are oblong, and similar in shape and size to above, and absolutely blank.

WITH 48 LEAVES, 1/9 NETT.

WITH 192 LEAVES, 4/6 NETT.

Postage extra, 4d. and 6d. respectively.

**Philatelic Publications**

AND

**STAMP COLLECTORS' ACCESSORIES**

Obtainable from H. L. EWEN,  
32, Palace Square, Norwood, S.E.

CATALOGUE of British Stamps and Postmarks, containing a full history of all postage adhesives, envelope stamps (with die-numbers), wrapper and postcard stamps, registration envelope stamps, issues for government departments, telegraphs and fiscals, proofs and essays, 'specimen' stamps, college stamps, circular delivery company's stamps, British postmarks, list of postmark numbers, etc. 200 pages, 200 illustrations. Compiled by H. L'Estrange Ewen. Sixth edition, 1898, 2/6 post free.

POCKET ALBUMS for reconstructing sheets by the corner letters. Published by W. Morley and W. Hadlow. Each album contains 20 pages, each page space for 12 stamps. Price, 3d. each, 2/6 per dozen.

ENGLISH SPECIALISTS' JOURNAL. A monthly philatelic journal published from 1895 to 1897 in the interests of specialist collectors of British Stamps. Vol. i, 5/-; Vol. ii, 2/8, post free.

EWEN'S Weekly Circular for British Specialists. Published from 1897 to September 1899. The Circular is principally interesting as being the first attempt at publishing a weekly stamp paper in Europe. Almost complete file, 10/-.

EWEN'S Weekly Stamp News, A Journal for stamp collectors of all grades. Edited by H. L'Estrange Ewen. Obtainable through all newsagents, every Saturday, price one penny, or it can be had from the publisher, 32, Palace Square, Norwood, S.E., direct by post, 6/6 per annum, 3/3 for 6 months. Specimen copy free with pleasure.

Back volumes can still be supplied:—

- Vol. i. Nos. 1 to 14, 2/6 post free
- " ii. Nos. 15 to 27, 4/0 "
- " iii. Nos. 28 to 40, 2/6 "
- " iv. Nos. 41 to 53, 1/9 "
- " v. Nos. 54 to 66, 1/9 "

The publishers are willing to pay 6d. each for copies of No. 15 in good condition.

ADHESIVE Stamps of Great Britain compiled by A. B. Creeke, Jr. and the late Hastings E. Wright. Published by the Philatelic Society, London. Photographic illustrations of nearly every variety known. Copies of official records showing quantities printed and issued of each stamp, etc. Price, 25/- post free.

REFERENCE List of Railway Letter Stamps, published in 1898, incomplete, 1/- post free.

HISTORY of Railway Letter Stamps. Now in preparation. Correspondence invited on the subject by the author, H. L'Estrange Ewen, 32, Palace Square, Norwood, S.E.

STANLEY Gibbons' Catalogue of Adhesive postage-stamps of the British Empire (Part I, 1900), 2/3 post free.

## Approval Selections.

WE are now arranging and mounting a specially fine series of Approval Collections, comprising the stamps of all countries, and will have pleasure in sending same to any reader, on compliance with the conditions named below. Except where specially noted, any stamp may be selected at the price marked above it, and in most cases we allow a liberal discount off such prices. All communications for our Approval Department should be addressed to H. L. EWEN, 32, Palace Square, Norwood, S.E.

### CONDITIONS.

- 1.—Stamps can only be sent on approval on condition that those not purchased are returned within five days.
  - 2.—No stamps may be removed from the sheets or books until actually purchased.
  - 3.—Collectors are not permitted to deduct return postage from amount of purchase.
  - 4.—Discount is conditional on purchase exceeding 1/- and will be forfeited if selection is kept over the five days allowed.
  - 5.—Spaces should not be marked.
  - 6.—Sheets should be returned folded as sent.
  - 7.—When a selection is returned, another will be sent unless otherwise requested.
- N.B.—We hope collectors will assist us by observing the above very reasonable conditions and we will in return make it our endeavour to send out only the finest possible copies at the lowest possible quotations.

### APPROVAL SHEETS.

No.	Discount.	Description.
203.	Nett.	Miscellaneous Colonials.
205.	25%.	West Indies.
206.	Nett.	V.R.I's.
207.	50%.	Mexico.
208.	25%.	Miscellaneous.
211.	"	Russia.
212.	"	Norway.
214.	"	Finland.
216.	"	Roumania.
217.	"	Old Europeans.
218.	"	Venezuela.
219.	"	Egypt.
220.	"	Hayti.
225.	"	Bosnia, Bulgaria and Montenegro.
228.	"	Miscellaneous Colonials.
229.	"	Thurn and Taxis.
230.	"	Saxony.
231.	"	Spain (early issues).
232.	"	Spain (War Tax, Official, &c.)
233.	"	Spain (Carlist Stamps).
235.	"	Philippines.
237.	Nett.	Hawaii Islands.
239.	25%.	Holland and Colonies.
240.	"	Antigua, Bahamas, &c.

### BOOKLETS.

501.	Nett.	Fiji and Cook Islands.
504.	"	Unused African Colonials.
505.	"	African Colonials.
506.	"	Unused Colonials.
508.	25%.	Liberia.
509.	"	Denmark.
510.	"	Luxemburg.
511.	"	Austria.
512.	"	Austrian Italy.
513.	"	Timor.
514.	"	Macao.
515.	"	Peru.
516.	"	Japan.
517.	"	Finland and Poland.
518.	"	Queensland.
519.	"	Tasmania.
522.	"	Australian (common).
523.	Nett.	Unused English.
524.	25%.	Gambia, Gold Coast, Lagos, &c.
525.	"	French Colonies.
527.	"	Used English.
529.	"	Sarawak.
531.	Nett.	Unused Colonials.
532.	25%.	Ceylon.
534.	"	Indian Native States.
536.	"	Sweden.
538.	"	Switzerland.
539.	"	India.

### BOOKS.

111.	10%.	Unused English (chiefly 1d. reds, in strips)
112.	"	New South Wales. [and blocks].
113.	Nett.	V.R.I. Errors and Varieties.
114.	"	V.R.I. Strips and Blocks.
115.	10%.	Orange Free State.
116.	"	Transvaal.
117.	"	Unused Australians.

### LARGE BOOKS.

A1.	20%.	Used English.
A2.	25%.	Used English.
A3.	10%.	Used English.
D.	25%.	Cut Envelopes.
Go6.	"	English with Foreign Postmarks.
H.	10%.	Railway Letter Fee Stamps.

We have for sale a few fine used copies of the Russian error—3 Kopecs with background of "V's," the groundwork of the 5 kopecs. These we are offering at 1/6 each.

\* \* \*

This week we are able to offer the following choice stamps:—

	PRICE.
British Columbia, 50c. on 3d. violet, fine mint pair... ..	30/-
South Australia, 3d. on 4d. blue, superb mint, block of four ... ..	40/-
Tasmania, 1d. blue, first issue, used ... ..	45/-
" 4d. orange, first issue, used, superb specimen ... ..	15/-
Antigua; mint pair 1d. lake, Crown CC. perf. 12½; with inverted wmk. ... ..	15/-
Barbados; 5/- dull rose, used ... ..	37/6
British Honduras; 1882 issue, 6d. yellow, used, Crown CA. 14 ... ..	40/-
Finland; 1 mark, used, 1867-70 issue one corner torn, S.G., No. 49 ... ..	7/6
Mauritius; 5/- violet used ... ..	5/-
New South Wales; 2d. Sidney View used, fair copy ... ..	15/-
" 5/- map, used, perf. 10 ... ..	12/6
Queensland; 2/6 vermil. used, S.G. No. 114 ... ..	4/-
St. Vincent; 5/- wmk.*, has "REVENUE" printed across it otherwise would be worth £15 ... ..	30/-
Victoria; 1d. green, S.G. No. 46, fine pair, used ... ..	17/6
Wurtemberg; 5 marks pale blue, unused... ..	7/-

Any of the above stamps can be sent on approval if required, but immediate application is necessary, as in most instances we have no duplicates of the lots offered.

## Wholesale Lots for Sale.

We can offer this week the following cheap wholesale lots, viz. :—

<b>CEYLON.</b> 5 cents on 8c., Gibbons' No. 146. 600 stamps, price	12/-
<b>BRITISH GUIANA.</b> 2 cents purple and orange, Gibbons' No. 155, obsolete. 4097 stamps, price	18/-
(or 1000 for 5/6).	
<b>TRANSVAAL.</b> 2d. bistre, Gibbons' type 20. 794 stamps, price	21/-
<b>CANADA.</b> A superb lot of 1549 Map Stamps, on pieces of original, price	45/-
<b>GREAT BRITAIN.</b> 1d. red plate numbers, unexamined, 1000 for	1/6
<b>GREAT BRITAIN.</b> A superb lot of more than 10,000 1d. red and 2d. blue, imperf., including numerous fine strips and blocks. Price	£7

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THE PUBLISHER.

# Ewen's Weekly Stamp News.

With which is incorporated EWEN'S WEEKLY CIRCULAR. (Established October, 1897.)

A JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

THE ONLY WEEKLY STAMP PAPER  
PUBLISHED IN EUROPE.

(Entered at Stationers' Hall. Illustrated by permission of the Board of Inland Revenue.)

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LONDON, SATURDAY, MAY 18, 1901.

[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

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## The Week's News.

An American inventor claims that the little stamp books issued by the United States Postal authorities are an infringement of one of his patents and he is about to sue Uncle Sam for damages to the tune of about \$1,000,000.

\* \* \*

The competition for designs for the new Swiss stamps was not in every way as successful as could have been wished, from the authorities point of view at any rate. The jury appointed to judge the merits of the various designs deemed none of them deserving of a first prize and so contented themselves with awarding a second to Monsieur L'Eglaltenier, of Chaux-de-Fonds, whose exhibit forms the subject of an illustration in *Le Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste*. This drawing is certainly very boldly conceived and shows William Tell in the foreground with the Alps and the Geneva Cross in the background. Nothing has been decided as to the design to be adopted for the new set, so that as yet it is impossible to say whether or no William Tell will oust Helvetia from the position she has so long enjoyed on the postal issues of Switzerland.

\* \* \*

The Pan-American series of stamps were duly placed on sale at most of the post-offices in the United States on May 1st, but so far no specimens have reached us, but according to all accounts they make a very artistic set.

\* \* \*

We learn from the *Monthly Journal* that as the new German stamps with the overprint "China" had not been sent to the German Post-Office at Tientsin by the middle of February, the unsurcharged stamps that had been sent out previously were overprinted locally with a rubber hand-stamp. As unsurcharged stamps were being used at the German Post-office in Pekin, there seems to have been no reason why it was necessary to have them surcharged at Tientsin. Probably some cute individual thought he could see an easy way of making money by thus catering for stamp collectors.

\* \* \*

Mr. M. W. Jones has been making some exhaustive experiments regarding the durability of stamp colours when exposed to strong light, and the results attained by his researches are set forth in an interesting article appearing in the current number of the *Monthly Journal*. It seems that in an average general collection there are several stamps that would suffer severe deterioration by being exposed to strong light for even two or three days. It is satisfactory to learn that, on the whole, the stamps of our own country are very durable in colour.

\* \* \*

By the last mail, we received the Pan-American special number of *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*, consisting of 40 pages of advertisements and reading matter. The cover is handsomely designed, though the effect is a little spoiled by the one small patch of colour on the front. The literary contents are full of interest, and altogether the Editor, Mr. C. E. Severn, and the Publisher, Mr. J. A. Mekeel, are to be congratulated on their enterprise in producing such an excellent number.

## New Issues.

The Editor will be much obliged for early news of New Issues or intended New Issues or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors. Full acknowledgment given. If possible, specimens should be sent in order that illustrations may be prepared.

**ALWAR.**—The *M. J.* has seen a sheet of the new  $\frac{1}{2}$  anna stamps, in which one row of vertical perforations has been omitted, giving horizontal pairs imperf. between.

**ANGOLA.**—*Le T. Belge* says that the current set has been augmented by the addition of two high values—500 reis, black on azure, with value in red, and 1000 reis, red-lilac, with value in black. They are similar in design to the values already in issue. Similar values have also been issued for use in the following Portuguese Colonies, viz.:—Cape Verde Islands, Lourenço Marques, Mozambique, Portuguese Congo, St. Thomas and Prince Islands, and Zambesia.

**BELGIUM.**—The 50c. and 1 franc Unpaid Letter stamps, in their new colours, have appeared at last. Although these stamps were chronicled many months ago, they have only just been issued.

**ECUADOR.**—A new variety of the 1893 provisional 5 centavos on 1 sucre has been discovered, according to *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*. This has the value expressed in ordinary type—"centavos"—instead of in capitals.

**GREECE.**—Not content with imposing a batch of wholly unnecessary surcharges on the philatelic world, the authorities here have also made a few "errors" for the benefit (?) of collectors. The latest of these to appear is the 25c. on 40c. Olympian Games with double surcharge, and the same stamp with an additional surcharge—"50 lepta"—in black.

**HONG KONG.**—The new 5 cents, which has been variously reported as yellow or lilac, has at last been issued, and we are informed by *Der Phil.* that the colour is yellow.

**HUNGARY.**—According to the *M.C.*, the 3 kronen stamp was withdrawn on March 31st, after being in issue only about twelve months. Evidently very little use was found for this value, and the new 2 kronen (chronicled in our issue for Feb. 16th) will doubtless take its place.

**NEW ZEALAND.**—According to *Morley's Philatelic Journal*, a copy of the 4d. on 1873, on blued paper, has been found, perf. 12½ at the top and sides and 10 at the bottom.

**PERSIA.**—The surcharging mania shows no signs of abating here, in fact Persia will soon be able to give points to certain South American Republics, of unenviable repute, in the matter of surcharge varieties. In addition to the numerous lion and undecipherable surcharges that have been issued during the last few months, the authorities have now perpetrated an entirely new series, to wit, the 1898 issue overprinted with the initials "P.P." in a monogram. These mystic letters, we are told, stand for "Postes Persanes," though they may also be meant as a sly hit at the "phoolish phellers" who buy such rubbish.

**PORTUGAL.**—The 500 reis has just appeared, perf. 11½, so that the set with this perforation is now complete.

**SALVADOR.**—The crop of surcharges shows no signs of diminishing yet, the cry being very much, "still they come!" The *M. J.* has found that a third type of the so-called "Sunburst" is now appearing, printed in black.

**TUNIS.**—A permanent set of postage due stamps has just been issued, very similar in design to the corresponding issue for France. A large scroll, showing the value and "CENTIME A PERCEVOIR," occupies the centre, while at the top is "CHIFFRE-TAXE," and in the lower border, "REGENCE DE TUNIS." The values and colours are:—

1 centime, black.	10 centimes, brown.
2 centimes, orange.	20 " blue-green.
5 " blue.	30 " carmine.
	50 centimes, red-brown.

**WURTEMBERG.**—The colour of the 25 pfennig Municipal Service stamp, listed in our issue for Jan. 5th, is orange. The set now consists of five values—2, 3, 5, 10 and 25 pfennig.

## Our Postcard Column.

WILL readers hearing of any interesting item of News, kindly jot it down on a postcard and address to the Editor, "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News," Norwood, London. For every contribution we publish, we will send the author an interesting and newly issued stamp. (N.B.—Postcards preferred).

Mr. E. H. T. Nowers writes:—

"Re Baron de Reuterskiold's query in your last issue; I am under the impression I read somewhere that the "O.R.C." stamps were not surcharged a sheet at a time, but a pane only. If this be so, would not the 'inverted and uninked impression' be caused by one pane being folded under the one that was being printed?"

Mr. C. H. McDiarmid Fish tells how to distinguish the Bordeaux from other stamps of France (Ceres type):—

"In the Bordeaux stamps the shading below the eye is composed of small lines parallel to the lower rim of the eye.

In all the stamps of 1849-50, of 1870-76, of the Siege of Paris, of the Colonies, &c., (Ceres type), the shading below the eye consists of small lines slanting very much as regards the lower rim of the eye and nearly parallel to the upper rim."

Mr. C. B. Aylward writes:—

"Can you explain why a letter 'On His Majesty's Service' franked with a 1d. Transvaal 'E.R.I' stamp should be taxed 2d. on being delivered?"

Mr. J. T. Cricks contributes the following:—

"With reference to Mr. Walter's note last week, I have also lately secured the 50c. carmine French stamp of 1876, type a, and as it is used with a present issue 25c. it would appear to be a recent production."

[We find that this variety was chronicled in the *Monthly Journal* some months ago.—Ed.]

Mr. D. Ellis writes:—

"I have a copy of the small size ¼d. Government envelope with stamp in green, postmarked London, April 20th, 4 p.m.—a week earlier than the date given in *E.W.S.N.*, a fortnight ago."

Mr. Hugh Aronson contributes the following:—

"On most of the Canadian Map stamps the Orange River Colony and Transvaal are coloured red, but on some these countries appear in white. These are, I hear, fetching fair prices in Canada so that readers may find it worth while to look out for these varieties."

Mrs. A. C. Hine writes:—

"I have just received some 1 anna Indian stamps surcharged C.E.F. and among them I found one with a distinct 'G' in place of the 'C.'"

Miss C. Hoblyn describes a minor variety:—

"I enclose for your inspection a 2d. blue Queensland of the 1890 issue in which you will notice the 'S' in 'Queensland' is broken in the middle and the 'P' in 'pence' is much thinned at the bottom of the stroke."

Miss A. Eavis writes:—

"I have recently received some envelopes from Tientsin China franked with ordinary Chinese stamps and current Russian 7k., though the latter is not surcharged 'CHINE.' I have also received China and Japan, China and French, and China and German used together on the same envelopes. Can any of your readers inform me how this occurs?"

Mr. A. Calmont sends a query:—

"I should be glad if any of your readers could enlighten me, through the medium of your postcard column, as to the meaning of the conical shaped hills and cap of liberty that appear in the designs of so many of the issues of Nicaragua."

I shall also be glad to learn why a smoking volcano appears in the designs of several of Salvador's issues.

EVERY STAMP COLLECTOR  
SHOULD SUBSCRIBE TO  
EWEN'S WEEKLY STAMP NEWS.

## Postmark Notes.

By "DUPLEX."

I FEAR that the statement I made when these notes last appeared, that the long-lined "V.R." and numbered machine cancellations had gone out of use in the London Offices, was somewhat rash. Since the note in question appeared I have had numerous letters informing me I was in error and that the marks are still used.

Mr. William Beckwith sends me two copies of the "V.R." postmark dated May 6th and 7th respectively, while Mr. R. P. Hearn sends me a specimen dated May 7th. Mr. H. Aronson informs me he has copies dated April 26th and 27th and Mr. E. G. Collins writes to say that he has one dated April 9th. Numerous other correspondents write to say they have copies and give various dates in the last few months.

Mr. E. G. Collins sends a sketch of a single line circular mark he has with "HAMPSTEAD SOW" curved at the top. The date is in one line across the centre and the time of posting occupies another line immediately below. At the bottom of the circle is a large figure "1."

Miss C. Hoblyn sends me a Natal 1d. stamp postmarked "P.O.A.—43" and asks the meaning of these letters. The letters stand for "Post Office Agency." All small post offices in South Africa are known as Post Office Agencies though, I believe, Natal is the only one that uses the "P.O.A." postmarks.

In the note regarding the "LONDON W." mark with white letters on a black background that appeared a fortnight ago, I omitted to state that the specimen was sent me by Mr. J. T. Cricks.

Mr. E. Hegibottom sends for inspection a 2d. blue, no lines, cancelled with a numbered Maltese Cross in which the figure 4 has serifs—"4,"—and asks whether it is genuine or not. Well, the mark certainly looks alright to me, though I do not recollect having noticed serifs on any of the number 4 crosses I have seen before. Can any of my readers give any information on the subject?

Mr. H. H. Harland sends for inspection a Canadian stamp obliterated with a curious postmark. This consists of a small thick-lined circle in which the words "WAY LETTER" appear in large type.

While writing about the single line skeleton marks in a previous number I forgot to mention one that was sent me some weeks ago by Mr. P. H. Lee. This shows "Pudsey" at the top of the circle and "Leeds" at the base—a new variety to me.

I shall be glad if readers having interesting marks will send them for my inspection so that they may be described in this column. Letters should be addressed c/o the Editor.

## American Stamps on Double Paper.

In an article entitled "Stamps of the National Bank Note Company on Double Paper" appearing in the *American Journal of Philately*, Mr. John N. Luff gives the following interesting information:—

"Collectors have for some years been cognizant of the existence of certain stamps, printed by the Continental Bank Note Company, on double paper. The list includes several values of the issue for general use and also a few of the Department stamps. The 2 cents brown and 3 cents green of the issue of 1873-75 are not scarce on this paper. But it does not appear to have occurred to philatelists to search for similar varieties in other issues; yet, had we but considered the history of these stamps, we might have found reason to suspect the existence of this paper in issues preceding that of 1873.

The object of this paper was to prevent the washing and re-use of stamps. It was composed of two papers,—one thick and hard; the other thin and soft. The two were united by some adhesive preparation. The printing was to be made on the thin paper, which was to be so delicate as to be destroyed if an attempt were made to remove the cancellation. This paper was patented on February 16th, 1869, by Charles F. Steel.

For some years I have known the 3 cents of the 1869 issue, printed on this paper, and recently I have seen the 15, 24 and 30 cents. However, we have, as yet, no evidence that these are anything more than an experimental printing, and the best informed collectors hold that they are essays and not stamps which were placed in use

About 1877, the attention of collectors was called to a printing, on double paper, of the stamps then current. This printing is said to have comprised twenty millions of stamps. I do not know what authority there is for these figures. This information appears to have been overlooked by most collectors and the stamps were almost unknown until a few years ago, when attention was once more drawn to them and their recognition by cataloguers was secured. I must confess that, while I knew the stamps were printed experimentally in 1869 and issued in considerable quantities about 1875, it had not occurred to me to look for them in the intermediate issue. I had taken it for granted that nothing had been done with the patent in the years between 1869 and 1875. But we now have evidence to the contrary.

In September last, Mr. C. P. Orr wrote me that he had found a copy of the 24 cents 1870-71, on double paper, and subsequently he showed me the stamp. Unfortunately, it had been soaked apart and not very successfully reunited. Because of its rather unsatisfactory appearance, and in view of the difficulty of distinguishing between the printings of this stamp by the National and Continental Bank Note Companies, I preferred to suspend judgment and wait for more evidence, before chronicling the stamp. Such evidence is now available. Mr. C. E. Severn has recently sent me a copy of the 6 cents National print, on the original cover and on double paper. There is no room for doubt about this copy. The date of the cancellation is November 1st, 1870. A curious thing about both these National stamps is that they are printed on the thick side of the paper instead of on the thin. By this blunder the purpose of the patent is, of course, defeated. I think it is quite probable that other denominations of the 1870-71 series will be found on double paper.

## Errors of the Neapolitan Provinces Issue.

IN the current month's number of the *Philatelic Record* an interesting article from the pen of Dr. Emilio Diena appears describing two errors of colour in the 1861 issue for the Neapolitan Provinces which the writer observes, although known to some specialists in Italian States for the last few years, have not before been referred to the philatelic press. The errors in question are the  $\frac{1}{2}$  tornese and 2 grana stamps in black instead of green and blue respectively as they should be. It will thus be noted that these errors are in the colour of the 1 grano stamp and it seems practically certain that they were sold and used as that value. All the copies that have been found so far are postmarked Roccagloriosa in the case of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ -tornese and Potenza where the 2 grana are concerned from which it may be inferred that a few sheets of the errors were issued in the above-mentioned towns.

Dr. Diena found reference to the errors in some official correspondence that passed between the former postal administration of the Neapolitan Provinces and the General Italian Post Office which was then situated in Turin. A supply of stamps of various values was sent from Turin to Naples early in 1861, and in this consignment "300 specimens were found in the colour of the 1 grano, but bearing the value of  $\frac{1}{2}$ -tornese." These were returned to Turin to be exchanged for 1 grano stamps. In another supply sent in April of the same year, "among the ordinary 1 grano stamps two hundred specimens bearing a wrong inscription" were found and these also were returned to Turin to be exchanged. What the wrong inscription was is not stated in the correspondence, but Dr. Diena inclines to the belief that it was "due grana." Again in November, in a supply of stamps sent to Naples, a sheet of 50  $\frac{1}{2}$ -tornese black stamps was found among those of the 1 grano and it was returned to Turin, though it was not until January 16th, 1862 that ordinary 1 grano stamps in exchange for it were sent to Naples. As all the known used copies of the errors bear the dates of Jan. 19th and April 20th, 1862, it may be inferred they were included in a consignment sent from Turin during the latter part of 1861.

At first sight it appears strange that these mistakes should have occurred more than once and that specimens with wrong inscription duly paid postage. When, however, one considers that at this time the printing establishment where the stamps were produced was very small, and that the staff and machinery employed were hopelessly inadequate to cope with the large amount of work that had to be done one cannot greatly wonder that errors occurred.

With regard to the  $\frac{1}{2}$ -tornese in black, Dr. Diena ventures to suppose that it was first contemplated to print that value in black to be uniform with the 1 centesimo journal stamp of Sandinia, seeing that a  $\frac{1}{2}$ -tornese and 1 centesimo were practically equivalent in value.

It is thus quite possible that several sheets of  $\frac{1}{2}$ -tornese stamps were purposely printed in black and they afterwards got mixed with the 1 grano sheets.

## Extracts from the Foreign Press.

THE following important errors occurred in our Extracts last week:—

Par.	Line.	
I.	6.	Comma omitted after <i>actuels</i> .
III.	1.	For 300 read 500.
III.	2.	<i>Suisse</i> does not require capital S.
III.	6.	For <i>parait</i> read <i>parait</i> .
III.	8.	Comma required after <i>Tell</i> .

The best lists sent in were received from Baron A. de Reuterskiöld and Mr. H. L. Bevir.

Owing to our not receiving readers' lists until Wednesdays, and to the necessity of *E.W.S.N.* being printed at Bournemouth on the following day, it is impossible for the remarks at the head of this column to be revised. Last week's results were unfortunately very much jumbled about, by the time they got into print.

In connection with this competition, we have received the following remarkable letter from Mr. J. P. O'Connor, and reproduce it *in toto*.

"I have received 21/- worth of your stamps [apparently written specially for to our approval department] and will not send them to you until you forward me at least 3 sets of new issue [*sic*] which you promise each week to those who win your "Error" competition. The sets I prefer are V.R.I.'s of Orange and Transvaal and Queensland or Victoria."

It so happens that Mr. O'Connor has not once been a winner yet, although his lists have ranked as high as 4th and 5th best. We however state clearly each week that prizes are only awarded to the "British and Foreign readers" who respectively send in the *best list*, two prizes being awarded, one to each. In the second place, we offer "several interesting new issues," but have never offered Colonial Market Sets, such as Mr. O'Connor hopes to help himself to. The new issues are sent out to winners every two or three weeks, and prizes have been duly despatched to all winners up to May 1st.

During the summer we propose to discontinue this feature of the paper, but as it has been very successful and especially interests our large and growing circle of readers on the Continent, we shall reinstate it in the paper early next season.

Below we give the extracts for this week.

*Les Seychelles*.—Un aven dénué d'artifice. *De la Quinzaine Coloniale*:

Pour alimenter ses recettes, l'administration seychelléenne n'a que les douanes, les licences, la taxation, la poste aux lettres et quelques droits administratifs d'un rendement presque négligeable. Toutes ces sources de revenu sont en notable progression depuis cinq ans, sauf pour les timbres-poste, les collectionneurs ayant diminué leurs achats au point de ramener le rendement bénéficiaire de la poste aux lettres de 22.709 roupies en 1896 à 9.865 roupies seulement en 1899.

*Une conférence postale*.—Une nouvelle conférence postale internationale, dans laquelle seront discutées diverses propositions très importantes au point de vue de l'unification du poids des correspondances et des taxes internationales, se réunira prochainement à Berne. La Suisse, entre autres propositions, demandera, paraît-il, de porter de 15 à 20 grammes la limite légale du poids des lettres admises à circuler moyennant taxe simple dans toute l'étendue de l'Union postale.

Cette proposition sera certainement appuyée par divers autres pays de l'Union, notamment par l'Allemagne, où une campagne active se poursuit actuellement pour obtenir l'élévation du poids légal dans le service international. Nul doute que la Belgique n'adhère également à la demande qui sera formulée à cet égard par l'administration des postes suisse. Dans ce dernier pays on peut, dès à présent, affranchir une lettre pesant 15 grammes moyennant un timbre de 5 centimes, si elle est destinée à une personne habitant la localité où le pli est déposé. (*Le Collectionneur de Timbres-poste*).

*Neu-Seeland*.—Mit dem Weltpostpennyporto ist's vorderhand nichts, nachdem es das benachbarte Australien und der Weltpostverein abgelehnt haben. Man benutzt daher die dafür bestimmte schöne Marke auf den Inseln und nach den englischen Besitzungen. Nach wie vor kostet der Brief bis zu  $\frac{1}{2}$  Unze Gewicht nach den übrigen Ländern des Weltpostvereins 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  und nach dem australischen Festland 2 pence.

Die Weltpostmarke ist bereits im Lokaldruck erschienen. Als solche ist sie kenntlich an dem dicken, weissen Papier mit Wz. doppelt eingefasstes N.Z. und Stern, der roh ausgeführten Zahnung 11 und der matten Farbgebung karminrosa statt karminrot.

Der Londoner Druck besteht aus Bogen zu 240 Stück in zwei Blocks zu je 120 und zweimal 10 Reihen zu je 12 Marken; ob aber die Bogen des Neuseeländer Drucks ebenso eingeteilt sind, das wissen wir noch nicht.

Übrigens sind die Nachportomarken 6 pence und 1 schilling, obwohl schon katalogisiert, nach der "M. Ph.-Z." erst zu Anfang dieses Jahres erschienen. (*Illustriertes Briefmarken-Journal*).

**Special Offers.**

**MINT UNUSED COLONIAL STAMPS.**

(Continued from Supplement.)

**SOUTH AFRICA—V.R.I. PROVISIONALS etc.**

	s.	d.
<i>Orange Free State, surcharged V.R.I., (Level stops).</i>		
2391* ½d. orange (No. 101) ...	2	6
2392* 2d. violet (No. 107) ...	0	6
2393* 2½d. on 3d. blue (No. 109) ...	12	6
2394* 3d. blue (No. 113) ...	0	6
2395* 6d. blue (No. 122) ...	1	6
2396* 1s. brown (No. 125) ...	1	9

	s.	d.
<i>Orange Free State, V.R.I. (Raised stops).</i>		
2397* ½d. orange (No. 102) ...	0	1
2398* 1d. violet (No. 105) ...	0	2
2400* 3d. blue (No. 114) ...	0	5
2401* 4d. blue (No. 117) ...	2	6
2402* 6d. blue (No. 123) ...	0	8
2403* 1s. brown (No. 126) ...	1	3

	s.	d.
<i>Orange River Colony on Cape.</i>		
2404* ½d. green (No. 163) ...	0	1
2405* 2½d. blue (No. 164) ...	0	4

	s.	d.
<i>Orange Free State V.R.I. (side pairs with thick V).</i>		
2406* ½d. orange (Nos. 102 and 156) ...	0	6
2407* 1d. violet (Nos. 105 and 157) ...	0	4
2408* 2d. violet (Nos. 108 and 158) ...	1	6
2409* 3d. blue (Nos. 114 and 159) ...	2	6
2410* 6d. blue (Nos. 123 and 160) ...	3	6
2411* 1s. brown (Nos. 126 and 161) ...	6	6

	s.	d.
<i>O.F.S.—V.R.I. with thick V. Singles.</i>		
2412* ½d. orange thick V (No. 156) ...	0	4
2413* 1d. violet " (No. 157) ...	0	3
<i>Transvaal, V.R.I.</i>		
2416* 1d. rose and green (No. 302) ...	0	2
2417* 2d. brown and green (No. 303) ...	0	3
2418* 2½d. blue and green (No. 304) ...	0	4
2419* 3d. purple and green (No. 305) ...	0	5

	s.	d.
<i>Mafeking Siege Stamps.</i>		
2421* 1d. blue, Cyclist (No. 17, cat. 22/6) ...	11	3
2422* 1d. grey-blue, Cyclist (No. 17a) ...	11	6
2423* 1d. grey, Cyclist (No. 17b) ...	11	9
2424* 3d. blue, Head of Baden Powell (No. 18, cat. 32/6) ...	22	6

**OBSOLETE TRANSVAAL.**

	s.	d.
<i>Transvaal, Queen's Heads, 1878.</i>		
2425* 1d. brown-red (No. 149) ...	2	6
2426* 3d. lilac-rose (No. 150) ...	3	0
2427* 6d. drab (No. 152) ...	3	6
<i>Transvaal, Arms types.</i>		
2428* 3d. mauve, 1885 (No. 188) ...	2	6
2429* 1d. on 2½d. violet (No. 252) ...	0	4
2430* ½d. on 1/- green (No. 251) ...	0	4
2431* ½d. grey, Pole (No. 242) ...	0	3
2432* 1s. green shafts, v. rare (No. 240) ...	11	6
2433* 2½d. on 1/- grn., inverted (No. 234) ...	4	9

**GREAT BRITAIN.**

	s.	d.
2438* 4½d. green and carmine, just obsolete ...	0	6
2439* 1d. red, various plates ...	0	6
2440* 1d. venetian-red, 1880 ...	0	2

**LEEWARD ISLES.**

	s.	d.
<i>Antigua.</i>		
2445* ½d. green (S.G. No. 21) ...	0	2
2446* 1d. carmine-ed (No. 25) ...	0	3
2447* 2½d. ultramarine (No. 27) ...	0	6
2448* 4d. chestnut-brown (No. 28) ...	0	9
2449* 6d. green, old type (No. 29) ...	3	6

	s.	d.
<i>Dominica.</i>		
2451* ½d. dull green (No. 20) ...	0	2
2452* 1d. carmine (No. 23) ...	0	3
2453* ½d. grey (No. 22) ...	1	9
2454* 6d. orange (No. 25) ...	8	6

	s.	d.
<i>Nevis.</i>		
2455* 4d. grey (No. 40) ...	3	0
2456* 6d. red-brown (No. 42) ...	7	6
2457* 1s. lilac (No. 43), rare ...	27	6

	s.	d.
<i>St. Christopher.</i>		
2458* ½d. dull green (No. 11) ...	0	2
2459* " full sheet of 20 ...	3	3
2460* 1d. carmine-rose (No. 13) ...	0	2
2461* 2½d. ultramarine (No. 16) ...	0	6
2462* 4d. grey (No. 18) ...	0	8
2463* 1s. deep lilac (No. 21), rare ...	19	6

	s.	d.
<i>Virgin Islands.</i>		
2464* 1d. rose, full sheet of 24 ...	8	6
2465* " (No. 34) ...	0	5
2466* 4d. brown-red (No. 37) ...	4	3
2467* 6d. deep violet (No. 39) ...	5	3

NOTE.—Corner Stamps of Nos. 2458-67 can be supplied at same rates. Blocks of four are in stock, if required.

**Quotations for Used British Stamps.**

SOME of our readers may perhaps remember that early in 1899 we gave market quotations for all British stamps, listing the price we were willing to pay for each stamp and the prices at which we were open to sell. At the conclusion of the 1898-99 philatelic season, the quotations were discontinued, but we are now considering the possibility of reviving them. If readers take any interest in the idea or can suggest any improvements, we should be glad to hear from them. The quotations are only for fine copies—perfect, lightly cancelled, well-centred—and we have no intention of either buying or selling second-rate specimens.

The first column gives the prices at which we can purchase and the second those at which we can sell. It is impossible to make closer quotations, especially for low priced stamps, as 20 or 30 deals in some kinds may only represent a turnover of 10/- or 15/-, and the value of time has to be considered.

All communications relative to these quotations should be addressed to

THE SECRETARY,  
Ewen's British Stamp Market,  
32, Palace Square, Norwood, S.E.

		PURCHASE.		SALE.	
		s.	d.	s.	d.
1840	1d. black ...	0	4	0	5
1841	2d. blue, no lines ...	1	0	1	4
1841	2d. blue, with lines, per 100 ...	4	0	6	0
1854	1d. red, S.C. perf. 16	0	1	0	2
	2d. blue, S.C. 16	0	2	0	4
1855	1d. red, S.C. 14	0	2	0	4
	2d. blue, S.C. 14	0	9	1	0
1855	1d. red, L.C. 16	0	6	0	9
	2d. blue, L.C. 19	1	6	2	3
	2d. blue, L.C. 14	0	1	0	2
1870	1½d. red, per 100	6	0	8	0
1870	½d. red, per 100	2	0	3	0
1847	1/- green, octagonal ...	1	3	1	9
1848	10d. red-brown, octagonal	5	0	6	6
1854	6d. violet, octagonal ...	1	0	1	6
1855	4d. S.G. on blue ...	2	0	3	0
	4d. M.G. on blue ...	3	0	4	0
1856	4d. M.G. on white ...	1	0	1	6
	1s. green, no letters ...	0	3	0	5
1862	3d. rose, small letters	1	0	1	6
	9d. bistre, small letters	2	0	3	0
	1s. green ...	0	3	0	6
1865	9d. bistre ...	6	0	—	—
1867	9d. bistre ...	1	0	—	—
	10d. red-brown ...	1	3	1	9
	2s. blue ...	0	9	—	—

\* \* \*

A good price can be given for used or unused 2/- brown, in fine condition.

\* \* \*

We are still buying railway letter fee stamps, but no other railway stamps, such as those used for newspapers, are required. Good prices for almost any bearing postmarks prior to 1898. Unused blocks particularly wanted.

\* \* \*

We are in want of the following Colonial stamps in mint unused condition, any watermark or perforation.

- Bahamas, 4d. rose, 6d. lilac (1st type).
- Barbados, 4d. red, 4d. rose (1st type).
- " 3d. brown, 6d. red (2nd type).
- " 6d. brown, Queen's Head type.
- Bermuda, 3d. buff, 1873.
- British Honduras, 1s. green.
- British Guiana, large type, 1863, 6c., 24c., 48c.
- Grenada, 2½d. rose (1st type).
- Montserrat, 2½d. red-brown.
- St. Christopher, 6d. green, 6d. brown.
- St. Lucia, 4d. blue (1st type).
- St. Vincent, 1/- grey (1st type), well-centred.
- Tobago, 4d. green, 1880.
- Trinidad, 4d. lilac, 1/- blue (1st type).
- " 10/- green and blue (30/- cash offered).
- Virgin Isles, 1/- rose, 1/- brown (1st type).
- " ½d. yellow, ½d. green, 1d. green (Queen's Head).
- Gold Coast, £1 green and rose.

\* \* \*

All communications to be addressed to

THE SECRETARY,  
Ewen's British Stamp Market,  
32, Palace Square, Norwood, S.E.

**NOTICE!**

One or two large Collections are wanted immediately for prompt cash. Offers willingly made for scarce British and Colonial stamps. Where catalogue value of a stamp is under 5/- we cannot undertake to make separate offers, and such stamps should be sent on approval with price required marked over each.

**SPECIAL ALBUMS FOR BRITISH STAMPS.**

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THESE ALBUMS are specially designed for those Collectors who wish to take all varieties of British stamps—postage, railway, telegraph and postal-fiscal, whether adhesive or not—but of course, the larger amount of space is provided for the adhesive postage stamps, together with their varieties of watermark, perforation, plate numbers and control letters.

This Album gained the highest award for Specialist Albums at the London Philatelic Exhibition, 1897. It is oblong in shape and 11½ by 8½in. in size, containing about 90 pages, being liberally interleaved with blank pages.

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- " iii. Nos. 28 to 40, 2/6 "
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- " v. Nos. 54 to 66, 1/9 "

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ADHESIVE Stamps of Great Britain compiled by A. B. Creeke, Jr. and the late Hastings E. Wright. Published by the Philatelic Society, London. Photographic illustrations of nearly every variety known. Copies of official records showing quantities printed and issued of each stamp, etc. Price, 25/- post free.

REFERENCE List of Railway Letter Stamps, published in 1898, incomplete, 1/- post free.

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WE are now arranging and mounting a specially fine series of Approval Collections, comprising the stamps of all countries, and will have pleasure in sending same to any reader, on compliance with the conditions named below. Except where specially noted, any stamp may be selected at the price marked above it, and in most cases we allow a liberal discount off such prices. All communications for our Approval Department should be addressed to H. L. EWEN, 32, Palace Square, Norwood, S.E.

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  - 3.—Collectors are not permitted to deduct return postage from amount of purchase.
  - 4.—Discount is conditional on purchase exceeding 1/- and will be forfeited if selection is kept over the five days allowed.
  - 5.—Spaces should not be marked.
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  - 7.—When a selection is returned, another will be sent unless otherwise requested.
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207.	50%	Mexico.
208.	25%	Miscellaneous.
211.	"	Russia.
212.	"	Norway.
214.	"	Finland.
216.	"	Roumania.
217.	"	Old Europeans.
218.	"	Venezuela.
219.	"	Egypt
220.	"	Hayti.
225.	"	Bosnia, Bulgaria and Montenegro.
228.	"	Miscellaneous Colonials.
229.	"	Thurn and Taxis.
230.	"	Saxony.
231.	"	Spain (early issues).
232.	"	Spain (War Tax, Official, &c.)
233.	"	Spain (Carlist Stamps).
235.	"	Philippines.
237.	Nett.	Hawaiin Islands.
239.	25%	Holland and Colonies.
240.	"	Antigua, Bahamas, &c.
BOOKLETS.		
501.	Nett.	Fiji and Cook Islands.
504.	"	Unused African Colonials.
505.	"	African Colonials.
506.	"	Unused Colonials.
508.	25%	Liberia.
509.	"	Denmark
510.	"	Luxemburg.
511.	"	Austria.
512.	"	Austrian Italy.
513.	"	Timor.
514.	"	Macao.
515.	"	Peru.
516.	"	Japan.
517.	"	Finland and Poland.
518.	"	Queensland.
519.	"	Tasmania.
522.	"	Australian (common).
523.	Nett.	Unused English.
524.	25%	Gambia, Gold Coast, Lagos, &c.
525.	"	French Colonies.
527.	"	Used English.
529.	"	Sarawak.
531.	Nett.	Unused Colonials.
532.	25%	Ceylon.
534.	"	Indian Native States.
536.	"	Sweden.
538.	"	Switzerland.
539.	"	India.
BOOKS.		
111.	10%	Unused English (chiefly 1d. reds, in strips
112.	"	New South Wales. [and blocks].
113.	Nett.	V.R.I. Errors and Varieties.
114.	"	V.R.I. Strips and Blocks.
115.	10%	Orange Free State.
116.	"	Transvaal.
117.	"	Unused Australians.
LARGE BOOKS.		
A1.	20%	Used English.
A2.	25%	Used English.
A3.	10%	Used English.
D.	25%	Cut Envelopes.
Go6.	"	English with Foreign Postmarks.
H.	10%	Railway Letter Fee Stamps.

We have for sale a few fine used copies of the Russian error—3 Kopecs with background of "V's," the groundwork of the 5 kopecs. These we are offering at 1/6 each.

\* \* \*

This week we are able to offer the following choice stamps:—

	PRICE.
British Columbia, 50c. on 3d. violet, fine mint pair... ..	30/-
South Australia, 3d. on 4d. blue, superb mint, block of four ... ..	40/-
Tasmania, 1d. blue, first issue, used ... ..	45/-
" 4d. orange, first issue, used, superb specimen ... ..	15/-
Antigua; mint pair 1d. lake, Crown CC. perf. 12½; with inverted wmk. ... ..	15/-
Barbados; 5/- dull rose, used ... ..	37/6
British Honduras; 1882 issue, 6d. yellow, used, Crown CA. 14 ... ..	40/-
Finland; 1 mark, used, 1867-70 issue one corner torn, S.G., No. 49 ... ..	7/6
Mauritius; 5/- violet used ... ..	5/-
New South Wales; 2d. Sidney View used, fair copy ... ..	15/-
" 5/- map, used, perf. 10 ... ..	12/6
Queensland; 2/6 vermil. used, S.G. No. 114 ... ..	4/-
St. Vincent; 5/- wmk.*, has "REVENUE" printed across it otherwise would be worth £15 ... ..	30/-
Wurtemberg; 5 marks pale blue, unused... ..	7/-

Any of the above stamps can be sent on approval if required, but immediate application is necessary, as in most instances we have no duplicates of the lots offered.

## Wholesale Lots for Sale.

We can offer this week the following cheap wholesale lots, viz. :—

<b>CEYLON.</b>	
5 cents on 8c., Gibbons' No. 146.	600 stamps, price 12/-
<b>BRITISH GUIANA.</b>	
2 cents purple and orange, Gibbons' No. 155, obsolete. 4097 stamps,	price 18/-
(or 1000 for 5/6).	
<b>TRANSVAAL.</b>	
2d. bistre, Gibbons' type 20. 794 stamps, price	21/-
<b>CANADA.</b>	
A superb lot of 1549 Map Stamps, on pieces of original, price	45/-
<b>GREAT BRITAIN.</b>	
1d. red plate numbers, unexamined, 1000 for	1/6
<b>GREAT BRITAIN.</b>	
A superb lot of more than 10,000 1d. red and 2d. blue, imperf., including numerous fine strips and blocks.	Price £7

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THE PUBLISHER.

# Ewen's Weekly Stamp News.

With which is incorporated EWEN'S WEEKLY CIRCULAR. (Established October, 1897.)

A JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

THE ONLY WEEKLY STAMP PAPER  
PUBLISHED IN EUROPE.

(Entered at Stationers' Hall. Illustrated by permission of the Board of Inland Revenue.)

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No. 87. (VOL. VI.)  
(Whole Number, No. 173.)

LONDON, SATURDAY, MAY 25, 1901

[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

## CONTENTS.

The Week's News.      New Issues.  
Foreign Extracts.      Postmark Notes.  
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Colonial Stamp Market.  
Notes from America.  
King Edward's Stamps.

## The Week's News.

The French Railway Companies are about to issue stamps, after the examples set by the London and North Western Railway in this country and the Belgian State Railways on the Continent. The stamps are to be used for the prepayment of parcels, which may henceforth be taken to a railway station in the same way as letters to a post office. The cutting sent us by M. Cervigon from *Le Temps* is not quite clear as to whether the stamps are to be affixed to the parcels, or only to way-bills or despatch notes (*feuilles d'expédition*) which accompany them. The stamps of the Government system of railways have been engraved by M. Paulin Zasset, the design showing a locomotive in the centre, with "*Réseau de l'Etat*" at top and value at foot. The size of the stamps will be the same as that of the telegraph stamp of 50c., designed by M. Olivier Merson. Six values will be issued:—5c., 10c., 20c., 50c., 1fr. and 2fr.

\* \* \*

Messrs. J. & J. Colman, Ltd., the well-known manufacturers of mustard, &c., have just issued in stamp form miniature reproductions of six of their artistic posters which "they hope will be acceptable to stamp and advertisement collectors." The labels are certainly pretty but we are afraid the time has hardly yet come when they will be eagerly sought for by stamp collectors. We are indebted to Mr. Frank H. Goose for specimens and for the above information.

\* \* \*

The system of selling stamps in small books, that has been in vogue in the United States for some time past, is, it is rumoured, to be adopted by Great Britain and several of the Continental countries. In fact the *Globe* says that Austria has already adopted the idea. Doubtless persons who are in the habit of carrying a supply of stamps about with them would find stamp booklets of great advantage. At present if one carries stamps in one's pocket there is always danger of them sticking to one another, but with the booklets this danger would be obviated as oiled paper would be interleaved throughout.

\* \* \*

As a specimen of the astounding information to which we are sometimes treated by the general press, the following, culled from a recent issue of *Work*, would be hard to beat:—

"Green postage stamps of British issue have not had a long life, at least as regards one denomination; now the discovery has been made that the green colouring matter in the printing ink is of a poisonous character, and so the green stamps are to be abolished and carmine coloured stamps substituted. The other colours used in postage-stamp printing are said to be free from any suspicion of being poisonous."

\* \* \*

Writing in a recent number of the *Metropolitan Philatelist*, the "Optimist" states that the Third Assistant Postmaster General has intimated that the Pan-American stamps will not be overprinted for use in the Philippines. Guam, Hawaii and Porto-Rico, will be allowed to use the commemorative series if the postmasters of those islands specially order them.

\* \* \*

A Sydney (New South Wales) journal says that a large American stamp-dealing firm strongly recommended the Victorian Postal Authorities to advertise their new issue of stamps in the United States, with the assurance that an extensive sale would result. The suggestion, however, was not approved of.

\* \* \*

The change of currency that is soon to take place in Montenegro, will, we are informed, bring about a large crop of surcharges.

## New Issues.

The Editor will be much obliged for early news of New Issues or intended New Issues or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors. Full acknowledgment given. If possible, specimens should be sent in order that illustrations may be prepared.

**ARGENTINE.**—Mr. Wm. Cross sends for our inspection a new reply-card of the value 6 centavos. The stamps on both halves are identical in design, being composed of the head of Liberty and "REPUBLICA ARGENTINA," "6 CENTAVOS" embossed in white on a circular background of lilac. The inscription on the front part is "Union Postale Universelle—República Argentina—(République Argentine)—COMUNICACIÓN . COMMUNICATION." The inscriptions on the reply half are the same with the exception of the two last words which are altered to "RESPUESTA PAGA" and "réponse payée" respectively.

**GREAT BRITAIN.**—Mr. Oswald Napier informs us that the large thin buff card has now appeared with the green stamp and may be found in both types B and C. The specimen sent us is dated May 21st.

**GWALIOR.**—According to the *Philatelic Journal of India*, a used copy of the one rupee carmine and green stamp has been found in which the native word in the surcharge measures 16mm.

**KISHENGARH.**—We find that the  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$ , and 1 anna values have had their colours changed so that the set now current is as follows:—

$\frac{1}{2}$  anna, carmine.  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  " blue.  
1 " dull lilac.  
2 annas, pale orange.  
4 " chocolate.

**NORTH BORNEO.**—A few novelties have been issued here recently apparently for the stamp collectors special benefit as usual. These are the 25 cents in green, 50 cents marone, and \$1 blue. Whether they are intended as errors of colour of North Borneo, or Labuan stamps with the surcharge omitted seems a moot point at present.

**PUTTIALLA.**—The *Philatelic Journal of India* has seen a copy of the 1 anna curved "Service" stamp with the red surcharge, "PUTTIALLA STATE," reversed, which appears to have been used last year.

**SIAM.**—A correspondent, writing to the *M. J.*, states that there are four varieties of the "1 att" on 12 atts surcharge of 1899, and that an error, "Atts," also exists. From the same source, we learn that there are two varieties of the "3 atts" on 12 atts of 1895-97, and also two varieties of the "4 atts" on 12 atts of the same issue. In this latter stamp, too, an error with double surcharge has been found, and also one without stop after "Atts." In the "2 atts" on 64 atts of the 1894 issue, an error "Att" has been noted.

**SWEDEN.**—Two new letter cards have just been issued here, viz.:—5 öre green and 10 öre carmine. Both on bluish white card.

**UNITED STATES.**—The much talked of Pan-American Exposition series of stamps was duly issued to the public on May 1st, and copies reached us by the last mail. The stamps make quite a handsome set and as the total face value is only 30 cents they should have a wide sale. So much has already been said concerning these stamps that further comment seems unnecessary and we will, therefore, content ourselves with merely listing the values and colours:—

1c. green and black.  
2c. carmine and black.  
4c. red-brown and black.  
5c. blue and black.  
8c. lilac and black.  
10c. yellow-brown and black.

The *Metropolitan Philatelist* chronicles the two cents value with inverted centre, so that "errors" have not been long in appearing.

**VICTORIA.**—Two new stamps of the values of £1 and £2 respectively bearing a portrait of King Edward VII., are to be issued here shortly. A fuller description will be found in another column under the heading "King Edward's Stamps."

## Our Postcard Column.

WILL readers hearing of any interesting item of News, kindly jot it down on a postcard and address to the Editor, "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News," Norwood, London. For every contribution we publish, we will send the author an interesting and newly issued stamp. (N.B.—Postcards preferred.)

Mr. E. Heginbottom writes:—

"I enclose for your inspection two copies of the 25 ore value of Norway, sans-serif type, which have no full stop after 'POSTFRIM.' This variety is not listed in Gibbons, and Bright lists it, but does not price it.

"I also send a specimen of the 25 ore stamp with stop, but having the figures '25' after 'POSTFRIM' larger and thicker than is usual."

Mr. J. H. Parry contributes the following:—

"I recently received parcels from Constantinople through the British Post Office franked with English stamps of the values 2½d., 5d. and 10d., surcharged in the usual manner, 40 and 80 paras and 1 piastre respectively, and in addition to these there was in each case a ½d. green stamp unsurcharged. Although the ½d. stamp is frequently required, I find only one case in which they were surcharged, and then only for a week or less. Can anyone tell me why this is so?"

It appears to me to be quite as necessary to surcharge the ½d. as the other values.

[Ordinary ½d., 1d. and 1/- English stamps without surcharge have for some time and are now sold at the British post offices in the Levant. Our correspondent loses sight of the fact that when the ½d. stamp was surcharged in 1893 it was overprinted 40 paras and was used as the equivalent of the 2½d. stamp with that overprint.—Ed.]

Mr. Oswald Marsh writes:—

"I send the following further lists of record dates of 1d. envelope stamps:—

Die 96.—1.11.59.	Die 106.—19.12.62.
" 97.—22. 6.59.	" 212.—21. 5.79.
Die 220.—19.4.83.	

Capt. Connolly also contributes some record dates:—

"The following is a list of record dates for the below mentioned dies:—

Die 86.—15.10.62.	Die 181.—22.10.75.
" 108.—8. 4.63.	" 187.—30. 1.77.
" 147.—19. 7.66.	" 191.—11.12.76.
Die 200.—12.12.78.	

Mr. O. Firth writes:—

"I enclose for your inspection a novelty in the way of letter-cards. You will notice it is a Great Britain 1d. reply card with the 30 holes dividing the two cards perf rated twice in different rows."

Mr. W. T. Elliot describes a few minor varieties:—

"While examining some of the 5c. provisionals of Uruguay, 1891 issue, I noticed one or two minor varieties which it might be worth while mentioning, viz.:—Period between v and i; inverted comma between g and i; final o in 'provisorio' broken; and the dot over the second i in 'provisorio' so large as to touch the letter."

Mr. A. F. Clarke contributes the following:—

"It may perhaps interest fellow readers of *E.W.S.N.* to know that among a packet of 1d. Army Official stamps, I found two varieties. One has the 'O' of Official broken at the left side and the other has the 'Y' of Army so badly split as to be scarcely distinguishable from a 'V.'"

Mr. F. C. Scarr writes:—

"The several post-offices in Dublin that have been issuing 1d. stamps with control letter "X" are now again selling control letter "W." Is this old stock being disposed of to make room for the new issue under King Edward?"

Mr. N. Fyshe writes:—

"In answer to Mr. Calmont's query in your last issue—I should imagine that as volcanoes are one of the chief physical features of Salvador, it is only natural that one of them should be portrayed on the stamps of that country."

## Postmark Notes.

By "DUPLEX."

I HAVE received from Mr. E. Heginbottom an envelope bearing a small rectangular mark in which are the letters "L. & B.S.C." The letter was posted at Ipswich and delivered at Rochdale. The "S.C." stands for sorting carriage but what "L. & B." mean I am unable to state.

\* \* \*

Mr. W. H. Maunder sends me a specimen of the skeleton type of postmark used at Wimbledon. This has "WIMBLEDON" curved at the top with the date "3 Oc.—99" in two lines in the centre. The district initials, "S.W.," are at the bottom of the circle and the time of posting is signified by a letter E which appears over the date.

\* \* \*

The same correspondent sends me several "V.R." and other line machine cancellations in which are a few varieties I do not think I have mentioned before.

1. "V.R." cancellation.
  - (a) With the time of posting omitted.
  - (b) With date in full, i.e., "1889."
  - (c) With date abbreviated to "oo."
2. Wavy line cancellation.
  - (a) With letter "M" in "PM" omitted in the time of posting.
3. Straight line cancellation (numbered).
  - (a) With letter "M" in "PM" in time of posting omitted.
  - (b) With date in full, i.e., "1900."
  - (c) With date shortened to "01."

\* \* \*

Sometimes the letter-cancelling machines used in the United States offices get a little out of gear, much to the detriment of any letter or card that happens to be passing under the canceller at the time. In such cases the badly mangled letters or cards are impressed with a rubber stamp bearing the inscription, "Accidentally injured by postmarking machine." The postal authorities evidently think it will be a consolation to the addressee to know how his correspondence does get damaged.

\* \* \*

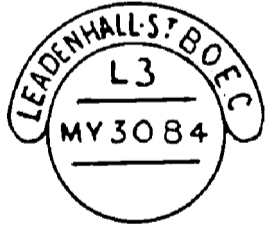
Mr. J. I. Cricks sends for inspection an entirely new type of Army postmark from South Africa, printed in violet ink. This consists of two concentric circles having between them "ARMY POST OFFICE" at the top, and "T.P.O.—EAST NO. 1" at the bottom. The date "22 APR 01" appears in one line across the centre. From this it would appear that the large amount of mail matter for the army that has to be handled necessitates a travelling post-office being attached to some of the divisions. The letter, I am informed, was posted at Kaapmuiden, and is an ordinary British registered envelope franked with a current rd. stamp.

\* \* \*

Mr. Cricks also sends me a specimen of the special postmark used at the Glasgow Exhibition. This is the ordinary large concentric circles Scotch type with "EXHIBITION" and "GLASGOW" between the rings.

\* \* \*

Mr. John Low sends me several interesting London postmarks including several of similar type to that illustrated here. These have "LONDON" in the scroll above the circle while in the lowest of the three divisions of the circle are the letters "A," "R," "U" and "V" respectively. The date in each case is arranged with the day before the name of the month, i.e., "12 MY 85."



\* \* \*

The same correspondent sends an early type of machine cancellation consisting of thick diagonal lines enclosing at one end the date stamp. This latter is circular in shape and contains "LONDON" at the top and "E.C." at the bottom. The date occupies two lines in the centre, "Jy 31—86."

\* \* \*

Mr. W. H. Clarke sends me several tracings of postmarks the most interesting of which is a machine cancellation hailing from the United States. The cancelling portion of this consists of six long parallel lines broken at the left-hand ends for the admission of a triangle in which are the words "PAN-AMERICAN EXPOSITION" and "1901."

\* \* \*

The same correspondent sends a tracing of a small circular mark containing "WOKING M.O. and S.B." and asks the meaning of these letters. The initials are an abbreviation of Money Order and Savings Bank, and are intended to show that Money Orders are issued and Savings Bank business transacted at the Woking post-office.

## Notes from America.

It is doubtful if the Post Office Department will ever again be a party, innocent though it be, to any speculative stamp transaction. Not but the Government has a perfect right to do precisely what has been done, but from the standpoint of public policy, there will be no more of it. The Department supposed it was doing the stamp collectors a distinct favour by permitting the Columbian stamps to be placed on sale after it had been announced that the sale would close, and the remainders destroyed. Yet, as a matter of fact that change of policy cost the Government a nice bunch of money. The Columbians became worse than a drug on the market, and many who invested unloaded at a material loss. Hosts of others who had laid aside a few sheets, seeing that the future held nothing save additional loss, used these stamps themselves or sold them at a discount to others who used them for postal purposes.

These stamps were never bought to be used for postage, but for the purpose of adorning stamp albums in the near or distant future. Thus the Government received many thousands of dollars for stamps for which it would have been obliged to give no equivalent. When these great quantities of stamps were at last used for postal purposes, the higher values having been sold in large quantities at 20 and even a greater percentage below face value, the Government lost just the amount of their face value. Otherwise the users of these stamps would have purchased current stamps and the Columbians would have remained in seclusion and eventually gone into collections. It is doubtful if the Department realized this fact fully until comparatively recently, when it was presented in a comprehensive manner by parties who could quote figures.

(The Metropolitan Philatelist).

\* \* \*

We learn from Canada that the long talked of and much needed post office insurance of money letters is shortly to go into effect. Valuables posted at any post office in Canada which now handle registered mail may then be insured against loss to a maximum of twenty-five dollars. Another very desirable convenience and one which will be appreciated by the public at large is that the letter carriers in future will be permitted to receive letters for registry and grant receipts for them while making their rounds. Here is an opportunity for the postal authorities to issue a new stamp for insured letters. Such a grand excuse for a new stamp should not be neglected by the enterprising Postmaster-General of Canada, as you know collectors will buy them!

(The Weekly Philatelic Era).

\* \* \*

It is not generally known that there are forgeries extant of the U. S., 1876, centennial envelopes, 3-cent green and vermilion. They have disappeared practically from circulation in the manner that the forgeries of the 3c., 6c. and 10c. envelopes of 1857 issue have. The following is a description of the forgery of the centennial envelopes: Embossed, on white wove paper; no watermark. The top stroke of the U of U. S. touches the outer line of the boundary as well as the inner one. The bridle is not visible. The lower points of the ribbon which contains "postage" touch the inner boundary lines on both sides, though they do not touch in the genuine. The vertical stroke of the T in this word is carried too far, and shows above the cross-stroke. The steam from the engine appears to be in eight distinct puffs, which cannot be counted in the genuine.

\* \* \*

The committee on the codification of the United States criminal and penal laws recommends that postmasters selling stamps to persons outside of their respective jurisdictions to increase their compensation be subject to penal punishment; and that: The acts prohibiting the removal and reuse of stamps be consolidated into a single section with a maximum and minimum penalty.

(Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News.)

\* \* \*

Through the medium of the State Department the British Government has made a request for the renewal of negotiations with a view to the calling of a parcels post convention. About two years ago a convention was made between the U.S. and Germany, giving very low rates for heavy packages between these two countries. Now the British Government desires a similar arrangement. There is said to be strong opposition, however, from private parties who do a carrying business, and in view of the fact that the convention between the United States and Germany is merely experimental, it is said that the new arrangement with Great Britain is very doubtful of consummation.

(The Metropolitan Philatelist).

## Extracts from the Foreign Press.

The following important errors occurred in our Extracts last week:—

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| Par. Line. |  |
| I. 6.      | <i>Négligeable</i> is wrongly divided. It should be <i>négli-geable</i> or <i>négligea-ble</i> . |
| I. 11.     | Read <i>beneficiaire</i> .   |
| II. 19.    | Read <i>suisses</i> .  |
| III. 4.    | Divide <i>be-stimm-te</i> , not <i>besti-mnte</i> .  |
| III. 19.   | Read <i>Neuseeländer</i> (no accent on e).   |
| III. 21.   | <i>Pence</i> and <i>Shilling</i> require capitals.   |

\* \* \*

This week's prizes go to Messrs. Armand Dethier and H. L. Bevir.

\* \* \*

As a matter of fact and not grammar, the statement at end of paragraph II last week is incorrect. The postage in Switzerland is 10c. up to 250gr., but is reduced to 5c. if it is addressed to a post office within a 10 km. radius of the place of posting. For this correction we are indebted to Baron A. de Reuterskiöld.

\* \* \*

Mr. Dethier states:—"Il faut écrire *seychellienne* au lieu de *seychelléenne*." We presume our correspondent is correct, but cannot find any confirmation before going to press.

\* \* \*

During June, July, August, we shall cease giving Foreign Extracts, but shall hope to renew this feature at the commencement of next season.

## Jottings.

The action of the Victorian Postal Authorities in offering for sale postmarked-to-order sets of the new issue has met with so much adverse criticism that the practice will probably be stopped.

\* \* \*

The Duke of Cornwall and York has accorded his patronage to the Sydney Philatelic Club.

\* \* \*

It is rumoured that Belgium is shortly to have a new issue of postage stamps.

\* \* \*

Although Universal Penny Postage is not yet an accomplished fact, in spite of the pretty stamp issued by New Zealand in its honour, still the Postmaster-General of that Colony has not been idle for he has induced the post-offices of Costa Rica, Egypt, Italy, Mexico and Portugal to deliver letters from New Zealand prepaid at 1d. In future, therefore, the postage on letters from New Zealand to those countries is 1d. per half ounce.

## King Edward's Stamps.

MR. NORMAN C. HORWOOD sends us a cutting from the Melbourne *Argus* giving illustrations and descriptions of two new postage stamps that are shortly to be issued for Victoria. These will be of the values £1 and £2 and the design will show a portrait of King Edward three-quarter face. Not only will the stamps be the first bearing the King's portrait to be issued during the present reign, but they will also be the first Commonwealth issue for Australia. The following is the description of the stamps as given by the *Argus*:—

"The general colour scheme of the £2 stamp will be black, with the lettering and figures in black, and the prevailing background of the £1 stamp will be brown. The figures "2" and the letters "E.R." will be brown on pink, while the line "two pounds" will be printed white on a pink background. The designs cannot be very highly commended as works of art. A comparison with the existing issues will show that for the first time a practically full head instead of a profile of the sovereign is given, while simplicity has been sacrificed for ornamentation, which is, for the most part, not symbolical of anything whatever. The gap which separates the new designs from previous issues is no doubt due to the author having failed to grasp the importance of somewhat idealising his subject."

The permanent head of the Postal department, Mr. F. L. Outtrim, thus explains why the new issues are to be made:—"We take in at certain offices bulk correspondence, on which the postage amounts to £1 or more, and instead of stamping the letters separately a docket for the total postage is presented, and a duty stamp affixed. At the present time we have only duty stamps of these denominations, and revenue derived from them goes to the state, the postage revenue coming to the Commonwealth. We have arranged with the Treasury that the amount of duty stamps used for postage purposes shall be refunded to us, but after the 1st June a distinction must be made, hence the new stamps, which the Government printer will be asked to prepare for us as quickly as possible."





## Approval Selections.

WE are now arranging and mounting a specially fine series of Approval Collections, comprising the stamps of all countries, and will have pleasure in sending same to any reader, on compliance with the conditions named below. Except where specially noted, any stamp may be selected at the price marked above it, and in most cases we allow a liberal discount off such prices. All communications for our Approval Department should be addressed to H. L. EWEN, 32, Palace Square, Norwood, S.E.

### CONDITIONS.

- 1.—Stamps can only be sent on approval on condition that those not purchased are returned within five days.
  - 2.—No stamps may be removed from the sheets or books until actually purchased.
  - 3.—Collectors are not permitted to deduct return postage from amount of purchase.
  - 4.—Discount is conditional on purchase exceeding 1/- and will be forfeited if selection is kept over the five days allowed.
  - 5.—Spaces should not be marked.
  - 6.—Sheets should be returned folded as sent.
  - 7.—When a selection is returned, another will be sent unless otherwise requested.
- N.B.—We hope collectors will assist us by observing the above very reasonable conditions and we will in return make it our endeavour to send out only the finest possible copies at the lowest possible quotations.

### APPROVAL SHEETS.

No.	Discount.	Description.
203.	Nett.	Miscellaneous Colonials.
205.	25%	West Indies.
206.	Nett.	V.R.I's.
207.	50%	Mexico.
208.	25%	Miscellaneous.
211.	"	Russia.
212.	"	Norway.
214.	"	Finland.
216.	"	Roumania.
217.	"	Old Europeans.
218.	"	Venezuela.
219.	"	Egypt.
220.	"	Hayti.
225.	"	Bosnia, Bulgaria and Montenegro.
228.	"	Miscellaneous Colonials.
229.	"	Thurn and Taxis.
230.	"	Saxony.
232.	"	Spain (War Tax, Official, &c.)
233.	"	Spain (Carlist Stamps).
235.	"	Philippines.
237.	Nett.	Hawaii Islands.
239.	25%	Holland and Colonies.
240.	"	Antigua, Bahamas, &c.

### BOOKLETS.

501.	Nett.	Fiji and Cook Islands.
504.	"	Unused African Colonials.
505.	"	African Colonials.
506.	"	Unused Colonials.
508.	25%	Liberia.
509.	"	Denmark.
510.	"	Luxemburg.
511.	"	Austria.
512.	"	Austrian Italy.
513.	"	Timor.
514.	"	Macao.
515.	"	Peru.
516.	"	Japan.
517.	"	Finland and Poland.
518.	"	Queensland.
519.	"	Tasmania.
522.	"	Australian (common).
523.	Nett.	Unused English.
524.	25%	Gambia, Gold Coast, Lagos, &c.
525.	"	French Colonies.
527.	"	Used English.
529.	"	Sarawak.
531.	Nett.	Unused Colonials.
532.	25%	Ceylon.
534.	"	Indian Native States.
536.	"	Sweden.
538.	"	Switzerland.
539.	"	India.
540.	25%	South Australia.
543.	"	Spain.

### BOOKS.

111.	10%	Unused English (chiefly 1d. reds, in strips
112.	"	New South Wales. [and blocks].
113.	Nett.	V.R.I. Errors and Varieties.
114.	"	V.R.I. Strips and Blocks.
115.	10%	Orange Free State.
116.	"	Transvaal.
117.	"	Unused Australians.

### LARGE BOOKS.

A1.	20%	Used English.
A2.	25%	Used English.
A3.	10%	Used English.
D.	25%	Cut Envelopes.
Go6.	"	English with Foreign Postmarks.
H.	10%	Railway Letter Fee Stamps.

This week we are able to offer the following choice stamps:—

	PRICE.
British Columbia, 50c. on 3d. violet, fine mint pair... ..	30/-
South Australia, 3d. on 4d. blue, superb mint, block of four ... ..	40/-
Tasmania, 1d. blue, first issue, used ... ..	45/-
" 4d. orange, first issue, used, superb specimen ... ..	15/-
Antigua; mint pair 1d. lake, Crown CC. perf. 12½; with <i>inverted wmk.</i> ... ..	15/-
Barbados; 5/- dull rose, used ... ..	37/6
British Honduras; 1882 issue, 6d. yellow, used, Crown CA. 14 ... ..	40/-
Finland; 1 mark, used, 1867-70 issue one corner torn, S.G., No. 49 ... ..	7/6
Mauritius; 5/- violet used ... ..	5/-
New South Wales; 2d. Sidney View used, fair copy ... ..	15/-
" 5/- map, used, perf. 10 ... ..	12/6
St. Vincent; 5/- wmk. *, has "REVENUE" printed across it otherwise would be worth £15 ... ..	30/-
Wurtemberg; 5 marks pale blue, unused... ..	7/-
B.C.A. on B.S.A., 3/- on 4/-, mint ... ..	26/-
Western Australia, 2d. orange, imperf., block of four ... ..	45/-
Western Australia, imperf., block of four 4d. blue ... ..	37/6
New South Wales, 3d. green, wmk. 6, unused pair ... ..	14/-
Zurich, 6 rappen, fine used copy ... ..	22/6

Any of the above stamps can be sent on approval if required, but immediate application is necessary, as in most instances we have no duplicates of the lots offered.

## Wholesale Lots for Sale.

We can offer this week the following cheap wholesale lots, viz. :—

### CEYLON.

5 cents on 8c., Gibbons' No. 146.  
600 stamps, price 12/-  
(100 for 2/6).

### CANADA.

A superb lot of 1549 Map Stamps,  
on pieces of original, price 45/-  
(100 for 3/6).

### GREAT BRITAIN.

1d. red plate numbers, unexamined,  
1000 for 1/6

H. L. EWEN, 32, Palace Sq., Norwood, S.E.

## Wanted to Purchase.

### GREAT BRITAIN.

Fine used copies of the 10/- grey-green and £1 brown-lilac, watermarked Maltese Cross.  
Any values with firms names on the back.  
Must be clear copies.

### ZULULAND.

Fine used copies of the 5/- surcharged on English.

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THE PUBLISHER.

# Ewen's Weekly Stamp News.

With which is incorporated EWEN'S WEEKLY CIRCULAR. (Established October, 1897.)

A JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

THE ONLY WEEKLY STAMP PAPER  
PUBLISHED IN EUROPE.

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LONDON, SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 1901.

[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

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### The Week's News.

A used copy of the 8r paras blue on blue stamp, of the first issue of Moldavia was sold for £227 at Messrs. Puttick & Simpson's recent sale.

\* \* \*

In the *Daily Mail* the other day, a paragraph appeared to the effect that a complete new set will shortly be issued for the Transvaal bearing a portrait of King Edward. It is stated that designs are now being prepared.

\* \* \*

A short while ago it was rumoured that all the Queen's head issue of New Zealand had been recalled from all the offices in the Colony and destroyed. The S.C.F., however, has had news to the effect that the Postmaster-General kept a small stock for the benefit of any one who wants them and they will be supplied to the public up to July 31st.

\* \* \*

Great Britain is not going to adopt the system of selling stamps in books after all. The scheme was considered by the postal authorities and deemed impracticable. At the same time it is rumoured that the idea will be adopted by several of the Colonies. Indeed we hear that New Zealand, always a go-ahead country in postal affairs, has already issued booklets, in two sizes, which are sold at 1/0½ and 2/0½ respectively. The one holds 12 and the other 30 stamps, in sheets of 6, interleaved with waxed paper to prevent them adhering to each other. The booklets fit nicely into the waistcoat pocket and their usefulness is enhanced by the amount of valuable postal information they contain.

\* \* \*

From the Sydney (New South Wales) *Daily Telegraph* we learn that the Governments of the various Australian States have just presented to the Technological Museum of Sydney collections of Postage Stamps and Revenue Stamps, embracing obsolete and current issues of the various States. The collection is stated to be a very representative and valuable one. It is to be hoped that with such an excellent beginning the authorities responsible for the management of the above mentioned museum will do all in their power to make the collection complete and in every respect a National one.

\* \* \*

In the House of Commons last week Mr. Ellis Griffith asked the Secretary to the Treasury as representing the Postmaster-General, whether the designs for the new postage stamps had been entrusted to an Austrian sculptor; and if so whether this was due to the fact that there was no British artist competent for the work.

In reply Mr. Austen Chamberlain stated that the portrait of His Majesty which has been used in the preparation of the designs to appear on the new postage stamps was by a foreign artist, there being in existence an excellent profile portrait executed only last year by the Austrian sculptor, Mr. Emil Fuchs, who is now resident in London. It was not to be inferred that no British artist was considered to be competent for the work.

Lord Balcarras asked how the unsuitability of British Artists was determined and in reply Mr. Chamberlain said "I have expressly stated already that the unsuitability of British artists was not to be inferred from the choice made.

Other questions were put but Mr. Chamberlain refused to reply until due notice of them had been given.

## New Issues.

The Editor will be much obliged for early news of New Issues or intended New Issues or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors. Full acknowledgment given. If possible, specimens should be sent in order that illustrations may be prepared.

**ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.**—According to *Le Collectionneur de Timbres Poste* an 8c. stamp is shortly to be added to the current set, though so far nothing is known as to what the colour will be.

**BULGARIA.**—On the 8th of this month two stamps of the values 5 and 15 stotinki were issued to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the freedom of the country from the oppression of Turkey. The design is crude, showing as a centrepiece an old fashioned cannon with hills and setting sun in the background. The figures of value appear in the lower corners of the ornamental frame. The stamps are purely speculative and were on sale for two days only.

**ECUADOR.**—Another value has had its colour changed, the 20 centavos stamp being now issued in lilac and black instead of green and black. This was evidently done to prevent confusion with the 2c. value. The series of new colours now stands as follows:—

1 centavo, scarlet and black.
2 centavos, green " "
5 " grey " "
10 " blue " "
20 " lilac " "

**MONACO.**—The *A. J. of Ph.* reports that pending the arrival of the 5 and 10 centimes stamps in the new colours, which we chronicled a few weeks ago, a shortage of these values occurred necessitating the use of the long brown and blue revenue stamps for postal purposes.

**SIAM.**—Specimens of the 4 atts on 12 atts has been found with a distinct double surcharge of the value. In some cases the surcharges are so far apart as to make the numeral read "44" instead of "4."

## Jottings.

Last month a Charity Festival at the head of which was Princess Marie, of Denmark, was held in Copenhagen, and a special pictorial card was issued to commemorate the event. A special obliteration was also employed consisting of the letter "M" and a crown. It is said that only five hundred cards were issued and soon after they were placed on sale they were commanding a high premium.

\* \* \*

An ex-officer in the Servian army has for the past two years been travelling through and round Europe, and claims to have covered some 21,000 miles altogether. As bona-fide evidence of his travels, he has an unique diary in which are some 1060 postmarks and other official stamps, showing his whereabouts day by day.

\* \* \*

The current New Zealand pictorial issue is rich in shade varieties some of which are very distinct. The *Philatelic Record* gives a list of these in the current issue and thinking our readers may be interested we reproduce some of the information here. The ½d. value may be found in shades varying from pale to very deep green. In the 1d. and 2d. stamps there are many shades although they are not so distinct as in the ½d. value. In the 3d. and 4d. shade variations are rather indistinct but in the 5d. a fine range extending between a pale washy brown and a very deep brown may be found. The 6d. first printed in green may be found in at least two distinct shades—yellow-green and dark—the former of which is the rarer. The 6d. rose may also be had in several plainly defined shades. The 8d. and 9d. do not vary much but in the 1/- a splendid range of shades can be obtained. These run from a bright vermilion to a deep brownish red and some of the tints are very rich. The 2/- and 5/- do not supply many variations and this is probably due to the fact that there have been very few printings of these values.

## Our Postcard Column.

WILL readers hearing of any interesting item of News, kindly jot it down on a postcard and address to the Editor, "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News," Norwood, London. For every contribution we publish, we will send the author an interesting and newly issued stamp. (N.B.—Postcards preferred.)

Mr. J. T. Cricks writes:—

"I beg to submit for your inspection a specimen of the 1/- stamp of the 1882 issue of Queensland which is somewhat peculiar. You will notice the last "1" in "SHILLING" has a block at the top giving it the appearance of an inverted "L." It is the first of the kind I have noticed."

Mr. F. Taylor writes:—

"Those interested in control letters would probably be struck with the peculiarity of the enclosed corner block of four 1d. stamps which I send for your inspection. You will notice that the outer marginal line is missing from the side of the second stamp from the bottom, while the control letter "x" is very feebly impressed and is broken at the top."

Mrs. A. C. Hine contributes the following:—

"I have a used copy of the 5 can. orange stamp of China, surcharged "3 cents" in small figures instead of 5 cents as mentioned in Gibbons' catalogue. This is evidently an error and I shall be glad of any information concerning it."

Mr. A. F. Clarke writes:—

"Mr. Scarr's query in the last issue of *E.W.S.N.* is easily solved. The fresh supplies of stamps that have been received from London have been placed at the top instead of at the bottom of the stock in hand, so that the first received will not be sold until after those received later. 1d. stamps with control letter X are still being received from London, but none lettered W have been sent out since the first lot of those lettered X were despatched."

## A Variety from Germany.

The *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung* has discovered an interesting variety of the 50 pfennig stamp of the 1880 issue of Germany. In this variety, the little ornament jutting out in the centre of the right hand border is omitted, leaving a "V" shaped gap. How this variety came to be on the plate is unknown, but it is probable that a faulty cliché was used by accident. Up to the present, only a few specimens have been heard of, and it is not quite clear in how many printings the error occurred, nor what its position on the sheet was. Our contemporary goes on to say, "Mr. Kost has found two specimens, greyish green in colour and obliterated 1884. Mr. Müller has a specimen, grey in colour and obliterated 18.2.86. Miss Wernz has one, dark greyish green in colour and obliterated 28.1.88, and Mr. Stoel one, greyish green in colour and obliterated 10.10.87. On an entire sheet of this value, in the dark olive shade, which we possess, this variety or second type does not exist."

The same journal illustrates a very clever forgery of the 50 pfennig value of the 1880 issue of Germany, by means of which the Postal authorities were extensively swindled. It is stated that some 140,000 were sold and used much to the detriment of the German postal revenue. The forgery is so cleverly executed that it is no wonder that the post office passed it in large quantities. In colour it is stated to be exactly like the original and in design it is so similar as to require the very closest examination to detect any differences. This forgery was the handiwork of a lithographer named Riechers, of Barmen.

EVERY STAMP COLLECTOR  
SHOULD SUBSCRIBE TO  
EWEN'S WEEKLY STAMP NEWS.

## Postmark Notes.

By "DUPLEX."

FROM Mr. E. G. Collins, I have received, what is to me, a new type of Newspaper Branch cancellation. This consists of a circle composed of large blocks, of varying shapes, enclosing the initials, "E.C." and "V."

\* \* \*

The same correspondent sends me a specimen of a New Zealand postmark, which, as he claims, fairly creates a record for concentric circle marks. It is of a type which is now being generally used in all the chief towns in New Zealand. There are no less than *four* concentric circles all close together, and the outer one being as thick as the other three put together. Curved at the top is the name of the post-town, the date and time of posting are shown in the centre, and at the bottom are the initials, "N.Z."

\* \* \*

Germany now employs long-line machine cancellations, similar to those used in London, Liverpool, and elsewhere. One of these, emanating from Berlin, I was shown the other day, has an obliterator composed of seven thick parallel lines, about 2½ inches long. The three middle lines are broken in the centre, and in the space thus made is "D R," the letters meaning "Deutsche Reich"—German Kingdom. The date stamp is circular and shows, curved round the top, "BERLIN. C. 2." Then comes "23.5," with "5-6N" below, and underneath "OI\*"

\* \* \*

I have received several communications from various readers regarding the "L. & B. & S.C." mark mentioned in my "Notes" last week. The Rev. Hayman Cummings sends an envelope bearing this mark, which was posted at Fakenham (Norfolk), passed through Wells, Norfolk and Swindon Station, and was ultimately delivered at Oxford, and suggests that it may be "Lincoln and Birmingham Sorting Carriage."

\* \* \*

Writing on the same subject, Mr. F. Taylor thinks that the letters stand for "London and Bristol Sorting Carriage," and opines that the letter got in the wrong mail-bag and was found when the letters were being sorted in the travelling post office. The mark would then be impressed on the letter, to indicate its irregular receipt in the sorting carriage, should the cover be submitted to the authorities for explanation.

\* \* \*

Mr. A. F. Clarke also takes the view that the letters stand for "London and Bristol Sorting Carriage," and says that the mark described is used for stamping letters mis-sent to the Sorting Carriage, and this seems to me to be the most probable explanation of the mark.

\* \* \*

Mr. Clarke also informs me that he has a mark containing the letters "L. & C.S.C.," which means London and Crewe Sorting Carriage.

\* \* \*

The same correspondent sends me several curious marks for inspection. One of these consists of two concentric circles with "LONDON" at the top between the rings and "F.S. 9" below. The date and other details are shown in the inner circle. This, I am told, is a Foreign Section mark.

\* \* \*

Mr. Clarke also sends me a single line circular mark in which is curved at the top "KILBURN TEMPORARY P.O., N.W." The date—"22 DEC. 00"—is in one line across the centre and at the bottom is the stamper's number "1." This is the mark O one of the special post-offices temporarily formed at Christmas time to cope with some of the extra mail matter that wants dealing with at that season of the year.

\* \* \*

Another "temporary" mark sent me is in the form of a square and bears the inscription, 'PORTEOUS—ROAD—Temporary—Parcel Dépôt,' in four lines. It is printed in pink coloured ink.

\* \* \*

From the same correspondent I received a mark stamped in violet ink in which the inscription reads "FOUND LOOSE IN PADDINGTON PARCEL DEPÔT (No. 3)." This was impressed on the gummed side of a label which had evidently become detached from a parcel.

\* \* \*

Another interesting mark sent me has "LONDON" at the top, then the date in two lines, and underneath "M.O.O." This is of course a money order office mark.

\* \* \*

A small circular mark sent me by Mr. Clarke has the letters "A.G.D." curved at the top and "P.A.B." at the bottom. These I am informed stand for "Accountant General's Department and "Provincial Accounts Branch" respectively. The date, "AP. 26—00," occupies two lines in the centre and above it is an asterisk.

## The 1893 Provisionals of Samoa.

OWING to the fact that the United States now has a share in the Samoan Islands, the various issues of stamps are occasioning much interest amongst American collectors. In the last issue of the *American Journal of Philately* an interesting paper appears from the pen of Mr. Joseph B. Leavy, dealing with Samoan stamps in general. The writer discourses on the varieties of the two types of the 1893 provisional 5d. on 4d., at some length, and thinking the information may be of interest to our readers, we give a few extracts. In 1893 a 5d. stamp was required, and while the regular issue was being prepared a provisional of that value was created by overprinting the 4d. blue of the 1887 issue, perf. 11½ × 12, with "FIVE PENCE" and "5d." respectively. There seems to be no reliable information as to which type was issued first, so that any classification must be considered as purely arbitrary. It seems probable that both types appeared simultaneously, but as a matter of convenience we will follow Mr. Leavy's arrangement and treat the "FIVE PENCE" type first, and the "5d." later.

The first of these types consists of the words "FIVE" and "PENCE" in two lines, with a double lined bar below obliterating the previous value of fourpence and in the excellent article referred to the author makes four principal varieties. The surcharge is printed in black.

(a) In this variety the words "Four pence" are obliterated by a double bar 16 mm. long and 1 mm. high, the lower line being much thicker than the upper one. The bars were set in the printers frame with great care and exactness so that they would in every case obliterate the words "Four pence." The surcharge "FIVE PENCE" is in very small letters and has the appearance of being an electro-type. Alignment was not much considered in blocking the electro-types in the frames for the distance between the words and the bar varies from 2 mm. to 7 mm. This variety has been seen with the words "FIVE PENCE" twice impressed. It is thought that only a few sheets of this variety were printed as the letters being so small blurred very much in printing, and accordingly larger lettering was substituted.

(b) In this variety, larger letters were used in the words, "FIVE PENCE," and the bars cancelling the value, "Four pence," appears to have been inverted, for the thick line is above the fine one. No effort seems to have been made to keep the words and bar equi-distant on each stamp, so that like the preceding variety, the distance between the words and bar varies greatly. Mr. Leavy has specimens measuring 2½ mm., 6½ mm., and 12½ mm. between the bar and words. This variety may also be found with a single thick bar, and with the bar omitted altogether.

(c) In this instance the surcharge, "FIVE PENCE," is identical with that of the preceding type, but the bar is shortened to 13 mm. This was evidently done to make the stamp look neater, as the shortened bar is just the length of the inscription, "Four pence." As in varieties a and b, this one shows marked differences in the distance of the words, "FIVE PENCE," from the bar, the range being from 4 mm. to about 8½ mm. Specimens may be found with a single thick bar.

(d) In this case the words, "FIVE PENCE," remain the same as in the two foregoing types, but the bar has been greatly changed. This time it is 14 mm. and 1½ mm. high, the top line being fine and the lower one double the thickness of the thick lines in the other three types. The result of this very thick bar is that the words, "Four pence," are completely obliterated. Again variations occur in the spacing between the words and bar, ranging from 1 mm. to 4 mm.

A fairly clever forgery of this surcharge exists, but it will not stand comparison with an original. To start with, the space between "FIVE" and "PENCE" is 3 mm., instead of about ¼ mm., as in the genuine. Again, the bar is only 11 mm. long, instead of one of the lengths given above.

The second of the two types consists of a large "5" and the letter "d," with a double bar below, obliterating the previous value. This surcharge is printed in red, and Mr. Leavy describes three principal varieties:—

(a) The letter "d" is slightly below level of the numeral "5," viz:—"5d."

(b) The letter "d" and the numeral are on the same level, viz:—"5d."

(c) The letter "d" is very much above the level of the numeral, viz:—"5d."

This surcharge appears to have been type set and the spacing between bar and figure is just as irregular as in the other overprint. Specimens have been seen in which the distance ranged from 3 mm. to 9 mm. The author of the article has seen variety (b) with the "5d." doubly impressed and the bar single; with the bar twice printed and the "5d." single; and with the bar entirely omitted. A horizontal pair of variety (b) exists, on one of which the "5d." is sideways.

## Rowland Hill's "Bit of Paper."

(From *The New York Philatelist*).

THE first real attempt to issue postage stamps to the public on the principal now in vogue was made in 1837, when Mr. Knight suggested that a wrapper should be sold on which the Queen's head was embossed. Mr. Rowland Hill adopted this idea, but thought it would be better to use "a bit of paper, just large enough to bear the stamp, and covered at the back with a glutinous wash."

With these crude suggestions to work upon the Lords Commissioners issued an appeal to "artists, men of science, and the public generally," to send in sketches or ideas for the furtherance of the scheme. And in reply to this somewhat naive appeal we find that they received nearly 3,000 drawings, of none of which did they approve.

For a short time the matter rested in abeyance. Then, by greater luck than judgment, somebody sent in a design, which took the form of the young Queen's bust upon a black ground for the penny and upon a blue ground for the twopenny stamp.

This stamp might also be called a "rough proof" of the ones we use in the present day. For the first forty years Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Petch, of Fleet Street, were the printing contractors, and it is estimated that during that time they produced over 23,000,000,000 stamps.

Preparations and experiments took up much time, and it was not until May, 1840, that postage stamps were "sold over the counter." More to curiosity than anything else may be ascribed the rush which took place to buy them upon the first day of issue: two thousand five hundred pounds worth were disposed of within twenty-four hours. That the scheme would be a hopeless failure was a foregone conclusion among the wise men of the day. People who had formerly sent their letters to be paid for on delivery could hardly be expected to go to the trouble of buying stamps and affixing them to the envelopes, they argued. Besides, the only safeguard for the delivery of letters lay in the fact that no money was paid until the note had reached its destination.

How far these predictions came true is shown by a complaint which was soon made to the contractors by the Postmaster-General that the stamps were badly printed. The contractors, however, said that no blame could be attached to them, as they were required to print double the number contracted for.

It seems that a new difficulty now cropped up. The cancelling mark was too easily removable, and it was found that stamps were being used over and over again.

Experiments were made in cancellation and the colour of the penny stamp was changed to red, or to the various shades of red. And to the cry that these colours came off upon wet fingers, the reply was given in all earnestness that this was one of the greatest safeguards against cancel-mark obliteration and subsequent re-use.

The brick-red Queen's head was not changed until 1879, when the present mauve-coloured penny stamp was placed before a long suffering public. Yet, notwithstanding the fastness of the dye, there was a general outcry against the "wishy-washy" shade in which it had been printed.

Writing in her usual interesting style in the *Adhesive*, Miss A. L. Swift contributes the following paragraph which may be worth noting by those of our readers who are also amateur photographers:—

"Collectors who are also dabblers in amateur photography have an advantage over the general run of philatelists once in a while, one of the whiles being when they want to have a distant brother view a certain specimen they hardly care to send him. Sometimes in trading with foreigners occasion may arise to enquire about some oddity you cannot well describe for recognition; foreign revenues for instance, or a seal of the government. In such a case it is very easy to make a photograph of the specimen, and send that. It will be plain enough for all purposes except for examination for a counterfeit. Use the stamp as if it was a negative, laying it face down on a sheet of sensitive paper in the printing frame under plain glass. When printed deep enough, tone and finish. The result will be a reversed picture of the stamp. To get the correct form, print again, using the first print as the negative, and you will have a perfect picture of the stamp. Tone and finish this second print, and there you are! I have found this a really convenient bit of knowledge, and though it may not be new to many of my readers, I venture to think that it will be to some."

## FOREIGN ARRIVALS.

(NOTE.—Most foreign stamps are almost as good an investment in mint unused condition as those issued by British Colonies, if purchases are made with care, and countries like Abyssinia, Persia, Nicaragua, Honduras, etc., are ignored. That there is a good market for unused foreigners is evidenced by the fact that a collection consisting entirely of unused Europeans recently sold for £30,000.)

- France, 1901 types.  
1c. grey, with millésime 0, nett 1d.  
2c. purple " " 0 " 2d.  
3c. orange " " 0 " 2d.  
4c. brown " " 0 " 2d.  
5c. green " " 1 " 2d.  
Set of 5—1, 2, 3, 4, 5c. (without millésime), nett 3d.  
Set of 5, ditto, in blocks of four, 10d.  
Port Said, surcharged on French, old type.  
1c. black on blue, pair with mill. 0, nett 2d.  
China, surcharged on French, old type.  
5c. yellow-green, pair with mill. 0, nett 3d.  
France, 1901 types.  
15c. orange, mint, 2d.  
30c. lilac, nett, 4d.  
40c. red and blue, nett 6d.  
50c. brown and grey, nett 7d. (used, 2d.)  
France, "Chiffre Taxe"  
1c. black, 5c. blue, 10c. brown, set of 3, nett 3d.  
Belgium, unpaid.  
Set of 5, 5, 10, 20, 50c. 1fr., nett 1/11.  
Belgium, Sunday stamps.  
Set of ten, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 25, 35, 50c., 1, 2fr., nett, 4/5.  
Luxemburg, 1fr. violet, (old type), nett 2/-; 5fr. orange-brown (old type), nett 5/10.  
Denmark, new 24 øre, brown, nett 9d.  
Sweden, new 15 øre, brown, nett 3d.  
New 25 øre, orange, nett 5d.  
New 1 krona, pink and black, nett 1/4.  
Finland, 1901, 1 markka, nett 1/3.  
Finland, 1889 type, 2, 5, 10, 20, 25p., 1m., set of 6, 2/3.  
Hungary, 1900, values in filléres.  
25f., blue and black, nett 4d.  
30f., brown and black, nett 4d.  
50f., lake and black, nett 6d.  
60f., green and black, nett 8d.  
Roumania, 5, 10, 15 bani, set of three, 4d.  
Greece, Small Head of Mercury.  
1 lepton, brown, 1d.; block of 4, 1d.  
2 lepta, bistre, 1d.; block of 4, 2d.  
5 " green, 1d.; block of 4, 3d.  
10 " orange, 2d.; block of 4, 6d.  
Greek Provisionals, surcharged on old types.  
*Large Head of Mercury.*  
30 on 40 lepta, 5d.\*  
40 on 2 " 5d.\*  
50 on 40 " buff, 6d.\*  
3dr. on 10 lepta, 2/9.  
5dr. on 40 lepta, lilac on blue, 3/9.  
\*NOTE.—Pairs can be supplied, showing wide and narrow "O," 1/- each.  
*Small Head of Mercury.*  
1dr. on 40 lepta, violet, 1/- (imperf.)  
2dr. on 40 " " 1/9 (perf. 13).  
*Olympian Games (Axia Metalliki).*  
25l. on 40 lepta, nett 5d.  
50l. on 2dr. stone, nett 10d.  
1dr. on 5dr. green, nett 1/3.  
2dr. on 10dr. brown, nett 2/6.  
Cuba, pictorial set, 1, 2, 3, 5, 10c., nett 1/3.  
Sweden, low values, 1, 2, 3, 4 øre, set of 4, 2d.  
Siam, 1901, head to left.  
2 atts, bright green, nett 1d.; block of 4, 3d.  
Siam provisional, 3 on 12 atts, 1½d. each.  
Japan, new, 1½ sen blue, 1d. each; block of 4, 3d.  
Bolivia, 1899, used, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20c., set of 5, 6d.  
Bolivia, 10c. orange, nett 1d. (used).  
" 20c. rose (cat. 6d.), nett 2d. (used).  
Bolivia, surch. "EF 1899" on 1894 issue (used).  
5c. violet on green, nett 2d.  
10c. violet on brown, nett 3d.  
Chile, old type, 15c. green, fine, used, 2d.  
20c. slate-grey, fine, used, 1d.  
5c. on 30c. carmine, used, 2d.  
1 peso, black and brown, used, fine, 8d.  
Chile, 1900, new 5c. blue, 10c. lilac, 1d. each (used).  
Costa Rica, old 10 and 20c. (1892), nett 2d. (used).  
" new 10 and 20c. (1901), nett 5d. (used).  
Ecuador, 10c. lilac and black, used, 4d.  
" 10c. blue and black, used, 4d.  
Mexico, 1900, new 5, 10, 15, 20c., set of 4, nett 5d. (used).

## WHOLESALE.

## LOW VALUES IN DOZENS.

(All in mint unused blocks, unless otherwise described. Panes or sheets have margin on all four sides).

	PER DOZ.
France, new 1c. (pane of 25, 4d.)	2d.
" " 2c. ( " 25, 8d.)	4d.
" " 3c. ( " 25, 1/-)	6d.
" " 4c. ( " 25, 1/3)	8d.
" " 5c. ( " 25, 1/6)	9d.
Port Said, 1c. blk. on blue (pane of 25, 4d.)	2d.
China on France, 5c. green (pane of 25, 1/6)	9d.
Belgium, Sunday Stamp, 1c. grey	2d.
Spain, 1901, new 25c. blue	3/-

## WHOLESALE.

## OLD ISSUES IN DOZENS.

(Half dozens can be supplied pro rata, when price per dozen exceeds 2/-).

	Per Dozen.
4023 Gold Coast, 3d. olive ...	5/6
4027 Sierra Leone, ½d. green ...	1/4
4028 " 1d. carmine ...	2/4
4029 " 1½d. lilac ...	3/9
4031 " 4d. brown ...	7/9
4052 Niger Coast, 5d., no wmk. ...	5/10
4061 Canada Maps, 2d. lavender ...	1/3
4062 " 2d. deep blue ...	1/3
4105 Cape, 1d. on 2d. brown ...	2/9
4132 Barbados, Queen's Head, 4d. brown	6/0
4145 Br. Honduras, 5 on 3c. on 3d. brown	2/11
4169 St. Vincent, old 2½d. blue ...	3/6
4170 " old 4d. yellow ...	6/6
4171 " old 5d. brown ...	8/6
4172 " 2½d. on 1d. blue ...	3/9
4179 Tobago, 6d. red-brown ...	8/0
4199 Grenada, 2½d. pictorial ..	2/11
4200 Jamaica, Llandoverly Falls ...	1/2
4201 Trinidad, 2d. pictorial ...	2/4
4202 Mauritius, Labourdonnais ...	2/11
4222 New Zealand, 2½d. " Wakitipu " ...	4/9
4242 Queensland, 1d. red, with burelé band	1/11
4251 Tasmania, old 3d. red ...	4/0
4252 " old 4d. bistre ...	4/10
4253 " old 8d. brown... ..	10/6
4254 " old 9d. blue ...	10/6
4255 " old 10d. black ...	15/0
4301 Brit. Bechuanaland, 3d. lilac ...	3/9
4303 " on 1d. English ...	1/6
4306 B.C.A., 1d. black, CA. ...	4/6
4307 " 2d. green and black ...	8/6
4308 " 1d. on 3/- green ...	4/6
4315 B.S.A., 4d. ultra. and lilac (cat. 2/-)	5/6
4316 Zululand on ½d. English ...	2/8
4451 Transvaal, ½d. grey, 1885... ..	1/6
4452 " ½d. grey, Pole ...	1/6
4453 Labuan, 2c. rose, Queen's Head (used) ...	8d.

## PURCHASES.

We are just now open to purchase old used British stamps in large quantities, for cash. Parcels should be submitted on approval, with a note as to lowest price acceptable. If not purchased, we pay return postage.

\* \* \*

A few good copies of £1 Cross and Anchor are also required. Good price given.

\* \* \*

Specially wanted. Old 1d. reds in quantities, preferably on original paper showing date of use; Plate-numbers, unsorted, required.

\* \* \*

A good price can be given for used or unused 2/- brown, in fine condition.

\* \* \*

We are still buying railway letter fee stamps, but no other railway stamps, such as those used for newspapers, are required. Good prices for almost any bearing postmarks prior to 1898. Unused blocks particularly wanted.

\* \* \*

We are in want of the following Colonial stamps in mint unused condition, any watermark or perforation.

- Bahamas, 7d. rose, 6d. lilac (1st type).  
Barbados, 4d. red, 4d. rose (1st type).  
" 3d. brown, 6d. red (2nd type).  
" 6d. brown, Queen's Head type.  
Bermuda, 3d. buff, 1873.  
British Honduras, 1s. green.  
British Guiana, large type, 1863, 6c., 24c., 48c.  
Grenada, 2½d. rose (1st type).  
Montserrat, 2½d. red-brown.  
St. Christopher, 6d. green, 6d. brown.  
St. Lucia, 4d. blue (1st type).  
St. Vincent, 1/- grey (1st type), well-centred.  
Tobago, 4d. green, 1880.  
Trinidad, 4d. lilac, 1/- blue (1st type).  
" 10/- green and blue (30/- cash offered).  
Virgin Isles, 1/- rose, 1/- brown (1st type).  
" ½d. yellow, ½d. green, 1d. green (Queen's Head).  
Gold Coast, £1 green and rose.

\* \* \*

All communications to be addressed to

THE SECRETARY,

Ewen's British Stamp Market,

32, Palace Square, Norwood, S.E.

## NOTICE!

One or two large Collections are wanted immediately for prompt cash. Offers willingly made for scarce British and Colonial stamps. Where catalogue value of a stamp is under 5/- we cannot undertake to make separate offers, and such stamps should be sent on approval with price required marked over each.

## SPECIAL ALBUMS FOR BRITISH STAMPS.

FOURTH EDITION. JUST READY.

THESE ALBUMS are specially designed for those Collectors who wish to take all varieties of British stamps—postage, railway, telegraph and postal-fiscal, whether adhesive or not—but of course, the larger amount of space is provided for the adhesive postage stamps, together with their varieties of watermark, perforation, plate numbers and control letters.

This Album gained the highest award for Specialist Albums at the London Philatelic Exhibition, 1897. It is oblong in shape and 11½ by 8½ in. in size, containing about 90 pages, being liberally interleaved with blank pages.

POPULAR EDITION, 3/6

EDITION DE LUXE, 5/6

Postage extra (4d. and 5d. respectively).

## BLANK ALBUMS

TO MATCH THE ABOVE.

The Albums are specially recommended to collectors wishing to make small specialist collections, whether of British, Foreign or Colonial Stamps. They are oblong, and similar in shape and size to above, and absolutely blank.

WITH 48 LEAVES, 1/9 NETT.

WITH 192 LEAVES, 4/6 NETT.

Postage extra, 4d. and 6d. respectively.

## Philatelic Publications

AND

## STAMP COLLECTORS' ACCESSORIES

Obtainable from H. L. EWEN,

32, Palace Square, Norwood, S.E.

CATALOGUE of British Stamps and Postmarks, containing a full history of all postage adhesives, envelope stamps (with die-numbers), wrapper and postcard stamps, registration envelope stamps, issues for government departments, telegraphs and fiscals, proofs and essays, 'specimen' stamps, college stamps, circular delivery company's stamps, British postmarks, list of postmark numbers, etc. 200 pages, 200 illustrations. Compiled by H. L'Estrange Ewen. Sixth edition, 1898, 2/6 post free.

POCKET ALBUMS for reconstructing sheets by the corner letters. Published by W. Morley and W. Hadlow. Each album contains 20 pages, each page space for 12 stamps. Price, 3d. each, 2/6 per dozen.

ENGLISH SPECIALISTS' JOURNAL. A monthly philatelic journal published from 1895 to 1897 in the interests of specialist collectors of British Stamps. Vol. i, 5/-; Vol. ii, 2/8, post free.

EWEN'S Weekly Circular for British Specialists. Published from 1897 to September 1899. The Circular is principally interesting as being the first attempt at publishing a weekly stamp paper in Europe. Almost complete file, 10/-.

EWEN'S Weekly Stamp News, A Journal for stamp collectors of all grades. Edited by H. L'Estrange Ewen. Obtainable through all newsagents, every Saturday, price one penny, or it can be had from the publisher, 32, Palace Square, Norwood, S.E., direct by post, 6/6 per annum, 3/3 for 6 months. Specimen copy free with pleasure.

Back volumes can still be supplied:—

Vol. i.	Nos. 1 to 14,	2/6 post free.
" ii.	Nos. 15 to 27,	4/0 "
" iii.	Nos. 28 to 40,	2/6 "
" iv.	Nos. 41 to 53,	1/9 "
" v.	Nos. 54 to 66,	1/9 "

The publishers are willing to pay 6d. each for copies of No. 15 in good condition.

ADHESIVE Stamps of Great Britain compiled by A. B. Creeke, Jr. and the late Hastings E. Wright. Published by the Philatelic Society, London. Photographic illustrations of nearly every variety known. Copies of official records showing quantities printed and issued of each stamp, etc. Price, 25/- post free.

REFERENCE List of Railway Letter Stamps, published in 1898, incomplete, 1/- post free.

HISTORY of Railway Letter Stamps. Now in preparation. Correspondence invited on the subject by the author, H. L'Estrange Ewen, 32, Palace Square, Norwood, S.E.

STANLEY Gibbons' Catalogue of Adhesive postage-stamps of the British Empire (Part I, 1900), 2/3 post free.

## Postmark Notes.

By "DUPLEX."

FROM Mr. E. G. Collins, I have received, what is to me, a new type of Newspaper Branch cancellation. This consists of a circle composed of large blocks, of varying shapes, enclosing the initials, "E.C." and "V."

\* \* \*

The same correspondent sends me a specimen of a New Zealand postmark, which, as he claims, fairly creates a record for concentric circle marks. It is of a type which is now being generally used in all the chief towns in New Zealand. There are no less than *four* concentric circles all close together, and the outer one being as thick as the other three put together. Curved at the top is the name of the post-town, the date and time of posting are shown in the centre, and at the bottom are the initials, "N.Z."

\* \* \*

Germany now employs long-line machine cancellations, similar to those used in London, Liverpool, and elsewhere. One of these, emanating from Berlin, I was shown the other day, has an obliterater composed of seven thick parallel lines, about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches long. The three middle lines are broken in the centre, and in the space thus made is "D R," the letters meaning "Deutsche Reich"—German Kingdom. The date stamp is circular and shows, curved round the top, "BERLIN. C. 2." Then comes "23.5," with "5-6N" below, and underneath "OI\*"

\* \* \*

I have received several communications from various readers regarding the "L. & B. & S.C." mark mentioned in my "Notes" last week. The Rev. Hayman Cummings sends an envelope bearing this mark, which was posted at Fakenham (Norfolk), passed through Wells, Norfolk and Swindon Station, and was ultimately delivered at Oxford, and suggests that it may be "Lincoln and Birmingham Sorting Carriage."

\* \* \*

Writing on the same subject, Mr. F. Taylor thinks that the letters stand for "London and Bristol Sorting Carriage," and opines that the letter got in the wrong mail-bag and was found when the letters were being sorted in the travelling post office. The mark would then be impressed on the letter, to indicate its irregular receipt in the sorting carriage, should the cover be submitted to the authorities for explanation.

\* \* \*

Mr. A. F. Clarke also takes the view that the letters stand for "London and Bristol Sorting Carriage," and says that the mark described is used for stamping letters mis-sent to the Sorting Carriage, and this seems to me to be the most probable explanation of the mark.

\* \* \*

Mr. Clarke also informs me that he has a mark containing the letters "L. & C.S.C.," which means London and Crewe Sorting Carriage.

\* \* \*

The same correspondent sends me several curious marks for inspection. One of these consists of two concentric circles with "LONDON" at the top between the rings and "F.S. 9" below. The date and other details are shown in the inner circle. This, I am told, is a Foreign Section mark.

\* \* \*

Mr. Clarke also sends me a single line circular mark in which is curved at the top "KILBURN TEMPORARY P.O., N.W." The date—"22 DEC. 00"—is in one line across the centre and at the bottom is the stamper's number "1." This is the mark O one of the special post-offices temporarily formed at Christmas time to cope with some of the extra mail matter that wants dealing with at that season of the year.

\* \* \*

Another "temporary" mark sent me is in the form of a square and bears the inscription, "PORTEOUS—ROAD—Temporary—Parcel Dépôt," in four lines. It is printed in pink coloured ink.

\* \* \*

From the same correspondent I received a mark stamped in violet ink in which the inscription reads "FOUND LOOSE IN PADDINGTON PARCEL DÉPÔT (No. 3)." This was impressed on the gummed side of a label which had evidently become detached from a parcel.

\* \* \*

Another interesting mark sent me has "LONDON" at the top, then the date in two lines, and underneath "M.O.O." This is of course a money order mark.

\* \* \*

A small circular mark sent me by Mr. Clarke has the letters "A.G.D." curved at the top and "P.A.B." at the bottom. These I am informed stand for "Accountant General's Department and "Provincial Accounts Branch" respectively. The date, "AP. 26—00," occupies two lines in the centre and above it is an asterisk.

## The 1893 Provisionals of Samoa.

OWING to the fact that the United States now has a share in the Samoan Islands, the various issues of stamps are occasioning much interest amongst American collectors. In the last issue of the *American Journal of Philately* an interesting paper appears from the pen of Mr. Joseph B. Leavy, dealing with Samoan stamps in general. The writer discourses on the varieties of the two types of the 1893 provisional 5d. on 4d., at some length, and thinking the information may be of interest to our readers, we give a few extracts. In 1893 a 5d. stamp was required, and while the regular issue was being prepared a provisional of that value was created by overprinting the 4d. blue of the 1887 issue, perf.  $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ , with "FIVE PENCE" and "5d." respectively. There seems to be no reliable information as to which type was issued first, so that any classification must be considered as purely arbitrary. It seems probable that both types appeared simultaneously, but as a matter of convenience we will follow Mr. Leavy's arrangement and treat the "FIVE PENCE" type first, and the "5d." later.

The first of these types consists of the words "FIVE" and "PENCE" in two lines, with a double lined bar below obliterating the previous value of fourpence and in the excellent article referred to the author makes four principal varieties. The surcharge is printed in black.

(a) In this variety the words "Four pence" are obliterated by a double bar 16 mm. long and 1 mm. high, the lower line being much thicker than the upper one. The bars were set in the printers frame with great care and exactness so that they would in every case obliterate the words "Four pence." The surcharge "FIVE PENCE" is in very small letters and has the appearance of being an electro-type. Alignment was not much considered in blocking the electro-types in the frames for the distance between the words and the bar varies from 2 mm. to 7 mm. This variety has been seen with the words "FIVE PENCE" twice impressed. It is thought that only a few sheets of this variety were printed as the letters being so small blurred very much in printing, and accordingly larger lettering was substituted.

(b) In this variety, larger letters were used in the words, "FIVE PENCE," and the bars cancelling the value, "Four pence," appears to have been inverted, for the thick line is above the fine one. No effort seems to have been made to keep the words and bar equi-distant on each stamp, so that like the preceding variety, the distance between the words and bar varies greatly. Mr. Leavy has specimens measuring  $2\frac{1}{2}$  mm.,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  mm., and  $12\frac{1}{2}$  mm. between the bar and words. This variety may also be found with a single thick bar, and with the bar omitted altogether.

(c) In this instance the surcharge, "FIVE PENCE," is identical with that of the preceding type, but the bar is shortened to 13 mm. This was evidently done to make the stamp look neater, as the shortened bar is just the length of the inscription, "Four pence." As in varieties a and b, this one shows marked differences in the distance of the words, "FIVE PENCE," from the bar, the range being from 4 mm. to about  $8\frac{1}{2}$  mm. Specimens may be found with a single thick bar.

(d) In this case the words, "FIVE PENCE," remain the same as in the two foregoing types, but the bar has been greatly changed. This time it is 14 mm. and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mm. high, the top line being fine and the lower one double the thickness of the thick lines in the other three types. The result of this very thick bar is that the words, "Four pence," are completely obliterated. Again variations occur in the spacing between the words and bar, ranging from 1 mm. to 4 mm.

A fairly clever forgery of this surcharge exists, but it will not stand comparison with an original. To start with, the space between "FIVE" and "PENCE" is 3 mm., instead of about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mm., as in the genuine. Again, the bar is only 11 mm. long, instead of one of the lengths given above.

The second of the two types consists of a large "5" and the letter "d," with a double bar below, obliterating the previous value. This surcharge is printed in red, and Mr. Leavy describes three principal varieties:—

(a) The letter "d" is slightly below level of the numeral "5," viz:—"5d."

(b) The letter "d" and the numeral are on the same level, viz:—"5d."

(c) The letter "d" is very much above the level of the numeral, viz:—"5<sup>d</sup>."

This surcharge appears to have been type set and the spacing between bar and figure is just as irregular as in the other overprint. Specimens have been seen in which the distance ranged from 3 mm. to 9 mm. The author of the article has seen variety (b) with the "5d." doubly impressed and the bar single; with the bar twice printed and the "5d." single; and with the bar entirely omitted. A horizontal pair of variety (b) exists, on one of which the "5d." is sideways.

## Rowland Hill's "Bit of Paper."

(From *The New York Philatelist*.)

THE first real attempt to issue postage stamps to the public on the principal now in vogue was made in 1837, when Mr. Knight suggested that a wrapper should be sold on which the Queen's head was embossed. Mr. Rowland Hill adopted this idea, but thought it would be better to use "a bit of paper, just large enough to bear the stamp, and covered at the back with a glutinous wash."

With these crude suggestions to work upon the Lords Commissioners issued an appeal to "artists, men of science, and the public generally," to send in sketches or ideas for the furtherance of the scheme. And in reply to this somewhat naive appeal we find that they received nearly 3,000 drawings, of none of which did they approve.

For a short time the matter rested in abeyance. Then, by greater luck than judgment, somebody sent in a design, which took the form of the young Queen's bust upon a black ground for the penny and upon a blue ground for the twopenny stamp.

This stamp might also be called a "rough proof" of the ones we use in the present day. For the first forty years Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Petch, of Fleet Street, were the printing contractors, and it is estimated that during that time they produced over 23,000,000,000 stamps.

Preparations and experiments took up much time, and it was not until May, 1840, that postage stamps were "sold over the counter." More to curiosity than anything else may be ascribed the rush which took place to buy them upon the first day of issue; two thousand five hundred pounds worth were disposed of within twenty-four hours. That the scheme would be a hopeless failure was a foregone conclusion among the wise men of the day. People who had formerly sent their letters to be paid for on delivery could hardly be expected to go to the trouble of buying stamps and affixing them to the envelopes, they argued. Besides, the only safeguard for the delivery of letters lay in the fact that no money was paid until the note had reached its destination.

How far these predictions came true is shown by a complaint which was soon made to the contractors by the Postmaster-General that the stamps were badly printed. The contractors, however, said that no blame could be attached to them, as they were required to print double the number contracted for.

It seems that a new difficulty now cropped up. The cancelling mark was too easily removable, and it was found that stamps were being used over and over again.

Experiments were made in cancellation and the colour of the penny stamp was changed to red, or to the various shades of red. And to the cry that these colours came off upon wet fingers, the reply was given in all earnestness that this was one of the greatest safeguards against cancel-mark obliteration and subsequent re-use.

The brick-red Queen's head was not changed until 1879, when the present mauve-coloured penny stamp was placed before a long suffering public. Yet, notwithstanding the fastness of the dye, there was a general outcry against the "wishy-washy" shade in which it had been printed.

Writing in her usual interesting style in the *Adhesive*, Miss A. L. Swift contributes the following paragraph which may be worth noting by those of our readers who are also amateur photographers:—

"Collectors who are also dabblers in amateur photography have an advantage over the general run of philatelists once in a while, one of the whiles being when they want to have a distant brother view a certain specimen they hardly care to send him. Sometimes in trading with foreigners occasion may arise to enquire about some oddity you cannot well describe for recognition; foreign revenues for instance, or a seal of the government. In such a case it is very easy to make a photograph of the specimen, and send that. It will be plain enough for all purposes except for examination for a counterfeit. Use the stamp as if it was a negative, laying it face down on a sheet of sensitive paper in the printing frame under plain glass. When printed deep enough, tone and finish. The result will be a reversed picture of the stamp. To get the correct form, print again, using the first print as the negative, and you will have a perfect picture of the stamp. Tone and finish this second print, and there you are! I have found this a really convenient bit of knowledge, and though it may not be new to many of my readers, I venture to think that it will be to some."

## FOREIGN ARRIVALS.

(NOTE.—Most foreign stamps are almost as good an investment in mint unused condition as those issued by British Colonies, if purchases are made with care, and countries like Abyssinia, Persia, Nicaragua, Honduras, etc., are ignored. That there is a good market for unused foreigners is evidenced by the fact that a collection consisting entirely of unused Europeans recently sold for £30,000.)

France, 1901 types.  
1c. grey, with millésime 0, nett 1d.  
2c. purple " " 0 " 2d.  
3c. orange " " 0 " 2d.  
4c. brown " " 0 " 2d.  
5c. green " " 1 " 2d.  
Set of 5—1, 2, 3, 4, 5c. (without millésime), nett 3d.  
Set of 5, ditto, in blocks of four, 10d.  
Port Said, surcharged on French, old type.  
1c. black on blue, pair with mill. 0, nett 2d.  
China, surcharged on French, old type.  
5c. yellow-green, pair with mill. 0, nett 3d.  
France, 1901 types.  
15c. orange, mint, 2d.  
30c. lilac, nett, 4d.  
40c. red and blue, nett 6d.  
50c. brown and grey, nett 7d. (used, 2d.)  
France, "Chiffre Taxe"  
1c. black, 5c. blue, 10c. brown, set of 3, nett 3d.  
Belgium, unpaid.  
Set of 5, 5, 10, 20, 50c. 1fr., nett 1/11.  
Belgium, Sunday stamps.  
Set of ten, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 25, 35, 50c., 1, 2fr., nett, 4/5.  
Luxemburg, 1fr. violet, (old type), nett 2/-; 5fr. orange-brown (old type), nett 5/10.  
Denmark, new 24 öre, brown, nett 9d.  
Sweden, new 15 öre, brown, nett 3d.  
New 5 öre, orange, nett 5d.  
New 1 krona, pink and black, nett 1/4.  
Finland, 1901, 1 markka, nett 1/3.  
Finland, 1889 type, 2, 5, 10, 20, 25p., 1m., set of 6, 2/3.  
Hungary, 1900, values in filléres.  
25f., blue and black, nett 4d.  
30f., brown and black, nett 4d.  
50f., lake and black, nett 6d.  
60f., green and black, nett 8d.  
Roumania, 5, 10, 15 bani, set of three, 4d.  
Greece, Small Head of Mercury.  
1 lepton, brown, 1d.; block of 4, 1d.  
2 lepta, bistre, 1d.; block of 4, 2d.  
5 " green, 1d.; block of 4, 3d.  
10 " orange, 2d.; block of 4, 6d.  
Greek Provisionals, surcharged on old types.  
*Large Head of Mercury.*  
30 on 40 lepta, 5d.\*  
40 on 2 " 5d.\*  
50 on 40 " buff, 6d.\*  
3dr. on 10 lepta, 2/9.  
5dr. on 40 lepta, lilac on blue, 3/9.  
\*NOTE.—Pairs can be supplied, showing wide and narrow "O," 1/- each.  
*Small Head of Mercury.*  
1dr. on 40 lepta, violet, 1/- (imperf.)  
2dr. on 40 " " 1/9 (perf. 13).  
*Olympian Games (Axia Metalliki).*  
25l. on 40 lepta, nett 5d.  
50l. on 2dr. stone, nett 10d.  
1dr. on 5dr. green, nett 1/3.  
2dr. on 10dr. brown, nett 2/6.  
Cuba, pictorial set, 1, 2, 3, 5, 10c., nett 1/3.  
Sweden, low values, 1, 2, 3, 4 öre, set of 4, 2d.  
Siam, 1901, head to left.  
2 atts, bright green, nett 1d.; block of 4, 3d.  
Siam provisional, 3 on 12 atts, 1½d. each.  
Japan, new, 1½ sen blue, 1d. each; block of 4, 3d.  
Bolivia, 1899, used, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20c., set of 5, 6d.  
Bolivia, 10c. orange, nett 1d. (used).  
" 20c. rose (cat. 6d.), nett 2d. (used).  
Bolivia, surch. "EF 1899" on 1894 issue (used).  
5c. violet on green, nett 2d.  
10c. violet on brown, nett 3d.  
Chile, old type, 15c. green, fine, used, 2d.  
20c. slate-grey, fine, used, 1d.  
5c. on 30c. carmine, used, 2d.  
1 peso, black and brown, used, fine, 8d.  
Chile, 1900, new 5c. blue, 10c. lilac, 1d. each (used).  
Costa Rica, old 10 and 20c. (1892), nett 2d. (used).  
" new 10 and 20c. (1901), nett 5d. (used).  
Ecuador, 10c. lilac and black, used, 4d.  
" 10c. blue and black, used, 4d.  
Mexico, 1900, new 5, 10, 15, 20c., set of 4, nett 5d. (used).

## WHOLESALE.

## LOW VALUES IN DOZENS.

(All in mint unused blocks, unless otherwise described. Panes or sheets have margin on all four sides.)

	PER DOZ.
France, new 1c. (pane of 25, 4d.)	2d.
" " 2c. ( " 25, 8d.)	4d.
" " 3c. ( " 25, 1/-)	6d.
" " 4c. ( " 25, 1/3)	8d.
" " 5c. ( " 25, 1/6)	9d.
Port Said, 1c. blk. on blue (pane of 25, 4d.)	2d.
China on France, 5c. green (pane of 25, 1/6)	9d.
Belgium, Sunday Stamp, 1c. grey	2d.
Spain, 1901, new 25c. blue	3/-.

## WHOLESALE.

## OLD ISSUES IN DOZENS.

(Half dozens can be supplied pro rata, when price per dozen exceeds 2/-).

	Per Dozen.
4023 Gold Coast, 3d. olive	5/6
4027 Sierra Leone, ½d. green	1/4
4028 " 1d. carmine	2/4
4029 " 1½d. lilac	3/9
4031 " 4d. brown	7/9
4052 Niger Coast, 5d., no wmk.	5/10
4061 Canada Mups, 2d. lavender	1/3
4062 " 2d. deep blue	1/3
4105 Cape, 1d. on 2d. brown	2/9
4132 Barbados, Queen's Head, 4d. brown	6/0
4145 Br. Honduras, 5 on 3c. on 3d. brown	2/11
4169 St. Vincent, old 2½d. blue	3/6
4170 " old 4d. yellow	6/6
4171 " old 5d. brown	8/6
4172 " 2½d. on 1d. blue	3/9
4179 Tobago, 6d. red-brown	8/0
4199 Grenada, 2½d. pictorial	2/11
4200 Jamaica, Llandoverly Falls	1/2
4201 Trinidad, 2d. pictorial	2/4
4202 Mauritius, Labourdonnais	2/11
4222 New Zealand, 2½d. " Wakitipu "	4/9
4242 Queensland, 1d. red, with burelé band	1/11
4251 Tasmania, old 3d. red	4/0
4252 " old 4d. bistre	4/10
4253 " old 8d. brown	10/6
4254 " old 9d. blue	10/6
4255 " old 10d. black	15/0
4301 Brit. Bechuanaland, 3d. lilac	3/9
4303 " on 1d. English	1/6
4306 B.C.A., 1d. black, CA.	4/6
4307 " 2d. green and black	8/6
4308 " 1d. on 3/- green	4/6
4315 B.S.A., 4d, ultra. and lilac (cat. 2/-)	5/6
4316 Zululand on ½d. English	2/8
4451 Transvaal, ½d. grey, 1885...	1/6
4452 " ½d. grey, Pole	1/6
4453 Labuan, 2c. rose, Queen's Head (used)	8d.

## PURCHASES.

We are just now open to purchase old used British stamps in large quantities, for cash. Parcels should be submitted on approval, with a note as to lowest price acceptable. If not purchased, we pay return postage.

\* \* \*

A few good copies of £1 Cross and Anchor are also required. Good price given.

\* \* \*

Specially wanted. Old 1d. reds in quantities, preferably on original paper showing date of use; Plate-numbers, unsorted, required.

\* \* \*

A good price can be given for used or unused 2/- brown, in fine condition.

\* \* \*

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\* \* \*

We are in want of the following Colonial stamps in mint unused condition, any watermark or perforation.

Bahamas, 7d. rose, 6d. lilac (1st type).  
Barbados, 4d. red, 4d. rose (1st type).  
" 3d. brown, 6d. red (2nd type).  
" 6d. brown, Queen's Head type.  
Bermuda, 3d. buff, 1873.  
British Honduras, 1s. green.  
British Guiana, large type, 1863, 6c., 24c., 48c.  
Grenada, 2½d. rose (1st type).  
Montserrat, 2½d. red-brown.  
St. Christopher, 6d. green, 6d. brown.  
St. Lucia, 4d. blue (1st type).  
St. Vincent, 1/- grey (1st type), well-centred.  
Tobago, 4d. green, 1880.  
Trinidad, 4d. lilac, 1/- blue (1st type).  
" 10/- green and blue (30/- cash offered).  
Virgin Isles, 1/- rose, 1/- brown (1st type).  
" ½d. yellow, ½d. green, 1d. green (Queen's Head).  
Gold Coast, £1 green and rose.

\* \* \*

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505.	"	African Colonials.
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511.	"	Austria.
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513.	"	Timor.
514.	"	Macao.
515.	"	Peru.
516.	"	Japan.
517.	"	Finland and Poland.
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519.	"	Tasmania.
522.	"	Australian (common).
523.	Nett.	Unused English.
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527.	"	Used English.
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532.	25%.	Ceylon.
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539.	"	India.
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British Honduras; 1882 issue, 6d. yellow, used, Crown CA. 14 ... ..	40/-
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Mauritiùs; 5/- violet used ... ..	5/-
New South Wales; 2d. Sidney View used, fair copy ... ..	15/-
" 5/- map, used, perf. 10 ... ..	12/6
St. Vincent; 5/- wmk.*, has "REVENUE" printed across it otherwise would be worth £15 ... ..	30/-
Wurtemberg; 5 marks pale blue, unused... ..	7/-
B.C.A. on B.S.A., 3/- on 4/-, mint ... ..	26/-
Western Australia, 2d. orange, imperf., block of four ... ..	45/-
Western Australia, imperf., block of four 4d. blue ... ..	37/6
New South Wales, 3d. green, wmk. 6, unused pair ... ..	14/-
Zurich, 6 rappen, fine used copy ... ..	22/6

Any of the above stamps can be sent on approval if required, but immediate application is necessary, as in most instances we have no duplicates of the lots offered.

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# Ewen's Weekly Stamp News.

With which is incorporated EWEN'S WEEKLY CIRCULAR. (Established October, 1897.)

A JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

THE ONLY WEEKLY STAMP PAPER  
PUBLISHED IN EUROPE.

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[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

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## The Week's News.

There is shortly to be a change in the monetary system of Spain when the franc will take the place of the peseta. This we are informed will necessitate another new issue.

\* \* \*

Another of our American contemporaries, to wit, the *Metropolitan Philatelist*, has issued a special Pan-American number in honour of the Exposition now being held at Buffalo. The number contains 32 pages of advertisement and reading matter, the most interesting item coming in the latter category being the article entitled "Postage Stamp Portraits." In this pithy biographies of the Presidents, Statesmen, &c., whose portraits adorn the United States postage stamps, are given.

\* \* \*

When the Penny Postage system was introduced into New Zealand it was thought that there would be a loss of revenue on the financial year ending 31st March of £80,000, that is at the rate of £20,000 per quarter. Instead of a decrease, however, it was found that there was an actual increase of £20,000 on the working of the whole department for the quarter ending with March last, a highly gratifying result.

\* \* \*

Evidently the publication of advertisements in postage stamp form is catching on amongst our large firms and probably some day the collection of these will vie in popularity with picture-postcard collecting and other harmless fads. Mr. Ronald M. Angus sends us a specimen of one of a series issued by the proprietors of Mellins Food, which is similar in style to those we mentioned a fortnight ago.

\* \* \*

Under the heading of "The Modern Connell!" the *London Philatelist* publishes the following paragraph which though not guaranteed accurate is nevertheless not improbable.

"There has been some surprise in non-official circles that General Baden Powell has received only a 'C.B.' It is well known at Court, however, that the hero of Mafeking was deemed to have offended etiquette by the issue of the stamps bearing his portrait. The late Queen Victoria was particularly annoyed at this unwitting trespass on a sovereign's rights, and I am told that she indirectly conveyed her displeasure. Anyway the story goes at the Cape, that the reason why General Baden-Powell did not apply for leave of absence, as did other officers who had been besieged, was that he thought it undesirable to encourage a demonstration of enthusiasm. 'B.P.' was raised two steps in rank immediately after the relief, and he will be remembered when the time comes for special grants by Parliament for distinguished services. Moreover, he has found work, for which he is eminently fitted, in organising the force named after him."

\* \* \*

American collectors are getting quite excited over the discovery of Pan-American stamps with inverted centres. First of all the 2 cents value was found in this condition, then the 1c. was seen, and now we have information to the effect that the 4c. has appeared with the centre wrong way up. The Washington correspondent to the *Metropolitan Philatelist*, in the course of an interview with the Assistant Director of the Bureau, learned that the greatest possible care was taken to prevent errors of this description getting out. However, when dealing with such large quantities as have been issued of these stamps, it is quite possible for one or two errors to escape the close scrutiny of the examiners.

## New Issues.

The Editor will be much obliged for early news of New Issues or intended New Issues or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors. Full acknowledgment given. If possible, specimens should be sent in order that illustrations may be prepared.

**AFGHANISTAN.**—The *M. J.* chronicles the 1 abasi of the 1893-99 issue on a deep scarlet tissue paper, quite unlike any of the numerous varieties that have already been listed.

**AUSTRIA.**—In addition to the 5 and 30 heller values the 20 heller stamp has appeared with perforation gauging 10½ by 12½, 13. The 4 kronen stamp has been found with perforation measuring 10½ all round.

**BOSNIA.**—The 10 heller value has been issued perf. 10½. All the other values are perf. 12½.

**BULGARIA.**—This little Principality is going in for stamp-issuing pretty strongly just now. In addition to the two commemoratives we chronicled last week and the 10 stot. surcharged on 50 stot listed some weeks ago, another surcharge has now been issued. This time the 3 stot brown stamp has had its value raised to 5 stot by means of a neat surcharge consisting of a figure "5" and a short thick bar to obliterate the previous value.

**CEYLON.**—The new 1r. 50c. stamp has just received the "On Service" overprint, according to *Le T. Belge*.

**CHINA.**—The *M. J.* chronicles several fresh varieties of the stamps of this country. The ½c. on 3c. orange, 2c. on 2c. green, and 4c. on 4c. rose of the 1897 surcharged set (small figures) have been seen with double surcharge. Of the same issue with large figures the ½c. on 3c. yellow has been found with the error "cen" and also imperf. horizontally. The 2c. on 3c. value of the issue surcharged on revenue stamps has been noted with double surcharge and the one cent on 3c. of the same set is known with "ne" instead of "one."

**HYDERABAD.**—The *M. J.* states that the current 1 anna stamp is now printed in dull black, while the 2 annas value appears in a deep shade of yellow-green.

**MONACO.**—The colour of the 25c. value has been changed from green to blue, so that the 5, 10 and 25c. stamps are now issued in Postal Union colours, viz.:

5c. green.  
10c. rose.  
25c. blue.

**NEW CALEDONIA.**—As was only to be expected "errors" have occurred in the recent surcharged stamps that were issued here. The 15c. on 75c. has appeared with both double and inverted surcharges.

**PARAGUAY.**—A new value—1 cent—has just been added to the current set and the colour of the 5c. has been changed from deep green to brown. On some of the stamps the perforations vary from 11½ to 12½. The set now current consists of the following:—

1c. dark green.  
2c. dull grey.  
3c. light brown.  
5c. brown.  
8c. marone.  
10c. carmine.  
24c. dark blue.

**QUEENSLAND.**—A specimen of the 2d., printed from the new plate of the 1890-4 issue, has been found perf. 12, like the stamps of 1887-9, according to the *M. J.* It is the variety (No. 3 in the block of four) which in the earlier plate has the vertical stroke of the "P" in "PENNY" cutting into the frame of the oval at foot; in the later plates the defect has been corrected, but the other characteristics of that variety remain.

**VICTORIA.**—We are informed that the revenue stamps of this Colony may be used for postage up to the end of this month. The 1/6 value will not be available for postal purposes after June 30th.

## Our Postcard Column.

WILL readers hearing of any interesting item of News, kindly jot it down on a postcard and address to the Editor, "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News," Norwood, London. For every contribution we publish, we will send the author an interesting and newly issued stamp. (N.B.—Postcards preferred.)

*Mr. Norman C. Horwood writes:—*

"On reading the note in *E.W.S.N.*, of March 9th, re 6d. Queensland, 1899 issue, I looked through some duplicates and found the two following minor varieties:—

1.—A small white square attached to the top of left up stroke of the letter "U" in Queensland which almost joins the two strokes together thus making it appear very much like the letter O.

2.—A small coloured dot or circle in the vertical lines on right of figure "6" in top right-hand corner; on the top left hand corner of this same stamp there is a distinct white line or break extending from top of right hand stroke of letter "U" in Queensland to side of figure "6."

There are numerous shades of colour in this stamp from pale yellow green to deep green. It seems to be by far the most roughly printed of the series, there being many white patches and smudges on the ones I have before me."

*Mr. W. Lane Joynt writes:—*

"I send herewith for your inspection a block of eight 50 centimes Morocco Agencies, London print, showing 4 imperfect 'g's.' I don't know if this minor variety has been reported."

[In the block of stamps sent by our correspondent the small serif on the top of the "g" has been broken off on four of the specimens.—ED.]

*Mrs. A. C. Hine contributes the following:—*

"I have a block of four 3d. red, Tasmania, perforated 12 large holes, clean cut. This is very different from the ordinary rough perforation usually found."

*Mr. Daniel Duff writes:—*

"I herewith submit a curious variety of the 5kr. black letter or post-card of Hungary."

[The variety sent us has the corner of the card turned down and part of the stamp is printed on this portion so that when the corner is bent back to its original position, only part of the stamp appears on the face of the card.—ED.]

*Mr. Oswald March contributes a note for envelope collectors:—*

"Some of your readers may be interested to hear that I have recently found a British 1d. stamped envelope size C. on blue laid paper stamped with die 95 dated 1.11.59 and posted at Rickmansworth AP. 16.64. The envelope which has a tongue-shaped flap, with seal, is apparently similar to Gibbons' No. 11a. which is only catalogued dated 1.2.60. Have any readers got any bearing other dates? If so I shall be interested to hear of them."

Under the title of "Stamping it in" *Truth* refers in the lines given below in a somewhat sarcastic manner to the fact that the designs for the new British stamps have been entrusted to a foreign artist:—

New stamps are wanted. Such a chance  
But seldom can occur  
For casting on poor British art  
So undeserved a slur;  
Thus, if you please, Herr Fuchs they choose,  
An Austrian sculptor he,  
To draw our English King!—oh, what  
An excellent decree!

Not seldom has the Treasury,  
Right glad to play its part,  
Brought down its foot full heavily  
On slighted British art;  
But now, as though to emphasise  
Its policy of spite,  
The heavy foot put down before  
It "stamps" with all its might!

## Postmark Notes.

By "DUPLEX."

ON many of the Bolivian stamps a curious obliteration may be found impressed in violet ink, and evidently made with a rubber stamp. This consists of a large double-lined flat oval, having at the top between the lines, "José Tovar," and at the bottom, "Correista Ambulante." In the centre of the mark is a representation of a railway engine. The Editor submitted specimens to Mr. E. Stanjer, who kindly supplied the following information concerning the mark:—"José Tovar, whose stamp appears in place of a postmark on some of the Bolivian stamps, is, I believe, a man authorized by the Government to collect and forward letters in the district of La Paz and Oruro, where the Postal service, on account of the recent rebellion, is still very unreliable. The mark has no particular value."

\* \* \*

Mr. C. B. Aylward sends particulars of two letters which journeyed round the world. Both were franked with only a 1d. stamp and were posted on Dec. 25th, 1898—the first date of the penny Colonial post. The letters traversed their journeys without mishap and no further charge than the 1d. stamps originally put on was made. The first letter was sent by the Eastward route, viz.:—Warrington, Dec. 25th, 1898; Singapore to Hong Kong, Jan. 30th, 1899; San Francisco, March 17th, 1899; Montreal, March 22nd, 1899; Crawley (Sussex, England), April 9th, 1899.

The other letter was sent Westward, viz.:—Warrington, Dec. 25th, 1898; Victoria (British Columbia), Jan. 11th, 1899; Victoria, Jan. 18th, 1899; Hong Kong, Feb. 22nd, 1899; Crawley, March 26th, 1899. It will thus be seen that the letter going by the Eastern route was 105 days on the journey, while the one that travelled Westward was only 91 days.

\* \* \*

Mr. H. Aronson sends me an examiner's mark and asks if I can explain its meaning. It is a small triangular mark, with apex pointing downwards, in which are the letters "G.E." and the number "5." It is impressed in violet ink. I am unable to state what the precise use of this mark is and shall be glad to hear from any readers who can enlighten me on the matter.

\* \* \*

Mr. F. Taylor writes "It would be interesting if you could give some information respecting the rare old "No. 1" postmark, stating at what office it was used, at what period, and why stamps impressed with it are valued so highly." The mark referred to by my correspondent is "No. 1" in a small rectangle which is sometimes found struck on old 1d. blacks and 1d. reds. I shall be glad to hear from readers who can give any information regarding this mark.

\* \* \*

I have found another date postmark from a London district in which the office number appears. The specimen in question has "LONDON S.W." at the top and the office number "56" under the date.

\* \* \*

An interesting "Army Telegraphs" postmark was sent me recently. It is circular in shape and has two parallel lines running across the centre dividing it into three parts. In the top portion is the word "ARMY" with a small semi-circle filled with short lines underneath. The date "15.11.00," with "M" and "H" on either side, occupies the central space. Just above this the name "Machadodorp" is written in ink. The lower portion of the circle contains the word "TELEGRAPHS" with a semi-circle filled with lines above it.

## Jottings.

The inscriptions descriptive of the central designs on the new Pan-American stamps, are not at all plainly lettered and this has led several of our contemporaries to decipher them as "East Express," "East Lake Navigation," &c., instead of "Fast Express," &c., as they really are.

\* \* \*

Mr. G. Harold Green calls our attention to the fact that we have not yet mentioned the British ½d. wrapper stamp in green in the columns of *E.W.S.N.*, although it was issued to the public some weeks ago. The type of stamp is the same and similar buff paper is employed as was the case with the obsolete brown stamps.

**EVERY STAMP COLLECTOR  
SHOULD SUBSCRIBE TO  
EWEN'S WEEKLY STAMP NEWS.**

## Pigeon Post Stamps.

OF all the many local postage stamps that have been issued for various purposes from time to time none perhaps have attracted such general attention as those issued in connection with the "Pigeon Post" established between Great Barrier Island and the mainland of New Zealand. In an article in the *Stamp Collector*, Mr. W. Kühn deals in an interesting manner with the subject and from his remarks we glean the information given here.

The Great Barrier Island is situated about 65 miles north east of Auckland, N.Z., and at present has a population of some 700 souls. Once a week a small steamer travels between Auckland and the Island carrying the mails and general cargo, and as the steamer only waits long enough to land the goods it is by no means an easy matter to reply to correspondence by the same boat. As, besides, there is no cable communication between the Island and the mainland it will be admitted that the ordinary means of intercourse are not all that can be desired. It, therefore, a few years ago behoved the inhabitants to devise some means of sending messages more regularly when necessity arose, and as the result of several experiments the Pigeon Post originated. It appears that the initial idea of a Pigeon Post was due to the fact that when the s.s. Wairarapa was wrecked on the Great Barrier, news of the disaster was sent to Auckland by pigeons and it was thought that if the birds could be taught to fly the distance regularly it would prove of benefit to the inhabitants. Mr. Walter Fricker, of Auckland, made many experiments and at the end of 1897 as a result of his labours the Great Barrier Pigeon Post service became an accomplished fact.

Not much difficulty was encountered in training the birds to fly from the island to the mainland but almost insurmountable obstacles presented themselves in training them from Auckland to the island. This was due to the fact that the island was low-lying and often enveloped in haze, but after much arduous labour the difficulties were overcome and now several birds travel the journey daily.

The pigeons are, of course, carried over by the weekly steamers, and each bird can carry five messages at a time. Messages have to be written on small slips of very thin paper, and these are securely attached to the pigeons leg and protected by a waterproof legging from wet in case the bird should encounter bad weather.

So much for the initial history of this interesting local post, and now for a short account of the stamps themselves. It was not until November, 1898—twelve months after the inauguration of the post—that it was thought necessary to issue stamps, and then a printing of 1800 was made owing to the large increase in the number of messages. The stamps were of the value of 1/-, which amount it cost to send a message by means of the Pigeon Post.

The first issue is of crude design, and was roughly typographed. The centrepiece shows a pigeon holding a letter in its beak. In a scroll above are the words "GREAT BARRIER ISLAND," and below in an ornamental frame is "SPECIAL POST." On either side is placed the value, "ONE SHILLING." The stamps were printed in blue, on white wove paper, and perf. 13.

Shortly afterwards a second issue of more pretentious design was brought out. This was lithographed and was printed in blue-green ink on toned wove paper and roughly perforated 12½. The inscriptions were not altered but a broad fancy border was added and scroll work placed around the wording.

The Postal Authorities of New Zealand objected to the words "SPECIAL POST" and these were overprinted with the word "Pigeongram" thus making a third issue.

Soon after a fourth issue appeared similar to the last but with the word "Pigeongram" incorporated in the design instead of "Special Post."

The stamps are affixed to the thin slips of paper bearing the message and are then obliterated with a circular mark in which "Great Barrier. The Original Pigeongram Service" and the date are arranged in five lines.

Being a private enterprise the question has more than once been raised as to the legality of this Pigeon Post seeing that the Government has the sole monopoly of carrying letters and issuing stamps. However, as far as can be ascertained, the Pigeongram Service is still an active agency.

The first issue of the Pigeon Post stamps has been extensively forged in both the United States and Canada, so the collectors interested in locals would do well to be careful when buying these stamps.

Quite recently a rival Pigeon Post has started and two stamps of triangular shape of the values 6d. and 1/- have been issued in connection with it. The former is printed in blue and the latter in carmine and both are lithographed on white wove paper perf. 11½. The 6d. label prepays postage from the island to the mainland, the 1/- one from Auckland to the island. The reason of the difference in the rates is that the mainland is very much easier for the birds to find than the island.

From all accounts the rival post was established merely for the sake of the profit to be derived from the sale of the stamps.

## Notes from America.

THE expected has happened and stamps of the Pan-American series have appeared with the central design inverted. The 2 cent denomination is the one that points this remark, and there are rumours that the 1 cent in the same condition is in existence. According to some philatelists, it is a matter of regret that errors have appeared so early in the printing of the stamps, but, needless to say, it is those who never hope to be able to get one of these ideal curiosities who complain. It seems that no two-coloured American issue is complete without specimens with the centres inverted.

\* \* \*

Some collectors have amused themselves by manufacturing inverted and transposed centres and sending them through the mails. When the work is done with skill, and the pieces nicely fitted together, it is easy to understand how the postal clerks in their hurry do not detect these mutilated specimens. The interest that such curiosities have is dubious at best, and their intrusion into the mails is a source of embarrassment to the postal officials.

(*Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News.*)

\* \* \*

A young man has offered considerable numbers of Guatemala surcharges to dealers in New York City, some varieties being in entire sheets. As they had read some manuscript regarding the recent counterfeits of the Guatemala surcharges, they interrogated the young man, and he emphatically denied they were counterfeits, but, inasmuch as he offered them at forty cents on the dollar, and the face value is sixty cents, the stamps must be either counterfeits, remainders, or reprints. There is certainly something wrong with them, and they should be left alone until further developments show what the stamps are.

(*The Weekly Philatelic Era.*)

\* \* \*

The wise collector is one who, forecasting the future, makes his plans and buys to that end. There are many countries which are due for a notable rise in values, from the philatelic standpoint and the shrewd collectors are quietly gathering in the stamps and filling spaces while prices are low. Chief among these countries is the United States of America. One of these days collectors who fancy that there is plenty of time to buy will awake to find that the day of 50 per cent. discount on desirable grades of stamps, in good condition, is past and that catalogue value is not a criterion. The supply is notoriously inadequate to go round and when the call comes the price will soar. Then, in my opinion, collectors who put money into good stamps of the Danish West Indies, the conservative South American countries, such as Uruguay, Brazil, Chile, also Iceland, Finland, Japan, Roumania, the Australias, and others, will have no occasion to regret the investment. Pick out a country that seems temporarily overlooked and complete it while the prices are within reach. One of these days it will have its "day" and then you can buy something else while the other fellows scramble to get the stamps at high prices and wonder why they waited.

(*The Metropolitan Philatelist.*)

\* \* \*

The following decidedly unique advertisement recently appeared in the columns of a French journal:—

Matrimony:—A collector of postage stamps possessing 12,544 specimens desires to contract a marriage with a young lady, also a collector who has the blue Mauritius penny stamp of 1847. No other need apply.

Methinks that unless this collector changes his ideas concerning the qualifications necessary in a wife, he is destined to remain a bachelor all his days. There are but eight copies know of the blue 2p Mauritius 1847, and not one of them is owned by a "young lady," so unless some forlorn and lonesome damsel should purchase one on purpose to make herself eligible there is small likelihood of his advertisement eliciting a single reply. Of course it is possible a yet unknown copy of the stamp may be in existence, but in view of its well known rarity and value this is hardly probable.

(Miss A. L. Swift in the *Adhesive*.)

**FOREIGN ARRIVALS.**

(NOTE.—Most foreign stamps are almost as good an investment in mint unused condition as those issued by British Colonies, if purchases are made with care, and countries like Abyssinia, Persia, Nicaragua, Honduras, etc., are ignored. That there is a good market for unused foreigners is evidenced by the fact that a collection consisting entirely of unused Europeans recently sold for £30,000.)

- France, 1901 types.
  - 1c. grey, with millésime 0, nett 1d.
  - 2c. purple " " 0 " 2d.
  - 3c. orange " " 0 " 2d.
  - 4c. brown " " 0 " 2d.
  - 5c. green " " 1 " 2d.
  - Set of 5—1, 2, 3, 4, 5c. (without millésime), nett 3d.
  - Set of 5, ditto, in blocks of four, 10d.
- Port Said, surcharged on French, old type.
  - 1c. black on blue, pair with mill. 0, nett 2d.
- China, surcharged on French, old type.
  - 5c. yellow-green, pair with mill. 0, nett 3d.
- France, 1901 types.
  - 30c. lilac, nett, 4d.
  - 40c. red and blue, nett 6d.
  - 50c. brown and grey, nett 7d. (used, 2d.)
- France, "Chiffre Taxe"
  - 1c. black, 5c. blue, 10c. brown, set of 3, nett 3d.
- Belgium, unpaid.
  - Set of 5, 5, 10, 20, 50c. 1fr., nett 1/11.
- Belgium, Sunday stamps.
  - Set of ten, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 25, 35, 50c., 1, 2fr., nett, 4/5.
- Luxemburg, 1fr. violet, (old type), nett 2/-; 5fr. orange-brown (old type), nett 5/10.
- Denmark, new 24 öre, brown, nett 5d.
- Sweden, new 15 öre, brown, nett 3d.
  - New 25 öre, orange, nett 5d.
- Finland, 1901, 1 markka, nett 1/3.
- Finland, 1889 type, 2, 5, 10, 20, 25p., 1m., set of 6, 2/3.
- Hungary, 1900, values in filléres.
  - 25f., blue and black, nett 4d.
  - 30f., brown and black, nett 4d.
  - 50f., lake and black, nett 6d.
  - 60f., green and black, nett 8d.
- Roumania, 5, 10, 15 bani, set of three, 4d.
- Greece, Small Head of Mercury.
  - 1 lepton, brown, 1d.; block of 4, 1d.
  - 2 lepta, bistre, 1d.; block of 4, 2d.
  - 5 " green, 1d.; block of 4, 3d.
  - 10 " orange, 2d.; block of 4, 6d.
- Greek Provisionals, surcharged on old types.
  - Large Head of Mercury.*
    - 30 on 40 lepta, 5d.\*
    - 40 on 2 " 5d.\*
    - 50 on 40 " buff, 6d.\*
    - 3dr. on 10 lepta, 2/9.
    - 5dr. on 40 lepta, lilac on blue, 3/9.
  - \*NOTE.—Pairs can be supplied, showing wide and narrow "O," 1/- each.
  - Small Head of Mercury.*
    - 1dr. on 40 lepta, violet, 1/- (imperf.)
    - 2dr. on 40 " " 1/9 (perf. 13).
  - Olympian Games (Axia Metalliki).*
    - 25l. on 40 lepta, nett 5d.
    - 50l. on 2dr. stone, nett 10d.
    - 1dr. on 5dr. green, nett 1/3.
    - 2dr. on 10dr. brown, nett 2/6.
- Cuba, pictorial set, 1, 2, 3, 5, 10c., nett 1/3.
- Sweden, low values, 1, 2, 3, 4 öre, set of 4, 2d.
- Siam, 1901, head to left.
  - 2 atts, bright green, nett 1d.; block of 4, 3d.
- Siam provisional, 3 on 12 atts, 1½d. each.
- Japan, new, 1½ sen blue, 1d. each; block of 4, 3d.
- Bolivia, 1899, used, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20c., set of 5, 6d.
- Bolivia, 10c. orange, nett 1d. (used).
- " 20c. rose (cat. 6d.), nett 2d. (used).
- Bolivia, surch. "EF 1899" on 1894 issue (used).
  - 5c. violet on green, nett 2d.
  - 10c. violet on brown, nett 3d.
- Chile, old type, 15c. green, fine, used, 2d.
  - 20c. slate-grey, fine, used, 1d.
  - 5c. on 30c. carmine, used, 2d.
  - 1 peso, black and brown, used, fine, 8d.
- Chile, 1900, new 5c. blue, 10c. lilac, 1d. each (used).
- Costa Rica, old 10 and 20c. (1892), nett 2d. (used).
- " new 10 and 20c. (1901), nett 5d. (used).
- Ecuador, 10c. lilac and black, used, 4d.
- " 10c. blue and black, used, 4d.
- Mexico, 1900, new 5, 10, 15, 20c., set of 4, nett 5d. (used).

**WHOLESALE.**

**LOW VALUES IN DOZENS.**

(All in mint unused blocks, unless otherwise described. Panes or sheets have margin on all four sides.)

	PER DOZ.
France, new 1c. (pane of 25, 4d.)	2d.
" " 2c. ( " 25, 8d.)	4d.
" " 3c. ( " 25, 1/-)	6d.
" " 4c. ( " 25, 1/3)	8d.
" " 5c. ( " 25, 1/6)	9d.
Port Said, 1c. blk. on blue (pane of 25, 4d.)	2d.
China on France, 5c. green (pane of 25, 1/6)	9d.
Belgium, Sunday Stamp, 1c. grey	2d.
Spain, 1901, new 25c. blue	3/-.

	PER DOZ.
Luxemburg, 1895, 1c. grey	2d.
" " 2c. grey-brown	4d.
" " 4c. olive-yellow	8d.
" " 5c. green	9d.
" " 1c., perf., 'OFFICIEL'	2d.
Denmark, 3 öre, grey and blue	7d.
" 4 " blue and grey	10d.
" 5 " green	11d.
Norway, 1898, 1 öre, drab (sheet 100, 1/9)	3d.
" 2 öre, brown ( " 3/-)	6d.
" 3 " orange ( " 4/3)	8d.
" 5 " green	11d.
Sweden, 1892, 1 öre, brown and blue	3d.
" 2 " blue and yellow	5d.
" 3 " brown and orange	7d.
" 4 " carmine and blue	9d.
Austria, 1 heller, violet	2d.
" 2 " grey	4d.
" 3 " brown	6d.
" 5 " green	9d.
" 6 " orange	11d.
Hungary, 1900, 1f. grey (sheet 100, 1/3)	2d.
" 2 filler, bistre ( " 2/4)	4d.
" 3 " orange ( " 3/6)	6d.
" 4 " lilac ( " 4/6)	8d.
" 5 " green ( " 5/5)	9d.
" 6 " purple ( " 6/3)	11d.
Bosnia, 1900, 1h. black (perf. 12½)	2d.
" 2 heller grey ( " 10½)	4d.
" 3 " orange ( " 12½)	6d.
" 5 " green ( " 12½)	9d.
" 6 " brown ( " 10½)	11d.
Bulgaria, 1 stot lilac	2d.
" 2 " grey	4d.
" 3 " brown	6d.
" 5 on 3 stot brown	10d.

**Want Lists.**

THE Editor of *E.W.S.N.* is in want of the following British Colonial stamps for his private collection, and should any readers have duplicates, would be glad to see such on approval. Mint well-centred copies only.

- Great Britain, 2/- brown.
- Heligoland, 1 mark, green, rose and black.
- Antigua, 2½d. red-brown.
- Bahamas, 4d. rose, 6d. violet.
- Barbados, (4d.), red, rose; 3d. brown (1873); 6d. red (1850).
- Bermuda, 3d. buff (1873).
- British Guiana, 1860, 1c. rose; 1863, 6c. blue.
- " " 1876, 2, 4, 8, 12, 24, 48, 96c.
- Grenada, 1881, 2½d. rose, 4d. blue.
- St. Lucia, 1860, 4d. blue; 1883, 1s. orange.
- " 1883, 1d. rose; 1886, 6d. lilac.
- St. Vincent, 1866, 1/- grey.
- Tobago, 4d. green, 1880.
- Trinidad, 1/- blue, Britannia type.
- " 10/- green and blue.
- Turks Islands, 1/- lilac.
- Virgin Islands, 1/- rose, 1867; ¼d. and 1d. green.
- British East Africa, 2, 3, 4, 5 rupees (large types).
- Gold Coast, £1 green and rose.
- Mauritius, Post Paid, 1d. red, 2d. blue.
- " 1856, 2d. blue; Greek border, 2d.
- " 1860, 1d. lilac, 9d. green, 1s. green.
- Zululand, £1 and £5 lilac on red.
- Hong Kong, 48c. brown, 96c. brown, 96c. grey.
- India, 1854, ¼a. red; 1874, 2a. green.
- Labuan, first colours, 2c., 6c., 8c., 12c., 16c.
- North Borneo, all first issue.
  - " \$25 blue, 1894.
  - " \$10 brown, 1889.
- Johore, head to right, 4c., 5c., 6c.
- Perak, \$3, \$10, \$20.
- Selangor, \$10.
- New South Wales, 3d. Sydney View (used).
- " " 8d. laureated (used).
- New Zealand, full face, all.
  - " " Pictorial, London prints, all above 2½d.
- Queensland, 1882, 2/- blue.
- South Australia, £5 grey.
- Tasmania, 1870, 4d. blue.
  - " 1891, £1 green and yellow.
- Tonga, all except Pictorials.
- Victoria, 1862, 6d. orange.
- Western Australia, 4d. blue, 1860.
  - " " 4d. red (not rose), 1861.

Irreproachable specimens only are wanted. In most cases above are wanted to replace used or only fair unused examples. The Editor takes no account whatever of perforation, watermark, surcharge, etc. An imperforate copy will do as well as one perforated, and an unwatermarked example as well as one with watermark. For brilliant copies, full catalogue (or more) will in many cases be willingly paid.

Lists of wants are also being continually received from readers of *E.W.S.N.* (including many of the leading collectors,) thus giving the Colonial Stamp Market unrivalled opportunities of disposing of anything good. For early unused British Colonials, if mint, the Colonial Market has a particularly large demand and can generally 'place' anything, however costly. Readers are invited to submit duplicates and should no purchase result, the Colonial Market will willingly pay the return postage and registration. Offers cannot be made, except under special circumstances. The following are a few of the want lists now on file.

- 2662. Wants following English with "Copestake, Moore, Crampton & Co.," printed on back, viz.:—¼d. red, 1½d. red, 6d. lilac, 1/- green, and 1d. venetian red. Also wants 1d. red (stars), 1d. venetian red, 1d. lilac, 14 and 16 dots with "O U S" overprint.
- 2693. Wants fine used copies of Zululand 5/- on English.
- 2726. Wants mint copy of 2/- brown, Great Britain.
- 2728. Great Britain, 1883 issue, 2/6 lilac, 5/- rose, and 10/- blue on blue paper, wanted unused.
- 2730. Unused 10d. brown, and 2/- blue, English wanted.
- 2747. English control letters, ¼d. vermilion A and B; 1d. lilac A, B, D and G.
- 2762. All varieties of Fiji.
- 2769. Great Britain, 1883, mint side pairs of 2½d., 3d. and 4d.
- 2776. Fiji, 5d. on 4d. mauve, in figures.
- 2781. Dominica, C.C. 14, 6d. and 1/- wanted.
- 2792. Grenada, 6d. vermilion, wmk. star.
- 2793. Tonga, unused. Gibbons' Nos. 14, 15, 45, 46, 103, 104 and 105 wanted.
- 2794. Fiji. The following Nos. from Gibbons' catalogue wanted especially unused:—17 to 37, 67, 69b, 81a, and 88.
- 2795. New South Wales, surcharged "O.S." The following wanted;—Gibbons' Nos. 502, 507, 508, 570, 571, 572, 574, 589, 590, 592, 594, 595 and 596.
- 2796. Great Britain. Used copies of 1½d. and 2½d. errors of lettering wanted.
- 2797. Fine used copies of the 10/- and £1 Cross Great Britain.
- 2798. Freaks and errors of any stamp. British stamps with double letters, etc.
- 2800. Any Colonial stamps of the Perkins, Bacon line-engraved types, in pairs or blocks.
- 2801. Used 1d., 1½d. and 2d. English in quantity

**Collections for Sale.**

WE have the following useful collections for sale *en bloc*, at exceptionally low prices. Any collection can be sent on approval:—

**Mauritius.**—Collection of 183, of which 79 are pence issues, and 66 are surcharged. The latter include three fine unused copies of the "2 cents" surcharged in red on 13c. grey, and amongst the former are eleven with the watermark "Crown and CC" inverted. Counting these latter as only ordinary varieties, the catalogue value of the 183 stamps is £9 19s. 6d., and the collection is offered at the bargain rate of £4 15s.

**Iceland.**—A very nice lot of 80, of which 35 are unused. There are two fine used copies of the 40 aur. green (cat. 5/-), two of the 8sk. lilac (cat. 10/- each) and one of the 16sk. orange; also an unused copy of the 2sk. blue. Catalogue value of the lot, £5 1s. 3d. Nett price 65/-

**Hungary.**—Collection of 83, including 2, 5 and 10kr. lithographed. Catalogued 42/-, nett 22/-.

**Italy.**—A fine lot of about 650, including Sardinian types with inverted heads, various values, and three used 5 lire, green and rose. Catalogued over £15. Nett 95/- only, a bargain.

**Bavaria.**—Collection of 280, types of 1867 and later only. The imperf. krenzer issue is well represented, as also the perforated 9, 10 and 18kr. values. Catalogued £5 17s. 1d., nett for 56/- only.

**Portugal.**—Fine series of about 300, including 10 first issue (two 5 reis and two 50 reis), three 100 reis second issue, four fine 1,000 reis, black, etc., etc. Catalogued about £24, nett for £8 15s. od. One of the cheapest lots ever offered.

**Great Britain.**—Old issues, unused, in blocks. Comprising 701 1d. reds (all mint), two blocks of four each 1d. 14 dots, block of 4, 6d. grey, plate 18; block of 12, 6d. grey, plate 17; and 132 various, (mostly postal fiscals). Catalogue value of the 857 stamps about £45. The collection nett, for £23 10s. od. The five blocks of 1d. red plate numbers are alone worth this.

## Approval Selections.

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Each stamp in the above selections is priced separately. When ordering any particular country or countries it is advisable to state whether used or unused are wanted, and whether a general selection is required, or one showing perforation and watermark varieties.

#### CONDITIONS.

- 1.—Stamps can only be sent on approval on condition that those not purchased are returned within five days.
- 2.—No stamps may be removed from the sheets or books until actually purchased.
- 3.—Collectors are not permitted to deduct return postage from amount of purchase.
- 4.—Discount is conditional on purchase exceeding 1/- and will be forfeited if selection is kept over the five days allowed.

- 5.—Spaces should not be marked.
  - 6.—Sheets should be returned folded as sent.
  - 7.—When a selection is returned, another will be sent unless otherwise requested.
- N.B.—We hope collectors will assist us by observing the above very reasonable conditions and we will in return make it our endeavour to send out only the finest possible copies at the lowest possible quotations.

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With which is incorporated EWEN'S WEEKLY CIRCULAR. (Established October, 1897.)

A JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

THE ONLY WEEKLY STAMP PAPER PUBLISHED IN EUROPE.

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## The Week's News.

It is said that the ½d. green stamp of the pictorial issue of Tasmania is now obsolete and no more will be printed as the cost of production is too heavy. The old type of ½d. purple and orange will, therefore, be used in future.

\* \* \*

The new issue of postage stamps for India will most probably be very similar to those now in use with the exception of the sovereign's head. Our Indian contemporary considers this a very wise decision and expresses a hope that the stamps of that country will not be adorned with a diminutive head like that on most of the current English stamps.

\* \* \*

A great reduced tariff for inland parcels has been sanctioned in India and the *Philatelic Journal of India* opines that this will bring about a greatly increased demand for 6 annas stamps. As the stock in hand of this value is stated to be very small, our contemporary thinks it not unlikely that the first Indian stamps to be issued with King Edward's portrait will be those of the 6 annas value. At the same time it is stated that the alteration in the parcel post rates will create a demand for 10 and 14 annas stamps and it seems quite possible that it will be found necessary to issue those values before long.

\* \* \*

Another British forgery has been detected, to wit the 2½d. lilac-rose, plate 17. The *S.C.F.* gives a description, from which we learn that the faker obtained copies of plate 7 of the same stamp, skilfully drew a "1" in front of the "7," and thus transformed a stamp catalogued at 2d. into one catalogued at 4/-. Mr. C. Nissen discovered the forgery, which is stated to be dangerous, inasmuch as it would occur to but few collectors to suspect such a swindle. The most noticeable feature by which the forgery is betrayed is that the "1" used by the forger is too long. In other respects, it cleverly matches the originals.

\* \* \*

The following, which appeared in the last issue of the *Australian Philatelist*, reads quite like a romance:—"Amongst some good Australians, our publisher purchased a pair of New South Wales 3d. Laureates; these were a few hours later offered to a customer for 9/-. He however refused them. When the salesman turning them over saw they were watermarked "2," the price was then £50, about the quickest advance in price on record, we think, and the esteemed customer for several days was like Rachel mourning for her children.

\* \* \*

Stamp Collectors should be filled with gratitude on learning that the ½d. stamp with portrait of the Duke of Cornwall and York which was to have been issued to commemorate the Royal visit to Australia is not to be printed after all, although the design was prepared.

\* \* \*

The Sydney Philatelic Club, of which His Royal Highness has become patron, has decided to present an address and collection of Australian stamps to the Duke as a suitable souvenir of his visit to Sydney. The collection will probably be restricted to the stamps of New South Wales and it is hoped that a fairly representative collection of the stamps of this State will be formed. It is certain the Duke of Cornwall and York will greatly appreciate the compliment.

## New Issues.

The Editor will be much obliged for early news of New Issues or intended New Issues or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors. Full acknowledgment given. If possible, specimens should be sent in order that illustrations may be prepared.

**BOLIVIA.**—According to *Le C. de T. P.* a new issue, containing portraits, somewhat similar to the new stamps of Costa Rica, has appeared here. The colours and values are as follows:—  
1c. green; Camacho.  
5c. red; Campero.  
10c. blue; Ballivian.  
20c. violet; Santa-Cruz.  
2bol. brown; Arms of the State.

**BULGARIA.**—Of the recently issued provisionals the 5 stot. on 3 stot. is perf. 12½, while the 10 on 50 stot. is perf. 13½. The following are the numbers issued according to the *M.C.*:—  
5 stot. on 3 stot. .. 200,000.  
10 " on 50 " .. 129,000.

**CURACAO.**—According to the *M.C.*, the 50 cents, green and black, Postage Due stamp of the current type has at last been issued. The set is, therefore, now complete, with the exception of the 40c. value.

**ECUADOR.**—Colour changes are still the order of the day here. In addition to the values already chronicled, the 50 centavos and 1 sucre stamps have had their colours altered to pale blue and black, and brown and black, respectively. The list in altered colours up to date is:—

1 centavo,	scarlet and black.
2 centavos,	green " "
5 " "	grey " "
10 " "	blue " "
20 " "	lilac " "
50 " "	pale blue " "
1 sucre,	brown " "

**GUAM.**—As it has been definitely decided not to surcharge any more United States stamps for use in this possession, the following list of the quantities of each value printed, given on the authority of *Mekeel's Weekly*, may be of interest: 1 cent, 35,000; 2c., 105,000; 3c., 5,000; 4c., 5,000; 5c., 20,000; 6c., 5,000; 8c., 5,000; 10c., 10,000; 15c., 5,000; 50c., 4,000; 1 dollar, 3,000; and Special Delivery, 5,000—a grand total of 207,000 stamps.

**HONG KONG.**—Several of our contemporaries state that the 30 cents value in chocolate has been issued, but the 5c. yellow is not likely to be placed on sale just yet owing to the large stock of that value in blue which still remains to be used up.

**MONACO.**—The issuing of the 5c., 10c. and 25c. values in Postal Union colours has necessitated a change of colour in the 15c. stamp. This is now printed in brown instead of rose to prevent confusion with the 10c. value.

**NICARAGUA.**—Three values of the Asenjo postage due set—5c. blue, 10c. violet, and 20c. brown—have been surcharged "Correos" above and "1901" below the figures of value presumably to be used as postage stamps.

**SHANGHAI.**—The *Monthly Journal* chronicles several hitherto unlisted varieties. The 1 candareen, brown, of the 1867 issue has been found with a dot after the figure "1." A new variety evidently belonging to the 1873 surcharged set has been discovered, viz:—"1 CAND" in grey-black on the 3c. orange-yellow of 1867. The 40c. brown of the 1885-6 issue exists with surcharge "20CASH" in black instead of blue while a copy of the same stamp has been seen with similar surcharge in a frame but in red and inverted. Of the Postage Due issues the 2c. brown, perf. 12, watermarked, has been found with the surcharge vertical reading upwards.

**URUGUAY.**—On the authority of *Der Philatelist* we chronicle the following values of the new issue surcharged "OFICIAL" diagonally in black. All are stated to have been issued in March last, and the quantities printed are also given:—

1 centesimo	green	..	100,000	printed.
2 centesimos	vermilion	..	100,000	"
5 " "	dark blue	..	100,000	"
7 " "	orange	..	50,000	"
10 " "	purple	..	50,000	"
20 " "	blue	..	10,000	"
25 " "	sepia	..	30,000	"
1 peso	green	..	5,000	"

## Our Postcard Column.

WILL readers hearing of any interesting item of News, kindly jot it down on a postcard and address to the Editor, "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News," Norwood, London. For every contribution we publish, we will send the author an interesting and newly issued stamp. (N.B.—Postcards preferred.)

Mr. F. Taylor writes:—

"The stamps of Queensland are a very fruitful field for the student of freaks and curiosities. One of the most curious of the stamps of this country that has come under my notice is a 2d. blue of the 1890 issue, which I send for your inspection herewith. In this specimen you will notice that not only is the 'LA' joined, but there is a distinct 'V' shaped gap in the border, just below the 'o' of 'two.'"

Mr. W. T. Elliot contributes the following:—

"I have recently noted an interesting variety in the 1877-79 issues of the stamps of Cuba. In the top border of these stamps is the word, 'ULTRAMAR,' and the date, with a small dot between. The dot varies greatly in size, from a mere speck to about as big as the head of a pin. Amongst a lot of more than 600 of these stamps I examined, I found three without the slightest trace of the dot showing, viz.:—the 25c. green of 1877, 25c. green of 1878, and 5c. black of 1879. From this, I conclude that all values of these dates may be found without dots."

## The Boers' Last Stamps.

ANOTHER surprise in the way of War Provisionals has now come from South Africa, and this time it is the wily Boer who is the offender. In a recent issue the *Daily Graphic* gave an illustration of a crudely made stamp which was stated to be one of the last set of postage stamps issued by the Boers. From the text accompanying the illustration we gather the information given here.

It appears that up to April 9th last the so-called Boer Government were practically in possession of the whole of the Northern Transvaal and as they still maintained a number of post offices and had a more or less regular mail service in the district they occupied they found it necessary to issue a set of postage stamps. It is said that their old stamps were all used up by the end of last year and for a little time after they tried to get along without any. However, the Boers found this wouldn't work as they lost all check upon the officials, who were receiving no salary. They, therefore, decided that a set of postage stamps was indispensable, so the printing office in Pietersburg, their headquarters, was instructed to print stamps. Previously the printing office had issued paper money for the Boer Government and the gentleman who gloried in the distinction of being controller of paper money was also appointed controller of stamps. As he had to initial every single stamp issued, he, presumably, didn't think much of the job and found that even glory had its drawbacks.

The stamps are roughly type set and consist of six values—½d., 1d., 2d., 4d., 6d. and 1/-. The inscription in the border on each side is "Z. AFR. REB.," at the top is "POSTZEGEL," and at the base "1901." The value, with an ornamental border around, is in the centre and in part of this space the controller wrote his initials.

The stamps are printed in black on red paper, and may be found both imperf. and perforated. The perforations are very roughly done, as may be imagined, and the whole appearance of the stamps is crude in the extreme.

The printing office being much pressed couldn't issue the stamps until about the middle of March. About £500 worth were printed but were not all issued, a quantity being burned when the British troops arrived at Pietersburg on April 9th.

It is said that the printing blocks were broken up, and the office was blown to pieces and all the type destroyed.

The Boers will not be able to issue any more stamps as now they have neither paper nor printing press left.

## Postmark Notes.

By "DUPLEX."

SOME interesting envelopes from South Africa have been sent me for inspection by Mr. J. T. Cricks. One of the envelopes is franked with a 1d. Orange River Colony V.R.I. stamp and the other bears a current 1d. English stamp. Both stamps are obliterated by a mark similar to the accompanying illustration having the number "777" in the central rectangle. This type of obliteration really belongs to Cape Colony and it is curious that it should be impressed on letters that have evidently been posted in the Orange River Colony. From what I have been able to find out the late O.F.S. Government never employed this type of numbered postmark. The only one ever used by them bearing any similarity to this mark was much smaller in size and had the letters "B.E." in the rectangle. It was a special mark used at Bloemfontein.



Some time ago I was puzzled by finding stray specimens of Transvaal stamps, obliterated with this numbered obliteration, but was unable to obtain any evidence to show that the mark was impressed in the Transvaal. I then inferred that the stamps had escaped cancellation in the offices where posted in the Transvaal and were then obliterated in one of the Cape Colony offices. In the present instance, however, it seems probable that the stamp has been taken from one of the Cape of Good Hope offices and is used by one of the many Army P.O.'s instead of the usual Field Post Office cancellation.

Mr. Cricks also sends a 1d. V.R.I. Orange River Colony post card obliterated in the same manner by this "777" mark. Over this cancellation a Field Post Office B.O. mark has been struck. This latter is a base office mark, and it would appear that the officials, whose duty it is to check the army correspondence at the base, did not think the "777" cancellation was correct, so further obliterated the stamp with their special mark. It is curious, however, that the two letters bearing this mark passed without comment.



The same correspondent sends a St. Christopher stamp on which the obliterating date-mark shews the year "Lz" inverted. This is curious, as it shows that each figure was inverted separately instead of both together, as is generally the case with these misplaced dates.

With regard to the "LONDON N.W." mark in which the letters appear in white on a black background, which I referred to lately in this column, Mr. Cricks writes "do you think it has been cancelled in error with the stamp used for impressing the sealing wax on the registered bag? It is the only one of the kind I have seen and unless there are more in existence this is the only way I can account for it."

Mr. W. H. Clarke describes two Colonial marks he has recently received. One of these is from India and shews the letters "R.M.S." enclosed by numerous parallel lines. The other is from Canada and consists of the words "RETURNED FOR POSTAGE" in two lines. Any explanation as to the meaning of these marks will be welcomed.

The same correspondent calls my attention to the following paragraph which appears in the Post Office circular for May 21st:—"It appears that applications are occasionally made by members of the public for impressions of Post Office date stamps; and the attention of Postmasters, Sub-postmasters and other officers concerned is therefore called to the fact. The use of the official date stamp in any way not prescribed in the official instructions is regarded as a serious irregularity."

Mr. Clarke also describes two Newspaper Branch cancellations he has received which shew the letters "U" and "V" respectively and asks for an explanation as to the meaning of these letters. Well, these letters may have a variety of uses. They may be intended to denote particular batches of mail matter dealt with by the N.P.B.; they may shew, to the officials concerned, the time the packages were despatched; or again they may be merely a stamper's distinctive letter.

Several items have unavoidably to be held over until next week.

## The Grand Old Stamp of Philately.

[In our issue of January 12th we reprinted from the *Australian Journal of Philately* a very interesting article, by Mr. A. F. Basset Hull, entitled, "The G.O.S. of Philately," and claiming that honour, "by right of long service and beauty of design," for the five-penny of New South Wales. In our issue of February 9th, "K" contributed a friendly criticism of Mr. Basset Hull's article, writing, "I am not sure as to exact dates, but am much inclined to think that at least four current Colonial stamps have quite as much right to the title of 'G.O.S. of Philately' as Mr. Basset Hull's favourite five-penny. The 3d. green, N.S.W., and 9d., 1/- and 2/-, S.A., are all of about the same age, and are, in my opinion, of far greater interest, the former from the numerous errors of watermark, and the three latter from the varieties and combinations of roulette and perforation which they possess, in addition to all the other good qualities which are claimed for their larger rival." The Editor of the *Australian Journal of Philately*, it seems, brought this criticism under Mr. Basset Hull's notice, and he replied to it as follows.—ED., *E.W.S.N.*]

The correspondent "K" of the *E.W.S.N.* has entirely missed the motive of my article and the meaning of the title—whereat I am grieved, for I thought both were sufficiently obvious! He claims for the 3d. green, N.S.W., and the 9d., 1/-, and 2/-, S.A., equal right to the title "G.O.S. of Philately," as they "are all of about the same age," and, in his opinion, of far greater interest.

Now here is the point at which he apparently lost the track of the title. He omits all mention of the "grand" attribute. I used this term in all its comprehensiveness to indicate the unusual size, the "grandeur" of conception in design and execution in engraving. The examples claimed by "K" to be equals of the Fivepenny are none of them out of the ordinary in size, and are all of designs common to dozens, if not hundreds of other stamps. While the 2/- of S.A. is certainly a handsome stamp, it is merely an exact copy of the 1 cent Nova Scotia, and owes much of its beauty to its rich colouring. The 9d. S.A. is one of the least attractive and poorest in design of the whole family of steel engraved stamps. The 3d. (diadem) N.S.W. is merely a finely executed copy of the laureated stamp, which in its turn was simply an adaptation of the 1d. of Great Britain. To none of the cases quoted by "K" could the term "grand" be applied with the same measure of appropriateness as to the Five pence.

Then as to the term "old." "K" (unhappy and illprovided "K") says that he had not access to a catalogue when he wrote, and consequently was not "quite sure as to the exact dates;" but this is neither reason nor even excuse for writing on a subject of which he admits himself to be ignorant. The Five pence was issued on the 1st December, 1855. The oldest of "K's" examples is the 3d. N.S.W., which did not see the light of sunny New South Wales until the 10th of October in the following year. The 1/- South Australia first appeared in its original gamboge yellow shade on the 8th July, 1857; the 9d. followed on the 24th December, 1860, and the 2/- is a comparative infant, dating only from 24th January, 1867. Hence, although the term old may apply fairly well to the first two, they are both considerably younger than the Five pence, which occupies absolutely and indefeasibly the position of the oldest stamp in the world alive (current) in this year of grace, 1901. It is nearly 46 years of age—a "green" old age it enjoys too!

"K" claims the "numerous errors" of watermark in the 3d., and the varieties and combination of roulette and perforation which characterise the other three stamps, as virtues "additional to all the other good qualities which are claimed for their larger rival." The 3d. certainly has two intentional "errors" of watermark—6 and 10—both of which resulted from the temporary exhaustion of the usual paper, and the Fivepence (alas!) has never borne any "error" of watermark. But neither errors, roulettes, nor vagaries of perforation can by any stretching of the imagination be claimed to add either age or grandeur to a stamp.

No, friend "K," your examples are all sweetly interesting objects of philatelic regard, but to one stamp alone, to that aged, revered, time-honoured, magnificent creation of an extinct school of engraving, that splendidly proportioned, grandly conceived, finely executed, richly coloured, beautifully kalizoic, soul-satisfying Five-pence, belongs the exclusive right to the title of the G.O.S. OF PHILATELY.

EVERY STAMP COLLECTOR  
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## Notes from America.

REPORTS of the finding of 2c. Pan-American stamps with inverted centres have been circulating lately and no doubt others will turn up before long. No less than four communications have been received by the Department in regard to finds of 2c. stamps with the centre inverted. In New York, Brooklyn, Utica and a Massachusetts town such finds are reported to have been made. One of the writers had received one on a letter, while the others reported finds in unused stamps.

Special care is said to have been exercised by the Bureau to prevent this from the very beginning, but it seems to be almost impossible to avoid it, when more than a million sheets have to be printed. Of course most of them are discovered and thrown out by the examiners, but one is sure to slip through occasionally. Still, when one considers that the stamps are counted and handled no less than 20 times and that they are subjected to three examinations it is surprising that they should slip through at all. They will have to be overlooked by the girl who takes them from the presses, the examiner before they are gummed and in the final examination. The reports of these finds have now resulted in renewed instructions to the employes to be more careful and the probability of more being overlooked and getting into circulation is now more remote. Still there are plenty of chances for more, as possibly two-thirds of the entire supply have already been printed. The 1c. inverted has likewise been reported found at Boston.

The Danish West Indies has been one of the most popular countries with collectors lately. This country presents quite a field for research to the specialist. There are a number of very distinct shades in the commoner varieties. No less than ten different ones of the 3c. were picked out by a collector a few days ago. In each one either the red or the gray was different from any of the others.

There are also two quite distinct varieties of gum in the first issue. The 3c. dark carmine is found with dark brown as well as yellow gum, giving the stamp quite a distinct appearance. A good many collectors are collecting this country in blocks of four.

(Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News).

The first information received at the Post Office Department relative to the discovery of the inverted one and four cents Pan-American stamps came through the *Metropolitan* correspondent. The officials of the stamp division said they had heard a rumour of the finding of the inverted one cent, but nothing authentic. The news of the four cents was not only fresh news but was entirely unexpected. There were some exclamations of regret and the hope was also expressed that no more errors might be found. The Post Office Department is entirely powerless in the matter. The stamps do not come into the Post Office building at all, except to be registered, after having been packed and addressed. The Post Office Department has an agent in the Bureau who oversees to the counting and checking, but the Post Office Department officials have nothing to do, in detail, with the stamps.

(The Metropolitan Philatelist).

## Questions.

A MINT COPY of the new 5/- postage stamp of Victoria (old design in new colours, rose and blue) will be given to the reader of *E.W.S.N.* who sends the best set of replies to the following seven questions before Wednesday next, mid-day (June 19th):

- 1.—Which is the largest adhesive postage stamp ever issued?
- 2.—Which do you consider the two hand-somest stamps yet issued?
- 3.—Which adhesive postage stamp has been in use the longest time? Is the record broken by any stamp now obsolete?
- 4.—Which six postage stamps do you consider to have the least value in a used condition?
- 5.—How many different face values over 1/- and under 5/- are to be found on postage stamps? Only stamps with values expressed in British currency are eligible.
- 6.—The "Post Office" Mauritius 1d. and 2d. stamps are estimated to be worth from £2,000 to £2,500 the pair, at present. What do you think a set will be worth in ten years' time (1911)?
- 7.—Which stamp now in current use in Great Britain or Colonies do you consider will be the most valuable in ten years' time?



# Approval Selections.

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Each stamp in the above selections is priced separately. When ordering any particular country or countries it is advisable to state whether used or unused are wanted, and whether a general selection is required, or one showing perforation and watermark varieties.

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# Ewen's Weekly Stamp News.

With which is incorporated EWEN'S WEEKLY CIRCULAR. (Established October, 1897.)

A JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

THE ONLY WEEKLY STAMP PAPER PUBLISHED IN EUROPE.

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## The Week's News.

Writing with regard to the new King Edward stamps Mr. J. T. Crowther states: "The reply given by Mr. Ausfen Chamberlain to the enquiries as to the design for the new stamps having been given to an Austrian artist, Mr. Fuchs, by no clears up the matter. The Minister's statement that the King had chosen a portrait of himself which had been painted last year, would, if taken by itself, refer to a portrait by Mr. Orchardson, which was, as far as I can learn, the only portrait of His Majesty painted last year."

\* \* \*

The "Optimist," in his usual weekly contribution to the *Metropolitan Philatelist*, advises collectors to complete their sets of surcharged Philippines while the stamps are still current. It is said that the time may not be far distant when these surcharged stamps will be superseded by the regular unsurcharged series. Directly civil government is established in the Philippines the postal affairs of the Islands will be placed under the control of the United States Post Office Department, as was the case with Hawaii, Guam, and Porto Rico, and ordinary United States stamps will be used instead of the present surcharged set.

\* \* \*

The Philatelic Exhibition held in Paris last year, though a decided success from a philatelic point of view, resulted in a loss of £400. As a result of this 55% of the aid promised will have to be paid by the guarantors.

\* \* \*

Forgeries of the first issue of the 5 francs stamps of Monaco in both used and unused condition are being offered in various places. Their source of origin appears to be Antwerp and the Philatelic Society of that city have issued a warning against them.

\* \* \*

At Messrs. Puttick & Simpson's Auction Sale last week, a lot consisting of a mint copy each of green and orange, and 10/- green and blue, Trinidad realized 63/-. Twelve months ago our Colonial Market was selling these two stamps for 17/6!

\* \* \*

The result of our "Questions" competition will be announced in our next issue. No fewer than 22 readers have sent in lists of answers and, as it will take some time to judge the merits of each, it has been found impossible to publish the result this week.

\* \* \*

One of the rules of the post office department at Berlin is that when perishable articles such as delicate fruit, fresh flowers, &c., arrive by parcel post and the person to whom they are addressed cannot be found, they are sold to the highest bidder, instead of being returned to the sender with the risk of being spoilt, and this has recently led to rather curious results. A number of parcels, plainly marked "fresh flowers—perishable," arrived from Italy, and the various persons to whom they were addressed could not be found. The flowers were sold by the post office at a public sale and the receipts, less a nominal reduction, remitted to the Italians. Shortly afterwards, to the surprise of the postal officials another batch arrived in the same manner. Evidently the Italian florists were delighted to have the German Postmaster-General as their selling agent finding this method of selling save them much trouble in correspondence, &c., and absolutely safe, withal, as to receipts.

## New Issues.

The Editor will be much obliged for early news of New Issues or intended New Issues or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors. Full acknowledgment given. If possible, specimens should be sent in order that illustrations may be prepared.

**BULGARIA.**—The stamps now current in this Principality are printed on paper slightly more transparent than before and the colours are slightly different. The 1 stot may be found in two shades of pale lilac on this paper, the 5 stot is in a yellowish-olive-green tint and the 15 stot is in yellow. All are perforated 13.

**COSTA RICA.**—According to *Der Philatelist* several values of the new set have been surcharged "OFICIAL" in black, the overprint measuring  $16\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{4}$  mm. The following are the values so treated:—

1 centimo,	green and black.
2 centimos,	red and black.
5 "	blue and black.
10 "	bistre and black.
20 "	carmine and black.

**DUTCH INDIES.**—The *Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal* says that a specimen of the 1 cent (numeral type) has been found in the red-brown colour of the 2 cents and surmises that a sheet of this value was printed in the wrong colour. The copy in question is dated Batavia, 16th September, 1882.

**FRANCE.**—We have received a specimen of the new 10c. post card. The stamp is exactly similar to the adhesive of that value and is printed in carmine. The inscriptions occupy three lines and are as follows: "REPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE — CARTE POSTALE — Ce côté est exclusivement réservé à l'adresse."

**MEXICO.**—The *Monthly Journal* chronicles the 5 pesos stamp of the 1895 type on paper, watermarked Eagle and R.M.

With regard to the stamps of the 1895 types surcharged "OFICIAL" in black the *Monthly Journal* publishes the following list of those known to exist:—

Watermark "CORREOSEUM"—1c., 10c., 50c., 1p., 5p., and 10p.

Watermark Monogram "R.M."—2c., 3c., 4c., 5c. and 12c.

Watermark Eagle and "R.M."—20c. and 50c. No watermark.—1c., 3c., 4c., 12c., and 15c.

**TRANSVAAL.**—The 4d. registration envelope has received the E.R.I. overprint. The type employed is similar to that surcharged on the adhesives. Several readers have informed us of this issue, Mr. G. H. Atkinson being the first. This correspondent has a specimen used on May 4th.

**VICTORIA.**—Two of our correspondents, the Rev. H. W. Lane and Mr. Norman C. Horwood has kindly sent us specimens of a provisional letter card. This consists of the 2d. card with the stamp surcharged "One Penny" in blue. On the face of the card, too, the following is printed in blue, "FOR USE WITHIN VICTORIA. An additional penny stamp must be affixed if addressed to New South Wales, Queensland, Tasmania, South Australia, West Australia, New Zealand or Fiji." The original inscriptions at the back of the card are struck out by three blue lines. Regarding this card Mr. Horwood writes:—"The enclosed letter card, which was originally issued for use outside Victoria has been surcharged "One Penny," &c., owing to the instructions at the back being incorrect. It states that 'If anything be enclosed in this letter card it will be treated as an insufficiently paid letter.' This is not right as the rate for sealed letters is the same as that charged for these cards and one has as much right to enclose matter in these cards as in a sealed letter provided, of course that the regulation weight of  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. is adhered to. This has recently been pointed out to the P.M.G. and this surcharged issue is the result, it being done I understand to use up the stock. A new 2d. card with fresh instructions is now in course of preparation."

The Rev. H. W. Lane writes:—"This letter card is one of 40,000 which will only be in issue a short time. The surcharge would provide more varieties of level raised and wandering dots than all the V.R.I.'s put together. Out of two dozen I can find at least 18 varieties. They were officially issued on May 1st."

## Our Postcard Column.

WILL readers hearing of any interesting item of News, kindly jot it down on a postcard and address to the Editor, "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News," Norwood, London. For every contribution we publish, we will send the author an interesting and newly issued stamp. (N.B.—Postcards preferred.)

Mr. W. Laird writes:—

"I enclose for your inspection a specimen of the 6 reis stamp of Portuguese India, 1885 issue, which seems to me something of a curiosity. You will notice that by the side of the '6' at the right-hand end of the scroll containing the value is another '6' impressed in the background making the number look like '66.'"

Mr. B. W. Warhurst contributes the following with regard to the C size envelope on blue laid paper mentioned a fortnight ago:—

"The C size envelope on blue-laid paper was recorded in the *Monthly Journal* two years ago, and from that appeared in Gibbons' catalogue at the end of the year. The late Mr. Westoby wrote me that it was the first he had seen or heard of, but that about the end of 1859 and early in 1860 various trials were being made. My 1.2.60 is die 102 with flaw, and was posted in February, 1863. I have the same C size in white-laid, die 105, 26.1.64 with cracked seal."

Miss C. Hoblyn writes:—

"In addition to the Cr. and CA. and Cr. and AC. watermarks of the 4d. Malta, specimens may be found with the Cr. and CA. inverted.

It may interest readers of the post card column to learn that there are two very distinct shades of the Canada Special Delivery Stamp—a pale green and a dark bluish green."

Mr. R. R. Arkwright describes a minor variety:—

"In examining some copies of the 1895 surcharged issue of Natal "Halfpenny" on 6d. in carmine I discovered an error which, so far as I know, has not yet been chronicled. The specimen in question has the second "N" in "Penny" inverted so that it looks like a "U." It is very plain in the copy I hold. This issue appears to be very prolific in interesting varieties of lettering besides errors."

Mr. G. Vermèeren writes:—

"Looking through a parcel of 1d. reds I found one perforated with an anchor and C.C. which I send for your inspection herewith. Another I found similarly perforated with a circle around but cannot send this as I have mislaid it. Is this an official perforation?"

Mr. R. Parrish contributes the following:—

"It may be of interest to readers of the post-card column to note the following differences in the British Central African provisional issued in July, 1898. In the imperforate stamps the details are clear and distinct, while in the perforated varieties the details are not quite so bold and the border below "PENNY" is broken."

## The Stamps of Schleswig Holstein.

THE stamps of Schleswig Holstein are especially interesting from a historical point of view. The so-called first issue of 1850 for Holstein is really an insurrection issue, and on a par with the stamps recently printed by the Boers at Pietersburg. Danish stamps were used in Schleswig-Holstein until 1864, the 1 schilling blue and 2 schilling rose having only been issued by insurgents for a few months during the winter of 1850-51. Like the Carlist stamps of Spain, their right to a place in a general collection of bona-fide postage stamps is open to doubt. The two  $1\frac{1}{2}$  schilling blue stamps of 1864 were the only ones issued in Schleswig-Holstein under Danish rule, and it will be noticed they are similar in shape and not unlike in design to the Danish stamps of the period. Subsequent issues for the Duchy were made under the joint authority of Prussia and Austria.

## Notes on Stamp-Collecting.

BY A GENERAL COLLECTOR.

OF late years there has been a general tendency amongst experienced collectors to discard from their albums the postage issues of foreign countries and to specialize instead those of British Colonies alone. In fact, the general collector of the old school has become almost extinct, his successor of the present day being almost as intent on "bloating" as the specialist. Now-a-days there are but few general collectors who can say that they do not admit varieties of perforation or watermark into their albums. This is greatly to be regretted, as although one is continually hearing of the spread of Philately, little is said of the numerous collectors who are every year worried out of all interest in the hobby by tiresome variations that require a magnifying glass or a millimetre scale to detect. Every album maker appears to cater for millionaires only, and spaces for rare stamps in all varieties of shades, perms. and watermarks, are allotted with a free hand, with the result that nine out of ten beginners give up the idea of ever making a representative collection, and eventually turn their attention to picture post-cards, or something else, which can be collected with a maximum of pleasure and a minimum of hard work.

\* \* \*

I have recently been interested in making up a strictly general collection wherein varieties of surcharge, watermark, perforation and shade find no place (all issues of Afghanistan and the Colombian Departments, except Panama, being also ignored). The total number of entirely different adhesive postage stamps issued throughout the world is thus reduced to about 6700, an approach to which number is, with diligence, within the reach of most collectors. In my case there are still 1200 or 1300 blanks to fill, but fully half these are only waiting for common stamps, which will probably be added with comparatively little trouble. A complete collection of the world's postage stamps is thus brought within the bounds of possibility.

\* \* \*

These 6700 stamps may be termed the standard varieties, a good proportion of which—at least half—every collector would find it of advantage to secure before attempting to specialize. With such a collection for foundation, specialism becomes moreover twice as interesting, as one can choose any particular stamp or issue throughout the album and start specialising it there and then on interleaved pages. To specialise a whole country, taking the uninteresting stamps along with the attractive, is no doubt a very meritorious proceeding and may even culminate in the reading of a lengthy report of one's researches before (three or four) members of a philatelic society. But the generally accepted motto of the stamp collector is "pleasure with profit" and I fancy most collectors, too, are a bit fickle in their affections and would find specializing doubly interesting if varied. It is just as well not to arrange one's programme too far ahead on the fashion of the moment, as the favourite stamps of to-day may be superseded in popularity to-morrow by the issues of another country which has been suddenly rendered politically prominent or which has been brought into philatelic notice, perhaps, by an interesting discovery of unchronicled varieties.

\* \* \*

It is only by specializing that one can understand the true pleasure and fascination of philately, but at the same time it is a mistake to discard one's general collection, and the object of these notes is mainly to urge every specialist to retain such as a foundation for his more scientific efforts.

\* \* \*

A collector should not attempt to specialize until he has a good foundation consisting of a general collection of at least 3000 or 4000 distinct stamps, and such a framework would be free from even a suspicion of specialism. If it is built up on more ambitious lines, it will negative to a great extent the object with which it was put together. In other words, it will absorb too much of the collector's attention and leave him little time or money to devote to specializing. Critics may say that every collector should choose his methods for himself, collecting as pleases him most, but the beginner is seldom if ever in a position to judge what method will prove most attractive and is therefore in need of advice.

\* \* \*

I have said that there are now some 6700 distinct varieties of adhesive postage stamps in existence. In this total are included no postage due, express letter, or official stamps; nothing, in fact, but the ordinary postage stamps sold for the use of the general public throughout a whole country. The collector who owns only 2000 of such varieties is still practically a beginner, whilst 3000 varieties represent a fair collection.

When the album contains 4000, the owner may begin to specialize it here and there, but he should not relax his attentions to the general portion, or framework, till at least another 2000 are added. After a total of 6000 has been passed, it will be difficult to make additions, and the rate of increase must necessarily decrease. If the collection is to be a good investment, as well as a source of pleasure, only the finest possible copies should be taken, preferably unused. I prefer a fine used copy, however, to an unused one that is a little off centre or otherwise defective, even if in the latter condition the unused specimen is more valuable.

\* \* \*

An important point not to be lost sight of in arranging a collection is that unused stamps look much better on an unprinted page, or one on which all descriptions are in manuscript, if neatly written. Unused and used stamps seldom look well together in the same set, and it is better that a row should be uniform. Uniformity in other respects, too, improves the appearance of a page. Although perforations are to be ignored from the point of view of the specialist, they may nevertheless be studied by the general collector with advantage, when selecting his specimens. The fourth issue of Austria (Arms), for instance, looks neater, if all five values are shown with perforation of uniform gauge. It does not matter whether it is 10 or 15, so long as it is uniform. The row of thirteen line-engraved Ceylon stamps will be greatly improved if all are perforated. One imperfect copy may increase the value of the set, but will tend to spoil the appearance of that particular page in the album.

\* \* \*

In selecting specimens for a general collection, care should be taken not only to reject specimens which are "off centre," but also those which, though well-centred, are above the normal size. A row of stamps, well centred but of assorted sizes, does not look as well as one might wish. If the reader will arrange his Mexicans of the 1884-98 issues he will probably discover this for himself. Of course, nearly all "imperf." give trouble in this respect. Do not take large margin copies unless you are prepared to get all the rest of the set with a similar wealth of surrounding.

\* \* \*

This advice as to condition is only recommended to those collectors who have a liberal supply of energy and enthusiasm and who are not in too great a hurry to fill up their spaces. An antidote for this latter complaint (which is I believe very general with beginners) may be found by buying "space-fillers" when they can be got for a tenth or twentieth of catalogue price. I refer to more or less badly damaged stamps. This practice may often save in the long run. I have myself paid 5/- for a moderate copy of a stamp, when a few weeks later a brilliant copy could have been had for the same amount. Had 4d. or 6d. been invested in the meantime in a damaged copy, I should probably have waited till the brilliant and permanent occupant of the space turned up. If a collector possesses a large amount of patience, he can consider himself exempt from the necessity for such expedients; but then, collecting pure and simple is so exciting that very few collectors possess such a virtue as patience, when there is a blank space in their albums waiting to be filled.

\* \* \*

Of course it is a great mistake, as any experienced collector will tell you, to put a damaged or heavily cancelled stamp permanently into your album. It will spoil the appearance of the page on which it is mounted. I only recommend the acquisition of such specimens as a temporary expedient, in special cases.

\* \* \*

Turning over the pages of a general collection, one can form so much better an idea of what countries it would interest one most to specialize. South America offers many fine examples. I need only mention Brazil (numeral types), Chile (first and second issues), Nicaragua (first issue), Peru (1858 to 1870), and Salvador (first issue). Finer stamps than these could hardly be found.

\* \* \*

There is a very strong prejudice against the issues of certain South and Central American Republics and of such countries as Borneo and Labuan, but I am almost inclined to think it is an injustice. Such issues are in reality a blessing in disguise. There can be no doubt that they have attracted more recruits to the ranks of philately, than all the so-called *bona-fide* postage stamps put together, and that is a service which should not be lightly esteemed. Most of the handsome pictorial designs are expensive to produce, and it would be impossible for big countries like Great Britain or the United States to adopt them for their regular issues. A small country like the Tonga Islands or the Congo Free State, where few stamps are required, can, however, easily afford them, as the profit on the sale of the stamps sold to collectors is not swamped by the loss caused by the increased

cost of those used by a large and unappreciative business population. It is to small countries where the legitimate postal demand is small, that we must look for the handsomest stamps.

\* \* \*

Every general collector, who does not wish to be accused of ingratitude, should give his support to those countries which take special trouble to make their stamps interesting, and not withdraw it, as is, I am afraid, often the case.

\* \* \*

Beginners are often confused between the 5 centavos of the fourth (1867) and fifth (1884) issues of the Argentine Republic, yet the difference, once noted is easily remembered. The fourth issue is throughout inscribed, *Republica Argentina* whilst the fifth has *Correos Argentinos*. The small "envelope" type, of which three values were issued about 1882-84, bear both inscriptions *Correos—Republica Argentina*. The sixth issue (1889) is also distinct, the inscription having *Correos y Telegrafos* instead of *Correos*, whilst in the seventh (1892) and eighth (current) issue, it returns to plain *Republica Argentina*.

\* \* \*

The 4c. Pan-American just issued is, I believe, the first stamp to have a motor car represented in its design, but there are quite a number of stamps showing a railway locomotive. Besides the 2c. Pan-American, I recall at the moment the 3c. U.S.A., of 1864; 5c. Uruguay (1895-7-9); Salvador, 3c. (1896); Peru, 5c. (1871); Nicaragua, 3rd issue (1890); and Honduras, 9th issue (1898). Perhaps the list may be added to. In fact there is at least one other case I have not mentioned.

## Postmark Notes.

BY "DUPLEX."

FROM Mr. W. Ward I have received a number of old West Australian marks of various types. One of these, of a duplex type, used at the head office in Perth, consists of a date mark, containing the name of the town and date, adjoined to a circular obliterator composed of thick parallel lines. In the centre of the obliterator are the letters, "G.P.O.," in a circle.

\* \* \*

Amongst the date stamps sent, I notice one with "AUSTRALIND—WESTERN AUSTRALIA" arranged in a circle with the date in the centre. Another has "BUNBURY" and "W.A." with curved lines between to complete circle, and date in the centre. A curious type has "POST OFFICE QUINDALUP WA," arranged in the form of a flat oval, while the date is written across the centre in manuscript. All these marks were used between 1881 and 1889.

\* \* \*

Mr. R. M. Angus sends specimens of the 1 cent United States precancelled stamps from Danbury, Conn., showing varieties in the cancellation. In the normal specimens "DANBURY" has a comma after it, but in one of those sent me this comma is omitted. In another specimen the word is spelt "DANBUBY."

\* \* \*

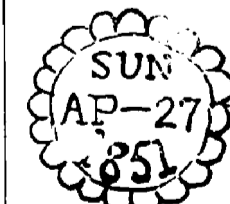
Mr. H. Clark sends me an entire bearing a numbered N.P.B. mark and also a large letter "E" enclosed in a circle. Can any of my readers explain the meaning of this latter mark?

\* \* \*

The same correspondent sends me two St. Ives' marks of the duplex type showing the numbers 680 and 686 in their respective obliterations. This at first sight struck me as being strange as 680 is the correct office number of St. Ives. However, on closely examining the "686" mark I noticed that it had been "doctored." It had been stamped 680 very faintly and some one had cleverly converted the last figure into a "6" with what intent I know not.

\* \* \*

Mr. W. Alder Ridley sends for inspection an old entire on the back of which is a curious postmark, circular in shape with scallop around looking something like a sunflower. In the centre is "SUN" and below the date in two lines. The mark is printed in red and beyond stating that it was a special Sunday postmark I am unable to give any information concerning it.



\* \* \*

On the back of the same envelope is a circular mark containing a large letter "C." Can any reader explain the meaning of this?

\* \* \*

A number of interesting items relating to postmarks are unavoidably held over until next week.

**FOREIGN ARRIVALS.**

(NOTE.—Most foreign stamps are almost as good an investment in mint unused condition as those issued by British Colonies, if purchases are made with care, and countries like Abyssinia, Persia, Nicaragua, Honduras, etc., are ignored. That there is a good market for unused foreigners is evidenced by the fact that a collection consisting entirely of unused Europeans recently sold for £30,000).

- France, 1901 types.  
Set of 5—1, 2, 3, 4, 5c. (without millésime), nett 3d.  
Set of 5, ditto, in blocks of four, 10d.  
Port Said, surcharged on French, old type.  
1c. black on blue, pair with mill. o, nett 2d.  
China, surcharged on French, old type.  
5c. yellow-green, pair with mill. o, nett 3d.  
France, 1901 types.  
30c. lilac, nett, 4d.  
40c. red and blue, nett 6d.  
50c. brown and grey, nett 7d. (used, 2d.)  
France, "Chiffre Taxe"  
1c. black, 5c. blue, 10c. brown, set of 3, nett 3d.  
Belgium, unpaid.  
Set of 5, 5, 10, 20, 50c. 1fr., nett 1/11.  
Belgium, Sunday stamps.  
Set of ten, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 25, 35, 50c., 1, 2fr., nett, 4/5.  
Luxemburg, 1fr. violet, (old type), nett 2/-; 5fr. orange-brown (old type), nett 5/10.  
Denmark, new 24 öre, brown, nett 5d.  
Sweden, new 15 öre, brown, nett 3d.  
New 25 öre, orange, nett 5d.  
Finland, 1901, 1 markka, nett 1/3.  
Finland, 1889 type, 2, 5, 10, 20, 25p., 1m., set of 6, 2/3.  
Hungary, 1900, values in filléres.  
25f., blue and black, nett 4d.  
30f., brown and black, nett 4d.  
50f., lake and black, nett 6d.  
60f., green and black, nett 8d.  
Roumania, 5, 10, 15 bani, set of three, 4d.  
Greece, Small Head of Mercury.  
1 lepton, brown, 1d.; block of 4, 1d.  
2 lepta, bistre, 1d.; block of 4, 2d.  
5 " green, 1d.; block of 4, 3d.  
10 " orange, 2d.; block of 4, 6d.  
Greek Provisionals, surcharged on old types.  
*Large Head of Mercury.*  
30 on 40 lepta, 5d.\*  
40 on 2 " 5d.\*  
50 on 40 " buff, 6d.\*  
3dr. on 10 lepta, 2/9.  
5dr. on 40 lepta, lilac on blue, 3/9.  
\*NOTE.—Pairs can be supplied, showing wide and narrow "O," 1/- each.  
*Small Head of Mercury.*  
1dr. on 40 lepta, violet, 1/- (imperf.)  
2dr. on 40 " " 1/9 (perf. 13).  
*Olympian Games (Axia Metalliki).*  
25l. on 40 lepta, nett 5d.  
50l. on 2dr. stone, nett 10d.  
1dr. on 5dr. green, nett 1/3.  
2dr. on 10dr. brown, nett 2/6.  
Cuba, pictorial set, 1, 2, 3, 5, 10c., nett 1/3.  
Sweden, low values, 1, 2, 3, 4 öre, set of 4, 2d.  
Siam, 1901, head to left.  
2 atts, bright green, nett 1d.; block of 4, 3d.  
Siam provisional, 3 on 12 atts, 1½d. each.  
Japan, new, 1½ sen blue, 1d. each; block of 4, 3d.  
Bolivia, 1899, used, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20c., set of 5, 6d.  
Bolivia, 10c. orange, nett 1d. (used).  
" 20c. rose (cat. 6d.), nett 2d. (used).  
Bolivia, surch. "EF 1899" on 1894 issue (used).  
5c. violet on green, nett 2d.  
10c. violet on brown, nett 3d.  
Chile, old type, 15c. green, fine, used, 2d.  
20c. slate-grey, fine, used, 1d.  
1 peso, black and brown, used, fine, 8d.  
Chile, 1900, new 5c. blue, 10c. lilac, 1d. each (used).  
Costa Rica, old 10 and 20c. (1892), nett 2d. (used).  
" new 10 and 20c. (1901), nett 5d. (used).  
Ecuador, 10c. lilac and black, used, 4d.  
" 10c. blue and black, used, 4d.  
Mexico, 1900, new 5, 10, 15, 20c., set of 4, nett 5d. (used).

**WHOLESALE.**

**LOW VALUES IN DOZENS.**

(All in mint unused blocks, unless otherwise described. Panes or sheets have margin on all four sides).

	PER DOZ.
France, new 1c. (pane of 25, 4d.)	... 2d.
" " 2c. ( " 25, 8d.)	... 4d.
" " 3c. ( " 25, 1/-)	... 6d.
" " 4c. ...	... 8d.
" " 5c. ...	... 9d.
Port Said, 1c. blk. on blue (pane of 25, 4d.)	... 2d.
China on France, 5c. green (pane of 25, 1/6)	... 9d.
Belgium, Sunday Stamp, 1c. grey	... 2d.
Spain, 1901, new 25c. blue	... 3/-

	PER DOZ.
Luxemburg, 1895, 1c. grey	... 2d.
" " 2c. grey-brown	... 4d.
" " 4c. olive-yellow	... 8d.
" " 5c. green	... 9d.
" " 1c., perf., 'OFFICIEL'	2d.
Norway, 1898, 1 öre, drab (sheet 100, 1/9)	3d.
" 2 öre, brown ( " 3/-)	6d.
" 3 " orange ( " 4/3)	8d.
" 5 " green ...	... 11d.
Hungary, 1900, 1f. grey (sheet 100, 1/3)	2d.
" 2 filler, bistre ( " 2/4)	4d.
" 3 " orange ( " 3/6)	6d.
" 4 " lilac ( " 4/6)	8d.
" 5 " green ( " 5/5)	9d.
" 6 " purple ( " 6/3)	11d.
Bosnia, 1900, 1h. black (perf. 12½)	... 2d.
" 2 heller grey ( " 10½)	... 4d.
" 3 " orange ( " 12½)	... 6d.
" 5 " green ( " 12½)	... 9d.
" 6 " brown ( " 10½)	... 11d.
German Colonies, new type, 3pf. brown; Togo, Samoa, Marshall Is., Mariane Is., Kiaoutschon, Karolinen Is., Kamerun, German S.W. Africa, German New Guinea; each colony, 6d. per dozen.	
German Colonies, new type, 5pf. green; each colony, as above, 10d. per dozen.	
German Levant, 10 paras, surcharged 8d. per doz.	
German China, 3pf. brown, surcharged 6d. per doz.	
" " 5pf. green " 10d. per doz.	
Morocco, 3 and 5pf., same price as for china.	

**Want Lists.**

THE Editor of *E.W.S.N.* is in want of the following British Colonial stamps for his private collection, and should any readers have duplicates, would be glad to see such on approval. Mint well-centred copies only.

- Great Britain, 2/- brown.
- Heligoland, 1 mark, green, rose and black.
- Antigua, 2½d. red-brown.
- Bahamas, 4d. rose, 6d. violet.
- Barbados, (4d.), red, rose; 3d. brown (1873); 6d. red (1860).
- Bermuda, 3d. buff (1873).
- British Guiana, 1860, 1c. rose; 1863, 6c. blue.
- " " 1876, 2, 4, 8, 12, 24, 48, 96c.
- Grenada, 1881, 2½d. rose, 4d. blue.
- St. Lucia, 1860, 4d. blue; 1883, 1s. orange.
- " 1883, 1d. rose; 1886, 6d. lilac.
- St. Vincent, 1866, 1/- grey.
- Tobago, 4d. green, 1880.
- Trinidad, 1/- blue, Britannia type.
- " 10/- green and blue.
- Turks Islands, 1/- lilac.
- Virgin Islands, 1/- rose, 1867; ½d. and 1d. green.
- British East Africa, 2, 3, 4, 5 rupees (large types).
- Gold Coast, £1 green and rose.
- Mauritius, Post Paid, 1d. red, 2d. blue.
- " 1856, 2d. blue; Greek border, 2d.
- " 1860, 1d. lilac, 9d. green, 1s. green.
- Zululand, £5 lilac on red.
- Hong Kong, 48c. brown, 96c. grey.
- India, 1854, ½a. red; 1874, 2a. green.
- Labuan, first colours, 2c., 6c., 8c., 12c., 16c.
- North Borneo, all first issue.
- " \$25 blue, 1894.
- Johore, head to right, 4c., 5c., 6c.
- Perak, \$3, \$10, \$20.
- Selangor, \$10.
- New South Wales, 3d. Sydney View (used).
- " " 8d. laureated (used).
- New Zealand, full face, all.
- " " Pictorial, London prints.
- Queensland, 1882, 2/- blue.
- South Australia, £5 grey.
- Tasmania, 1870, 4d. blue.
- " 1891, £1 green and yellow.
- Tonga, all except Pictorials.
- Victoria, 1862, 6d. orange.
- Western Australia, 4d. blue, 1860.
- " " 4d. red (not rose), 1861.

Irreproachable specimens only are wanted. In most cases above are wanted to replace used or only fair unused examples. The Editor takes no account whatever of perforation, watermark, surcharge, etc. An imperforate copy will do as well as one perforated, and an unwatermarked example as well as one with watermark. For brilliant copies, full catalogue (or more) will in many cases be willingly paid.

Lists of wants are also being continually received from readers of *E.W.S.N.* (including many of the leading collectors,) thus giving the Colonial Stamp Market unrivalled opportunities of disposing of anything good. For early unused British Colonials, if mint, the Colonial Market has a particularly large demand and can generally

'place' anything, however costly. Readers are invited to submit duplicates and should no purchase result, the Colonial Market will willingly pay the return postage and registration. Offers cannot be made, except under special circumstances. The following are a few of the want lists now on file.

- 2662. Wants following English with "Copestake, Moore, Crampton & Co.," printed on back, viz.:—½d. red, 1½d. red, 6d. lilac, 1/- green, and 1d. venetian red. Also wants 1d. red (stars), 1d. venetian red, 1d. lilac, 14 and 16 dots with "O U S" overprint.
- 2693. Wants fine used copies of Zululand 5/- on English.
- 2726. Wants mint copy of 2/- brown, Great Britain.
- 2728. Great Britain, 1883 issue, 2/6 lilac, 5/- rose, and 10/- blue on blue paper, wanted unused.
- 2730. Unused 10d. brown, and 2/- blue, English wanted.
- 2747. English control letters, ½d. vermilion A and B; 1d. lilac A, B, D and G.
- 2762. All varieties of Fiji.
- 2769. Great Britain, 1883, mint side pairs of 2½d., 3d. and 4d.
- 2776. Fiji, 5d. on 4d. mauve, in figures.
- 2781. Dominica, C.C. 14, 6d. and 1/- wanted.
- 2792. Grenada, 6d. vermilion, wmk. star.
- 2793. Tonga, unused. Gibbons' Nos. 14, 15, 45, 46, 103, 104 and 105 wanted.
- 2794. Fiji. The following Nos. from Gibbons' catalogue wanted especially unused:—17 to 37, 67, 69b, 81a, and 88.
- 2795. New South Wales, surcharged "O.S." The following wanted;—Gibbons' Nos. 502, 507, 508, 570, 571, 572, 574, 589, 590, 592, 594, 595 and 596.
- 2796. Great Britain. Used copies of 1½d. and 2½d. errors of lettering wanted.
- 2797. Fine used copies of the 10/- and £1 Cross Great Britain.
- 2798. Freaks and errors of any stamp. British stamps with double letters, etc.
- 2800. Any Colonial stamps of the Perkins, Bacon line-engraved types, in pairs or blocks.
- 2801. Used 1d., 1½d. and 2d. English in quantity.
- 2802. New Zealand Pictorials wanted in blocks, showing distinct shades. Good prices given.
- 2803. Railway Letter Stamps, especially L.B. and S.C. and L. & S.W. Railways, used or unused, for reconstructing sheets.
- 2804. France, Monaco and Tunis, in pairs, showing millésimes.
- 2805. American stamps, in pairs, with plate numbers.
- 2806. Chile, 1st issue, 5c. and 10c. used and unused, especially in pairs and blocks.
- 2807. Any Danish West Indies wanted (especially the first issue), used or unused.
- 2808. Wants early Niger Coast, surcharge varieties, in singles, pairs, or blocks.

**Collections for Sale.**

WE have the following useful collections for sale *en bloc*, at exceptionally low prices. Any collection can be sent on approval:—

**Labuan and North Borneo.**—Collection of 56, mostly obsolete issues—21 Labuan and 35 North Borneo. Catalogued 50/7, nett for 27/6.

**Iceland.**—A very nice lot of 80, of which 35 are unused. There are two fine used copies of the 40 aur. green (cat. 5/-), two of the 8sk. lilac (cat. 10/- each) and one of the 16sk. orange; also an unused copy of the 2sk. blue. Catalogue value of the lot, £5 1s. 3d. Nett price 65/-

**Hungary.**—Collection of 83, including 2, 5 and 10kr. lithographed. Catalogued 42/-, nett 22/-.

**Bavaria.**—Collection of 280, types of 1867 and later only. The imperf. kreuzer issue is well represented, as also the perforated 9, 10 and 18kr. values. Catalogued £5 17s. 1d., nett for 56/- only.

**Portugal.**—Fine series of about 300, including 10 first issue (two 5 reis and two 50 reis), three 100 reis second issue, four fine 1,000 reis, black, etc., etc. Catalogued about £24, nett for £8 15s. od. One of the cheapest lots ever offered.

**Great Britain.**—Old issues, unused, in blocks. Comprising 701 1d. reds (all mint), two blocks of four each 1d. 14 dots, block of 4, 6d. grey, plate 18; block of 12, 6d. grey, plate 17; and 132 various, (mostly postal fiscals). Catalogue value of the 857 stamps about £45. The collection nett, for £23 10s. od. The fine blocks of 1d. red plate numbers are alone worth this.

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Each stamp in the above selections is priced separately. When ordering any particular country or countries it is advisable to state whether used or unused are wanted, and whether a general selection is required, or one showing perforation and watermark varieties.

#### CONDITIONS.

- 1.—Stamps can only be sent on approval on condition that those not purchased are returned within five days.
- 2.—No stamps may be removed from the sheets or books until actually purchased.
- 3.—Collectors are not permitted to deduct return postage from amount of purchase.
- 4.—Discount is conditional on purchase exceeding 1. and will be forfeited if selection is kept over the five days allowed.

- 5.—Spaces should not be marked.
  - 6.—Sheets should be returned folded as sent.
  - 7.—When a selection is returned, another will be sent unless otherwise requested.
- N.B.—We hope collectors will assist us by observing the above very reasonable conditions and we will in return make it our endeavour to send out only the finest possible copies at the lowest possible quotations.

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With which is incorporated EWEN'S WEEKLY CIRCULAR. (Established October, 1897.)

A JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

THE ONLY WEEKLY STAMP PAPER  
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LONDON, SATURDAY, JUNE 29, 1901.

[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

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### The Week's News.

The *Daily Telegraph* says that certain Members of Parliament, headed by Sir Harry Bullard, have been taking action in the hope of getting the portrait of her Majesty the Queen placed on one or more of the new postage-stamps. The Postmaster-General, however, has sent a communication to Sir Harry, thanking him for the interesting suggestion, but stating that, as the designs for the new stamps have already been approved, and instructions given for their execution, it is not now possible to make any alteration.

\* \* \*

Those collectors who have started specialising the stamps of the Danish West Indies in anticipation of the time when the islands would be sold to the United States will now, probably, have to wait a long time before that state of affairs comes to pass. Recent events seem to point to the fact that Denmark has decided not to part with her West Indian possessions.

\* \* \*

At a recent Stamp Auction in New York, a specimen of the 2 cents Pan-American stamp with inverted centre realized £6.

\* \* \*

It is rumoured that a new set with entirely new designs somewhat after the style of the recent Costa Rican stamps will shortly be issued by Guatemala.

\* \* \*

In a recent issue of the *Canadian Gazette*, a paragraph appeared to the effect that when the Postmaster-General returns to Ottawa the first matter to engage his attention will be the issue of a new set of postage stamps to replace those bearing the head of Queen Victoria now in use.

\* \* \*

At Messrs. Puttick & Simpson's recent stamp auction a slightly cut copy of the 3 lire yellow Tuscany of 1860 was sold for £34.

\* \* \*

The growth of the rural free delivery system in the United States, by means of which farmers and others living from two to twelve miles from a post-office can have their mail matter delivered to them, has been marvellous. In 1897 only 44 routes were in operation but at the present time something like 4,000 of these routes have been established providing for the daily delivery of mails at the scattered homes of about three and a half millions of people in the farming districts. Some of the carriers on these mail routes traverse from 17 to 35 miles daily.

\* \* \*

The Postmaster-General of New Zealand is trying to inaugurate a penny postage between that Colony and Victoria. It is hardly likely, however, that his suggestion will be adopted just yet as before settling with New Zealand the Postmaster-General of Victoria will probably try and establish a Commonwealth Penny Postage.

\* \* \*

The stamp forger does not have a too happy time in Siam. In the country there is a law imposing a fine of £1000 and seven years imprisonment for forging and counterfeiting Siamese postage stamps or for being found in possession of tools and implements for such unlawful purposes.

In view of the extensive manner in which stamps are forged in Europe and America it would perhaps be a blessing to philately if all countries had such stringent laws for dealing with this dishonest class of individuals.

## New Issues.

The Editor will be much obliged for early news of New Issues or intended New Issues or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors. Full acknowledgment given. If possible, specimens should be sent in order that illustrations may be prepared.

**GREAT BRITAIN.**—Mr. Oswald Marsh informs us that the current 1/- green and carmine stamp has received the "GOVT. PARCELS" overprint, a fact that does not appear to have been noted before in this column. These were issued on May 21st. Our correspondent informs us that the demand for this value is very small averaging only about a dozen per day so probably it will turn out to be a scarce stamp.

**CEYLON.**—The 5 cents lilac stamp now has plate number "6" on the margin instead of "5."

**COSTA RICA.**—In addition to the values given in our last issue, the 50c. and 1, 2, 5 and 10 colones have also been surcharged for official use, so the full list is as below:—

1 centimo,	green and black.
2 centimos,	red and black.
5 "	blue and black.
10 "	bistre and black.
20 "	carmine and black.
50 "	lilac and blue.
1 colon,	bistre and black.
2 colones,	carmine and dark green.
5 "	brown and black.
10 "	yellow green and red.

**FRANCE.**—We have received a specimen of the 15c. letter card in the new type. The stamp is of the same design as the adhesive of the value and is printed in orange. The inscriptions are "REPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE—CARTE-LETTRE —Pour ouvrir la carte-lettre, déchirer en suivant le pointillo."

**GUATEMALA.**—*Mekel's Weekly* announces a new provisional, to wit the 25c. orange-red of the 1887 engraved issue surcharged "Un—1.—Centavo—1901" in four lines in black. Specimens have already been found with the overprint inverted.

**NICARAGUA.**—The provisionals, chronicled a fortnight ago, formed by overprinting the 5c., 10c. and 20c. values of the postage due set with "Correos" and "1901," have the surcharge printed in gold.

**PERAK.**—The new Federated Malay States issue does not seem to have quite stifled the surcharging mania here for the *Weekly Philatelic Era* chronicles no less than five new provisionals, i.e., "One Cent" on 2c., 4c., and 5c. and "Three Cents" on 8c. and 50c.

**UNITED STATES.**—Although frequent mention of them has been made in other parts of the paper we do not appear to have yet chronicled the Pan-American stamps with inverted centres in this column.

The following are the values that have appeared thus:—

1c.	green and black.
2c.	carmine and black.
4c.	red-brown and black.

**URUGUAY.**—An American contemporary states that a pair of the 5c. steel-blue stamps of 1899 has been found imperforate horizontally between.

## British Stamp Exchange.

It has been decided *not* to discontinue any Circuits of the Exchange except Circuit IV. (Postmarks) during the summer months. The next packets will therefore start as usual on the 7th proximo, and any sheet for inclusion should reach the Secretary before that date, if possible. Circuit IV. will not circulate during the summer months. With the exception of Circuits I. and IV. all the May packets have returned. Accounts were sent out on June 22nd to all having Dr. balances and those having Cr. balances will probably have been paid before this appears in print. All communications with relation to the Club should be addressed to the Club Secretary:—OSWALD MARSH, 45, Palace Road, Norwood, London, S.E., and *not* to the offices of this paper.

## Postmark Notes.

By "DUPLEX."

FROM Mr. W. Beckwith I have received several old entires some of which show interesting postmarks. One of these is a 1d. embossed envelope, with silk threads, cancelled with the number, "447"—the office number of Leeds,—and having on the face "NORTH STREET" arranged in a circle. This is an interesting variety of early local postmark.

\* \* \*

With regard to the small triangular mark in violet ink mentioned in this column three weeks ago, Mr. A. F. Clarke informs me that this is known as a "missort" mark. It appears that all letters passing through London are sorted into one of the following divisions:—Great Eastern, Great Western, South Eastern, South Western, North Western or Midland. Letters that may get sorted to the wrong division are stamped with the small triangular mark so that in case delay results it can easily be explained.

\* \* \*

The same correspondent informs me that he has a small rectangular mark, similar to the "L. & B.S.C." stamp described recently, in which the letters "G.N.S.T." appear meaning, of course, "Great Northern Sorting Tender." The London & Leeds Sorting Tender employs a somewhat similar mark containing "L. & L. S.T." but it is about six times the size of the others.

\* \* \*

Mr. Clarke also sends a curious Money Order Office mark for inspection. This consists of a rectangle surmounted by a crown. In the rectangle "MONEY ORDER OFFICE" and "REGD 17 FE 1900" appear in two lines.

\* \* \*

Mr. Hugh Aronson sends a registered mark from British Columbia, which is somewhat different to the ordinary run of these postmarks. In shape it is a large double-lined flat oval, with "VICTORIA B.C." at the top and "CANADA" at the base. Across the centre, in one line, is the date, "APR 17 1901," and above this, in small capitals, is the word "REGISTERED." The mark is impressed in purple ink.

\* \* \*

Mr. F. C. Scarr sends me a few specimens of the types of postmarks now in use in Ireland. The larger cities and towns employ a concentric circle mark having between the two rings the name of the town and pairs of thick parallel curved lines. The inner circle contains the date which is arranged somewhat differently from the English types. For instance, in one specimen sent me the time is given as "9.30 P.M." with the "P.M." above the figures.

\* \* \*

The villages and smaller towns employ single line marks in which the name is curved with the date and time of posting in the centre. One of those sent me has "MOVILLE" at the top and "LONDONDERRY" below with the date, &c.,—"P.M.—4 15—JU 12—01"—in four lines in the centre. Another one of the same type has "LISNASKEA RSO" at the top and "COFERMANAGH" below. The R.S.O. is, of course, Railway Sub-Office.

I have just obtained a curious United States mark of the duplex type. The circular date-stamp has "N.Y. SUPPLEMENTARY" curved around while the date "JUL 20 1900" occupies two lines in the centre. The obliterator is composed of six thick parallel lines arranged in the form of an oval in the centre of which is a small circle. In the centre of the circle is a mark of some description—most probably a number or letter—too indistinct in the specimen I have to decipher. This mark is evidently a special one used in the New York post-offices by the extra hands when there is an exceptional amount of mail matter to be dealt with.

\* \* \*

Owing to the pressure on our space I am again compelled to hold over several items until next week.

## "Questions" Competition.

### RESULT.

IN our issue of June 15th we published seven questions, to which replies were invited, a prize of a mint copy of the 5/- rose and blue Victoria being offered to the reader who sent the best set of replies. This prize the judges have much pleasure in awarding to Mr. Burton F. J. Cooper, who obtained 83 marks out of a maximum of 100. If Mr. Cooper will forward his address (which was omitted from his paper), the prize will be forwarded to him. Consolation prizes have been awarded to the following:—

2. Mr. G. Brumell, Jr. (81 marks)
3. Mr. C. McDiarmid Fish (80 " )
4. Baron A. de Reuterskiöld (78 " )

\* \* \*

We were pleased to see that our readers took considerable interest in the competition, and no fewer than 23 papers were sent in, a very good result considering the short time allowed. A great variety of answers were sent in to the several questions, and a few notes on the subject may be of interest.

\* \* \*

1. Which is the largest adhesive postage stamp ever issued?

We had no idea there were so many abnormally large postage stamps, till we came to look over the replies sent in by competitors to the above question. Thirteen readers vote for the United States Periodical stamps, which were issued in 1865 for the prepayment of newspaper postage. These measure roughly 9 square inches each (about 550 cm.) Next in order come the following:—

2. Madagascar, Consular Mail, area about 200 cm.
3. Russian Levant, 1st issue " " 180 cm.
4. Great Britain, £5 orange " " 167 cm.
5. Djibouti, various values " " 153 cm.
6. Brit. N. Borneo, \$5 and \$10 " " 143 cm.

The registration label of the United States (1872), measuring 255 cm. square, and the cubiertas of the Colombian Republic, hardly come within the scope of the question. A current 1d. British stamp measures  $18\frac{1}{2} \times 22\frac{1}{2}$  mm., or about 42 cm. square, less than a third the size of the smallest mentioned above. The average size of postage stamps is 40 to 50 cm.

\* \* \*

2. Which do you consider the two handsomest stamps yet issued?

Our 23 competitors are by no means unanimous, as between them they mention 28 different stamps. St. Vincent heads the list with its 5/- stamp, for which seven votes have been registered. Four readers consider the variety in lake, on CA. paper, the handsomer, whilst three prefer that in rose-red, on star paper. The following stamps are also admired by readers.

2. Nova Scotia, 1860, 12½c. black; 4 votes. One competitor writes:—"To my mind the most beautifully executed and finest looking stamp is the 12½c. Nova Scotia on white paper. Nothing to touch it in engraving and finish has been issued since."

3. New South Wales, 5d. green, 1855; 4 votes. "As a specimen of line engraving it has never been excelled."

4. Newfoundland, 24c. blue; 3 votes.

5. Great Britain, 1840, 1d. black; 2 votes. "Simplicity of design and beauty of engraving."

6. New South Wales, 5/- coin type, 1860; 2 votes. This competitor for the beauty prize draws the following eulogy from a reader: "I think the handsomest stamp ever issued is the 5/- stamp of New South Wales, first printed in 1860 and purple in colour. I have come to this conclusion on account of the richness of colour, simplicity of design and the beautiful way in which it is engraved."

7. Niger Coast, 10/- deep violet, 1898; 2 votes. This splendid stamp, now unfortunately obsolete and becoming scarce, is mainly admired on account of its splendid colour. One competitor declares that the shade is the most sumptuous he has ever seen on a postage stamp, whilst another contributes the following eulogy: "Although numbers of pretty and artistic stamps have been introduced to us during the last few years, there are to my mind none that can in any way compare with the 2 6 and 10/- Niger Coast Protectorate, which I consider by far the two handsomest stamps that have ever been issued both as regards richness of colour and beauty of design and appearance. I feel proud to champion the cause of these two stamps."

8. Persia, 1882, 10 francs, head of Shah; 2 votes.

\* \* \*

The above eight stamps are the only ones which received more than one vote. The following 19 stamps also found supporters, but there was no one to second their claim.

9. Great Britain, 2d., 1840, "no lines."

10. South Australia, 2/- carmine. Concern-

ing these two stamps a competitor writes:—"Though many of the modern issues are handsome enough examples of the printer's art (notably the recent issues for New Zealand) there are no stamps in my opinion to compare in beauty or splendour with the old line-engraved stamps, of which two of the finest examples are the 2/- crimson of South Australia (practically identical in design with the 5c. Nova Scotia) and the 2d. blue of Great Britain (1840, without lines). A fine collection of line-engraved stamps (not forgetting those of Ceylon) is "a sight for sair e'es."

11. Nova Scotia, 8½c. green.
12. Victoria, 6d. blue. Queen on Throne.
13. Labuan, 2c. blue, stag.
14. Congo Free State, 1895, 10c. black and brown.
15. New Zealand, first design.
16. Falkland, 5/- red.
17. Canada, 5c. Jubilee.
18. United States, 3c. Columbus.
19. Tasmania, 2½d. blue, "Tasman's Arch."
20. North Borneo, 8c. pictorial.
21. " " 18c. "
22. St. Lucia, 1859, 4d. blue.
23. Niger Coast, 1/- black (current).
24. " " 2/6 olive-bistre.
25. British East Africa, 50 rupees (current).
26. Sicily, 1859, Head of King Ferdinand II. (King Bomba).
27. St. Vincent, 5d. on 6d. lake.
28. Mauritius, 36c. Diamond Jubilee.

The judges feel compelled to wonder at some of the above choices. Assuredly, there is no accounting for tastes! It is interesting to note that only four stamps—Nos. 8, 14, 18 and 26—are foreigners.

\* \* \*

Twelve of the above mentioned stamps—Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 22 and 27—were engraved by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., the champions of line engraving, and seven—Nos. 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 23 and 24—by Messrs. Waterlow & Sons. Of the remaining nine, three are claimed by Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co., two by the British North American Bank Note Co., and one by Messrs. De la Rue (the Mauritius Diamond Jubilee), the other three being of foreign manufacture. If Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co.'s stamps are the handsomest, Messrs. Waterlow's are certainly the prettiest. Were it not the advantage in age held by the former—for age in most cases tends to make stamps more interesting—it would be a hard task to choose between the two firms' productions. With the 1d. and 2d. "no lines" of 1840 (Great Britain) on one hand and the 2½d. and 9d. New Zealand (Lake Wakatipu and the Pink Terrace) on the other, it is difficult to choose between the work of the two firms.

\* \* \*

3. Which adhesive postage stamp has been in use the longest time? Is the record broken by any stamp now obsolete?

The votes go solid for the "Grand Old Stamp," the 5d. green of New South Wales, first issued on December 1st, 1855, and still going strong. Of course, in a question of this sort, one must ignore changes of paper and watermark and similar incidents in the life of a stamp.

It is rather a nice point though, whether, on technical grounds, the 1/- Octagonal of Great Britain should not be considered the oldest adhesive stamp now in use. It was first issued as an ordinary adhesive stamp on September 13th, 1847, and since that date, 16 dies, all exactly similar, have been engraved and used. Dies 3 to 15 used from 1855 to 1900 for stamping envelopes were, it is true, drilled for insertion of dates, but die 16, now in use for that purpose, is exactly similar to the first dies, Nos. 1 and 2, used for the issue of 1847-56, and were it not for the silk-thread paper of the earlier prints, it would take an expert to distinguish them. The only other difference is in the die number, which is in both cases, more often than not, illegible. We believe we are right in stating that when this stamp received the *imprimatur* of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, the impressions approved by them were struck on ordinary paper, and although "Dickinson" paper was always employed, no particular prohibition as regards any other kind of paper seems to have been made.

\* \* \*

Other stamps which have rendered long service and which still survive are the following:—

1857. New South Wales, 3d. green. Varieties occur.
1860. Jamaica, 4d. red-brown, 1s. brown. Watermarks vary.
1860. New South Wales, 5/- coin type. Issue was interrupted from 1888 to 1890.
1862. South Australia, 1/- brown. Perforations vary. Still on star paper.
1862. The 12c. blue, Hong Kong, was first issued on unwatermarked paper in this year. In 1865 it appeared on Crown CC paper and has never since been changed.

1863. Hong Kong, 4c. grey. Varieties occur.
1864. Cape of Good Hope, 6d. violet. Watermark varies.

1865. The current 6d. Bermuda was first issued in this year and has never been changed in any way.

1865. Bermuda, 1d. rose. Varieties occur.
1868. St. Helena, 5/- orange, absolutely without change.

No obsolete stamps beat the record of the 5d. green New South Wales, although the 24c. Newfoundland can show a very good "unchanged" record. It was first printed in 1866 and was continuously issued down to last year, a period of 34 years. The remaining stock amounting to about two-thirds of the *original supply*, was then destroyed. The 6d. rose, Orange Free State, was in use practically unchanged from January, 1868, till March, 1900.

\* \* \*

4. Which six postage stamps do you consider to have the least value in a used condition?

Twenty-three candidates have been proposed, but readers are only unanimous as regards one of them. The following table shows the voting of our 23 competitors:

	VOTES.
1. Great Britain, current 1d. lilac	23 (max.)
2. Germany, late 10 pfennig, rose	19
3. (Great Britain, late ¼d. vermilion	17
4. France, late 5c. green	17
5. France, late 15c. blue	10
6. United States, 2c. rose, current	9
7. Germany, late 20pf. blue	7
8. " " 5pf. green	5
9. France, late 25c. black on rose	5
10. Austria, late 5kr. rose	4
11. United States, late 1c. blue	4
12. Bavaria, current, 10pf. rose	3
13. Great Britain, current, ¼d. green	3
14. France, late 10c. lilac	2
15. Belgium, 5c. green	2

The following have one vote apiece:—France, 1c. lilac on blue; Germany, late 3pf. brown; United States, 5c. brown; Germany, new 10pf. rose; India, ½a. green; Belgium, late 1c. and 10c., and current 5c.

\* \* \*

5. How many different face values over 1/- and under 5/- are to be found on postage stamps? Only stamps with values expressed in British currency are eligible.

In framing the above question we expressly omitted the word "adhesive" but only one competitor appears to have noted this, and to have taken advantage to include in the list a face value which only occurs on an envelope stamp. The correct list of values is as follows:—

- 1/0½. New South Wales only.
- 1/6. Victoria, Madagascar, New Republic.
- 1/8. Mauritius only. (Envelope stamp, 1892).
- 1/9. Ceylon only.
- 2/-. Various Colonies.
- 2/6. " "
- 3/-. B.C.A., B.S.A., Turks Is., New Republic.
- 4/-. B.C.A., B.S.A., New Republic, Zululand.

One reader only, as stated, gave the complete list. Twenty-two competitors omitted the 1/8 value; and seven, the 1/9. Strange to say, one competitor forgot the 4/- value and another the 12½d. and 1/6.

Postal fiscals are barred, otherwise the 1/4, 2/10, 3/4 and 4/10 values of New Zealand would have to be added.

\* \* \*

6. The "Post Office" Mauritius 1d. and 2d. stamps are estimated to be worth from £2,000 to £2,500 the pair, at present. What do you think a set will be worth in ten years' time (1911)?

"Very little more," say most competitors. One reckless individual, it is true, optimistically puts down £12,000, but the other 22 prophecies average out at £2,991. They range in the following order:—£5,000, £4,750, £4,700, £4,000, £3,650, £3,500 (2), £3,000 (3), £2,900, £2,800, £2,750 (3), £2,650, £2,500 (3), £2,250 (2), £2,100. The average of all 23 is £3,513.

7. Which stamp now in current use in Great Britain or Colonies do you consider will be the most valuable in ten years' time?

Six competitors vote for the £5 orange Great Britain, four for the £25 B.C.A. and three each for the £10 B.C.A. and £20 S. Australia. The question was intended to read "will be proportionately to its face value the most valuable in ten years' time," and the omission of the five words practically destroys what interest attaches to it. It is hardly likely that any ordinary stamp now in use will be worth £25 in 10 years time, and the £25 B.C.A. is hardly likely to be worth less. The greatest advance which has taken place in the value of a quite modern issue is the case of the 10/- Lagos, which in 14 years has advanced to £14. In 18 years the 10/- and £1 British wmk. Anchor have advanced to £50 and £100 respectively, a record for issues of the last two decades.

**FOREIGN ARRIVALS.**

(NOTE.—Most foreign stamps are almost as good an investment in mint unused condition as those issued by British Colonies, if purchases are made with care, and countries like Abyssinia, Persia, Nicaragua, Honduras, etc., are ignored. That there is a good market for unused foreigners is evidenced by the fact that a collection consisting entirely of unused Europeans recently sold for £30,000).

France, 1901 types.  
Set of 5—1, 2, 3, 4, 5c. (without millésime), nett 3d.  
Set of 5, ditto, in blocks of four, 10d.  
Port Said, surcharged on French, old type.  
1c. black on blue, pair with mill. o, nett 2d.  
China, surcharged on French, old type.  
5c. yellow-green, pair with mill. o, nett 3d.  
France, 1901 types.  
30c. lilac, nett, 4d.  
40c. red and blue, nett 6d.  
50c. brown and grey, nett 7d. (used, 2d.)  
France, "Chiffre Taxe"  
1c. black, 5c. blue, 10c. brown, set of 3, nett 3d.  
Belgium, unpaid.  
Set of 5, 5, 10, 20, 50c. 1fr., nett 1/11.  
Belgium, Sunday stamps.  
Set of ten, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 25, 35, 50c., 1, 2fr., nett, 4/5.  
Luxemburg, 1fr. violet, (old type), nett 2/-; 5fr. orange-brown (old type), nett 5/10.  
Denmark, new 24 øre, brown, nett 5d.  
Sweden, new 15 øre, brown, nett 3d.  
New 25 øre, orange, nett 5d.  
Finland, 1901, 1 markka, nett 1/3.  
Finland, 1889 type, 2, 5, 10, 20, 25p., 1m., set of 6, 2/3.  
Hungary, 1900, values in filléres.  
25f., blue and black, nett 4d.  
30f., brown and black, nett 4d.  
50f., lake and black, nett 6d.  
60f., green and black, nett 8d.  
Roumania, 5, 10, 15 bani, set of three, 4d.  
Greece, Small Head of Mercury.  
1 lepton, brown, 1d.; block of 4, 1d.  
2 lepta, bistre, 1d.; block of 4, 2d.  
5 " green, 1d.; block of 4, 3d.  
10 " orange, 2d.; block of 4, 6d.  
Greek Provisionals, surcharged on old types.

*Large Head of Mercury.*  
30 on 40 lepta, 5d.\*  
40 on 2 " 5d.\*  
50 on 40 " buff, 6d.\*  
3dr. on 10 lepta, 2/9.  
5dr. on 40 lepta, lilac on blue, 3/9.  
\*NOTE.—Pairs can be supplied, showing wide and narrow "O," 1/- each.

*Small Head of Mercury.*  
1dr. on 40 lepta, violet, 1/- (imperf.)  
2dr. on 40 " " 1/9 (perf. 13).  
*Olympian Games (Axia Metalliki).*  
25l. on 40 lepta, nett 5d.  
50l. on 2dr. stone, nett 10d.  
1dr. on 5dr. green, nett 1/3.  
2dr. on 10dr. brown, nett 2/6.  
Cuba, pictorial set, 1, 2, 3, 5, 10c., nett 1/3.  
Sweden, low values, 1, 2, 3, 4 øre, set of 4, 2d.  
Siam, 1901, head to left.  
2 atts, bright green, nett 1d.; block of 4, 3d.  
Siam provisional, 3 on 12 atts, 1½d. each.  
Japan, new, 1½ sen blue, 1d. each; block of 4, 3d.  
Bolivia, 1899, used, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20c., set of 5, 6d.  
Bolivia, 10c. orange, nett 1d. (used).  
" 20c. rose (cat. 6d.), nett 2d. (used).  
Bolivia, surch. "EF 1899" on 1894 issue (used).  
5c. violet on green, nett 2d.  
10c. violet on brown, nett 3d.  
Chile, old type, 15c. green, fine, used, 2d.  
20c. slate-grey, fine, used, 1d.  
1 peso, black and brown, used, fine, 8d.  
Chile, 1900, new 5c. blue, 10c. lilac, 1d. each (used).  
Costa Rica, old 10 and 20c. (1892), nett 2d. (used).  
" new 10 and 20c. (1901), nett 5d. (used).  
Ecuador, 10c. lilac and black, used, 4d.  
" 10c. blue and black, used, 4d.  
Mexico, 1900, new 5, 10, 15, 20c., set of 4, nett 5d. (used).

**WHOLESALE.**

**LOW VALUES IN DOZENS.**

(All in mint unused blocks, unless otherwise described. Panes or sheets have margin on all four sides).

	PER DOZ.
France, new 1c. (pane of 25, 4d.)	2d.
" " 2c. ( " 25, 8d.)	4d.
" " 3c. ( " 25, 1/-)	6d.
" " 4c. ... ..	8d.
" " 5c. ... ..	9d.
Port Said, 1c. blk. on blue (pane of 25, 4d.)	2d.
China on France, 5c. green (pane of 25, 1/6)	9d.
Belgium, Sunday Stamp, 1c. grey	2d.
Spain, 1901, new 25c. blue	3/-

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	PER DOZ.
Luxemburg, 1895, 1c. grey ... ..	2d.
" " 2c. grey-brown ... ..	4d.
" " 4c. olive-yellow ... ..	8d.
" " 5c. green ... ..	9d.
" " 1c., perf., 'OFFICIEL' ... ..	2d.
Norway, 1898, 1 øre, drab (sheet 100, 1/9)	3d.
" 2 øre, brown ( " 3/-)	6d.
" 3 " orange ( " 4/3)	8d.
" 5 " green ... ..	11d.
Hungary, 1900, 1f. grey (sheet 100, 1/3)	2d.
" 2 filler, bistre ( " 2/4)	4d.
" 3 " orange ( " 3/6)	6d.
" 4 " lilac ( " 4/6)	8d.
" 5 " green ( " 5/5)	9d.
" 6 " purple ( " 6/3)	11d.
Bosnia, 1900, 1h. black (perf. 12½)	2d.
" 2 heller grey ( " 10½)	4d.
" 3 " orange ( " 12½)	6d.
" 5 " green ( " 12½)	9d.
" 6 " brown ( " 10½)	11d.
German Colonies, new type, 3pf. brown; Togo, Samoa, Marshall Is., Mariane Is., Kiautschon, Karolinen Is., Kamerun, German S.W. Africa, German New Guinea; each colony, 6d. per dozen.	
German Colonies, new type, 5pf. green; each colony, as above, 10d. per dozen.	
German Levant, 10 paras, surcharged 8d. per doz.	
German China, 3pf. brown, surcharged 6d. per doz.	
" " 5pf. green " 10d. per doz.	
Morocco, 3 and 5pf., same price as for china.	

**Want Lists.**

THE Editor of E.W.S.N. is in want of the following British Colonial stamps for his private collection, and should any readers have duplicates, would be glad to see such on approval. Mint well-centred copies only.

- Great Britain, 2/- brown.
- Heligoland, 1 mark, green, rose and black.
- Antigua, 2½d. red-brown.
- Bahamas, 4d. rose, 6d. violet.
- Barbados, (4d.), red, rose; 3d. brown (1873); 6d. red (1860).
- Bermuda, 3d. buff (1873).
- British Guiana, 1860, 1c. rose; 1863, 6c. blue.
- " " 1876, 2, 4, 8, 12, 24, 48, 96c.
- Grenada, 1881, 2½d. rose, 4d. blue.
- St. Lucia, 1860, 4d. blue; 1883, 1s. orange.
- " 1883, 1d. rose; 1886, 6d. lilac.
- St. Vincent, 1866, 1/- grey.
- Tobago, 4d. green, 1880.
- Trinidad, 1/- blue, Britannia type.
- " 10/- green and blue.
- Turks Islands, 1/- lilac.
- Virgin Islands, 1/- rose, 1867; ½d. and 1d. green.
- British East Africa, 2, 3, 4, 5 rupees (large types).
- Gold Coast, £1 green and rose.
- Mauritius, Post Paid, 1d. red, 2d. blue.
- " 1856, 2d. blue; Greek border, 2d.
- " 1860, 1d. lilac, 9d. green, 1s. green.
- Zululand, £5 lilac on red.
- Hong Kong, 48c. brown, 96c. grey.
- India, 1854, ½a. red; 1874, 2a. green.
- Labuan, first colours, 2c., 6c., 8c., 12c., 16c.
- North Borneo, all first issue.
- " \$25 blue, 1894.
- Johore, head to right, 4c., 5c., 6c.
- Perak, \$3, \$10, \$20.
- Selangor, \$10.
- New South Wales, 3d. Sydney View (used).
- " " 8d. laureated (used).
- New Zealand, full face, all.
- " " Pictorial, London prints.
- Queensland, 1882, 2/- blue.
- South Australia, £5 grey.
- Tasmania, 1870, 4d. blue.
- " 1891, £1 green and yellow.
- Tonga, all except Pictorials.
- Victoria, 1862, 6d. orange.
- Western Australia, 4d. blue, 1860.
- " " 4d. red (not rose), 1861.

Irreproachable specimens only are wanted. In most cases above are wanted to replace used or only fair unused examples. The Editor takes no account whatever of perforation, watermark, surcharge, etc. An imperforate copy will do as well as one perforated, and an unwatermarked example as well as one with watermark. For brilliant copies, full catalogue (or more) will in many cases be willingly paid.

Lists of wants are also being continually received from readers of E.W.S.N. (including many of the leading collectors,) thus giving the Colonial Stamp Market unrivalled opportunities of disposing of anything good. For early unused British Colonials, if mint, the Colonial Market has a particularly large demand and can generally

'place' anything, however costly. Readers are invited to submit duplicates and should no purchase result, the Colonial Market will willingly pay the return postage and registration. Offers cannot be made, except under special circumstances. The following are a few of the want lists now on file.

- 2662. Wants following English with "Copestake, Moore, Crampton & Co," printed on back, viz.:—½d. red, 1½d. red, 6d. lilac, 1/- green, and 1d. venetian red. Also wants 1d. red (stars), 1d. venetian red, 1d. lilac, 14 and 16 dots with "O U S" overprint.
- 2693. Wants fine used copies of Zululand 5/- on English.
- 2726. Wants mint copy of 2/- brown, Great Britain.
- 2728. Great Britain, 1883 issue, 2/6 lilac, 5/- rose, and 10/- blue on blue paper, wanted unused.
- 2730. Unused 10d. brown, and 2/- blue, English wanted.
- 2747. English control letters, ½d. vermilion A and B; 1d. lilac A, B, D and G.
- 2762. All varieties of Fiji.
- 2769. Great Britain, 1883, mint side pairs of 2½d., 3d. and 4d.
- 2776. Fiji, 5d. on 4d. mauve, in figures.
- 2781. Dominica, C.C. 14, 6d. and 1/- wanted.
- 2792. Grenada, 6d. vermilion, wmk. star.
- 2793. Tonga, unused. Gibbons' Nos. 14, 15, 45, 46, 103, 104 and 105 wanted.
- 2794. Fiji. The following Nos. from Gibbons' catalogue wanted especially unused:—17 to 37, 67, 69b, 81a, and 88.
- 2795. New South Wales, surcharged "O.S." The following wanted;—Gibbons' Nos. 502, 507, 508, 570, 571, 572, 574, 589, 590, 592, 594, 595 and 596.
- 2796. Great Britain. Used copies of 1½d. and 2½d. errors of lettering wanted.
- 2797. Fine used copies of the 10/- and £1 Cross Great Britain.
- 2798. Freaks and errors of any stamp. British stamps with double letters, etc.
- 2800. Any Colonial stamps of the Perkins, Bacon line-engraved types, in pairs or blocks.
- 2801. Used 1d., 1½d. and 2d. English in quantity.
- 2802. New Zealand Pictorials wanted in blocks, showing distinct shades. Good prices given.
- 2803. Railway Letter Stamps, especially L.B. and S.C. and L. & S.W. Railways used or unused, for reconstructing sheets.
- 2804. France, Monaco and Tunis, in pairs, showing millésimes.
- 2805. American stamps, in pairs, with plate numbers.
- 2806. Chile, 1st issue, 5c. and 10c. used and unused, especially in pairs and blocks.
- 2807. Any Danish West Indies wanted (especially the first issue), used or unused.
- 2808. Wants early Niger Coast, surcharge varieties, in singles, pairs, or blocks.

**Collections for Sale.**

WE have the following useful collections for sale *en bloc*, at exceptionally low prices. Any collection can be sent on approval:—

**Labuan and North Borneo.**—Collection of 56, mostly obsolete issues—21 Labuan and 35 North Borneo. Catalogued 50/7, nett for 27/6.

**Iceland.**—A very nice lot of 80, of which 35 are unused. There are two fine used copies of the 40 aur. green (cat. 5/-), two of the 8sk. lilac (cat. 10/- each) and one of the 16sk. orange; also an unused copy of the 2sk. blue. Catalogue value of the lot, £5 1s. 3d. Nett price 65/-

**Hungary.**—Collection of 83, including 2, 5 and 10kr. lithographed. Catalogued 42/-, nett 22/-

**Bavaria.**—Collection of 280, types of 1867 and later only. The imperf. kreuzer issue is well represented, as also the perforated 9, 10 and 18kr. values. Catalogued £5 17s. 1d., nett for 56/- only.

**Portugal.**—Fine series of about 300, including 10 first issue (two 5 reis and two 50 reis), three 100 reis second issue, four fine 1,000 reis, black, etc., etc. Catalogued about £24, nett for £8 15s. od. One of the cheapest lots ever offered.

**Great Britain.**—Old issues, unused, in blocks. Comprising 701 1d. reds (all mint), two blocks of four each 1d. 14 dots, block of 4, 6d. grey, plate 18; block of 12, 6d. grey, plate 17; and 132 various. (mostly postal fiscals). Catalogue value of the 857 stamps about £45. The collection nett, for £23 10s. od. The fine blocks of 1d. red plate numbers are alone worth this.

# Approval Selections.

## ANY COUNTRY OR COLONY.

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With which is incorporated EWEN'S WEEKLY CIRCULAR. (Established October, 1897.)

A JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

THE ONLY WEEKLY STAMP PAPER  
PUBLISHED IN EUROPE.

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[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

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### The Week's News.

Owing to the appearance of the 1d. Universal Postage stamp in New Zealand, the pictorial local print of that value is obsolete—a fact that does not yet appear to have occurred to most collectors.

\* \* \*

The 1 dinar stamp of the current type of Servia issued in 1894 in blue-green, has been demonetized and the stock of remainders was recently sold by auction in Paris. Collectors will do well to remember this fact when buying unused Servian stamps as face value is as frail a guide to their value as it is in the case of Salvadors, Nicaraguas and others of that ilk.

\* \* \*

The new issue for Italy which was stated to be "nearly ready" some time ago does not appear to be any nearer being issued than it was six months ago. Why all this delay we wonder?

\* \* \*

Another new set of stamps that is a long time appearing is that which, more than twelve months ago, was being prepared for Greece and which was expected to have been issued last September. The many delays that have occurred are stated to be responsible for the flood of surcharges to which Greece recently treated the philatelic world. However the Greek postal officials seem to be hurrying on matters just now for we learn that the designs have been excepted and that the stamps are in the press. Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co., are producing the stamps and doubtless they will be as artistic as any of the previous work done by this firm. The set for ordinary postal use will consist of the values of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 40 and 60 lepta and 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 drachmai while the unpaid letter set will be similarly constituted with the omission of the three higher values.

\* \* \*

It seems that the recently issued Cayman Islands ½d. and 1d. stamps are available for international postage after all and are not restricted to local use as was reported a few months back.

\* \* \*

Since the article describing the stamps issued by the Boers at Pietersburg appeared in our issue for June 15th, much additional information has come to hand. It appears that our statement that all the stamps were printed in black on red paper is erroneous. True, all the values are printed in black, but on the following coloured papers:—½d., green; 1d., rose; 2d., orange; 4d., blue; 6d., green; and 1/., yellow. The stamps were printed in four rows of six stamps, and these were cut in half and issued in sheets of twelve. There are three types to be found, 1—first two rows have "POSTZEGEL" and "1901" in large type; the third has "POSTZEGEL" large and "1901" small, while the bottom row has "POSTZEGEL" and "1901" in small type. It will thus be seen that type I. is twice as common as the other two varieties. All these provisionals should show the controller's initials. Three sheets of the ½d. were issued without initials by mistake, owing to their having stuck to initialled sheets. These are the only genuine ones without initials, all others are only proofs. As may be expected, there are a number of errors, such as "J" for "L," "B" for "R," and no stop between "AFR" and "REP."

\* \* \*

In our next number particulars of another "Questions" competition, similar to that lately held, will be announced.

## New Issues.

The Editor will be much obliged for early news of New Issues or intended New Issues or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors. Full acknowledgment given. If possible, specimens should be sent in order that illustrations may be prepared.

**BOSNIA.**—The current set has been augmented by the addition of another high value—5 kronen. It is similar in design to the 1 and 2 kronen stamps issued early in the year and is printed in blue-green.

**BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA.**—Our Colonial Market has shown us the new 5/- and £1 stamps, the former being printed in orange-brown and the latter in dull lilac. The type is exactly similar to the current 1/- stamp though in size the £1 is much larger. Two other high values—£5 and £10—of similar type has also been issued but up to the present we have not received specimens. The stamps are produced by Messrs. Waterlow & Sons.

**CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.**—Several varieties of inverted and double surcharges are known to exist in the Mafeking stamps and as we do not appear to have chronicled them in this column before we record them now:

### Double Surchage.

3d. on 1d. lilac Bechuanaland Protectorate.  
6d. on 3d. brown on yellow, " "  
1/- on 4d. green and brown, British Bechuanaland.

### Inverted Surchage.

1d. an ½d. vermilion, Bechuanaland Protectorate.  
1/- on 4d. green and brown, British Bechuanaland.

There is also a variety of the small size of Baden-Powell stamp with head to right.

**CHILI.**—The M.C. says that the 1, 2, and 5 centavos stamps of the new issue have been re-touched. The lines of the background above the cap O. Columbus has been deepened so that the shading under the label bearing the word "CHILI" has almost disappeared.

**DANISH WEST INDIES.**—*Mekel's Weekly* states that the 10 cents blue and brown has appeared with the 12½ perforation. The values issued with this perforation so far are:

1c. mauve and green.      5c. grey and green.  
3c. carmine and indigo.      10c. blue and brown.

**MADAGASCAR.**—The P.J. of G.B. chronicles a hitherto unrecorded variety, viz.: the 25c. overprinted stamp of France, 1895 issue, with surcharge in vermilion instead of carmine.

**MONACO.**—The statement, that 5 and 10 centimes fiscal stamps were recently allowed to frank letters owing to a dearth of postage stamps of those values, which we published on the authority of the A.J. of Ph. is incorrect. The M.C. has received official information to this effect and adds "the story arose from an American dealer, who was staying in Monaco, putting fiscal stamps on envelopes together with a sufficient supply of postage stamps to frank the letters. The fiscals were obliterated like the rest, but, of course, they had no postal value."

The 10 centime post-card now appears in red on pale green—the Postal Union colour—instead of brown as formerly.

**ORANGE RIVER COLONY.**—We learn from several sources that specimens of the 1d. "T.F." stamps with V.R.I. overprint have been found postally used.

**PARAGUAY.**—Another colour change has taken place here the 2c. now appearing in carmine-red instead of olive-grey as formerly.

**PORTUGUESE INDIES.**—The M.J. has been shown two uncatalogued varieties, i.e., the 10 reis of the 1872 issue, Die II., on laid paper in a tête-bêche pair; and the 1½ on 10 reis green of the issue of 1881-2, also surcharged "6" in black. The latter stamp might equally well be the 6 on 10 reis green with additional surcharge "1½." It is postmarked "Nova Goa, 10 Nov. 1882."

**QUEENSLAND.**—A correspondent has shown the *London Philatelist* specimens of the 1d. vermilion stamp of 1899, having the zig-zag roulettes in black and perf. 13. There are thus five distinct varieties of this stamp known.

## Postcard Column.

Mr. W. Beckwith writes:—

"I enclose for inspection a 4d. Cape of Good Hope watermarked Crown and CC. having the single line frame on three sides only. The stamp is evidently from the right hand side of the sheet."

Mr. Burton F. J. Cooper contributes the following:

"Have you seen the following small variety in the surcharge "ARMY OFFICIAL" on the current ½d. green stamp, viz., the first 'I' in 'OFFICIAL' is shorter than the other letters in the word. I enclose a pair, showing the variety, for your inspection."

Mr. John Leonard writes:—

"I enclose for inspection a specimen of the 6d. orange, 1854 issue, of Victoria, used, on small piece of original cover. This stamp is perforated 17, and is not catalogued."

Mr. C. J. Hawkins describes a variety:—

"It may be of interest to readers of E.W.S.N. to note that I have copies of the 1 centavo stamp of the 1898 issue of the Philippines on both white and yellow paper. The ink on the latter seems darker, but this is probably due to the colour of the paper."

Mr. J. G. Cairns writes:—

"On examining some of the new Pan-American 1 and 2 cents stamps I find specimens with the words 'Lake Navigation' hidden under the bottom of the arc on the 1 cent. On one of the 2 cents stamp I note the railway lines extend right into the border nearly touching the figure '2.'"

[Specimens of all the Pan-Americans may be found with the central design more or less off-centre. We have heard of copies of the 2c. value in which the black portion touches the bottom of the coloured frame.—ED.]

Mr. Thos. Newstead answers a query:—

"With regard to Miss Eavis' enquiry in E.W.S.N. of May 18th, which does not appear to have yet been answered, I believe the explanation to be as follows:—As China is not in the Postal Union its stamps will only frank letters in that country. Therefore when letters addressed to places abroad are posted at Chinese Offices the authorities have to hand them over to one of the foreign post offices paying the postage by means of the country's stamps used at the office. These stamps are often stuck over the Chinese ones and French stamps seem to be most often used on account of the rate of exchange being slightly more favourable."

Mr. F. Taylor contributes the following:—

"Is New Zealand the only country which permitted its stamps to be made the medium of trade advertisements? In a considerable collection I have there are no stamps of any other country with advertisements printed on the back and it would be interesting to know if the practice was confined to New Zealand, which is, I believe, generally considered the most progressive country in the world. Probably several readers of the *Weekly* have made a speciality of these advertisement bearing stamps and could give information regarding them, which would be of use to other philatelists. I have a number of New Zealand stamps of the values 1d., 2d., 2½d., 3d. and 5d. showing various advertisements."

[If readers are interested in these advertisement bearing stamps, and will send lists of those they have, we will publish an article describing them in a future number.—ED.]

Mr. R. Simpson writes:—

"I should be glad if any of your readers, through the medium of your post-card column, could explain the meaning of the design that appears on the issues of Nevis from 1861 to 1878."

## Postmark Notes.

By "DUPLEX."

FROM Mr. J. T. Cricks I have received another batch of interesting envelopes from South Africa. One of these is franked with a 1d. V.R.I. Transvaal which is postmarked "CHRISTIANA 20 SEP 00" in a large circle in purple ink. This is a curious makeshift mark and on turning up an old number of *E.W.S.N.*, I find a note sent by our special correspondent in South Africa last year accounting for its use. It appears that when the British entered Christiana none of the regular postmarks could be found, the Boers having destroyed them or carried them away. A large rubber stamp was found, however, inscribed "AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT, CHRISTIANA" and after cutting away the first two words this was made use of.

I have seen specimens of this mark on the current 1d. English and also on the 1d. Transvaal without the V.R.I. overprint.

\* \* \*

Another envelope, without postage stamp, bears a large rectangular mark in which is "KAREE I.M.R." used at Karee Siding, Imperial Military Railways. The date, May 17th, 1900, is written in manuscript. Whether the mark was in general use or was only impressed on this letter by the sender, my correspondent is unable to inform me. The envelope also bears the Bloemfontein O.V.S. mark and the London "PAID" stamp.

\* \* \*

One envelope is franked with two 1d. and one ½d. V.R.I. stamps of the Orange River Colony, and these are obliterated with the large "ARMY TELEGRAPHS" cancellation. Across the centre of this is "B" and "DN" with the date between. Mr. Cricks informs me that these letters stand for the name of the town where the letter was posted. As the Bloemfontein date mark is at the back of the envelope they may signify "Bloemfontein Division." There is, I believe, no town or village of any size in the O.R.C. in which the letters "BDN" occur.

\* \* \*

On another envelope sent by Mr. Cricks, which was posted at Bloemfontein, are the letters "I. P. Y." in violet ink. I have some recollection of mentioning a similar mark a month or two ago and I then stated that it was a Censor mark. Probably they are the initials of the Bloemfontein Censor.

\* \* \*

The same correspondent sends an interesting cover which shews to some extent the difficulties with which the post office have to contend in disposing of letters addressed to the front. The one was sent from Newhaven, Sussex, on June 8th, 1900, and was ultimately delivered to the addressee at Aldershot on March 20th of this year, after following him for more than nine months. As might be expected, the envelope is simply covered with postmarks. One of the most interesting of these is a large double lined oval stamp in which "ROYAL ENGINEERS," "BASE DETAILS," and the date appear.

\* \* \*

A large number of correspondents, too many to mention individually, have sent me specimens of the London machine cancellation, containing the letters "E.R." and crown, in the place of "V.R." The mark is exactly similar to the V.R. type and stampers' numbers from 1 to 6 inclusive may be found. One correspondent writes:—"A King's postmark obliterating a Queen's stamp is singular, is it not?"

\* \* \*

Mr. F. C. Scarr, who sent me several Irish postmarks last week, now sends a local postmark from Dublin. This consists of two concentric circles, between which the following appears:—"JAMES STREET, D.O. DUBLIN. 2." The "D.O." stands for district office, and the figure "2" is evidently a stamper's number.

\* \* \*

On the same envelope is a London "PAID" stamp in red, in which the date is arranged in one line under the "1," and has below it a stamper's number, "7." The word "PAID" is in small type under the name, "LONDON," at the top of the circle.

\* \* \*

Mr. G. F. M. Camroux sends me a Canadian postmark from Toronto advertising the Exposition that is to take place there this year—a method doubtless copied from our Yankee cousins. It is a long machine cancellation of the flag type with a representation of the Union Jack in the left-hand top corner. Under this is the letter "C" for Canada. In the centre of the flag is a large shield on which are the following words "CANADA'S — EXPOSITION — TORONTO — AUG. 26 TO — SEP. 7" in five lines. The date mark attached shows it was affixed at Toronto on June 21st.

## The Portraits on the Stamps of Mexico.

SEVERAL of our readers have, from time to time, written to ask whose are the portraits on the several issues of the postage stamps of Mexico, and the following information, which we glean from an article that appeared in the *National Philatelic News*, may, therefore, prove of interest.

On all the various issues of Mexico only three portraits have appeared, *i.e.*, those of Hidalgo, known as the founder of Mexican liberty; the ill-fated Emperor Maximilian; and Juarez, who has often been termed the preserver of liberty.

It is only natural that the portrait of Hidalgo—the Mexican Liberator—should adorn most of the portrait issues seeing in what high respect he is held by the Mexicans for what he did for their country.

Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, or the Great Deliverer as the Mexicans delight in calling him, was born on May 8th, 1753 and was educated for the priesthood. Besides his episcopal duties Hidalgo busied himself with agricultural improvements and also devoted much attention to public affairs. In 1810 the long oppression of the natives by the Spaniards was brought to a climax by the Spanish vice-regent, Jover de Venegas, trying to more strictly enforce certain laws which were objectionable to the populace and the result was an extensive revolt of which Hidalgo became the head. Several engagements took place between the Spaniards and the Mexican forces the latter generally being defeated. In July 1811 Hidalgo was treacherously betrayed into the enemies hands by some of his own men and on the 27th of that month he was shot at Oaxaca. The seed of freedom thus planted by Hidalgo was fostered by Guerrero and Iturbide in succession and culminated in the establishment of the first Mexican Empire in 1822. When postage stamps were first issued in 1856, Hidalgo's portrait was placed on them and it enjoyed this position on all the succeeding portrait issues with the exception of those of 1866-67 (Gibbons' type 4) and 1879-83 (Gibbons' type 13).

The second portrait to appear on Mexican stamps was that of the Emperor Ferdinand Maximilian Joseph, the younger brother of the Emperor of Austria, who was born on May 7th, 1832. For several years he was Governor of the Austrian Provinces of Italy, at the time when Mexico was rent by factional strife. Under Napoleonic influences, the clerical party of that country offered the throne to Maximilian, and with the pledge of French protection, he accepted. In June, 1864, he was cordially received at the Capitol by the clergy and army, although at that time the adherents of the opposing faction still held various portions of the northern part of the country. In 1866, the republicans once more became active, and the French troops supporting Maximilian were withdrawn owing to pressure from the United States. From that time the empire began to totter, and in 1867, the republican party once more came into power, and on July 19th of that year the unfortunate Maximilian was executed, having been betrayed into the enemies hands by his own officers, like Hidalgo was before him. Following European precedent, Maximilian's portrait was placed on the stamps issued while he was in power.

Besides the two fore-going the only other portrait to appear on Mexican stamps is that of Carlos Benita Juarez, who may be termed the preserver of Mexican liberty, and was born on May 21st, 1806. Although his parents were poor, through the assistance of a well-to-do benefactor, he was able to go to the Capitol and study law. Becoming a notary at Oaxaca he was soon leader of the Liberalists of the state, and in 1864 was elected as deputy to congress. He became Governor of Oaxaca in 1848 and held that position until Santa Ana became dictator of Mexico when he was banished. The republic being restored he returned and was appointed Minister of Justice by President Alvarez, who was then in office. With the election of Comonfort in the following year he became Chief Justice and Vice-President of the Republic. Comonfort's overthrow by Zuloaga and the Clerical party resulted in his retirement to Vera Cruz where he was practically head of a liberal government and styled himself "Constitutional President." Miramon succeeded Zuloaga and civil war continued until he was defeated at San Megulilla by Ortega. He fled to Europe and was the Mexican leader in the French intrigues. Meanwhile (Jan., 1861) Juarez re-entered the Capitol and in June was elected President for four years. He at once set about enforcing the reform inaugurated by Alvarez, but the continual plotting of the Clericals together with the French invasion again drove him forth. However even then when he and his few followers were hemmed in to the extreme north of Pass del Norte, and

although defeat seemed so imminent, he never once despaired of ultimately being victorious. Maximilian's downfall brought about his final entry into the Capital at the head of an armed force in July, 1867, and he was again elected President. In 1871 he was re-elected to this position by a narrow margin over Porfirio Diaz. He did not, however, live long to enjoy his triumph for he was stricken by apoplexy and died in June, 1872. As a tribute to his memory the issues of 1879-83 were adorned with his portrait by order of President Diaz who was then in office.

## Notes from America.

SOME ingenious individual who read of the 2c. Pan-American stamp with inverted centre in a daily paper, and their prospect of great increase of value wrote to the Post Office Department, inclosing two 2c. Pan-American stamps, one for return postage and the other to be exchanged for a specimen with the centre inverted. He was very anxious to have one for his own collection, but did not care to pay the price for it which stamp dealers would be likely to charge. It was the only way he could conceive of obtaining one without having to pay an exorbitant figure. Would it not be agreeable if all of us could be supplied in this easy manner? Probably the department would then need an extra force of clerks.

\* \* \*

Die proofs on India paper, mounted on cardboard have been prepared in a limited number of the Pan-American series. Each individual proof is numbered on the back, as now a distinct record has to be kept of every impression taken from either a die or plate. This is a new regulation, calculated to make it an impossibility for any proof or impression of any kind to get out unless properly authorized. In this respect we must say that the bureau officials have been very successful for a number of years.

\* \* \*

Of the Niger Coast set the 2d. 1893, seems hard to get in unused condition. Many who have tried to purchase this stamp say it is harder to get than the 1s. of the same issue. Of these stamps 10,000 of each were issued yet the 1s. catalogues \$2.00 and the 2d. \$1.10. The latter must shortly take a rapid rise in value.

\* \* \*

The demand for Niger Coast during the past six months has been very pronounced and a large amount of speculation has been indulged in. As a general rule one should avoid speculation in that in which every one is speculating. To exhibit the right kind of shrewdness reason out the scarcity of a stamp, purchase it at the ground floor market price, and buy quickly. The new Southern Nigeria are so beautiful that a new impetus will be given these coast stamps.

(*Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News.*)

\* \* \*

There seems to be nothing new to say concerning the inverted Pan-American stamps. The Bureau and Post Officials are receiving no further information relative to additional finds and they look for no more. The dealers do not share the impression that would seem to exist in some quarters, that these inverts will be plenty, and one dealer expresses the opinion that it is very doubtful if any more are ever found.

\* \* \*

Invert and pervert are somewhat alike in sound and not wholly unlike in meaning, and we are sorry to say that the stamps and dealers have become badly mixed up, each partaking of the other's fault. It is certain that more untruths have been told in connection with these stamps than all the rest of our postal issues combined. The various stories that have been told would fill a large-sized volume, certainly more space than we have at our present disposal. So far as we have been able to discover only two dealers have had any quantity, about 50 each of the 1c., while about six dealers have each had about half-a-dozen copies of the 2c. This does not include about 10 used specimens of both values. While, as stated above, a limited number of merchants have had inverted U.S. stamps for sale, a very large number of perverted dealers have not had them, but have not been the least bashful in stating the numbers they propose to have, nor backward in quoting prices at which they expect to sell them in the future. The facts of the case are, that at present there are practically no inverts in the market, those who had them having either sold out or are holding for higher prices. The Government has used the utmost care possible to prevent these stamps getting out, and it is doubtful if another copy will be found in any post office in the United States.

(*The Metropolitan Philatelist.*)



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A JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

THE ONLY WEEKLY STAMP PAPER  
PUBLISHED IN EUROPE.

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[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

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### The Week's News.

It is now rumoured that Belgium will follow the example set by several of its Continental contemporaries and issue a stamp bearing a new portrait of King Leopold. We hear that a very successful design has been prepared by M. Omer Dierickx, and the essay will be laid before the King immediately on his return.

\* \* \*

At last Italy's long expected new issue has appeared. Strange to relate we received our first specimen by the same post as the last number of *E.W.S.N.*, in which a note, wondering when the new stamps would arrive, appeared. Several of our readers—Mr. T. S. Harvey, Mr. Karl Wicken, and others—have sent us specimens. For particulars of the new set we would refer readers to our "New Issues" column.

\* \* \*

Regarding the suggestion that a portrait of the Queen should appear on one of the new postage stamps, the *Westminster Gazette* remarks:—"The proposal—unhappily too late—that the portrait of the Queen should be placed on one at least of the forthcoming issues of postage stamps, will be received with a good deal of sympathy. It would have been particularly appropriate that the effigy of Queen Alexandra—the Queen Consort—should have appeared on those stamps bearing a face value, say 'Half a Crown,' or 'Half a Sovereign'!"

\* \* \*

The Transvaal Compensation Commission now sitting to assess the amounts of claims for damage to property caused by the war have before them several claims for postage stamps. One claimant wants £35 for 15,000 used Transvaal stamps (varieties not specified, while another wants £60 for his collection. In a leaderette referring to this matter the *Daily Chronicle* says:—"These claims are significant of the great rage for postal rarities which has been one of the minor features of the war in South Africa. . . . We shall hear next that the real cause of the Transvaal war was the machinations of philatelists covetous of V.R. surcharges! It would not be more absurd than some other theories of the war."

\* \* \*

The *S.C.F.* says that two ladies in the United States have the privilege of sending letters without having to frank them with postage stamps. These are Mrs. Lucretia A. Garfield (widow of the late President Garfield) and the widow of General Grant—Mrs. Julia Grant. Letters from these ladies have their signatures stamped or written upon the envelopes and they then pass through the mails without postage. In addition all mail matter sent to these ladies is carried free. The privilege is one granted only to widows of United States Presidents.

\* \* \*

We regret that owing to extreme pressure we are unable to publish particulars of the new "Questions" competition in this number. Our readers may rest assured, however, that particulars will be announced in our next issue.

\* \* \*

Shortly before leaving Sydney (N.S.W.) His Royal Highness the Duke of Cornwall and York was presented with an address and album of stamps by the members of the Sydney Philatelic Club of which H.R.H. has consented to become patron. The collection was a representative one of the stamps of New South Wales and included among other fine things a completed plate of 50 varieties of the 2d. laureated and a fine unused 1d. laureate.

## New Issues.

The Editor will be much obliged for early news of New Issues or intended New Issues or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors. Full acknowledgment given. If possible, specimens should be sent in order that illustrations may be prepared.

**BAVARIA.**—A few weeks ago we chronicled the 20 pfennig re-engraved on the authority of the *M.C.* A correspondent now informs our contemporary that the other values have been similarly treated.

**BELGIUM.**—The 10 centimes postage due stamp in carmine, which was listed some months ago, has, we are told, at last been put into circulation.

**BRITISH GUIANA.**—We are informed that the 48 cents stamps which was reported to have been changed in colour early in the year has not yet been issued.

**BRITISH HONDURAS.**—The *M.7.* has been shown a horizontal pair of the 1d. blue watermark Crown and CC., which is certainly imperforate vertically and shows no horizontal perforations, though it is unfortunately cut rather close top and bottom.

**CEYLON.**—A specimen of the 4 cents rose surcharged "two" has been found with the surcharge twice printed. This variety is already known in the lilac-rose shade.

**ITALY.**—The long expected new issue has at last made its appearance and so far we have seen the 1, 2, 5, 10 and 25 cents values. The central design of the 1, 2 and 5 cents stamps is an eagle with a shield, bearing a white cross on its breast, while the 10 and 25 cents values show a portrait of the King. The highly decorated borders, which are different for each value, show the words "POSTE ITALIANE," the value, and "CENT." The colours of the values we have seen are:—

1 cent	brown.
2 cents	brick-red.
5	green.
10	carmine.
25	blue.

**MEXICO.**—The *M.C.* chronicles the 5 pesos carmine and black stamp of the current set with the "OFICIAL" overprint, and thus the set with this surcharge is now complete.

**NICARAGUA.**—A bad attack of the surcharging mania has evidently again broken out here, for in addition to the provisionals already listed, we have this week to chronicle a fresh batch. The *M.C.* says several of the values of the current issue have been surcharged "1901" and a new value and the ones so treated are:—

2 centavos	on 1 centavo	purple.
2	"	1 peso, yellow.
10	"	5 pesos, black.
20	"	2 " orange red.

In addition to the three values of the postage due set already announced as having been overprinted "Correos, 1901" we now learn that the 1, 2, 30 and 50c. have been similarly surcharged, so that the set to date stands as below:—

1 centavo,	purple;	black surcharge.
2 centavos,	vermilion	" "
5	dark blue	" "
10	violet	gold "
20	brown	black "
30	myrtle-green	" "
50	lake	" "

**NORWAY.**—A correspondent informs the *M.C.* that the 10 öre postage due stamp of the current set has had its colour changed from rose to claret.

**PARAGUAY.**—Another value has just had its colour changed, i.e., the 2c. from dull grey to carmine, and a 40 centavos stamp has been added to the current set. The values and colours now used are therefore as below:—

1c.	dark green	8c.	maroon
2c.	carmine	10c.	carmine
3c.	light brown	24c.	dark blue
5c.	brown	40c.	blue

**PERU.**—We learn from a contemporary that the current 10 centavos black stamp has been overprinted "GOBIERNO" in black.

**VENEZUELA.**—The *M.7.* has seen a specimen of the 10c. of 1899 with the "Resellada RFM" surcharge inverted.

## Our Postcard Column.

Mr. C. H. McDiarmid-Fish writes:—

"In answer to Mr. R. Simpson the design on the Nevis stamps 1861 to 1878 is emblematic. In the background is one of the mineral springs for which the island is celebrated. The standing figure represents the goddess of Health who is offering a cup of the healing waters to the sick maiden who is supported by another. There are slight differences in the drawings of every one of these fine old stamps now so difficult to get. I remember the time when they could be got for a shilling or to—and wish I could recall those bygone days!"

Mr. McDiarmid-Fish also contributes the following:—

"Like Mr. F. Taylor I have collected the 1893-94 issue of New Zealand with advertisements on the backs. The advertisements differ in shade and in colour. The values I have are:—

1d.	with advts. in pink, purple-brown (shades), and dull violet.
2d.	with advts. in chocolate, purple-brown (shades), and myrtle-green.
2½d.	advts. in purple-brown and green.
3d.	" in purple-brown.
5d.	" in purple-brown.
6d.	" in chocolate and purple-brown.
1/-	" in magenta.

By far the most common colour is purple-brown, of which various shades may be found. I have had the opportunity of examining many hundreds of these stamps, and they have all been perf. 10. I should like to know if they may be found with any other perforation. I have never seen advts. on the backs of stamps of any other country."

Mr. J. N. Mostyn writes:—

"Regarding advertisements on backs of stamps, do you consider the enclosed new 1 anna stamps of India, with "TIMES OF INDIA" printed on the backs, worth noting?"

[These stamps are hardly like the New Zealand ones, which have advts. pure and simple on the backs. They are, we should imagine, similar to one old English stamps with firms' names printed on the backs, as a preventive against theft. Probably all values of Indian stamps used in the *Times of India* office may be found with this overprint on the backs.—Ed.]

Mr. W. H. Earl contributes the following:—

"I enclose for your inspection a new type of martial law label. You will notice it consists of a double-lined rectangle, in which is the inscription, 'PENED UNDER MARTIAL LAW.' It seems strange that the missing 'o' should have been overlooked."

## Dominican Counterfeits.

In his usual interesting contribution to the *Philatelic West*, "Lacus Viridis" describes three counterfeits of the stamps of Dominica, from which we gather the information given here.

The first one is the 1d. lilac of 1874 or 1879, but the writer is unable to state which, owing to the perforation being so badly done. It is lithographed, and, though a very good imitation of the original, is not likely to prove dangerous, owing to the forger having omitted a very essential detail, to wit, the watermark. The paper, too, is yellowish, and the colour is more brownish-purple than lilac. Besides, there are several minor points of difference between the false and the genuine, but the mere fact of the watermark being omitted should be sufficient to betray the former.

Another counterfeit is of the 6d. of the same issue, and in this also the perforation is indistinct. This appears to be from the same stone as the 1d. value, as it shows similar defects and also has evidence of being much worn.

A forged 1/- lake of the same issue, perf. 14, is also described. This is stated to be a very good imitation, but, as with the 6d. and 1d., the watermark is omitted, it should not prove dangerous to any but the merest tyro. All these forgeries are cancelled with a bogus postmark, which seems to be made of parallel lines with parenthesis between.

## Postmark Notes.

By "Duplex."

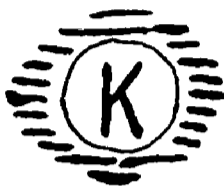
THIS week I have received a large number of postmarks for inspection from Miss C. Hoblyn. Amongst the war postmarks is one of a type that is altogether new to me. This is a small circular mark with "NATAL" curved at the top and "FIELD FORCE 2" at the base. The date—"MAR. 15-1900"—occupies three lines in the centre, and the whole is printed in violet ink. It will thus be seen the mark is more than fifteen months old, and yet amongst the many hundreds I have inspected from time to time I have not before seen one like it. I should, therefore, imagine that this type is of considerable scarcity.

\* \* \*

Miss Hoblyn also sends marks from Ladysmith, Estcourt, and De Aar, and a "777" mark on a Cape Colony postcard, posted at Sprigfontein.

\* \* \*

The same correspondent sends an envelope on the front of which is a mark similar to that illustrated herewith, containing the letter "K". By the side of it is the London "PAID" mark, and at the back is the "Bloemfontein O.V.S." date stamp.



\* \* \*

I have also received from Miss Hoblyn several interesting types of old English marks on original covers. One of these impressed at the back of a letter is circular in shape and contains "C.M. —Jy. 15—1852," in three lines.

\* \* \*

Another letter has "Islington Lr. Rd.," in one line in blue ink at the back and another shows "LANARK, Oc. 20, 1854," in a rectangle. This one is also printed in blue ink.

\* \* \*

Amongst a batch of loose stamps sent by the same correspondent I find several interesting marks, some of which are new to me. Two specimens, upright oval in shape, composed of thick parallel lines, have a diamond in the centre in which are the letters "A" and "B" respectively. Can any readers inform me what these letters signify? Both are on rd. red plate-numbers.

\* \* \*

Another rd. red with stars in the upper corners is obliterated by a curious cancellation consisting of five thick lines arranged in the form of a star. I do not remember having seen this mark before.

\* \* \*

Another curious mark sent is on a specimen of the 1880 type of ½d. green stamp. This is a small irregularly formed circle in which is the letter R. At the top of the circle is a large black dot.

\* \* \*

The same correspondent sends a rd. red cancelled with a single line oval mark enclosing thick parallel lines in the centre of which is a diamond. The number 24 is shown in the diamond.

\* \* \*

Mr. J. T. Cricks sends me a novelty in the way of Field Post Office marks, apparently one that has only just been issued. It is a Base Office mark of similar type to that shown herewith. The great difference between this and former types is in the office number above the date. The specimen sent me shews a large "3." It will be remembered that former Base Office marks contained no number but had instead an asterisk over the date.



\* \* \*

Mr. G. Verméeren sends me an old English 9d. bistre plate 4 cancelled with, what is to me, quite a new type of postmark. Unfortunately the specimen sent only shows a portion of the mark but if this were reconstructed it would probably be composed of seven concentric circles divided into eight segments by short breaks in the lines. Have any of my readers noted this mark before?

\* \* \*

Amongst a batch of machine marks sent me for inspection by Mr. William Ward, I note a variety of the "V crown R" cancellation which is quite new to me. In this specimen the crown is much wider than in the ordinary specimens and the letters "VR" are also slightly larger. The stampers No. "3" at the base is also slightly wider than is usual.

## Stray Notes on Sheets of Stamps.

IN the June number of the *Adhesive*, our bright little American contemporary, Mr. R. R. Thiele continues his interesting notes on sheets of stamps, which we quote at length:—

Considerable stir has lately been made about some imperforate sheets of the so-called Samoa Express stamps. To be sure neither these stamps nor their successors up to the cession of the Islands to Germany are a Government issue in the strict sense of the word, but they have figured in catalogues so long that they have come to have certain right there, like those of Shanghai or Livonia. Hence we may include them here also. Mr. Hagen, who was a lithographer in the employ of S. T. Leigh & Co., Sydney, N.S.W., the firm which made them, says that the stone of the rd. stamps at first held 24 impressions, in 4 rows of 6, the stones of the higher values only 12 impressions, in 2 rows of 6. Only the original die was retained; the stones were cleaned off for each printing and a new stone prepared after each new order. Defective transfers were touched up, thus producing the type varieties of these stamps. The successive plates did not always contain the same number of impressions; the later sheets of the 1 penny and 6 pence values contained 20 stamps in 4 rows of 5, those of the other values, less frequently used, contained only 10 stamps, in 2 rows of 5. Amongst the stock of these stamps bought by Whitfield King & Co., in 1882, when the enterprise suspended, were some sheets of reprints of all values containing 21 stamps, in 3 rows of 7. But later plates used for reprinting, which were also owned by Whitfield King & Co., contained 40 impressions, in 5 rows of 8, for all the values. These plates were finally destroyed at Sydney some years ago, thus putting an end to reprinting. A specialist can accordingly employ his time and funds very profitably in plating these stamps.

\* \* \*

The stamps of the Fiji Times Express are exactly analogous to those of the Samoa Express—or perhaps the case should be stated *vice-versa*, for the Fijians were much earlier than the Samoans. Their primitive execution shows that they were not made for the collector, but for actual business. They were set up typographically in sheets of 24, in 4 rows of 6. Those listed by our catalogues on quadrillé paper were the first printed; the values were all arranged on the same sheet in this manner:

6	6	6	6	6	6
1sh	1sh	1sh	1sh	1sh	1sh
1d	1d	1d	1d	1d	1d
3	3	3	3	9	3

For some reason or other there was more demand later on for the 9d. value and two more of this value were inserted in later printings, those listed by our catalogues on batonné paper; the sheet remains unchanged except for the last row which is now arranged in this manner:

3	3	3	9	9	9
---	---	---	---	---	---

Presumably few of my readers will undertake to reconstruct these sheets, which is made possible by the slight variations almost unavoidable in type-set stamps.

\* \* \*

The first three issues of China are not really government postage stamps in the accepted sense of the word, as China then had no postal organization. They were issued by the Imperial Maritime Customs Service, which maintained a postal service of its own between the parts supervised by it; this Customs Service was under European administration, its head being for many years past Sir Robert Hart, who was a conspicuous figure during the late siege of Peking.—I cannot at this writing say how the sheets of the first issue were composed; those of the 1885 issue came in sheets of 40, composed of two panes of 20 each in 5 rows of 4. The set of 1894 was printed in sheets of 25, 5×5. In the sheet of the 9c. one of the stamps in the bottom row was inverted; hence this row was cut off later on and this value issued in sheets of 20 only, 4 rows of 5, so that this tête-bêche variety is rather scarce. Still later this inversion was corrected and the sheets of the 10c. surcharged on 9c. are again composed of 25 stamps as before.—The 3c. revenue stamp, which was extensively surcharged for postage in 1897, was printed in sheets of 25, 5×5.—The definite set of 1897 was printed in Japan; at least the 1c. sheet, perhaps all the low value sheets, consisted of 240 stamps, arranged in 12 panes of 20 each, in 4 rows of 5; the panes were arranged in 3 horizontal rows of 4. The three dollar values came in sheets of 80, composed of 4 panes of 20 each, in 5 rows of 4; the panes are arranged side by side.—This set did not give satisfaction and was superseded by that of 1898, printed by Waterlow & Sons of London. The sheets of the low values of this set consist of 120 stamps, arranged in two panes of 60 each; the high values come in sheets of 48, in 8 rows of 6 each.—As Chinese currency, at least that based

on the tael, is decimal, it will be seen that these later sheets have no special reference to the currency.

\* \* \*

The Chinese Treaty Port issues are tabooed by many collectors as trash, which is undoubtedly the proper term for many of them. Still there are amateurs for everything and these also have their devotees, especially since the late unpleasantness over yonder. Hence the following notes anent some of these issues, as they come to mind.

The 1895 issue of Amoy was printed in sheets of 40—why and where I cannot say at this moment. The first issue of Chung-King was modest, consisting of a single value, 2 candarins; this was printed in strips of 10 stamps by the firm of Kelly & Walsh, Limited, at Shanghai, if I remember right. Finding a ready market for them, the Local Post-master had more values printed in Japan by the Tokio Tsukiji Company, but I cannot now state the size of the sheet.—The first issue of Hankow is native-made; it was printed in sheets or rather strips of 10, each stamp of the strip differing slightly from the others. The 5c. value was printed in horizontal strips, all the others in vertical strips. (Entrancing prospect, this, of plating Chinese Locals!) The next issue was procured from Waterlow & Sons, London, and photolithographed by them; I remember seeing a letter of this firm going the rounds of the stamp papers in which they apologised for the miserable appearance of this set by blaming the penury of the postmaster, who would not pay for good work.

The Kewkiang set is of native make; it is printed in sheets of 100, composed of 4 panes of 25, 5×5. All the stamps in each pane are slightly different from each other, but they correspond in the panes, as the plate was impressed four times to make a sheet.

## Jottings.

It seems that we shall soon be having a stamp trust in the land of trusts—America. It is rumoured that two of the largest stamp firms will be purchased by the American Collector's Company and the three businesses thus amalgamated will carry the largest capital of any stamp concern in the world.

\* \* \*

A correspondent points out to one of our Trans-Atlantic contemporaries that as 100 1c. Pan-Americans were found at Branford, Conn.; 100 in East Hampton, Conn.; and 100 in Syracuse, N.Y., there must be another 100 somewhere as the stamps were issued in sheets of 200.

\* \* \*

An American dealer sent a customer the two Bulgarian commemoratives recently issued and as a result received the following note, "The two stamps with pictures in the upper corners of the man in the moon I know nothing about. Is this a regular issue or an issue to commemorate the purchase of an antiquated cannon by the government?"

\* \* \*

A contemporary states that the recent flood of Nicaraguan provisionals is due to the fact of the annual issue not being ready as soon as expected and to the necessity of keeping the contractors stock of 50,000 cancelled to order sets intact.

\* \* \*

The new Victorian £1 and £2 stamps bearing King Edward's portrait should arrive very shortly now. In fact they may be expected any moment.

\* \* \*

Collectors who are hankering for Schweiger Reneke Besieged stamps will do well to be careful in buying as the surcharge is so crude that it can be very easily imitated.

\* \* \*

Why will some of our American contemporaries continue to call the Transvaal, Vaal River Colony? Certainly some months ago it was thought possible that the latter title might be adopted, but now the name Transvaal is used in all official documents and it does not seem in the least likely that it will be changed.

\* \* \*

The step taken by a prominent state like Victoria in issuing Postmarked-to-order sets of stamps has raised a large outcry in the Philatelic Press, and especially amongst our Antipodean brethren. It is to be hoped that the result of so much adverse public opinion will put a stop to such undignified proceedings in future.

\* \* \*

It is stated that on the first two days of the Exposition \$12,000 worth of Pan-American stamps were sold at Buffalo.

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[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

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Our Postcard Column.      Questions.  
Postmark Notes.  
New Zealand Perforations.  
Notes from America.  
Colonial Stamp Market.

## The Week's News.

The index to the half-yearly volume ending June 29th last will be issued some time during August.

\* \* \*

Writing with regard to the new Italian stamps, Mr. T. S. Harvey says:—"I have caused full enquiry to be made at the General Post Office at Florence by a friend well-known there, and am informed that the 1c., 2c., 5c., 10c., 20c. and 25c. values, already procurable, are the only ones likely to be issued there yet as the old stock of the high values still remains to be used up. I understand that the new set will go up to 5 lire, similar to the last, but from my own experience of Italian Post Office arrangements I should say that certainly one of the values between 25c. and 1 lire will be omitted. Probably it will be the 60c., that value being least in use. I have never yet seen a specimen of this value used although the smaller offices had or have them."

\* \* \*

The 1 lepton and 1 drachma stamps of the unpaid letter set of Crete are so similar that the latter is to be surcharged with what the officials term "un signe distinctif" to prevent confusion. The Cretan Postal officials evidently wish to oblige as much as possible, for they kindly state that they will supply the 1 drachma with or without the surcharge as the purchaser prefers!

\* \* \*

The new Pictorial set which is said to be in contemplation for Guatemala is to consist of all values from 1c. to 200c. We are informed that to make way for the new issue the old stock will be surcharged 1901 and 1 or 2 centavos. Probably the 25c. stamp we chronicled a week or so ago surcharged "UN—1—CENTAVO—1901" in four lines is, therefore, the forerunner of a long list of provisionals that will appear shortly.

\* \* \*

In addition to the 500 and 700 reis values which are said to have already been issued we now learn that a 1,000 reis stamp is to be supplied to all the Portuguese Colonies.

\* \* \*

We have refrained from making individual mention of the enormous crop of surcharges, &c., that Salvador has perpetrated during the last twelve months owing to the almost hopeless muddle into which they have got. We learn from the *M. J.*, however, that since the last edition of Gibbons' "Foreign" catalogue was issued no less than 138 new varieties have appeared for this one small American republic alone!

\* \* \*

The following interesting note appears in the current number of the *Philatelic Journal of India*: "Philatelists are warned against  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent Chinese postage stamps surcharged '5 CENTS' and obliterated 'Railway Post Office.' They are not postage stamps at all, nor is the obliteration a postal one. They are exactly on a level with the English Railway Stamps (except that there is no real excuse for their existence at all), and are being used by the Chinese Northern Railway to represent late letter fees on letters posted in the Indian Travelling Post Office vans recently started. From the fact that hundreds of empty covers have been posted in these vans with this precious "Stamp" already cancelled and "C.E.F." stamps to the value of  $\frac{1}{2}$  anna inside them, while practically no others have been used, we fear that philatelists are likely to be attached."

\* \* \*

One of our Continental contemporaries states that Holland is likely to issue a set of Service stamps before long.

## New Issues.

The Editor will be much obliged for early news of New Issues or intended New Issues or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors. Full acknowledgment given. If possible, specimens should be sent in order that illustrations may be prepared.

**BRITISH GUIANA.**—An official notice has been issued to the effect that the 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 20, 40, and 72 cents values of the provisional issue mauve with values overprinted in black have been withdrawn from circulation.

**BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA.**—Our Colonial Market has shown us the new £5 and £10 stamps mentioned a fortnight ago, and we find that the design is similar to that of the current 1/- stamp only much larger. The £5 value is printed in dark-blue and the £10 stamp in a curious shade of blue-lilac.

**CEYLON.**—A correspondent assures the *M. J.* that the current 4 cents yellow and 12 cents olive-green and carmine stamps have not received the "On Service" overprint.

**CHILI.**—Early in January we chronicled on the authority of numerous contemporaries that the current 10 cents stamp had been changed in colour from violet to yellow. A correspondent now informs the *Philatelic Record* that no such change has taken place.

**COREA.**—A contemporary informs us that the new  $\frac{1}{2}$  sen. stamp of Japan has been surcharged for use here.

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.**—A number of "errors," apparently made for stamp collectors, are described in the current issue of the *Monthly Journal*. The 5c. of the current issue has been seen with the inscriptions "ATLANTICO" and "MAR CARIBE" transposed, an error that could not possibly have occurred accidentally. Presumably it was made by a transfer from a die that was not approved. A really wonderful "error" occurs in the 2c. value. This has the map drawn the wrong way with Hayti at the right instead of the left. It is not an inverted transfer as all the names on the map are the right way up in the stamp. It is a different drawing of the map altogether looked at from the north instead of from the south.

**GREAT BRITAIN.**—"K" informs us that 6d. Army Official stamps have been issued, though our correspondent states that he has not seen a copy yet. We presume that the current 6d. stamp has been overprinted with "ARMY OFFICIAL" in two lines in the same manner as the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d. and 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. values.

**HYDERABAD.**—The *M. J.* has been shown a vertical pair of the 4 annas stamp imperforate horizontally which is stated to have been cut from a block of 20 in this condition.

**ITALY.**—We have seen another value of the new set, *i.e.*, 20 cents orange. The design shows a portrait of the king, and is somewhat similar to the 10 and 25c. stamps.

**JAPAN.**—A contemporary informs us that the inscription on the current 5 rin stamp is to be changed to " $\frac{1}{2}$  SEN."

**MADAGASCAR.**—The 5 cents stamps has appeared in the now current shade of yellow-green.

**NORTH BORNEO.**—The *M. J.* has been shown a horizontal pair of the 2 cents brown, of 1886, perf. 14, all round but imperf. vertically between the stamps.

**SARAWAK.**—Several of our contemporaries report that the shade of the second supply of the new 1c. stamp differs greatly from the first lot sent out. The blue portion of the stamp is now very bright without the slaty tinge which was formerly apparent.

**ST. THOMAS & PRINCE ISLANDS.**—The *M. J.* has seen a specimen of the 5 reis on 20r. rosine of 1889, with the overprint inverted.

**TRAVANCORE.**—The *M. J.* says that the 1 and 4 ch. now appear in new shades, the 1 ch. being in a distinct violet blue and the 4 ch. in a shade of bright yellow-green. The new  $\frac{1}{2}$  ch. stamp varies in colour from black to grey-black according to the amount of ink on the plate.

## Our Postcard Column.

MILL readers hearing of any interesting item of News, kindly jot it down on a postcard and address to the Editor, "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News," Norwood, London. For every contribution we publish, we will send the author an interesting and newly issued stamp. (N.B.—Postcards preferred.)

Miss C. Hoblyn writes:—

"I enclose for inspection a few minor varieties of the 'ARMY OFFICIAL' overprint on the current 1d. stamps which may prove of interest to you. In one you will notice the type is very much thinner than the normal varieties. Another has short 'i' in OFFICIAL while the others show various battered letters."

Capt. Connolly contributes the following:—

"The  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. red and 1/- green English stamps, which became obsolete last year, may both be found on the same ribbed paper as the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. green and 1d. lilac. I have the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. control letters P, Q, and R and the 1d. V, W, and X."

Mr. G. H. Dannatt writes:—

"Enclosed for inspection please find a pair of current Gibraltar 10 cents carmine overprinted with the London type of 'Morocco Agencies.' You will observe that on one of the specimens the second 'o' in Morocco is distinctly broken and, in fact, almost resembles the letter 'C.' I should be glad to learn whether in these days of thick and thin 'V's,' &c., this variety is of sufficient general interest to be chronicled as an error."

Mr. F. Taylor writes:—

"Regarding New Zealand stamps with advertisements on the backs the following is a list of the varieties I have in my possession:—

1d.  
Fry's Concentrated Cocoa.  
Use Kaitangata Coal—cheapest and cleanest.  
Lattey, Livermore & Co., Ltd., Wellington: Ask for their Pure Indian and Ceylon Teas.  
Salsaline, the Great Food Preservative.  
Beecham's Pills: Great Colonial Demand.  
Ask for Patent Odourless Waterproofs, made in Wellington.  
Ponetex Beef Extract. The Best and Cheapest.  
Truebridge, Miller and Reich, Wellington, Contractors for Advertising on Stamps & Telegrams.  
Crease's Essence of Coffee.  
Use the Best Soap—Sunlight.  
This space is reserved for Cadbury Bros.

2d.  
Ask for Patent Odourless Waterproofs, made in Wellington.  
Sunlight Soap.  
Lockhead's Wertheim Sewing Machines are the Best.  
For delicate skins use Sunlight Soap.

2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.  
Ladies use Sunlight Soap for washing the hair.  
S. Myers & Co., Dentists, Christchurch: Nitrous Oxide Gas. Painless Extraction.  
Ask for Patent Odourless Waterproofs, made in Wellington.  
Beecham's Pills: Best Family Medicine.

3d.  
Beecham's Pills: Best Family Medicine.  
5d.  
Beecham's Pills: The leading remedy."

Mr. W. Warwick also contributes a short note listing three advertisement stamps:—

"I have the following New Zealand stamps showing advertisements on the back, viz.:—  
1d. Bonnington's Irish Moss.  
2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Beecham's Pills.  
2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Kaitangata Coal."

Mr. C. R. Smith writes:—

"Probably many of your readers may not have noticed that in the scroll under the eagle on some of the early Columbian Republic stamps is an inscription in minute characters, which I decipher as 'LIBERTAD Y ORDEN.' Does this mean 'Liberty and Order'? This inscription may, I believe, be found on all values of the eagle type of Colombia, and also of the department of Antioquia."

## Postmark Notes.

By "DUPLEX."

FROM Capt. Connolly, I have received some marks for inspection, including several varieties of the old duplex type of British cancellation with oval date mark attached to a numbered obliterator. In some of these the town name is at the top of the oval and in others it extends nearly all the way round. One specimen has the name of the town curved at the left side of the oval, while another has it in a straight line across the centre. The date in each case occupies two lines, sometimes with the name of the month first, "JA. 8," or *vice-versa*, "7 MY." In some cases the date is in full—"1858"—while in others it is abbreviated to "58." In addition, specimens may be found with the time of posting under the date, and in one it is at the top of the oval, over the name of the town.

\* \* \*

The same correspondent sends me an Indian ship letter mark, circular in shape, in which the following appears in three lines: "H4 OUT—SET NO. 4—MA 25." Can any reader explain what it means?

\* \* \*

Capt. Connolly also sends an envelope from South Africa, on the back of which is a London mark that is new to me. This is a small circular date stamp with "LONDON—E.C." round the top, then the time of posting, and below the date in one line—"MY 1801." At the base is a stamper's letter.

\* \* \*

Mr. J. T. Cricks informs me that he has now ascertained that the letter bearing the army telegraphs postmark, described a fortnight ago, was cancelled at Brandfort, and therefore concludes that the letters "BDN" stand for Brandfort.

\* \* \*

The same correspondent sends an envelope for inspection which bears signs of having travelled somewhat extensively. It was posted at Ilford on April 6th, 1900, addressed to Russia and ultimately reached London on June 19th, 1900, after being on the move for more than two months. The back of the envelope is covered with Russian postmarks in blue and violet and there is also a small circular mark in red containing the number "4."

\* \* \*

Mr. Cricks also sends a ½d. English embossed envelope which passed through the post without the stamp being cancelled, and also an Egyptian card which was issued to commemorate the battle of Omdurman. The postmark on this is "CAIRE 12 XII. 98" and several Egyptian characters.

\* \* \*

Mr. F. C. Scarr sends me a number of tracings of postmarks he has on old Irish letters. In nearly every instance the mark on the back is a single or double lined diamond in red, in which is the date in two lines and a letter or figure to denote the time of posting. My correspondent wishes to know the meaning of these diamond marks. To a great extent it seems an unsettled point whether or not these marks were impressed in Ireland or in the G.P.O. London in passing through. Personally I am inclined to the belief that they are London marks judging from the old letters I have seen, though I should not like to make a positive assertion on this point.

\* \* \*

The same correspondent sends tracings of marks shaped like a Maltese Cross, in which "C" and "L S," with date, appear respectively. These are undoubtedly London marks, meaning Charing Cross and Lombard Street. I have seen them in red and black, and with single and double-lined crosses.

\* \* \*

Mr. W. Beckwith sends a triangular cancellation, containing the letters R A E, which is on a letter posted at Radstock (Som.). These letters, "R A E," evidently form the official contraction for Radstock. This type of postmark was originally intended to be used on type-written matter that came within the circular rate, but since the revision of the postal tariff, it has been put to a variety of purposes, often being used as a parcels post cancellation.

\* \* \*

Mr. G. Harold Green describes a similar type of postmark containing the letters "HY" which was used at High Wycombe, and enquires if the letters stand for the name of that town, and if so why. Yes, the letters "H.Y." are the official contraction for High Wycombe, and are the same as those appearing on the parcels post labels of that town. Every town in the United Kingdom is denoted, for the purposes of the parcels post, by various initials and when the triangular type of cancellation was introduced these letters were inserted instead of the office numbers of the different towns.

## Notes from America.

AS was intimated some time ago civil government for the Philippines seems to be near at hand, and then it may not be long until the postal affairs of the Islands come within the jurisdiction of the Post Office Department. Then the surcharged stamps will be withdrawn and the regular series used. Do not put off making purchases of these stamps, if you are proposing to buy, until some value has disappeared and then censure the Government because it does not go on printing more of the surcharged variety.

\* \* \*

Some little surprise has been expressed that so many more of the centre plates should be required than borders in the printing of the Pan-American stamps. However, there is nothing strange about this if one stops and thinks. The engraving of the central picture is exceedingly fine, in fact under a glass it is fine, and it is but natural that these fine lines should wear out after a time. The desire of the Government is that these stamps should represent the very best that can be accomplished in the way of stamp printing under the process adopted by the Bureau, and therefore when a plate shows sign of wear, even though it might still be used in the printing of millions of stamps, it is replaced by a new one.

\* \* \*

Those parties who indulge in the practice of cutting out centres and pasting them on inverted may regard this foolishness in the light of a great joke, but if Uncle Sam should happen to take a notion to look into the matter, he might make it uncomfortable for the practitioners. Before you go into that business look up the law and see what it says on the subject.

(The Metropolitan Philatelist).

\* \* \*

The 10 para postage stamp of Servia issued on the eve of the new century is the outcome of a peculiar error on the part of the official printing office of the Servian Government. The value of 10 para had been getting scarce, and an order for 10,000 sheets had been given. The printer placed the plate into the press as he received it and supplied the rose printing ink as he had been told to do. After the required number of sheets had been printed, gummed and perforated, one of the officials found out to his surprise that the plate had not been changed since the last printing and contained the figure 20 in the oval spaces to either side of the word "para." Here was a genuine error, the 20 para printed in the colour of the 10 para. But the need for the smaller denomination was urgent; the stock of the 20 para ample; in the dilemma it was decided to surcharge the error with the value it was originally intended for in black. A new error is, therefore, in the market, but it will never be scarce.

(The Philatelic Monthly & World).

\* \* \*

A little book, of German manufacture, of transfer pictures of stamps has been seen. Its cover is inscribed: "Novelty poststamp album in transfers containing a rich collection of the rarest poststamps to be applied on wooth (sic), paper, glass, china, leather, etc." The pictures are applied in the way that the old decalcomania scraps were and in the directions on the book under notice is the paragraph: "The fixed picture can be varnished, which makes it finer and secure against water and dust." The collector whose pride in or loyalty to philately impels him to show some outward sign of his hobby can decorate even his shoes with stamp pictures if the directions on the booklet may be relied on.

\* \* \*

The Bureau has finally received instructions to proceed with the new designs for Porto Rico revenue stamps. They are to bear the seal of Porto Rico, which will be rather an innovation. The instructions read: "The vignette to be the same on all denominations, derived from or bearing some relation to the seal of Porto Rico." The inscriptions are to read "The People of Porto Rico," "Excise Tax." There is to be a distinct numeral of value on each side of the stamp. All are to be different in colour, the cent values "pale shades" and the dollar values "bright shades." The denominations will be: 1c., 5c., 10c., 25c., 50c., \$1, \$3, \$5, \$10 and \$50. The number to be printed is an even million of each denomination; rather striking when we consider the relative number of postage stamps generally ordered.

It is also stated that these stamps are to be placed on invoices attached to stubs in such a manner, that when the invoice is torn off the stamp will be torn half in two. It is therefore emphasized that the denomination should be plainly apparent on each half of the stamp. They are to be gummed and perforated and it is preferred that there shall be 100 in each sheet. (Mekel's Weekly Stamp News).

## New Zealand Perforations.

THE 1898 pictorial issue of New Zealand, London printing, presents a fertile field for research for specialists in perforation varieties. The gauge is given in Gibbons' as "12 to 14, 14 and 15" and as showing what may be done by an enthusiast in perforations the following list taken from the *Australian Journal of Philately* is interesting. The list is compiled by Mr. A. T. Bate from stamps in his own collection, supplemented with information from Mr. A. Hamilton, and is as below:—

- ½d. purple, simple, 14, 14½, 15, 15½, 16, compound, 13½ × 14, 14 × 13½, 14½ × 15, 15 × 16, 15½ × 16, 16 × 15½.
- 1d. brown and blue, simple, 14, 14½, 15, 15½, 16, compound, 13½ × 14, 14 × 15, 14½ × 15, 15 × 12, 15 × 13, 15 × 13½, 15 × 14, 15 × 14½, 15 × 15½, 15 × 16, 15½ × 16, 16 × 15½.
- 2d. lake, simple, 13½, 14, 14½, 15, 15½, 16, compound, 12½ × 13, 13½ × 13, 13½ × 14, 14 × 13, 14½ × 15, 15 × 14½, 15½ × 16, 16 × 15½, 14 × 13 × 12 or 12½.
- 2½d. blue (error) WAKITIPU, simple, 15.
- 2½d. blue, WAKATIPU, simple, 14½, 15, 15½, compound, 13½ × 12½, 13½ × 14, 14 × 13½, 14½ × 15.
- 3d. yellow brown, simple, 14, 14½, 15, 15½, compound, 15½ × 16.
- 4d. rose, simple, 14, 14½, 15, compound, 12½ × 14, 13 × 14, 13½ × 14, 14 × 12½, 14 × 13½, 15 × 14½.
- 5d. brown, simple, 14, 14½, 15, 15½, 16, compound, 14 × 12½, 14 × 13½, 15 × 14½, 15½ × 16, 16 × 15½.
- 6d. green, simple, 13, 14, 14½, 15, 15½, 16, compound, 13 × 14, 13½ × 14, 14 × 13, 15 × 14½, 15½ × 16.
- 8d. dark blue, simple, 14½, 15, 16, compound, 15 × 14½.
- 9d. purple, simple, 14, 15, 16, compound, 13½ × 14, 14 × 13½, 14 × 15½, 14½ × 15, 15 × 14½.
- 1/- vermilion, simple, 14½, 15, compound, 14½ × 15, 15 × 14½.
- 2/- grey-green, simple, 14½, 15, compound, 14½ × 15, 15 × 14½.
- 5/- vermilion, simple, 14½, 15, compound, 14½ × 15, 15 × 14½.

\* \* \*

In the 1d. "Universal" Postage stamp of the London printing the following perforation varieties are known:—

- Simple, 14, 15, 16.
- Compound, 12½ × 14, 13½ × 14, 14½ × 13½, 15½ × 16, 16 × 15½.
- Irregular, 13½ top and sides, 14 bottom.
- 14 top and sides, 12 bottom.
- 16 top, 15½ bottom and sides.
- 14 top and right side, 13½ bottom and left side.
- 16 top and left side, 15½ bottom and right side.

## Questions.

A PRIZE of a mint copy of the new 5/- carmine and blue Victoria is offered to the reader who sends the best set of replies to the following questions before mid-day on Wednesday, July 24th. Three consolation prizes (2/- blue on rose Victoria) will be awarded for the next best lists.

- 1.—Which is the smallest postage stamp ever issued?
- 2.—Which do you consider the two ugliest adhesive postage stamps yet issued?
- 3.—Which are the seven most valuable kinds of stamps at the present day; state what you consider to be their value.
- 4.—How many different face values over 6d. and under 1/- are to be found on adhesive postage stamps? Only those with values expressed in British currency are eligible.
- 5.—Place the following seven colours in the order in which they have been most frequently used in printing adhesive postage stamps:—yellow, violet, green, brown, black, blue, red. (The term "red" is intended to cover all shades of red, rose, carmine, pink, lake, vermilion, etc., violet includes mauve, lilac, purple, etc., and so on).
- 6.—Which regularly issued adhesive postage stamp bears the longest inscription (reckoned by the number of letters and figures composing it)? Which the shortest inscription? and which the most curious inscription? In the first of these questions, no stamp which has been in use less than two years will be considered eligible, and no repetitions in the inscription will be allowed to count. In the Indian rupee stamps, for instance, the repetitions of "India Postage" which form the background may not be counted.
- 7.—Which two postage stamps have the smallest and largest gauge of perforation?



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Each stamp in the above selections is priced separately. When ordering any particular country or countries it is advisable to state whether used or unused are wanted, and whether a general selection is required, or one showing perforation and watermark varieties.

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With which is incorporated EWEN'S WEEKLY CIRCULAR. (Established October, 1897.)

A JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

THE ONLY WEEKLY STAMP PAPER  
PUBLISHED IN EUROPE.

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[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

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## The Week's News.

The Post Office Department of the United States seems to be particularly unfortunate with its stamp exhibits. It will be remembered that at the Paris Exhibition last year the cases of stamps were rifled and some of the contents stolen and now we learn from the *Metropolitan Philatelist* that the same thing has happened at the Pan-American Exhibition at Buffalo. The thief, who stole the Paris exhibits, took only proofs and these being easy to trace, resulted in his capture. It is to be hoped that the thief in the present instance will be caught and reap the punishment he deserves. The stamps stolen include some very rare and valuable ones, amongst them being complete unused sets of the various Departmental stamps, the Columbian issue complete in blocks of four, &c., &c.

\* \* \*

At the present time Wurtemberg and Bavaria are the only German States that retain the right to issue their own postage stamps and it is also well-known that this is in a degree distasteful to the Kaiser Wilhelm as it does not altogether coincide with his idea of an entirely united Germany. The Bavarians, being very independent and, if all accounts are true, not overwhelmed with love for the Emperor and his government, are not at all likely to part with their ancient privilege but from the many rumours now floating around it seems quite possible that Wurtemberg will refrain from issuing their own postage stamps in the near future.

\* \* \*

Mr. Henniker Heaton is still worrying the Government in the hope of getting the new 1d. stamps printed in red. In answer to several questions put to the Secretary of the Treasury last week, Mr. Heaton succeeded in eliciting a reply to the effect that the designs of the new postage stamps generally had been approved but that the colour of the 1d. stamps had not yet been definitely settled.

\* \* \*

Possibly the time will come some day when every respectable country and state will have its National Stamp Collection. In the meantime, the action of the Sydney Technological Museum in forming what will probably be the foundation of a national Australian collection, is a step in the right direction. The Editor of our bright little contemporary, the *Montreal Philatelist*, is agitating for a National collection for Canada, and points out that there is already a small, but incomplete, collection of Canadian stamps and proofs in the Library of Parliament. Still, these would do well to form the nucleus of a collection and if a proper custodian were appointed, it should not be difficult, with the material available from one source and another, to form a really extensive collection at very little expense.

\* \* \*

The result of our "Questions" competition will be announced next week.

\* \* \*

Evidently the countries who run stamp shops find the game a paying one. The French and German governments are said to net enormous sums by the sale of French and German Colonial stamps in Paris and Berlin respectively. Portugal was on the verge of financial ruin some time ago, but the danger was averted, it is rumoured, by the energetic way in which they issued stamps, for various small coaling stations and towns, which stamp collectors eagerly bought. In view of the handsome profits made by other countries Spain, we are told, is about to set up a stamp shop in Madrid for the sale of Fernando Poo stamps.

## New Issues.

The Editor will be much obliged for early news of New Issues or intended New Issues or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors. Full acknowledgment given. If possible, specimens should be sent in order that illustrations may be prepared.

**NEW SOUTH WALES.**—Several perforation varieties which we do not appear to have chronicled have been found lately, viz:—

4d. chesnut,	perf.	12 × 11½.
7½d. brown	"	12.
8d. red-lilac	"	12 × 11½.
10d. mauve	"	"
1/- chocolate	"	"
5/- red-violet (coin type)	"	11 × 11½.

**SOUTHERN NIGERIA.**—A penny envelope with embossed oval stamp and a 2d. registration envelope with a stamp of similar type to the adhesive have been issued here according to several of our contemporaries.

**VICTORIA.**—This colony is keeping up quite a regular supply of new issues and if it keeps on as it has during the last few months it should leave all competitors far in the rear. Its very latest achievement is the re-issue of the 1887 1d. stamp in a shade of olive-green. We have been favoured with a specimen by Messrs. Smythe & Nicholle who, writing under date 18th June, say "This stamp as well as all those having on them the words 'stamp duty' are available for postal use until the 30th June, after which date, according to the decision of the Federal Postmaster General, they will be available for revenue purposes only."

## Jottings.

In the "Guide to Values" now appearing in the *S.C.F.*, the "committee of independent philatelists" assess the value of the rare post office Mauritius stamps at £1250 each very fine unused, and £1000 each very fine used. Fine unused copies are described as being worth £950 each, and used ones £700.

\* \* \*

Ordinary Pan-American stamps are never likely to be rare considering the enormous quantities of the various values that are being issued. The Post Office Department has just given another "little order" to the Bureau of Printing and Engraving in which the figures are as follows:—1 cent, 75,000,000; 2 cents, 165,000,000; 4 cents, 4,500,000; 5 cents, 6,500,000; 8 cents, 4,000,000; 10 cents, 4,500,000.

\* \* \*

Amongst many reforms suggested by Mr. Henniker Heaton to the postal authorities is that the post office should become its own printer. By so doing it is estimated something like £30,000 per annum would be saved.

\* \* \*

Which will issue stamps bearing King Edward's portrait first—the Transvaal or Victoria? According to one of our "post card column" contributors the issue for the Transvaal with King's head has already appeared. The new £1 and £2 stamps for Victoria should have arrived in this country some weeks ago had original intentions been carried out in the colony. The authorities seem to be unable to make up their minds whether to issue the stamps or not. One of our Antipodean contemporaries wonders whether, like the ½d. commemoration stamp, they will be consigned to oblivion.

\* \* \*

Two very distinct shades of the 5 stot. on 3 stot. provisional recently issued by Bulgaria may be found—one light and one dark.

\* \* \*

Regarding a note that appeared in our last issue, Mr. E. G. Collins writes:—"Referring to Mr. Harvey's note on Italian stamps; it seems strange he should not have seen used specimens of the 60 cents of the King Humbert issue. In the way of business I have had several that have come from that country during the last few years. Certainly this value has not been much in evidence, still it is very different to Mr. Harvey's experience."

## Postmark Notes.

By "DUPLEX."

FROM Mr. E. Heginbottom I have received an interesting variety of a London postmark and one, moreover, that is quite new to me. This consists of an upright oval mark composed of 11 thick parallel lines, the three central ones being cut so as to make a large space for the insertion of the letters "E.C." No figures, &c., occur in the bottom lines as is generally usual in marks of this type. It is evidently the obliterating part of a duplex mark as I can distinctly see part of the date circle attached to the left side of the mark.

\* \* \*

I have lately been shown an old entire which proves that the numbered Maltese Cross was in use much earlier than is generally supposed.

The specimen under notice is number 5 and the date mark at the back is March 25th, 1843. It will be remembered that this mark was used at the London offices from 1843 to May, 1844. Up to the present it has always been supposed that the mark was first introduced in May, 1843,

but this specimen proves it to have been used nearly two months earlier.

\* \* \*

Mr. J. T. Cricks sends a number of interesting marks for inspection including one which is of rather an unique character. This is a "finger" cancellation on a 1d. red plate-number. Evidently the postmaster had mislaid his cancelling mark so used one of his fingers instead and, doubtless, was highly satisfied with the result of his ingenuity.

\* \* \*

Mr. Cricks sends an entire, on the front of which is a large "3" and "T.P. Leather Lane." This is one of the marks of the old twopenny post that was in vogue before Rowland Hill introduced the penny post. At the back of the letter are two double lined oval marks in red, dated Ju. 27. 1833. At the top of one is "12. NOON. 12" and at the top of the other, "4. EVEN. 4."

\* \* \*

Another letter has the large "3" mark on the front and "TP Chief Office" on the back, and also a red oval mark containing "7. NIGHT. 7." At the back of this letter, too, is a rectangular mark in red, containing the words, "To be delivered by 10 Sund. Morn."

\* \* \*

On another old entire sent me by the same correspondent is an old square paid mark in red in which the following appears in three lines "PAID—JA 25 E—1842." Does any reader know what the letter "E" after the date signifies?

\* \* \*

Mr. Cricks also sends an old letter sheet showing a "Penny Post" mark. This has "Newton St. Cyms—Penny Post" in two lines in italic type and on the front is an Exeter postmark dated 1844.

\* \* \*

Mr. F. Taylor points out a peculiarity in the Penzance duplex mark, No. "609." This, whether right way up or upside down, is always "609." The only other numbered marks that exhibit the same peculiarity are 69, Bicester; 66, Aldershot Camp, and 906, Woburn.

\* \* \*

Mr. H. Aronson sends two envelopes which were posted to S. Africa and returned to the senders owing to their not being able to be delivered. One of these has a double lined triangular mark in blue impressed on the front. This contains the words "Passed Press Censor" between the two triangles. On both envelopes a large rectangular mark is stamped. In this are the words "ADVERTISED—AND—UNCLAIMED" in three lines.

## Our Postcard Column.

WILLI. readers hearing of any interesting item of News, kindly jot it down on a postcard and address to the Editor, "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News," Norwood, London. For every contribution we publish, we will send the author an interesting and newly issued stamp. (N.B.—Postcards preferred).

*Mr. W. J. Monk writes:—*

"I saw a vertical pair of 1d. Transvaal V.R.I., one of which had no stop after "V." I do not know if it has been chronicled, but it is an interesting variety."

[We do not appear to have chronicled this variety in *E.W.S.N.* although we have been aware of its existence for some time past. Several values may be found without stop after the "V" including the 1d., 6d. and 10/-.—ED.]

*Mr. F. Grove Powell contributes the following:—*

"I send for your inspection a minor variety of the English 1d. black of a somewhat curious nature. You will observe that the outer lower margin line cuts clean through the value at the bottom, a quite considerable portion of the design thus protruding beneath the margin."

*Mr. J. T. Cricks writes:—*

"Regarding the advertisements on the backs of the 1893-94 issue of New Zealand I have the good fortune to possess a few and like Mr. McDiarmid Fish, I find mine are all perf. 10. I have the 1d. in lake and purple brown, 2d. unused in violet, 2½d. in purple-brown and green, 3d. in lake, 5d. in purple brown, 6d. in purple-brown and chocolate, 1/- in black and 4d. in deep chocolate."

*Mr. Hugh Aronson contributes the following:—*

"I hear on good authority that stamps with the King's head on have been issued for the Transvaal."

*Mr. P. J. Gadsby writes:—*

"In addition to the list of New Zealand stamps with advertisements given in *E.W.S.N.* I have the following:—

- 1d. Macbean Stewart's new cure for asthma, diphtheria, croup.  
Sunlight Soap, less labour, greater comfort.
- 2½d. Beecham's Pills purify the blood.  
For asthma use Bonnington's Irish Moss.

*Mr. W. Ernest Irving also sends an item relating to the same matter.*

"I have the following varieties of New Zealand stamps with advts. on the backs, in my collection, none of which are mentioned in Mr. F. Taylor's list:—

- 1d. Use only Poneke Table Jelly.  
Dodgson's, the leading Tweed Warehouse.  
For Delicate Skins use Sunlight Soap.
- 2d. Use Bonnington's Irish Moss for Coughs and Colds.  
Use Kaitangata Coal—Cheapest and Cleanest.  
Sunlight Soap, Never Disappointing.
- 2½d. Lockhead's Perambulators are the Best.
- 4d. Use only Poneke Table Jelly.
- 6d. Beecham's Pills.
- 8d. Sunlight Soap, Never Disappointing.
- 1/- Bonnington's Irish Moss Increases the Flexibility of the Voice.

*Mr. F. A. Aldridge writes:—*

"I have the following advts. on New Zealand stamps which have not yet been mentioned in *E.W.S.N.*

- 2½d. To Heal and Strengthen the Lungs:  
Bonnington's Irish Moss.  
Sunlight Soap is Unequaled for Wounds.  
Be sure and ask for Poneke Potted Meats.  
Stop that Cough; Bonnington's Irish Moss will do it.
- 3d. Ask for Patent Odourless Waterproofs made in Wellington.  
The 2½d. stamps are perf. 12½ × 10."

*Mr. S. Chapman contributes the following:—*

"Regarding the advts. on backs of New Zealand stamps in addition to those already mentioned, it may perhaps be interesting to note the following which I have in my collection:

- 1d. For Carpets and Floorcloths: W. Strange & Co., Christchurch.
- 2d. For Carpets and Floorcloths; W. Strange & Co., Christchurch.
- 3d. Crease's Essence of Coffee.
- 4d. Lockhead's Wertheim Sewing Machines are the Best.
- 6d. Ask for Patent Odourless Waterproofs made in Wellington.
- 1/- Stop that Cough. Use Bonnington's Irish Moss."

*Mr. Louis Normington writes:—*

"I have the following varieties of New Zealand stamps with advts. on the backs.

- 1d. This space is reserved for Cadbury Bros.
- 6d. Be sure you ask for Poneke Potted Meats."

We have received a number of other postcards listing New Zealand stamp advts., &c., and these are unavoidably held over.

## Chinese Locals.

ALTHOUGH Chinese Locals do not rank high in the esteem of philatelists still a knowledge of the meaning of the various designs appearing on the stamps should be of interest to all. To the vast majority of collectors the signs and symbols on the various Chinese stamps are quite unintelligible, and the following explanations, culled from an article that appeared in a recent number of *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*, should, therefore, prove of value. The article in question is from the pen of Mr. R. H. Geoghegan, a well-known authority on Chinese matters.

AMOY, pronounced Ah-moy, the best known port in the province of Fuhkien, lies on the south-west corner of a picturesque island at the mouth of the Lung river, and has a population of about 200,000. Its harbour is one of the best on the coast, and the surrounding country thickly settled and highly cultivated. The stamps of lower denomination have the Chinese values in the upper corners; the 15, 20 and 25 cents do not bear any Chinese characters indicating values, but have the name Hsia-men, locally pronounced A-moy, in the upper angles. The right panel of all the stamps reads Hsia-men kung-pu, Amoy Board of Works, and the left panel Yu-cheng chiu, postal administration.

CHEFOO, now more commonly and more correctly written Chifu, has the finest harbour in the province of Shantung. It lies in a hilly region, but the soil is productive, except along the shores of the gulf, where it is nitrous. The native characters on the stamps are Yen-tai, smoking tower, an old name of the city; the former, yen (smoke) being also used as the watermark.

CHINKIANG, pronounced in two syllables Chin-k'yang, in Kiang-su province, is situated at the junction of the Grand Canal with the Yang-tze river. Its position renders it the key of the country in respect to the transport of produce for Peking. The characters in the upper angles of the stamps express the denominations, and the four remaining native symbols read Chen-chiang kung-pu, Chinkiang Board of Works. The inscription on the postage-dues consists of the words ch'ien-yin, deficient silver.

CHUNGKING, at the junction of the Kia-ling with the Yang-tze river, in Sze-chuen province, is the largest depot for trade west of Ichang; a growing city in a fertile region with a splendid climate. The characters at the right of the stamps are Chung-ch'ing hsin-chu, Chungking letter office; those at the left denote the values, P'iao-yin erh-fen, stamp silver 2 candarins, etc. The surcharge for the postage dues is ch'ien-hsiang, amount of deficiency.

FOOCHOW, the capital of the province of Fuh-kien, and one of the most important cities in the empire, with a population of over 1,000,000, lies in a plain surrounded by hills, on the bank of the Min river. The scenery is bold, and such parts of the surrounding hills as are not cultivated are covered with pines. The native symbols on the stamps of this port denote merely the denominations of the respective labels, Hsin-tzu yin wu-wen, letter-fee silver five mills (½ cent), etc.

HANKOW, in the central province of Hu-peh, is beautifully situated at the embouchure of the Han river with the Yang-tze, about 360 or 370 miles below Ichang. On the 1893 series of stamps the denomination, expressed in yang-yin, Mexican dollars, occupies the right panel, and the words Han shu-hsin-kuan, Hankow post office, the left. The syllable -kow is omitted except on variety "a" of the two-cent, where it is represented by the little square to the left of the top character. In the second series, the symbols reading Han shu-hsin-kuan are arranged on either side of the words "Local Post."

ICHANG, pronounced Ee-chahng, a large commercial centre on the Yang-tze river, in the province of Hu-peh near the borders of Sze-chuen, is the terminus of navigation for the large vessels used from Shanghai upward, as the rapids commence a few miles beyond, necessitating smaller craft, that can be hauled by trackers. The ½ candarin and the 1 candarin show the familiar Chinese coin with a square hole in the middle, for convenience in stringing, since it takes from one to two thousand of these to make up a silver dollar. The coin on the ½ cand. stamp bears the words Wen-yin wu-hao, fine silver 5 hao; hao being the name for the tenth part of a fen or candarin. The right panel reads I-chang, and the left Hsin-kuan, letter office. The one candarin label displays coins bearing the words T'ung-pao, current money, and the names of the reigns of the present and three preceding emperors. The top coin has the symbols Tao-kuang (A.D., 1821-1850), that at the bottom Hsien-feng (1851-1861), that to the right T'ung-chih (1862-1874), and that to the left Knang-hsu, the present period. In the upper angles of the stamp are the words I-ch'ang,

in the right panel Shu-hsin-kuan, post office, and in the left panel Yini-fen, silver one candarin. The double-lined oblong in the middle of the 2-cent label contains the name of the city in an ancient form of writing, surrounded by the fir, bamboo and plum, emblems respectively of long life, wealth and happiness; while in the corners may be noted the wan-tzu or swastika, the sacred emblem of the Buddhist religion. The 5 cand. stamp presents the words I-ch'ang in modern writing. The inscription at the left of the 15 cand. reads yin i-ch'ien wu-fen, silver one mace five candarins: that at the left of the 3 mace is wen-yin san-ch'ien cheng, fine silver 3 mace exactly.

KEWKIANG, now usually written Kiu-kiang, is in Kiang-si province, some hundreds of miles nearer the mouth of the Yang-tze than Hankow. The main decoration of the stamps is the words Kiu-kiang, meaning literally the Nine Rivers. The two (or four) dots with an upward dash below, seen in the lower of the two characters, are the symbol of water in the Chinese system of writing, and may be noticed at the left of every character in the language relating to that element. They occur, for instance, in the character Han of the name Hankow, where Han is the name of a river and k'ou or kow means "mouth"; as also in the syllable hai, meaning "sea," in the name Shanghai; and in the hu (lake) of Wuhu. The denominations of the 20 and 40-cent stamps are expressed as usual by Chinese symbols signifying two dimes (erh chio) and four dimes (ssu chio).

NANKING, on the south shore of the Yang-tze, 194 miles from Shanghai, is the capital of Kiang-su province, and was the metropolis of the empire from A.D. 317 to 585, and again from 1368 to 1403. It has been called from its appearance the Rome of China, but the only remarkable monuments of royalty now remaining are several guardian statues situated not far from the walls and illustrated on the stamps. These statues form an avenue leading up to the sepulchre where the emperor Hung-wu was interred in 1398. They consist of gigantic figures like warriors in armour, standing on either side of the road, and of rude colossal images of horses, elephants and other animals, intended to represent the guardians of the mighty dead. The five native characters at the top of the stamps read Chin-ling shu-hsin-kuan, Kinling post office; Kinling or the Golden Mound, being an old name of the city. The little circles below the dragons contain the denominations.

SHANGHAI (last syllable sounded like the English word "hie," not like "hay"), the largest seaport in Kiang-su province and one of the leading emporia of Asia, lies on the north shore of the Wu-sung River, about 14 miles from its mouth, in a wide plain of extraordinary fertility. The stamps issued from 1865 to 1889 all show in their angles the characters Shang-hai kung-pu, Shanghai Board of Works; on the right the words Shu-hsin-kuan, post office, and at the left the denominations. The word liang, pair or couple, is very commonly employed instead of the more usual word erh, two, on the 2 cand. labels. On the 1890 issue the denomination runs across the top of the stamp, Kung-pu appears on the shield, Shang-hai above, and Shu-hsin-kuan below it. Similar inscriptions are found on the 1893 series, a little differently arranged. The shields on this set are composed of the flags of the different nations living in the foreign municipality. The postage-due stamps have the Chinese words ch'ien-yin, deficient silver, followed by the denomination, immediately under the English words of similar import. The inscription on the oval seal on the wrappers reads Kung-pu hsin-kuan, Board of Works post office.

WUHU, "weedy lake," on the Yang-tze river, about 60 miles above Nanking, near the mouth of the Huang-chih, a stream connecting it with the back country, and making it the mart for much of that trade, is a city next in importance to Chinkiang. The characters Wu-hu, pronounced Oohoo, appear in the upper angles of all the stamps, and form the central decoration of the 1 cent of 1896. The symbol on the ½ cent yellow of this issue is chi, expressive of a wish for good luck to the recipient of the epistle which this stamp adorns; while the 6 cent of the first emission exhibits the ideogram fu, indicative of a prayer for unlimited wealth.

**Philatelic Libraries.**—At last interest seems to be actually growing in the formation of Philatelic Libraries. There are a few well-known Philatelic Libraries in this country and we are glad to hear that a celebrated American library has been secured by a leading English collector. Amongst the best known English Philatelic Libraries are those of Mr. E. D. Bacon, Mr. Smith (Alfred Smith & Co.); Mr. C. J. Phillips (Stanley Gibbons, Ltd.); The Birmingham Philatelic Society; The Philatelic Society of London; and one or two Editorial Libraries.—*Philatelic Record.*



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THE ONLY WEEKLY STAMP PAPER PUBLISHED IN EUROPE.

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[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

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## The Week's News.

Owing to the fact that we are publishing the index to Volume VI. with this number we are compelled to defer announcing the result of our "Questions" competition until next week.

\* \* \*

The Philatelic Society of London has decided to hold an Exhibition of South African stamps at Effingham House on Saturday, the 16th of November, and arrangements in connection therewith are now in progress. The stamps to be exhibited will be those of the South African Colonies and Republics affected by the present war and will include the following:—Natal, Cape Colony, Mafeking Siege, Orange Free State, Orange River Colony, Transvaal, British Bechuanaland, Griqualand, New Republic, British South Africa, Zululand, Swaziland and Stellaland.

\* \* \*

The "great stamp trust" is the latest happening in the philatelic world on the other side of the herring pond. From our many American contemporaries we learn that some of the most prominent of the American stamp dealing firms have joined forces with a capital said to amount to about £90,000.

\* \* \*

The thief who stole the stamps from the United States Post Office Department's exhibit at the Buffalo Exposition has not yet been caught. The value of the stamps stolen is stated to be \$4000.

\* \* \*

In the House of Commons on Monday, Mr. Henniker Heaton raised a question regarding the sale of postage stamps at Railway Stations, and in reply Mr. Austen Chamberlain said:—"Endeavours were made in 1892 and again in 1897 to arrange for the sale of postage stamps by persons keeping book and other stalls at the London railway stations as well as those in the larger provincial towns, but without much success. The chief newspaper vendors have hitherto declined to undertake the sale at their railway bookstalls, and the Postmaster-General is not aware that they are prepared to reconsider their decision. Licences have, however, been granted in recent years to certain persons for the sale of stamps, &c., at railway stations and other public places by means of automatic machines, but it is feared that the demand has been too small to encourage a larger provision of these machines."

\* \* \*

We learn that on account of the expense of production France will not, after all, issue a special military frank in three colours of the value of 15 centimes as was announced a few months ago. The current 15c. surcharged "F.M." (Franchise Militaire), will remain in use for this special army stamp.

\* \* \*

An American contemporary says that five millions of remainders of Philippine Islands stamps were destroyed in a fire that occurred at the Customs House, Antwerp, where they were stored.

\* \* \*

A new experiment with a reply postal card is shortly to be tried by the United States Post Office Department, which will doubtless be followed with interest by business men. This is to take the form of a reply card which is sent with the communication, but on which no postage will be paid until the reply is received by the original sender. It is stated that under the existing system many reply cards are wasted on people who will not take the trouble to answer inquiries. Under the new system postage will be collected when the reply card is delivered and doubtless it will prove a boon to many business firms.

## New Issues.

The Editor will be much obliged for early news of New Issues or intended New Issues or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors. Full acknowledgment given. If possible, specimens should be sent in order that illustrations may be prepared.

**AUSTRIA.**—Our contemporaries report that the 6 heller letter card, orange on yellow, now appears with blue interior.

**BRITISH BECHUANALAND.**—*Le Philatliste Française* says that the current ½d. green English stamp has been surcharged "BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE" for use here.

**CURACAO.**—We learn from our contemporaries that the 1g. 50c. surcharged on the 2g. 50c. stamp of Holland has only just been issued although it was chronicled some twelve months ago.

**FEDERATED MALAY STATES.**—We have received a specimen of the new 5 cents registration envelope, bearing a stamp of the same type as the adhesive of that value, but all printed in blue. In addition there is a fancy border around the stamp containing the words "REGISTRATION FEE." Curiously enough the letter is franked with an 8 cents Straits Settlements stamp instead of a Federated Malay States one of that value.

**HONG KONG.**—The new 5 cents stamp in yellow which, it was stated, would not be placed on sale for some time owing to the large stock of this value in the old colour that remained on hand, is now in general use.

**ITALY.**—According to the *London Philatelist*, the new 25c. stamps are to be surcharged "La Canea: 1 Piastra 1" and "Bengasi: 1 Piastra 1" for use in the Italian Post Offices at these two places.

**MONACO.**—The colour of the 10c. post card stamp has been changed like that of the adhesive to red. The card is in pale green as before.

**NYASSA.**—This Portuguese Colony has just issued a new set of thirteen bi-coloured stamps ranging in value from 2½ to 300 reis. They are thus described by the *London Philatelist*:—"The design for the seven lower values consists of palm trees and a giraffe in the centre, a small portrait of the King in the left top corner, and a coat of arms in the right top corner. At the top of the stamp there is the word "REIS," and at the foot "NYASSA." At the left side "CORREOS" appears, and at the right side, "PORTUGAL." Figures of value are also shown at each lower side. They are large upright rectangles in shape. The six higher values differ only in the shape, being oblong, and for central design they have a pair of camels. The frames are in black, and the centre is coloured, the whole having a pleasing appearance." The values and colours are as below:—

2½ reis black, with brown	centre.
5 "	violet "
10 "	green "
15 "	orange-brown "
20 "	vermillion "
25 "	orange "
50 "	blue "
75 "	lake "
80 "	mauve "
100 "	bistre-brown "
150 "	brick-red "
200 "	blue-green "
300 "	green "

**PARAGUAY.**—The 2c. dull-grey was printed by the "Compania Sud-Americana de Billetes de Banco, Buenos Aires" evidently from a steel plate, while the 2c. in the new colour, carmine red, appears to be lithographed and is printed by the "Talleres Nacionales de H. Kraus."

**TRANSVAAL.**—The *London Philatelist* states that the ½d. green stamp now appears with the "E.R.I." overprint.

**UNITED STATES.**—It is rumoured that another value of the Buffalo set has been found with inverted centre to wit, the 5c. blue and black. From all accounts a sheet of this value was received in the second lot by the Canton P.O. about May 20th, and were all sold in the usual way though apparently no one appears to have actually got a specimen.

## Postmark Notes.

By "DUPLEX."

MR. A. F. CLARKE sends several interesting marks for inspection. One of these consists of two concentric circles. Between the rings, the inscriptions "GRIMSBY & PETERBORO" and "STG. TENDER" appear while the date occupies the inner ring. My correspondent informs me that this is the only Sorting Tender or T.P.O. that employs this type of postmark.

\* \* \*

Mr. Clarke also sends a rectangular mark, with the corners bent in, with a large crown on the top containing "REGD. 21 AP. 86." This I learn, is a stamp used on official papers that have been registered or recorded.

\* \* \*

The same correspondent also sends an interesting type of parcels-post mark, circular in shape, and impressed in violet ink with a rubber stamp. At the top is "F. & C.P.P.", at the bottom "LONDON," and across the centre is "21, FEB. 01." This is a "Foreign and Colonial Parcels Post" mark.

\* \* \*

Another interesting mark sent for inspection by Mr. Clark, consists of two concentric circles having between the rings "BEDFORD TO LONDON \* PARCEL COACH." In the smaller circle the date, enclosed between parallel lines, is placed across the centre, while above and below are small stars. The mark is impressed in violet ink with a rubber stamp. My correspondent informs me that there are several of these coaches and he has marks of the following:—

London to Bedford;	marks in violet and red.
Bedford to London;	" red, black and violet.
London to Chatham;	" violet.
London to Oxford;	" red.
Oxford to London;	" red.
London and Watford;	" violet.
London to Windsor;	" red.
Windsor to London;	" red.
Tunbridge Wells to London;	" violet.
Brighton to London;	" violet.

Doubtless there are many others.

\* \* \*

The Rev. Hayman Cummings sends me a ½d. V.R.I. Transvaal stamp cancelled with a Pretoria Z.A.R. postmark, and enquires if it is not curious as the V.R.I. and Z.A.R. are contradictory. When the British took over the Postal Administration of the Transvaal they used the old Z.A.R. cancellations while new ones were being prepared. They were used in Johannesburg and Pretoria for about six months and then new marks inscribed "Transvaal" arrived. I believe that the old Z.A.R. obliterators are still used in several of the smaller towns in the Transvaal.

\* \* \*

It will be remembered that much the same thing happened in the Orange River Colony after its occupation by the British troops. For some time the old Oranje Vrij Staat marks inscribed O.V.S. were used to cancel the V.R.I. stamps with. Then, pending the arrival of the new marks, an order was issued to the effect that the initials O.V.S. were to be punched out of the marks and this resulted in several curious marks appearing. One postmaster, I recollect, intending to be on the safe side, not only cut away the O.V.S. but also the lower half of the circle so that the cancellation consisted of a semi-circular line with the name of the town and date below. Ultimately these makeshift stamps were done away with and new postmarks containing the initials O.R.C. were served out to all the offices.

\* \* \*

Mr. W. T. Beckwith sends a curious Newspaper Branch cancellation. This consists of a circle having pairs of parallel lines at top and bottom, and a single curved line at each side. Between these four sets of seven short lines are arranged, and in the centre is "LONDON" with the date below. Above "LONDON" the time of posting is given and below the date a stamper's letter appears.

## Our Postcard Column.

WILL readers hearing of any interesting item of News, kindly jot it down on a postcard and address to the Editor, "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News," Norwood, London. For every contribution we publish, we will send the author an interesting and newly issued stamp. (N.B.—Postcards preferred).

*Mr. R. N. Appleton writes:—*

"I enclose for inspection two current 1d. English 'I.R. OFFICIAL' stamps on one of which you will notice the surcharge is very much thicker than on the other."

[The difference in the two specimens sent us is very apparent. In the thick surcharge the letters are nearly twice as thick as they are in normal specimens.—Ed.]

*Mr. G. Pilgrim contributes the following:—*

"In Stanley Gibbons' catalogue under Tobago it says 'The stamps of type I. watermarked C.A. are fiscals which were never admitted to postal use.' I have one (3d. lilac and black) which undoubtedly bears a postmark. Have any other readers come across any?"

[Possibly the specimen owned by our correspondent bears a forged postmark.—Ed.]

*Mr. Wm. Ward writes:—*

"A friend of mine when recently cycling in France, sent home two English letter cards. On the first he stuck 10c and 5c. French stamps, and when delivered in England a 1d. for postage due was charged. The second had no extra stamps affixed and on this the same charge was made. Our postmaster is unable to explain the matter. I shall be glad if any of your readers can."

*Miss M. A. Ready contributes the following:—*

"I have seen a Bechuanaland stamp surcharged on the 2d. red and green English with an error in the spelling of the overprint, viz.:—"DECHUANALAND." Have any other readers seen this error before?"

*Mr. J. G. Johnson writes:—*

"I have just found a specimen of the 6d. black of the 1862 issue of Victoria (Gibbons No. 85), on the original envelope postmarked Ballarat, Feb. 22nd, 1862, in which the word "Pence" is plainly spelt "PENCF." I do not see any mention made in the catalogue of this variety."

*Mr. Karl Wiehen contributes the following:—*

"I can supplement the lists of advertisements on the backs of New Zealand stamps with the following in my possession, all perf. 10.

- 2d. Use only Poneke Table Jelly.  
5d. Stop that coughing; Bonnington's Irish Moss will do it."

*Mr. Arthur J. Hudson, writes:—*

"In addition to your list of stamps with advts. on the backs, I have the following:—

- 1d. Sunlight Soap never disappoints.  
For Carpets and Floorcloths. W. Strange & Co., Christchurch.  
For Hosiery and Gloves, go or send to W. Strange & Co., Christchurch.  
2d. S. Myers & Co., Dentists, Christchurch; Nitrous Oxide Gas, Painless Extractions.  
Gold Miners use only Sunlight Soap.  
To Sustain the Voice use Bonnington's Irish Moss.  
Beecham's Pills, the Premier Medicine.  
For Asthma use Bonnington's Irish Moss.  
Macbean Stewart's New Cure for Asthma, Diphtheria, Croup.  
2½d. Beecham's Pills, the Leading Remedy.  
This space is reserved for Cadbury Bros.  
4d. Dodgshun's, the Leading Tweed Warehouse.  
1/- Lattey, Livermore & Co., Ltd., Wellington. Ask for their Pure Indian and Ceylon Teas.

*Mr. F. C. Scarr also contributes a note regarding the New Zealand Advertisement Stamps:—*

"I have the following New Zealand stamps with advertisements on the backs viz:—

- 1d. Beecham's Pills the Premier Medicine.  
1d. Sunlight Soap is unequalled for hounds.  
1d. Lattey, Livermore & Co., Ltd., Wellington. Ask for their Pure Indian and Ceylon Teas.  
1d. No chapped hands with Sunlight Soap.  
2d. Use Bonnington's Irish Moss for coughs and colds.  
3d. Lochead, sole agent, Middle Island, for Wertheim Sewing Machines.  
4d. Lattey, Livermore & Co., Ltd., ask for their pure Indian and Ceylon Teas.  
6d. Every dose of Bonnington's Irish Moss is effective.  
1/- Singers and Public Speakers use Bonnington's Irish Moss.

## Stray Notes on Sheets of Stamps.

IN the July number of the *Adhesive*, Mr. R. R. Thiele continues his excellent "notes" on the formation of the sheets of the stamps of various countries, and as the instalment forms very interesting reading, we quote it here for the benefit of our readers:—

The example of printing stamps in strips, as done by several of the before-mentioned Treaty Ports, was set by Shanghai, the first of these ports to issue stamps. Its first issues were printed in this manner in strips of 6, there being a single die only, which was impressed as often as necessary. There were no collectors then, crazy to buy up each new issue as it appeared; else this new method would hardly have been sufficient. When the demand for postal purposes (and philatelic) increased, it was abandoned and all the stamps from 1866 to 1893 were designed and printed by Messrs. Nissen and Parker of London—the same firm, by the way, which produced the early issues of Nevis and of the Virgin Islands. (Of course the surcharges were made locally.) As far as I can say at this writing, almost all of these stamps were printed in small sheets of 25, 5 rows of 5; one exception of which I know at this moment is the 20 cash green of 1884, which was issued in sheets of 50, 5 rows of 10, this value presumably being in more demand. The so called "Jubilee" issue of 1893 was designed by Mr. R. A. de Villard, an employe of the Imperial Chinese Maritime Customs, and printed by Messrs. Barclay and Fry, London. These stamps, so far as I know, were all printed in sheets of 50, like the 20 cash above.

The first issue of Chefoo was printed in sheets of 40, 5 horizontal rows of 8, like the stamps of Amoy mentioned before. These Chefoo stamps were produced by the firm of Schleicher and Schüll, Düren, Germany. About the second issue I have no information at hand.

\* \* \*

From Chefoo to Heligoland is a far cry, but what is distance to a stamp collector? The globe is but a play-ground for us stamp cranks. Wherefore Heligoland (for no particular reason) is next in these notes.

The stamps of this tiny island have always been especially fascinating to collectors and their friends; no matter how unsympathetic the friend is to whom I show my album, the gorgeous page of Heligoland is sure to bring an admiring "Ah, how pretty!"—All the stamps of Heligoland have been printed by the Prussian State Printing Office, afterwards merged into the Imperial German Printing Office, at Berlin. The first issues—those in schilling currency—were engraved by the celebrated engraver, Schilling, of Berlin, and were all printed in sheets of 50, in 5 horizontal rows of 10. As 16 schillings make a mark (Hamburg currency), this size of sheet has no relation to the currency, but was merely a matter of convenience of manufacture. The issue of 1875 is in German Imperial currency; the sheets were like those of the first issue and the dies are by the same engraver. Here the sheets are adapted to the currency. In 1876 two values were issued, 3 and 20 pfennig; these were engraved by Alwin Schiffner, of Berlin. The sheets of these values as printed consisted of 30 stamps, arranged in 3 horizontal rows of 10, with a space the height of a stamp between the rows; but these sheets were cut into strips of 10 before issue. In 1880 these stamps were printed in sheets of 40, in 4 horizontal rows of 10, arranged as before; these also were issued in strips of 10—rather inconvenient, I should judge.

The two high values of 1879, the 1 and 5 marks, are by the same engraver. In printing, both were arranged on the same sheet. At the left of the sheet there were 25 five mark stamps, in 5 rows of 5; at the right there were 25 one mark stamps, also in 5 rows of 5, so that the whole sheet contained 50 stamps, in five horizontal rows of 10. A second printing was later made of the 1 mark value; this time the sheet consisted entirely of 1 mark stamps, 50 of them, arranged in two panes of 25, 5×5, the panes being side by side.

\* \* \*

Farther back in these notes I described the arrangement of the Bulgarian stamps. I have since found that the unpaid stamps—at least the 25 stotinki value—are an exception, being printed in sheets of 60, 6 rows of 10. This will also answer decimal currency in this case, the sheets of all values coming out even.

\* \* \*

Another addition is to be noted under Belgium, whose Postal Packet Stamps—designated as "Railway" Stamps on their face—have been printed in sheets of 25, 5×5, in all the issues so far made. Their large size no doubt dictated the small size of the sheets.

\* \* \*

Still another addition, this time to the note on Italy. I have already described the sheets of this country from 1862 on. The stamps of Pied-

mont or the Kingdom of Sardinia, the forerunner of United Italy, were printed in sheets of 100, arranged in 4 panes of 25 each, 5×5. The provisional set issued by Piedmont for Naples and Sicily in 1861 after the absorption of the Twin Kingdom was also printed in sheets of 100, 10×10, also at the establishment of M. Matraire at Turin, where all the other Sardinian stamps were produced, but before issue, these were cut in half vertically and thus supplied to the post offices in sheets of 50, 10 rows of 5.

\* \* \*

Again we stray away, this time to the West Indies, to visit the Virgin Islands. The first issues were supplied by the firm of Nissen and Parker of London (see above under Shanghai); I have seen it stated that the manufacture by lithography was really in the hands of Waterlow & Sons, also of London. The two values first issued were 1d. and 6d.; the 1d. came in sheets of 24, 4×6, the sheet thus being of the face value of 2 shillings, and the 6d. in sheets of 25, 5×5, the face value of the sheet being 12 shillings 6 pence. Later sheets of the 1d. were issued containing only 12 stamps, 4 rows of 3, the face value being 1 shilling. Two values were added in 1867; the 4d. came in sheets of 25, 5×5, which gave no even sum, and the 1 shilling was printed in sheets of 20, 4 rows of 5, thus making the value of a sheet 1 pound.

In 1879, the contract was taken by the firm of De la Rue & Co. of London; those stamps issued by this firm in the usual West Indian type all came in the usual form: in sheets of 60, 10 rows of 6. Others were issued in the former type; the 1d. was issued in 1889, in sheets of 24, as before; the 4d. brick red of 1887, the 6d. lilac of the same year and the 1 shilling brown of 1889, all came now in sheets of 24, 4 rows of 6, so that the sheet of the 4d. now had a face value of 8 shillings. At least the penny values of the current set, issued in 1899, are in the usual panes of 60, 10 rows of 6.

## How Stamps are Made Adhesive.

UNDER the above title an interesting article appeared in a recent number of the *Dundee Weekly News*, and as it deals with a matter that should prove of interest to all stamp collectors we make the following extracts from it.

If there is one thing above another which has been brought down to an exact science it is the gumming of adhesive stamps. The precautions taken to secure a uniform coating of gum on the back of postage stamps approaches the marvellous. When the stamps are gummed they are tested to establish if the coating varies on sheets one seven-thousandth of a pound. The stamps after being printed go to the gumming-room. Pipes convey the gum in a heated and melted state to small vats, into which it is slowly dropped as needed. From these vats it is allowed to ooze slowly on to rollers. The sheets of stamps pass under the rollers, receiving a thin coating of gum, and then drop on to a continuous chain or belt. The belt carries them into vats which contain coils of steam pipe 50 feet long. The slow passage of the freshly gummed stamp sheets through the vats dries them. When they reach the other end of the vats they are dry enough to be piled one upon another, counted, tested, and packed ready for shipment.

The precautions taken to insure uniformity in the gumming are the most interesting part of the work. Each morning when the workmen report for duty they are given a series of blanks, which they must fill out during the day as their work progresses. A most careful account is kept of every ounce of gum given to the men, and of every sheet of stamps which they handle. The system is

AN ABSOLUTE CHECK

on the stamp sheets, but was designed to ensure the use of the proper quantity of gum in proportion to the stamp sheets.

When the work starts in the morning each of the men is charged up with so many sheets of stamps and so many pounds of gum. He must spread that amount of gum over the given number of sheets. Exhaustive experiments and exact scientific calculation have determined the proportion of gum and paper. Rigid and continuous inspection and the keeping of a running account with each operator in the gumming-room makes it almost impossible to neglect any sheets or to dispose of the gum except by spreading it with absolute uniformity over the sheets. The little vats which hang over the rollers contain delicate instruments, which show the temperature at which the gum is kept and its specific gravity. Moisture in the atmosphere presents the greatest problem to the operators in the gumming-room. The quality of the gum varies with the seasons. To secure the desired results it is not only necessary for the employees to be carefully watched, but the actual atmospheric conditions in which they work are carefully regulated.



## Colonial Stamp Market.

### LATEST ARRIVALS.

N.B.—Collectors wishing to complete their Collections of current unused Colonial stamps should not delay making their purchases, as most varieties will become **OBsolete** shortly, and the Colonial Market cannot undertake to continue to supply at old rates after receipt of advice that new stamps with Head of King Edward have appeared. *The opportunity to buy cheaply must inevitably soon pass.*

Mauritius, 4c. pane of 60, 3/11.  
 Malay Federated States, 50c., nett 1/3.  
 Orange River on Cape, ½d. green, 2/11 per pane of 60.  
 Southern Nigeria.  
 ½d. green and black, per dozen, 8d.  
 ½d. green and black, pane of 60, 3/-.  
 Lagos, ½d. green, per dozen, 7d.; pane of 60, 2/11.  
 " 1d. carmine, per dozen, 1/2; pane of 60, 5/10.  
 British Central Africa.  
 10/- olive-green and black, nett 11/8.  
 £10 yellow, nett 233/4.  
 British South Africa, new design.  
 £1 brown-lilac, nett 23/4.  
 £5 dark blue, nett 116/8.  
 £10 blue-lilac, nett 233/4.  
 India, low value.  
 3 pies grey, 5d. per doz.; pane of 60, 1/8.  
 India, high values.  
 1 rupee, carmine and green, nett 1/7.  
 2 rupees, orange and carmine, nett 3/2.  
 3 " brown and green, nett 4/8.  
 5 " violet and blue, nett 7/10.  
 British South Africa, new type.  
 5/- orange-brown, nett 5/10.  
 Uganda, entire panes of 60, low rates.  
 1a., carmine, pane of 60, nett 6/3.  
 2a., brown, pane of 60, nett 12/3.  
 3a., grey, pane of 60, nett 18/6.  
 4a., green, pane of 60, nett 24/6.  
 8a., olive, pane of 60, nett 48/-.  
 1r., blue, pane of 60, nett 95/- (very few).  
 Uganda, singles and blocks.  
 1a. carmine, nett 1½d., block of 4, 6d.  
 2a. red-brown, nett 3d., block of 4, 1/-.  
 3a. grey, nett 4d., block of 4, 1/3.  
 4a. green, nett 6d., block of 4, 1/9.  
 8a. olive, nett 11d., block of 4, 3/3.  
 1r. blue, nett 1/9., block of 4, 6/3.  
 5r. brown, nett 7/11., block of 4, 31/6.  
 British East Africa, entire panes of 60.  
 ½a. yellow-green, 3/3 nett.  
 1a. carmine, 6/3 nett.  
 British South Africa (old types, will probably be obsolete shortly; new types, expected by every mail).  
 2/- blue and green, 1895, nett 2/4.  
 2/6 brown and violet on yellow, nett 2/11.  
 3/- green and violet on blue, nett 3/6.  
 4/- red and blue on green, nett 4/8.  
 5/- orange and green, nett 5/10.  
 10/- slate and rose on rose, nett 11/8.  
 Seychelles.  
 1r. 50c. grey and carmine, nett 2/5.  
 2r. 25c. lilac and green, nett 3/7.  
 Uganda, shades.  
 1r. bright blue, nett 2/-.  
 1r. milky blue, nett 1/9.  
 Southern Nigeria. 2/6 brown and black, nett 2/11.  
 British South Africa.  
 £1 black and red on green, cat. 30/-, nett 26/-  
 British Central Africa (back centres).  
 2/6 ultramarine, nett 2/11.  
 4/- carmine, nett 4/8.  
 British Central Africa (violet centres).  
 4d. green and lilac, nett 5d.; block of 4, 1/8.  
 6d. brown and lilac, nett 8d.; block of 4, 2/5.  
 Lagos, shades.  
 5/- blue and green, nett 6/6.  
 5/- dull ultramarine and deep green, nett 5/10.  
 Bermuda, ½d. on 1/- grey, 2d. per block of 4.  
 Per dozen, 5d.; per 100, 2/9.  
 Complete sheet of 240, 8/-; pane of 60, 2/-.

Great Britain, Envelope stamps, cut square unused.

½d. vermilion, die 48, nett 4d.  
 " " 49 " 4d.  
 " " 54 " 4d.  
 ½d. green, die 50, nett 4d.  
 " " 51 " 2d.  
 " " 53 " 3d.

NOTE.—The following die numbers are known to exist:—½d. pink, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; ½d. vermilion, 6, 8, 17 to 54 (except 27, 30, 52 and 53); ½d. green, 50, 51, 53. The majority are in stock.

Uganda, Low Values in sets.

Set of five, 1, 2, 3, 4, 8 annas, nett 1/11; in blocks of 4, 7/6; blocks of 12, 22/6.

Fiji Islands, low values in blocks.

½d. dark grey-green, 8d. per block of 12; entire pane of 60, 3/3.  
 1d. lilac-rose, 1/3 per block of 12; entire pane of 60, 6/3.

New Zealand, 1d. Universal Postage, local print, singles, 2d.; Pairs, 3d.; blocks of 4, each 6d. Per dozen, 1/3; per sheet of 240, 24/6.

New Zealand, 1½d. khaki, nett 2d.; block of 4, 8d.

Great Britain, new dies for stamping envelopes.  
 1½d. orange, with Arrow-heads instead of florets, nett 3d. (Entire or cut square).

New Zealand, Postage Due, ½d. to 1/-, in sets, nett, 4/11 per set.

Sarawak, 1c. blue and carmine, 5d. per dozen; block of 4, 2d.

Victoria, ½d. green, small type (just issued).

Block of 4, 3d.; per dozen 8d.  
 Entire sheet of 240 (very fine), 11/8.

Victoria, 1d. bright pink, "postage," (just issued).

Block of 4, 6d.; per dozen, 1/2.  
 Entire sheet of 120 (very fine), 11/8.

Victoria, old types in new colours (just issued).

Set of 9 from ½d. to 1/-, nett 3/6.  
 Set of 10 from ½d. to 2/-, nett 5/10.  
 Set of 11, complete, ½d. to 5/-, nett 11/8.

Victoria, old types in new colours (just issued).

2/- blue on rose, nett 2/4; block of 4, 9/4.  
 5/- rose and blue, nett 5/10; block of 4, 23/4.

Victoria, old issue, obsolete.

Set of 11, ½d. to 1/-; nett for 4/10.

Straits Settlements.

3c. brown, nett 1d.; block of 4, 4d.  
 4c. on 5c. rose, nett 2d.; block of 4, 7d.  
 4c. on 8c. blue, nett 3d.; block of 4, 8d.  
 5c. plum, nett 2d.; block of 4, 8d.  
 10c. slate, nett 5d.; block of 4, 1/4.  
 30c. claret, nett 11d.; block of 4, 3/6 (cat. 14/-).

Hong Kong, 2c. green, block of 4, 3d. (see wholesale).

New South Wales, 10/- violet and carmine, over-printed "Postage," perf. 12x11, nett 11/8.

British East Africa, large type.

10 rupees, yellow-brown, nett 15/10.  
 20 " yellow-green, nett 31/8.  
 50 " lilac, nett 79/1.

Western Australia, new type, wmk. Crown W.A.,

2½d. blue, nett, 4d.; block of 4, 1/-.

India, new colours.

½a. grey, ½d. each; block of 4, 2d.  
 ½a. light green, 1d. each; block of 4, 3d.

Malay Federated States (new types, oblong).

1c. green and black, 1d.; block of 4, 3d.  
 3c. brown and black, 1d.; block of 4, 4d.  
 4c. pink and black, 1½d.; block of 4, 6d.  
 5c. red and black on yellow, 2d.; block of 4, 8d.

10c. violet and black, 4d.; block of 4, 1/3.

British Guiana. Entire envelopes.

New 2c. pink, embossed, grey paper, 2d. each.

Malta, ½d. view of Valletta Harbour.

½d. red-brown, wmk. Crown CA., 1d. each; block of four, 2d.

Queensland.

2/- brown, old type, 2/6 each; block of four, showing variety "LA" joined, 10/6 nett.

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# Ewen's Weekly Stamp News.

With which is incorporated EWEN'S WEEKLY CIRCULAR. (Established October, 1897.)

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THE ONLY WEEKLY STAMP PAPER  
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## The Week's News.

Despite the holidays, we are pleased to say our second competition proved nearly as successful as the first, sixteen competitors sending in papers. The questions were rather more difficult, and elicited a great variety of replies.

\* \* \*

The ½d. pictorial Tasmanians are obsolete.

\* \* \*

Mr. A. F. Clarke informs us that Registered Letter Envelopes of a somewhat different shape to those at present issued will shortly be supplied to Postmasters. In the new envelopes the flap is practically rectangular, instead of crescent shaped, and the medallion denoting the registration fee is placed at the top instead of the centre. The new envelopes of any particular size will not be supplied to the public until the stock of the present envelopes of that size is exhausted.

\* \* \*

The 5/- Leeward Islands stamps may be found in much the same shades as the 5/- Lagos, which recently commenced to appear with value printed in dull or pale ultramarine. We have had an opportunity of examining a number of the 5/- Leeward stamps, and the value appears to be in two quite distinct shades, blue or deep blue (similar to that of the 5/- St. Vincent or \$2 British Honduras) and pale ultramarine. Is the recent appearance of the latter shade due to a new printing or to the issue of old stock hitherto kept in reserve?

\* \* \*

The Sirmoor Local Post will probably be amalgamated with the Imperial Post Office on November 1st. Sirmoor is one of the few Indian Native States which has a full set of stamps, eight values—3, 6 pies, 1, 2, 3, 4, 8 annas and 1 rupee—being now current.

\* \* \*

Several of the current Zanzibar stamps may be found without watermark.

\* \* \*

The 30c. rose Chili of the type just obsolete is likely to become rare. Two million were printed and of these 1,750,000 have been surcharged "5," most of the remaining 250,000 being used on official forms which are periodically destroyed. Comparatively few, either used or unused, are likely to come into the hands of collectors. The stamp is now obsolete.

\* \* \*

The *M. J.* states that the Japanese stamps surcharged for use in Corea, were withdrawn from use on April 1st.

\* \* \*

Further particulars are now to hand of the American stamp dealing amalgamation. The American Collectors' Company, with a capital of £90,000, has purchased the Scott Stamp and Coin Company (publishers of the well-known "Standard Catalogue") and the New England Stamp Company, for £80,000, paid as to £60,000 in 6% preference stock and as to £20,000 in common stock, (otherwise shares of \$1 (4/-) each.) The vendors, having sold their businesses and taken stock in payment, are now desirous of selling the latter and in fact, have already disposed of nearly half. About £36,000 preferred and £7000 common stock remains for public subscription, the former being offered at 85%, with a bonus of 20 ordinary shares thrown in. Investors might certainly go further and fare worse. We notice that the profits are only given for the last two years, during which they averaged £6000 per annum for each of the two companies.

## New Issues.

The Editor will be much obliged for early news of New Issues or intended New Issues or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors. Full acknowledgment given. If possible, specimens should be sent in order that illustrations may be prepared.

**CAYMAN ISLANDS.**—New values are to be issued here shortly.

**GREECE.**—The new stamps are now coming over, and some of the values are hardly up to expectations.

1 lepton, brown.	30 lepta, violet.
2 lepta, grey.	40 " dark brown.
3 " orange.	50 " lake.
5 " green.	1 drachma, black.
10 " carmine.	2 drachmai, bronze.
20 " lilac.	3 " silver.
25 " blue.	5 " gold.

The low values are perf. 13½, and the higher ones, of larger design, 12½.

**SELANGOR.**—The 5c. lilac and ochre has been surcharged "One Cent" in one line, with a bar across the top of the stamp.

**VICTORIA.**—The *Australian Philatelist* states that the small ½d. bright green issued this year is already obsolete, having been superseded by a stamp of similar design, with "Postage" added to the inscription at the foot. As yet, the only other three values bearing the inscription "postage" are the 1d., 2½d. and 5d., all the other values—2d., 3d., 4d., 6d., 1s., 2/-, 5/-—having been reprinted from old plates without other inscription than "Victoria." Are they also to have "Postage" added? If so, the new set of Victorians will have had a very short life.

½d. blue-green, small rect., wmk. V and Crown.

**VRYBURG.**—The *Monthly Journal* states that the 1d. Transvaal stamp has been found overprinted "V.R. SPECIAL POST" like the ½d. value, which has already been catalogued. These provisionals were issued at Vryburg in May, 1900, by order of Mr. W. Vernon Johnstone. It is stated that 200 of the ½d. and 60 of the 1d. were overprinted.

## New Issue of Greek Stamps.

MR. E. W. RICHARDSON, Editor of the *Picture Postcard*, sends the following interesting detailed description of the new Greek stamps:—

The long expected issue of new Greek postage stamps has at last arrived. The intention was to issue the new stamps on the 13th of July, or rather the 1st of July according to the Greek calendar, on which day all other stamps were withdrawn from sale. The chief feature in the design is the figure of Mercury, or Hermes, copied from the well-known statue by Giovanni da Bologna. In this the Messenger of the Gods appears with outstretched arm and running feet, with wings on his cap and at his heels, while his left hand holds the caduceus, or serpent entwined rod which was the badge of office as herald. This figure appears on all the 14 stamps, which for convenience of description may be divided into three groups; those of the value of 1 lepton to 50 lepta—excluding the 5, 10 and 25 lepta which form the 2nd group, and the values from one drachmi to 5 drachmai. In the 1st group the figure of Hermes is flanked by scroll work and conventionalised foliage; at the top of the stamp are the two numerals denoting the value and the word *Ellas*, whilst below the word *lepta* is printed twice. This design is more florid and less classic than the others. Group two is composed of the 3 values, 5, 10 and 25 lepta, or centimes, and correspond with our halfpenny, penny and twopence halfpenny stamps. As these are the values used respectively for printed papers under 2 oz., for post cards, and letters under ½ oz., throughout most of the countries of the Postal Union, this difference in design will be of great practical use. The colours of these stamps are of course green, red and blue respectively in accordance with the Postal Union rules.

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## Colonial Stamp Market.

### LATEST ARRIVALS.

N.B.—Collectors wishing to complete their Collections of current unused Colonial stamps should not delay making their purchases, as most varieties will become OBSOLETE shortly, and the Colonial Market cannot undertake to continue to supply at old rates after receipt of advice that new stamps with Head of King Edward have appeared. *The opportunity to buy cheaply must inevitably soon pass.*

Mauritius, 4c. pane of 60, 3/11.  
 Malay Federated States, 50c., nett 1/3.  
 Orange River on Cape, ½d. green, 2/11 per pane of 60.  
 Southern Nigeria.  
   ½d. green and black, per dozen, 8d.  
   ½d. green and black, pane of 60, 3/-.  
 Lagos, ½d. green, per dozen, 7d.; pane of 60, 2/11.  
   " 1d. carmine, per dozen, 1/2; pane of 60, 5/10.  
 British Central Africa.  
   10/- olive-green and black, nett 11/8.  
   £10 yellow, nett 233/4.  
 British South Africa, new design.  
   £1 brown-lilac, nett 23/4.  
   £5 dark blue, nett 116/8.  
   £10 blue-lilac, nett 233/4.  
 India, low value.  
   3 pies grey, 5d. per doz.; pane of 60, 1/8.  
 India, high values.  
   1 rupee, carmine and green, nett 1/7.  
   2 rupees, orange and carmine, nett 3/2.  
   3 " brown and green, nett 4/8.  
   5 " violet and blue, nett 7/10.  
 British South Africa, new type.  
   5/- orange-brown, nett 5/10.  
 Uganda, entire panes of 60, low rates.  
   1a., carmine, pane of 60, nett 6/3.  
   2a., brown, pane of 60, nett 12/3.  
   3a., grey, pane of 60, nett 18/6.  
   4a., green, pane of 60, nett 24/6.  
   8a., olive, pane of 60, nett 48/-.  
   1r., blue, pane of 60, nett 95/- (very few).  
 Uganda, singles and blocks.  
   1a. carmine, nett 1½d., block of 4, 6d.  
   2a. red-brown, nett 3d., block of 4, 1/-.  
   3a. grey, nett 4d., block of 4, 1/3.  
   4a. green, nett 6d., block of 4, 1/9.  
   8a. olive, nett 11d., block of 4, 3/3.  
   1r. blue, nett 1/9., block of 4, 6/3.  
   5r. brown, nett 7/11., block of 4, 31/6.  
 British East Africa, entire panes of 60.  
   ½a. yellow-green, 3/3 nett.  
   1a. carmine, 6/3 nett.  
 British South Africa (old types, will probably be obsolete shortly; new types, expected by every mail).  
   2/- blue and green, 1895, nett 2/4.  
   2/6 brown and violet on yellow, nett 2/11.  
   3/- green and violet on blue, nett 3/6.  
   4/- red and blue on green, nett 4/8.  
   5/- orange and green, nett 5/10.  
   10/- slate and rose on rose, nett 11/8.  
 Seychelles.  
   1r. 50c. grey and carmine, nett 2/5.  
   2r. 25c. lilac and green, nett 3/7.  
 Uganda, shades.  
   1r. bright blue, nett 2/-.  
   1r. milky blue, nett 1/9.  
 Southern Nigeria. 2/6 brown and black, nett 2/11.  
 British South Africa.  
   £1 black and red on green, cat. 30/-. nett 26/-  
 British Central Africa (black centres).  
   2/6 ultramarine, nett 2/11.  
   4/- carmine, nett 4/8.  
 British Central Africa (violet centres).  
   4d. green and lilac, nett 5d.; block of 4, 1/8.  
   6d. brown and lilac, nett 8d.; block of 4, 2/5.  
 Lagos, shades.  
   5/- blue and green, nett 6/6.  
   5/- dull ultramarine and deep green, nett 5/10.  
 Bermuda, ½d. on 1/- grey, 2d. per block of 4.  
   Per dozen, 5d.; per 100, 2/9.  
   Complete sheet of 240, 8/-; pane of 60, 2/-.

Great Britain, Envelope stamps, cut square unused.

½d. vermilion, die 48, nett 4d.  
 " " 49 " 4d.  
 " " 54 " 4d.  
 ½d. green, die 50, nett 4d.  
 " " 51 " 2d.  
 " " 53 " 3d.

NOTE.—The following die numbers are known to exist:—½d. pink, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; ½d. vermilion, 6, 8, 17 to 54 (except 27, 30, 52 and 53); ½d. green, 50, 51, 53. The majority are in stock.

Uganda, Low Values in sets.

Set of five, 1, 2, 3, 4, 8 annas, nett 1/11; in blocks of 4, 7/6; blocks of 12, 22/6.

Fiji Islands, low values in blocks.

½d. dark grey-green, 8d. per block of 12; entire pane of 60, 3/3.  
 1d. lilac-rose, 1/3 per block of 12; entire pane of 60, 6/3.

New Zealand, 1d. Universal Postage, local print, singles, 2d.; Pairs, 3d.; blocks of 4, each 6d. Per dozen, 1/3; per sheet of 240, 24/6.

New Zealand, 1½d. khaki, nett 2d.; block of 4, 8d.

Great Britain, new dies for stamping envelopes.

1½d. orange, with Arrow-heads instead of florets, nett 3d. (Entire or cut square).

New Zealand, Postage Due, ½d. to 1/-, in sets, nett, 4/11 per set.

Sarawak, 1c. blue and carmine, 5d. per dozen; block of 4, 2d.

Victoria, ½d. green, small type (just issued).

Block of 4, 3d.; per dozen 8d.  
 Entire sheet of 240 (very fine), 11/8.

Victoria, 1d. bright pink. "postage," (just issued).

Block of 4, 6d.; per dozen, 1/2.  
 Entire sheet of 120 (very fine), 11/8.

Victoria, old types in new colours (just issued).

Set of 9 from ½d. to 1/-, nett 3/6.  
 Set of 10 from ½d. to 2/-, nett 5/10.  
 Set of 11, complete, ½d. to 5/-, nett 11/8.

Victoria, old types in new colours (just issued).

2/- blue on rose, nett 2/4; block of 4, 9/4.  
 5/- rose and blue, nett 5/10; block of 4, 23/4.

Victoria, old issue, obsolete.

Set of 11, ½d. to 1/-; nett for 4/10.

Straits Settlements.

3c. brown, nett 1d.; block of 4, 4d.  
 4c. on 5c. rose, nett 2d.; block of 4, 7d.  
 4c. on 8c. blue, nett 3d.; block of 4, 8d.  
 5c. plum, nett 2d.; block of 4, 8d.  
 10c. slate, nett 5d.; block of 4, 1/4.  
 30c. claret, nett 11d.; block of 4, 3/6 (cat. 14/-).

Hong Kong, 2c. green, block of 4, 3d. (see wholesale).

New South Wales, 10/- violet and carmine, overprinted "Postage," perf. 12x11, nett 11/8.

British East Africa, large type.

10 rupees, yellow-brown, nett 15/10.  
 20 " yellow-green, nett 31/8.  
 50 " lilac, nett 79/1.

Western Australia, new type, wmk. Crown W.A., 2½d. blue, nett, 4d.; block of 4, 1/-.

India, new colours.

½a. grey, ½d. each; block of 4, 2d.  
 ½a. light green, 1d. each; block of 4, 3d.

Malay Federated States (new types, oblong).

1c. green and black, 1d.; block of 4, 3d.  
 3c. brown and black, 1d.; block of 4, 4d.  
 4c. pink and black, 1½d.; block of 4, 6d.  
 5c. red and black on yellow, 2d.; block of 4, 8d.

10c. violet and black, 4d.; block of 4, 1/3.

British Guiana. Entire envelopes.

New 2c. pink, embossed, grey paper, 2d. each.

Malta, ½d. view of Valletta Harbour.

½d. red-brown, wmk. Crown CA., 1d. each; block of four, 2d.

Queensland.

2/- brown, old type, 2/6 each; block of four, showing variety "LA" joined, 10/6 nett.

FOR LOW VALUES  
AT DOZEN RATES. See Page 3.

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SCOTT'S

# Postage Stamp

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## "E.W.S.N." AND NEWSAGENTS.

**ONE PENNY WEEKLY. EVERY SATURDAY.**

We hope every Collector will do his best to support the first and only Weekly Stamp Paper published in Europe. The cheapest way to get it is by asking your Newsagent, or the nearest Railway Bookstall, to procure it regularly. The price is the modest one of 1d. weekly, which every Collector should be able to spare. Should any difficulty be experienced in getting the paper through a Newsagent, we should be glad to be advised of same.

THE PUBLISHER.

# Ewen's Weekly Stamp News.

With which is incorporated EWEN'S WEEKLY CIRCULAR. (Established October, 1897.)

A JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

THE ONLY WEEKLY STAMP PAPER  
PUBLISHED IN EUROPE.

(Entered at Stationers' Hall. Illustrated by permission of the Board of Inland Revenue.)

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LONDON, SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 1901.

[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

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Universal Language for Stamp Collectors.  
Questions Competition.  
Colonial Stamp Market.

## The Week's News.

Despite the holidays, we are pleased to say our second competition proved nearly as successful as the first, sixteen competitors sending in papers. The questions were rather more difficult, and elicited a great variety of replies.

\* \* \*

The ½d. pictorial Tasmanians are obsolete.

\* \* \*

Mr. A. F. Clarke informs us that Registered Letter Envelopes of a somewhat different shape to those at present issued will shortly be supplied to Postmasters. In the new envelopes the flap is practically rectangular, instead of crescent shaped, and the medallion denoting the registration fee is placed at the top instead of the centre. The new envelopes of any particular size will not be supplied to the public until the stock of the present envelopes of that size is exhausted.

\* \* \*

The 5/- Leeward Islands stamps may be found in much the same shades as the 5/- Lagos, which recently commenced to appear with value printed in dull or pale ultramarine. We have had an opportunity of examining a number of the 5/- Leeward stamps, and the value appears to be in two quite distinct shades, blue or deep blue (similar to that of the 5/- St. Vincent or \$2 British Honduras) and pale ultramarine. Is the recent appearance of the latter shade due to a new printing or to the issue of old stock hitherto kept in reserve?

\* \* \*

The Sirmoor Local Post will probably be amalgamated with the Imperial Post Office on November 1st. Sirmoor is one of the few Indian Native States which has a full set of stamps, eight values—3, 6 pies, 1, 2, 3, 4, 8 annas and 1 rupee—being now current.

\* \* \*

Several of the current Zanzibar stamps may be found without watermark.

\* \* \*

The 30c. rose Chili of the type just obsolete is likely to become rare. Two million were printed and of these 1,750,000 have been surcharged "5," most of the remaining 250,000 being used on official forms which are periodically destroyed. Comparatively few, either used or unused, are likely to come into the hands of collectors. The stamp is now obsolete.

\* \* \*

The M. J. states that the Japanese stamps surcharged for use in Corea, were withdrawn from use on April 1st.

\* \* \*

Further particulars are now to hand of the American stamp dealing amalgamation. The American Collectors' Company, with a capital of £90,000, has purchased the Scott Stamp and Coin Company (publishers of the well-known "Standard Catalogue") and the New England Stamp Company, for £80,000, paid as to £60,000 in 6% preference stock and as to £20,000 in common stock, (otherwise shares of \$1 (4/-) each.) The vendors, having sold their businesses and taken stock in payment, are now desirous of selling the latter and in fact, have already disposed of nearly half. About £36,000 preferred and £7000 common stock remains for public subscription, the former being offered at 85%, with a bonus of 20 ordinary shares thrown in. Investors might certainly go further and fare worse. We notice that the profits are only given for the last two years, during which they averaged £6000 per annum for each of the two companies.

## New Issues.

The Editor will be much obliged for early news of New Issues or intended New Issues or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors. Full acknowledgment given. If possible, specimens should be sent in order that illustrations may be prepared.

**CAYMAN ISLANDS.**—New values are to be issued here shortly.

**GREECE.**—The new stamps are now coming over, and some of the values are hardly up to expectations.

1 lepton, brown.	30 lepta, violet.
2 lepta, grey.	40 " dark brown.
3 " orange.	50 " lake.
5 " green.	1 drachma, black.
10 " carmine.	2 drachmai, bronze.
20 " lilac.	3 " silver.
25 " blue.	5 " gold.

The low values are perf. 13½, and the higher ones, of larger design, 12½.

**SELANGOR.**—The 5c. lilac and ochre has been surcharged "One Cent" in one line, with a bar across the top of the stamp.

**VICTORIA.**—The *Australian Philatelist* states that the small ½d. bright green issued this year is already obsolete, having been superseded by a stamp of similar design, with "Postage" added to the inscription at the foot. As yet, the only other three values bearing the inscription "postage" are the 1d., 2½d. and 5d., all the other values—2d., 3d., 4d., 6d., 1s., 2/-, 5/-—having been reprinted from old plates without other inscription than "Victoria." Are they also to have "Postage" added? If so, the new set of Victorians will have had a very short life.

½d. blue-green, small rect., wmk. V and Crown.

**VRYBURG.**—The *Monthly Journal* states that the 1d. Transvaal stamp has been found overprinted "V.R. SPECIAL POST" like the ½d. value, which has already been catalogued. These provisionals were issued at Vryburg in May, 1900, by order of Mr. W. Vernon Johnstone. It is stated that 200 of the ½d. and 60 of the 1d. were overprinted.

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The postcard and postmark columns are held over until next week, owing to the unusual claims made on our space by the "Questions" Competition.

“Questions” Competition.

RESULT.

IN our issue of July 20th, we published a second series of seven questions (the first competition on these lines having proved so successful), and to the sender of the best set of replies to the same, a prize of a mint copy of the 5s. rose and blue Victoria was offered. This prize the judges have much pleasure in awarding to Mr. L. Normington, who obtained 85 marks out of a maximum of 100. The three consolation prizes have been won by

- 2. Mr. B. F. J. Cooper (84 marks).
3. Mr. S. Holt (82 marks).
4. Mr. C. McDiarmid Fish (79 marks).

\* \* \*

The winner obtained full marks for his replies to questions 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6, but failed to discover any perforation smaller than 16 or larger than 7½. Mr. Cooper's paper was excellent except as regards the first section of question 6. Mr. Holt's was probably the best, but he forgot to send in any reply at all to the third section of question 6 and so lost his chance of the 5 marks which might have placed him first. Mr. McDiarmid Fish would have scored 89 had he remembered the 6½d. Newfoundland as 10 marks were given for question 4 if all six values were mentioned and none if any one of them was omitted. The best replies to question 3 were sent in by Messrs. Fish and Elliott; to question 5, by Messrs. Johnson, Cooper and Normington; to question 6, by Messrs. Fish, Normington and Terry.

\* \* \*

1.—Which is the smallest postage stamp ever issued?

The smallest postage stamp ever issued appears to be the ¼ schilling of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, which measures about 10x10 mm. or 100 sq. mm. It is run rather close by the first issue for Bolivar, both values of which—10c. and 1p.—measure only 10 x 12 mm. each. The following is a list of some of the smallest postage stamps. For the sake of comparison, it may be mentioned that the current 1d. British stamp measures 18½ x 22½ mm. (416 sq. mm):—

Table with 3 columns: Rank, Stamp Description, and Area (sq. mm). Includes Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Bolivar, S. Australia, Victoria, Columbia, Great Britain, Spain, Brazil, Roumania, and Venezuela.

Two other stamps may be mentioned, namely, the ¼ gr. of Brunswick (12x12mm.) and the Geneva 5c. green (14x17mm.), but the quarter and half respectively of these can hardly be considered distinct postage stamps.

\* \* \*

2.—Which do you consider the two ugliest adhesive postage stamps yet issued?

This question unfortunately affords rather a wide field for choice of reply, but there can be no hesitation in awarding the palm for ugliness to the issues of French Colonies. It would be hard to find more hideous postage labels than those recently issued for French Congo and seven of our sixteen competitors have found no difficulty in naming them. Several mentioned Indian Native States, but we should describe many of these as weird, rather than ugly. The following are some of our readers' pet aversions:

- 2. Corrientes, 1864.
3. New Caledonia, 1860, 10c.
4. Surinam, 1892, 2½c. black and orange.
5. Diego Suarez, 1890, 5c.
6. Bhore, 1880, 4a. black on rose.
7. Spain, 1850.
8. Shanghai, 1865, 2c., 4c., 8c.
9. Bamra, 1891, ½a. black on yellow-green.
10. Liberia, 3c. 1897, Inland Postage.

Others mentioned were the recent German Colonials; China, first issue, 5 candarins; Duttia, 1897; Bamra; Rajnandgaon; Mexico, 1895, 4c. orange; British Guiana, 1850, 4c. black on yellow; New South Wales, 2½d. 1897; Guatemala, 1897; U.S.A., 2c. 1861; N.Z., 5d. olive-black, 1882; Tasmania, 1d. pictorial. Two stamps we rather expected to see in the above list are the 2½d. Tasmanian pictorial (which however owes its ugliness to the engraver's and printer's fault rather than to the designer's) and the 'Miranda' Venezuelans. The last are an eyesore on the page of any album.

\* \* \*

3.—Which are the seven most valuable kinds of stamps at the present day; state what you consider to be their value.

This question seems to have been very much

misunderstood by competitors. We wished to know the seven most valuable kinds or varieties of stamps, regardless of state (used, unused, etc.) A stamp which is rare unused and common used, like the £1 Anchor of Great Britain, can hardly be classed as one of the most valuable kinds of stamps. The following seven received most votes from competitors.

- 1. British Guiana, 1856, 1c. £500 to £1500.
2. Mauritius, 2d. "Post Office" £960 to £1250.
3. " " 1d. "Post Office" £750 to £1250.
4. Hawaii, 2c., 1051 £300 to £800.
5. British Guiana, 2c., 1850 £250 to £800.
6. Roumania, 81 paras £75 to £300.
7. British Guiana, 4c., 1856 £80 to £150.

Several competitors mentioned the Baltimore, 10c. (£1000), Alexandria (£600), Brattleboro' (£80 to £250) and other U.S.A. stamps, but they were not popular enough to be placed. Of No. 1. (British Guiana, 1c. 1856) only a single copy is stated to exist, and it is reported to be in very bad condition. It would be interesting to know whether the inscription "ONE CENT" is really clear, or whether there is the slightest chance of its being only the 4c. in the same colour.

Other rare stamps are the 5c. and 13c. of Hawaii, 1851; Canada, 12d. black; and British Guiana, 4c., 1850. Of course, in unused condition, many stamps might top the £100 mark. Really mint unused examples of many early stamps are of almost priceless rarity, and worth far more than most people would imagine.

\* \* \*

4.—How many different face values over 6d. and under 1/- are to be found on adhesive postage stamps? Only those with values expressed in British currency are eligible.

It is curious that a simple question like this should have caused half the competitors to go wrong, but seven out of sixteen overlooked the 6½d. Newfoundland. One competitor remembered this, but forgot the 7d. value (as did also one of the above seven). There are six values over 6d. and under 1/-, namely:—

- 6½d. Newfoundland.
7d. Leeward Islands, Virgin Islands.
7½d. N.S.W., Tonga, etc.
8d. Great Britain, N.S.W., Victoria, etc.
9d. " " "
10d. " " "

Two readers who gave correct lists somewhat spoil them by trying to give additional information. One stated that the 7d. value came from "Leeward Islands only" (geographically but not philatelically correct) and the other added the 6d. and 12d. values to his list, although 12d. is obviously not "under 1/-" any more than 6d. is "over 6d."

\* \* \*

5.—Place the following seven colours in the order in which they have been most frequently used in printing adhesive postage stamps:—yellow, violet, green, brown, black, blue, red. (The term "red" is intended to cover all shades of red, rose, carmine, pink, lake, vermilion, etc., violet includes mauve, lilac, purple, etc., and so on.)

The votes of our sixteen competitors in favour of the above seven colours are as follows:—

Table with 8 columns: Colour, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, Points. Lists preferences for red, blue, green, violet, brown, yellow, and black.

As will be seen, competitors were unanimous in placing red first. Seven put blue second, six put green and three violet, and so on. Mr. A. E. Johnson gave the list exactly as it is above, and Mr. B. F. J. Cooper gave it with blue and green transposed.

\* \* \*

6.—Which regularly issued adhesive postage stamp bears the longest inscription (reckoned by the number of letters and figures composing it)? which the shortest inscription? and which the most curious inscription? In the first of these questions; no stamp which has been in use less than two years will be considered eligible, and no repetitions in the inscriptions will be allowed to count.

I.—The longest inscription.

The record under the above conditions seems to be held by the 5/- Map stamp of New South Wales, which formed part of the "100 Hundred Years" issue, and was certainly on sale at post offices for over two years. It was withdrawn owing to objections made by the Colony of Victoria. It will be noticed that the names of four divisions are clearly legible—New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia—but "Victoria" is merely a blurred line on most impressions, particularly in those watermarked "5/-." In later impressions, "Victoria" is just legible, making a total of 118 letters and figures. Curiously, no competitor mentioned this stamp.

The following is a list of stamps with the longest inscriptions. Those marked with an asterisk \* were mentioned by competitors and those marked † are ineligible owing to their not having been issued two years, or regularly issued at all.

Table with 2 columns: Stamp Description and Letters. Lists stamps like Portugal, Nicaragua, Dominican Rep., New South Wales, Newfoundland, Ecuador, Cuba, Belgium, Peru, U.S.A., and Mauritius.

The issue which heads the above list—that generally known as the St. Anthony of Padua Commemoration issue (Portugal, 1894)—really has only 23 letters in the inscription on its face, but the following prayer, composed of 164 letters, is printed on the back, and must, we suppose, be considered part of the stamp's inscription.

Centenario de Santo Antonio. MCXCV. \* MDCCLXXXV.

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

The Nicaraguan Map stamps might almost be admitted, as the same design was in use just two years, bearing date 1896 the first year and 1897 the second.

The Cuba 10c. Special Delivery also bears a long inscription (97 letters and figures) but according to the latest fashion in philately, it does not rank as a 'postage' stamp.

The Newfoundland 30c. Cabot stamp (still in use) really bears only 104 letters and figures, but counting the repetition of "30c." and the printer's inscription at foot "American Bank Note Co., N.Y." a total of 126 could be made up.

II.—The shortest inscription.

The restrictions which applied to stamps bearing the longest inscription were withdrawn in this case, and the answer therefore appears to be the Swiss 1c. postage due stamp, which bears the solitary figure 1. The Bosnian 1 kreuzer and 1 heller stamps bear two figures only, the value "1" being shown twice. The Austrian (1867) and Hungarian (1871) newspaper stamps bear no inscription whatever of any kind, but no inscription at all can hardly be said to be a short one. The early Brazil stamps mostly bear only two figures. Various stamps of Austria, Austrian Italy and Hungary bear as inscription the value only, expressed in one figure and two letters.

III.—The most curious inscription?

Competitors name, amongst others, the following stamps as having curious inscriptions:—Canada Map ("We hold a vaster Empire than has been"); Belgium Sunday stamps ("Ne pas livrer le dimanche"); Bhopal (especially that reading "H. H. Nawab Shah Jahau began"); Canada, 12d. ("Twelve pence" being substituted for "One Shilling" because there were shillings of different value in use in Canada, and the Post Office would have had to supply the same stamp for a coin which might be worth 6½d., 7½d., 10d. or 12d. according to locality); New South Wales Charity Stamps or labels?); Uganda, first issue (with values in cowries or shells); Liberia, 1894, 5c. red and black ("The love of liberty brought us here"); and California City Letter Express ("If you have wedding cards, notices, letters, etc., to be delivered leave them for California City letter Express at Hoogs and Madison, Real Estate House Brokers and Rent Collectors, Montgomery Street" — "Wedding Cards" being given precedence as apparently more important than ordinary "letters."

\* \* \*

7.—Which two postage stamps have the smallest and largest gauge of perforation?

The smallest gauge of perforation is apparently that found on the 6d. orange-yellow of 1854, "serrated perf. 19."

A number of stamps claim the largest perforation. The best known stamps with unusually large perforations are the early Finnish stamps, perf. 7½ ("serpentine roulette"), and those of France, 1861, perf. 7 ("La Suisse"). The 1887 and 1893 issues of Mexico furnish numerous examples of "perf. 6" and "perf. 5½." Brazilian stamps of the 1889 issue are found perf. 5½ to 7.

It is possible that Bhopal stamps might be found with an even larger gauge of perforation; indeed, one competitor claims to have an example, "perf. 3," but this may be merely a freak.

\* \* \*

A further set of questions will be given in next week's issue of E.W.S.N.





## Colonial Stamp Market.

### LATEST ARRIVALS.

N.B.—Collectors wishing to complete their Collections of current unused Colonial stamps should not delay making their purchases, as most varieties will become OBSOLETE shortly, and the Colonial Market cannot undertake to continue to supply at old rates after receipt of advice that new stamps with Head of King Edward have appeared. *The opportunity to buy cheaply must inevitably soon pass.*

- Selangor (very few).  
 \$1 green, nett 2/5.  
 \$2 green and carmine, nett 4/10.  
 \$5 green and blue, nett 12/1.
- Federated Malay States.  
 \$1 green, nett 2/5.  
 \$2 green and carmine, nett 4/10.
- British Honduras, surch. "Revenue."  
 5c. blue, small type, 4d.  
 " large type, 4d.  
 10c. lilac and green, small type, 7d.  
 " large type, 7d.
- Leeward Islands.  
 5/- green and blue, nett 5/10.  
 5/- green and deep blue, nett 6/6.  
 5/- green and pale ultramarine, nett 5/10.
- Cayman Islands, 1/2d. green, 2/11 per pane of 60.
- Mauritius, 4c. pane of 60, 3/11.
- Malay Federated States, 50c., nett 1/3.
- Orange River on Cape, 1/2d. green, 2/11 per pane of 60.
- Southern Nigeria.  
 1/2d. green and black, per dozen, 8d.  
 1/2d. green and black, pane of 60, 3/-.
- Lagos, 1/2d. green, per dozen, 7d.; pane of 60, 2/11.  
 " 1d. carmine, per dozen, 1/2; pane of 60, 5/10.
- British Central Africa.  
 10/- olive-green and black, nett 11/8.  
 £10 yellow, nett 233/4.
- British South Africa, new design.  
 £1 brown-lilac, nett 23/4.  
 £5 dark blue, nett 116/8.  
 £10 blue-lilac, nett 233/4.
- India, low value.  
 3 pies grey, 5d. per doz.; pane of 60, 1/8.
- British South Africa, new type.  
 5/- orange-brown, nett 5/10.
- Uganda, singles and blocks.  
 1a. carmine, nett 1 1/2d., block of 4, 6d.  
 2a. red-brown, nett 3d., block of 4, 1/-.  
 3a. grey, nett 4d., block of 4, 1/3.  
 4a. green, nett 6d., block of 4, 1/9.  
 8a. olive, nett 11d., block of 4, 3/3.  
 1r. blue, nett 1/9., block of 4, 6/3.  
 5r. brown, nett 7/11., block of 4, 31/6.
- British South Africa (old types, will probably be obsolete shortly; new types, expected by every mail).  
 2/- blue and green, 1895, nett 2/4.  
 2/6 brown and violet on yellow, nett 2/11.  
 3/- green and violet on blue, nett 3/6.  
 4/- red and blue on green, nett 4/8.  
 5/- orange and green, nett 5/10.  
 10/- slate and rose on rose, nett 11/8.
- Seychelles.  
 1r. 50c. grey and carmine, nett 2/5.  
 2r. 25c. lilac and green, nett 3/7.
- Uganda, shades.  
 1r. bright blue, nett 2/-.  
 1r. milky blue, nett 1/9.
- Southern Nigeria. 2/6 brown and black, nett 2/11.
- British Central Africa (black centres).  
 2/6 ultramarine, nett 2/11.  
 4/- carmine, nett 4/8.
- British Central Africa (violet centres).  
 4d. green and lilac, nett 5d.; block of 4, 1/8.  
 6d. brown and lilac, nett 8d.; block of 4, 2/5.
- Lagos, shades.  
 5/- blue and green, nett 6/6.  
 5/- dull ultramarine and deep green, nett 5/10.
- Bermuda, 1/2d. on 1/- grey, 2d. per block of 4.  
 Per dozen, 5d.; per 100, 2/9.  
 Complete sheet of 240, 8/-; pane of 60, 2/-.

Great Britain, Envelope stamps, cut square unused.

- 1/2d. vermilion, die 48, nett 4d.  
 " " 49 " 4d.  
 " " 54 " 4d.  
 1/2d. green, die 50, nett 4d.  
 " " 51 " 2d.  
 " " 53 " 3d.

NOTE.—The following die numbers are known to exist:—1/2d. pink, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; 1/2d. vermilion, 6, 8, 17 to 54 (except 27, 30, 52 and 53); 1/2d. green, 50, 51, 53. The majority are in stock.

Uganda, Low Values in sets.

- Set of five, 1, 2, 3, 4, 8 annas, nett 1/11; in blocks of 4, 7/6; blocks of 12, 22/6.

Fiji Islands, low values in blocks.

- 1/2d. dark grey-green, 8d. per block of 12; entire pane of 60, 3/3.  
 1d. lilac-rose, 1/3 per block of 12; entire pane of 60, 6/3.

New Zealand, 1d. Universal Postage, local print, singles, 2d.; Pairs, 3d.; blocks of 4, each 6d. Per dozen, 1/3; per sheet of 240, 24/6.

New Zealand, 1 1/2d. khaki, nett 2d.; block of 4, 8d.

Great Britain, new dies for stamping envelopes.

- 1 1/2d. orange, with Arrow-heads instead of florets, nett 3d. (Entire or cut square).

New Zealand, Postage Due, 1/2d. to 1/-, in sets, nett. 4/11 per set.

Sarawak, 1c. blue and carmine, 5d. per dozen; block of 4, 2d.

Victoria, 1/2d. green, small type (just issued).  
 Block of 4, 3d.; per dozen 8d.  
 Entire sheet of 240 (very fine), 11/8.

Victoria, 1d. bright pink, "postage," (just issued).  
 Block of 4, 6d.; per dozen, 1/2.  
 Entire sheet of 120 (very fine), 11/8.

Victoria, old types in new colours (just issued).  
 Set of 9 from 1/2d. to 1/-, nett 3/6.  
 Set of 10 from 1/2d. to 2/-, nett 5/10.  
 Set of 11, complete, 1/2d. to 5/-, nett 11/8.

Victoria, old types in new colours (just issued).  
 2/- blue on rose, nett 2/4; block of 4, 9/4.  
 5/- rose and blue, nett 5/10; block of 4, 23/4.

Victoria, old issue, obsolete.  
 Set of 11, 1/2d. to 1/-; nett for 4/10.

Straits Settlements.  
 3c. brown, nett 1d.; block of 4, 4d.  
 4c. on 5c. rose, nett 2d.; block of 4, 7d.  
 4c. on 8c. blue, nett 3d.; block of 4, 8d.  
 5c. plum, nett 2d.; block of 4, 8d.  
 10c. slate, nett 5d.; block of 4, 1/4.  
 30c. claret, nett 11d.; block of 4, 3/6 (cat. 14/-).

Hong Kong, 2c. green, block of 4, 3d. (see wholesale).

New South Wales, 10/- violet and carmine, over-printed "Postage," perf. 12x11, nett 11/8.

British East Africa, large type.  
 10 rupees, yellow-brown, nett 15/10.  
 20 " yellow-green, nett 31/8.  
 50 " lilac, nett 79/1.

Western Australia, new type, wink. Crown W.A., 2 1/2d. blue, nett 4d.; block of 4, 1/-.

India, new colours.  
 1a. grey, 1/2d. each; block of 4, 2d.  
 1a. light green, 1d. each; block of 4, 3d.

Malay Federated States (new types, oblong).  
 1c. green and black, 1d.; block of 4, 3d.  
 3c. brown and black, 1d.; block of 4, 4d.  
 4c. pink and black, 1 1/2d.; block of 4, 6d.  
 5c. red and black on yellow, 2d.; block of 4, 8d.

10c. violet and black, 4d.; block of 4, 1/3.

British Guiana. Entire envelopes.  
 New 2c. pink, embossed, grey paper, 2d. each.

Malta, 1/2d. view of Valletta Harbour.  
 1/2d. red-brown, wink. Crown CA., 1d. each; block of four, 2d.

Queensland.  
 2/- brown, old type, 2/6 each; block of four, showing variety "LA" joined, 10/6 nett.

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# Ewen's Weekly Stamp News.

With which is incorporated EWEN'S WEEKLY CIRCULAR. (Established October, 1897.)

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THE ONLY WEEKLY STAMP PAPER  
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## CONTENTS.

The Week's News. New Issues. Postcard Column.  
Advertisements on New Zealand Postage Stamps.  
An International Postage Stamp.  
Colonial Stamp Market.

### The Week's News.

In another column we mention some of the difficulties in the way of issuing an international postage stamp. The *Eastern Daily Press* has the following to say on the subject.

"There seems really no insuperable objection to urge against the proposal that a room should be set apart in each of the more important post offices in the United Kingdom for the sale of foreign and Colonial stamps. Something of the kind is now done in the Colonies, and proves a great convenience to many people. Foreign stamps thus purchased would, of course, be useless for correspondence from the United Kingdom, but would afford a method of sending small sums abroad which the public would eagerly avail itself of. Mr. Henniker Heaton, who has proposed so many postal reforms in his Parliamentary career, and has had the felicity of seeing carried into effect a few of such obvious advantage to the public that they could not well be resisted, has pressed this idea on the authorities during the last fifteen years, but has failed to make any impression on them. It is admitted that there is no possibility at present of an international stamp, the adoption of which would sweep away the difficulty here sought to be met, with many others, and is really a thing so desirable that its impracticability should not cause it to be altogether lost sight of. Differences of exchange now absolutely bar international postage."

Every one seems to agitate for the sale of foreign and colonial stamps at the leading British Post Offices, but would it not be far simpler to permit the offices to cash such stamps? Besides, the latter measure would not interfere with the legitimate trade of stamp dealers.

\* \* \*

An error occurred in our article last week on the international language *Esperanto*. Paragraph II, lines 15, 16 should read "present participles" and "passive participles" (not past participles.)

\* \* \*

The Federal Postal and Telegraph Bill is still under discussion in the Australian Senate. The *Australian Journal of Philately* gives the following quotation from "No. 21, Journals of the Senate" for Wednesday, 3rd July, 1901.

FEDERAL POSTAGE STAMPS.—Senator Lieut.-Colonel Neild, pursuant to notice, asked the Postmaster-General:—

1. Can he indicate when Federal postage stamps will be issued?
2. Does he deem it desirable that postage stamps in use in the Commonwealth should bear some indication that Australia is federated?
3. Can he say whether it is intended to establish inter-State penny postage, and, if so, when?
4. Is it intended that the Commonwealth shall obtain the benefits of universal postage, and, if so, when?

The Postmaster-General replied—

1. Not at present. Federal postage stamps will probably not be issued until after the expiration of the book-keeping period prescribed by sections 89 and 93 of the Commonwealth Constitution Act.
2. It is not considered desirable to overprint the postage stamps of the several States, but when the issue of any new stamps is authorised such an indication will be considered.
- 3 and 4. These are matters of policy which have not yet been determined.

\* \* \*

Will readers of *E.W.S.N.*, please note that in future all correspondence relating to postmarks should be addressed to the Postmark Editor, 32, Palace Square, Norwood, S.E., and not to "Duplex." All communications for the Colonial Market should be addressed to the Colonial Market, at the same address, 32, Palace Square. This is the Market's only address, and no one at any other address is authorized to receive orders.

\* \* \*

Our third "Questions" Competition is held over till next week, as also the award for translations of the *Esperanto* paragraph.

## New Issues.

The Editor will be much obliged for early news of New Issues or intended New Issues or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors. Full acknowledgment given. If possible, specimens should be sent in order that illustrations may be prepared.

**ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.**—Owing to the postal rate for foreign letters being raised from 12c. to 15c., there is no longer any use for the 12c. envelopes. The stock of 71,000 remaining on hand, has been surcharged "5" in order that it may be employed for internal use. *La Revista de la Sociedad Filatélica Argentina* states, that 12,000 were at first overprinted simply with the figure "5," but as they did not meet with the approval of the Postmaster-General, a further surcharge of six parallel horizontal lines was made over the old value of 12c. in order to cancel it. The remaining 59,000 envelopes were then overprinted with the bars and "5" at one operation. Our contemporary suggests that it is not impossible that some of the first 12,000 may have been allowed to pass without the addition of the bars.

Envelope, 12c. blue, surcharged "5" in carmine.

**BENGASI.**—Messrs. Alfred Smith & Son state that the Italian Post Office at Bengasi, Tripoli, has been supplied with the newly issued 25 centesimi of Italy, surcharged "BENGASI—1 PIASTRE 1" in two lines.

**GREAT BRITAIN.**—A correspondent informs us that the current 6d. stamp has been issued with surcharge "I.R. Official." It is no doubt intended to take the place of the old 6d. grey, plate 10, which was recently re-called.

**MAURITIUS.**—The Colonial Market has shown us sheets of the new 2c. and 15c. stamps. 2c. lilac, value in violet. Key Type; CA. 14. 15c. grey green, value in orange. Key Type; CA. 14.

They are both printed from plate 1 of the well-known key type, in sheets of two panes, side by side, each pane consists of 60 stamps, arranged in ten rows of 6. The usual "Jubilee" line is round each pane. The 1c. and 3c. are also expected in new colours.

**NEW ZEALAND.**—A Wellington reader of the *Australian Philatelist* reports the issue of a sheet of the 1d. "Universal Postage," local printing, imperforate vertically.

**SARAWAK.**—The *Weekly Philatelic Era* states that the new 1c. appeared first in slate-blue and carmine and that the present shade is bright blue and carmine. Our Colonial Market's stock seems to be entirely in a dull shade of dark blue.

**UNITED STATES.**—*Mekel's Weekly* states that considerable quantities of the 1c., 2c. and 4c. Pan-American stamps are turning up with inverted centres. One man in New York is reported to have 13 sheets of the 1c.—1300 stamps—which he is holding for \$20 per stamp. He will be lucky if he unloads at even anything approaching the £5,200 he now asks. There are also a fair number of the 2c. and 4c. offered. As much as \$25 (£5) has been obtained by New York dealers for the 1c.

**VICTORIA.**—Messrs. Smythe & Nicolle send us the new ½d. bright green with inscription "Postage" announced last week. It is printed in sheets of 240, like its predecessor and arranged in 10 rows of 24.

The *Australian Journal of Philately* is informed by Mr. Donne, of Melbourne, that the following values, namely, 1½d., 3d., 4d., 6d., 1s. and 2s. have been similarly altered and were issued on the 2nd July. It is also the intention of the authorities to have the 2d. and 5s. stamps similarly dealt with. These changes are probably necessary, but it is a pity they have come so often recently. Whether intentionally or not the Victorian Postal Authorities have lately provided plenty of food for philatelists. A few years ago Queensland began chopping her stamps to bits, then New Zealand had an innings, now Victoria comes along to assist in the progress of philately. By and bye the cry will be "save us from our friends."

We have not heard anything more about the £1 and £2 Victorian stamps announced in the press upwards of two months ago. Can it be that the order for issue has been cancelled?

## Our Postcard Column.

WILL readers hearing of any interesting item of News, kindly jot it down on a postcard and address to the Editor, "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News," Norwood, London. For every contribution we publish, we will send the author an interesting and newly issued stamp. (N.B.—Postcards preferred).

"P" sends some interesting information respecting Northern Nigeria postmarks.

"I noticed some weeks ago correspondents were anxious to have an explanation as to why Northern Nigerian stamps used from Zebba were cancelled in manuscript. As all I had myself received were cancelled that way, and as I had a friend out there, I asked him to make enquiries. The postmaster states that the reason Zebba office never got the cancelling stamps was due to an oversight on the part of the makers, who omitted to insert the name of the place, and only putting "N. Nigeria" which was useless. The cancelling stamps are, however, daily expected. The head office in the Colony is Lokoja, which uses a rubber stamp inscribed "Lokoja Post Office" with date in centre, impressions being made in violet ink."

Mr. J. H. Parry writes:—

"I have just been examining some of the 20f. German stamps used in China and was surprised to find one with quite a different surcharge to the others. Instead of the word China in large black letters it has a very distinct capital G, and in addition, has a large triangular mark raised over and between the letters N and A, and also a large oval dot over the letter I. Thus it has a very curious appearance compared with the ordinary surcharged varieties. I wonder if any of your readers have noticed this error. I presume it is an error, or is it meant for a new kind of surcharge? Whatever it may be it has not by any means a neat or pleasing appearance as a postage stamp."

Mr. J. W. Lawson refers to the thick and thin "I.R. Official" surcharges.

"With reference to the difference in the surcharge of the two 1d. 'I.R. Official' stamps sent by Mr. R. N. Appleton as noted in your last week's issue,—the same variety in the surcharge will also be found in the ½d. vermilion 'I.R. Official' stamps. It would be interesting to learn when the thickening of the type took place, the specimens in my possession seem to show that it was about 1897."

[Ewen's Standard Priced Catalogue of the Stamps and Postmarks of the United Kingdom states, page 93, that "since 1893, the surcharge of the ½d., 1d., 2½d. and 1/- values has been of slightly thicker type."—Ed.]

Mr. J. F. C. Sieber writes:—

"Instructions have been received at the Inland Revenue Offices to return to the Head Office all stamps of obsolete design and colour, surcharged "I.R. Official." Amongst these will be the lately current halfpenny scarlet, and our old friend the sixpenny grey of 1880 type, and probably others will be unearthed. The withdrawal of the old sixpenny grey severs a link with the past and removes a familiar plate number from the current series."

Mr. F. Grove Powell writes:—

"In your issue of the 10th inst., you say, as indeed is generally stated, that only one copy of the British Guiana, 1c. 1856, is believed to exist. It has been most confidently stated to me that another copy is in existence and in good condition, the lucky owner being Lord Kintore, whose Australian collection is well-known. I presume that the copy you refer to is that in the collection of Von Ferrary."

More varieties from New Zealand! The Hon. W. Sugden writes:—

"Has it been noticed that the 1d. New Zealand local print stamps are now coming over in quite a different shade to those that came at first?"

[We presume our correspondent refers to the "Universal Postage" stamps as the "White Terrace" type is stated to be obsolete.—Ed.]

## Advertisements on New Zealand Postage Stamps.

SO much interest has been taken in this subject that we have compiled the following list of different advertisements which have been advised to us by readers. In one or two cases we fear mistakes have been made. Three readers give Lockhead's advertisement as "Lochead's," "Lockhead's," and "Lohead's." We hope that the greatest care will be taken in future to correctly transcribe each advertisement. The list at present stands as follows:—

1. A good housewife values Sunlight Soap. (?) 4d.
2. A good wife values Sunlight Soap. 2½d.
3. Ask for patent odourless Waterproofs, made in Wellington. (Also given without "Made in Wellington.") 1d., 2d., 2½d., 3d., 5d., 6d.
4. A slight cold; use at once Bonnington's Irish Moss. 1d.
5. Beecham's Pills, the Premier Medicine. 1d., 2d.
6. Beecham's Pills, the Leading Remedy. 2½d., 5d.
7. Beecham's Pills for Sick Headache. 2½d.
8. Beecham's Pills, Great Colonial Demand. 1d., 6d.
9. Beecham's Pills, Best Family Medicine. 2½d., 3d.
10. Beecham's Pills (?). 2½d., 6d.
11. Beecham's Pills invigorate the Nerves. 2½d.
12. Beecham's Pills for Nervous Ills. 1d.
13. Beecham's Pills worth a Guinea a box. 1d.
14. Beecham's Pills purify the blood. 2½d.
15. Be fair; try Sunlight Soap. 1d.
16. Be sure you ask for Poneke Potted Meats. (Also given as "Be sure and ask, etc.") 2d., 2½d., 6d.
17. Bonnington's Irish Moss Increases the Flexibility of the Voice. 1d., 1/-.
18. Bonnington's Irish Moss will cure your Cough, as it has cured others. 4d.
19. Crease's Essence of Coffee. 1d., 3d., 6d., 1/-.
20. Crease's A1 Coffee. 2½d.
21. Crease's Dandelion Coffee cures Indigestion. 1d., 2d.
22. Dodgshun's, the Leading Tweed Warehouse. (Also given as "Dodgson's.") 1d., 4d., 6d.
23. Don't worry, use Sunlight Soap. 1d., 2d.
24. Every dose of Bonnington's Irish Moss is effective. 1d., 6d., 1/-.
25. Flag Brand Pickles. 1d., 2d., 4d., 6d.
26. Flag Brand Sauce. 5d., 6d.
27. For Asthma, use Bonnington's Irish Moss. 1d., 2d., 2½d.
28. For Bronchitis, take Bonnington's Irish Moss. 2d., 4d.
29. For Carpets and Floorcloths. W. Strange & Co., Christchurch. 1d., 2d.
30. For Complaints of throat and lungs, use Bonnington's Irish Moss. 1d., 2d.
31. For delicate skins, use Sunlight Soap. (Also given without "use.") 1d., 2d., 5d., 1/-.
32. For Hosiery and Gloves, go or send to Strange & Co., Ch.Ch. (Also given as "Christchurch"). 1d., 2½d.
33. For Men's and Boy's Clothing. Go or send to Strange & Co. 2½d.
34. For slight cold, use at once Bonnington's Irish Moss. 6d.
35. Fry's Pure Concentrated Cocoa (also given as "Cocoas" by Mr. Fish). Printed either horizontally or diagonally. 1d., 2d., 2½d.
36. Fry's Concentrated Cocoa. (Given by Mr. F. Taylor). 1d., 1/-.
37. Gold Miners use only Sunlight Soap. 1d., 2d.
38. Kaitangana Coal, cheapest and best. (Sent by Mr. E. Heginbottom). 1d.
39. Lace of all kinds washed by Sunlight Soap. 1d., 2d., 3d.
40. Ladies use Sunlight Soap for washing the hair. 2½d.
41. Lattey, Livermore & Co., Ltd., Wellington. Ask for their pure Indian and Ceylon Teas. 1d., 3d., 4d., 1/-.
42. Lockhead's Perambulators are the best. (Given as "Lochead's" by Mr. Heginbottom). 1d., 2½d., 4d.
43. Lockhead's Wertheim Sewing Machines are the Best. 2d., 4d.
44. Lockhead's Wertheim Sewing Machines. Branches everywhere. 2½d.
45. Lochead [Lockhead?], sole agent, Middle Island, for Wertheim Sewing Machines. 3d.
46. Macbean Stewart's New Cure for Asthma, Diphtheria, Croup. 1d., 2d., 2½d.
47. Makes home happy; Sunlight Soap. 1d.
48. Mantles and Millinery, go or send to W. Strange & Co., Christchurch. 1d.
49. Mothers use Sunlight Soap. 1d.
50. No chapped hands with Sunlight Soap. 1d.
51. No dairy should be without Sunlight Soap. 2½d.

52. Poneke Beef Extract, the best and cheapest. 1d., 3d.
53. Salsaline, the great Food Preservative. 1d., 2d.
54. Search North, South, East or West. Sunlight Soap is the best. 1d.
55. Singers and Public Speakers use Bonnington's Irish Moss. 1s.
56. S. Myers & Co., Dentists, Christchurch; Nitrous Oxide Gas, Painless Extractions. 1d., 2d., 2½d.
57. Stop that Cough! Bonnington's Irish Moss will do it. (Also given as "Coughing.") 1d., 2½d., 5d., 6d., 1/-.
58. Stop that Cough. Use Bonnington's Irish Moss. 1/-.
59. Sunlight Soap never disappoints. (Also given as "disappointing" by Mr. Irving). 1d., 2d., 2½d., 8d.
60. Sunlight Soap is unequalled for hounds. (Also given as "wounds.") 1d., 2½d.
61. Sunlight Soap. 2d.
62. Sunlight Soap; less labour, greater comfort. 1d., 2d., 5d.
63. Sunlight Soap for the Bath. 2½d., 3d.
64. Sunlight Soap makes home happy. 4d.
65. The cleansing properties of Sunlight Soap are wonderful. 2d., 2½d.
66. The Kaitangana Coal, cheapest and cleanest. (Given by Mr. Heginbottom. See No. 74). 4d.
67. This space is reserved for Cadbury Bros. 1d., 2½d., 4d.
68. To heal and strengthen the lungs; Bonnington's Irish Moss. 1d., 2½d., 5d.
69. To sustain the voice; use Bonnington's Irish Moss. 2d., 4d.
70. Truebridge, Miller & Reich, Wellington. Contractors for advertising on stamps and telegrams. 1d., 2d., 2½d.
71. Try Beecham's Tooth Paste. 2d., 2½d.
72. Unversal Specific for Colds, Bonnington's Irish Moss. 1d.
73. Use Bonnington's Irish Moss for Coughs and Colds. 2d., 4d.
74. Use Kaitangana Coal—Cheapest and Cleanest. 1d., 2d., 2½d., 5d., 8d., 1/-.
75. Use only Poneke Table Jelly. 1d., 2d., 2½d., 4d.
76. Use the Best Soap—Sunlight. 1d., 5d.

Nos. 66 may be an error for No. 74, or it may have been wrongly transcribed. We trust readers will use the greatest care to ensure accuracy. We offer a prize of a mint copy of the new 5/- blue and rose Victoria to the reader who sends in the most additions to the above list before September 1st. Should any error be discovered in a list it will be disqualified.

### ADVERTISEMENTS ON POSTAGE STAMPS.

"Carré de Quatre" writes to "L'Echo de la Timbrologie."

"Sous la rubrique *Cu et là*, l'*Echo* a inséré dans son dernier numéro une information venue de l'*Ewen's Weekly*, d'après laquelle les timbres-poste de la Nouvelle-Zélande présenteraient des réclames commerciales imprimées au verso et seraient les seuls à offrir cette particularité. Je puis d'autant mieux vous renseigner à cet égard que j'ai formé une collection spéciale sous le titre: *Timbres perforés et surchargés par les particuliers*. Or, si je considère les seuls timbres présentant le caractère de la réclame, c'est évidemment la Nouvelle-Zélande qui remporte la palme par le nombre et les variétés de ses surcharges commerciales; mais ce pays est loin d'être le seul qui jouisse de ce privilège. Il y a eu une tentative du même genre en Bavière et également en France; j'ai, en effet, un échantillon de chacun de ces pays avec réclame au verso; celui de France offre la réclame sur un timbre de 40 cent., empire, effigie laurée. On observe également le même fait, mais l'impression sur le recto, pour des timbres du Canada, de Costa-Rica, de l'Equateur et du Venezuela."

### Railway Letter Stamps.

The Editor would be greatly obliged to Collectors of the above stamps who would allow him to inspect any specimens they may have of the following, especially pairs and blocks, or dated copies.

London & South Western Railway.  
London, Brighton & South Coast Railway.  
London, Chatham & Dover.  
Manchester, Sheffield & Lincolnshire, with outer line.  
Midland, Nos. 60001-66000.  
Macclesfield Committee.  
Sheffield & Midland.  
Scottish Railways, except Dundee & Arbroath.  
Belfast & County Down.  
Belfast and Northern Counties.  
Waterford, Limerick & Western.

The Editor is endeavouring to reconstruct sheets of the above, and would be glad to purchase any offered at a reasonable price.

## An International Postage Stamp.

MR. HENNIKER HEATON has been writing to the *Times* on the subject of an imperial and international postage stamp. After recounting the manifold advantages to be gained by the issue of such a stamp (only partially met by the "reply" postcard), he goes on to state the objections:—

"I will now briefly state the reasons why the Post Office of Great Britain and Ireland finds a difficulty in arranging for an international or an imperial postage stamp. The reasons are an absence of common coinage, and our financial gain by correspondence. Englishmen write five letters abroad and receive about four. Under the Postal Union the English Government keeps all its own postage receipts on the five letters and has only the trouble and expense of delivering four letters. Fifteen years ago I made a calculation showing that under the Postal Union arrangement England gains £228,000 a year over and above any other Government. For 15 years (up to 1900) I could post 120 letters from Austria to England for £1, but only 96 letters from England to Austria for £1. If we had an international stamp it would pay the English merchant to buy foreign stamps. To-day you can send 100 letters from France or Germany to England for £1, but only 96 letters from England to France or Germany for £1.

"My Turkish correspondent, under date June 12, sends me this note:—'The British post offices in Turkey give 120 of the 2½d. stamps for £1, so it only costs us 2d. a letter from here to England. This is due to the difference in exchange.'

The difficulty could easily be met by putting the value of the international stamp at 2½d. or at a price equal to the maximum cost of sending a single letter from any Postal Union country. If the stamp or stamps were required for the purpose of enabling purchasers to enclose reply postage to their foreign correspondents (as agitators declare) they would hardly object to paying 4d. extra for the privilege. Three farthings are often paid for a halfpenny postcard. But the real fact of the matter is that people want the international stamp to pay small accounts with and to avoid the 6d. commission on a 1/- or 2/- money order, and they would consequently equally object to a premium on the stamps.

Supposing the Postal Union recommended the universal issue of a stamp which should have power to frank a half ounce letter between any two countries, and that it should be sold by the G.P.O. of each country at 27 francs (or its equivalent) per 100. In Great Britain we should get the stamps from the G.P.O. at about 21/5 per 100, and it could be retailed at smaller post offices at 2½d. or 2/2 per 10. As our ordinary 2½d. stamps can be had for 2/1 per 10, it would not pay to buy the international stamp for use here, and the sale of the former would consequently not be affected. It would not pay to buy it in large quantities to make remittances with, because our rate of 21/5 per 100 would be equal to the 27 francs quoted at Paris, and post offices would only cash the stamps at the usual discount charged on ordinary stamps. A bank cheque or postal money order would be as cheap. It would not pay a Paris merchant to buy his stamps in London, because they could always be had in lots of 100 at exactly the same rate in Paris as in London. It would not be cheaper to use the international stamp for small remittances either, as whilst 100 cost 21/5 or 27 francs in London, they would in Paris only have power to frank 100 letters, a power which could be purchased for 25 francs by asking for ordinary French stamps. The international stamp would of course have no value indicated on its face.

The object to be gained by the issue of an international stamp might surely, however, be attained by the much simpler method of allowing post offices to cash foreign stamps, instead of issue them. It is quite impracticable that every post office should carry a stock of each different kind of foreign stamp, but there are few objections to their cashing them. Why should not British offices be authorised to cash Colonial stamps at 2½% discount? This would meet all requirements, and do away with every necessity for such a thing as an International stamp. The stamps could be affixed by the seller to a form on which would be entered the price paid for them by the post office, which would then send them up to the G.P.O. and be credited for the amount paid out, which would be refunded to the G.P.O. by the issuing Colony. If any British post office is authorized to give £1 for a French money order of fr.25.20 why should it not give at least 10/9 for the same value in French postage stamps?

EVERY STAMP COLLECTOR  
SHOULD SUBSCRIBE TO  
EWEN'S WEEKLY STAMP NEWS.



## Colonial Stamp Market.

### LATEST ARRIVALS.

N.B.—Collectors wishing to complete their Collections of current unused Colonial stamps should not delay making their purchases, as most varieties will become OBSOLETE shortly, and the Colonial Market cannot undertake to continue to supply at old rates after receipt of advice that new stamps with Head of King Edward have appeared. *The opportunity to buy cheaply must inevitably soon pass.*

- New South Wales, chalky paper, ½d. green, 8d. per dozen.
- Mauritius, 4c. lilac on yellow, 2d., per doz. 11d.  
 " 2c. lilac and violet, nett 1d.  
 " 15c. green and orange, nett 4d.
- Victoria, ½d. green, "Postage" 1d.
- Federated Malay States.  
 \$1 green, nett 2/5.  
 \$2 green and carmine, nett 4/10.
- British Honduras, surch. "Revenue."  
 5c. blue, small type, 4d.  
 " large type, 4d.  
 10c. lilac and green, small type, 7d.  
 " large type, 7d.
- Leeward Islands.  
 5/- green and blue, nett 5/10.  
 5/- green and deep blue, nett 6/6.
- Cayman Islands, ½d. green, 2/11 per pane of 60.
- Mauritius, 4c. pane of 60, 3/11.
- Malay Federated States, 50c., nett 1/3.
- Orange River on Cape, ½d. green, 2/11 per pane of 60.
- Lagos, ½d. green, per dozen, 7d.; pane of 60, 2/11.  
 " 1d. carmine, per dozen, 1/2; pane of 60, 5/10.
- British Central Africa.  
 10/- olive-green and black, nett 11/8.  
 £10 yellow, nett 233/4.
- British South Africa, new design.  
 £1 brown-lilac, nett 23/4.  
 £5 dark blue, nett 116/8.  
 £10 blue-lilac, nett 233/4.
- India, low value.  
 3 pies grey, 5d. per doz.; pane of 60, 1/8.
- British South Africa, new type.  
 5/- orange-brown, nett 5/10.
- Uganda, singles and blocks.  
 1a. carmine, nett 1½d., block of 4, 6d.  
 2a. red-brown, nett 3d., block of 4, 1/-.  
 3a. grey, nett 4d., block of 4, 1/3.  
 4a. green, nett 6d., block of 4, 1/9.  
 8a. olive, nett 11d., block of 4, 3/3.  
 1r. blue, nett 1/9., block of 4, 6/3.  
 5r. brown, nett 7/11., block of 4, 31/6.
- British South Africa (old types, will probably be obsolete shortly; new types, expected by every mail).  
 2/- blue and green, 1895, nett 2/4.  
 2/6 brown and violet on yellow, nett 2/11.  
 3/- green and violet on blue, nett 3/6.  
 4/- red and blue on green, nett 4/8.  
 5/- orange and green, nett 5/10.  
 10/- slate and rose on rose, nett 11/8.
- Seychelles.  
 1r. 50c. grey and carmine, nett 2/5.  
 2r. 25c. lilac and green, nett 3/7.
- Uganda, shades.  
 1r. bright blue, nett 2/-  
 1r. milky blue, nett 1/9.
- Southern Nigeria, 2/6 brown and black, nett 2/11.
- British Central Africa (black centres).  
 2/6 ultramarine, nett 2/11.  
 4/- carmine, nett 4/8.
- British Central Africa (violet centres).  
 4d. green and lilac, nett 5d.; block of 4, 1/8.  
 6d. brown and lilac, nett 8d.; block of 4, 2/5.
- Lagos, shades.  
 5/- blue and green, nett 6/6.  
 5/- dull ultramarine and deep green, nett 5/10.
- Bermuda, ½d. on 1/- grey, 2d. per block of 4.  
 Per dozen, 5d.; per 100, 2/9.  
 Complete sheet of 240, 8/-; pane of 60, 2/-.

Great Britain, Envelope stamps, cut square unused.

- ½d. vermilion, die 48, nett 4d.  
 " " 49 " 4d.  
 " " 54 " 4d.  
 ½d. green, die 50, nett 4d.  
 " " 51 " 2d.  
 " " 53 " 3d.

NOTE.—The following die numbers are known to exist:—½d. pink, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; ½d. vermilion, 6, 8, 17 to 54 (except 27, 30, 52 and 53); ½d. green, 50, 51, 53. The majority are in stock.

Uganda, Low Values in sets.

- Set of five, 1, 2, 3, 4, 8 annas, nett 1/11; in blocks of 4, 7/6; blocks of 12, 22/6.

Fiji Islands, low values in blocks.

- ½d. dark grey-green, 8d. per block of 12; entire pane of 60, 3/3.  
 1d. lilac-rose, 1/3 per block of 12; entire pane of 60, 6/3.

New Zealand, 1d. Universal Postage, local print, singles, 2d.; Pairs, 3d.; blocks of 4, each 6d. Per dozen, 1/3; per sheet of 240, 24/6.

New Zealand, 1½d. khaki, nett 2d.; block of 4, 8d.

Great Britain, new dies for stamping envelopes.  
 1½d. orange, with Arrow-heads instead of florets, nett 3d. (Entire or cut square).

New Zealand, Postage Due, ½d. to 1/-, in sets, nett, 4/11 per set.

Sarawak, 1c. blue and carmine, 5d. per dozen; block of 4, 2d.

Victoria, ½d. green, small type (just issued).

- Block of 4, 3d.; per dozen 8d.  
 Entire sheet of 240 (very fine), 11/8.

Victoria, 1d. bright pink, "postage," (just issued).

- Block of 4, 6d.; per dozen, 1/2.  
 Entire sheet of 120 (very fine), 11/8.

Victoria, old types in new colours (just issued).

- Set of 9 from ½d. to 1/-, nett 3/6.  
 Set of 10 from ½d. to 2/-, nett 5/10.  
 Set of 11, complete, ½d. to 5/-, nett 11/8.

Victoria, old types in new colours (just issued).

- 2/- blue on rose, nett 2/4; block of 4, 9/4.  
 5/- rose and blue, nett 5/10; block of 4, 23/4.

Victoria, old issue, obsolete.

- Set of 11, ½d. to 1/-; nett for 4/10.

Straits Settlements.

- 3c. brown, nett 1d.; block of 4, 4d.  
 4c. on 5c. rose, nett 2d.; block of 4, 7d.  
 4c. on 8c. blue, nett 3d.; block of 4, 8d.  
 5c. plum, nett 2d.; block of 4, 8d.  
 10c. slate, nett 5d.; block of 4, 1/4.  
 30c. claret, nett 11d.; block of 4, 3/6 (cat. 14/-).

Hong Kong, 2c. green, block of 4, 3d. (see wholesale).

New South Wales, 10/- violet and carmine, over-printed "Postage," perf. 12x11, nett 11/8.

British East Africa, large type.

- 10 rupees, yellow-brown, nett 15/10.  
 20 " yellow-green, nett 31/8.  
 50 " lilac, nett 79/1.

Western Australia, new type, wmk. Crown W.A..

- 2½d. blue, nett 4d.; block of 4, 1/-.

India, new colours.

- ½a. grey, ½d. each; block of 4, 2d.  
 ½a. light green, 1d. each; block of 4, 3d.
- Malay Federated States (new types, oblong).  
 1c. green and black, 1d.; block of 4, 3d.  
 3c. brown and black, 1d.; block of 4, 4d.  
 4c. pink and black, 1½d.; block of 4, 6d.  
 5c. red and black on yellow, 2d.; block of 4, 8d.

10c. violet and black, 4d.; block of 4, 1/3.

British Guiana. Entire envelopes.

- New 2c. pink, embossed, grey paper, 2d. each.

Malta, ½d. view of Valletta Harbour.

- ½d. red-brown, wmk. Crown CA., 1d. each; block of four, 2d.

Queensland.

- 2/- brown, old type, 2/6 each; block of four, showing variety "LA" joined, 10/6 nett.

FOR LOW VALUES  
 AT DOZEN RATES. See Page 3.

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## "E.W.S.N." AND NEWSAGENTS.

ONE PENNY WEEKLY. EVERY SATURDAY.

We hope every Collector will do his best to support the first and only Weekly Stamp Paper published in Europe. The cheapest way to get it is by asking your Newsagent, or the nearest Railway Bookstall, to procure it regularly. The price is the modest one of 1d. weekly, which every Collector should be able to spare. Should any difficulty be experienced in getting the paper through a Newsagent, we should be glad to be advised of same.

THE PUBLISHER.

# Ewen's Weekly Stamp News.

With which is incorporated EWEN'S WEEKLY CIRCULAR. (Established October, 1897.)

A JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

THE ONLY WEEKLY STAMP PAPER  
PUBLISHED IN EUROPE.

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## The Week's News.

With this number, *E.W.S.N.* completes its first century of existence—reckoned in weeks.

\* \* \*

It seems that the advertisements on the backs of New Zealand stamps occur in different colours. A reader, for instance, submits copies of the 1d. rose, one of which has the advertisement in red and the other has it in green. It is doubtful whether these should count as varieties in our competition which closes on September 1st.

\* \* \*

Our third questions must again stand over till next week

\* \* \*

The prizes and new issues due to competitors and contributors during August will be sent out on September 1st. A short delay has occurred owing to absence of staff on holiday.

\* \* \*

The position of Sub-Editor on the staff of *Ewen's Weekly* is at present vacant. The work involved represents from 10 to 20 hours weekly. Remuneration in cash or kind.

## Our Postcard Column.

WILL readers hearing of any interesting item of News, kindly jot it down on a postcard and address to the Editor, "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News," Norwood, London. For every contribution we publish, we will send the author an interesting and newly issued stamp. (N.B.—Postcards preferred.)

*Mr. A. J. Hudson sends an enquiry of interest to British Specialists.*

"I have a 6d. English lilac (Gibbons' No. 162) surcharged 6d. in carmine, but instead of two dots under the *d*, it has only one *d*. Will this specimen be an error or a variety? I have several hundreds of the stamps, but only this one with the one dot.

[This stamp supplies quite a number of varieties. The two dots under the *D* of "6d." vary in position, being sometimes much closer to the *D* than at others. The stamp lettered SK has "crooked dots," one being lower than the other. Several stamps have one thick and one thin dot and in light printings this latter does not always show.—Ed.]

*Mr. L. Normington writes:—*

"In looking over the 4d. vermilion of Great Britain, 1862 issue, I find that in the band of colour at the base of the stamp in the one with hair lines, there are two marks like the Roman figure II., and in the one without hair lines there is only I. I don't see any note of them in the catalogues. Will it be the plate No.? Information will oblige."

[The Roman figures I. and II. are well-known to collectors, and were intended to be supplementary means of identifying the first and second plates of the 1862 type. The two plates were really Nos. 3 and 4, Nos. 1 and 2 having no corner letters. Worn or blurred impressions often have one or more of the Roman figures absent. Specimens of plate 4 are, for instance, not unknown with figures I.—Ed.]

*Mr. Karl Wiehen sends an enquiry:—*

"Is it possible to restore the green colour of the Cyprus half piast. stamp of 1881, after having turned blue? And if, as I fear, there is no means of doing so, what would in yours and your readers' opinion be the value of a fine used but blue copy of Cyprus (Gibbons No. 22, cat. at 30/-). Would it have lost half its value, or more or less?"

## New Issues.

The Editor will be much obliged for early news of New Issues or intended New Issues or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors. Full acknowledgment given. If possible, specimens should be sent in order that illustrations may be prepared.

**BRITISH NEW GUINEA.**—The descriptive guide to the Queensland Court of the Glasgow Exhibition contains the following note (p. 18):—

"68. Philatelists will be interested in this exhibit, as it not only contains all the stamps of the Colony of Queensland, which will shortly disappear when the new issue by the Commonwealth takes their place, but it also includes the most recent stamps of the British Empire, those lately issued by the Government of the Crown Colony of British New Guinea. These bear the impression of a native boat or proa, with double crescent-shaped sails, full of warriors proceeding up one of the rivers of New Guinea, probably the Mambare. It is doubtful if any one in Glasgow possesses one of these stamps."

In connection with this notice, Mr. John Muir writes us:—

"There is exhibited at the Queensland Court of the present Glasgow Exhibition a set of stamps which I am unable to find chronicled in any of my papers and possibly this description of them may be of interest to you. The following are the values and colours, the native boat in the centre being in black in all the values.

½d. green	and black.	4d. dark brown and black.
1d. red	"	6d. dark green "
2d. purple	"	1/- orange "
2½d. ultramarine	"	"

They are all oblong and resemble in size some of the North Borneo pictorials.

There is also a 1d. post card with the same type of stamp printed in red on buff card and a 1½d. post card with stamp in indigo on buff card.

As it is stated that the whole exhibit is illustrative of the resources of Queensland, I presume we may take it that the making or at least the sale of postage stamps is one of them, and perhaps quite as remunerative as some of the gold fields. I may mention that there is a set of the current Queensland stamps apparently all of the postmarked-to-order variety on view in the same frame as the British New Guinea stamps."

**CHILE.**—The *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* states that the 30c. value of the old type has been reissued, but in a new colour, orange, instead of rose. The *Echo de la Timbrologie* states that two values of the new type have appeared.

30c. yellow-brown.	50c. dark brown.
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The *London Philatelist* states that the 1, 2 and 5 centavos of the new type have been re-touched. The lines of the background above the cap of Columbus have been deepened, so that the shading under the label bearing the word "Chile" has almost disappeared.

**COLOMBIA (Tumaco).**—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. write the *S.C.F.*, under date, August 8th:—

We have just received a letter from a correspondent at Tumaco, with reference to the recent provisionals. It appears that the postal agent or postmaster, who issued the stamps was dismissed from office on May 4th, and the stock of stamps then on hand delivered up to the Prefect to be destroyed. The official's dismissal appears to have been due to his having speculated in the provisional stamps for his own personal gain.

As there are still no stamps to be obtained in Tumaco, letters have to be franked by the Postmaster, who simply writes in the corner of the envelope "Pago" and the amount with his signature beneath, and the dated postmark over all, while the Prefect, who apparently acts as a Censor, writes on the back of the envelope "Pase, El Prefecto," with his signature. The letter we received is thus franked, and came through without extra charge.

A Parisian contemporary states:—Mr. Hellstein has received from Tumaco an envelope franked, in default of stamps, by the inscription "Pago 02 \$" followed by the signature of the postmaster and carrying at the back the manuscript inscription "Pase, El prefecto" with signature. Although the envelope, which contained printed matter, was sufficiently franked by the payment of 0.02 centavos, it received a postage-due stamp of 50c. on arrival in France.

**FRANCE.**—The 25c. value of the new type has appeared with millésime 1. The 15c. orange has been surcharged F.M. for military use.

**GREAT BRITAIN.**—A number of copies of the new 6d. I.R. Official have been submitted to us. The earliest postmark is August 8th.

The new registration envelopes—sizes G and H—were issued last week. Other sizes are to follow. The 2d. blue stamps are of the same type as before, but appear to have no die numbers—there is no trace of any on the specimens before us. The stamp is now in the right hand top corner of the envelope.

**INDIA.**—Up to 5th July the following additional supplies of C.E.F. stamps had been made:

1a. ..	24,000	2½as. ..	2,400
2as. ..	2,400	3a. ..	2,400

So the totals now stand at:—

½a. ..	..	..	196,640
¾a. ..	..	..	205,440
1a. ..	..	..	139,280
2as. ..	..	..	24,280
2½as. ..	..	..	21,440
3as. ..	..	..	17,120
4as. ..	..	..	19,200
8as. ..	..	..	16,080
12as. ..	..	..	12,366
1 rupee ..	..	..	16,440

Of course these figures are for adhesives only. Very large quantities of post cards and embossed envelopes have been supplied as these are far more popular with the Native soldier than adhesive stamps.—(P. J. of India).

**JAMAICA.**—A number of our contemporaries chronicle the 1d. "Llandoverly Falls," printed in red, with black centre.

**KISHENGARH.**—The *S.C.F.* chronicles two rupee values for this state.

2 rupees, brown.
5 " violet.

**SEYCHELLES.**—*Le Collectionneur* states that the 3c. value having been exhausted, the Seychelles post-office has surcharged 30,000 stamps of 36c. with the new value, 3 cents. The whole provisional issue is stated to have been bought up in a few hours, so that what useful purpose was served by the issue we fail to see. It could hardly have been made for the sake of increasing the colony's revenue, as the total face value only amounts to 900 rupees, an amount that is of little use in meeting a deficit of 13,000 rupees. Is it a "benefit" issue for someone? or perhaps it may be the forerunner of a series. The last outbreak of surcharging was in 1896, but was confined to the issue of two varieties, 18 on 45c. and 36 on 45c. Of the latter, 12,000 were issued and 11,400 were bought up by one speculator. In 1893, a series of five surcharged varieties was issued.

**UNITED STATES.**—*Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* states that the Bureau of Engraving and Printing is busy printing \$54,057,579 worth of stamps, the estimated requirement for next year's consumption. The cost of ordinary stamps is 5c. per 1000, and of the bi-coloured Pan-Americans 10c. per 1000. The total number of stamps issued last year was 3,986,053,720 and the cost of printing them about £40,000.

A variety not generally known to collectors is shown us by Mr. Tyrrell. It is in the 5c. brown of 1894. Most examples, as also other values, have a background of horizontal and oblique lines. In the specimen sent by Mr. Tyrrell, the lines of shading are horizontal only. This may be due to wear of the die from which the plates are made; the specimen shown us is a rather late impression, being postmarked July, 1897. Perhaps a reader who has made a study of United States stamps can give further information.

**VICTORIA.**—The new 1½d., 3d., 4d., 6d., 1s. and 2s. are now to hand, but according to latest advices, there is no sign of the £1 and £2 stamps, with Head of King Edward. The question as to which colony will be the first to issue such is therefore still open. The ½d., 3d., 4d., 6d., 1s. and 2s. stamps of the old type in new colours are already obsolete, having been in use only a few months. Probably very few of the 2s. value have been issued.

## A Universal Language for Stamp Collectors.

IN E.W.S.N. of August 10th, we published a short article under the above title and suggested that *Esperanto*—the simplest language ever invented—might be of considerable use to stamp-collectors. We also gave the following short extract from a contemporary, and offered to send several interesting newly issued stamps to any reader who sent in a correct translation.

### Al Esperantistoj!

Ni havas plezuron sciigi al Esperantistaj kolektistoj ke, tre proksime, la *Revue Philatèlique* estos sendata regule al siaj Abonatoj la 1<sup>a</sup> kaj la 15<sup>a</sup> de ĉiu monato, sen aldonado de kosto por la abonon finantaj la 31<sup>a</sup> de decembro 1901.

Pro la kolektistoj, la granda utileco de lingvo internacia estas precipe videbla en la kolekto de postmarkoj, postkartoj, fotografiaj, k.t.p. Tial, ni esperas ke niaj legantoj, kolektistoj kaj vendistoj, sator profiton de bonega kaj grandega publikigado de tiu lingvo kies uzo estas jam tre disvastiginta, samtempe ke la facileco de kompreni diversajn dokumentojn kaj komunikadojn tradicitajn je lingvoj fremdulaj kiujn ili ne konas.

The following is a fairly correct literal translation.

We have [the] pleasure to announce to Esperantist Collectors that, very shortly, the *Revue Philatèlique* will be sent regularly to its subscribers the 1st and the 15th of each month, without addition of cost for the subscription terminating (finishing) the 31st December, 1901.

For (the) Collectors, the great utility of [an] international language is principally apparent in the collection of postmarks, postcards, photographs, etc. Therefore, we hope that our readers [both] collectors and dealers, will derive profit from a better and greater publication of this language whose use is already very wide-spreading, at the same time as [from] the facility of understanding different documents and communications [requiring to be] translated from foreign languages which they know not.

\* \* \*

Five readers have sent in very fair translations and we have much pleasure in awarding a prize to each. No one sent in a quite correct translation; in fact, it is doubtful if such could be made, as a closer examination shows one or two grammatical errors.

Par. 2, line 4. "Sator profiton" is difficult to understand.

" " 6. "ke la facileco" seems to be wrong.

Perhaps it is a misprint for "de la facileco."

Par. 2, line 8. "traducitajn" is vague.

Still, there is no difficulty in understanding the writer's ideas, which is the main thing.

\* \* \*

Two competitors write as follows:—

"I may say that I never saw any explanation of 'Esperanto' until I saw your paper."

"It is the first time I have seen any 'Esperanto' nor did I know there was any publication bearing that name."

\* \* \*

That both these readers should be able to almost correctly read a paragraph of 105 words, written by a Frenchman in a language invented by a Pole, after about 2 minutes instruction, is surely a strong point in favour of the claims of *Esperanto*.

\* \* \*

The more important terminations in every day use are as follows:—

Affix.		Signification.
a	.. ..	adjective.
e	.. ..	adverb.
i	.. ..	verb, infinitive.
o	.. ..	noun.
u	.. ..	verb, imperative.
n	.. ..	objective case.
j	.. ..	plural.
as	.. ..	verb, present tense.
is	.. ..	" past "
os	.. ..	" future "
us	.. ..	" conditional tense.
anta, inta, onta	.. ..	participles (active).
ata, ita, ota	.. ..	" (passive).
in	.. ..	feminine.
mal (prefix)	.. ..	direct opposite an idea.

These signs are prefixed or affixed to roots (of which there are some 900) or combinations of roots. The following are examples:—*frat-o* signifies brother; *frat-in-o*, sister; *bon-a* signifies good; *mal-bon-a*, bad; *kondice*, conditionally; *sen-kondice*, unconditionally.

\* \* \*

The inventor—Dr. L. Samenhof, of Warsaw—recommends the use of the language for international correspondence, and has published a dictionary-grammar in almost every European language. This entire dictionary is contained on a thin sheet of paper—12 to 20 inches square—which can readily be enclosed in an ordinary letter. If, for instance, a collector wishes to communicate with a correspondent in Russia, and encloses with his letter a Russian-*Esperanto* dictionary (obtainable for a penny or so), he may rest assured that his correspondent will be

able to understand his letter, if he will only take a few minutes' trouble. A certain amount of care must be taken not to use idioms that might confuse, but the construction of sentences need give no trouble. The subject of the sentence, or verb, can always be recognized, whether at the beginning or end.

\* \* \*

Lack of space prevents our giving any further information respecting "Esperanto," but before concluding, we quote the following remarks addressed to us on the subject of an international language, by Mr. E. W. Richardson, Editor of *The Picture Post Card*.

"Apart from the almost certainly fore-doomed failure of any arbitrary and artificial new language, I believe that the only way to get a "Universal" language is for everybody to learn and gradually adopt one particular living language—and of course, that is English! By means of our ships, our Colonies, our Commerce—to say nothing of the United States—and our literature, English is already by far the best known tongue of the world, and I think both as patriots and philosophers, we should do our best to encourage its use."

There is no doubt that the English language is used in correspondence more than any other, but at the same time, it is likely to be a long time before it is universal, and it is to-day with which most of us are concerned. Therefore, whilst we agree in the main with Mr. Richardson's sentiments, we still consider that *Esperanto* can be of considerable practical use to collectors of the present generation.

## Postmark Notes.

By "DUPLEX."

I HAVE received a number of interesting Army Telegraph cancellations from Mr. J. T. Cricks, most of them being from S. Africa. I believe I described this type of postmark some time ago, but it may be as well to briefly recapitulate the description here. The mark consists of a large circle divided into three parts by two parallel straight lines extending right across. In the top portion is the word "ARMY," with a small semi-circular space, filled with short lines, below. In the central portion is the date in small figures, "7.11.00," and on either side of this are large letters, which form the abbreviation of the name of the particular telegraph office at which the cancellation is employed. In these marks the month is always denoted by Roman numerals. In the lower space is the words, "TELEGRAPHS," with a small semi-circular space, filled with short lines, above.

\* \* \*

The following are the abbreviations, and their meanings, in the marks sent by Mr. Cricks:—

JB	Jubilee Hill, Aldershot.
BDN	Brandfort.
BFN	Bloemfontein.
GW	Godwan River Station.
EKN	Eerstefabriken.
HSM	Harrismith.
HNX	Heilbron.
KB	Kimberley.
KDN	Kroonstad.
MH	Machadodorp.
MG	Middleburg.
NS	Nelspruit.
NPM	Norvalspont.
SF	Serfontein.
HYM	Hatherley Hill.
WOM	Wolmaran's Farm.

\* \* \*

I notice that in the Godwan River mark, the letters, GW, instead of being placed one on each side of the date, are both on the right hand side. This is the only one I have seen with this arrangement.

\* \* \*

Mr. Cricks also sends several ship letter marks for inspection. One of these consists of a small circle, having "CAPE . COLONY . OCEAN . POST . OFFICE" arranged round the inside, with the date in the centre. This is the mark with which the letters posted on board the South African mail liners are cancelled. Another mark has "SOUTHAMPTON SHIP LETTER" in a circle, and another shows "SOUTHAMPTON PACKET LETTER."

\* \* \*

From the same correspondent I received a Cape of Good Hope embossed envelope surcharged "T 10c." for deficient postage; a 1d. English stamp, obliterated with the Pretoria ZAR postmark on the day Lord Roberts entered the town; and a ½d. ARMY OFFICIAL stamp, cancelled with the single-lined Army P.O. mark.

**EVERY STAMP COLLECTOR SHOULD SUBSCRIBE TO EWEN'S WEEKLY STAMP NEWS.**

## Stray Notes on Sheets of Stamps.

R. R. THIELE.

THE Boer war, as was only natural, has directed much attention to the various South African stamps, chief of them those of the South African Republic, much to the delight of Mr. Nankivell, their unwearying champion.

As is well-known, the first issue was engraved and printed by an engraver named Adolph Otto at Gustrow, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, from whom they had been ordered through a brother of the then Postmaster-General of the South African Republic, Mr. Jeppe. Mr. Otto stated, when he sent the first supply, that he made the plates for forty stamps each, as the press would not allow of printing with larger plates. But the plates were impressed twice on each sheet, so that the sheets of the first issue consisted of 80 stamps, arranged in 2 panes of 40 each, side by side, each pane consisting of 5 rows of 8. This size of sheets is at least partly adapted to sterling currency, the sheets having this face value:

1 penny = 6sh. 8d. (3 sheets = £1).  
3 pence = £1.  
6 pence = £2.  
1 shilling = £4.

The Issue of the British occupation of 1878 was, of course of British production, being from the establishment of Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co., of London, (the firm which engraved, among others, the 1876 issue of Spain, the ½, 1 and 12c. of Argentine 1884, the Bolivia issue of 1893, the Falkland Islands issue, and the first sets of British East Africa and British South Africa). Its sheets were arranged in the manner which seems best adapted to sterling currency, i.e., they consisted of 60 stamps, in 6 rows of 10.

When independence was restored to the Transvaal by the Pretoria Convention of 1881, the Queen's Head set continued in use for quite a while, but in 1883 the old plates were again brought into use for most of the values, the printing being done at Pretoria at the "Volksstem" office. But in 1885 a new set came out which was prepared in Holland, if I remember correctly, at the establishment of Enschede & Co., at Harlem, the firm which prints the stamps of Holland. The sheets of this issue contain 120 stamps in 2 panes of 60, the usual British Colonial style, as the Transvaal used sterling currency. This is also the arrangement of the 1894 issue. The commemorative 1d. stamps of 1895 came in sheets of 60.

The stamps of the Orange Free State, which have always been printed by De la Rue & Co., of London, show the usual sheet arrangement of the firm: sheets of 120, consisting of 2 panes of 60, in 10 rows of 6 each.

No other stamps have the peculiar fascination for the non-collector possessed by the early issues of the Cape of Good Hope. Our non-collecting friends usually gauge our collections by the query, "Have you a three-cornered Cape of Good Hope?" and when you reply: "Yes, I have fifteen or twenty of them," they gaze at you in speechless admiration.—Some entire sheets of of the first issue were unearthed some years ago, so that their arrangement is known. The sheets of all the values consist of 240 stamps, thus making the face value come out in even pounds. The triangular stamps are arranged like the triangular 3d. stamps of Newfoundland described before (both sets were made by the same firm, Perkins, Bacon & Co., of London): two stamps form a square in this manner: ▽ and the sheet consists of 15 horizontal rows of 16 stamps, arranged in 8 such pairs. There is thus really no head or tail to such a sheet, it being upright whichever way you look at it.—The so-called "wood blocks" of 1861 were made locally at Capetown by the firm of S. Solomon & Co. Their popular name is misleading, as they are not wood-engravings; the original die was of steel while the plates were made up of stereotypes mounted on the usual wooden blocks. The plates consisted of 64 impressions, arranged in 4 horizontal rows of 16, or rather of 8 pairs like those described above. As is well known, two clichés were mixed up and caused the famous errors. These clichés were afterwards taken out of the plate and in addition another one in the 1d. plate was damaged and had to be taken out, so that, when these plates were used in 1883 for reprinting, that of the 1d. consisted of only 62 impressions, that of the ½d. of only 63.—Since 1862 all the stamps of the Cape have been printed by De la Rue & Co. (including some printings from the Perkins, Bacon & Co. plates). The sheets of the De la Rue designs consist of 240 stamps, arranged in 4 panes of 60 each, 2 X 2, each pane consisting of 10 rows of 6 each.

From *The Adhesive*.





## Colonial Stamp Market.

### LATEST ARRIVALS.

N.B.—Collectors wishing to complete their Collections of current unused Colonial stamps should not delay making their purchases, as most varieties will become OBSOLETE shortly, and the Colonial Market cannot undertake to continue to supply at old rates after receipt of advice that new stamps with Head of King Edward have appeared. *The opportunity to buy cheaply must inevitably soon pass.*

Great Britain, 6d. rose, I.R. Official, used, 1/3.  
 " 1/- green, do., used, very fine, 2/-  
 Chile, 5c. re-engraved, used, 1d.  
 " 10c. " " 1d.  
 New South Wales, chalky paper, 1/4d. green, 8d. per dozen.  
 Mauritius, 4c. lilac on yellow, 2d., per doz. 11d.  
 " 2c. lilac and violet, nett 1d.  
 " 15c. green and orange, nett 4d.  
 Victoria, 1/4d. green, " Postage " 1d.  
 Federated Malay States.  
 \$1 green, nett 2/5.  
 \$2 green and carmine, nett 4/10.  
 British Honduras, surch. " Revenue."  
 5c. blue, small type, 4d.  
 " large type, 4d.  
 10c. lilac and green, small type, 7d.  
 " large type, 7d.  
 Leeward Islands.  
 5/- green and blue, nett 5/10.  
 5/- green and deep blue, nett 6/6.  
 Cayman Islands, 1/4d. green, 2/11 per pane of 60.  
 Mauritius, 4c. pane of 60, 3/11.  
 Malay Federated States, 50c., nett 1/3.  
 Orange River on Cape, 1/4d. green, 2/11 per pane of 60.  
 Lagos, 1/4d. green, per dozen, 7d.; pane of 60, 2/11.  
 " 1d. carmine, per dozen, 1/2; pane of 60, 5/10.  
 British Central Africa.  
 10/- olive-green and black, nett 11/8.  
 £10 yellow, nett 233/4.  
 British South Africa, new design.  
 £1 brown-lilac, nett 23/4.  
 £5 dark blue, nett 116/8.  
 £10 blue-lilac, nett 233/4.  
 India, low value.  
 3 pies grey, 5d. per doz.; pane of 60, 1/8.  
 British South Africa, new type.  
 5/- orange-brown, nett 5/10.  
 Uganda, singles and blocks.  
 1a. carmine, nett 1 1/4d., block of 4, 6d.  
 2a. red-brown, nett 3d., block of 4, 1/-.  
 3a. grey, nett 4d., block of 4, 1/3.  
 4a. green, nett 6d., block of 4, 1/9.  
 8a. olive, nett 11d., block of 4, 3/3.  
 11. blue, nett 1/9., block of 4, 6/3.  
 5r. brown, nett 7/11., block of 4, 31/6.  
 British South Africa (old types, will probably be obsolete shortly; new types, expected by every mail).  
 2/- blue and green, 1895, nett 2/4.  
 2/6 brown and violet on yellow, nett 2/11.  
 3/- green and violet on blue, nett 3/6.  
 4/- red and blue on green, nett 4/8.  
 5/- orange and green, nett 5/10.  
 10/- slate and rose on rose, nett 11/8.  
 Seychelles.  
 1r. 50c. grey and carmine, nett 2/5.  
 2r. 25c. lilac and green, nett 3/7.  
 Uganda, shades.  
 1r. bright blue, nett 2/-  
 1r. milky blue, nett 1/9.  
 Southern Nigeria. 2/6 brown and black, nett 2/11.  
 British Central Africa (black centres).  
 2/6 ultramarine, nett 2/11.  
 4/- carmine, nett 4/8.  
 British Central Africa (violet centres).  
 4d. green and lilac, nett 5d.; block of 4, 1/8.  
 6d. brown and lilac, nett 8d.; block of 4, 2/5.

Lagos, shades.  
 5/- blue and green, nett 6/6.  
 5/- dull ultramarine and deep green, nett 5/10.  
 Bermuda, 1/4d. on 1/- grey, 2d. per block of 4.  
 Per dozen, 5d.; per 100, 2/9.  
 Complete sheet of 240, 8/-; pane of 60, 2/-.  
 New Zealand Advertisement Stamps, fine lot of about 75, unexamined, used, nett 15/-  
 Uganda, Low Values in sets.  
 Set of five, 1, 2, 3, 4, 8 annas, nett 1/11; in blocks of 4, 7/6; blocks of 12, 22/6.  
 Fiji Islands, low values in blocks.  
 1/4d. dark grey-green, 8d. per block of 12; entire pane of 60, 3/3.  
 1d. lilac-rose, 1/3 per block of 12; entire pane of 60, 6/3.  
 New Zealand, 1d. Universal Postage, local print, singles, 2d.; Pairs, 3d.; blocks of 4, each 6d. Per dozen, 1/3; per sheet of 240, 24/6.  
 New Zealand, 1 1/4d. khaki, nett 2d.; block of 4, 8d.  
 Great Britain, new dies for stamping envelopes.  
 1 1/4d. orange, with Arrow-heads instead of florets, nett 3d. (Entire or cut square).  
 New Zealand, Postage Due, 1/4d. to 1/-, in sets, nett, 4/11 per set.  
 Sarawak, 1c. blue and carmine, 5d. per dozen; block of 4, 2d.  
 Victoria, 1/4d. green, small type (just obsolete).  
 Block of 4, 3d.; per dozen 8d.  
 Entire sheet of 240 (very fine), 11/8.  
 Victoria, 1d. bright pink, "postage," (just obs.)  
 Block of 4, 6d.; per dozen, 1/2.  
 Entire sheet of 120 (very fine), 11/8.  
 Victoria, old types in new colours (just obsolete).  
 Set of 9 from 1/4d. to 1/-, nett 3/6.  
 Set of 10 from 1/4d. to 2/-, nett 5/10.  
 Set of 11, complete, 1/4d. to 5/-, nett 11/8.  
 Victoria, old types in new colours (just obsolete).  
 2/- blue on rose, nett 2/4; block of 4, 9/4.  
 5/- rose and blue, nett 5/10; block of 4, 23/4.  
 Victoria, old issue, obsolete.  
 Set of 11, 1/4d. to 1/-; nett for 4/10.  
 Straits Settlements.  
 3c. brown, nett 1d.; block of 4, 4d.  
 4c. on 5c. rose, nett 2d.; block of 4, 7d.  
 4c. on 8c. blue, nett 3d.; block of 4, 8d.  
 5c. plum, nett 2d.; block of 4, 8d.  
 10c. slate, nett 5d.; block of 4, 1/4.  
 30c. claret, nett 11d.; block of 4, 3/6 (cat. 14/-).  
 Hong Kong, 2c. green, block of 4, 3d. (see wholesale).  
 New South Wales, 10/- violet and carmine, over-printed "Postage," perf. 12x11, nett 11/8.  
 British East Africa, large type.  
 10 rupees, yellow-brown, nett 15/10.  
 20 " yellow-green, nett 31/8.  
 50 " lilac, nett 79/1.  
 Western Australia, new type, wmk. Crown W.A., 2 1/4d. blue, nett, 4d.; block of 4, 1/-.  
 India, new colours.  
 1/4a. grey, 1/4d. each; block of 4, 2d.  
 1/4a. light green, 1d. each; block of 4, 3d.  
 Malay Federated States (new types, oblong).  
 1c. green and black, 1d.; block of 4, 3d.  
 3c. brown and black, 1d.; block of 4, 4d.  
 4c. pink and black, 1 1/4d.; block of 4, 6d.  
 5c. red and black on yellow, 2d.; block of 4, 8d.  
 10c. violet and black, 4d.; block of 4, 1/3.  
 British Guiana. Entire envelopes.  
 New 2c. pink, embossed, grey paper, 2d. each.  
 Malta, 1/4d. view of Valletta Harbour.  
 1/4d. red-brown, wmk. Crown CA., 1d. each; block of four, 2d.  
 Queensland.  
 2/- brown, old type, 2/6 each; block of four, showing variety "LA" joined, 10/6 nett.

FOR LOW VALUES  
 AT DOZEN RATES. See Page 3.

## "E.W.S.N." AND NEWSAGENTS.

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# Ewen's Weekly Stamp News.

With which is incorporated EWEN'S WEEKLY CIRCULAR. (Established October, 1897.)

A JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

THE ONLY WEEKLY STAMP PAPER PUBLISHED IN EUROPE.

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NO. 101. (VOL. VII.)  
(Whole Number, No. 187.)

LONDON, SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, 1901.

[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

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## The Week's News.

Messrs. Stanley Gibbons state that their catalogue lists the following number of low priced stamps:—

746 at 1d.	1039 at 6d.
1067 „ 2d.	13 „ 7d.
843 „ 3d.	473 „ 8d.
947 „ 4d.	725 „ 9d.
275 „ 5d.	

This makes a total of 6128, valued according to catalogue price at £109 18s. 1d. They do not state what proportion of these are shades or minor varieties. Some few months ago, in an article by General Collector, it was estimated that the total number of really distinct adhesive postage stamps was only about 6700.

\* \* \*

Owing to the absence of the Editor (who visited Glasgow during the week), our notes are somewhat short this week. All correspondence which may have been delayed, will be attended to on Monday, September 2nd.

\* \* \*

The position of Sub-Editor on the staff of *E.W.S.N.* is still open. Applicants must have a considerable knowledge of stamps, and should be accustomed to writing articles of interest on the subject. Most of the work can be done in spare time.

## Our Postcard Column.

WILL readers hearing of any interesting item of News, kindly jot it down on a postcard and address to the Editor, "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News," Norwood, London. For every contribution we publish, we will send the author an interesting and newly issued stamp. (N.B.—Postcards preferred.)

Mr. J. T. Cricks writes:—

"There seems to be no end to the Field Post-office numbers. The highest I had hitherto seen was 46, but the enclosed posted the end of June has No. 56, a jump of 10. Perhaps you may have seen other numbers, if so I should be glad to hear of them."

With reference to the apparently postmarked Tobago, wmk. C.A., which Mr. Pilgrim enquired about in our issue of August 3rd, we have received the following two notes. Miss Ready writes:—

"Re Mr. G. Pilgrim's enquiry about stamps of Tobago—Type I., wmk. C.A. I have a penny lilac and a 3d. blue both postmarked. I am unable to either affirm or deny whether forged or otherwise."

Mr. T. Vear writes:—

"Referring to Mr. G. Pilgrim's note re Tobago stamps, in your issue of 3rd inst., I have a copy of the 3d. lilac and black which appears to be postmarked. Examination with a magnifying glass, however, shows the word "Treasury," between two concentric circles and apparently a date in the centre, impressed in black."

Mr. F. West replies to Mr. Hudson's query respecting the varieties in the 3d. and 6d. of Great Britain, 1883.

"I consider the dot varieties in the 6d. 1883 as fully entitled to rank as "irregularities" of surcharge" rather than due to light printing. The distance between the dots and the *d* of "6d." undoubtedly vary considerably and wide variations are frequently met with. Not so, however, with the "slanting dots" which are much more seldom met with. I have one lettered PH. The "single dot under *d* variety" is rare, and I have met with but very few copies. Mine

is lettered *DI* and is not lightly printed. On the contrary, it is the deepest printed surcharge I have and undoubtedly a one dot specimen. The dot is directly under the *d* (*d*). I have another with a single dot, which is slightly to right of the *d* (*d*) and is lightly printed as you suggest, but there is no trace of another dot. All clearly distinct "one dot" copies I have seen are as Mr. Hudson describes, with the dot under the forepart of the *d*. I would note that the 3d. surcharged of the same issue has similar irregularities but I have not found one copy with a single dot. My slanting dots are on stamps lettered "OB."

[Perhaps readers who have any of these stamps showing irregularities would kindly send a description, stating the corner lettering of each stamp on which they are found. It would also be interesting to know what are the widest and narrowest spaces (measured in millimetres) which may be found between the dots and the "d," and whether such variations of spacing occur with any regularity on the sheet.—ED.]

## New Issues.

The Editor will be much obliged for early news of New Issues or intended New Issues or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors. Full acknowledgment given. If possible, specimens should be sent in order that illustrations may be prepared.

COOK ISLANDS.—Stanley Gibbons' *Monthly Journal* gives the following interesting list of printings of Cook Island's stamps with head of Queen Makea, complete up to May, 1900.

Date.	1d. brown.	1d. blue.	1½d.	2½d.	5d.	10d.
13. 7-93	10320	—	9120	8040	7200	7200
26. 2-94	—	7440	—	—	—	—
7. 4-94	—	2880	—	—	—	—
31. 5-94	—	10920	7200	7320	—	—
24. 9-94	—	6120	4080	2160	12000	—
23. 10-94	—	6240	2040	2040	—	—
27. 7-96	—	—	—	23760	—	—
21. 8-96	—	24000	23260	9600	9600	—
31. 3-99	12000	—	—	—	—	—
10. 2-00	23880	—	11880	13440	23520	24000
26. 5-00	14280	—	—	—	—	—

60480 57600 57580 66360 52320 31200

The numbers are interesting as being some guide to the number of active "general" collectors in the world. The Cook Islands authorities have admitted that the greater demand is from stamp dealers and collectors, and probably we should not be far wrong in estimating that 50,000 each of the 1d. brown and 1d. blue have come into the stamp market. How many are held by dealers and speculators and how many by bona-fide collectors it would be difficult to say, but it looks as if there were not more than 30,000 or 40,000 earnest general collectors in the whole world! The unusually large proportion of the 1½d. and 2½d. values is probably accounted for by the fact that these are two of the few values for which there is a legitimate demand.

HONG KONG.—The new 5c. has now been received, and is printed in yellow.

LABUAN.—The current set has been surcharged "Postage Due," vertically in black.

## Railway Letter Stamps.

The Editor is extremely anxious to meet with pairs, blocks or sheets of the following Railway Letter Stamps. Also single copies, if dated.

- London & South Western, 1891 to 1899.
- London, Brighton & South Coast, 1891 to 1898.
- London, Chatham & Dover (any).
- Glasgow, Barrhead & Kilmarnock, 1891 to 1898.
- Portpatrick & Wigtonshire (any).
- Highland, especially 1898—1900 issues.
- Ballycastle (any).
- Belfast & County Down (any).
- Belfast & Northern Counties (any).
- Sligo, Leitrim & Northern Counties (any).
- Waterford, Limerick & Western (any).

Readers having any of the above for disposal would find it very much to their advantage to ask the Editor for a cash offer. Stamps must be submitted on approval. If sent for inspection only, every care will be taken of them during examination.

## The New British Stamps.

MR. E. J. NANKIVELL, in the September *Captain* has some interesting remarks concerning the New British Stamps. We quote the following note on the subject:—

"I have just received information of the preparation of a new penny English stamp which may be put into circulation very shortly. It will bear a profile portrait of the King's head by an Austrian artist named Fuchs. The head will turn to the left, as in the present stamps. This is held to be against precedent, as those who collect coins will know that the sovereigns' heads turn to right and left alternately. Therefore, the late Queen's head having been turned to the left, the King's head, it is contended, should turn to the right. All I can say is that I am told on excellent authority that the King's head on the new penny English stamp will turn to the left. The new stamp will be printed in purple on rose-red paper to conform to the Postal Union colours. That is to say, it will be in colour the same as the current 6d. The portrait of the King will be enclosed in an oval frame of laurel and oak leaves. The value will be in a tablet at the foot, and the words "Postage" and "Revenue" will be in tablets in the upper corners. The value and the words "Postage" and "Revenue," I understand, will be in black lettering. This, then, will be the forerunner of a long series of changes. In fact, the coming season promises to be the liveliest and most interesting from a philatelic point of view that we have had since the first penny stamp was issued."

Mr. Nankivell makes no deductions from this information, but it is evident that if the Post Office intend to go to the extra expense of printing the penny stamps in two colours, they must have some compensating advantage. This will presumably be obtained by printing all the values from one "head" plate. In other words, the design of the new stamps is likely to be similar throughout the issue. There is evidently no intention of abandoning the favourite lilac or "purple" colour, but in order to give variety to the stamps, we suppose they will be printed on papers of different hues, or at any rate the more important values.

The Crown watermark on the stamps will also presumably be altered. *Hobbies* evidently thinks differently.

"Several readers, during the time when the forthcoming new series of British stamps has been under discussion, have asked the question—"Will the watermark be changed?" So far as we are able to say, No! We have no positive information either way, but it seems highly unlikely that any alteration will be made in the watermark when the "King Edward" stamps are produced. For one thing, it is tolerably certain that there would be large stocks of crown-watermarked paper on hand; and, secondly, there has been no public complaint or criticism regarding the crown watermark. Nowadays there is less need for a watermarked stamp than formerly, and if any change were made in this direction we should say it would take the form of an abolition of the watermark altogether rather than the introduction of some new sign."

We cannot agree with our contemporary. In the present crown watermark, it will be noticed that each side is bent upwards over the fleur-de-lis. In the new crown approved last May by the King the sides are curved.

## BARBADOS.

### POST OFFICE NOTICE.

#### JUBILEE STAMPS.

Notice is hereby given that the stock of Jubilee Postage Stamps which may be on hand at the end of the current year, 1901, will be destroyed and no further sale will be made of Jubilee Stamps after that date.

The only values of the Jubilee Issue now on hand are 2s. 6d., 8d. and 2½d.

W. H. BAILEY, Colonial Postmaster.  
General Post Office, 1st July, 1901.  
Barbados, W.I.

## Alleged Extensive Theft of Foreign Stamps.

A SOUTHAMPTON CLERK BEFORE THE MAGISTRATES.

HENRY SCOREY, dealer, Northbrook Road, was brought up before the Southampton Borough Magistrates, to-day, charged with stealing a number of foreign stamps from various persons. The particulars of the charges were that he had stolen stamps to the value of £107 6s., from Hannah, Holme, Ashworth & Co., in September, 1899; stamps, the property of James Inch; two books and stamps, value £51 15s. 8d., the property of George C. Ginn; and two books and postage stamps, to the value of £99 9s. 10d., the property of Robert Kerr.

Mr. C. E. Martin prosecuted on behalf of the Treasury, and Mr. C. A. Emanuel defended.

In opening, Mr. Martin said the prisoner was for some years a foreign stamp dealer at Southampton, and up to the end of August, 1899, he carried on his business in a proper manner. At the end of August in that year prisoner caused an advertisement to be inserted in the *Exchange and Mart*, advertising for stamps. He also wrote to several stamp dealers, asking them to send stamps to him on approval, and he also answered the advertisements of stamp dealers, with the result that from August 28th to September 14th, he had got altogether stamps to the value of more than £1000. On September 14th he absconded, and he was afterwards found dealing in stamps in Berlin and Paris. Latterly he returned to London, and had carried on a stamp business at Chertsey, under the name of Dean. As soon as it was found that prisoner had gone the police were communicated with, and a warrant for prisoner's arrest was issued in October, 1899, at the instance of Messrs. Ashworth & Co. Mr. Martin said he was not prepared to go into all the cases that day, but would take those in which Mr. Ginn and Mr. Inch were prosecutors.

John Charles Ginn, Baronet Road, Tottenham, wholesale and retail stamp dealer, deposed that in August, 1899, he received a letter by post dated from Northbrook House, Nichols Town, Southampton, asking for certain stamps to be forwarded to that address. The two stamp albums (produced) were his property. On August 28th he posted the two albums, which were full of foreign and Colonial stamps, to the value of £51 15s. 8d. The albums were addressed to the prisoner, who was requested to return them within seven days. Prisoner did not return either the books or the stamps. Witness had not had previous transactions with him. He sent the albums to prisoner on the strength of a "Bazaar" ticket. Amongst stamp dealers this ticket was considered a guarantee of good faith on the part of the person presenting them. Witness did not intend to part with the stamps in the album. They were sent on approval.

Cross-examined, he sent a letter to prisoner, stating that the stamps were pence Ceylon and United States.

Ernest Lovell Foote, cashier in the Borough Accountant's Department, stated that prisoner was employed as temporary assistant in the Borough Accountant's Department in November and December, 1891. The letters (produced) were, he believed, in prisoner's handwriting.

Detective-Inspector Allison said that the warrant for prisoner was placed in his hand in October, 1899. Witness went to Northbrook House, prisoner's residence, and made a search. In a small room on the first floor, used as an office, he found two stamp albums, with other books and papers. There were no stamps in the albums. Witness charged him to-day with stealing the stamps. He made no reply.

P.C. Cooper deposed that on August 10th, he proceeded to Chertsey, and there saw the prisoner in custody. Witness read over the warrant to him, and then took him in charge. A letter addressed to "H. Dean, East Street, Chertsey" was handed to prisoner, who said it was his.

Jules Benjamin Neyroud, postage stamp collector and dealer, residing at Little Trinity-lane, E.C., said he saw an advertisement in the *Exchange and Mart* in August, 1899. On September 3rd, he received a letter from "Scorey, Northbrook House, Southampton," asking him to forward certain British Colonial stamps. He sent a complete collection of West Australia and other rare Colonial stamps.

Mr. Emanuel objected to this evidence, as it referred to another case.

Mr. Martin said he wanted to show intent to defraud. The prisoner had perpetrated a systematic swindle.

The Bench upheld the objection.

Mr. Martin proceeded with the case in which Mr. Inch prosecuted. The stamps, which formed the subject of this charge were valued at £42.

James Inch, residing at Kyverdale Road, Stamford Hill, deposed that he dealt in foreign stamps. In September, 1899, he received a letter from H. Scorey, asking him to forward certain stamps on approval. Witness sent two collections of "picked" stamps, and subsequently received a communication from H. Scorey, stating that he had sent the stamps on to a friend. Witness had not received the stamps, nor payment for them. It was in consequence of the "Bazaar" ticket that the stamps were sent.

Ernest Foote again gave evidence as to prisoner's handwriting. — Detective-Inspector Allison was also called.

This closed the case for the prosecution.

Mr. Martin asked for prisoner to be committed for trial.

Prisoner, acting under advice, reserved his defence.

Mr. Emanuel said there was no doubt a prima facie case had been made out.

The Bench committed prisoner to take his case at the next Quarter Sessions, and granted bail on terms that prisoner found two sureties of £75 each, while he himself would be bound over in £100.

## Mr. Rankivell on Minor Varieties.

THE tendency, which we have noted more than once, to multiply minor varieties still grows apace. Some peculiarly constituted collectors literally revel in them, and the obliging dealer naturally delights to discover them for his insatiable customers. It is simply wonderful what varieties can be discovered, in a dim light, by an obliging dealer and a thirsty collector. It is an established and well-known psychological fact that no imagination can equal the combined product of a stamp dealer and a stamp collector concentrated in a dim, uncertain light upon a minor variety.

Personally, we do not favour the tendency to multiply minor varieties, and to elevate them into catalogue rank. It unnecessarily frightens away collectors and makes the specialisation of even a simple country an unbearable burden. The so-called "discoveries" of the tyro mostly tend in the direction of the unnecessary multiplication of minor varieties.

There will yet have to be a drastic remedy in the shape of a "close time" for discoverers of microscopical die varieties, retouches, &c. There must be a violent reaction some day. Patience will assuredly call a halt in the enumeration of stops, large and small, square and round, level, raised and inverted. And when that reaction sets in it is to be hoped there will be no more murder and suicide than are absolutely necessary.

(*The Philatelic Record*).

## Questions Competition No. 3.

WE now have pleasure in announcing a third competition, on the same lines as the two already held. The questions are a little more varied.

- 1.—Which adhesive British Colonial stamps have been issued to the public in the smallest sheets or panes? and which in the largest? give three or four instances.
- 2.—How many different kinds of stamps bear the inscription "L'Union fait la Force"?
- 3.—Is a pawnbroker's shop illustrated on any adhesive postage stamp; if so, on which?
- 4.—Of which seven countries do you consider the issue of stamps to have the worst reputation, as being unnecessary?
- 5.—Which do you consider the best (or worst!) philatelic conundrum (prevailing fashion); original or otherwise. A few samples are given below.
- 6.—Which do you consider will be the first three colonies to issue stamps with the King's head?
- 7.—The ½d. value of Great Britain having been already withdrawn, it is unlikely that it will be re-issued with the King's Head Issue. Are any other values likely to be dropped out of the present series?

As replies to questions 6 and 7 will be in the nature of a prophecy, the correctness of which cannot be judged, less importance will be attached to them by the judges when awarding the prizes. The first prize will be, as before, a 5/- Victoria, of the recent issue (old type in new colours). Two consolation prizes of the 2/- blue on rose (just obsolete and only in use a few months) will also be given. All papers must reach the Editor before mid-day on Wednesday, September 4th.

Our New Zealand advertisement competition closes on Monday, September 2nd.

## Stray Notes on Sheets of Stamps.

R. R. THIELL.

Who but a stamp collector ever heard of Stellaland? Few handbooks will tell anything of it, but the stamp catalogues preserve its memory. It was a small republic west of the Transvaal, founded in 1882; most of it was absorbed by Great Britain (in British Bechuanaland) in 1885. Its stamps were locally produced by lithography; the sheets consisted of 100 stamps, 10 × 10—not an arrangement adapted to sterling currency, but then the officials of the infant state no doubt were not rushed for time.

Another ephemeral state of Southern Africa was the so-called "New Republic," afterwards absorbed by the Transvaal. Its extremely primitive stamps were produced by means of a rubber hand-stamp; it is therefore quite possible that the sheets of these stamps were not always of the same size. The standard sheet consisted of 180 stamps, in 20 rows of 9 each. To some extent this corresponds to the currency, but I leave the curious reader to figure out for himself the face value of each of the numerous values.

The stamps of British South Africa (catalogued by Scott as Rhodesia) have been produced by several firms. The 1890 set was engraved and printed by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. (see above under Transvaal); they were arranged in sheets of 60, 10 rows of 6, though I am not sure whether the pound values were also in sheets of this size. The 2d. green and red and the 4d. brown and black of 1895 in the same design and the set of 1896 in the new design were manufactured by the old firm of Perkins, Bacon & Co., though hardly in their former degree of excellence. They all came in sheets of 60, 10 rows of 6.—Dissatisfaction with the execution of this set led to the transfer of their manufacture to Waterlow & Sons, of London, the well-known firm of engravers. They merely re-engraved the old designs; their sheets consist of 240 stamps in the usual arrangement of 4 panes of 60 each, arranged in 10 rows of 6, with the possible exception of the pound values: the post office sheets seem to be the panes of 60.

Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. are also responsible for the definite issues of the British East African Protectorate. So far as known to me at this writing, these stamps (as well, of course, as those of Zanzibar surcharged on them) were printed in sheets of 120, in 2 panes of 60 each, in 10 rows of 6 each, though they seem to have been issued in half-sheets or panes of 60. The arrangement is poorly adapted to rupee currency, but British Manufacturers seem very reluctant to adopt any other. Some of the sheets will figure up fairly evenly, for example:

Half-sheet of 2 annas	=	7½ rupees.
" 3 "	=	15 "
" 8 "	=	30 "

But look at others:

Half sheet of ½ anna	=	1 rupee	14 annas.
" 1 "	=	3 "	12 "
" 2½ "	=	9 "	6 "
" 3 "	=	11 "	4 "
" 4½ "	=	16 "	14 "
" 5 "	=	18 "	12 "
" 7½ "	=	28 "	2 "

The patient reader can easily figure out now the amount represented by 327 sheets of 4½ anna stamps transferred from British East Africa to the Zanzibar account, let us say.

## EVOLVED DURING THE HEAT WAVE.

Why did Phillipine?  
Because they hadn't St. Helena.

What gave Buenos Ayres?  
Seeing Portugal's Horta.

Why did the Russian Levant?  
Because he had Scinde.

Why was he stopped in his Corea?  
Because he found it difficult Togo.

(*The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*).

EVERY STAMP COLLECTOR

SHOULD SUBSCRIBE TO

EWEN'S WEEKLY STAMP NEWS.













## Colonial Stamp Market.

### LATEST ARRIVALS.

N.B.—Collectors wishing to complete their Collections of current unused Colonial stamps should not delay making their purchases, as most varieties will become OBSOLETE shortly, and the Colonial Market cannot undertake to continue to supply at old rates after receipt of advice that new stamps with Head of King Edward have appeared. *The opportunity to buy cheaply must inevitably soon pass.*

Barbados Jubilee. Only a very few of these left and prices have had to be advanced in several cases.

- ½d. grey and carmine, 1d.
- ½d. dull green, 1d.
- 1d. rose, 2d.
- 2½d. ultramarine, 4d.
- 5d. olive-black, 9d.
- 6d. mauve and carmine, 10d.
- 8d. orange and ultramarine, 1/-.
- 10d. dull green and carmine, 1/4.
- 2/6 blue-black and orange, 2/11.

New Zealand, old types (Queen's Heads).

- ½d. black, 8d. per dozen; pane of 60.
- Sets, ½d. to 1/-, 6/- per set (now obsolete).

Victoria, old types in new colours (without "Postage").

- ½d. green, nett 1d.; per dozen, 8d.; per 100, 6/3.
- 2d. violet, nett 4d.; block of 4, 11d.
- 3d. brown, nett 6d.; block of 4, 1/8.
- 4d. ochre, nett 8d.; block of 4, 2/4.
- 6d. green, nett 11d.; block of 4, 3/6.
- 1s. orange, nett 1/6; block of 4, 5/9.
- 2s. blue on rose, nett 2/6; block of 4, 9/9.
- 5s. rose and blue, nett 6/3; block of 4, 24/9.
- With "Postage" added.
- 1d. rose, nett 2d.; per dozen, 1/2.
- 2½d. blue, nett 3d.; block of 4, 1/-.
- 5d. brown, nett 6d.; block of 4, 2/-.

Victoria, the above set of 11, ½d. to 5/-, nett 12/11. Set, from ½d. to 1/-; 9 stamps for 4/9.

Victoria—The sets of old types in new colours are almost exhausted and a further supply may not be obtainable. Readers who wish to have the 2/- and 5/-, old type, in new colours, without "Postage," should also send early, as there is quite a run on these stamps and we may not be able to replenish our stock.

Great Britain, 6d. rose, I.R. Official, used, 1/3.  
" 1/- green, do., used, very fine, 2/-

New South Wales, chalky paper, ½d. green, 8d. per dozen.

Mauritius, 4c. lilac on yellow, 2d., per doz. 11d.  
" 2c. lilac and violet, nett 1d.

Federated Malay States.  
\$1 green, nett 2/5.  
\$2 green and carmine, nett 4/10.

Leeward Islands.  
5/- green and blue, nett 5/10.  
5/- green and deep blue, nett 6/6.

Malay Federated States, 50c., nett 1/3.

Orange River on Cape, ½d. green, 2/11 per pane of 60.

British Central Africa.  
10/- olive-green and black, nett 11/8.  
£10 yellow, nett 233/4.

British South Africa, new design.  
£1 brown-lilac, nett 23/4.  
£5 dark blue, nett 116/8.  
£10 blue-lilac, nett 233/4.

India, low value.  
3 pies grey, 5d. per doz.; pane of 60, 1/8.

British South Africa, new type.  
5/- orange-brown, nett 5/10.

Uganda, singles and blocks.

- 1a. carmine, nett 1½d., block of 4, 6d.
- 2a. red-brown, nett 3d., block of 4, 1/-.
- 3a. grey, nett 4d., block of 4, 1/3.
- 4a. green, nett 6d., block of 4, 1/9.
- 8a. olive, nett 11d., block of 4, 3/3.
- 1r. blue, nett 1/9., block of 4, 6/3.
- 5r. brown, nett 7/11., block of 4, 31/6.

British South Africa (old types, will probably be obsolete shortly; new types, expected by every mail).

- 2/- blue and green, 1895, nett 2/4.
- 2/6 brown and violet on yellow, nett 2/11.
- 3/- green and violet on blue, nett 3/6.
- 4/- red and blue on green, nett 4/8.
- 5/- orange and green, nett 5/10.
- 10/- slate and rose on rose, nett 11/8.

Seychelles.

- 1r. 50c. grey and carmine, nett 2/5.
- 2r. 25c. lilac and green, nett 3/7.

Uganda, shades.

- 1r. bright blue, nett 2/-
- 1r. milky blue, nett 1/9.

British Central Africa (black centres).

- 2/6 ultramarine, nett 2/11.
- 4/- carmine, nett 4/8.

Bermuda, ½d. on 1/- grey, 2d. per block of 4.

- Per dozen, 5d.; per 100, 2/9.
- Complete sheet of 240, 8/-; pane of 60, 2/-.

Uganda, Low Values in sets.

- Set of five, 1, 2, 3, 4, 8 annas, nett 1/11; in blocks of 4, 7/6; blocks of 12, 22/6.

Fiji Islands, low values in blocks.

- ½d. dark grey-green, 8d. per block of 12; entire pane of 60, 3/3.
- 1d. lilac-rose, 1/3 per block of 12; entire pane of 60, 6/3.

New Zealand, 1d. Universal Postage, local print, singles, 2d.; Pairs, 3d.; blocks of 4, each 6d. Per dozen, 1/3; per sheet of 240, 24/6.

New Zealand, 1½d. khaki, nett 2d.; block of 4, 8d.

Great Britain, new dies for stamping envelopes.

- 1½d. orange, with Arrow-heads instead of florets, nett 3d. (Entire or cut square).

New Zealand, Postage Due, ½d. to 1/-, in sets, nett, 4/11 per set.

Victoria, old issue, obsolete.

- Set of 11, ½d. to 1/-; nett for 4/10.

Hong Kong, 2c. green, block of 4, 3d. (see wholesale).

New South Wales, 10/- violet and carmine, over-printed "Postage," perf. 12x11, nett 11/8.

British East Africa, large type.

- 10 rupees, yellow-brown, nett 15/10.
- 20 " yellow-green, nett 31/8.
- 50 " lilac, nett 79/1.

Western Australia, new type, wmk. Crown W.A., 2½d. blue, nett, 4d.; block of 4, 1/-.

India, new colours.

- ½a. grey, ½d. each; block of 4, 2d.
- ½a. light green, 1d. each; block of 4, 3d.

Malay Federated States (new types, oblong).

- 1c. green and black, 1d.; block of 4, 3d.
- 3c. brown and black, 1d.; block of 4, 4d.
- 4c. pink and black, 1½d.; block of 4, 6d.
- 5c. red and black on yellow, 2d.; block of 4, 8d.

- 10c. violet and black, 4d.; block of 4, 1/3.

British Guiana. Entire envelopes.

- New 2c. pink, embossed, grey paper, 2d. each.

Malta, ½d. view of Valletta Harbour.

- ½d. red-brown, wmk. Crown CA., 1d. each; block of four, 2d.

Queensland.

- 2/- brown, old type, 2/6 each; block of four, showing variety "LA" joined, 10/6 nett.

FOR LOW VALUES  
AT DOZEN RATES. See Page 3.

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# Ewen's Weekly Stamp News.

With which is incorporated EWEN'S WEEKLY CIRCULAR. (Established October, 1897.)

A JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

THE ONLY WEEKLY STAMP PAPER PUBLISHED IN EUROPE.

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## Correspondence.

GREAT BRITAIN, 6d., 1883.

To the Editor, E.W.S.N.

DEAR SIR,

Mr. Hudson seems to be raising a very old question in the dot varieties of the surcharged 6d. of 1883.

Some years back I remember reading a most capable paper written in one of our stamp journals on this subject, and only regret I cannot give further particulars, as it would come in most interesting; perhaps one of your readers may be able to supply a copy.

My own opinion is as follows:—

That there were two distinct printings of the 6d.:

Printing 1 (variety a), dots  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mil. below the d.  
" 2 ( " b), " 2 mil. "

From those I have seen I have found them in about even numbers, and if any reader who has a quantity of these stamps would carefully assort the letterings, I have little doubt that they will find both varieties with the same corner letters which will to a certain extent bear out my reasoning.

I think Mr. West's claim that the single dot specimens should rank as an irregularity of surcharge is well founded, and to strengthen the claim I am enclosing a very clear specimen for your inspection which I can confirm with another from my collection if you would like to see it.

I believe that Mr. West has made a mistake with the lettering, which I think he will find O.I. not D.I.; both copies I hold are O.I. and I have had another copy with the same lettering and on these grounds have taken it that each sheet of printing 1 (variety a) contained this error. Again I suggest that readers holding quantities might sort out this particular lettering and perhaps finally solve this very interesting mystery.

H. H. HARLAND.

The Editor,  
Ewen's Weekly Stamp News.

## Railway Letter Stamps.

THE EDITOR is extremely anxious to meet with pairs, blocks or sheets of the following Railway Letter Stamps. Also single copies, if dated.

London & South Western, 1891 to 1899.  
London, Brighton & South Coast, 1891 to 1898.  
London, Chatham & Dover (any).  
Glasgow, Barrhead & Kilmarnock, 1891 to 1898.  
Portpatrick & Wigtownshire (any).  
Highland, especially 1898—1900 issues.  
Ballycastle (any).  
Belfast & County Down (any).  
Belfast & Northern Counties (any).  
Sligo, Leitrim & Northern Counties (any).  
Waterford, Limerick & Western (any).

Readers having any of the above for disposal would find it very much to their advantage to ask the Editor for a cash offer. Stamps must be submitted on approval. If sent for inspection only, every care will be taken of them during examination.

\* \* \*

The history of these stamps, which the Editor has been occupied in compiling for the last ten months, is now nearly completed, and may be expected about the end of October. The book will be very complete, with hundreds of illustrations which have alone cost over £100. The work will be issued at the nominal price of a guinea and only a very limited number of copies will be offered for sale. Orders can be booked now. Every collector interested in British stamps should obtain a copy for his library. Orders are accepted for payment on delivery.

## New Issues.

The Editor will be much obliged for early news of New Issues, or intended New Issues or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors. Full acknowledgment given. If possible, specimens should be sent in order that illustrations may be prepared.

ICELAND.—A book which has just been published in Copenhagen, gives the following interesting statistics of Icelandic stamps.

	No. of Stamps.	Catalogue prices.	
		s. d.	s. d.
1873 2 sk. blue ..	40,000	7 6	17 6
" 3 sk. grey ..	25,000	4 6	12 6
" 4 sk. rose ..	100,000	0 6	1 3
" 8 sk. brown ..	40,000	3 0	7 6
" 16 sk. yellow ..	40,000	2 6	4 6
1876 5 aur. blue ..	90,000	3 0	4 6
" 6 " grey ..	830,000	0 6	0 3
" 10 " rose ..	1,900,000	0 4	0 1
" 16 " brown ..	310,000	0 4	0 4
" 20 " violet ..	90,000	3 0	3 0
" 40 " green ..	40,000	5 0	5 0
1882 3 " yellow ..	910,000	0 2	0 2
" 5 " green ..	910,000	0 3	0 1
" 20 " blue ..	810,000	0 6	0 2
" 40 " lilac ..	350,000	1 6	0 4
1892 50 " rose & blue	155,000	0 9	0 8
" 100 " lilac & brn.	55,000	1 6	1 6
1899 4 " grey & rose	200,000	—	—
1900 25 " blue & brn.	200,000	—	—

Judging from the above, the 16 sk. yellow appears to be a very cheap stamp at present prices.

NIGER COAST PROTECTORATE.—The Philatelic Record states that the following quantities of the 1893 issue were printed.

1d. vermilion	16,000
1d. blue	20,000
2d. green	10,000
2½d. carmine-lake	30,000
5d. lilac	16,000
1/- black	10,000

If these figures are correct, and there were really only 10,000 complete sets ever printed, these stamps must be much under-priced in the catalogues.

PHILIPPINES.—The 1, 2 and 5 dollars of the United States have been surcharged "Philippines" in black.

1 dollar, black.
2 dollars, blue.
5 dollars, green.

TRANSVAAL.—The 2d. brown and green has been surcharged "E.R.I.—Half Penny" in three lines. A copy before us is postmarked Johannesburg, August 12th. We have to thank Messrs. Newton & Heller for specimens.

VICTORIA.—Our note last week stating that the new 1½d., 9d. and 5/- with "Postage added" are now to hand should have read "2d., 9d. and 5/-." The 1½d. had already been chronicled.

## The First Auctions of the Season.

The first auctions of the season were held during the week. Messrs. Plumridge & Co., who hold the record for the largest number of stamp lots sold in a season, were first in the field with a

sale on Thursday and Friday, Sept. 12th and 13th. Messrs. Wm. Liddell & Co., of Glasgow, hold their first sale to-day, Saturday. Messrs. Ventom, Bull & Cooper's first sale is on Sept. 26th, and Messrs. Puttick & Simpson's on Oct. 1st. Mr. D. Ostara announces a sale in Manchester on Sept. 25th.

## A Huge Competition.

FIFTY MILLION POSTAGE STAMPS.

A collection of postage stamps, bigger than any other collection on the face of the earth, has been gathered together by the Editor of the "Weekly Telegraph," and is now being dealt with at the offices of Sir William Long & Co., in Aldine Court, Sheffield. At a rough estimate there are about fifty million postage stamps—English, Foreign and Colonial—and they are made up into brown paper and canvas parcels, each containing anything from five hundred stamps up to a quarter of a million. The parcels have been roughly thrown together, and they form a pyramid as big as would be made by about sixteen loads of coal. They have been forwarded to the Editor of the "Weekly Telegraph" by readers of the paper in response to a recent offer of a hundred prizes for the hundred largest collections sent in. Tuesday and Wednesday were the days appointed, and the bundles came principally by parcels' post. A considerable number of competitors had even gone to the expense of sending them by registered letters. The arrival of this vast mass of extra matter was quite unexpected by the local postal authorities, and they are to be congratulated on the efficient manner in which they dealt with it. The award of prizes will be announced in the "Weekly Telegraph" in due course.

## Our Postcard Column.

WILL readers hearing of any interesting item of News, kindly jot it down on a postcard and address to the Editor, "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News," Norwood, London. For every contribution we publish, we will send the author an interesting and newly issued stamp. (N.B.—Postcards preferred.)

Mr. James Campbell of Bloemfontein writes:—

"Referring to yours of 6th July re Army Telegraph cancellations. Mr. Cricks is right in assuming that the letters across the stamp with the date between represent the name of the town where the letter was posted. There being no such cancellation as B—Dr as referred to by Mr. Cricks. What is on his envelope is probably B—F. N. resembling the first named owing to excessive impression. This B—F.N. is the code for Bloemfontein. Regarding the other envelope on which are the letters I.P.Y. this should be H.P.Y., probably owing to insufficient impression the H has not come up properly, and represent the initials of the Chief Censor Major H. P. Young, ret. Ind. S.C.

## Reference List of Danish West Indian Stamps

(EXCLUSIVE OF SHADES, ETC.)

(From The Stamp Collector).

Date of Issue.	Value.	Colour.	Date when No. of Stamps Obsolete. Printed.
1 Nov., 1855	3 cents, imperf.	dark red	Jan., 1872 500,000
2 Jan., 1872	3 cents, perf. 12½	carmine	Sept., 1873 250,000
3 Jan., 1873	4 " "	blue	" " 250,000
4 Sept., 1873	1 cent, perf. 13½	rose lilac and green	? 1899 1,000,000
5 " "	3 cents "	red and blue	" " 1,400,000
6 " "	4 " "	blue and brown	current 350,000
7 Sept., 1876	5 " "	grey and green	? 1898 1,100,000
8 June, 1874	7 " "	yellow and lilac	July, 1896 350,000
9 Sept., 1876	10 " "	brown and light blue	April, 1901 1,400,000
10 " "	12 " "	green and lilac	current 301,000
11 Sept., 1873	14 " "	green and lilac	Sept., 1877 100,000
12 July, 1879	50 " "	mauve and mauve	current 150,000
13 12th May, 1887	1 cent, on 7 cents	orange and lilac	May, 1877 } No special figures given.
14 ? 1895	10 cents on 50 "	mauve and mauve	? 1896 } They are pre- sumably in- cluded in the
15 1898-99	1 cent, perf. 12½	lilac and green	Feb., 1900 } different amnts. above
16 " "	3 cents "	carmine and light blue	current
17 " "	5 " "	grey and green	Feb., 1900
18 April, 1901	10 " "	brown and light blue	current
19 Feb., 1900	1 cent, perf. 13	green	" 110,000
20 " "	5 cents "	blue	" 110,000

## Some Beauty Spots on the Face of Philately.

By A. F. BASSET HULL.

A little while ago I wrote you an article in appreciation of the Five Pence of New South Wales, and judging from the extensive reprinting of the article in the philatelic journals the world over, it met with some approval. The Five Pence, beautiful as it is, cannot be truthfully described as the only handsome pebble on the philatelic beach! There are others—and this paper purports to bring some of them into notice, just in case their friends might think they were overlooked or overshadowed by the other article. I do not intend to refer to any but Australian stamps. To pick out all the beauty spots of the world's issues would be too large an order for the limits of my small philatelic store!

First, then, among my beauties, I would place the Five Shillings of New South Wales—a stamp of noble design, artistic execution, and regal colour, and, withal, one with an interesting life history. Early in 1859 a clerk of the Union Bank, acting for the manager, wrote to Mr. Christie, then the non-political Postmaster-General, pointing out the desirableness of having a stamp of higher value than 1/-, as some of their letters required so many shilling stamps to defray the postage that the cover was almost wholly occupied by adhesive labels, and no room was left for the address. This letter resulted in the giving of instructions for an experimental issue of a 5/- stamp, and Mr. T. W. Levinge, Postal Inspector, who designed the Five Pence and its contemporaries, was commissioned to prepare the necessary design. He made four, one being intended for a ten shilling stamp, if such a value should be required. One of the designs was selected, and forwarded, on the 20th May, 1859, to the Crown Agents of the Colony, with copious instructions for the engraver. Messrs. Perkins and Bacon were entrusted with the task of preparing the plate, but nearly two years elapsed before it was sent out to the Colony. On the 23rd March, 1861, it was notified that stamps were printed, and would be available for public use on and after the 1st April.

Coin-shaped and engraved in imitation of a piece of money, with inscriptions in old English characters, and shaded to resemble raised letters, the stamp was very striking in appearance. Her Majesty's portrait, copied from a florin, stood out in strong relief in the centre. The name of the colony was placed above, and the value in words below. Mr. Levinge added a septre, four stars to represent the Southern Cross, and a blossom of the waratah (*Telopea speciosissima*) as being emblematic of Australia. Alas! the engraver of the die was not acquainted with that purely Antipodean flower, and anglicised it into a full blown rose. Paper for printing the stamp upon was sent out with the plate, but no English printed impressions accompanied it. The paper was watermarked 5/- with double outline. Some time ago there was considerable discussion as to the existence or otherwise of imperforate copies, but it has long since been decided that any specimens without "denticulations" have been artificially rendered toothless! Perforation was introduced into New South Wales in February, 1860, and as more than twelve months had elapsed when the 5/- stamp was issued, it would be extremely unlikely that the perforation could be omitted in the case of the new stamps, while all others were operated upon. The deep Royal purple in which our handsome Crown stamp was printed varied somewhat in shade in the course of the successive printings which took place up to 1885, and the perforation also differed as new machines were brought into use, but the watermark remained the same through the quarter of a century of use. From the introduction of the system of prepaying telegrams by means of stamps in 1885, a large demand for 5/- stamps was anticipated, and the duty stamps of that value was surcharged "postage" and issued in lieu of the Queen of stamps. Six months trial of the stamped telegram system was considered enough, and the system was abandoned, but the long surcharged stamp remained in use until 1889, when the Centennial cotton-reel label with a map of Australia was issued. In 1897 it was decided to re-issue the beautiful circular stamp in honor of the "Record Reign" of Her Majesty. Sufficient of the old paper remained in stock to meet the demand, and the old color was imitated as closely as possible, but many strange and perplexing varieties of perforation have since fretted the edges of the Queen Stamp of New South Wales.

Once only has the bold and unblushing forger essayed to reproduce this masterpiece, but his miserable caricature might well bring a blush even to his brazen face. A poor, faded, lithographed thing it was, and yet now and again one finds it occupying valuable space in collections made by our forefathers in the days when every coloured label was a stamp.

If any stamp could inspire the student of poetical leanings and cause him to breathe out stirring verse, this Crown stamp would assuredly be the one. Unhappily I am not poet enough to do justice to such a subject.

The issuing Colony of the next notable stamp lies at the opposite side of the great Australian Continent, separated from New South Wales by two thousand miles of forest and desert. The graceful stamp of the Swan River Colony, Western Australia, may fairly lay claim to be another of philately's beauty spots. Unlike the Crown stamp, it is not unique, but it is quite a "family affair." Nevertheless, as a type it may be placed in our gallery. Oblong in shape, simple even to severity in its framing, with the natant swan proudly arching its slender neck, it looks most handsome, perhaps in the deep blue dress of the Twopence, although the black of the One Penny is more in keeping with the natural colour of the Swan. In the vermilion of the Fourpence, the purple of the Sixpence and the deep green of the early Shilling it is always handsome, and even the later bistre, grey, yellow and faded pink shades of De La Rue's printings cannot do more than slightly pale its beauty. But when, as in the case of the lithographed stamps, it is copied by an unworthy means and an unskilled hand, how great is the change! Flat, uninteresting, and inartistic are these washy attempts at imitation of a noble original.

The master hand of the engraver is absent, and the copy is but a poor production pathetically proclaiming that it belongs to the Stone Age, so far behind the glorious age of Steel. Better imitations are the later De La Rue surface-printed stamps of similar design, but placed beside the grand old steel plate engravings they bear as much resemblance to their artistic forerunners as a washed Italian organ-grinder clad in Bond Street clothes and wearing a roll-collar would bear to the genuine article in all his ragged picturesqueness.—*Australian Journal of Philately.*

## Federal Prospects.

IN the Senate, the Post and Telegraph Bill was re-committed on Clause 2—providing for the repeal of the State Acts now in force.

Senator Drake moved an amendment that the regulations, rates and charges in force in any State shall continue in force until revoked by the Governor-General. Before the penny postage could be introduced it would be necessary to know exactly how the revenue and expenditure of the department stood, and with the existing methods of book-keeping that could not be done in less than 12 months. The revenue of the department at present was about £2,250,000. He hoped that alterations in the postage rates would be made as soon as possible.

The amendment was agreed to.

At the time of going to press the Bill was under discussion in the House of Representatives, and, judging by appearances, will have to pass through a more fiery ordeal than it encountered in the Upper Chamber. After the Bill has received the Governor-General's sanction we may expect several changes with a view to the consolidation of the departments under the Federal head. It was only reasonable to allow some time to elapse pending the passage of the Machinery Bill as it is called, and we shall not be at all surprised to find within the next twelve months that the book-keeping difficulties have been overcome, and that the Federal series of stamps has been issued. In fact Senator Drake foreshadows this much when he speaks of a penny postage, which no doubt includes penny Universal postage. Now that the State of Victoria has fixed up their arrangements, and there is no sign of the other States making any changes, we hope matters will move along smoothly.

We have heard that the sale of £1 and £5 Victorian sets, lightly postmarked to order, has been discontinued; indeed we are informed that the remainder has been sold to a dealer at a price, but the disquieting information comes to hand that Victoria means to die hard, as a fresh series comprising the latest stamps with the word "postage" inserted, and the new £1 and £2 King Edward stamps are to be put upon the market "lightly postmarked to order" at 10/- per set. Evidently it will only be by constantly hammering at those responsible for such procedure that philatelists will be able to put a stop to the practice, which is very detrimental to the welfare of philately.

As we go to press we are informed by Mr. Donne, Melbourne, that the engraver who is cutting the dies for the new £1 and £2 stamps is laid up with influenza, and the issue is therefore again a matter of "obscurity in the distant future," however from what Mr. Donne says we now

really do believe that these two stamps will be issued some time or other.

Another result of Federation is the inclusion of British New Guinea as a stamp issuing country. Formerly Queensland stamps were used there, but now British New Guinea must "paddle her own (Papuan) canoe."

Our friends in America, France, &c., will no doubt be pleased to learn that there is a prospect that at no distant date the decimal system will be adopted in this country. A Decimal Coinage Committee of the House of Representatives has been appointed to consider the question, and we hope they will be successful in overcoming the obstacles.—*Australian Journal of Philately.*

## Stray Notes on Sheets of Stamps.

By R. R. THIELE.

Who but a stamp collector ever heard of Stellaland? Few handbooks will tell anything of it, but the stamp catalogues preserve its memory. It was a small republic west of the Transvaal, founded in 1882; most of it was absorbed by Great Britain (in British Bechuanaland) in 1885. Query: Can the date 1888 given in Scott's for the 2d. on 4d. be correct? Its stamps were locally produced by lithography; the sheets consisted of 100 stamps, 10x10—not an arrangement adapted to sterling currency, but then the officials of the infant state no doubt were not rushed for time.

Another ephemeral state of Southern Africa was the so-called "New Republic," afterwards absorbed by the Transvaal. Its extremely primitive stamps were produced by means of a rubber hand-stamp; it is therefore quite possible that the sheets of these stamps were not always of the same size. The standard sheet consisted of 180 stamps, in 20 rows of 9 each. To some extent this corresponds to the currency, but I leave the curious reader to figure out for himself the face value of each of the numerous values.

The stamps of British South Africa (catalogued by Scott as Rhodesia) have been produced by several firms. The 1899 set was engraved and printed by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. (see above under Transvaal; they were arranged in sheets of 60, 10 rows of 6, though I am not sure whether the pound values were also in sheets of this size. The 2d. green and red and the 4d. brown and black of 1895 in the same design and the set of 1896 in the new design were manufactured by the old firm of Perkins, Bacon & Co., though hardly in their former degree of excellence. They all came in sheets of 60, 10 rows of 6.—Dissatisfaction with the execution of this set led to the transfer of their manufacture to Waterlow & Sons, of London, the well-known firm of engravers. They merely re-engraved the old designs; their sheets consist of 240 stamps in the usual arrangement of 4 panes of 60 each, arranged in ten rows of 6, with the possible exception of the pound values: the post office sheets seem to be the panes of 60.

Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. are also responsible for the definite issues of the British East African Protectorate. So far as known to me at this writing, these stamps as well, of course, as those of Zanzibar surcharged on them) were printed in sheets of 120, in 2 panes of 60 each, in 10 rows of 6 each, though they seem to have been issued in half-sheets or panes of 60. The arrangement is poorly adapted to rupee currency, but British Manufacturers seem very reluctant to adopt any other. Some of the sheets will figure up fairly evenly, for example:—

Half sheet of 2 annas	=	7½ rupees.
" 3 "	=	15 "
" 8 "	=	30 "

But look at others:

Half sheet of ½ anna	=	1 rupee 14 annas.
" 1 "	=	3 " 12 "
" 2½ "	=	9 " 6 "
" 3 "	=	11 " 4 "
" 4½ "	=	16 " 14 "
" 5 "	=	18 " 12 "
" 7½ "	=	28 " 2 "

The patient reader can easily figure out now the amount represented by 327 sheets of 4½ anna stamps transferred from British East Africa to the Zanzibar account, let us say.

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# Approval Selections.

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Each stamp in the above selections is priced separately. When ordering any particular country or countries it is advisable to state whether used or unused are wanted, and whether a general selection is required, or one showing perforation and watermark varieties.

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6.—Sheets should be returned folded as sent.  
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With which is incorporated EWEN'S WEEKLY CIRCULAR. (Established October, 1897.)

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THE ONLY WEEKLY STAMP PAPER  
PUBLISHED IN EUROPE.

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[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

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## Correspondence.

GREAT BRITAIN, 6d., 1883.

To the Editor E.W.S.N.,

Dear Sir—A reference to Messrs. Creeke & Wright's Valuable History of British Adhesives appears to disprove Mr. Harland's conjecture that there were two distinct printings of the surcharge on this stamp. The two varieties in the overprint are mentioned, and illustrations given of both the 3d. and 6d.—in each case a horizontal pair—which show that both varieties of dots, viz.  $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm and  $1\frac{3}{4}$ mm below the "d" are to be found on the same sheet. At the same time it would be interesting, as Mr. Harland suggests, to sort out the lettering of the complete plate and see on how many and which stamps in the sheet each variety of the dots is to be found. Personally I am inclined to think that the  $1\frac{3}{4}$ mm is the more common.

To me however it is the one dot variety which presents the greater "mystery." Mr. Harland is I believe correct in saying that this is only to be found on the stamps lettered O.I. I have one copy so lettered on which the single dot is very distinct, and Mr. Harland speaks of having two, and yet it appears that this is also the one stamp in the sheet on which the no dot variety is to be found. Messrs. Creeke & Wright give an illustration on which there is no sign of any dot at all, and state (page 116) that "on all the sheets printed the stamp lettered O.I. (illustration 41) was, probably through some accident to the overprinting plate, without either of the dots," and further that "the imprimatur sheet shows this variety."

If this last statement is correct it is difficult to understand how the single dot variety, which undoubtedly exists on the same stamp, is to be explained. It is possible that the error in the plate was afterwards corrected, but in this case surely the printers would have been careful that both dots should have been inserted. I shall be interested to see if any of your correspondents can elucidate this "mystery." In any case the claim of these varieties to be recognized as something more than mere minor errors is I think unquestionable. —A.O.

## Railway Letter Stamps.

THE EDITOR is extremely anxious to meet with pairs, blocks or sheets of the following Railway Letter Stamps. Also single copies, if dated.

London & South Western, 1891 to 1899.  
London, Brighton & South Coast, 1891 to 1898.  
London, Chatham & Dover (any).  
Glasgow, Barrhead & Kilmarnock, 1891 to 1898.  
Portpatrick & Wigtownshire (any).  
Highland, especially 1898—1900 issues.  
Ballycastle (any).  
Belfast & County Down (any).  
Belfast & Northern Counties (any).  
Sligo, Leitrim & Northern Counties (any).  
Waterford, Limerick & Western (any).

Readers having any of the above for disposal would find it very much to their advantage to ask the Editor for a cash offer. Stamps must be submitted on approval. If sent for inspection only, every care will be taken of them during examination.

The history of these stamps, which the Editor has been occupied in compiling for the last ten months, is now nearly completed, and may be expected about the end of October. The book will be very complete, with hundreds of illustrations which have alone cost over £100. The work will be issued at the nominal price of a guinea and only a very limited number of copies will be offered for sale. Orders can be booked now. Every collector interested in British stamps should obtain a copy for his library. Orders are accepted for payment on delivery.

## New Issues.

The Editor will be much obliged for early news of New Issues, or intended New Issues or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors. Full acknowledgment given. If possible, specimens should be sent in order that illustrations may be prepared.

**ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.**—A special postal card has been issued to commemorate the 80th birthday of General Mitre. The stamp shows a portrait of the General himself, with his "dates" (1821-1901). On the back of a card is a view, four varieties being issued: Monument of General San Martin, Cruiser "San Martin," Monument of General Belgrano, Cruiser "General Belgrano." These were issued to the extent of 300,000 on June 26th.

**TRANSVAAL.**—We give the following extract from "The Times" for what it may be worth:—

**TRANSVAAL STAMPS.**—Mr. E. Goldreich, writing from Johannesburg on August 15, says:—So much interest has of late been shown in Transvaal postage stamps that philatelists will no doubt be pleased to hear of the following rarity. In one of the numerous actions which the I.L.H. has had the honour of adding to their roll we had the good fortune to mortally wound a Boer field postmaster. As usual, we did not lose time in going through his pockets, and discovered in a satchel a number of Transvaal V.R.I. penny and half-penny stamps with the V.R.I. crossed through and Z.A.R. substituted. We further elicited the information that not above 50, which he had personally obliterated, had been used on about 20 oversea letters, which were either posted on a foreign vessel or in Europe, and that, together with those we had taken, they formed the whole issue: Our friend the enemy would, however, not inform us as to the manner in which they had procured the stamps from the British, but after a little gentle persuasion he gave us the address of a few addresses, and we have since been able, by a little diplomacy, to obtain the stamps off two envelopes—viz., four penny and two halfpenny, which were posted in France and Holland respectively. The remainder we have not been able to trace. If any of the obliterated should turn up (the unused are all in possession of a friend) I shall be pleased to vouch for their genuineness if they are submitted to me.

## Cuttings from the Press.

### DANISH WEST INDIES.

The Washington correspondent of the *Metropolitan Philatelist* writes as follows:—

"The negotiations for the purchase by the United States of the Danish West Indies has progressed to a point that a member of the Danish Cabinet has deemed it expedient, through a second party, to authorize the statement that the transfer will be accomplished before the close of the year. At the State Department it is absolutely impossible to secure any information whatever. The officials will say nothing they will not discuss even what the Danish Cabinet minister says. The remarks of the latter indicate that the only point that has demanded negotiations of a prolonged sort has been that of price. The United States offered nearly \$4,000,000 and the Danish Government wanted about twice that. However, it may be assumed, if the cabinet minister has been correctly quoted, that Denmark will accept the offer of the United States. The approval of the treaty by the senate may be regarded as a mere formality. Negotiations would not have progressed to the present stage unless senators had been privately sounded and their informal approval secured. It seems quite evident that the report that the people of the Islands were bitterly opposed to the prospective separation was unfounded. It seems quite likely that it was a report originated for effect, with a view to making it possible to secure a larger price for the group.

### BRITISH SEA POSTAGE.

The following official notice has been issued. All persons on board British ships on the high seas are entitled to send their letters prepaid by means of British stamps. Such letters should be

handed to the master, or to any officer he may appoint to receive them, and should be prepaid at the following rates: 1d. the  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz., if addressed to the United Kingdom or to any British colony of possession (except the Commonwealth of Australia, Rhodesia, and the Bechuanaland Protectorate); 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. the  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz., if addressed to a foreign country or to one of the three British possessions mentioned above. The officers dealing with the letters should tie them in a bundle, distinctly labelled "Posted on board the British ship — on the high seas"; and on arrival at a foreign or colonial port this bundle should not be posted in the ordinary way, but should be handed over the counter of a post office, if possible, the head office. Letters written in foreign or colonial waters should be prepaid by means of local stamps at local rates, and should be posted in the ordinary manner.

\* \* \*

An American contemporary states: "There is already a noticeable increase in the demand for British Colonials bearing the late Queen's head, Australians and the West Indies taking the lead, here in Washington. Ceylon is also a favourite with Canada a close second."

## Our Postcard Column.

WILL readers hearing of any interesting item of News, kindly jot it down on a postcard and address to the Editor, "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News," Norwood, London. For every contribution we publish, we will send the author an interesting and newly issued stamp. (N.B.—Postcards preferred.)

### NEW ZEALAND ADVERTISEMENTS.

The Rev. A. Ogle writes:—

"Referring to your list of values of New Zealand stamps on which advertisements are to be found, I think you will find that the list may be very considerably extended. Out of only ten specimens in my collection, there are no less than six varieties not mentioned in your list, viz.:

- 11. Horizontal pair. Both on 1/-.
- 77. Truebridge, Miller, etc. 3d.
- 70. For delicate skins, etc. 6d.
- 31. Bonnington's Irish Moss, etc. 8d.
- 86. Stamp Beecham's Pills, etc. 2d.

Truebridge Miller's advertisement, like "Use Kaitangata Coal," has now been found on eight values, the 5d. being wanted in one case and the 3d. in the other."

Another correspondent notes No. 31 on the 6d. Major Lister adds the following five varieties:—

- Advertisement No. 87, 4d. perf. 10.
- " No. 19, 8d. Perf. 10.
- " No. 21, 5d. perf. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ .
- " No. 103, 3d. perf. 10.
- " No. 67, 1/- perf. 10.

We were under the impression, the advertisements were alone printed on the perf. 10 issues. Are any other values besides the 5d. found perf. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ ?

### GREAT BRITAIN, 6d. 1883.

Mr. E. Bradman writes that he has a specimen of the 6d. 1883, of Great Britain, lettered OI, with a single dot only, under the D of "6d." Mr. J. T. Cricks also submits an example of the stamp OI. The single dot is very clear.

### BRITISH GUIANA.

Mr. J. H. Parry sends an enquiry:—

"I find I have amongst my West Indian Stamps, a specimen of the 2 cent British Guiana of the 1890 type, watermarked CA., but instead of the value at bottom and words at top being in orange they are in sage green, and I have some recollection of seeing another in a friend's album a year or two ago. Mine is postmarked May, 1896. Can any reader kindly inform me whether this stamp has been issued in this colour as well as the orange between 1890 and 1896, or if it must be simply regarded as a changling. It is certainly not a very clean copy, but nevertheless the words and the value seem exactly alike, and have not the slightest appearance of any orange colour whatever, although if genuine its absence from the catalogues seems strange, the two colours being so totally distinct. Any information upon the subject will be most welcome."

**The First Auction of the Season.**

On Thursday and Friday of last week, Messrs. Plumridge & Co. held the first auction of the season. Prices ruled unusually high for the time of year. The following were some of the more interesting lots sold.

Bahamas, 4d. rose, no wmk., rough perf., mint, corner missing ...	52/6
British East Africa, 1st issue, complete, used ...	£3/10
British Guiana, 4c. 1853, imperf., fine used horizontal strip of three on entire	£2/16
British Honduras, 6d. yellow, used, very fine ...	£2
Canada, Jubilee set, mint ...	72/6
" ditto, complete set mounted on a page containing the postmaster's guarantee that the stamps were removed from the first sheet of each denomination printed, and from which H.R.H. The Duke of York's set was taken ...	£3/15
Cape Triangular, 1d. red, unused pair, no gum ...	32/-
Cape Triangular, 4d. blue, unused pair, no gum ...	30/-
Mafeking Besieged, nine varieties, used...	50/-
Great Britain, octagonal 1/- green, a vertical pair, the lower stamp having only one silk thread ...	30/-
Entire Envelope, 1d. pale salmon, twice embossed, mint ...	5/-
Ditto, 2d. blue, embossed, error ...	10/-
Hong Kong, 18c. lilac, no gum ...	32/-
New Brunswick, 3d. fine pair ...	36/-
Newfoundland, 2d. carmine, used ...	105/-
" 6½d. carmine, unused ...	£6/10
" 1/- orange, defective ...	£4
Sydney Views, 1d. red, used, fine ...	36/-
" 2d. blue, plate 1, very fine ...	50/-
" 2d. blue, plate 3, very fine ...	42/-
New South Wales, 1855, 5d., imperf. ...	112/6
Nova Scotia, 1/-, heavy postmark, poor ...	£7
Orange Free State, 1/- brn., 3 used copies	10/-

Prince Edward Islands, 1860-69, perf., 11 to 12. Half of 6d. yellow-green, used provisionally as 3d., on the entire ...	20/-
Tasmania, 1d. blue, first issue, used, v.f.	50/-
" 1d. blue, unused, very poor ...	46/-
Transvaal, 1877, 1/- green, surcharge Gibbons' type 4 in black, inverted	£6/5
Transvaal, 1878, 6d. blue on green, wide roulette, used, and very fine ...	87/6
Transvaal, 6d. blue on blue, surcharge type 6 inverted, used, v.f. ...	£12
Transvaal, 1d. on 6d. black (Queen's Head), S.G. No. 161, mint ...	£4
Transvaal, ¼d. on 6d. black, mint block 4	42/-
Schweizer Reineche Provisionals, surcharged "BESIEGED," set of three, ¼d., 1d., 2d. Three fine used copies on small pieces ...	12/- to 16/-
Uruguay, 1895, 1, 2 and 3 pesos, mint ...	46/-

**Questions Competition No. 3.**

**C**URIOSLY only two competitors entered for the third of our Question's Competition and in both cases the papers were received after the time allowed, one being an hour too late and the other nine hours. We accordingly made no award. Now that our readers are beginning to return from their holidays, we repeat the questions and hope that this time every one will have a try. The prizes are well worth having.

- 1.—Which adhesive British Colonial stamps have been issued to the public in the smallest sheets or panes? and which in the largest? give three or four instances.
- 2.—How many different kinds of stamps bear the inscription "L'Union fait la Force?"
- 3.—Is a pawnbroker's shop illustrated on any adhesive postage stamp; if so, on which?
- 4.—Of which seven countries do you consider the issue of stamps to have the worst reputation, as being unnecessary?
- 5.—Which do you consider the best (or worst!) philatelic conundrum (prevailing fashion); original or otherwise.
- 6.—Which do you consider will be the first three colonies to issue stamps with the King's head?
- 7.—The 4½d. value of Great Britain having been already withdrawn, it is unlikely that it will be re-issued with the King's Head Issue. Are any other values likely to be dropped out of the present series?

As replies to questions 6 and 7 will be in the nature of a prophecy, the correctness of which cannot be judged, less importance will be attached to them by the judges when awarding the prizes. The first prize will be, as before, a 5/- Victoria, of the recent issue (old type in new colours). Two consolation prizes of the 2/- blue on rose (just obsolete and only in use a few months) will also be given. All papers must reach the Editor before mid-day on Wednesday, September 25th.

**The Antarctic "Discovery."**

STAMP collectors will no doubt [?—Ed., E.W.S.N.], be on the alert for the series of illustrated post-cards prepared for the use of the crew of the "Discovery" on her Antarctic voyage. One of them, however, will have a special value, we fancy, for it contains a naturalist error, which is most extraordinary, in view of the fact that it is prepared for a naturalist expedition of such importance. I refer to the card which has been printed for the crew to use at the first postal station they reach on their way home after emerging from the southern ice. It depicts the ship surrounded by icebergs, upon one of which a Polar bear is stationed looking down at the human intruders into his desolate regions. I need hardly remind my readers who have even an elementary knowledge of natural history that the Polar bear is wholly unknown in Antarctic regions, the species being confined to the North Polar circle. (Slate).

**THE WINDING-UP OF HILCKES, LIMITED.**

THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER AND LIQUIDATOR'S LITTLE BILL OF NEARLY £500 FOR RECEIVING AND DISTRIBUTING £1632!

To the shareholders and creditors of Harry Hilckes & Company, Limited, and to others whom it may concern, the Senior Official Receiver and Liquidator, Mr. G. S. Barnes, has sent the usual formal notification of his intention to apply to the Board of Trade for his "release"—from the work of officially receiving and liquidating in the matter of Harry Hilckes & Company, Limited. Accompanying the notification is a statement of accounts which we reprint.

**Statement shewing position of Company at Date of Application for Release.**

	Estimated to produce per Company's statement		RECEIPTS.		PAYMENTS.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
To total receipts from date of Winding-up Order, viz. :—						
Cash at Bankers .. .. .	5	6 9				
Cash in hand .. .. .	0	0 3	21	6 1		
Cash in hands of Provisional Liquidator	15	19 1				
Stock-in-Trade .. .. .	1482	14 0	1354	0 9		
Office Furniture .. .. .	100	0 0				
Book Debts .. .. .	296	19 1	102	16 2		
Surplus from Securities .. .. .	590	0 2	93	4 3		
Unpaid Calls .. .. .	2	5 0	0	7 6		
Other Receipts .. .. .			61	1 2		
	£2493	4 4	1632	15 11		
			£1632	15 11		
By Board of Trade and Court Fees:—						
Notices to 1,221 Creditors, &c. ..	123	0 0				
Percentage on £1,632 15s. 11d. assets realized .. .. .	75	6 3				
Percentage on £945 13s. 1d. assets distributed .. .. .	23	12 10				
Other Fees—Audit .. .. .	16	6 7				
Court .. .. .	2	6 0				
					240	11 8
	£	s. d.				
Law costs of Solicitor to Official Receiver	28	17 4				
Other Law Costs .. .. .	4	4 0				
Auctioneer's and Valuer's charges as taxed ..					33	1 4
Costs of possession and maintenance of Estate ..					57	10 4
Costs of notices in "Gazette" & local papers ..					3	16 9
Incidental outlay .. .. .					3	10 5
Total costs of realization .. .. .					498	13 2
Costs of Petition .. .. .					173	10 11
Creditors, viz. :—						
Preferential .. .. .	14	18 9				
Debenture Holders on account of £1000	945	13 1				
Unsecured .. .. .	Nil.					
Amount returned to Contributories ..	Nil.					
					960	11 10
Balance .. .. .					Nil.	
					£1632	15 11

**THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER'S COMMENTS.**

- Appended to this statement are the following remarks, dated September 6, and signed, "G. S. Barnes, Senior Official Receiver and Liquidator":—
- 1.—In the Official Receiver's observations, issued on November 9th, 1899, reference was made to the fact that the Statement of Affairs which had been lodged by Mr. Hilckes imperfectly disclosed the position of the Company, and it was found on realization that in several instances the value of the assets had been greatly over-estimated by Mr. Hilckes.
  - 2.—An enquiry took place as to the amount of debentures which had been issued by the Company, and by an order of the Court the following claims were admitted to rank, viz. :—J. J. Lane, £200; W. B. Kirkpatrick, £300; J. E. Heginbottom, £250, and C. K. Fleischmann, £250. The assets realized have not been sufficient to fully discharge these claims, and there is no prospect therefore of any dividend being paid to the creditors, or a return of capital being made to the shareholders.
  - 3.—Creditors and Contributories can obtain any further information by enquiry at the Department of the Official Receivers, 33, Carey Street, Lincoln's Inn, London, W.C.—(From Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly).



FOREIGN ARRIVALS.

(NOTE.—Most foreign stamps are almost as good an investment in mint unused condition as those issued by British Colonies, if purchases are made with care, and countries like Abyssinia, Persia, Nicaragua, Honduras, etc., are ignored. That there is a good market for unused foreigners is evidenced by the fact that a collection consisting entirely of unused Europeans recently sold for £30,000.)

France, 1901 types.
Set of 5—1, 2, 3, 4, 5c. (without millésime), nett 3d.
Set of 5, ditto, in blocks of four, 10d.
Port Said, surcharged on French, old type.
1c. black on blue, pair with mill. o, nett 2d.
China, surcharged on French, old type.
5c. yellow-green, pair with mill. o, nett 3d.
France, "Chiffre Taxe"
1c. black, 5c. blue, 10c. brown, set of 3, nett 3d.
Belgium, unpaid.
Set of 5, 5, 10, 20, 50c. 1fr., nett 1/11.
Belgium, Sunday stamps.
Set of ten, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 25, 35, 50c., 1, 2fr., nett, 4/5.
Luxemburg, 1fr. violet. (old type), nett 2/-; 5fr. orange-brown (old type), nett 5/10.
Denmark, new 24 öre, brown, nett 5d.
Sweden, New 25 öre, orange, nett 5d.
Finland, 1901, 1 markka, nett 1/3.
Finland, 1889 type, 2, 5, 10, 20, 25p., 1m., set of 6, 2/3.
Hungary, 1900, values in filléres.
25f., blue and black, nett 4d.
30f., brown and black, nett 4d.
50f., lake and black, nett 6d.
60f., green and black, nett 8d.

Roumania, 5, 10, 15 bani, set of three, 4d.
Greece, Small Head of Mercury.
1 lepton, brown, 1d.; block of 4, 1d.
2 lepta, bistre, 1d.; block of 4, 2d.
5 " green, 1d.; block of 4, 3d.
10 " orange, 2d.; block of 4, 6d.
Greek Provisionals, surcharged on old types.
Large Head of Mercury.
30 on 40 lepta, 5d.\*
40 on 2 " 5d.\*
50 on 40 " buff, 6d.\*
3dr. on 10 lepta, 2/9.
5dr. on 40 lepta, lilac on blue, 3/9.
NOTE.—Pairs can be supplied, showing wide and narrow "O," 1/- each.
Small Head of Mercury.
1dr. on 40 lepta, violet, 1/- (imperf.)
2dr. on 40 " " 1/9 (perf. 13).
Olympian Games (Axia Metalliki).
25l. on 40 lepta, nett 5d.
50l. on 2dr. stone, nett 10d.
1dr. on 5dr. green, nett 1/3.
2dr. on 10dr. brown, nett 2/6.
Cuba, pictorial set, 1, 2, 3, 5, 10c., nett 1/3.
Sweden, low values, 1, 2, 3, 4 öre, set of 4, 2d.
Siam, 1901, head to left.
2 atts, bright green, nett 1d.; block of 4, 3d.
Siam provisional, 3 on 12 atts, 1 1/2d. each.
Japan, new, 1 1/2 sen blue, 1d. each; block of 4, 3d.
Bolivia, 1899, used, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20c., set of 5, 6d.
Bolivia, 10c. orange, nett 1d. (used).
" 20c. rose (cat. 6d.), nett 2d. (used).
Bolivia, surch. "EF 1899" on 1894 issue (used).
5c. violet on green, nett 2d.
10c. violet on brown, nett 3d.
Chile, old type, 15c. green, fine, used, 2d.
20c. slate-grey, fine, used, 1d.
1 peso, black and brown, used, fine, 8d.
Chile, 1900, new 5c. blue, 10c. lilac, 1d. each (used).
Costa Rica, old 10 and 20c. (1892), nett 2d. (used).
" new 10 and 20c. (1901), nett 5d. (used).
Ecuador, 10c. lilac and black, used, 4d.
" 10c. blue and black, used, 4d.
Mexico, 1900, new 5, 10, 15, 20c., set of 4, nett 5d. (used).

WHOLESALE.

LOW VALUES IN DOZENS.

(All in mint unused blocks, unless otherwise described. Panes or sheets have margin on all four sides.)
France, new 1c. (pane of 25, 4d.) ... 2d.
" 2c. ( " 25, 8d.) ... 4d.
" 3c. ( " 25, 1/-) ... 6d.
" 4c. ... 8d.
" 5c. ... 9d.
Port Said, 1c. blk. on blue ... 2d.
China on France, 5c. green (pane of 25, 1/6) ... 9d.
Belgium, Sunday Stamp, 1c. grey ... 2d.
Spain, 1901, new 25c. blue ... 3/-
Italy, just obsolete, 1c. brown ... 2d.
" 2c. red-brown ... 4d.
" 5c. green ... 8d.
Italy, Segnatasse, 2c. brown & mauve ... 4d.
" 5c. " ... 8d.
Eritrea on Italy, 1c. brown ... 2d.
" 2c. red-brown ... 4d.
Luxemburg, 1895, 1c. grey ... 2d.
" 2c. grey-brown ... 4d.
" 4c. olive-yellow ... 8d.
" 5c. green ... 9d.

Table listing stamp arrivals from Norway, Hungary, Bosnia, German Colonies, and Morocco with prices per dozen.

Special Offers.

MINT UNUSED COLONIAL STAMPS.

\* An asterisk denotes mint condition, well-centred and with full gum. All stamps are unused unless otherwise described.

WEST INDIES.

Table of West Indies stamps including Barbados, British Guiana, British Honduras, Falkland Islands, Grenada, and Montserrat.

LEEWARD ISLES.

Table of Leeward Isles stamps including Antigua, Dominica, Nevis, St. Christopher, and Virgin Islands.

PICTORIAL STAMPS.

Table of pictorial stamps from Jamaica, Trinidad, Mauritius, and Brit. Guiana.

WEST AFRICA.

Table of West Africa stamps including Gambia, Lagos, Sierra Leone, and Niger Coast.

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IV. Africa, Orange River Colony.
V. Asia, except Straits Settlements.
VI. Straits Settlements.
VII. Australasia (in preparation).
As the books are worth, in the aggregate, thousands of pounds, they can only be sent to clients well known to us, or who will furnish first-class references. Prices are strictly nett, but are in most cases below catalogue.
We also have in preparation a fine book of British 1d. red stamps, in mint unused condition. Every plate-number represented. Of the rarest number, 132, there are no fewer than 54 examples.

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ALSACE, Angola, Antigua, Antioquia, Argentine Republic, Austria, Austrian Italy and Levant, Azores, Baden, Bahamas, Barbados, Bavaria, Belgium, Bermuda, Bolivar, Bolivia, Bosnia, Brazil, Bremen, British Bechuanaland, British Central Africa, British Columbia and Vancouver, British East Africa, British Guiana, British Honduras, British Levant, British South Africa, Brunswick, Bulgaria, Canada, Cape of Good Hope, Cape Verde, Ceylon, Chili, China, Colombia, Confederate States, Congo Free State, Cook Islands, Corea, Costa Rica, Crete, Cuba, Curaçao, Cyprus, Danish West Indies, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Dutch Indies, Ecuador, Egypt, Falkland Isles, Fernando Poo, Fiji Islands, Finland, France, French Colonies, Gambia, Germany, Old German States, German Colonies, Gibraltar, Gold Coast, Great Britain, Greece, Grenada, Griqualand, Guatemala, Hamburg, Hanover, Hawaii, Hayti, Heligoland, Holland, Honduras, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indian Native States (surcharged on India and Native prints), Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Johore, Labuan, Lagos, Lecward Isles, Liberia, Livonia, Lubeck, Luxemburg, Macao, Madeira, Malta, Mauritius, Mecklenburg (Scherwin and Strelitz), Mexico, Modena, Monaco, Montenegro, Montserrat, Morocco Agencies, Mozambique, Naples and Sicily, Natal, Negri Sembilan, Nevis, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, New Republic, New South Wales, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger Coast, North Borneo, North German Confederation, Norway, Nova Scotia, Oldenburg, Orange Free State, Orange River Colony, Pahang, Panama, Paraguay, Parma, Patiala, Perak, Persia, Peru, Philippines, Porto Rico, Portugal, Portuguese Colonies, Portuguese India, Prince Edward Island, Prussia, Queensland, Romagna, Roman States, Roumania, Russia, Russian China and Levant, St. Christopher, St. Helena, St. Lucia, St. Thomas and Prince, St. Vincent, Salvador, Samoa, San Marino, Sarawak, Saxony, Schleswig Holstein, Selangor, Serbia, Seychelles, Siam, Sierra Leone, Soudan, South Australia, Spain, Straits Settlements, Sungei Ujong, Surinam, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tasmania, Thessaly, Thurn and Taxis, Timor, Tobago, Tolima, Tonga, Transvaal, Trinidad, Tunis, Turkey, Turks Islands, Tuscany, Uganda, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Victoria, Virgin Islands, Western Australia, Wurtemberg, Zanzibar, Zululand.

Each stamp in the above selections is priced separately. When ordering any particular country or countries it is advisable to state whether used or unused are wanted, and whether a general selection is required, or one showing perforation and watermark varieties.

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3.—Collectors are not permitted to deduct return postage from amount of purchase.  
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5.—Spaces should not be marked.  
6.—Sheets should be returned folded as sent.  
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# Ewen's Weekly Stamp News.

With which is incorporated EWEN'S WEEKLY CIRCULAR. (Established October, 1897.)

A JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

THE ONLY WEEKLY STAMP PAPER  
PUBLISHED IN EUROPE.

(Entered at Stationers' Hall. Illustrated by permission of the Board of Inland Revenue.)

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(Whole Number, No. 191.)

LONDON, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1901.

[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

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Some Philatellists I have Known.  
The Control Numbers of French Stamps.  
The Stamps of Uganda, 3rd Issue.  
Colonial Stamp Market.

### New Issues.

The Editor will be much obliged for early news of New Issues, or intended New Issues or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors. Full acknowledgment given. If possible, specimens should be sent in order that illustrations may be prepared.

**BAHAMAS.**—The *London Philatelist* reports the discovery of the 1s. of 1863-75, Watermark CC, perforated 12½ at top and bottom and 14 at sides.

1s. green, CC, 12½ x 14.

**BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.**—The *Philatelic Record* gives the following extract from a letter from the Postmaster of Mafeking:—"The ½d. green . . . are not on issue. I am unable to procure any on requisition."

**BRITISH GUIANA.**—The new 1c. and 2c. are now arriving. Of the 1c. we have seen three shades:—

1c. green, dark green, brown-green. Plate 1.  
1c. bright green, white gum. Plate 3.  
1c. grey-green (1901). Plate 3.

**BRITISH HONDURAS.**—Latest supplies of the 10c. surcharged "Revenue" show that the "Bevenue" error, which occurred on the fourth stamp in the sixth row, has been corrected. The other numerous varieties appear to be the same. Two panes of the 5c. in the earliest setting show (amongst many others), the following defects.

Top 7 rows. "Revenue" 12 mm. long.  
Lower 3 rows. "Revenue" 11 mm. long.  
1st row, No. 5. Narrow defective U.  
3rd row, No. 4. Top of third E broken.

In the upper seven rows, the letters of the surcharge are frequently of the wrong font, similar in fact to those of the small surcharge. The following are a few instances of small letters.

1st row, No. 1. Third E.  
" No. 2, 4, 6. Small R.  
2nd row, No. 1. Small RE.  
" No. 2. Small N.  
" No. 6. Small third E.  
3rd row, No. 1. Small third E.

We cannot say that we recommend readers to collect these "varieties."

**DANISH WEST INDIES.**—The *Metro-politan Philatelist* states that the practical completion of negotiations for the purchase of the Danish West Indies by the United States is semi-officially confirmed in Washington, and that all that now remains to be done to close up the deal is the ratification of the treaty by the Senate and the voting of the necessary \$3,400,000 by Congress. The terms and articles of agreement have been settled.

**LABUAN.**—We find that the list of the values recently surcharged "Postage Due" vertically, in black, was omitted, and now give it:—

2c. green and black.  
3c. ochre "  
4c. carmine "  
5c. pale blue "  
6c. brown-lake "  
8c. rose-red "  
12c. vermilion "  
18c. olive-bistre "  
24c. grey-lilac "

**MAURITIUS.**—The *Philatelic Record* chronicles the 1c. in slate, wmk. Crown CA., perf. 14.

**NEW ZEALAND.**—We have recently been looking over our Colonial Market's stock of the 1d. "Universal Postage" stamps. There are two shades, as already chronicled.

London print, perf. 12 to 16. Pale rose.  
London print, perf. 11. Pale rose.  
" " Bright rose.

A sheet of the pale rose locally printed issue is normally perforated 11 round each stamp, but there is an additional and apparently superfluous vertical row of perforation down the left margin, 35mm. to the left of the left edge of the first vertical row of stamps. This row of perforation gauges 14½ and was evidently done by Messrs. Waterlow.

In a sheet of the bright rose printing, each of the ten stamps forming the left vertical row is imperforate on the left side. The sheet on which this omission occurs is No. 392142.

**NEW SOUTH WALES.**—The printings on chalky paper, perforated 11½, 12, appear to vary considerably. We have two very distinct shades of the 4d. value—

4d. yellow brown.  
4d. red brown.

The 8d. and 1/- both come in contrasts of pale and dark shades.

**SARAWAK.**—The *P.R.* states that in addition to the 1c. the colour of the 4c. carmine has undergone some alteration, as it now appears in a very rich deep shade.

**St. LUCIA.**—We do not appear to have yet chronicled in the Editorial Columns the ½d. green printed from plate 4. The shading of the face appears to be a little clearer, probably owing to the plate being quite new.

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA.**—A new printing of the 2s. has been made recently in a dull shade of carmine.

What is to become of the "Postage and Revenue" set of high values, 2/6 to £20? They are somewhat of an anomaly at present, as owing to the Federal laws, the postage and fiscal revenues are now kept separate. The set must therefore be sold at present either exclusively for the one purpose or the other. In either case the inscription "Postage and Revenue" is incorrect, which may result in a surcharge being applied.

**UNITED STATES.**—The remainders of the Pan-American stamps which will be left on hand on October 31st, are to be burnt.

## Our Postcard Column.

WILL readers hearing of any interesting item of News, kindly jot it down on a postcard and address to the Editor, "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News," Norwood, London. For every contribution we publish, we will send the author an interesting and newly issued stamp. (N.B.—Postcards preferred).

*Miss Ready writes:—*

"I have seen a British Bechuanaland (English 2d., red and green) surcharged in error Dechuanaland. Have any of your readers ever noted or seen it?"

*Mr. J. G. Johnson also sends an enquiry:—*

"I have just found a specimen of the 1862 6d. black Victoria, S.G.'s No. 85, on the original envelope, postmarked Ballarat, Feb. 22nd, 1862, in which the word pence is plainly spelt Pencf (F). I do not see any mention made in Catalogue of this variety."

*Mr. E. Evans writes:—*

"I have had a 2½d. St. Lucia, lilac and green, Stanley Gibbons' No. 56, surcharged one half-penny with a double surcharge, one being inverted it is very lightly postmarked, and on piece of original. Has any reader of *E.W.S.N.* come across a similar specimen? or is this the first discovered?"

*Mr. S. C. Pearce sends the following note:—*

"I have in my possession a block of 8 Orange River Colony on Cape 2½d., and on inspecting them, I find one of them is surcharged

ORANGE  
RIVER  
OOLONY.

I don't think this has been quoted before. I have printed this off on Printing Out Paper, and enclose copies for your inspection."

[The surcharge certainly appears to be "Oolony."—Ed.]

*Another minor variety is noted by Mrs. Crawford.*

*Or do the variations represent two different dies?*

"Have you noticed two dies of the latest 1/- Zululand? One of mine is the usual careful one, with clear band behind the hair, the other (through a glass of course) is very rough and the band most indistinct."

*Mr. R. N. Arnold Wallinger also reports the existence of a 2c. sage-green British Guiana.*

"In answer to Mr. J. H. Parry's enquiry in this weeks *E.W.S.N.* I have a copy of the 2 cent British Guiana in sage-green, I have had it for many years, it is a very fresh lightly marked copy with date Georgetown, July 8th, 1894. I have always considered it a distinct colour variety."

## The Stamps of Uganda, 3rd Issue.

MR. J. GODINHO contributes a very interesting article to the *Philatelic Journal of India* on the subject of the stamps of Uganda, third issue.



The centre portion of the design consists of the initials V.R., with a six rayed star on either side and a dagger between. The positions of the stars and dagger vary.

1 anna. Left star below the level of the V; right star below the level of the R and nearer to it than the left star is the V. The dagger points downwards.

2 annas. The stars are placed higher up, almost on a level with the serifs of the V and upper curve of the R. The dagger points upwards.

3 annas. The stars occupy the same positions as in the 1 anna value. The dagger points upwards as in the 2 annas.

4 annas. The left star is low down and the right star high up. There are two little daggers between the V. and R., one points up and the other down, the ends nearly meeting. The paper of all the above four values is ordinary wove.

8 annas. The left star is "raised" and the right star "dropped," the positions being the reverse of those in the 4 annas. The daggers are the same as in the 4 annas. The paper for this and the succeeding high values is white yellowish wove with faint grey lines running vertically.

1 and 5 rupees. There are three stars below the initials V.R.

### ARRANGEMENT OF SHEETS.

The stamps were all printed from ordinary printer's type. Each sheet consisted of two panes of 16 stamps. One of the panes being tête-bêche. There have been two arrangements:

Arrangement No. 1.  
1 2 3 4 91 51 41 11  
5 6 7 8 21 11 01 6  
9 10 11 12 8 7 9 5  
13 14 15 16 7 8 2 1

Arrangement No. 2.  
91 51 41 11  
21 11 01 6  
8 7 9 5  
7 8 2 1  
1 2 3 4  
5 6 7 8  
9 10 11 12  
13 14 15 16

The plate printed 16 stamps only at one impression, the sheets being turned up to receive the second set.

Stamp No. 9 shows the variety with small O in "Postage."

Mr. Godinho chronicles the following:  
Arrangement No. 1.—1a., 2a., 8a.  
" No. 2.—2a., 3a., 4a., 1r., (5r.?).

The sheets of the 1 rupee show a variety with a wide letter O in "One." This occurs on stamps Nos. 1, 6, and 15 in each pane. A variety of the 5 rupees occurs with narrow V in "Five." Mr. Godinho is of the opinion there were two printings of the 1a. value, the earlier with thin figure "1" and the later with a thick figure.

## Gibbons New Catalogue.

PROMISED FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH.

Startling advances are made in the prices of many Colonial stamps. Readers of *E.W.S.N.* may ensure getting early copies of the book by sending order with 2/3 to Ewen's Colonial Stamp Market, 32, Palace Square, Norwood, S.E.





# Approval Selections.

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### LIBERAL DISCOUNT.

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With which is incorporated EWEN'S WEEKLY CIRCULAR. (Established October, 1897.)

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No. 106. (VOL. VII.)  
(Whole Number, No. 192.)

LONDON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1901.

[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

## CONTENTS.

New Issues. Postcard Column.  
Cuttings from the Press. The New British Stamps.  
The New Catalogue. Latest Auction Reports.  
Colonial Stamp Market.

### New Issues.

The Editor will be much obliged for early news of New Issues, or intended New Issues or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors. Full acknowledgment given. If possible, specimens should be sent in order that illustrations may be prepared.

**BAHAMAS.**—Messrs. Bright & Son are our authority for the statement that a 1d. pictorial stamp is to be issued here. No particulars of the design are yet obtainable.

**BRITISH SOMALILAND.**—The advent of still another stamp issuing country or colony is of sufficient importance to warrant the publication of these facts gleaned from *Morley's Philatelic Journal*:—

On the extreme east of Africa, stretching south-east of Aden far out into the Indian Ocean, is a vast peninsular, whose broad coast plains are backed by high table lands, and whose inhabitants are wandering Arabs, called Somalis. To the simple minded stamp collector (I cannot call him philatelist), who regards all issues as necessary, glories in a set of Abyssinians and despises not the wonderful provisional productions of the French Colonies, it must be a veritable Eldorado, for to the west are the mountains of Abyssinia, where an impending change of currency is sure to bring forth all sorts of weird labels; to the South the German "Sphere of influence" in east Africa, and to the North the towns of Obock and Jibouti. The French have abandoned the former and use Jibouti instead as their Somali port, and all the stamps of both places are employed there indiscriminately. Five fifty franc stamps will pay for a special camel from Jibouti to Harrar and prepay the answer. There have been no special postage stamps issued so far in the British Protectorate of Somaliland; the currency is in rupees, 15 of which go to the sovereign, and, as in Aden, Indian stamps are used. These can only be distinguished by the Berbera postmark, a large B in a circle of horizontal lines, 2 above, 2 below, and 4 on each side of the letter; but for fiscal purposes a special issue is necessary, and the current Indian "Government" stamp has accordingly been surcharged "BRITISH SOMALILAND" in two lines of block capitals, while a somewhat similar, but smaller surcharge has also been applied to the following values of the Indian Court Fee series:

1, 2, 4, 8 annas; 1, 2, 3 and 5 rupees.

The Foreign Office having now taken over the Somali coast from the Indian office, it is probable that Indian stamps will shortly cease to be used. I am informed the Colonial office in turn is soon to have final control of the district, so we shall most likely see a full fledged set, of De la Rue type, issued under its auspices.

**CHILE.**—In our issue of September 7th we stated that the contract for the new stamps, given to the American Bank Note Company, called for 21,000 stamps of 1c., 2c. and 5c. This number should have been 21,000,000 (21 millions).

**HOLLAND.**—The 3c. of the current type now appears in a new colour (formerly orange).  
3c. green.

**PORTUGAL.**—The S.C.F. states that huge remainders of Portuguese Colonial postage stamps are shortly to be disposed of by public auction at Lisbon. The total face value is 1,400 contos, or nearly a quarter of a million sterling, whilst the highest value stamp represented in the little parcel is 200 reis, or about 8d.!

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA.**—Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., have had the good fortune to secure a mint unsevered pair of the 4d. blue, with surcharge "3 pence" omitted. Only three examples of this error were previously known, all used. Of the latter, one forms part of the Taping collection of the British Museum, another is the famous Ferrary collection and the third is owned by Mr. Lachlan Gibb, of Montreal.

**TASMANIA.**—Mr. A. F. Basset Hull contributes to this month's *London Philatelist* an interesting article on the subject of the 1892 "Postage and Revenue" series of Tasmanian stamps. Mr. Hull states that the following quantities were printed.

Value.	Date of issue.	Date of receipt from Printers.	Quantity.
2½d.	Feb. 12th, 1892.	Feb. 9th, 1892.	2,400,000
5d.	"	"	1,200,000
½d.	Nov. 1892.	Nov. 2nd, '92.	2,476,800
6d.	"	"	720,000
1/-	"	"	735,600
2/6	"	"	134,400
10/-	"	"	134,400
½d. (Second supply)	"	May 30th, '96.	2,492,400
2/6	"	"	255,000
1/-	"	April 19th, '98.	740,400
1/- (Third supply)	"	Jan. 18th, '00.	740,000
5/-	Feb. 3rd, 1897.	?	242,400
£1	"	?	243,600
10d.	Jan. 30th, 1899.	?	246,000

No alteration was made in the 1d. and 2d. values until August, 1900, when the pictorial types appeared. From 1895 to that date, 12,180,000 of the One Penny pink and 12,117,120 of the Twopenny green had been issued.

The above tables are interesting as showing the very large printing of the £1 green and yellow, which is now so scarce.

**TRANSVAAL.**—It is stated that of the ½d. green, E.R.I., only 240,000 were overprinted, the whole stock being issued in five days.

**TRINIDAD.**—Messrs. Bright & Son inform the *London Philatelist* that a fresh supply of ½d., 1d., and 1/- values is on the way out. It appears that the 1/- value has already been issued, as the latest supply received by our Colonial Market is in a very distinct shade of dark green. The earlier printing is quite yellow-green by comparison.

1/- dark green and red-brown, CA 14.

We have not noticed any difference yet in the ½d. and 1d. values.

## The New British Stamps.

NOW BEING PRINTED.

THE ½D. STARTS WITH CONTROL LETTER A.

THE printing of the new King's Head British stamps has now commenced. Will they be issued before the Coronation? We should not be surprised to see some of the values as early as Christmas.

It is naturally impossible to estimate to a few thousand stamps the exact demand between now and any fixed date in the future, and a liberal rather than a meagre provision must be made. Consequently if the stamps all appear on a fixed date, it almost certainly means that large remainders of the old issue will be rendered useless, and large remainders mean a large loss, as stamps are expensive things to produce. In order to avoid this, the Post Office may decide to issue current stocks till exhausted and so by degrees make the change to "King's Head's."

Be this as it may, printing from the new plates of the ½d. value is already authorized, the imprimatur sheet having been registered at Somerset House on September 26th. A correspondent sends us the following interesting note on the subject:—

The first stamp (½d.) of our King's head series for use in Great Britain has been printed and the imprimatur sheet duly recorded and filed. The colour is a somewhat sagey green; the design, head looking to left in upright oval with curved label above and rectangular label below. The sheet is similar in size to the current issue, consisting 2 panes of 120 each, with space between panes filled in as at present; control letter A. For those who wish to keep a record the writer is in position to state that the imprimatur sheet was dated 26th Sept., 1901. The expression upon H.M.'s countenance is unlike that of any known portrait and is by no means complimentary, being strongly suggestive of supercilious contempt, a trait which our King does not possess. In view of this latter feature it seems doubtful whether the new issue will be received with much satisfaction.

## Our Postcard Column.

WILL readers hearing of any interesting item of News, kindly jot it down on a postcard and address to the Editor, "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News," Norwood, London. For every contribution we publish, we will send the author an interesting and newly issued stamp. (N.B.—Postcards preferred).

Mr. W. R. Gatt enquires:—

"Perhaps some reader of *E.W.S.N.* could enlighten me on the following points:—

I.—I have a 1d. rose Natal 1874-78, wmk. Crown CC., imperforate, on thick paper, resembling that used for the envelopes. I am unable to ascertain if such an imperforate variety was ever issued. It could not be cut from an envelope as it is watermarked.

II.—British Bechuanaland on 4d. English. Half of the stamp, cut vertically, used on original. At the side of the stamp are the initials (S.M.?) of the Postmaster (?). Was the use of this stamp in this way ever officially authorized?"

Mr. H. Harrop writes:—

"With reference to B. Bechuanaland 2d. red and green mentioned in this week's postcard column, I may say I have had a copy surcharged Dechuanaland, for some time, and have previously written you about it. It is postmarked Mafeking, but I cannot make out the date."

Mr. A. J. Hudson writes:—

"In your issue of August 24th, the earliest Postmark of the 6d. I.R. Official (present issue) you state is August 8th. I may say I have one dated 6th July, '01."

Miss Bryan writes:—

"I have just had sent me a pair of *unsurcharged* Transvaal 1d. stamps on original, postmarked British Army Field Post Office No. 50, with date May 11th, 1901. Is not this very unusual?"

Mr. R. M. Angus sends an account of a pleasant experience which recently befel him:—

"It would be interesting to know if any readers of *E.W.S.N.* have picked up any good bargains in stationers or newsagents shops. In a small post office near where I live in Newcastle-on-Tyne, where they keep a few sheets of very common stamps, I picked up an O.F.S., V.R.I., 2½d. used, level stops, for 2d. In another shop, a Queen's Head Transvaal, 1d. value, very slightly damaged, unused for 1d. In another shop, a 2/6 1897, issue Transvaal, for 2d. used, and as a climax in another shop, a Nevis 6d. green surcharged "REVENUE," postally used and catalogued at £2 for 1d. Not a bad haul for 6d.!!"

## THE EXHIBITION OF SOUTH AFRICAN STAMPS.

The Exhibition of South African Stamps to be held at an early date at the Rooms of the London Philatelic Society bids fair to be a great success. All available space at the disposal of the Committee has been taken up and all the Countries will be fully represented. Several really grand collections of the war provisionals will be exhibited.

No charge for admission will be made, but tickets should be obtained. They can be had on application to the Honorary Secretary of the Exhibition Committee, Mr. H. R. Oldfield, 13, Walbrook, E.C.

Published September 27th.

## STANLEY GIBBONS' NEW CATALOGUE.

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**BAHAMAS.**—Messrs. Bright & Son are our authority for the statement that a 1d. pictorial stamp is to be issued here. No particulars of the design are yet obtainable.

**BRITISH SOMALILAND.**—The advent of still another stamp issuing country or colony is of sufficient importance to warrant the publication of these facts gleaned from *Morley's Philatelic Journal*:—

On the extreme east of Africa, stretching south-east of Aden far out into the Indian Ocean, is a vast peninsular, whose broad coast plains are backed by high table lands, and whose inhabitants are wandering Araba, called Somalis. To the simple minded stamp collector (I cannot call him philatelist), who regards all issues as necessary, glories in a set of Abyssinians and despises not the wonderful provisional productions of the French Colonies, it must be a veritable Eldorado, for to the west are the mountains of Abyssinia, where an impending change of currency is sure to bring forth all sorts of weird labels; to the South the German "Sphere of influence" in East Africa, and to the North the towns of Obock and Jibouti. The French have abandoned the former and use Jibouti instead as their Somali port, and all the stamps of both places are employed there indiscriminately. Five fifty franc stamps will pay for a special camel from Jibouti to Harrar and prepay the answer. There have been no special postage stamps issued so far in the British Protectorate of Somaliland; the currency is in rupees, 15 of which go to the sovereign, and, as in Aden, Indian stamps are used. These can only be distinguished by the Berbera postmark, a large B in a circle of horizontal lines, 2 above, 2 below, and 4 on each side of the letter; but for fiscal purposes a special issue is necessary, and the current Indian "Government" stamp has accordingly been surcharged "BRITISH SOMALILAND" in two lines of block capitals, while a somewhat similar, but smaller surcharge has also been applied to the following values of the Indian Court Fee series:

1, 2, 4, 8 annas; 1, 2, 3 and 5 rupees.

The Foreign Office having now taken over the Somali coast from the Indian office, it is probable that Indian stamps will shortly cease to be used. I am informed the Colonial office in turn is soon to have final control of the district, so we shall most likely see a full fledged set, of De la Rue type, issued under its auspices.

**CHILE.**—In our issue of September 7th we stated that the contract for the new stamps, given to the American Bank Note Company, called for 21,000 stamps of 1c., 2c. and 5c. This number should have been 21,000,000 (21 millions).

**HOLLAND.**—The 3c. of the current type now appears in a new colour (formerly orange).  
3c. green.

**PORTUGAL.**—The S.C.F. states that huge remainders of Portuguese Colonial postage stamps are shortly to be disposed of by public auction at Lisbon. The total face value is 1,400 contos, or nearly a quarter of a million sterling, whilst the highest value stamp represented in the little parcel is 200 reis, or about 8d.!

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA.**—Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., have had the good fortune to secure a mint unsevered pair of the 4d. blue, with surcharge "3 pence" omitted. Only three examples of this error were previously known, all used. Of the latter, one forms part of the Tapling collection of the British Museum, another is the famous Ferrary collection and the third is owned by Mr. Lachlan Gibb, of Montreal.

**TASMANIA.**—Mr. A. F. Basset Hull contributes to this month's *London Philatelist* an interesting article on the subject of the 1892 "Postage and Revenue" series of Tasmanian stamps. Mr. Hull states that the following quantities were printed.

Value.	Date of issue.	Date of receipt from Printers.	Quantity.
2½d.	Feb. 12th, 1892.	Feb. 9th, 1892.	2,400,000
5d.	"	"	1,200,000
¼d.	Nov. 1892.	Nov. 2nd, '92.	2,476,800
6d.	"	"	720,000
1/-	"	"	735,600
2/6	"	"	134,400
10/-	"	"	134,400
¼d. (Second supply)	"	May 30th, '96.	2,492,400
2/6	"	"	255,000
1/-	"	April 19th, '98.	740,400
1/- (Third supply)	"	Jan. 18th, '00.	740,000
5/-	Feb. 3rd, 1897.	?	242,400
£1	"	?	243,600
10d.	Jan. 30th, 1899.	?	246,000

No alteration was made in the 1d. and 2d. values until August, 1900, when the pictorial types appeared. From 1895 to that date, 12,180,000 of the One Penny pink and 12,117,120 of the Twopenny green had been issued.

The above tables are interesting as showing the very large printing of the £1 green and yellow, which is now so scarce.

**TRANSVAAL.**—It is stated that of the ¼d. green, E.R.I., only 240,000 were overprinted, the whole stock being issued in five days.

**TRINIDAD.**—Messrs. Bright & Son inform the *London Philatelist* that a fresh supply of ¼d., 1d., and 1/- values is on the way out. It appears that the 1/- value has already been issued, as the latest supply received by our Colonial Market is in a very distinct shade of dark green. The earlier printing is quite yellow-green by comparison.

1/- dark green and red-brown, CA 14.

We have not noticed any difference yet in the ¼d. and 1d. values.

## The New British Stamps.

NOW BEING PRINTED.

THE ¼D. STARTS WITH CONTROL LETTER A.

The printing of the new King's Head British stamps has now commenced. Will they be issued before the Coronation? We should not be surprised to see some of the values as early as Christmas.

It is naturally impossible to estimate to a few thousand stamps the exact demand between now and any fixed date in the future, and a liberal rather than a meagre provision must be made. Consequently if the stamps all appear on a fixed date, it almost certainly means that large remainders of the old issue will be rendered useless, and large remainders mean a large loss, as stamps are expensive things to produce. In order to avoid this, the Post Office may decide to issue current stocks till exhausted and so by degrees make the change to "King's Head's."

Be this as it may, printing from the new plates of the ¼d. value is already authorized, the imprimatur sheet having been registered at Somerset House on September 26th. A correspondent sends us the following interesting note on the subject:—

The first stamp (¼d.) of our King's head series for use in Great Britain has been printed and the imprimatur sheet duly recorded and filed. The colour is a somewhat sagey green; the design, head looking to left in upright oval with curved label above and rectangular label below. The sheet is similar in size to the current issue, consisting 2 panes of 120 each, with space between panes filled in as at present; control letter A. For those who wish to keep a record the writer is in position to state that the imprimatur sheet was dated 26th Sept., 1901. The expression upon H.M.'s countenance is unlike that of any known portrait and is by no means complimentary, being strongly suggestive of supercilious contempt, a trait which our King does not possess. In view of this latter feature it seems doubtful whether the new issue will be received with much satisfaction.

## Our Postcard Column.

WILL readers hearing of any interesting item of News, kindly jot it down on a postcard and address to the Editor, "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News," Norwood, London. For every contribution we publish, we will send the author an interesting and newly issued stamp. (N.B.—Postcards preferred.)

Mr. W. R. Gatt enquires:—

"Perhaps some reader of E.W.S.N. could enlighten me on the following points:—

I.—I have a 1d. rose Natal 1874-78, wmk. Crown CC., imperforate, on thick paper, resembling that used for the envelopes. I am unable to ascertain if such an imperforate variety was ever issued. It could not be cut from an envelope as it is watermarked.

II.—British Bechuanaland on ¼d. English. Half of the stamp, cut vertically, used on original. At the side of the stamp are the initials (S.M.?) of the Postmaster (?). Was the use of this stamp in this way ever officially authorized?"

Mr. H. Harrop writes:—

"With reference to B. Bechuanaland 2d. red and green mentioned in this week's postcard column, I may say I have had a copy surcharged Dechuanaland, for some time, and have previously written you about it. It is postmarked Mafeking, but I cannot make out the date."

Mr. A. J. Hudson writes:—

"In your issue of August 24th, the earliest Postmark of the 6d. I.R. Official (present issue) you state is August 8th. I may say I have one dated 6th July, '01."

Miss Bryan writes:—

"I have just had sent me a pair of *unsurcharged* Transvaal 1d. stamps on original, postmarked British Army Field Post Office No. 50, with date May 11th, 1901. Is not this very unusual?"

Mr. R. M. Angus sends an account of a pleasant experience which recently befel him:—

"It would be interesting to know if any readers of E.W.S.N. have picked up any good bargains in stationers or newsagents shops. In a small post office near where I live in Newcastle-on-Tyne, where they keep a few sheets of very common stamps, I picked up an O.F.S., V.R.I., 2½d. used, level stops, for 2d. In another shop, a Queen's Head Transvaal, 1d. value, very slightly damaged, unused for 1d. In another shop, a 2/6 1897, issue Transvaal, for 2d. used, and as a climax in another shop, a Nevis 6d. green surcharged "REVENUE," postally used and catalogued at £2 for 1d. Not a bad haul for 6d.!!"

## THE EXHIBITION OF SOUTH AFRICAN STAMPS.

The Exhibition of South African Stamps to be held at an early date at the Rooms of the London Philatelic Society bids fair to be a great success. All available space at the disposal of the Committee has been taken up and all the Countries will be fully represented. Several really grand collections of the war provisionals will be exhibited.

No charge for admission will be made, but tickets should be obtained. They can be had on application to the Honorary Secretary of the Exhibition Committee, Mr. H. R. Oldfield, 13, Walbrook, E.C.

Published September 27th.

## STANLEY GIBBONS' NEW CATALOGUE.

Part I.—Colonials.

Remarkable advances in values of nearly all Colonial stamps. Every reader should obtain a copy at once.

Sent Post Free, 2/3, per return of post.

Ewen's Colonial Stamp Market,  
32, PALACE SQUARE, NORWOOD, S.E.

## The New Catalogue.

STANLEY GIBBONS (1902).

STANLEY GIBBONS' new 1902 Catalogue made its appearance on Friday of last week, quite unexpected and unheralded. Most collectors were probably surprised at its early publication. The date had been kept a very close secret and in the absence of any definite information, it was not generally expected until November. However it is now to hand and every reader of *E.W.S.N.* can reckon up how much profit he has made by investing his money in good Unused Colonials.

The most prominent alteration is the inclusion in Part I. of the Transvaal and Orange River Colony, these now having become parts of the British Empire. The former stamp-issuing countries of Stellaland and New South African Republic are retained in Part II., as they always were "foreign" countries in a philatelic sense. An exception has been made in favour of Swaziland, as that was a district under the control of the late South African Republic and used its stamps.

For a few countries the lists have been entirely re-written—amongst these are Griqualand and Madagascar; in others the later issues *only* have been revised—these include New South Wales and New Zealand; while Bechuanaland has been correctly divided into separate sets, under "British Bechuanaland" and "Bechuanaland Protectorate" respectively.

The Catalogue proper contains 244 pages, as against 205 in the 13th edition, a substantial advance of something like 20%. A good portion of this—14 pages in fact—is of course due to the inclusion of the issues of our new possessions, Orange River Colony, Transvaal and Pietersburg. I am not sure that the latter should not be placed first, as 115 varieties—of which the description occupies nearly three pages—must be a unique record for a post office open only twenty-four days, not even Salvador excepted.

The volume is as well printed and neatly bound as heretofore.

## THE NEW CATALOGUE PRICES.

The publishers of the Catalogue seek to disarm criticism of their prices by stating that "this is a catalogue of what we have for sale at the time of going to press," and of course anyone has legally the right to ask anything he likes for his goods. Morally, or even as a matter of policy, it is inadvisable to ask always as much as one would like to get. The average collector trusts a great deal to the superior knowledge of the dealer, and expects that the prices asked for specimens will bear a close relation to the true market values. As the prices given in Messrs. Stanley Gibbons' Colonial Catalogue are almost universally accepted as reflecting the correct relative market values, the responsibility devolves on them of following the market rather than their own inclination in the matter of valuation.

In the new edition the values of most old Colonial stamps have advanced, but we consider that throughout the book the pricing is very fair to both dealer and collector, and no one need have any hesitation in accepting the new valuation as a reliable and up-to-date guide. A few instances certainly call for criticism and others for favourable comment. These we propose to take in the order of the catalogue.

**Great Britain.**—The most notable advances are as follows:—

	1900.	1902.
1d. black, unused ..	15/-	25/-
2d. blue, Large Crown, p. 16, used ...	5/-	10/-, 12/6
2/- brown, used ...	55/-	65/-
" unused ...	£6	£7
2/- dull blue, unused ...	35/-	50/-
2/- pale blue ..	50/-	60/-
10/- grey, Cross, used ...	22/6	27/6
£1 brown ..	35/-	40/-
1½d. venetian red, unused ...	1/-	2/6
1d. pale lilac, 14 dots, unused ...	2/6	4/-
£1 brown, 3 Crowns, used ...	10/-	15/-

The 1855 perforation varieties of the 1d. red are left unaltered, but we are of opinion they should have been reduced; at least 30% in the case of Catalogue Nos. 22, 25, 26 and 36.

The current 12 piastres Levant in unused condition is over-valued at 3/6, the face value being only 2/-.

An interesting addition is made to the list of Army Telegraphs.

1900-1901. Used in Orange River Colony.

(a). Stamps of the Orange Free State, surcharged "T.F." and further surcharged "V.R.I."

M51 3d. blue.

M52 6d. brown.

M53 1s. brown.

(b). Stamps of the Orange Free State, surcharged "AT" at foot and "V.R.I." above.

M54 1d. purple.

M55 3d. blue.

M56 6d. blue.

M57 1s. brown.  
M58 5s. green.  
ON FISCAL STAMPS—  
M59 10s. orange.  
M60 £1 claret.

"These surcharges have the 'raised stops' settings of 'V.R.I.'" There are probably several minor varieties (the "thick V" has been seen on some values) but it is not possible at the present time to make a complete list."

Why isn't the 1d. TF—VRI included? We have seen it both with "raised stops" and "mixed stops."

Some of the most noticeable advances in the prices of Unused Colonial stamps are the following:—

	1900.	1902.
Antigua, 2½d. red-brown ...	10/-	15/-
Bahamas, 4d. rose ...	7/6	10/-
Barbados, 3d. lilac-brown ...	25/-	30/-
" 1/- black ...	6/6	10/-
" 1/- purple ...	7/6	12/6
" 5/- ochre ...	22/6	30/-
" 1/- chestnut-brown, 1886 ...	2/6	5/-
" 2½d. blue, 1882 ...	6d.	1/-
" 10d. Jubilee ...	1/3	2/6
" 6d. ..	9d.	2/-
Bermuda, 3d. yellow-buff ...	7/6, 15/-	15/-, 25/-
B.C.A., 1895, 1/- carmine ...	6/6	10/-
" 2/6 mauve ...	10/-	20/-
" 3/- yellow ...	10/-	15/-
" 5/- olive ...	15/-	25/-
B.E.A., 1 rupee, blue, small ...	2/-	5/-
B. Honduras, 50c. on 1/- grey ...	5/-	7/6
B.S.A., £1 black & red on grn. ...	35/-	40/-
Canada, 6d. purple-brown ...	£12	£15
" 10d. blue ...	£8	£12
Cape, 4d. blue, C.C. 14 ...	10/-	20/-
Ceylon, 2/- blue ...	12/-	20/-
" 1/- lilac, Star ...	12/6	20/-
" 6d. brown, no wmk....	25/-	35/-
Gambia, 1/- green ...	50/-	60/-
Gibraltar, 6d. lilac... ..	8/6	16/-
Gold Coast, 4d. mauve, C.C. 12½ ...	17/6	30/-
" 6d. orange, C.C. 14 ...	7/6	12/6
" " " C.A. 14 ...	2/6	3/6
" 5/- blue and blue ...	6/6	12/6
Grenada, 4d., Broad Star ...	50/-	80/-
" 1d. on 2/- ...	1/6	5/-
Hong Kong, 10c. green ...	2/6	5/-
New S. Wales, 3d. Sydney View (used) ...	25/-	40/-
New S. Wales, 6d. green ...	6/-	17/6
N.Z., 2d. vermilion, used ...	6d.	2/6
" " unused... ..	6/6	15/-
" London Print, 2/- green ...	4/6	10/-
" " " 5/- red... ..	10/6	25/-

(NOTE.—New Zealand throughout shows remarkable advances).

(To be continued.)

## Cuttings from the Press.

## A PHILATELIC PANORAMA.

We have received from Messrs. J. Redbeck & Co., Gutenbergstrasse, 18, Dunsberg am Rhein particulars of an ingenious apparatus called the "Panorama" which they have invented and patented in the chief countries of the world; it is designed to supersede albums for the storage and exhibition of stamps. The apparatus is difficult to describe without the cut illustrating its method of employment but it consists of a desk-shaped piece of furniture, the slope of which has a glass front. The collector's stamps are affixed to a series of cards bound together by linen hinges and contained in a draw or tray placed in the body of the apparatus. The cards are affixed so that by turning a handle in the side of the apparatus they appear one by one under the glazed slope of the desk and pass over a roller into an empty draw, arranged side by side with the draw in which they are contained. There are four drawers and these are interchangeable so that a large number of stamps can be kept in one apparatus. The "Panorama" can be obtained in several makes varying in price from 90 marks upwards. The apparatus seems to be very suitable for the public exhibition of stamps in a museum, as the stamps contained in it are protected from dirt, damage, or theft, but we hardly think the private collector will find it so convenient as an album. (*Morley's Philatelic Journal.*)

## STAMP TRADE SECRETS.

It has, for years, been a cherished tradition that used stamps were the recognised perquisite of the office boy. Whether the office boy carried on a private business as a philatelist or whether he exhibited his hoard—generally in a very dirty and ragged condition—for the purpose of "crowing" over his chums is a matter for conjecture, but that he freely and openly annexed all the stamps he could find, is an admitted fact. And no one ever dreamed of interfering with him; tho' collecting of stamps amused him, and

didn't hurt anyone else. But all this is altered, and it is the employer who profits by the used stamps which come into his office in the course of a year. The office boy's principal occupation is, like Othello's gone, and his master now keeps an eagle eye on the obliterated pictures, which, in the form of postage stamps, adorn the exterior of his business correspondence. It is through the prosaic medium of the bankruptcy court that we learn how one of our hallowed traditions has ceased to exist. A Liverpool gentleman, who combined the trades of watchmaker and dealer in foreign stamps, has let the cat out of the bag, for he stated that he had commenced business as a collector of stamps and had "gradually merged"—we like the phrase—into a dealer. His method was to buy the mails, and thus from the principals, not from the office boys. As his profits were, according to his own account, no less than 25 per cent., it seems a pity that the want of capital of which he complained, debarred him from continuing so profitable an occupation. This destroyer of our cherished ideals also stated that the principals who sold their stamps used the money for charitable purposes. We hope so.

(Leeds Daily News.)

## Latest Auction Results.

September 26th & 27th. Messrs. Venton, Bull & Cooper.

Great Britain, 1d. black V.R. no gum ...	£7/5/-
" 1d. red, imperf., 23 mint singles ...	46/-
" 1d. red, plate 116, imperf. unused ...	48/-
Great Britain, 1d. red, imperf., with corner margin showing plate- number 81; strip of six 1d. L.C. 14 on blued paper, with mar- ginal plate-number 32; and a single on white paper, Pl. No. 60	£8
Great Britain, 1d. red, pl. 225, unused, off centre ...	20/-
Great Britain, 1d. lilac, with marginal control letters A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H (without line), and I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q (with line)	84/-
Great Britain, 1862, 3d. plate 3, imperf.	50/-
" 1865, 6d. pl. 6 emblems, mint ...	63/-
" 8d. brown, slightly off centre ...	63/-
" 1862, 1/- hairlines, imperf.	60/-
" 1/- green, pl. 9, vert. pair, mint with side margins	34/-
" 2/- brown, mint, but side margin ...	110/-
" 2/- brown, mint, off centre	110/-
" 2/- dull blue, mint ...	£2
" 2/- deep blue, mint ...	65/-
" 2/- pale blue, mint ...	50/-
Spain, 1851, 2 reales, unused, no gum ...	£14/15/-
Ceylon, 2r. 50c., unused, fair ...	£4
" entire envelopes, complete set of pence issue 1d. to 2/-, eleven envelopes ...	88/-
Straits, 10c. on 30c. claret, mint, but slightly off centre (Gibbons' No. 37)... ..	£3
Straits, 2c. on 12c. blue (No. 66), ditto... ..	45/-
B.C.A. on B.S.A. £10 brown, mint, but slightly off centre ...	195/-
B.C.A., £25 blue, oblong design, imper- forate, unused, mint (Essay?... ..)	£4
Schweizer Reneke provisionals, sur- charged "Besieged" vertically, on Transvaal ½d., 1d. and 2d., used on pieces of paper, fine 12/- & 13/-	55/-
Mateking Besieged, set of 9, used ...	126/-
Nova Scotia, 1/- violet, poor ...	...
British Guiana, 1862, Provisionals 1c. black on rose, an entire unused and unsigned sheet of 24 with gum, comprising 12 with border of crossed ovals, 8 with pearl border and 4 with border of grapes. With Gibbons' guaran- tee inscribed "Bought by Mr. E. G. Holden, for £15/5/- on Oct. 18th, 1884 ...	£44
September 24th. Messrs. John Edwards & Co.	
Great Britain, 6d. deep lilac, plate 8, wmk. spray, imperforate, post- marked 801 (Alexandria, Egypt)	38/-
Great Britain, 8d. brown 'Specimen' ...	16/-
" Levant, 40 paras on ½d. vermilion, inverted sur- charge, on piece and "sold on its merits" ...	28/-
Nova Scotia, 1d. brown, pair, used, v.f.	42/-
Queensland, 1882, 1/- mauve, perf. 9 x 12 unused, no gum ...	36/-
Orange Free State, 6d. blue, slight tear at side and corner perf. gone ...	£2
Queensland, £1 green, block of 25 with fiscal cancellation ...	50/-



# Approval Selections.

## ANY COUNTRY OR COLONY.

USED OR UNUSED, RARE OR COMMON, SINGLES OR BLOCKS.

### LIBERAL DISCOUNT.

ALSACE, Angola, Antigua, Antioquia, Argentine Republic, Austria, Austrian Italy and Levant, Azores, Baden, Bahamas, Barbados, Bavaria, Belgium, Bermuda, Bolivar, Bolivia, Bosnia, Brazil, Bremen, British Bechuanaland, British Central Africa, British Columbia and Vancouver, British East Africa, British Guiana, British Honduras, British Levant, British South Africa, Brunswick, Bulgaria, Canada, Cape of Good Hope, Cape Verde, Ceylon, Chili, China, Columbia, Confederate States, Congo Free State, Cook Islands, Corea, Costa Rica, Crete, Cuba, Curaçao, Cyprus, Danish West Indies, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Dutch Indies, Ecuador, Egypt, Falkland Isles, Fernando Poo, Fiji Islands, Finland, France, French Colonies, Gambia, Germany, Old German States, German Colonies, Gibraltar, Gold Coast, Great Britain, Greece, Grenada, Griqualand, Guatemala, Hamburg, Hanover, Hawaii, Hayti, Heligoland, Holland, Honduras, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indian Native States (surcharged on India and Native prints), Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Johore, Labuan, Lagos, Leeward Isles, Liberia, Livonia, Lubeck, Luxemburg, Macao, Madeira, Malta, Mauritius, Mecklenburg (Schwerin and Strelitz), Mexico, Modena, Monaco, Montenegro, Montserrat, Morocco Agencies, Mozambique, Naples and Sicily, Natal, Negri Sembilan, Nevis, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, New Republic, New South Wales, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger Coast, North Borneo, North German Confederation, Norway, Nova Scotia, Oldenburg, Orange Free State, Orange River Colony, Pahang, Panama, Paraguay, Parma, Patiala, Perak, Persia, Peru, Philippines, Porto Rico, Portugal, Portuguese Colonies, Portuguese India, Prince Edward Island, Prussia, Queensland, Romagna, Roman States, Roumania, Russia, Russian China and Levant, St. Christopher, St. Helena, St. Lucia, St. Thomas and Prince, St. Vincent, Salvador, Samoa, San Marino, Sarawak, Saxony, Schleswig Holstein, Selangor, Servia, Seychelles, Siam, Sierra Leone, Soudan, South Australia, Spain, Straits Settlements, Sungei Ujong, Surinam, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tasmania, Thessaly, Thurn and Taxis, Timor, Tobago, Tolima, Tonga, Transvaal, Trinidad, Tunis, Turkey, Turks Islands, Tuscany, Uganda, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Victoria, Virgin Islands, Western Australia, Wurtemberg, Zanzibar, Zululand.

Each stamp in the above selections is priced separately. When ordering any particular country or countries it is advisable to state whether used or unused are wanted, and whether a general selection is required, or one showing perforation and watermark varieties.

#### CONDITIONS.

1.—Stamps can only be sent on approval on condition that those not purchased are returned within five days.  
2.—No stamps may be removed from the sheets or books until actually purchased.  
3.—Collectors are not permitted to deduct return postage from amount of purchase.  
4.—Discount is conditional on purchase exceeding 1/- and will be forfeited if selection is kept over the five days allowed.

5.—Spaces should not be marked.  
6.—Sheets should be returned folded as sent.  
7.—When a selection is returned, another will be sent unless otherwise requested.  
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This Album gained the highest award for Specialist Albums at the London Philatelic Exhibition, 1897. It is oblong in shape and 11½ by 8½ in. in size, containing about 90 pages, being liberally interleaved with blank pages.

POPULAR EDITION, 5/- post-free.

EDITION DE LUXE, 7/6 post-free.

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ADHESIVE Stamps of Great Britain compiled by A. B. Creeke, Jr. and the late Hastings E. Wright. Published by the Philatelic Society, London. Photographic illustrations of nearly every variety known. Copies of official records showing quantities printed and issued of each stamp, etc. Price, 24/- post free.

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# Ewen's Weekly Stamp News.

With which is incorporated EWEN'S WEEKLY CIRCULAR. (Established October, 1897.)

A JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

THE ONLY WEEKLY STAMP PAPER PUBLISHED IN EUROPE.

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[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

## CONTENTS.

**New Issues. Postcard Column. Jottings. Cuttings from the Press. Latest Auction Reports. How Rarities are Patched and Mended. Colonial Stamp Market.**

### New Issues.

The Editor will be much obliged for early news of New Issues, or intended New Issues or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors. Full acknowledgment given. If possible, specimens should be sent in order that illustrations may be prepared.

**AUSTRIA.**—The P.J. of G.B. states that the 5 heller adhesives have been overprinted with "curious diagonal lines right across the sheets, parts of three lines appearing on the face of each stamp." The lines appear to be impressed with a light brownish varnish or some such composition, and have probably been added to prevent cleaning. The 10, 20, 25 and 30 heller are also stated to have been similarly treated.

OVERPRINTED WITH DIAGONAL LINES.

5h. deep brown	25h. blue
10h. rose	30h. mauve
20h. brown	

The other values of the set will follow.

From another source we learn that the 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 heller have already been similarly treated.

**BAHAMAS.**—With reference to our note in last week's issue, we are now able to describe the new 1d. stamp. It is somewhat like the 1d. and 2½d. pictorial Tasmanian stamps, both in design and shape. The value at foot "One Penny" is straight whilst "Bahamas Postage" at top is curved.

Pictorial Adhesive, 1d. red, view in black.

**BRITISH GUIANA.**—Although Gibbons' Catalogue chronicles various errors in the surcharged pictorial issue of 1899, no mention is made of two varieties which should be at least as interesting as the "dropped E" in the O.R.C. on Cape series. The 2c. blue and brown Pictorial (Falls) is printed in sheets of 60, arranged in ten horizontal rows of six, or to put it another way, six vertical rows of ten. In the second vertical row each stamp has the T of "Two" misplaced and the seventh stamp from the top has a comma after "Cents."

**BRITISH GUIANA.**—The *Monthly Journal* publishes the following Notice.

POST OFFICE NOTICE.

"New Issue of Forty-eight cents Stamp.

"General Post Office, Georgetown,

"22nd August, 1901.

"On and after Saturday, the 24th instant, a new issue of 48 cents stamp (black with overprint in purple-brown) will be on sale by this Department.

"A. W. SWAIN,  
Acting Postmaster-General."

The new stamp is really grey and brown-lilac in shade.

**BULGARIA.**—The new stamps with portrait of Prince Ferdinand will be issued on the 13th October. At the same time, the issue now current will be withdrawn from circulation.

**CANTON.**—The French Post Office at this town has been provided with all values of the Indo China set surcharged "CANTON" and Chinese characters, in red. The office was opened and business in these stamps began on June 15th.

Stamps of Indo China surcharged CANTON in red.

1c. black on azure	25c. black on rose
2c. brown on buff	30c. cinnamon on drab
4c. purple-brn. on grey	40c. red on yellow
5c. green on pale green	50c. carmine on rose
10c. black on lilac	75c. black on orange
15c. blue	1fr. olive-green on toned.
20c. red on green	2fr. lilac on pale lilac

**CHINA.**—The *Monthly Journal* gives an interesting account of the Railway Letter stamps which were used for a short time here. They were employed on the railway from Pekin to Tongshan, Taku and Shanhaikwan, which was worked first by the Russians, then by the Germans, and finally handed over to our officials. At first the Indian Post Office only sold stamps and received letters at a few places along the

line, and at other stations letters were handed in unstamped and went "by favour of the guard." On April 20th, 1901, the British Railway Administration, surcharged "B.R.A.—5—Five Cents," which appears to have been used exactly as Railway Letter Fee stamps are used at home. The letter had to be given to the corporal in charge of the station, who affixed the stamp and at the same time obliterated it with the Railway Post Office stamp of the place at which it was used, and the sale of the stamps to the public was forbidden. They were only in use till May 19th, exactly one month, when the Indian Post Office put an end to their employment by putting on a Post Office van to the mail trains, so that letters can now be posted at any station without extra charge.

**GERMANY.**—The D.B.Z. chronicles the 3 pf. in a darker shade of brown.

**KURUMAN BESIEGED.**—The *Monthly Journal* chronicles another set of War provisionals surcharged on Cape stamps, KURUMAN "Kuruman Besieged 2d. (or other BESIEGED value) 1900-1."

2d.  
1900-1.

The varieties known are :—

I.—Surcharged "Kuruman—Besieged—2d.—1900-1" on Cape Postage stamps.

2d. on ½d. green  
3d. on ½d. green.  
3d. on 1d. carmine.  
1s. on 1d. carmine.

II.—Surcharged "Kuruman—Besieged—Postage—6d.—1900-01" in 5 lines on Cape of Good Hope "Stamp Act 1864" stamps.

6d. on 3d. red on yellow.

III.—Ditto, date smaller.

6d. on 1d. green on yellow.  
1s. on 6d. marone on yellow.  
5s. on 1s. marone on yellow.

No used specimens have yet been seen.

**TRINIDAD.**—It is not generally known that there have been two printings of the rare 10/- Britannia, which now sells for from £5 to £8 apiece. We have two very distinct shades, both mint and undoubtedly as issued.

10s. pale green and dull ultramarine.  
10s. dark green and deep blue.

Both have marginal plate number I.

**TRINIDAD.**—It appears that the three new supplies are printed in new colours, a most important change, as it is practically a declaration that no further supplies in the old colours will go out to the Colonies. There is evidently no intention to defer the changes till the "King's Head" issues.

½d. green on white  
1d. black on red  
1s. black, value blue, on yellow

We are evidently to have an era of "coloured paper" issues.

### Jottings.

The Junior London Philatelic Society is to lose Mr. Crasby Blumsum as Secretary. The extraordinary success which has attended this Society is to a large extent due to his unceasing efforts on its behalf, and the loss to the Society by his resignation will be no light one. Mr. W. G. Parker has been nominated as his successor and all communications should be addressed to him at 215, Upper Kennington Lane, S.E.

An American contemporary states: "There is already a noticeable increase in the demand for British Colonials bearing the late Queen's head, Australians and the West Indies taking the lead, here in Washington. Ceylon is also a favourite with Canada a close second.

### Junior London Philatelic Society.

On Saturday, October 19th, a Lecture on "The Duke of York's Tour," from a collectors' point of view, illustrated by Aphegoscopic Lantern Views, will be given by Fred J. Melville, Esq. (President of the Society), in Clapham Hall, Old Town, Clapham, S.W. The Chair will be taken at 8 p.m. and all philatelists and friends cordially invited.

### Our Postcard Column.

W.H.L. readers hearing of any interesting item of News, kindly jot it down on a postcard and address to the Editor, "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News," Norwood, London. For every contribution we publish, we will send the author an interesting and newly issued stamp. (N.B.—Postcards preferred.)

Mr. G. F. M. Camrout writes :—

"I have a 1d. olive green, Stamp Duty Victoria used on envelope with others bearing date 14 Aug., 01. Gibbons, in new catalogue say this stamp was not available after 30th June. Can you give me any further information, or is the stamp still in use?"

Mr. G. J. Johnson writes :—

"In looking through some sheets of the ½d. on 6d. Natal, Gibbons' No. 114, I find I have one sheet in which the line that should surcharge the word 'Sixpence' has dropped from its proper position and the obliteration covers the word 'Natal,' leaving the value quite clear. This only occurs upon a few stamps."

Mr. C. J. Hawkins notes two more minor varieties.

"I have a copy of the 4 ctvos. on 5m. 'Habilitado' (Porto Rico) reading 'Habiltedo.' Is this an error?"

I have also a copy of the Charkari ½ anna with the first A in Anna dropped, reading thus—'¼ NNA.' Perhaps these varieties may be of interest to your readers."

[The latter variety would be more properly described as with "A" omitted. "Dropped" in philatelic parlance signifies below the usual level, and is the opposite of "raised." Both terms have been rendered unusually prominent in connection with the war provisionals.—Ed.]

Miss Tracy writes :—

"A very obvious mistake in Stanley Gibbons' new Catalogue is that the one penny rose-violet stamp of British Central Africa, which was issued in June, has been entered at one half-penny. I think this Colony is the only one which has never had a halfpenny stamp, although there is a post card for internal use at that price."

Mr. R. N. Arnold Wallinger writes :—

"I have lately found a penny stamp Pl. N1 of the Illustrated London News on a copy dated Saturday, April 10, 1858. I see in your book you state, in use from 1860 to Sept. 30, 1870.

[The date mentioned is probably very nearly the earliest it would be possible to get, as die N1 was only registered at Somerset House on Feb. 8th, 1858. The Times dies (G,K,L) were in use as early as 1853.—Ed.]

The Rev. G. H. Raynor sends an important addition to the list of advances in value of English stamps in the new Catalogue quoted last week.

"In your last week's list of English stamps which have appreciated in S.G.'s new catalogue (Part I) you omit to mention the most striking instance of all; I refer to No. 184, £1 brown purple, unused, which has risen from 80/- to 150/-! It is very seldom, I take it, that a stamp of this calibre nearly doubles its price in the space of a year and a half. You also have a mistake (or misprint) in the price to which the cheapest variety of the 3d. Sydney View has risen: It should be 45/- instead of 40/-—but your review is most interesting."

Published September 27th.

## STANLEY GIBBONS' NEW CATALOGUE.

Part I. Colonials.

Remarkable advances in values of nearly all Colonial stamps. Every reader should obtain a copy at once.

Sent Post Free, 2/3, per return of post.

Ewen's Colonial Stamp Market,  
32, PALACE SQUARE, NORWOOD, S.E.

## How Rarities are Patched and Mended.

Our chat about forgeries and fakers in last week's *Hobbies* by no means exhausts the subject. In fact it is a subject which, in its many ramifications, would take a vast deal of exhausting.

We have alluded to the stamp "mender." He is an artist among fakers, and one, mind you, whose "faking," within certain well-understood limits, is regarded as quite a legitimate and straightforward industry. Let us suppose that a rare stamp—a shilling New Brunswick, for example—has been seriously damaged—torn in halves, for instance; that being perhaps the worst mishap conceivable. The uninitiated would suppose that its value would be utterly lost. Not so! In the interests of those who may be so unfortunate as to tear their shilling New Brunswicks in halves in a moment of agitation (or aberration) we desire to say that the expert stamp-mender can easily join the pieces together again, and so neatly that the owner would probably refuse to believe that a new stamp had not been substituted for the severed halves. The mender's fee for the job will be a stiff one—so stiff that it would not pay to employ him upon any stamp of a less catalogue value than £5—but, when done, his work will be a triumph of mechanical cunning.

And this is how he does it.

The torn edges of the severed halves of the stamp will be softened by some special process—one of the secrets of the mender's trade—and when this is done the two pieces will be placed together (in their original form) and submitted to a very severe hydraulic pressure. From this process the two pieces of stamp will emerge in their original connected form; in fact, for all practical purposes, the stamp will have been restored to the condition in which it was before being torn.

It sounds almost miraculous, but the theory of the thing is simplicity itself. What goes on is this: The fragments of stamp are partially reduced (by a secret process) to the pulp from which the paper originally used in the stamp's manufacture was made. With the paper in this pliable condition the mender has only to apply a severe and continuous pressure to, as it were, re-weld the severed fibres of the paper.

The operation concluded, it is a fact that the "mend" is frequently undiscoverable with the naked eye!

Now, it is patent that there is nothing very culpable about this form of "faking," because the stamp, as restored, is wholly and entirely a genuine stamp—the "mender" has simply repaired it, just as a fine-art dealer might renovate an Old Master, or a piece of tapestry. The matter becomes more serious when there is "patching" to be done, as well as mending. A common form of injury to stamps is the loss of a corner of the label, or of a portion of the perforated edge. "This would be a fine stamp," we once heard a dealer humorously remark of a shilling emerald-green triangular Cape, "if there were more of it!" There was reason for his plaint, for the two lower angles of the triangle were missing, and the coveted three-cornered stamp in the scarce emerald-green shade was reduced to a sort of irregular pentagon! In such a state no one but the most happy-go-lucky schoolboy would give the thing album-room. Yet the dealer did not despair: he sent it to a skilled stamp mender in Brussels, who promptly gave it back its lower corners—and in the true emerald shade!—and now the specimen, looking on its face side quite a Simon Pure, graces the Cape of Good Hope page of a very fine Colonial collection. "On its face side," we say, for at the back of the specimen is rubber-stamped, in indelible ink, the word MENDED!

Missing perforations can be supplied in the same way, "pin-holes" eradicated, and any damaged portion of the design made good. And because of all this—because of the serious possibilities opened up by the great artistic and mechanical skill of the expert "mender"—it is a point of honour among all reputable dealers and collectors that all mended stamps, no matter how mended, or *how much* mended, shall be plainly marked as such. Without some such "unwritten law" there would be a serious difficulty in drawing the line between repairing and roguery, and many a stamp would be palmed off upon an unsuspecting philatelist as perfect which, when placed under a glass, would prove to be merely a patched or mended specimen.

### Alterations to Perforations.

Reverting for a moment to out-and-out faking, there is the perforation changer, an individual who makes a speciality of manipulating philatelic perforations in such a way as to change a common stamp into a much scarcer variety. Happily he is almost an extinct type. Like the forger, he cannot make a "living wage" in these days of universal inter-communication among philatelists. In the perforation-faker's case, as

in that of the forger, there are almost insuperable difficulties in the way of placing the spurious goods on the market. Forged or faked stamps must necessarily be of the scarcer sorts—otherwise it would be profitless work—and all stamps above a certain grade of scarcity are invariably purchased by dealers and collectors alike with a great degree of caution. A rare stamp's antecedents are enquired into; a *very* rare stamp's whole history asked for before any one will be willing to touch it. This sort of thing spells defeat to the individual who is trying to foist spurious goods on the market, and hence a slow but sure thinning of the ranks of the forging and faking fraternity. Honest industry, now-a-days, pays better!

### Postmarks that Wash Off!

Before we finally quit this subject, let us quote one instance of the evil opportunities that from time to time present themselves to those of the baser sort of philatelists who are ready for illicit money-making. Not long ago the stamps of a certain foreign country were, for a brief time, postmarked in such a way that the obliterations were easily removed by a simple chemical process. The secret of this state of affairs lay in the fact that the postmarking appliances used in the country in question were "fed" with greaseless ink, and directly the fact was discovered by a certain London stamp dealer and reported to the Consul-General in this country the practice was stopped, and an ink containing the requisite grease substituted.

The manner in which this particular fraud was exposed may make interesting reading. The dealer referred to (whose name, like that of the country concerned, we shall not divulge), first had his suspicions aroused by the repeated visits of a young man who never bought anything but one particular stamp; and that one stamp he purchased in as great quantities as the dealer could supply. It was exceedingly curious, because the stamp was the commonest of the whole set, being the value used for the prepayment of over-sea letters—in fact, the equivalent of our 2½d. stamp. At last the dealer questioned the man. What did he want the stamps for? In a burst of confidence the stranger told him everything. He was not a philatelist at all, but a business man with a large circle of correspondents in \_\_\_\_\_ (the country in question); he simply bought the stamps because he found he could clean off the postmarks and restore them to their original condition. Each batch, as soon as he purchased, he "cleaned" and forwarded to his friends in \_\_\_\_\_, who used them for postal purposes. His, therefore, was a fraud upon the foreign government, and in no way a scheme to swindle philatelists; but nevertheless quite to the point as an instance of a faker's opportunity.

It is only right to add that the stamp dealer who had been, quite innocently, supplying this individual with the requisite stamps, at once declined to do any further business with him, and forthwith placed the facts of the matter before the Consular representatives of the country concerned.

This is a matter that is now for the first time reported in print.

(From *Hobbies*).

## Cuttings from the Press.

There is a horrible selfishness about collecting stamps and postcards and flints, and other dreary things which people for some strange unfathomable reason rejoice in getting together and hoarding in horrid little albums and cases, for no one can possibly care to look at stamps or the other uninteresting things, so that the only feeling they can excite is covetousness in other collectors, and we acknowledge every Sunday we must not covet. There are terrible accounts told of how people have covered rooms and chairs with stamps, and we shudder and fly from the thought how one can picture some artistic-souled paperhanger dabbling on the paste and paper over some discarded stamp-bedecorated wall. But no one could possibly mind a room where the walls were covered with rare china."

*The Tattler.*

Why there should be special virtue in old Crockery we fail to see.—*Ed.*

*Paper and Stamps to match. The MORNING LEADER thus describes the latest fashion.—*

### A Passing Fancy for the Fashionable Letter Writer.

Pen, ink, paper, cards, sealing wax, and postage stamps all to match. That is the latest craze with the girl who has nothing to do but create fashions. As stamps cannot be coloured according to individual fancy, the writing equipage has to follow the lead of the stamps, and a soft-green notepaper, with covers and cards en suite, are offered for the very up-to-date. Side by side with these rest ink, perhaps in a deeper shade,

and sealing-wax, which, though it varies from the tone of either paper, ink, or monogram, is yet of the same colour.

Pens and ornamental inkstands are chiefly colored pale heliotrope and green, and blotting pads are bordered with these same two colors. Those entirely of one shade are obviously intended for the girl who has a penchant for either half-penny or penny stamps and uses them on all ordinary occasions.

The pale heliotrope paper in the soft linen make approved by fashion is equally as pretty as the green. An ornamental border of purple to match the three-halfpenny stamp edges the green paper.

## AMERICAN POSTAGE STAMPS.

On Saturday at the opening meeting of the Junior London Philatelic Society for the season 1901-2 the president (Mr. F. J. Melville) in his address referred to the assassination of President McKinley. He stated that the portrait of the late President of the United States may now be used as a subject for a postage stamp design. By a curious regulation the portrait of no living man is allowed to appear on the stamps of the United States, which bear instead the effigies of dead Presidents and Republican heroes. A new series of stamps is now under consideration by the United States Government, and doubtless the late President's portrait will be included with those of his co-martyrs Lincoln and Garfield, whose features have long been portrayed on the stamps of the States. The portrait of Mr. Cleveland, the only living past President of the United States, is not shown on any stamp.

## Latest Auction Results.

October 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th.—Messrs. Puttick and Simpson.

Moldavia, 81 paras, blue on blue, unused with nearly full gum and large margins, purchased by Mr. F.W. Nield	£220
Moldavia, 27 paras, black on rose, used	£29
" 54 " blue on green, unused	£25
Moldavia, 108 paras, blue on pink, unused	£50
" 188 " " " used	£28
Finland, 8 penni, black on green, perf. 10½	£16
" 3½ roubles, black and yellow, error	£30
Saxony, 1851, ½ ngr., black on blue, error and fine with gum, very rare	£44
Spain, 12 cuartos, blue and rose, error with inverted centre, on piece of original	£5/10/-
Sweden, "Tretio" error, unused, part gum	£11/15/-
Switzerland, Vand 1849, etc., black and red on entire original, very fine	£17
Tuscany, 60 crazie red on blue, unused, very fine with part gum	£15
Tuscany, 3 lire yellow, unused, a little cut into at top and right side	£40
Ceylon, 2rs. 50c. lilac-rose, unused with gum but stained	£6/5/-
Cape of Good Hope, 1d. blue error, no margin at left, but fine	£37
Lagos, 10/- lilac-brown, used	£8/8/-
Natal, 1869, "POSTAGE" in tall capitals 3d. blue, unused, in mint state	£6
Canada, 12d. black, unused with gum	£61
New Brunswick, 1/- mauve, no gum	£36
Newfoundland, 2d. scarlet, unused	£45
" 1/- scarlet "	£28/10/-
Nova Scotia, 1/- purple, unused	£36
Barbados, 1d. large star, rough perfs., 1d. blue, mint, unused	£16
Barbados, 6d. rose, imperf. pair	£8/10/-
" 4d. CC 14x12½, mint pair	£14
Grenada, 1888, 4d. on 2/- orange, with upright "D," very fine	£7
Nevis, 1867, perf. 15, 1/- yellow-green, unused and very fine	£13
St. Vincent, 1861-66, 6d. blue-green, a fine strip of three, with margin at top	57/6
St. Vincent, 4d. on 1/- vermilion, mint	£15/7/-
Trinidad, 1/- bright mauve, 1859, perf. 13, unused, off centre	£13
British Guiana, 4c. orange-yellow, cut octagonally, very fine	£35
British Honduras, 1891, 6 in red on 10 cents on 4d. violet, with inverted surcharge on small piece of original	£3
British Honduras, ditto, but with inverted surcharge in black	£5/5/-
Hawaii, 1851, 5c. blue, repaired	£50
Queensland, 1860, 2d. blue, imperf., strip of 3, lightly cancelled	£16
Victoria, 1862, 6d. orange, very fine	£7

The total amount realised for the 902 lots was about £4000.



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Each stamp in the above selections is priced separately. When ordering any particular country or countries it is advisable to state whether used or unused are wanted, and whether a general selection is required, or one showing perforation and watermark varieties.

#### CONDITIONS.

1.—Stamps can only be sent on approval on condition that those not purchased are returned within five days.  
2.—No stamps may be removed from the sheet, or books until actually purchased.  
3.—Collectors are not permitted to deduct return postage from amount of purchase.  
4.—Discount is conditional on purchase exceeding 1/- and will be forfeited if selection is kept over the five days allowed.

5.—Spaces should not be marked.  
6.—Sheets should be returned folded as sent.  
7.—When a selection is returned, another will be sent unless otherwise requested.  
N.B.—We hope collectors will assist us by observing the above very reasonable conditions and we will in return make it our endeavour to send out only the finest possible copies at the lowest possible quotations.

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FOURTH EDITION. JUST READY.

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This Album gained the highest award for Specialist Albums at the London Philatelic Exhibition, 1897. It is oblong in shape and 11½ by 8½ in. in size, containing about 90 pages, being liberally interleaved with blank pages.

POPULAR EDITION, 5/- post-free.

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#### BLANK ALBUMS

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With which is incorporated EWEN'S WEEKLY CIRCULAR. (Established October, 1897.)

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No. 108. (VOL. VII.)  
(Whole Number, No. 194.)

LONDON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1901.

[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

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New South Wales Statistics.  
Federal Prospects.  
Latest Auction Reports.  
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883,392	962,604	Twopenny Halfpenny
331,280	379,720	Threepenny
473,280	508,410	Fourpenny
167,004	177,358	Fivepenny
1,092,370	1,102,360	Sixpenny
5,812	9,388	Sevenpenny Halfpenny
175,200	199,020	Eightpenny
6,280	25,952	Ninepenny
12,000	14,580	Tenpenny
2,022,410	2,053,490	One Shilling
5,123	5,884	Twelvepenny Halfpenny
14,423	17,162	Five Shillings
3,029	3,418	Ten Shillings
6,820	7,924	Twenty Shillings
60	70	Sets of Postage Dues at 10s. per set
9	17	Sets of Specimens and Reprints at 20s. per set.

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Mr. W. Warwick writes:—

"I have two copies Victoria 2d., current issue, which are postmarked "Lannceston, Tasmania." Is not this very peculiar? One is dated Ap. 25, 1901; the other is about the same date, but only Ap. 2—1901 is seen."

Mr. Le Couteur notes another minor variety.

"Whilst buying some stamps some time ago I happened to obtain among other an ordinary Straits Settlement stamp that was intended for use in Perak. It was surcharged in thick black type PEBAK. I do not know whether it is a common error, for I have never seen any but this particular specimen. I just mentioned it thinking it might interest some of your numerous readers."

[Mr. Le Couteur omits to say what value his stamp is. There are several kinds of ordinary Straits Settlements stamps.—Ed.]

Mr. G. F. M. Camroux writes:—

"Re your query in E.W.S.N. postcard column of Sept. 21. Are any other values, besides 5d. of N.Z. stamps with advertisements on the back, found perforated 11½? I have the 1/- brown, perf. 11½, with the 'use Kaitangata Coal' advt. on it."

Mr. K. N. Arnold Wallinger writes:—

"With reference to the note you published last week respecting the Illustrated London News stamps, I may mention that I have carefully examined a number of half-yearly bound volumes of that journal and found none of the stamps in those of 1857, whilst every number of 1859 was so stamped, and 1858 as early as Saturday, April 10th. The 2d. stamps were impressed on the extra large Christmas numbers of 1858 and 1859 and the 1½d. value was on every number containing a supplement."

## COOK ISLANDS.

We take the following from the *Australian Journal of Philately*.

"Advices from Cook Islands state that an audit of the Government accounts revealed a deficiency of £1,100 between Mr. Gosset (the postmaster) and Mr. Goodwin (the treasurer). The latter escaped prosecution by death, caused by the explosion of a rocket. Gosset was prosecuted, pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to two years' hard labour in a penal settlement. The Court included the British Resident, who sentenced his own nephew and refunded £500 of the money embezzled.—*Daily Telegraph* (Sydney). [The foregoing explains the reason of many delays and irregularities in connection with the Cook Islands postal department, regarding which we have received several complaints quite recently.—Ed.]"

Published September 27th.

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"On examining a sheet of 60, Orange River Colony on Cape 2½d., I find four of the varieties mentioned by Mr. Pearce in your issue of Sept. 28th. They are distributed as follows: No. 5 in row 1, No. 2 in row 6, No. 5 in row 7, and No. 2 in row 9. Query, did these only occur in early printed sheets on account of ink running?"

Mr. W. Warwick writes:—

"I have two copies Victoria 2d., current issue, which are postmarked "Launceston, Tasmania." Is not this very peculiar? One is dated Ap. 25, 1901; the other is about the same date, but only Ap. 2—1901 is seen."

Mr. Le Couteur notes another minor variety.

"Whilst buying some stamps some time ago I happened to obtain among other an ordinary Straits Settlement stamp that was intended for use in Perak. It was surcharged in thick black type PEBAK. I do not know whether it is a common error, for I have never seen any but this particular specimen. I just mentioned it thinking it might interest some of your numerous readers."

[Mr. Le Couteur omits to say what value his stamp is. There are several kinds of ordinary Straits Settlements stamps.—Ed.]

Mr. G. F. M. Camroux writes:—

"Re your query in E.W.S.N. postcard column of Sept. 21. 'Are any other values, besides 5d. of N.Z. stamps with advertisements on the back, found perforated 11½?' I have the 1/- brown, perf. 11½, with the 'use Kaitangata Coal' advt. on it."

Mr. R. N. Arnold Wallinger writes:—

"With reference to the note you published last week respecting the Illustrated London News stamps, I may mention that I have carefully examined a number of half-yearly bound volumes of that journal and found none of the stamps in those of 1857, whilst every number of 1859 was so stamped, and 1858 as early as Saturday, April 10th. The 2d. stamps were impressed on the extra large Christmas numbers of 1858 and 1859 and the 1½d. value was on every number containing a supplement."

## COOK ISLANDS.

We take the following from the *Australian Journal of Philately*.

"Advices from Cook Islands state that an audit of the Government accounts revealed a deficiency of £1,100 between Mr. Gosset (the postmaster) and Mr. Goodwin (the treasurer). The latter escaped prosecution by death, caused by the explosion of a rocket. Gosset was prosecuted, pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to two years' hard labour in a penal settlement. The Court included the British Resident, who sentenced his own nephew and refunded £500 of the money embezzled.—*Daily Telegraph* (Sydney). [The foregoing explains the reason of many delays and irregularities in connection with the Cook Islands postal department, regarding which we have received several complaints quite recently.—Ed.]"

Published September 27th.

## STANLEY GIBBONS' NEW CATALOGUE.

Part I.—Colonials.

Remarkable advances in values of nearly all Colonial stamps. Every reader should obtain a copy at once.

Sent Post Free, 2/3, per return of post.

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32, PALACE SQUARE, NORWOOD, S.E.

## Federal Prospects.

From the Australian Journal of Philately.

THE Federal Postal Bill is still under consideration in the House of Representatives. On reaching clause 28, "Postage stamps may be made and sold."

Mr. Thomas (N.S.W.) moved for the insertion of the words at the end of the clause, "and shall within six months of the passing of this Act issue Commonwealth stamps." He contended that one of the principal arguments in favour of Federation was that it would lead to uniformity in postage, and other such matters. Now he saw that but for "Tattersall's" there would be much more likelihood of an early issue of uniform stamps, which would be a great convenience to the people.

Mr. Reid (Leader of the Opposition) strongly supported the principle, and urged that the Government ought not to delay one day longer than was necessary, the issue of Commonwealth stamps.

Mr. Barton (Premier) admitted that the matter rested considerably upon "Tattersall's" clauses. Investigation had shown that the stamps forwarded and stamps used for sending letters from Tasmania amounted in value to about £14,000 a year. If the Bill was not carried in its present form in that respect, that amount of revenue would be earmarked to Tasmania; but if those clauses were carried, they might hope for some early step in the direction of a Federal stamp. Assuming that the difficulty which now arose in regard to "Tattersall's" clauses could be got rid of, so far as departmental action could be taken, it would be taken for the issue of Commonwealth stamps.

Mr. Thomas (N.S.W.): If I have an assurance that something will be done, say, this year, I will withdraw the amendment.

Mr. Barton: My belief is that it will be within this year.

This bears out the statement made in last month's issue that Federal postage stamps will probably be issued within the next twelve months. We do not think, however, for a single moment that they will be issued before the end of this year as it would take close upon twelve months to have suitable dies prepared, and we trust further blunders will not be made by rushing something patchy on the country. We may say that the "Tattersall's" clauses have been passed and we presume the other book-keeping difficulties can be overcome, but the postal departments will not be federated for twelve months until the 1st March, consequently there is no likelihood whatever of the Federal stamps being issued before that date. Most likely the issue will take place on or about the date of the Coronation of His Majesty King Edward VII. in June next.

Having deemed it advisable to take further steps in regard to the sale of obliterated stamps at the Melbourne Post Office, we wrote Mr. Henry Willis, M.H.R., giving him all the facts and requesting that he would take some action in the matter. This he did in the form of questions, and we have to thank Mr. Willis for the official printed report of same, together with the answers given by Sir Philip Fysh on behalf of the Government.

Presuming it will be of interest to our readers we reproduce it *in extenso*.

### SALE OF OBLITERATED STAMPS.

Mr. Willis asked the Postmaster-General, upon notice—

1. Whether it is a fact—

(a) That the Melbourne Post Office is a philatelic department for the sale of obliterated postage stamps that have never been used in the ordinary course of business.

(b) That some of the sets for sale include high-value stamps up to £100, and are sold at £5 per set, others containing lower values at £1 per set, and a recent issue, representing the face value of about 10s., at 4s. per set.

(c) That the Postmaster-General is about to issue a set of stamps, lightly post-marked, to order, which will include new £1 and £2 stamps, at 10s. per set, having on them the portrait of King Edward VII.

(d) That £1 and £5 sets of Victorian stamps, lightly post-marked, to order, have been sold to a dealer, "at a price," as a job lot.

2. Whether, if it is a fact that the Postmaster-General is conducting a philatelic business in competition with dealers in legitimately-used postage stamps, he will discontinue the practice.

Sir Philip Fysh.—The following information has been supplied:—

1. (a) The Melbourne office is not a philatelic department, but sets of current postage stamps post-marked that have not been used in the ordinary course of business are sold.

(b) The only sets on sale are those from a half-penny to five shillings in value, and the

price is four shillings. (c) A recommendation has been made that sets of current stamps, including those referred to be sold at one pound per set, but this has not yet been approved. (d) No such transaction has ever taken place.

2. In accordance with the regulations of most of the States, sets of current postage stamps (post-marked) are sold at prices fixed by the regulations. The matter of the continuance of this practice is under consideration.

We think Sir Philip Fysh, in replying to question No. 2, was wrongly informed, as the only stamps sold post-marked at a fixed price are New South Wales postage dues, but it must be borne in mind that these stamps are not sold to the public unused, and are only affixed to letters by officials in the department. It is consoling to know that the matter of the continuance of this practice is under consideration, and we have every reason to believe that immediately after the Postal Bill has become law the practice will be definitely and finally abolished.

A flutter of excitement will probably be caused amongst fiscal collectors when they learn that a new series of duty stamps is being printed in Queensland, and will probably be issued before the end of this month. The stamps (said to be the usual values from 1d. to £5) bear the present portrait of King Edward VII., and the design is on somewhat similar lines to that of the Newfoundland 2 cents, issued two or three years ago.

## Stray Notes on Sheets of Stamps.

From *The Adhesive*  
R. R. THIELE.

In a former article I stated that the current issue of Greece (the one of 1886) was printed in sheets of 300, consisting of panes of 50 each, this being the arrangement of the stamps in Belgium, in which country these stamps were printed at first. This is correct as far as the present is concerned, but I have since then learned that the sheets were not at first of the size mentioned. When these stamps were printed at Mecheln, in Belgium, the sheets contained 50 stamps, arranged in 10 rows of 5 each. The first impressions made at Athens were in sheets of 100, consisting of 2 panes of 50 each, in 10 rows of 5 each, the panes being arranged side by side—that is, if I am not mistaken, the same plate was really impressed twice on the sheet. The later printings show the sheet arrangement already described.

The first issues of the Congo Free State (to translate its official title freely) were manufactured in Belgium, like those of Greece above-mentioned, and show the usual Belgian sheet arrangement. But when the Congo state went into the advertising business and issued its picture poster series of 1894, the preparation of this sheet was entrusted to the famous firm of Waterlow & Sons, of London, although the designs were furnished by a Belgian painter from pictures painted by him for a panorama at Brussels. These stamps were printed in sheets of 50, 10 rows of 5. The 3½ and 10 franc stamps issued in 1898 are also in sheets of this size, although they were not printed by the same firm, but by the firm of Waterlow, Brothers, & Layton, also of London. The bid of this firm was lower than that of the old one, but their work likewise is poorer, as may easily be seen by a comparison of these two stamps with those of the 1894 issue.

Geographical considerations being immaterial here, I find as next-door neighbour to the above note on the Congo state one on several issues of Uruguay—the Eastern Republic, as it styles itself on its stamps. I do not have information on all of its stamps, but completeness must not be expected of these stray notes. My first note concerns the first Uruguayan issue, the so-called Diligencia stamps. (The word Diligencia at the top of these stamps means "stage coach"; the stamps were issued expressly for a stage coach service.) The stamps were lithographed at the printing establishment of Senor Mege at Montevideo. They were printed in sheets of 35, 5 rows of 7. This was no doubt a mere whim of the maker, without reference to the currency. I should like to inquire here, by the way, whether the usual arrangement of this issue in the catalogues is not an error. Everywhere else the centavo is the hundredth part of a peso, not of a real, the real being the equivalent of one shilling, i.e., the eighth part of a (peso or dollar). Should not therefore these stamps be arranged in this manner; 1 real, 60 centavos, 80 centavos? Perhaps some authority will kindly inform us on this point.—My next note concerns the 1866 issue, the 1, 5, 10, 15 and 20 centesimos with large figures. These stamps are one of the few examples of lithography emanating from the workshops of De la Rue & Co., of London. The

first printings were made in London, but the stones were later sent out to Montevideo and the stamps printed there. The sheets contained 200 stamps, arranged in two panes of 100 each, each pane containing 10 rows of 10. The stones of the 5c. somehow or other became damaged later and the first vertical row of 10 on the left was taken out, so that the sheets of this value contain only 190 stamps.—The later issues of this country all seem to be in sheets of 100, but the sheet of the provisional (lithographed) 1c brown of 1880 contained 104 stamps.

In a former instalment the arrangement of some of the earlier issues of Brazil was described. I can add here that the issues of this country made by the American Bank Note Co., as well as those manufactured at Rio de Janeiro by the Brazilian mint, have all been in sheets of 100, except the outrageously homely issue lately perpetrated by Brazil to celebrate the quadricentennial of its discovery. This was not manufactured by the government, but lithographed by a private establishment; the stamps were printed in sheets of 50.

The arrangement of the sheets of the first issue of Ecuador is rather peculiar. The sheet of the ½ real stamps contained 84 stamps, arranged in 7 rows of 12; the sheet of the 1 real contained 45 stamps, and that of the 4 reales contained 104. None of these sheets were adapted to figure up evenly; but as South American governments are not particularly noted for accurate figuring, this may have been no drawback.—Looking at this issue in Scott's catalogue, by the way, I notice in the footnote that these stamps are said to measure 19 to 19½ × 23½ mm. as compared with the 19½ × 24 mm. of the reprints. I would not advise depending too much upon this distinction for discriminating between originals and reprints. The fact is that all the 104 stamps in the sheet differ slightly in size. The original die was made of wood; from this moulds of papier-maché were taken and from these again stereotypes were taken for printing. The moulds did not all contract equally in drying, hence the variations in size.

The arrangement of the first issues of the Dominican Republic has already been described elsewhere. The 1880 issue (the one which was afterwards surcharged so much) was printed in sheets of 50, composed of 2 panes of 25 each, 5 × 5. The fancy labels issued not long ago with the map of this country were printed in small sheets of 25, 5 × 5.

## Latest Auction Results.

October 10th and 11th. Messrs. Ventom, Bull and Cooper.

Great Britain, 1d. red, plate No. 192, imperf. vertically, showing parts of next stamps both sides, used on piece, fine	20/-
Crete, 1st issue, 20 parades, mauve, unused, mint	20/-
Tuscany, 60 craize, brick-red, unused and slightly cut in, but fine and very rare	£11 10/-
Ceylon, 1/- lilac, imperf., unused, mint	£6
Formosa, 1st issue, 30, 50 and 100 cash, used	9/-, 16/-
" Ditto, unused	5/-

(Respecting these stamps, the Auctioneers stated that they were issued by the Republican Government of Formosa, under the Presidency of the celebrated Liu Yung Fu. The Republic lasted from the cession of the island by China to its subjugation by Japan in October, 1895. There were two issues of stamps: 1st issue, consisting of about 8,000 sets of 3 stamps each, value respectively 100, 50 and 30 cash—100 cash equal about 3d.; 2nd issue, consisting of about 17,000 sets of the same value).

Selangor, \$1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 25, set of six, surcharged 'specimen'	32/-
Gold Coast, 56, 2/- brown, used telegr.	22/-
" 22, 5/- lilac and blue, ditto	27/-
" 9, 10/- lilac and red, ditto	16/-
" 16, 20/- blk. on red, mostly fine	25/-
Orange Free State Fiscals used for postage, 6d. pearl-grey, 1/- pearl-grey and 1/- brown	24/-
Transvaal, 1896 Wrapper, 2d. brown and green, two with Dundee post-mark, and 1d. adhesive on entire with Hatting-spruit postmark, rare	7/-
Transvaal, ½d., 1d., "V.R.I." inverted	42/-
" Lydenburg, ½d. green, strip of 3	42/-
" " 3d. on 1d. carmine, a very fine unused block of six in mint state, one having the variety long-tailed R	86/-
Transvaal, Lydenburg, ditto, a pair	48/-
Uganda, 1st issue, 5 cowries, used pair	44/-

FOREIGN ARRIVALS.

(NOTE.—Most foreign stamps are almost as good an investment in mint unused condition as those issued by British Colonies, if purchases are made with care, and countries like Abyssinia, Persia, Nicaragua, Honduras, etc., are ignored. That there is a good market for unused foreigners is evidenced by the fact that a collection consisting entirely of unused Europeans recently sold for £30,000).

Port Said, surcharged on French, old type. 1c. black on blue, pair with mill. 0, nett 2d. China, surcharged on French, old type. 5c. yellow-green, pair with mill. 0, nett 3d. France, "Chiffre Taxe" 1c. black, 5c. blue, 10c. brown, set of 3, nett 3d. Belgium, unpaid. Set of 5, 5, 10, 20, 50c. 1fr., nett 1/11. Belgium, Sunday stamps. Set of ten, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 25, 35, 50c., 1, 2fr., nett, 4/5. Luxemburg, 1fr. violet, (old type), nett 2/-; 5fr. orange-brown (old type), nett 5/10. Denmark, new 24 ore, brown, nett 5d. Sweden, New 25 ore, orange, nett 5d. Finland, 1901, 1 markka, nett 1/3. Finland, 1889 type, 2, 5, 10, 20, 25p., 1m., set of 6, 2/3.

Hungary, 1900, values in filléres. 25f., blue and black, nett 4d. 30f., brown and black, nett 4d. 50f., lake and black, nett 6d. 60f., green and black, nett 8d. Roumania, 5, 10, 15 bani, set of three, 4d. Greece, Small Head of Mercury. 1 lepton, brown, 1d.; block of 4, 1d. 2 lepta, bistre, 1d.; block of 4, 2d. 5 " green, 1d.; block of 4, 3d. 10 " orange, 2d.; block of 4, 6d. Greek Provisionals, surcharged on old types. Large Head of Mercury. 30 on 40 lepta, 5d.\* 40 on 2 " 5d.\* 50 on 40 " buff, 6d.\* 3dr. on 10 lepta, 2/9. 5dr. on 40 lepta, lilac on blue, 3/9. \*NOTE.—Pairs can be supplied, showing wide and narrow "O," 1/- each. Small Head of Mercury. 1dr. on 40 lepta, violet, 1/- (imperf.) 2dr. on 40 " " 1/9 (perf. 13). Olympian Games (Axia Metalliki). 25l. on 40 lepta, nett 5d. 50l. on 2dr. stone, nett 10d. 1dr. on 5dr. green, nett 1/3. 2dr. on 10dr. brown, nett 2/6.

Cuba, pictorial set, 1, 2, 3, 5, 10c., nett 1/3. Sweden, low values, 1, 2, 3, 4 ore, set of 4, 2d. Siam, 1901, head to left. 2 atts, bright green, nett 1d.; block of 4, 3d. Siam provisional, 3 on 12 atts, 1 1/2d. each. Japan, new, 1 1/2 sen blue, 1d. each; block of 4, 3d. Bolivia, 1899, used, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20c., set of 5, 6d. Bolivia, 10c. orange, nett 1d. (used). " 20c. rose (cat. 6d.), nett 2d. (used). Bolivia, surch. "EF 1899" on 1894 issue (used). 5c. violet on green, nett 2d. 10c. violet on brown, nett 3d. Chile, old type, 15c. green, fine, used, 2d. 20c. slate-grey, fine, used, 1d. 1 peso, black and brown, used, fine, 8d. Chile, 1900, new 5c. blue, 10c. lilac, 1d. each (used). Costa Rica, old 10 and 20c. (1892), nett 2d. (used). " new 10 and 20c. (1901), nett 5d. (used). Ecuador, 10c. lilac and black, used, 4d. " 10c. blue and black, used, 4d. Mexico, 1900, new 5, 10, 15, 20c., set of 4, nett 5d. (used).

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(All in mint unused blocks, unless otherwise described. Panes or sheets have margin on all four sides.) PER DOZ. France, new 1c. ... 2d. " 2c. ... " " 3c. ... 6d. " 4c. ... " " 5c. ... " Port Said, 1c. blk. on blue ... 2d. China on France, 5c. green (pane of 25, 1/6) ... 9d. Belgium, Sunday Stamp, 1c. grey ... 2d. Spain, 1901, new 25c. blue ... 3/-. Italy, just obsolete, 1c. brown ... 2d. " 2c. red-brown ... 4d. " 5c. green ... 8d. Eritrea on Italy, 1c. brown ... 2d. " 2c. red-brown ... 4d. Luxemburg, 1895, 1c. grey ... 2d. " 2c. grey-brown ... 4d. " 4c. olive-yellow ... 8d. " 5c. green ... 9d. Norway, 1898, 1 ore, drab (sheet 100, 1/9) 3d. " 2 ore, brown ( " 3/ ) 6d. " 3 " orange ( " 4/3 ) 8d. " 5 " green ... 11d. Hungary, 1900, 1f. grey (sheet 100, 1/3) 2d. " 2 filler, bistre ( " 2/4) 4d.

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# Ewen's Weekly Stamp News.

With which is incorporated EWEN'S WEEKLY CIRCULAR. (Established October, 1897.)

A JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

THE ONLY WEEKLY STAMP PAPER  
PUBLISHED IN EUROPE.

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LONDON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1901

[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

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## New Issues and Varieties.

The Editor will be much obliged for early news of New Issues, or intended New Issues or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors. Full acknowledgment given. If possible, specimens should be sent in order that illustrations may be prepared.

**ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.**—The *Revista, de la Sociedad Filatélica Argentina* contains an interesting article on the 5, 10 and 15 centavos of 1867, Gibbons types 9, 10, 11. The list of quantities issued we take the liberty of reproducing:—

Date Ordered.	5c.	10c.	15c.
12. 3.67	1,500,000	300,000	200,000
9. 9.68	2,000,000	200,000	100,000
8. 2.70	2,000,000	300,000	200,000
24. 2.72	1,200,000	300,000	—
18. 1.73	1,800,000	—	—
21. 3.73	1,500,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
11. 7.74	2,500,000	—	—
28. 10.75	5,000,000	—	—

The stamps may be found with background of either horizontal or crossed lines, and it would seem that both varieties occurred in the same consignments.

**BAHAMAS.**—The view on the new 1d. Bahamas pictorial stamps goes locally by the name of the "Queen's Staircase."

**BRITISH NORTH BORNEO.**—In addition to the list given last week, we are able to state that the 5c., 25c. and 50c. values have also been overprinted "British Protectorate." The dollar values are as yet unadorned.

Adhesives, surcharged, 5c. red and black.  
" " 25c. indigo.  
" " 50c. violet.

**CAPE COLONY.**—The *Cape Argus* gives the following reason for the recent demonetisation of the triangular postage stamps:—

### TRIANGULAR POSTAGE STAMPS.

"In consequence of reprints of the original Cape Colony triangular wood-block postage stamps having been discovered affixed to mail matter in the post, which reprints were at no time sold by the Post Office to the public, and also in consequence of executive officers of the Department, not being experts, being unable to distinguish these reprint labels from stamps of the original issues, it was decided to demonetize the whole of the Cape Colony triangular postage stamps, and to withdraw their availability for the prepayment of postage. In this connection a public notice was issued in the *Gazette* cancelling the availability of such stamps for postage purposes as from the 1st October, 1900."

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.**—We do not appear to have chronicled the new issue, rectangular design with arms in centre, perf. 14½.

Adhesives: ½c. red, lilac centre.  
1c. olive-green, "  
2c. dark green, "  
5c. dark brown, "  
10c. orange, "  
20c. dark violet, "  
50c. grey, "  
1p. chocolate-brown "

**FRANCE.**—A correspondent writes:—"Two exceedingly wishy-washy things which have just been produced by the French Postal Department have not, I think, received mention in your columns. I refer to the 1 centime wrapper and the 15 centimes letter card. The former is printed in a curious feeble brown-grey on a thin smooth straw-coloured paper; the latter in the shade of the adhesive of the same value on grey. Both are of the type of the adhesive of the same value. Apropos of French stamps, have your readers noticed that the 1st printing of the current 10 cent (that made in two operations) is invariably in a much darker and richer shade than the 2nd?"

**FRANCE.**—The following list of *millésimes* may be added to the list we recently published.

Tunis, No. 4, 5c., 10c.  
Tunis, Chiffre Taxe, No. 3, 2c.  
Indo China, 1c., No. 3.  
Zanzibar, No. 6, 15c., 40c. No. 0, 1c.  
French Morocco, No. 7, 5c., 10c.  
Oceania, No. 2, 1c., 20c.  
" No. 3, 2c., 3c., 4c., 10c.  
Obock, No. 2, 1c.

M. d'Adhémar is reported to possess a block of four of the 10c. France 1878, with No. 1.

The current French postage stamps of 1 and 4 Centimes and the "Chiffre Taxe" 5, 10, 15, 30 and 50c. have appeared with Millésime 1 (1901).

**GREAT BRITAIN.**—Two new envelope dies, both bearing Head of Queen Victoria, have recently been brought into use.

### Envelope Stamps.

6d., die 47, impression in violet.  
½d., die 54, impression in green.

The ½d., die 54 has already been chronicled in vermilion, but it is apparently only quite recently that impressions from it have been made in green. The specimen under notice is dated October 8th. As far as we are aware, impressions from the 6d., die 47 have so far only been made on telegram forms. Our correspondent informs us he purchased a form so stamped last August.

The Caledonian and London & South Western Railways have had new printings of letter fee stamps.

### Railway Letter Fee Stamps.

Caledonian Railway, 9th printing, June, 1901, 12,000 stamps. Not yet seen.

London and South Western Railway, 32nd printing, October? 1901; dark green, perf. 11. Imperforate margins. Still from third transfer, state D.

**HUNGARY.**—The 6 filler violet-brown was recently withdrawn from issue. The value has now re-appeared, but in a new colour, bistre.

Adhesive, 6f. bistre, current type.

**ITALY.**—The 40c., 45c., 50c. and 1 and 5 lire values have now appeared in the new types.

Adhesives: 40c. dull brown.  
" 45c. olive-green.  
" 50c. purple.  
" 1 lira, brown and green.  
" 5 lire, Prussian blue and red.

A correspondent sends us the following translation of a cutting from the *Provincia di Como*.

"1st.—By Royal decree the values 40, 45, 50 centesimi and 1 and 5 lira of the new series of Italian postage stamps, are authorized and considered as current from the 1st of this month, and that the colours are much the same as those of the old set, the 50 centesimi new, replacing the 60 centesimi old.

2nd.—These stamps are to be used in the Foreign Post Offices of Italy, except in Eritrea which keeps its present set.

3rd.—The outgoing series is available for postage till 30th September, 1902, and will be changed at any Post Office till 30th September, 1903, after which date they will be demonetized.

4th.—After that date the postal department reserves the right of selling remainders to collectors." [!]

Our correspondent further informs us that the 5 lira of 1889, was available for collectors in an unused condition at the General P.O. at Florence, through the kindness of an obliging Postmaster at face value a few months ago. Considering it is catalogued at only 3½ lira (remainders having been sold at less than face) the postmaster must have been doing rather well, that is to say, if he found purchasers. The 2 lira was also being sold at face value.

The *Globe* reports that for three days the town of Aversa, in Italy, numbering over 30,000 inhabitants, was entirely without postage stamps. The stocks kept by the tobacco shops had been exhausted; at the central post office and its branches the supply had equally given out; and as the result numbers of non-stamped letters were sent in all directions, to earn in surtaxes for the Italian Treasury as much again as the stamps would have cost.

What an opportunity to lose of making provisionals! If it had been Cartagena, for instance, another tale would have to be told.

**NEW ZEALAND.**—A new official wrapper has been brought into use, with the monogram "E.R." in the centre, in place of "V.R." We are indebted to Mr. A. Hamilton for specimens.

**RUSSIA.**—The 7 kopec value appears to have been extensively forged. At the Mansion House, on October 15th, Samuel Miller, 48, Tobacconist, was charged before the Lord Mayor with unlawfully having in his possession 1470 counterfeit Russian postage stamps, and also with forging and uttering the same. He was remanded.

**SUDAN.**—A new value has been added to the series of Telegraph stamps.

Telegraph adhesive, 25 piastres, brown and blue.

**UNITED STATES.**—The *Metropolitan Philatelist* states that the suggestion for a President McKinley mourning stamp has fallen through. It is now proposed to change the name of the Philippines to the McKinley Islands.

## The New British Stamps.

FIRST 1d. PLATE REGISTERED.

In our issue of October 5th we were able to state that the first plate of the new ½d. stamps, with Head of King Edward, was registered at Somerset House on September 26th. We now learn from an authoritative source that the first plate of the 1d. value received its imprimatur on October 14th. Our correspondent goes on to say:—

"In design it exactly follows the new ½d. so that a unified series may be looked for. The colour of the 1d. will probably be described as carmine, but its tint is by no means to be compared with that of the brilliant border of the current shilling. In fact, it is decidedly dull and commonplace. The cheap appearance of the two new stamps must tell against their general acceptance, and the vulgar colouring and production of the 1d. only accentuate the uninviting portraiture of our Sovereign as exhibited in the ½d. Rectangular designs in colour fill in marginal space between panes as at present, and the control letter is A as in the ½d."

"I note your remarks in *E.W.S.N.* of October 19th, as to the printing of the ½d. and 1d. being in hand, and would point out that as regards the 1d. no order for printing could have been given prior to the 14th inst., when the first sheet was approved."

## Correspondence.

To the Editor, *E.W.S.N.*

re Great Britain, 6d. surcharged.

DEAR SIR,

I have referred to my various copies of the above surcharge and find the "one dot" variety occurs on stamp lettered O-I; the "slanting dots" variety on B.H. and I have one copy lettered B.F. on which the dots mingle with the frame and can only be seen by use of a powerful glass.—This would photograph without dots.

F. WEST.

## STANLEY GIBBONS' NEW CATALOGUE.

Part I.—Colonials.

Remarkable advances in values of nearly all Colonial stamps. Every reader should obtain a copy at once.

Sent Post Free, 2/3, per return of post.

Ewen's Colonial Stamp Market,  
32, PALACE SQUARE, NORWOOD, S.E.

# HISTORY OF Railway Letter Stamps.

COMPILED BY H. L'ESTRANGE EWEN.

THIS Work is now ready, and orders are being executed in rotation. Only a very small supply has been printed and the book will be one of the rarest philatelic works ever published. The price has been fixed at the nominal amount of One Guinea, post free. Abroad, carriage extra (weight, with packing, 5½lbs.) The book contains about 440 pages, arranged as follows:—

	Pages.
Preface .. .. .	iii., iv.
Index to 106 Railway Companies ..	v. to vii.
The Railway Letter Post .. ..	1, 2.
The Railway Letter Stamp .. ..	3, 4.
Printers of Railway Letter Stamps	5 to 16.
English Railways .. .. .	17 to 258.
Scottish Railways .. .. .	259 to 310.
Irish Railways .. .. .	311 to 424.
Appendix .. .. .	425 to 431.

No fewer than 1200 stamps are illustrated. The illustrations are interleaved with the letterpress and consequently conveniently arranged for reference.

The total number of Railway Letter Stamps printed since the service originated in February, 1891, is as follows:

	Total printed.	No. of Issues.
English & Welsh R'lwys	1,800,000	311
Scottish Railways	275,000	54
Irish Railways	425,000	112
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,500,000</b>	<b>477</b>

The total number of different issues which are known to have been made, including three issued since the book went to press, amounts to 480, or a smaller number than the collector of Colonial postage stamps has to look for in New South Wales alone. Owing to the general ignorance prevailing on the subject of these letter fee stamps, many bargains are continually being picked up by those "in the know." The present offer of a complete History and Catalogue of the stamps enables any purchaser to become equally well informed. The work is beautifully printed by Messrs. Parry & Son, of Bournemouth, and sumptuously bound. The illustrations are by the Meisenbach Co., of West Norwood.

## Questions Competition No. 3.

The award in our "Questions" Competition No. 3 will be published next week. The replies to the first questions were as follows:—

1. Which adhesive British Colonial stamps have been issued to the public in the smallest sheets or panes? and which in the largest? give three or four instances.

(I). Smallest sheets of stamps.

1. Mauritius Post Office. Printed in singles.
2. Labuan, several values of the Queen's Head series, sheets of 10, 2 rows of five.
3. Mauritius, 1848; British Guiana provisionals; Nevis, early types, etc. Sheets of 12.
4. Gambia, old type. Sheets of 15.

(II). Largest sheets of stamps.

1. Cyprus on ½d. Great Britain, sheets of 480.
2. Nova Scotia, Cape Triangulars, and others, sheets of 160.

Various stamps occur in sheets of 240, but are divided into panes by marginal divisions. The sheets of Canada Map stamps—10 rows of 10—are of considerable size.

\* \* \*

2. How many different kinds of postage stamps bear the inscription "L'Union fait la Force"?

All stamps of the 1869 type of Belgium—low values, 1, 2, 5 and 8 centimes—bear these words, as also certain unpaid letter stamps and post-cards. It also appears on the current Arms type of Hayti; curiously no competitor discovered this. There is we believe another instance, but we are unable to turn it up at the moment.

\* \* \*

3. Is a pawnbroker's shop illustrated on any adhesive postage stamp? if so, on which?

The \$1 Columbus issue of the United States bears a view inscribed "Queen Isabella pledging her jewels." Two competitors mention the 1 and 5 marks of Germany, 1900, but we cannot see in what way these two stamps are eligible.

\* \* \*

4. Of which seven Countries do you consider the issue of stamps to have the worst reputation, as being unnecessary?

The following Countries are mentioned in the four lists sent in.

- (a) Salvador (4 votes).
- (b) Nicaragua (4 votes).
- (c) Portugal and Colonies (3 votes).
- (d) Labuan and N. Borneo (3 votes).
- (e) Guatemala (2 votes).
- (f) Ecuador (2 votes).
- (g) One vote each—Costa Rica, Cuba, Philippines, Uruguay, Ceylon, Philippines.

(To be continued).

## Niger Coast and New Zealand Control Numbers.

EVERY sheet of Niger Coast and New Zealand stamps has a consecutive control number printed on the margin at one corner. In the latter case, the number is stamped on the blank sheets of paper, whilst in the former, it refers to the number of sheets after being printed and cut up.

The control numbers of the New Zealand are unquestionably the most interesting and valuable from a philatelic point of view, as they enable the numerous varieties to be classified in the order of their printing. We are desirous of compiling a list of these numbers and should be greatly obliged to readers possessing any such if they would submit them for inspection, or would send particulars. At the moment of writing we have at hand:—

### Single-lined NZ Paper.

- (a) Tall figures, 6½ to 7 mm. high.
- 503961 Queen's-Head, 8d. blue, perf. 11.
- (b) Small figures, 4½ to 5 mm. high.
- 156012 (Cook Islands, 1d. brown, perf. 11).
- 197202 Queen's Head, 3d. orange, perf. 11.
- 253166 (Cook Islands, 1½d. violet, perf. 11).
- 350340 " " 1d. blue perf. 11.
- 350564 " " ½d. " "
- 387698 Queen's Head, 4d. green, perf. 11.
- 400510 " " 1d. rose, perf. 11.

### Double-lined NZ Paper.

- 176160 Queen's Head, ½d. black.
- 235643 } Khaki 1½d.
- 237537 }
- 239207 }
- 244648 } Local print, Universal Postage, 1d.
- 248567 } pale rose.
- 392142 Local print, Universal Postage, 1d. bright rose.

Next week we will examine the stock of the Colonial Stamp Market, and if readers will also assist, hope to give a more complete list.

Coming to the Niger Coast stamps, we find the Control Numbers are always low, so that probably each value starts with No. 1. The numbers of the No Work. Series of the current type have the figure "O" prefaced. We note the following:

### Unwatermarked Issue.

- 5d. 0143, 0247. Lilac or reddish-violet shade
- 5d. 0454 (apparently new printing). Dark violet.

### Watermarked Series.

- ½d. 541, 985. Yellow-green.
- ½d. 1952. Dark green.
- 1d. 213. Vermilion-red.
- 1d. 1332, 1385. Bright-red.
- 1d. 3019, 3189. Vermilion-red.
- 2d. 436. Dark carmine.
- 2½d. 75. Bright greyish-blue.
- 2½d. 445. (New printing?). Dark grey-blue.
- 6d. 385. 1s., 350. 2/6, 329, 343. 10/-, 28.

Similar control numbers may also be found on sheets of stamps from other Colonies, but we are unable at present to give a list. South Australia furnishes very interesting examples, as the sheets of paper are imprinted with the value of the stamps for which they are intended and then are almost invariably used for the wrong one! In British Central Africa and Hongkong sheets have a consignment letter as well as a control number.

## Exchange Clubs and 50 per cent. Discount.

Some discussion has appeared lately in the philatelic journals as to whether the old system of allowing 50% discount off stamps sold through exchange clubs should not be discontinued, many collectors advocating the substitution of nett prices. At a recent meeting of the Birmingham Philatelic Society, the subject was brought up for consideration by one of the members. At the end it was unanimously decided (reports the S.C.F.), to keep to the 50% rule, the Committee emphasising it by the expression of opinion that no-one, who had had any experience of the inner working of a big exchange, would ever think of giving up the rule and adopting nett prices; and that the advantages of the 50% system were overwhelming compared with any seeming disadvantages. It does not say 50% off catalogue but off prices asked, and is the only legal method of applying the lever for prompt payment.

## Our Postcard Column.

MILL readers hearing of any interesting item of News, kindly jot it down on a postcard and address to the Editor, "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News," Norwood, London. For every contribution we publish, we will send the author an interesting and newly issued stamp. (N.B.—Postcards preferred).

Mr. J. N. Mostyn writes:—

"I have just seen the 1 rupee Indian, 8 annas, 2 annas, 4 annas, 9 pies, surcharged one anna, with 'Postal Service' on each. They are the old colours of 1882."

Mr. J. T. Cricks writes:—

"Have you noticed the difference in position of dots in the V.R.I. and E.R.I. overprints Transvaal. In the V.R.I. the dot after V. is further away from the letter than after R. and I. In the E.R.I. the dots are all very close to letters." [The difference in spacing is apparent rather than real, as will be seen if a vertical line is drawn through the serif of the right arm of the letter V.—ED.]

## Latest Auction Results.

October 10th and 11th. Messrs. Ventom, Bull & Cooper (continued).

- Zululand, 4/-, £1, £5, surch., "specimen" 20/-
- Turk's Island, 1/- lilac, used ... £9
- " " 2½d. on 1/- blue, type 13 unused, mint, but with ink spot on back showing through ... £10
- Turk's Island, 2½d. on 1/- lilac, type 11, unused ... £7/15/-
- " another, perfs. clipped at sides £4/7/6
- Transvaal, 10/- V.R.I., four used copies 44/-
- Orange Free State, 1896, ½d. on 3d. ultramarine, entire unused sheets of 240, including two "Peuny" errors one without stop 70/-, 80/-, & 84/-
- O.F.S. 6d. Carmine V.R.I., used ... 27/-
- Zululand, £5, used, fine (fiscally used?) 84/-
- Mafeking Siege Stamps, set of 19, used £19

October 15th and 16th. Messrs. Puttick & Simpson.

- Bavaria, 1854, 18kr. orange-yellow, an entire sheet of 45, very fine ... 105/-
- Ceylon, 8d. brown, imperf., used, superb 210/-
- " 8d. yellow-brown, star, perf. ... 85/-
- " 1/- lilac, star, block of 4, unused 55/-
- Straits, 1st issue, mint, 1½, 2, 3, 4, 8, 12 and 32c., cat. 112/6 ... £4
- Cape Woodblock, 4d. dark blue, v.f. ... £7
- Mafeking Besieged, set of 18, complete except the rare 1/- on 6d. British Bechuanaland, all fine ... £18
- Natal, wmk. star, imperf., 3d. blue, fine pair but no gum ... 67/6
- Natal, 1869-74, Postage, 13½mm., 6d. violet, unused ... £7/5/-
- Orange River, V.R.I., used, 1st printing, set of 10, ½d. to 5/-, including 6d. carmine ... 47/6
- Sierra Leone, 4d. blue, CC14, mint ... 36/-
- Brit. Columbia, perf. 14, \$1 green ... 52/6
- United States, 1861, 90c. blue, unused, no perfs. at right, and torn at bottom ... £10
- United States, 1861, 3c. scarlet, unused and no gum ... £10
- Buenos Aires, 1858, Cinco Pesos, olive-yellow, unused, cut close at top £10
- New South Wales. Sydney View, 1d. red, plate 1, superb, lightly cancelled pair ... £6/10/-
- Sydney View, 1d. carmine, pair, creased, not fine ... 28/-
- Ditto, a single copy, superb ... 63/-
- Ditto, 2d. grey-blue, plate 1, a superb strip of 3, one stamp thinned ... £7/7/-
- Ditto, 2d. dark grey-blue, a superb, lightly cancelled copy, in the earliest state of the plate ... £10
- Ditto, 2d. indigo, superb, plate 2 ... £4
- Ditto, "Crevit" omitted, 2d. dark blue, not fine ... 95/-
- Ditto, 2d. blue, plate 3, 2nd retouch, very lightly cancelled, superb ... 97/6
- Sydney View, 3d. green on bluish, a pair very fair ... £4
- Ditto, 3d. emerald, very fine, slightly damaged in right top corner ... 63/-
- Ditto, 3d. olive-green, superb ... 95/-
- New S. Wales, Laureated 3d., Error "Waces" ... 38/-
- New S. Wales, Diadem, 5d. green, impf. 87/6
- " 8d. orange-yellow, " £7
- Queensland, 1860, 2d. blue, imperforate strip of 3, on piece of original £20/10
- Queensland, 1/- grey, a superb lightly cancelled block of 10, catalogued 35/- ... 52/6
- Western Australia, 6d. gold-bronze, very fine, with full original lustre ... 132/6
- Ditto, 2d. brown on red, rouletted, unused 84/-



**FOREIGN ARRIVALS.**

(NOTE.—Most foreign stamps are almost as good an investment in mint unused condition as those issued by British Colonies, if purchases are made with care, and countries like Abyssinia, Persia, Nicaragua, Honduras, etc., are ignored. That there is a good market for unused foreigners is evidenced by the fact that a collection consisting entirely of unused Europeans recently sold for £30,000).

Port Said, surcharged on French, old type.  
 1c. black on blue, pair with mill. o, nett 2d.  
 China, surcharged on French, old type.  
 5c. yellow-green, pair with mill. o, nett 3d.  
 France, "Chiffre Taxe"  
 1c. black, 5c. blue, 10c. brown, set of 3, nett 3d.  
 Belgium, unpaired.  
 Set of 5, 5, 10, 20, 50c. 1fr., nett 1/11.  
 Belgium, Sunday stamps.  
 Set of ten, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 25, 35, 50c., 1, 2fr., nett, 4/5.  
 Luxemburg, 1fr. violet, (old type), nett 2/-; 5fr. orange-brown (old type), nett 5/10.  
 Denmark, new 24 öre, brown, nett 5d.  
 Sweden, New 25 öre, orange, nett 5d.  
 Finland, 1901, 1 markka, nett 1/3.  
 Finland, 1889 type, 2, 5, 10, 20, 25p., 1m., set of 6, 2/3.  
 Hungary, 1900, values in filléres.  
 25f., blue and black, nett 4d.  
 30f., brown and black, nett 4d.  
 50f., lake and black, nett 6d.  
 60f., green and black, nett 8d.  
 Roumania, 5, 10, 15 bani, set of three, 4d.  
 Greece, Small Head of Mercury.  
 1 lepton, brown, 1d.; block of 4, 1d.  
 2 lepta, bistre, 1d.; block of 4, 2d.  
 5 " green, 1d.; block of 4, 3d.  
 10 " orange, 2d.; block of 4, 6d.  
 Greek Provisionals, surcharged on old types.  
*Large Head of Mercury.*  
 30 on 40 lepta, 5d.\*  
 40 on 2 " 5d.\*  
 50 on 40 " buff, 6d.\*  
 3dr. on 10 lepta, 2/9.  
 5dr. on 40 lepta, lilac on blue, 3/9.  
 \*NOTE.—Pairs can be supplied, showing wide and narrow "O," 1/- each.

*Small Head of Mercury.*  
 1dr. on 40 lepta, violet, 1/- (imperf.)  
 2dr. on 40 " " 1/9 (perf. 13).  
*Olympian Games (Axia Metalliki).*  
 25l. on 40 lepta, nett 5d.  
 50l. on 2dr. stone, nett 10d.  
 1dr. on 5dr. green, nett 1/3.  
 2dr. on 10dr. brown, nett 2/6.

Cuba, pictorial set, 1, 2, 3, 5, 10c., nett 1/3.  
 Sweden, low values, 1, 2, 3, 4 öre, set of 4, 2d.  
 Siam, 1901, head to left.  
 2 atts, bright green, nett 1d.; block of 4, 3d.  
 Siam provisional, 3 on 12 atts, 1½d. each.  
 Japan, new, 1½ sen blue, 1d. each; block of 4, 3d.  
 Bolivia, 1899, used, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20c., set of 5, 6d.  
 Bolivia, 10c. orange, nett 1d. (used).  
 " 20c. rose (cat. 6d.), nett 2d. (used).  
 Bolivia, surch. "EF 1899" on 1894 issue (used).  
 5c. violet on green, nett 2d.  
 10c. violet on brown, nett 3d.  
 Chile, old type, 15c. green, fine, used, 2d.  
 20c. slate-grey, fine, used, 1d.  
 1 peso, black and brown, used, fine, 8d.  
 Chile, 1900, new 5c. blue, 10c. lilac, 1d. each (used).  
 Costa Rica, old 10 and 20c. (1892), nett 2d. (used).  
 " new 10 and 20c. (1901), nett 5d. (used).  
 Ecuador, 10c. lilac and black, used, 4d.  
 " 10c. blue and black, used, 4d.  
 Mexico, 1900, new 5, 10, 15, 20c., set of 4, nett 5d. (used).

**WHOLESALE.**

**LOW VALUES IN DOZENS.**

(All in mint unused blocks, unless otherwise described. Panes or sheets have margin on all four sides).  
 FRANCE, new 1c. ... .. PER Doz. ... 2d.  
 " " 2c. ... .. ... —  
 " " 3c. ... .. ... 6d.  
 " " 4c. ... .. ... —  
 " " 5c. ... .. ... —  
 Port Said, 1c. blk. on blue ... .. 2d.  
 China on France, 5c. green (pane of 25, 1/6) ... .. 9d.  
 Belgium, Sunday Stamp, 1c. grey ... .. 2d.  
 Spain, 1901, new 25c. blue ... .. 3/-.  
 Italy, just obsolete, 1c. brown ... .. 2d.  
 " " 2c. red-brown ... .. 4d.  
 " " 5c. green ... .. 8d.  
 Eritrea on Italy, 1c. brown ... .. 2d.  
 " " 2c. red-brown ... .. 4d.  
 Luxemburg, 1895, 1c. grey ... .. 2d.  
 " " 2c. grey-brown ... .. 4d.  
 " " 4c. olive-yellow ... .. 8d.  
 " " 5c. green ... .. 9d.  
 Norway, 1898, 1 öre, drab (sheet 100, 1/9) 3d.  
 " 2 öre, brown ( " 3/-) 6d.  
 " 3 " orange ( " 4/3) 8d.  
 " 5 " green ... .. 11d.  
 Hungary, 1900, 1f. grey (sheet 100, 1/3) 2d.  
 " 2 filler, bistre ( " 2/4) 4d.

**Old Issues and Miscellaneous.**

Lagos, High Values in first Colours.  
 28 2/6 olive-black, mint 7/6-.  
 29 5/- blue, mint 125/-.  
 Sierra Leone.  
 23 4d. blue, Crown CA, mint, superb, £10.  
 Nevis, lithographed, perf. 15  
 26 1/- pale green, fine but no gum, 22/-.  
 27 1/- deep, green, mint, 24/-.  
 New South Wales, wmk. "5/-"  
 292 5/- purple, 35/- mint.  
 293 5/- dull mauve, 30/- mint.  
 Mauritius, Britannia, imperf.  
 42 6d. blue, mint 29/-.  
 45 1/- yellow, green, superb pair, 60/-.  
 Ceylon, Pence Issue. 1d. very deep blue, brilliant block of four, imperforate, 27/-.  
 Gibraltar.  
 34 5 pesetas, grey-blue, 6/6 mint.  
 South Australia, Postage and Revenue, 'specimen' Set from 2/6 to £20 with the Early perf. 10. The set of 13 for 30/-.  
 Antigua, old type, CA14.  
 29 6d. deep green, 3/- nett; 30/- per dozen.  
 Canada, 2c. violet, nett 2d.; 1/6 per dozen.  
 British South Africa, £1 black and red on green, mint. A small supply is offered at 25/- (cat. 40/-).  
 South Australia. The price of the 2/- carmine on the old Star paper has been advanced to 3/-. A supply on the new paper, Crown and S.A. is expected shortly.  
 Victoria, without "Postage." These are now almost entirely sold out, only a few of the lowest values remaining. Another "lost opportunity" to add to the already long list. The new stamps with "Postage" are expected by next mail.  
 Victoria, old type without "Postage." We still have several sheets of 240 of the ½d. value and offer same until exhausted at 12/6 only, a bargain.  
 Zanzibar, new colours.  
 1a. carmine, nett 2d.  
 4½d. green, nett 6d.  
 Victoria, with "Postage."  
 ½d. green, 1d.; block of 4, 3d.; per dozen, 8d.  
 Victoria, old type, 1d. olive-green, 2d.  
 Block of 4, 6d.; per dozen, 1/3.

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		Block of 4.	Single.
<b>Bahamas.</b>			
3303.	1d. carmine (33)	2d.	6d.
3304.	2½d. ultramarine (35)	3d.	1/0
3305.	4d. deep yellow (36)	5d.	1/8
3306.	6d. mauve (37)	8d.	2/4
3307.	1/- yellow-green, CC. (24)	1/3	5/0
3308.	1/- blue-green, CA. (38)	1/3	5/0
<b>Barbados, Queen's Heads.</b>			
3309.	½d. green (90)	2d.	—
3310.	3d. purple (96)	1/4	—
3311.	4d. brown (98)	7d.	2/4
3312.	1/- red-brown (102)	3/0	—
3313.	½d. on 4d. brown (104)	4d.	—
<b>Barbados, current issue.</b>			
3326.	½d. grey and carmine (107)	1d.	2d.
3327.	½d. dull green (108)	1d.	3d.
3328.	1d. rose (109)	2d.	5d.
3329.	2d. blue and orange (109a)	3d.	10d.
3330.	2½d. ultramarine (110)	3d.	1/0
3331.	5d. olive-brown (111)	7d.	1/11
3332.	6d. mauve and carmine (112)	8d.	2/4
3333.	8d. orange and blue (113)	10d.	3/2
3334.	10d. green and carmine (114)	1/0	3/11
<b>Bermuda.</b>			
3341.	½d. on 1/- grey (30)	1d.	2d.
3342.	½d. green (21)	1d.	3d.
3343.	1d. carmine (24)	2d.	5d.
3344.	2d. violet-brown (26)	3d.	11d.
3345.	2½d. ultramarine (27)	3d.	1/0
3346.	3d. grey (28)	4d.	1/3
3347.	4d. orange red, CC. (20)	5d.	1/8
3348.	6d. violet, CC. (7)	8d.	2/4
3349.	1/- green, CC. 14 x 12½ (11)	2/3	—
3350.	1/- yellow-brown (29)	1/3	4/8
<b>British Columbia, 1867-69.</b>			
3351.	5c. red & blk., CC., 12½ (23)	40/0	—
3352.	50c. lilac & blk., CC., 14 (31)	20/0	—
3353.	£1 green and black, CC., 14	60/0	—
<b>British Guiana, 1876 type.</b>			
3354.	6c. chocolate (132)	4d.	1/3
3355.	1c. grey (129)	2d.	—
3356.	2c. lilac & blk., (135, cat. 1/6)	8d.	2/6
3357.	3c. " (136)	3d.	—
3358.	4c. " (137)	4d.	—
3359.	6c. " (138)	9d.	—
3360.	8c. " (139)	6d.	2/0
3361.	10c. " (140)	8d.	2/6
3362.	20c. " (141)	1/4	5/4
3363.	40c. " (142)	3/0	12/0
3364.	72c. " (143)	4/6	18/0
<b>British Guiana, current type.</b>			
3365.	1c. green (170)	1d.	3d.
3366.	2c. lilac and orange (155)	2d.	8d.
3367.	2c. lilac and rose (184)	2d.	6d.
<b>British Honduras.</b>			

3368.	1c. dull green (51)	1d.	3d.
3369.	2c. carmine-rose (52)	2d.	6d.
3370.	5c. ultramarine (54)	9d.	—
3371.	5c. " " "Revenue" long (66)	4d.	—
3372.	5c. " " " " "short (74)	6d.	—
3373.	5c. grey and blue (78)	3d.	1/0
3374.	6c. ultramarine (55)	4d.	1/4
3375.	10c. mauve and green (56)	10d.	—
3376.	10c. "Revenue," long (67)	7d.	2/1
3377.	10c. " " " " "short (75)	8d.	—
3378.	12c. violet and green (58)	8d.	2/4
3379.	24c. yellow and blue (59)	1/4	4/8
3380.	25c. brown and green (61)	4/0	16/0
3381.	25c. "Revenue," long (68)	1/3	5/0
3382.	" " " " "short (76)	1/6	6/0

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(Whole Number, No. 196.)

LONDON, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1901.

[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

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Latest Auction Reports.  
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## New Issues and Varieties.

The Editor will be much obliged for early news of New Issues, or intended New Issues or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors. Full acknowledgment given. If possible, specimens should be sent in order that illustrations may be prepared.

**GREAT BRITAIN.**—Railway Letter Fee Stamps. The London, Tilbury & Southend Railway is making a new issue, with control numbers. Hitherto the stamps have been unnumbered. The same transfer has been employed and the sheets are still arranged in six rows of four. The first sheet of the new series is numbered "1/1" to "1/24," a curious fractional system which we do not recall having seen before on any kind of stamps.

The Neath and Brecon Railway have also had a new printing, the 6th in order since 1891. It is pale green in shade, perf. 11, and bears control numbers, being the first issue to have such. They commence at No. 001 but we cannot say how far they run. The first printing for this line was in 1891. Since then five have been made.

2nd.	Perf. 12.	Dull green.
3rd.	"	Blue green.
4th.	Perf. 11.	Green.
5th.	Roul.	Black-green.
6th.	Perf. 11.	Green.

**FRENCH CHINA.**—The current French China 25c. stamps have been overprinted with new values in cents—2, 4, 6, 16.

2 cents on 25c.	black on rose.
4	" 25c. "
6	" 25c. "
16	" 25c. "

**TRANSVAAL.**—*Morley's Philatelic Journal* reports a rumour that the King's Head series of stamps were despatched to the Colony on August 28th last.

## The New British Stamps.

POSSIBLE DATE OF ISSUE, NOVEMBER 9TH NEXT.

A CORRESPONDENT states positively that the first parcels of the new King's Head ½d. and 1d. stamps have already been taken into stock, but is unable to say whether they are printed on a new paper, or whether the crown watermark has been altered.

The *London Philatelist* publishes the following further details:—

"A friend who has seen the stamps gives us the following further particulars. On the left of the oval is a branch of bay and on the right, one of oak leaves. The inscription in upper label, in small white sans-serif caps, 'POSTAGE AND REVENUE'; on label below 'HALF-PENNY' in small white Roman caps. The background is very deeply shaded round the face, throwing it in relief. The colour is green, with a tinge of blue. Above the oval is an imperial crown. The 1d. value is similar in design to the ½d., colour deep carmine on white. It is possible that both stamps will be issued on November 9th this year."

Head of King Edward, ½d. green on white.

" " 1d. deep carmine on white.

Apparently we are not to have a coloured paper issue after all.

We take this opportunity of advising readers not to lay in a stock of the old Queen's Head stamps. We also advise any readers who may have laid in a stock of the reported-obsolete ½d. to unlock their capital at once and re-invest in something which offers a chance of some return. Even at the present day considerable quantities of old 1d. red stamps are being turned up in unused condition, twenty-one years after they became obsolete. Were it not that there are so

many varieties of plate-numbers and corner letters, they would be worth no more than face value to-day. Even the 1d. venetian-red of 1880 is not really worth double its face value—certainly not when in singles—yet it was only in use 17 months and 21 years have elapsed since it was obtainable at the Post-Office! What chance has the current 1d. lilac, which has no corner letters to induce specialists to plate it and so take quantities off the market. None whatever. Perhaps the only value which stands any chance at all of an advance is the 10/- blue. This value is really very scarce in used condition and worth distinctly more than present catalogue price, if in good condition, even at the present day. The Colonial Stamp Market will not stock any of the values.

## "Questions" Competition.

(Continued from page 170, E.W.S.N., No. 109)

5. Which do you consider the best (or worst!) philatelic conundrum (prevailing fashion); original or otherwise?

Here are a few samples [the majority are suppressed, out of consideration for our readers.—Ed.]

1.—Why did the Russian Levant? Because he had Scinde.

2.—When was Austria-Hungary? When she wanted (Samoa) Turkey.

3.—Why are the "Maltese Cross"? Because they are obliged to change from "English unused" to "English used."

4.—Why are the Boers keen philatelists? Because they carefully choose the best kopjes.

5.—Why would poems dedicated to the Editor of the *Monthly Journal* be like betting? Because it would be offering Odes to Evans!

\* \* \*

6. Which do you consider will be the first three Colonies to issue stamps with the King's head?

The votes were given as follows:—

Transvaal,	9 votes.
Victoria,	7 "
Orange River Colony,	4 "
Canada,	3 "

Recent events seem to show that Victoria will be first after all.

\* \* \*

7.—The ½d. value of Great Britain having been already withdrawn, it is unlikely that it will be re-issued with the King's Head Issue. Are any other values likely to be dropped out of the present series?

Here are three opinions all in favour of the one value being dropped:—"The 10d. value might possibly be dropped, as it is of little practical utility, and seldom asked for"; "The 10d. may perhaps be omitted, but I don't think any other values"; "There will probably be no 10d. in the new issue of King's Heads."

We must disagree with these three competitors, as there is really a very considerable demand for the 10d. value. This amount of 10d. is the minimum rate for foreign telegrams. A tenpenny stamp will prepay a telegram of 5 words to either France, Belgium, Germany or Holland and no doubt large numbers of code messages are despatched every day, each requiring just this 10d. stamp. It is also largely used by business houses having a regular correspondence with the Continent and the United States; by keeping a stock on hand of 2½d., 5d., 10d. and 2/6 stamps, the postage on any letter can be conveniently met; 9d. and 1/- stamps are of less use, as there is no continental rate of those amounts.

Other competitors suggest that the £5 value may be dropped, but we do not think this is at all likely, as it is used largely in keeping inter-departmental accounts. Owing to the reduction in cable rates and to the fact that cables costing very large amounts are paid in cash, it is not often required.

Another competitor makes the suggestion that the ½d. value may be re-issued. We could never quite understand why it was dropped, as it is useful in many ways, but assuming that official reasons have been found for dropping it, we do expect it will reappear in the King's Head set.

As promised last week, we now have pleasure in announcing the award in this, the third "Question" Competition. The first prize of a 5/- Victoria, (the rare and now obsolete issue without "Postage" which has advanced 60 per cent. in value since it was offered) is awarded to Mr. C. H. McDiarmid Fish (74 marks, maximum 100). The two consolation prizes of a 2/- Victoria (obsolete issue) are awarded to

2. Mr. W. H. Terry (73 marks).
3. Mr. Wm. Warwick (72 marks).

We regret that so long a delay should have occurred in making this announcement, but the Editor, who acted as judge in this competition, has been extremely busy of late, and had not been able to find time to go through the various lists sent in. The position of Sub-Editor on the staff of E.W.S.N. is, by the way, still open. Many readers offered their services, but we were unable to avail ourselves of same, owing to the fact that it is necessary for the Sub-Editor to be resident in or near Norwood. This should have been stated before.

## British Newspaper Tax Stamps.

THE October number of *Morley's Philatelic Journal* contains an interesting article on the subject of the old newspaper tax stamps, which were impressed on newspapers from 1712 till 1855. The duty came into force on July 19th, 1712, the first English newspaper—*The Weekly News*—having originated in 1622. The History of the Tax is as follows:—

1712. Halfpenny tax imposed.  
1756. Additional halfpenny added.  
1765-73. Various restrictive regulations imposed.

1789. 1½d. increased to 2d.

1797. 2d. " " 2½d.

1804. 2½d. " " 3½d.

1815. Duty altered to 4d., less 20% discount.

1836. Sept. 15th. Duty reduced to 1d.

1855. Total Abolition.

1855 to 1870. An optional stamp was allowed, in virtue of which the newspaper was permitted to pass free by post.

1870. Optional Stamp entirely repealed. In this year, an adhesive half-penny postage stamp was first issued by the Post Office.

From 1712 to 1756, during which period half-penny dies were required, three series appeared.

(a) With figures at foot, denoting die number.

(b) Similar, but with a horizontal line through the figures.

(c) Similar to (b) but with brackets at the ends of the horizontal line, curved outward.

Mr. Walter Morley has met with the following die numbers.

(a) Die Nos. 6, 950, 958, 983, 1045, 1167, 1175, 1301, 1309, 1313, 1324, 1325, 1342, 1497, 1508, 1516, 1901, 1902, 1913, 1922, 1926, 1928, 1929, 1931, 1932, 1940, 1944, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1959.

(b) Die Nos. 510, 830 (date 1733), 853 (date 1733), 864 (date 1734), 874 (date 1733), 890 (date 1733), 923, 928 (date 1735), 1006, 1033 (date 1736), 1110, (date 1738), 1259, 1262, 1273, 1282 (date 1742), 1405, 1550 (date 1743), 1745, 1776, 1806, 1871 (date 1751), 1872, 1878, 1893, 1912, 1920, 1924, 1925, 1930 (date 26/11/1751), 1936. No. 1405 is a proof dated 1742.

(c) Die Nos. 1410, 1508, 1659, 1678 (date 1751), 1712.

If any readers have other die numbers, they would confer a favour by sending particulars to the Editor, E.W.S.N.

## STANLEY GIBBONS' NEW CATALOGUE.

Part I.—Colonials.

Remarkable advances in values of nearly all Colonial stamps. Every reader should obtain a copy at once.

Sent Post Free, 2/3, per return of post.

Ewen's Colonial Stamp Market,  
32, PALACE SQUARE, NORWOOD, S.E.

**Argentine Republic.**

Issues of 1867, 5, 10 and 15c.

THE August number of the *Revista de la Sociedad Filatelica Argentina* publishes a very interesting article on the stamps of the 1867 types of the Argentine Republic, by Signor Sablo F. Coni. We believe that a short summary may be of interest to readers. Stanley Gibbons' Catalogue describes these issues as follows:—

- I.—Portrait of B. Rivadavia (to left).  
1867. No wmk. s. d. s. d.  
24. 5c. carmine (perf. 11½) .. — —  
25. " (imperf.) .. 20 0 10 0

II.—Portraits of Rivadavia (5c.) and Belgrano (10c.) to right and San Martin (15c.) to left.

1867. No wmk., perf. 12.  
(a) Head on ground of horizontal lines.  
26. 5c. vermilion .. 5 0 3 0  
28. 15c. blue .. 10 0 5 0  
(b) Head on ground of crossed lines.  
29. 5c. vermilion .. 0 6 0 2  
29a. 10c. green .. 1 0 0 9  
30. 15c. blue .. 4 0 2 6

No 29 differs from No. 26 in having the head entirely redrawn, the most noticeable difference being in the outline of the collar above the AR of "Argentine." In No. 26 it is rounded, in No. 29 nearly straight.

- (c) Variety on laid paper.  
31. 10c. green .. 60 0 15 0  
(d) Rouletted, 1876.  
39. 5c. vermilion .. 15 0 10 0  
(e) Surcharged in black, 1877.  
40. 1 on 5c. vermilion .. 2 6 3 6  
41. 2 on 5c. " .. 5 0 6 0  
42. 8 on 10c. green .. 5 0 3 0

The 5c. stamp continued to be printed down to 1889.

Signor Coni states that the 1865 stamps had been printed locally, but that on May 9th, 1865, a representative of the American Banknote Company made very advantageous proposals to the Postmaster General (Director General de Correos, don Gervasio A. de Posadas) which were ultimately accepted. Stamps continued however to be printed locally for some time, as the first order sent to the American Bank Note Company was dated March 12th, 1867. It was accompanied by portraits of don Bernardino Rivadavia, General don Manuel Belgrano y General don José de San Martin and called for the following quantities of stamps, face value 135,000 pesos.

5c. Rivadavia	carmine	1,500,000
10c. Belgrano	green	300,000
15c. San Martin	blue	200,000

These were not expected to be delivered until September 1867, and as it was found that on June 11th the stock of old stamps remaining on hand only amounted to 13,035 pesos, the Director General of Posts sought and obtained power to make a provisional printing of the 5c. old type.

On June 19th, 1867, he was authorized to obtain 100,000 stamps of 5c. but after distributing these to the Post Offices, only 16,900 remained. On July 25th, a further reprint of 100,000 was ordered, but only 60,000 of these had been printed down to August 3rd, when a notice arrived from the American Company announcing the despatch of part of the stamps ordered. The two provisional printings of the old types are Gibbons' Nos. 24.

1867, August 16th. On this date there arrived at Buenos Aires the following quantities of stamps:—500,000 5c.; 100,000 10c.; 200,000 15c. A public notice stated that they would be issued on September 1st, but the two higher values do not appear to have been obtainable until January 1st, 1868. The 5c. were printed in vermilion, and not in carmine as ordered, and were of the variety with horizontal lines (Gibbons No. 26).

1868, January 8th. The remainder of the first order were received on this date—1,000,000 5c. and 200,000 10c. All were in sheets of 100. The 5c. were evidently of the variety with crossed lines, as Signor Coni has found a regular series of such on letters dating back to February, 1868 (Gibbons No. 39).

1868, September 9th. Signor Posadas ordered a further supply of stamps from the American Company, and requested that they should be printed in fugitive colours. This application was acknowledged on 22.10.68, the Company stating that they could not meet the desire of the Director General, as the use of fugitive colours was only applicable in surface-printing, and if the director insisted, new plates would require to be made at considerable expense. Eventually the stamps were supplied without alteration, and arrived partly on 5.2.69—1,000,000 5c., 200,000 10c. and 100,000 15c.—and the remainder on 3.4.69—1,000,000 5c.

1870, February 8th. A third requisition was sent to the American Company on this date, and called for 2,000,000 5c., 300,000 10c. and 200,000 15c., which were delivered in Buenos Aires on 17.8.70.

1872, February 24th. A further order for 1,200,000 5c. and 300,000 10c. was despatched

on this date. On 18.7.72 a portion of these arrived—300,000 of each value—the remaining 900,000 5c. turning up on 11.9.72. When acknowledging this order, the American Bank Note Company stated that the 5c. plates were so much worn away as to render it necessary to make a new plate, which would cause some delay in the delivery of the stamps. To meet the demand in the meantime, a provisional printing of 400,000 5c. stamps was made locally from the plate of the 1864 type. These were issued on 27.6.72 and were unperforate, and on unwatermarked paper (Gibbons No. 25).

1873, January 18th. A fifth requisition was sent to the American Bank Note Company on this date, asking for 1,800,000 stamps of 5c. These were despatched on 22.4.83, per the Merrimack.

1873, March 21st. An authority for a further 1,500,000 5c., 1,000,000 10c. and 1,000,000 15c. was despatched. The unusually large proportion of 10c. and 15c. stamps is stated by Signor Coni to have been required owing to an agreement with England and France respecting the prepayment of oversea postage. Until 1878, when the Argentine Republic joined the Postal Union, all correspondence for Europe seems to have been despatched through the British and French Consulates and was franked with either British or French stamps. In the former case, the



stamps were generally cancelled at the Consulate with the postmark we illustrate (sometimes of a larger type), and less commonly on arrival in London, with the ordinary city diamond type. Signor Coni does not state what was the nature of the agreement of 1872, but we have evidence that in 1874 the Buenos Aires Post Office had authority to collect the letters on behalf of the British Consulate, the evidence being in the shape of a letter sent in 1874 from Buenos Aires, and franked in one corner with a 5c. Argentine Republic (cancelled "B") and in the other with an English 1/- stamp (cancelled London).

This, the sixth order sent to the American Bank Note Company, was delivered in various parcels on 9.9.73, 17.10.73, 21.11.73 and 5.1.74.

1874, July 14th. A new printing of 2,500,000 5c. stamps was requisitioned. Date of receipt unknown.

1875, October 28th. On this date, the last requisition for 5c. stamps of the 1867 type was made, by the new Director don Eduardo Olivera, and called for 5,000,000 stamps of 5c. Date of receipt unknown. Owing to the letter rate being raised to 8c. on January 1st, 1877, the demand for the 5c. value fell off, and the above large stock was probably never exhausted, although superseded when the new series of 1890 appeared.

On October 16th, 1876, a new contract was made with the American Bank Note Company, arranging for the alterations of the plates, owing to modification of the postal rates. At the same time, the Director-General of Posts was authorized to have 600,000 5c. stamps surcharged, probably with a view to reducing the very large stock. Of these, 400,000 were overprinted "1" and 200,000 "2." In 1882 and 1884 the 5c. stamps were again surcharged.

**Railway Letter Stamps.**

A Review of Mr. C. F. Dendy Marshall's article in the "London Philatelist," by the Editor of "Stamps."

"Mr. C. F. Dendy Marshall, B.A., Barrister at Law, has been employing a portion of the vacation in giving his views on the collectibility of these issues through the medium of the *London Philatelist*. We have considered this matter before, and if we remember aright there was a somewhat warm discussion on their status a year or two ago. We do not remember, however, that the case was ever put so clearly and pointedly as in the article before us, and we are sure that many like ourselves will feel that the "special pleading" has been convincing and unanswerable. The argument is based upon the following facts:—The railway company is only party to the transaction in so far as it is servant or agent to the Post Office, and the whole fee is thus properly postage and was originally intended to be paid in one sum. A threepenny stamp was surcharged in black—"Railway Letter Stamp," but the specimens were not approved and it was thought more convenient to let the sender pay the ordinary fee in stamps and the special fee to the railway company in cash to save account keeping. The *Postal Guide* expressly says that in regard to legal conditions "Railway letters will be deemed to be in all

respects letters sent by post. The railway companies in carrying such letters will act and be deemed to act solely as agents and at the sole risk and responsibility of the Postmaster-General." They might be called Special-Delivery stamps issued by the railway companies as agents of the Post Office, as the surcharged 3d. stamp would have certainly been described as a special delivery stamp. The Post Office has always sternly and consistently denied the right of issuing stamps or franking labels to any but itself and agents, while these issues are both accepted and approved. These and many other arguments go to form Mr. Dendy Marshall's theory that their position as part of the postal service is unassailable, and that they may with propriety be included in specialists' collections of this country's stamps."

**Latest Auction Results.**

October 24th and 25th. Messrs. Ventom, Bull & Cooper.

- Great Britain, Prince Albert Essays, the red and black, unused and fine... 20/-
- Great Britain, £5 orange, mint ... £4/15
- " Army Telegraphs, ½d., 1d., 2d. and 3d. mint ... 9/-
- Orange River Colony, 1d. lilac, surch. V.R. only, raised stop after R, mint ... 56/-
- Orange River, 2½d. V.R.I., half sheet of 120, showing errors ... £50
- St. Helena, 5/- orange, block of 4 ... 24/-
- Lydenburg provisionals, V.R.I., ½d. pair, used ... 34/-
- Ditto, single and 3d. on 1d. unused ... 30/-
- Ditto, both used ... 39/-
- Schweiser Reneke, set of 3, on pieces ... 7/- & 8/-
- New South Wales, £1 blue, horizontal pair, used ... 39/-
- Queensland, 1860, 2d. deep blue, imperf. pair, slight pinhole in right hand stamp ... 155/-
- Victoria, 1d. Queen on Throne, unused strip of three, cat. 60/- ... 65/-
- Western Australia, 4d. CA14, block of 4 ... £2

October 22nd & 23rd. Messrs. Plumridge & Co.

- British Guiana, 1862, Provisional, roul., 2c. black on yellow, with border of pearls, a fine copy with complete roulettes ... 80/-
- Ditto, 4c. black on blue, with border of hearts, complete roulettes only at bottom, but fine ... 80/-
- British South Africa, imperf., proofs of the 1st issue, 1d., 6d., 1/-, 2/-, 2/6 5/-, £1, £2, £5 and £10, set of 11 ... £6
- Mafeking, 1d. on Cape ½d. current, unused ... 52/6
- " 3d. on Cape 1d., mint pair, stained ... 30/-
- " Ditto, no comma after Mafeking ... 17/-
- " 1d. on ½d. Bech. Prot., mint ... 28/-
- " 3d. on 1d. Bech. Prot., mint... 34/-
- " 6d. on 2d. " " 26/-
- " 6d. on 3d. " (lilac) un. v.f. 40/-
- " 1/- on 4d. Bech. unused, v.f. ... £3
- Great Britain, 10/- blue. I.R. Official ... 42/-
- Oxford College Stamps, set of nine ... 16/-
- Mulready 1d. envelope and 2d. wrapper, A172 and a103, unused, fine ... 17/-
- Guatemala, 1881, 2c. brown and green, with centre inverted, mint ... 21/-
- Mauritius, 2d. blue, error "Penoe," early state of plate ... £9/10
- Natal, 5/- marone, CC. 14 ... 47/6
- Straits, CC. 12½, 96c. grey, unused ... 65/-
- Switzerland, 1850, Vaud, 4c. black on red, slightly cracked ... 145/-
- Tobago, 1880, 1d. in manuscript on half of 6d. orange, used ... 67/6
- Schweiser Renecke provisionals, sets of three, used ... 12/- & 13/-
- Wolmaranstad Provisional, 1d. carmine and green, a superb mint copy, with bottom margin ... 38/-
- Trinidad, Lady McLeod, blue, used on the entire and cancelled by tearing a piece off.
  - (a.) About ½ stamp gone ... 16/-
  - (b.) " ¼ " " " ... 16/-
  - (c.) " ¼ " " " two at ... 32/-
- Tuscany, 60 crazie, brick-red on azure, fine, used ... £5
- Zanzibar, ½a. green and red, two panes of 60, with single watermark, cat. 2/- each (or £12 the 120) ... 14/-

The price realized for the last lot leads one to suppose catalogue price must be an error for 2d.

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES "E.W.S.N.":**

One year, 6/6; 6 months, 3/3; 3 months, 1/7½; or ONE PENNY WEEKLY through all News-Agents.

FOREIGN ARRIVALS.

(NOTE.—Most foreign stamps are almost as good an investment in mint unused condition as those issued by British Colonies, if purchases are made with care, and countries like Abyssinia, Persia, Nicaragua, Honduras, etc., are ignored. That there is a good market for unused foreigners is evidenced by the fact that a collection consisting entirely of unused Europeans recently sold for £30,000.)

- Port Said, surcharged on French, old type. 1c. black on blue, pair with mill. o, nett 2d. China, surcharged on French, old type. 5c. yellow-green, pair with mill. o, nett 3d. France, "Chiffre Taxe" 1c. black, 5c. blue, 10c. brown, set of 3, nett 3d. Belgium, unpaid. Set of 5, 5, 10, 20, 50c. 1fr., nett 1/11. Belgium, Sunday stamps. Set of ten, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 25, 35, 50c., 1, 2fr., nett, 4/5. Luxemburg, 1fr. violet, (old type), nett 2/-; 5fr. orange-brown (old type), nett 5/10. Denmark, new 24 öre, brown, nett 5d. Sweden, New 25 öre, orange, nett 5d. Finland, 1901, 1 markka, nett 1/3. Finland, 1889 type, 2, 5, 10, 20, 25p., 1m., set of 6, 2/3. Hungary, 1900, values in filléres. 25f., blue and black, nett 4d. 30f., brown and black, nett 4d. 50f., lake and black, nett 6d. 60f., green and black, nett 8d. Roumania, 5, 10, 15 bani, set of three, 4d. Greece, Small Head of Mercury. 1 lepton, brown, 1d.; block of 4, 1d. 2 lepta, bistre, 1d.; block of 4, 2d. 5 " green, 1d.; block of 4, 3d. 10 " orange, 2d.; block of 4, 6d. Greek Provisionals, surcharged on old types. Large Head of Mercury. 30 on 40 lepta, 5d.\* 40 on 2 " 5d.\* 50 on 40 " buff, 6d.\* 3dr. on 10 lepta, 2/9. 5dr. on 40 lepta, lilac on blue, 3/9. \*NOTE.—Pairs can be supplied, showing wide and narrow "O," 1/- each. Small Head of Mercury. 1dr. on 40 lepta, violet, 1/- (imperf.) 2dr. on 40 " 1/9 (perf. 13). Olympian Games (Axia Metalliki). 25l. on 40 lepta, nett 5d. 50l. on 2dr. stone, nett 10d. 1dr. on 5dr. green, nett 1/3. 2dr. on 10dr. brown, nett 2/6. Cuba, pictorial set, 1, 2, 3, 5, 10c., nett 1/3. Sweden, low values, 1, 2, 3, 4 öre, set of 4, 2d. Siam, 1901, head to left. 2 atts, bright green, nett 1d.; block of 4, 3d. Siam provisional, 3 on 12 atts, 1 1/2d. each. Japan, new, 1 1/2 sen blue, 1d. each; block of 4, 3d. Bolivia, 1899, used, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20c., set of 5, 6d. Bolivia, 10c. orange, nett 1d. (used). " 20c. rose (cat. 6d.), nett 2d. (used). Bolivia, surch. "EF 1899" on 1894 issue (used). 5c. violet on green, nett 2d. 10c. violet on brown, nett 3d. Chile, old type, 15c. green, fine, used, 2d. 20c. slate-grey, fine, used, 1d. 1 peso, black and brown, used, fine, 8d. Chile, 1900, new 5c. blue, 10c. lilac, 1d. each (used). Costa Rica, old 10 and 20c. (1892), nett 2d. (used). " new 10 and 20c. (1901), nett 5d. (used). Ecuador, 10c. lilac and black, used, 4d. " 10c. blue and black, used, 4d. Mexico, 1900, new 5, 10, 15, 20c., set of 4, nett 5d. (used).

WHOLESALE.

LOW VALUES IN DOZENS.

(All in mint unused blocks, unless otherwise described. Panes or sheets have margin on all four sides.)

Table with columns for country and value, and a 'Per Doz.' column. Includes entries for France, Port Said, China, Belgium, Spain, Italy, Eritrea, Luxemburg, Norway, and Hungary.

HISTORY OF Railway Letter Stamps.

COMPILED BY H. L'ESTRANGE EWEN.

THIS Work is now ready, and orders are being executed in rotation. Only a very small supply has been printed and the book will be one of the rarest philatelic works ever published. The price has been fixed at the nominal amount of One Guinea, post free. Abroad, carriage extra (weight, with packing, 5 1/2lbs.) The book contains about 440 pages, arranged as follows:—

Table listing sections like Preface, Index to 106 Railway Companies, The Railway Letter Post, etc., with corresponding page numbers.

No fewer than 1209 stamps are illustrated. The illustrations are interleaved with the letterpress and consequently conveniently arranged for reference. The total number of Railway Letter Stamps printed since the service originated in February, 1891, is as follows:

Table showing total printed and number of issues for English & Welsh R'lways, Scottish Railways, and Irish Railways.

The total number of different issues which are known to have been made, including three issued since the book went to press, amounts to 480, or a smaller number than the collector of Colonial postage stamps has to look for in New South Wales alone. Owing to the general ignorance prevailing on the subject of these letter fee stamps, many bargains are continually being picked up by those "in the know." The present offer of a complete History and Catalogue of the stamps enables any purchaser to become equally well informed. The work is beautifully printed by Messrs. Pardy & Son, of Bournemouth, and sumptuously bound. The illustrations are by the Meisenbach Co., of West Norwood.

MINT UNUSED COLONIAL STAMPS.

I.—WEST INDIES, EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA.

Large table listing various stamps from Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, British Columbia, and British Guiana, with values and issue details.

British Honduras.

Table listing stamps from British Honduras, such as 3368. 1c. dull green (51), 3369. 2c. carmine-rose (52), etc.

NEW APPROVAL BOOKS.

The following fine New Approval Books are now ready:—

- Used English. Mounted in eleven volumes, each containing over 3000 stamps, priced reasonably, to select from. A1. Line-Engraved, used; specially strongly in 1d. black, 2d. blue in strips. Also contains unused 1d. red plate numbers. A2. Fine general selection of 2 1/2d. and higher values, including £1 Cross and Anchor, Officials, etc. A3. Line-Engraved. Fine lot of the 1855 perforation and watermark varieties. A4. Surface-printed; general selection; some unused. A5. Line-Engraved. Specially strong in 1/2d. red, arranged for plating. A6, A7, A8 in preparation. Orders to see same now being booked. A9. Used 1d. red plate-numbers. A10. Unused 1d. red plate-numbers. Very fine lot, comprising singles, pairs and blocks, and including the rarest plate-numbers. A11. Railway Letter Stamps. In preparation. Unused Colonials, in mint condition (singles, pair and blocks). B1. West Indies. B2. Africa, Bechuanaland to Niger Coast. B3. Orange Free State to Zululand. B4. Orange River Colony. B5. Asia, except Straits Settlements. B6. Straits Settlements, Johore, Negri Sembilan, Perak, Pahang, Selangor, etc. B7. Australasia, Cook Islands, to New Zealand. B8. Australasia, Queensland to Western Australia. B9. New Zealand, a very fine lot. B10. West Indies, Vol. II. B11. European and American Colonies. B12. High Values, General. A very valuable book. Used Colonials, general selections (with discount). C1. Antigua to Newfoundland. C2. New South Wales to Zululand. C3. General. Unused Foreigners, in blocks, mint. E1. General, mostly Europeans. Used Foreigners, general selection (with discount.). F1. Europeans, Austria to Holland. F2. Europeans, Hungary to Wurtemberg. F3. South Americans, Argentine to Peru. F4. General.

The above list consists solely of large approval approval books and is in addition to the list of booklets and sheets advertised on the fourth page.

As the books are worth, in the aggregate, thousands of pounds, they can only be sent to clients well known to us, or who furnish first-class references.

MIXED LOTS OF USED ENGLISH.

Table listing mixed lots of used English stamps, including items like AA. 645 6d. lilac, various plates, AB. 21 3d. rose, small letters, etc.

**Argentine Republic.**

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1870, February 8th. A third requisition was sent to the American Company on this date, and called for 2,000,000 5c., 300,000 10c. and 200,000 15c., which were delivered in Buenos Aires on 17.8.70.

1872, February 24th. A further order for 1,200,000 5c. and 300,000 10c. was despatched

on this date. On 18.7.72 a portion of these arrived—300,000 of each value—the remaining 900,000 5c. turning up on 11.9.72. When acknowledging this order, the American Bank Note Company stated that the 5c. plates were so much worn away as to render it necessary to make a new plate, which would cause some delay in the delivery of the stamps. To meet the demand in the meantime, a provisional printing of 400,000 5c. stamps was made locally from the plate of the 1864 type. These were issued on 27.6.72 and were unperforate, and on unwatermarked paper (Gibbons No. 25).

1873, January 18th. A fifth requisition was sent to the American Bank Note Company on this date, asking for 1,800,000 stamps of 5c. These were despatched on 22.4.83, per the Merrimack.

1873, March 21st. An authority for a further 1,500,000 5c., 1,000,000 10c. and 1,000,000 15c. was despatched. The unusually large proportion of 10c. and 15c. stamps is stated by Signor Coni to have been required owing to an agreement with England and France respecting the prepayment of oversea postage. Until 1878, when the Argentine Republic joined the Postal Union, all correspondence for Europe seems to have been despatched through the British and French Consulates and was franked with either British or French stamps. In the former case, the



stamps were generally cancelled at the Consulate with the postmark we illustrate (sometimes of a larger type), and less commonly on arrival in London, with the ordinary city diamond type. Signor Coni does not state what was the nature of the agreement of 1872, but we have evidence that in 1874 the Buenos Aires Post Office had authority to collect the letters on behalf of the British Consulate, the evidence being in the shape of a letter sent in 1874 from Buenos Aires, and franked in one corner with a 5c. Argentine Republic (cancelled "B") and in the other with an English 1/- stamp (cancelled London).

This, the sixth order sent to the American Bank Note Company, was delivered in various parcels on 9.9.73, 17.10.73, 21.11.73 and 5.1.74.

1874, July 14th. A new printing of 2,500,000 5c. stamps was requisitioned. Date of receipt unknown.

1875, October 28th. On this date, the last requisition for 5c. stamps of the 1867 type was made, by the new Director don Eduardo Olivera, and called for 5,000,000 stamps of 5c. Date of receipt unknown. Owing to the letter rate being raised to 8c. on January 1st, 1877, the demand for the 5c. value fell off, and the above large stock was probably never exhausted, although superseded when the new series of 1890 appeared.

On October 16th, 1876, a new contract was made with the American Bank Note Company, arranging for the alterations of the plates, owing to modification of the postal rates. At the same time, the Director-General of Posts was authorized to have 600,000 5c. stamps surcharged, probably with a view to reducing the very large stock. Of these, 400,000 were overprinted "1" and 200,000 "2." In 1882 and 1884 the 5c. stamps were again surcharged.

**Railway Letter Stamps.**

A Review of Mr. C. F. Dendy Marshall's article in the "London Philatelist," by the Editor of "Stamps."

"Mr. C. F. Dendy Marshall, B.A., Barrister at Law, has been employing a portion of the vacation in giving his views on the collectibility of these issues through the medium of the *London Philatelist*. We have considered this matter before, and if we remember aright there was a somewhat warm discussion on their status a year or two ago. We do not remember, however, that the case was ever put so clearly and pointedly as in the article before us, and we are sure that many like ourselves will feel that the "special pleading" has been convincing and unanswerable. The argument is based upon the following facts:—The railway company is only party to the transaction in so far as it is servant or agent to the Post Office, and the whole fee is thus properly postage and was originally intended to be paid in one sum. A threepenny stamp was surcharged in black—"Railway Letter Stamp," but the specimens were not approved and it was thought more convenient to let the sender pay the ordinary fee in stamps and the special fee to the railway company in cash to save account keeping. The *Postal Guide* expressly says that in regard to legal conditions "Railway letters will be deemed to be in all

respects letters sent by post. The railway companies in carrying such letters will act and be deemed to act solely as agents and at the sole risk and responsibility of the Postmaster-General." They might be called Special-Delivery stamps issued by the railway companies as agents of the Post Office, as the surcharged 3d. stamp would have certainly been described as a special delivery stamp. The Post Office has always sternly and consistently denied the right of issuing stamps or franking labels to any but itself and agents, while these issues are both accepted and approved. These and many other arguments go to form Mr. Dendy Marshall's theory that their position as part of the postal service is unassailable, and that they may with propriety be included in specialists' collections of this country's stamps."

**Latest Auction Results.**

October 24th and 25th. Messrs. Ventom, Bull & Cooper.

- Great Britain, Prince Albert Essays, the red and black, unused and fine... 20/-
- Great Britain, £5 orange, mint ... £4/15
- " Army Telegraphs, ½d., 1d., 2d. and 3d. mint ... 9/-
- Orange River Colony, 1d. lilac, surch. V.R. only, raised stop after R, mint ... 56/-
- Orange River, 2½d. V.R.I., half sheet of 120, showing errors ... £50
- St. Helena, 5/- orange, block of 4 ... 24/-
- Lydenburg provisionals, V.R.I., ½d. pair, used ... 34/-
- Ditto, single and 3d. on 1d. unused ... 30/-
- Ditto, both used ... 39/-
- Schweiser Reneke, set of 3, on pieces ... 7/- & 8/-
- New South Wales, £1 blue, horizontal pair, used ... 39/-
- Queensland, 1860, 2d. deep blue, imperf. pair, slight pinhole in right hand stamp ... 155/-
- Victoria, 1d. Queen on Throne, unused strip of three, cat. 60/- ... 65/-
- Western Australia, 4d. CA14, block of 4 ... £2

October 22nd & 23rd. Messrs. Plumridge & Co.

- British Guiana, 1862, Provisional, roul., 2c. black on yellow, with border of pearls, a fine copy with complete roulettes ... 80/-
- Ditto, 4c. black on blue, with border of hearts, complete roulettes only at bottom, but fine ... 80/-
- British South Africa, imperf., proofs of the 1st issue, 1d., 6d., 1/-, 2/-, 2/6 5/-, £1, £2, £5 and £10, set of 11 ... £6
- Mafeking, 1d. on Cape ½d. current, unused ... 52/6
- " 3d. on Cape 1d. mint pair, stained ... 30/-
- " Ditto, no comma after Mafeking ... 17/-
- " 1d. on ½d. Bech. Prot., mint ... 28/-
- " 3d. on 1d. Bech. Prot., mint ... 34/-
- " 6d. on 2d. " " " ... 26/-
- " 6d. on 3d. " (lilac) un. v.f. ... 40/-
- " 1/- on 4d. Bech. unused, v.f. ... £3
- Great Britain, 10/- blue, I.R. Official ... 42/-
- Oxford College Stamps, set of nine ... 16/-
- Mulready 1d. envelope and 2d. wrapper, A172 and A103, unused, fine ... 17/-
- Guatemala, 1881, 2c. brown and green, with centre inverted, mint ... 21/-
- Mauritius, 2d. blue, error "Penoe," early state of plate ... £9/10
- Natal, 5/- marone, CC. 14 ... 47/6
- Straits, CC. 12½, 96c. grey, unused ... 65/-
- Switzerland, 1850, Vaud, 4c. black on red, slightly cracked ... 145/-
- Tobago, 1880, 1d. in manuscript on half of 6d. orange, used ... 67/6
- Schweiser Reneke provisionals, sets of three, used ... 12/- & 13/-
- Wolmaranstad Provisional, 1d. carmine and green, a superb mint copy, with bottom margin ... 38/-
- Trinidad, Lady McLeod, blue, used on the entire and cancelled by tearing a piece off.
  - (a.) About ¼ stamp gone ... 16/-
  - (b.) " ½ " " " ... 16/-
  - (c.) " ¾ " " " two at ... 32/-
- Tuscany, 60 "crazie," brick-red on azure, fine, used ... £5
- Zanzibar, ½a. green and red, two panes of 60, with single watermark, cat. 2/- each (or £12 the 120) ... 14/-

The price realized for the last lot leads one to suppose catalogue price must be an error for 2d.

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES "E.W.S.N.":**

One year, 6/6; 6 months, 3/3; 3 months, 1/7½; or ONE PENNY WEEKLY through all News-Agents.

## FOREIGN ARRIVALS.

(NOTE.—Most foreign stamps are almost as good an investment in mint unused condition as those issued by British Colonies, if purchases are made with care, and countries like Abyssinia, Persia, Nicaragua, Honduras, etc., are ignored. That there is a good market for unused foreigners is evidenced by the fact that a collection consisting entirely of unused Europeans recently sold for £30,000.)

- Port Said, surcharged on French, old type.  
1c. black on blue, pair with mill. o, nett 2d.
- China, surcharged on French, old type.  
5c. yellow-green, pair with mill. o, nett 3d.
- France, "Chiffre Taxe"  
1c. black, 5c. blue, 10c. brown, set of 3, nett 3d.
- Belgium, unpaid.  
Set of 5, 5, 10, 20, 50c. fr., nett 1/11.
- Belgium, Sunday stamps.  
Set of ten, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 25, 35, 50c., 1, 2fr., nett, 4/5.
- Luxemburg, 1fr. violet, (old type), nett 2/-; 5fr. orange-brown (old type), nett 5/10.
- Denmark, new 24 øre, brown, nett 5d.
- Sweden, New 25 øre, orange, nett 5d.
- Finland, 1901, 1 markka, nett 1/3.
- Finland, 1889 type, 2, 5, 10, 20, 25p., 1m., set of 6, 2/3.
- Hungary, 1900, values in filléres.  
25f., blue and black, nett 4d.  
30f., brown and black, nett 4d.  
50f., lake and black, nett 6d.  
60f., green and black, nett 8d.
- Roumania, 5, 10, 15 bani, set of three, 4d.
- Greece, Small Head of Mercury.  
1 lepton, brown, 1d.; block of 4, 1d.  
2 lepta, bistre, 1d.; block of 4, 2d.  
5 " green, 1d.; block of 4, 3d.  
10 " orange, 2d.; block of 4, 6d.
- Greek Provisionals, surcharged on old types.  
Large Head of Mercury.  
30 on 40 lepta, 5d.\*  
40 on 2 " 5d.\*  
50 on 40 " buff, 6d.\*  
3dr. on 10 lepta, 2/9.  
5dr. on 40 lepta, lilac on blue, 3/9.
- \*NOTE.—Pairs can be supplied, showing wide and narrow "O," 1/- each.
- Small Head of Mercury.  
1dr. on 40 lepta, violet, 1/- (imperf.)  
2dr. on 40 " " 1/9 (perf. 13).
- Olympian Games (Axia Metalliki).  
25l. on 40 lepta, nett 5d.  
50l. on 2dr. stone, nett 10d.  
1dr. on 5dr. green, nett 1/3.  
2dr. on 10dr. brown, nett 2/6.
- Cuba, pictorial set, 1, 2, 3, 5, 10c., nett 1/3.
- Sweden, low values, 1, 2, 3, 4 øre, set of 4, 2d.
- Siam, 1901, head to left.  
2 atts, bright green, nett 1d.; block of 4, 3d.
- Siam provisional, 3 on 12 atts, 1½d. each.
- Japan, new, 1½ sen blue, 1d. each; block of 4, 3d.
- Bolivia, 1899, used, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20c., set of 5, 6d.
- Bolivia, 10c. orange, nett 1d. (used).  
" 20c. rose (cat. 6d.), nett 2d. (used).  
Bolivia, surch. "EF 1899" on 1894 issue (used).  
5c. violet on green, nett 2d.  
10c. violet on brown, nett 3d.
- Chile, old type, 15c. green, fine, used, 2d.  
20c. slate-grey, fine, used, 1d.  
1 peso, black and brown, used, fine, 8d.
- Chile, 1900, new 5c. blue, 10c. lilac, 1d. each (used).
- Costa Rica, old 10 and 20c. (1892), nett 2d. (used).  
" new 10 and 20c. (1901), nett 5d. (used).
- Ecuador, 10c. lilac and black, used, 4d.  
" 10c. blue and black, used, 4d.
- Mexico, 1900, new 5, 10, 15, 20c., set of 4, nett 5d. (used).

## WHOLESALE.

## LOW VALUES IN DOZENS.

	Per Doz.
France, new 1c.	...
" " 2c.	...
" " 3c.	...
" " 4c.	...
" " 5c.	...
Port Said, 1c. blk. on blue	2d.
China on France, 5c. green (pane of 25, 1/6)	...
Belgium, Sunday Stamp, 1c. grey	2d.
Spain, 1901, new 25c. blue	3/-
Italy, just obsolete, 1c. brown	2d.
" " 2c. red-brown	4d.
" " 5c. green	8d.
Eritrea on Italy, 1c. brown	2d.
" " 2c. red-brown	4d.
Luxemburg, 1895, 1c. grey	2d.
" " 2c. grey-brown	4d.
" " 4c. olive-yellow	8d.
" " 5c. green	9d.
Norway, 1898, 1 øre, drah (sheet 100, 1/9)	3d.
" 2 øre, brown ( " 3/-)	6d.
" 3 " orange ( " 4/3)	8d.
" 5 " green	11d.
Hungary, 1900, 1f. grey (sheet 100, 1/3)	2d.
" 2 filler, bistre ( " 2/4)	4d.

HISTORY OF  
Railway Letter Stamps.

COMPILED BY H. L'ESTRANGE EWEN.

THIS Work is now ready, and orders are being executed in rotation. Only a very small supply has been printed and the book will be one of the rarest philatelic works ever published. The price has been fixed at the nominal amount of One Guinea, post free. Abroad, carriage extra (weight, with packing, 5½lbs.)  
The book contains about 440 pages, arranged as follows:—

	Pages.
Preface .. .. .	iii., iv.
Index to 106 Railway Companies ..	v. to vii.
The Railway Letter Post .. .. .	1, 2.
The Railway Letter Stamp .. .. .	3, 4.
Printers of Railway Letter Stamps ..	5 to 16.
English Railways .. .. .	17 to 258.
Scottish Railways .. .. .	259 to 310.
Irish Railways .. .. .	311 to 424.
Appendix .. .. .	425 to 431.

No fewer than 1209 stamps are illustrated. The illustrations are interleaved with the letterpress and consequently conveniently arranged for reference.

The total number of Railway Letter Stamps printed since the service originated in February, 1891, is as follows:

	Total printed.	No. of Issues.
English & Welsh R'lwys	1,800,000	311
Scottish Railways	275,000	54
Irish Railways	425,000	112

Total - 2,500,000 477

The total number of different issues which are known to have been made, including three issued since the book went to press, amounts to 480, or a smaller number than the collector of Colonial postage stamps has to look for in New South Wales alone. Owing to the general ignorance prevailing on the subject of these letter fee stamps, many bargains are continually being picked up by those "in the know." The present offer of a complete History and Catalogue of the stamps enables any purchaser to become equally well informed. The work is beautifully printed by Messrs. Parry & Son, of Bournemouth, and sumptuously bound. The illustrations are by the Meisenbach Co. of West Norwood.

## MINT UNUSED COLONIAL STAMPS.

## I.—WEST INDIES, EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA.

	Single.	Block of 4.
<b>Bahamas.</b>		
3303. 1d. carmine (33)	2d.	6d.
3304. 2½d. ultramarine (35)	3d.	1/0
3305. 4d. deep yellow (36)	5d.	1/8
3306. 6d. mauve (37)	8d.	2/4
3307. 1/- yellow-green, CC. (24)	1/3	5/0
3308. 1/- blue-green, CA. (38)	1/3	5/0
<b>Barbados, Queen's Heads.</b>		
3309. ½d. green (90)	2d.	—
3310. 3d. purple (96)	1/4	—
3311. 4d. brown (98)	7d.	2/4
3312. 1/- red-brown (102)	3/0	—
3313. ½d. on 4d. brown (104)	4d.	—
<b>Barbados, current issue.</b>		
3326. ½d. grey and carmine (107)	1d.	2d.
3327. ½d. dull green (108)	1d.	3d.
3328. 1d. rose (109)	2d.	5d.
3329. 2d. blue and orange (109a)	3d.	10d.
3330. 2½d. ultramarine (110)	3d.	1/0
3331. 5d. olive-brown (111)	7d.	1/11
3332. 6d. mauve and carmine (112)	8d.	2/4
3333. 8d. orange and blue (113)	10d.	3/2
3334. 10d. green and carmine (114)	1/0	3/11
<b>Bermuda.</b>		
3341. ½d. on 1/- grey (30)	1d.	2d.
3342. ½d. green (21)	1d.	3d.
3343. 1d. carmine (24)	2d.	5d.
3344. 2d. violet-brown (26)	3d.	11d.
3345. 2½d. ultramarine (27)	3d.	1/0
3346. 3d. grey (28)	4d.	1/3
3347. 4d. orange-red, CC. (20)	5d.	1/8
3348. 6d. violet, CC. (7)	8d.	2/4
3349. 1/- green, CC. 14x12½ (11)	2/3	—
3350. 1/- yellow-brown (29)	1/3	4/8
<b>British Columbia, 1867-69.</b>		
3351. 5c. red & blk., CC., 12½ (23)	40/0	—
3352. 50c. lilac & blk., CC., 14(31)	80/0	—
3353. \$1 green and black, CC., 14	60/0	—
<b>British Guiana, 1876 type.</b>		
3354. 6c. chocolate (132)	4d.	1/3
3355. 1c. grey (129)	2d.	—
3356. 2c. lilac & blk., (135, cat. 1/6)	8d.	2/6
3357. 3c. " (136)	3d.	—
3358. 4c. " (137)	4d.	—
3359. 6c. " (138)	9d.	—
3362. 20c. " (141)	1/4	5/4
3363. 40c. " (142)	3/0	12/0
3364. 72c. " (143)	4/6	18/0
<b>British Guiana, current type.</b>		
3365. 1c. green (170)	1d.	3d.

## British Honduras.

3368. 1c. dull green (51)	1d.	3d.
3369. 2c. carmine-rose (52)	2d.	6d.
3370. 5c. ultramarine (54)	9d.	—
3371. 5c. " " "Revenue" long (66)	4d.	—
3372. 5c. " " short (74)	6d.	—
3373. 5c. grey and blue (78)	3d.	1/0
3374. 6c. ultramarine (55)	4d.	1/4
3375. 10c. mauve and green (56)	10d.	—
3376. 10c. "Revenue," long (67)	7d.	2/1
3377. 10c. " " short (75)	8d.	—
3378. 12c. violet and green (58)	8d.	2/4
3379. 24c. yellow and blue (59)	1/4	4/8
3380. 25c. brown and green (61)	4/0	16/0
3381. 25c. "Revenue," long (68)	1/3	5/0
3382. " " short (76)	1/6	6/0

## NEW APPROVAL BOOKS.

The following fine New Approval Books are now ready:—

*Used English.* Mounted in eleven volumes, each containing over 3000 stamps, priced reasonably, to select from.

- A1. Line-Engraved, used; specially strongly in 1d. black, 2d. blue in strips. Also contains unused 1d. red plate numbers.
- A2. Fine general selection of 2½d. and higher values, including £1 Cross and Anchor, Officials, etc.
- A3. Line-Engraved. Fine lot of the 1855 perforation and watermark varieties.
- A4. Surface-printed; general selection; some unused.
- A5. Line-Engraved. Specially strong in ½d. red, arranged for plating.
- A6, A7, A8 in preparation. Orders to see same now being booked.
- A9. Used 1d. red plate-numbers.
- A10. Unused 1d. red plate-numbers. Very fine lot, comprising singles, pairs and blocks, and including the rarest plate-numbers.
- A11. Railway Letter Stamps. In preparation.

*Unused Colonials, in mint condition (singles, pair and blocks).*

- B1. West Indies.
- B2. Africa, Bechuanaland to Niger Coast.
- B3. Orange Free State to Zululand.
- B4. Orange River Colony.
- B5. Asia, except Straits Settlements.
- B6. Straits Settlements, Johore, Negri Sembilan, Perak, Pahang, Selangor, etc.
- B7. Australasia, Cook Islands, to New Zealand.
- B8. Australasia, Queensland to Western Australia.
- B9. New Zealand, a very fine lot.
- B10. West Indies, Vol. II.
- B11. European and American Colonies.
- B12. High Values, General. A very valuable book.

*Used Colonials, general selections (with discount).*

- C1. Antigua to Newfoundland.
- C2. New South Wales to Zululand.
- C3. General.

*Unused Foreigners, in blocks, mint.*

E1. General, mostly Europeans.

*Used Foreigners, general selection (with discount).*

- F1. Europeans, Austria to Holland.
- F2. Europeans, Hungary to Wurtemberg.
- F3. South Americans, Argentine to Peru.
- F4. General.

The above list consists solely of large approval approval books and is in addition to the list of booklets and sheets advertised on the fourth page.

As the books are worth, in the aggregate, thousands of pounds, they can only be sent to clients well known to us, or who furnish first-class references.

## MIXED LOTS OF USED ENGLISH.

	Lot.	Description.	Price.
AA.	645	6d. lilac, various plates	52/0
AB.	21	3d. rose, small letters	30/0
AC.	62	6d. grey, various plates	10/0
AD.	72	3d. rose, various plates	6/0
AF.	225	4d. rose, no letters...	13/6
AG.	20	6d. chestnut, various plates...	7/6
AH.	123	4d. vermilion, various plates	10/0
AI.	500	½d. red, various plates	10/0
AJ.	185	2½d. blue, plate 21, a reconstructed sheet, all but 55	15/0
AK.	149	3d. rose, plates 17-20	12/0
AL.		Box containing about 10,000 English stamps, mostly 1d. reds	8/6
AM.	4685	½d. red, various plates, but no plate 9	55/0
AN.	100	2½d. lilac, 1884	6/0
AO.	478	½d. red, various plate Nos.	9/0
AP.	207	6d. lilac, various plates...	16/6
AQ.	367	4d. vermilion	22/6
AR.	352	2½d. blue	5/6
AS.	138	6d. lilac	11/0
AT.	357	½d. slate, 1884	4/6
AU.	2704	2½d. rose, various plates	110/0
AV.	1400	2½d.	65/0
AX.	1000	Ditto, ditto	2/0
AY.	85	2½d. lilac, 1884	4/0
AZ.	651	1d. red, plate Nos.	1/0
BA.	1170	2d. blue, in box, various plates	46/0
BB.	216	3d. rose	16/0
BC.	1135	2½d. blue	18/6
BD.	2372	3d. rose	110/0
BE.	3142	1d. red, imperf., in box	7/6
BF.	1174	1d. venetian red, in box	10/6
BG.	299	½d. green, 1880	8/6

# Approval Selections.

## ANY COUNTRY OR COLONY.

USED OR UNUSED, RARE OR COMMON, SINGLES OR BLOCKS.

### LIBERAL DISCOUNT.

ALSACE, Angola, Antigua, Antioquia, Argentine Republic, Austria, Austrian Italy and Levant, Azores, Baden, Bahamas, Barbados, Bavaria, Belgium, Bermuda, Bolivar, Bolivia, Bosnia, Brazil, Bremen, British Bechuanaland, British Central Africa, British Columbia and Vancouver, British East Africa, British Guiana, British Honduras, British Levant, British South Africa, Brunswick, Bulgaria, Canada, Cape of Good Hope, Cape Verde, Ceylon, Chili, China, Colombia, Confederate States, Congo Free State, Cook Islands, Corea, Costa Rica, Crete, Cuba, Curaçao, Cyprus, Danish West Indies, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Dutch Indies, Ecuador, Egypt, Falkland Isles, Fernando Poo, Fiji Islands, Finland, France, French Colonies, Gambia, Germany, Old German States, German Colonies, Gibraltar, Gold Coast, Great Britain, Greece, Grenada, Grikuland, Guatemala, Hamburg, Hanover, Hawaii, Hayti, Heligoland, Holland, Honduras, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indian Native States (surcharged on India and Native prints), Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Johore, Labuan, Lagos, Leeward Isles, Liberia, Livonia, Lubeck, Luxemburg, Macao, Madeira, Malta, Mauritius, Mecklenburg (Scherwin and Strelitz), Mexico, Modena, Monaco, Montenegro, Montserrat, Morocco Agencies, Mozambique, Naples and Sicily, Natal, Negri Sembilan, Nevis, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, New Republic, New South Wales, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger Coast, North Borneo, North German Confederation, Norway, Nova Scotia, Oldenburg, Orange Free State, Orange River Colony, Pahang, Panama, Paraguay, Parma, Patiala, Perak, Persia, Peru, Philippines, Porto Rico, Portugal, Portuguese Colonies, Portuguese India, Prince Edward Island, Prussia, Queensland, Romagna, Roman States, Roumania, Russia, Russian China and Levant, St. Christopher, St. Helena, St. Lucia, St. Thomas and Prince, St. Vincent, Salvador, Samoa, San Marino, Sarawak, Saxony, Schleswig Holstein, Selangor, Serbia, Seychelles, Siam, Sierra Leone, Soudan, South Australia, Spain, Straits Settlements, Sungei Ujong, Surinam, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tasmania, Thessaly, Thurn and Taxis, Timor, Tobago, Tolima, Tonga, Transvaal, Trinidad, Tunis, Turkey, Turks Islands, Tuscany, Uganda, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Victoria, Virgin Islands, Western Australia, Wurtemberg, Zanzibar, Zululand.

Each stamp in the above selections is priced separately. When ordering any particular country or countries it is advisable to state whether used or unused are wanted, and whether a general selection is required, or one showing perforation and watermark varieties.

#### CONDITIONS.

1.—Stamps can only be sent on approval on condition that those not purchased are returned within five days.  
2.—No stamps may be removed from the sheets or books until actually purchased.  
3.—Collectors are not permitted to deduct return postage from amount of purchase.  
4.—Discount is conditional on purchase exceeding 1/- and will be forfeited if selection is kept over the five days allowed.

5.—Spaces should not be marked.  
6.—Sheets should be returned folded as sent.  
7.—When a selection is returned, another will be sent unless otherwise requested.  
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A JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

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### New Issues and Varieties.

The Editor will be much obliged for early news of New Issues, or intended New Issues or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors. Full acknowledgment given. If possible, specimens should be sent in order that illustrations may be prepared.

**GREAT BRITAIN.**—*Telegraph Stamps.*—The *Monthly Journal* states that a fresh variety of the Electric Telegraph Company's stamp for Directors' Messages have been discovered; it bears the name "G. P. Bidder."

*Railway Letter Fee Stamps.*—The Somerset and Dorset Joint Line has had a new issue, Nos. 2001 to 3000, but we have not yet seen it. The new issue for the East and West Junction Railway, printed in red on yellow paper, has at last made its appearance. It has been in stock since April, 1899. The supply consists of 3000 stamps, numbered from 3000 to 5999, and should be sufficient to last ten years, unless the present demand should increase.

**BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA.**—The *Monthly Journal* states that a few specimens of the provisional 1d. of July, 1898, have been found with the embossed centre upside down. It is understood that the whole of the top row of one sheet was struck thus. The stamps were imperforate and Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd. are reported to have secured all that were found.

**BRITISH GUIANA.**—The date of issue of the new 48c. is given by *Alfred Smith & Son's Monthly Circular* as August 24th last.

**BRITISH HONDURAS.**—The *D.B.Z.* chronicles the 10 cents in the same type as the recently issued 5 cents black on blue, with inscription "Postage and Revenue."

Postage Adhesive, wmk. Crown CA., perf. 14.  
10c. lilac and green.

The value is in white on coloured ground.

**BULGARIA.**—The new set, with Portrait of Prince Ferdinand, is now to hand.

Postage adhesives, Perf. 12½.

- 1 stot. black and purple.
- 2 " blue and slate-green.
- 3 " black and orange.
- 5 " brown and emerald.
- 10 " deep brown and rose.
- 15 " black and lake.
- 25 " black and blue.
- 30 " black and grey-brown.
- 50 " deep brown and deep blue.
- 1 lev. deep green and pale red.
- 2 leva black and red.
- 3 " brown-lake and grey.

**CANTON.**—The 5fr. Indo China has now been surcharged "Canton," thus completing the set.

Adhesive, 5fr. Indo China, surcharged "Canton."

**CHILE.**—As the contract with the American Bank Note Company called for the delivery of the new stamps by September last, it is possible they may now be in circulation. The quantities to be furnished were as follows:—

Postage Adhesives:	1c. green	5,000,000
	2c. rose	6,000,000
	5c. blue	10,000,000
	10c. red, black centre	1,000,000
	30c. violet "	2,000,000
	50c. orange "	100,000
Telegraphs:	2c. ?	2,000,000
	5c. ?	2,000,000
	10c. ?	2,000,000
	20c. ?	2,000,000
Postal Cards:	1 centavos	500,000
	2 centavos	1,000,000
Envelope:	5 "	6,000,000

The design is the work of Herminio Ernesto Arias.

**COLOMBIA.**—The *M.J.* reports a new 50c. stamp.

Adhesive, 50c. blue on lilac, perf. 13½.

The design is similar to that of the 10c., 1898.

**CYPRUS.**—The 6 and 12 piastres are known with marginal plate-number 4.

**DAHOMY.**—*L'Echo de la Timbrologie* states that a 1 centime stamp has been issued here.

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.**—*Le Timbrophile Belge* adds a list of four postage due stamps to the new series. The quantities printed are given on the authority of the *American Journal of Philately*.

Postage Due Stamps.	
2 centavos, black	.. 175,000
4 " "	.. 175,000
5 " "	.. 90,000
10 " "	.. 60,000

The quantities printed of the ordinary postage series are as follows:—½c., 150,000; 1c., 460,000; 2c., 900,000; 5c., 600,000; 10c., 280,000; 20c., 50,000; 50c., 35,000; 1 peso, 25,000.

**FERNANDO POO.**—The *M.J.* states that the following quantities of the 1899 issue were printed:—

10,000 each of the 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 milésimas.
5,000 " " 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10 centavos.
10,000 of the 20 centavos, of which more than 6,000 were surcharged.
1,000 each of the 40, 60, 80 centavos.
500 " " 1, 2 pesos.

**FRANCE.**—*L'Echo de la Timbrologie* states that M. Hillstern has found a copy of the 15c. blue (1876 type) with a fine network clearly printed, in place of the usual "J. A. Sage, Inv." at the foot of the stamp.

**FRENCH POST OFFICES IN THE LEVANT.**—French stamps of the 1876 type are still being printed for use in the Constantinople and other French offices in the Levant.

This fact concerns collectors of the *millésimes* very strongly, as it means that in certain cases the rare early millésimes of French stamps, now quoted at pounds each, will soon be obtainable for pence.

The set at present sold at Constantinople is as follows (all of the 1876 type).

Unsurcharged, 5, 10, 15, 20c.  
Surcharged, 25, 50, 75c., 1, 2, 5 fr.

A supply of the 15c. has been printed this year already, and consequently has the millésime 1 ('1901'). Fortunately the reprint is on *quadrillé* paper, so can be distinguished. Of course, as the demand is very small, a reprint may not be found necessary in the other cases.

**NEWFOUNDLAND.**—The new 4c. stamp, with portrait of the Duchesse of York has now arrived in this country.

Postage Adhesive. 4c. violet.

The *Daily Telegraph* of the 4th ult., published the following telegram.

"St. John's (Newfoundland), Thursday.

The preparations for the reception of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall have been completed. The Government will issue a new four cent stamp of purple colour, bearing an engraving of the Duchess, in honour of the Royal Family.—*Reuter.*"

Presumably the new 4c. will permanently replace the present Cabot, so that the "Royal Family" Series will now comprise six values, ½, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 cents.

**NICARAGUA.**—The following paragraph appeared in a recent number of the *Metropolitan Philatelist*: "The contract between the Postmaster-General of this country (Nicaragua) and Senor Asenjo, whereby a new series of postage stamps was to be issued yearly and the remainder of the old issue postmarked and placed on sale through a prominent New York dealer, has been cancelled by the Nicaraguan officials, who paid the New York parties for the privilege of withdrawing from the contract. There will be no new issue for 1901 and the present set will remain in use until changed for postal reasons." This would be eminently satisfactory if we were assured that arrangements had been made whereby a sufficient supply of stamps would be provided for the country's needs. The troubles of Salvador in supplying itself with stamps do not afford much promise of a peaceful philatelic season in Nicaraguans, especially as surcharging is already going on (*Mekeel's Weekly*).

**REUNION.**—A small set of surcharged stamps was placed in circulation here, on September 28th, states *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*. The

decree which authorised them is dated September 7th and they were required owing to the 5 and 15c. values becoming exhausted. These values had been on order from the Minister of the Colonies for months, but their delivery seems to have been considerably delayed. The following quantities have been issued.

Provisional Issue, September 1901.

" 5c." on 40c.	50,000
" 5c." on 50c.	50,000
" 15c." on 75c.	50,000
" 15c." on 1fr.	50,000

The bar is supposed to fall across the original value of the stamp, but is often placed too high or too low. All the sheets surcharged have the *millésime* 3.

The 10, 15, 25, 50c. in the new colours are now stated to have been sent out to the Colony, and perhaps a new supply of the 5c. has gone with them.

**ROUMANIA.**—The *D.B.Z.* chronicles the 15 bani of the current type in a new colour, grey on white paper. No watermark, pink gum, perf. 11½.

Adhesive, 15 bani, grey.

**ST. PIERRE ET MIQUELON.**—A stamp for parcels has made its appearance.

*Parcel Post Stamp.* Postage stamp of 10c. surcharged "Colis Postaux."

**SOUTHERN NIGERIA.**—The stamps of this Colony are reported to be now obsolete, but whether the old Niger Coast stamps have been brought back or not is uncertain. Meantime the stamps of the "Southern Nigeria" issue are advancing rapidly in value. Sales of the 5/- orange and black have been reported at 20/-.

**SARAWAK.**—The *Monthly Journal* reports a sheet of sixty "one cent" on 3c., 1892 (catalogue No. 25), in which the right hand stamp of the second horizontal row has no stop after the word "Cent."

**TRANSVAAL.**—The *Monthly Journal* publishes the following:—

"Varieties with deficient dots have not, so far, been so plentiful here as in the neighbouring Orange River Colony, but the Pretorian printer is beginning to rise to the occasion, or perhaps his type is getting worn. We have chronicled a few of these varieties recently; we now add some more, on the authority of a correspondent at Elandsfontein:—

3d., with no stop after 'I.'  
6d. " " " 'I,' second stamp from right of top row.

6d. " " " 'V.'  
6d. " " " 'R,' right-hand stamp in second row."

Messrs. Stanley Gibbons appear to have omitted these "dot" varieties from their new Catalogue, in the case of the Transvaal. We believe that most occurred in the first printings, and not as suggested above, in those of recent date. We had several last year, and early this year, including the 10/- value, with dotless "I."

The same Journal chronicles (on the authority of Mr. J. R. F. Turner), the following varieties not mentioned in the Catalogue.

*Lydenburg.* ¼d., 2½d., 4d., 6d., 1/-.

*Wolmaranstadt.* Surcharged "Cancelled—V.R.I." in violet.—1d. Commemoration Stamp, 2d., 2½d., 3d., 6d., 1/-.

**VENEZUELA.**—*Le Timbrophile Belge* states that the 10, 25 and 50c. surcharged "1900" and "Resellada Castro" have been divided in order to replace a shortage of other values. The 10c. was, for instance, divided diagonally and used as 5c. In what way the 25c. was divided it would be difficult to say. These provisionals emanate only from the district of La Guayra. The 5c. green of the current issue is stated to be known without the surcharged "1900" and with "Resellada Castro" inverted, but we do not know on what authority this variety is chronicled.

"Resellada Castro" signifies "re-stamped" or "rendered available again for postage by General Castro."

Stamp Collectors may possibly hear something more of this General later on, as he is very anxious to amalgamate with certain of the neighbouring states, which however are objecting forcibly.

**Our Postcard Column.**

WILL readers hearing of any interesting item of News, kindly jot it down on a postcard and address to the Editor, "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News," Norwood, London. For every contribution we publish, we will send the author an interesting and newly issued stamp. (N.B.—Postcards preferred).

Messrs. N. Yaar & Co. write:—

"We believe Mr. Harrison in his statement in your issue of October 19th, is mistaken, re Orange River Colony on 2½d. Cape. In a sheet of 240 we have only found one specimen of the "Oolony" error instead of four. A careful inspection shows the following varieties. Each sheet, it should be stated contains A B four panes which we designate C D A, B, C, D.

- Pane C, Row 7, No. 1. "Oolony."
- " D, First vertical row, all have "dropped E."
- " D, Following rows, dropped "VER."
- " D, Row 7, No. 4. O of "Orange" is like an inverted C.

If Mr. H. will carefully inspect his pane with a powerful magnifying glass, he will find that what we say is correct. All the C's of 'Colony' are slightly open except in the case mentioned above."

A Correspondent writes to the Colonial Market:—

"Can you supply a set of the current Zululand?" [We take this opportunity of again stating that Zululand stamps are no longer current. For several years now, the stamps of Natal have been issued in that Colony.—Ed.]

Mr. F. Grove Powell writes:—

"I have in my possession an envelope franked with a 2½d. lilac-rose, plate 5, of Great Britain, wmk. Orb. In your catalogue you describe this stamp as issued on September 11th, 1876, the date of registration being unknown. This however must I think be a mistake, as the letter in my possession bears the postmark "London, 24 Aug., '76, and the endorsement "1876, August 24, answered Sept. 22 (from the Canary Islands)" and the private stamp of the firm "Benecke, Souchay & Co., London, 24 Aug., 1876," i.e., eighteen days before the alleged date of issue. Can you explain the discrepancy?"

[Our correspondent is under a misapprehension. No impressions from plate 5 (nor from Nos. 3 and 4) were ever registered on orb paper; the imprimatur sheets have Anchor watermark. The official date of issue was only recorded in the case of plate 1, so that to ascertain the date of first issue of other plate numbers, it is necessary to examine large numbers of postmarked copies and select the earliest date. Such a method cannot be relied on as exact, consequently it occasionally occurs that the earliest dates of issue hitherto recorded are replaced by a new record. Taking into account Mr. Powell's date, the list now stands as follows:—

(a) Wmk. Anchor.						
Pl.	Regd.	Put to Press.	Earliest Date.	Printing Stopped.	Issue Stopped.	Quantity Printed.
1	3.6.75	30.3.75	1. 7.75	12.6.75	May, 1876	6,720,000
2	"	1.6.75	1. 9.75	6.8.75	"	6,720,000
3	10.6.75	12.6.75	30.11.75	—	Ju., 1876	3,840,000
4	13.7.75	—	Not iss.	—	—	960?
5	"	—	"	—	—	960?
(b) Wmk. Orb.						
3	Not R. (Already)	31. 5.76	22.4.76	Sep., 1876	2,880,000	
4	"	21.4.76	1. 7.76	3.7.76	Ap., 1877	6,719,040
5	"	3.7.76	24. 8.76	7.9.76	Ap., 1877	6,719,040
6	3.5.76	7.9.76	10.11.76	20.3.77	My., 1877	6,720,000

As will be seen from the above dates, it is quite possible that the earliest dates of use may still further be improved upon, except in the case of plate 1. Stamps are known to have been occasionally issued within only a fortnight of the plates being put to press.—Ed.]

Mr. C. Wilfred Cummings writes:—

"Have any of your readers noticed the New South Wales stamps, 1d. red and 2d. blue, perf. 11x12, Gibbons' types 11 and 12, with a watermark of double-lined letters "New South Wales." Each stamp of the sheet has two or two and a half of these letters. One of mine has "WAL" and another "NE." I have not yet seen their catalogued." [Perhaps the stamps are from the edge of the sheet. The present halfpenny stamps, for instance, are issued in sheets of 120, divided into two panes of 60, side by side. Along the top margin of the sheet is the inscription "New South Wales Postage" in double-lined capitals; and again at the bottom. If a sheet is printed off centre, the top or bottom row, as the case may be, might be printed over this marginal watermark.—Ed.]

Mr. J. H. Parry writes:—

"Although I have never been so fortunate as to obtain such bargains as those mentioned by Mr. Angus, in your issue of the 5th inst., I secured for 2d. or 3d., a few months ago, a fine copy of the 1c. Bt. Guiana, surcharged on the 4 dollars, with the open figure 4, catalogued in Gibbons' New Book at 5/-, but, unlike Mr. Angus,

I was quite ignorant of having anything out of the common, but a day or two ago I compared it with a copy of the 4 cent purple, var. B, No. 149, which I possess in pair with the normal figure, No. 137, when I was able to at once discover the difference, but as to getting any great bargains in this way, I think the game has long since been played out, although there are exceptions to the rule as your correspondent has shewn."

Mr. R. Lamond sends a note of a variety:—

"On looking over some used 1/- green current Trinidad stamps, I found one on a well marked ribbed paper instead of the usual wove paper. Has this been noticed before, and if so, have you seen any other values on a ribbed paper?" [We have never heard of such a variety before.—Ed.]

Mr. C. F. Gwynn sends some interesting varieties:—

"I enclose some Errors that I have not noticed chronicled anywhere; you may be able to enlighten me with regard to them." [The following is a list of the Errors referred to by Mr. Gwynn.—Ed.]

1. New South Wales, 2d. laureated, stars in corners (Gibbons' No. 63, cat. 17/6). Strip of five rejoined. In normal specimens of this stamp the "star" at each corner of the stamp is enclosed in a small "square," similar to the "letter-squares" of old British stamps. At each corner of a square is a small dot or dash. The 2d. laureated stamps were printed in sheets of 50, arranged in 5 rows of 10, and the 2nd and 3rd stamps in the first row and the 4th in the second row show the varieties referred to by our Correspondent, whose strip represents Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 in the first row of a sheet. In the right-hand lower square of stamp No. 2 the dots are missing from the upper corners, in No. 3 the corresponding dots are missing from the lower left-hand square. The 4th stamp in the second row of a sheet is similar to the first of these varieties, but the upper two rays of the star are missing in addition.

2. Prince Edward Island, 2d. pink. This stamp is distinctly lettered "TWC" instead of "TWO." The third letter looks more like a C than a broken O.

3. Great Britain, 1d. red, plate 103. The overprint in red "Copestake—Moore—Crampton, —& Co." (in four lines) is surcharged both on the face and the back of the stamp, which bears a London obliteration. Both overprints are undoubtedly genuine.

4. Great Britain, 1d. red, plate 106. Overprinted as No. 3 in large capitals, placed vertically, reading downwards, in black and over the gum.

5. Great Britain, 1d. red, plate 223. Overprinted on the back, "O.U.S." (between wavy lines) reading downwards. The printing is in bright carmine (as used for the 1d. venetian red and 1d. lilac) and not the usual vermilion-red.

**Exhibition of South African Stamps.**

THE Exhibition of South African Stamps will take place on Saturday next, November 16th, at the Rooms of the London Philatelic Society, Effingham House, Arundel Street, Strand, W.C. Tickets for admission to the Exhibition (which will open at 11 a.m.) for which no charge will be made, can be obtained on application to the Hon. Secretary of the Exhibition Committee, Mr. H. R. Oldfield, 13, Walbrook, E.C.

**H.R.H. The Duke of Cornwall and York.**

IT is with great gratification that we are authorised to announce that the President of the London Philatelic Society, His Royal Highness the Duke of Cornwall and York, has accepted the position of a Trustee of the British Museum on the retirement therefrom of His Majesty the King. We are convinced that this intimation will be heartily acclaimed by all Philatelists and that hopes will be justly entertained that the influence of His Royal Highness will be exercised in the furtherance of the legitimate recognition of the claims of Philately in the National Museum. It is idle to deny that the action of the Trustees of the British Museum with regard to the magnificent bequest of the late Mr. T. K. Tapling has failed to satisfy British Philatelists, and we sincerely trust that the day may not now be far distant when that splendid collection may be properly displayed for the pleasure and instruction of the large number of persons in this country who take an interest in postage stamps.

(The London Philatelist).

**The New Catalogue.**

MESSRS. STANLEY GIBBONS, LTD., announce the following corrections to their recently issued Catalogue of British Colonial Stamps.

- Page 20—Gt. Britain, omit No. O63.
- " 35—Bech. Prot., price to No. 71 should be 5d.
- " 36—B.C.A., price of No. 20, used, should be 15/-.
- " 39—B.E.A., Nos 71a and 71b do not, S.G. think, exist as genuine surcharges.
- " 130—Natal, No. 52. The number in the bracket should be (No. 12).
- " 130—Natal, No. 54. The number in the bracket should be (No. 10).
- " 144—N.S.W. Add before No. 250. Nov. 1885 perf. 12½-13 POSTAGE in black 10s, carmine and purple £1
- " 147—N.S.W. Colour of No. 367 should be deep blue
- " 149—N.Z. Add No. 24a, 2d. blue, roulette.
- " 151—N.Z. Price of No. 116, used, should be 4/-.
- " 163—North Borneo, No. 301, price should be 6d.
- " 173—Queensland. The price in note after No. 159 should be 50/-.
- " 176—St. Helena, No. 8, price should be 15 0 unused
- " 177— " " 15 " 12 6 "
- " 177— " " 16 " 50 0 "
- " 177— " " 22 " 25 0 "
- " 177— " " 28 " 50 0 "
- " 177— " " 33 " 80 0 "
- " 179—St. Lucia, No. 55 is die II, not die I.
- " 200—Perak, Nos. 76 and 80 are supposed not to exist.
- " 204—F.M.S., No. 12b is supposed not to exist.
- " 209—Tobago, No. 17, unused, should be 0 6
- " " " 22 " " 0 8
- " " " 23 " " 1 0
- " 222—Transvaal, No. 319 unused, should be 6d.

**Latest Auction Results.**

- October 29th and 30th. Messrs. Puttick and Simpson.
- France, 1853-60, 80c. carmine-rose, a strip of 3, one stamp being tête-bêche ... 105/-
- France, 1862, 80c. carmine-rose, a block of 4, one stamp being tête-bêche ... 65/-
- Great Britain, 1d. black, V.R., unused and very fine but no gum ... 117/6
- Great Britain, 1d. black, superb block of 18, unused and mint ... £16
- Ditto, 1d. intense black, strip of ten, mint, two slightly cut into ... £8/15/-
- Ditto, 1d. black, used, 200 ... 54/-
- Ditto, another lot of 190 ... 52/-
- Great Britain, 2d. blue, no lines, a block of 35 with side margin and inscription, unused without gum. Four stamps in top row are cut into and one in bottom row is damaged, whilst several are creased ... £72
- Great Britain, 1d. red-brown, plate 10, an entire sheet, no gum ... £38
- Ditto, 1d. red-brown, worn plate, a mint block of 30 ... £4
- Ditto, block of 20, with ivory heads ... £2
- Ditto, 1d. pale red-brown, a vertical strip of three, on white paper ... 50/-
- Great Britain, 2d. blue, with lines, a mint block of 21, creased ... £9/10/-
- Great Britain, 10d. Octagonal, a block of 6 without die number, overprinted "specimen" ... 75/-
- Great Britain, 5/- rose, plate 4, wmk. Anchor, on bluish, a block of 8, unused but slightly creased ... £55
- Sweden, 20 öre vermilion, error "tretio," unused and fine, but perfs. clipped at top ... £7/7/-
- British Central Africa, 1898, "One Penny" on 3/-, block of 9, centre stamp being the rare error "PNNEY," unused in mint state ... 56/-
- Egypt, Suez Canal, 1870, 1, 5, 20 and 40c., used, three being fine, all with Expert Committee's guarantee, bought in at £22, the reserve being £40.
- Wolmaranstad Provisional, 1900, surcharged, "Cancelled V.R-I" in violet, on 1d. carmine and green, mint ... 24/-
- Nova Scotia, 1/- violet, used ... £12

## FOREIGN ARRIVALS.

(NOTE.—Most foreign stamps are almost as good an investment in mint unused condition as those issued by British Colonies, if purchases are made with care, and countries like Abyssinia, Persia, Nicaragua, Honduras, etc., are ignored. That there is a good market for unused foreigners is evidenced by the fact that a collection consisting entirely of unused Europeans recently sold for £30,000.)

Port Said, surcharged on French, old type.  
1c. black on blue, pair with mill. o, nett 2d.  
China, surcharged on French, old type.  
5c. yellow-green, pair with mill. o, nett 3d.  
France, "Chiffre Taxe"  
1c. black, 5c. blue, 10c. brown, set of 3, nett 3d.  
Belgium, unpaid.  
Set of 5, 5, 10, 20, 50c. 1fr., nett 1/11.  
Belgium, Sunday stamps.  
Set of ten, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 25, 35, 50c., 1, 2fr., nett, 4/5.  
Luxemburg, 1fr. violet, (old type), nett 2/-; 5fr. orange-brown (old type), nett 5/10.  
Denmark, new 24 øre, brown, nett 5d.  
Sweden, New 25 øre, orange, nett 5d.  
Finland, 1901, 1 markka, nett 1/3.  
Finland, 1889 type, 2, 5, 10, 20, 25p., 1m., set of 6, 2/3.  
Hungary, 1900, values in filléres.  
25f., blue and black, nett 4d.  
30f., brown and black, nett 4d.  
50f., lake and black, nett 6d.  
60f., green and black, nett 8d.  
Roumania, 5, 10, 15 bani, set of three, 4d.  
Greece, Small Head of Mercury.  
1 lepton, brown, 1d.; block of 4, 1d.  
2 lepta, bistre, 1d.; block of 4, 2d.  
5 " green, 1d.; block of 4, 3d.  
10 " orange, 2d.; block of 4, 6d.  
Greek Provisionals, surcharged on old types.  
*Large Head of Mercury.*  
30 on 40 lepta, 5d.\*  
40 on 2 " 5d.\*  
50 on 40 " buff, 6d.\*  
3dr. on 10 lepta, 2/9.  
5dr. on 40 lepta, lilac on blue, 3/9.  
\*NOTE.—Pairs can be supplied, showing wide and narrow "O," 1/- each.  
*Small Head of Mercury.*  
1dr. on 40 lepta, violet, 1/- (imperf.)  
2dr. on 40 " " 1/9 (perf. 13).  
*Olympian Games (Axia Metalliki).*  
25l. on 40 lepta, nett 5d.  
50l. on 2dr. stone, nett rod.  
1dr. on 5dr. green, nett 1/3.  
2dr. on 10dr. brown, nett 2/6.  
Cuba, pictorial set, 1, 2, 3, 5, 10c., nett 1/3.  
Sweden, low values, 1, 2, 3, 4 øre, set of 4, 2d.  
Siam, 1901, head to left.  
2 atts, bright green, nett 1d.; block of 4, 3d.  
Siam provisional, 3 on 12 atts, 1½d. each.  
Japan, new, 1½ sen blue, 1d. each; block of 4, 3d.  
Bolivia, 1899, used, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20c., set of 5, 6d.  
Bolivia, 10c. orange, nett 1d. (used).  
" 20c. rose (cat. 6d.), nett 2d. (used).  
Bolivia, surch. "EF 1899" on 1894 issue (used).  
5c. violet on green, nett 2d.  
10c. violet on brown, nett 3d.  
Chile, old type, 15c. green, fine, used, 2d.  
20c. slate-grey, fine, used, 1d.  
1 peso, black and brown, used, fine, 8d.  
Chile, 1900, new 5c. blue, 10c. lilac, 1d. each (used).  
Costa Rica, old 10 and 20c. (1892), nett 2d. (used).  
" new 10 and 20c. (1901), nett 5d. (used).  
Ecuador, 10c. lilac and black, used, 4d.  
" 10c. blue and black, used, 4d.  
Mexico, 1900, new 5, 10, 15, 20c., set of 4, nett 5d. (used).

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(All in mint unused blocks, unless otherwise described. Panes or sheets have margin on all four sides.)

	PER DOZ.
France, new 1c. ...	2d.
" " 2c. ...	—
" " 3c. ...	6d.
" " 4c. ...	—
" " 5c. ...	—
Port Said, 1c. blk. on blue ...	2d.
China on France, 5c. green (pane of 25, 1/6) ...	9d.
Belgium, Sunday Stamp, 1c. grey ...	2d.
Spain, 1901, new 25c. blue ...	3/-
Italy, just obsolete, 1c. brown ...	2d.
" " 2c. red-brown ...	4d.
" " 5c. green ...	8d.
Eritrea on Italy, 1c. brown ...	2d.
" " 2c. red-brown ...	4d.
Luxemburg, 1895, 1c. grey ...	2d.
" " 2c. grey-brown ...	4d.
" " 4c. olive-yellow ...	8d.
" " 5c. green ...	9d.
Norway, 1898, 1 øre, drab (sheet 100, 1/9) ...	3d.
" 2 øre, brown ( " 3/-) ...	6d.
" 3 " orange ( " 4/3) ...	8d.
" 5 " green ...	11d.
Hungary, 1900, 1f. grey (sheet 100, 1/3) ...	2d.
" 2 filler, bistre ( " 2/4) ...	4d.

HISTORY OF  
Railway Letter Stamps.

COMPILED BY H. L'ESTRANGE EWEN.

THIS Work is now ready, and orders are being executed in rotation. Only a very small supply has been printed and the book will be one of the rarest philatelic works ever published. The price has been fixed at the nominal amount of One Guinea, post free. Abroad, carriage extra (weight, with packing, 5½lbs.)  
The book contains about 440 pages, arranged as follows:—

	Pages.
Preface .. .. .	iii., iv.
Index to 106 Railway Companies ..	v. to vii.
The Railway Letter Post .. .. .	1, 2.
The Railway Letter Stamp .. .. .	3, 4.
Printers of Railway Letter Stamps ..	5 to 16.
English Railways .. .. .	17 to 258.
Scottish Railways .. .. .	259 to 310.
Irish Railways .. .. .	311 to 424.
Appendix .. .. .	425 to 431.

No fewer than 1209 stamps are illustrated. The illustrations are interleaved with the letterpress and consequently conveniently arranged for reference.

The total number of Railway Letter Stamps printed since the service originated in February, 1891, is as follows:

	Total printed.	No. of Issues.
English & Welsh R'lways	1,800,000	311
Scottish Railways	275,000	54
Irish Railways	425,000	112
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,500,000</b>	<b>477</b>

The total number of different issues which are known to have been made, including three issued since the book went to press, amounts to 480, or a smaller number than the collector of Colonial postage stamps has to look for in New South Wales alone. Owing to the general ignorance prevailing on the subject of these letter fee stamps, many bargains are continually being picked up by those "in the know." The present offer of a complete History and Catalogue of the stamps enables any purchaser to become equally well informed. The work is beautifully printed by Messrs. Parry & Son, of Bournemouth, and sumptuously bound. The illustrations are by the Meisenbach Co. of West Norwood.

## MINT UNUSED COLONIAL STAMPS.

## I.—WEST INDIES, EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA.

		Block Single.	of 4.
<b>Bahamas.</b>			
3303.	1d. carmine (33) ...	2d.	6d.
3304.	2½d. ultramarine (35) ...	3d.	1/0
3305.	4d. deep yellow (36) ...	5d.	1/8
3306.	6d. mauve (37) ...	8d.	2/4
3307.	1/- yellow-green, CC. (24) ...	1/3	5/0
3308.	1/- blue-green, CA. (38) ...	1/3	5/0
<b>Barbados, Queen's Heads.</b>			
3309.	¼d. green (90) ...	2d.	—
3310.	3d. purple (96) ...	1/4	—
3311.	4d. brown (98) ...	7d.	2/4
3312.	1/- red-brown (102) ...	3/0	—
3313.	¼d. on 4d. brown (104) ...	4d.	—
<b>Barbados, current issue.</b>			
3326.	¼d. grey and carmine (107) ...	1d.	2d.
3327.	¼d. dull green (108) ...	1d.	3d.
3328.	1d. rose (109) ...	2d.	5d.
3329.	2d. blue and orange (109a) ...	3d.	10d.
3330.	2½d. ultramarine (110) ...	3d.	1/0
3331.	5d. olive-brown (111) ...	7d.	1/11
3332.	6d. mauve and carmine (112) ...	8d.	2/4
3333.	8d. orange and blue (113) ...	10d.	3/2
3334.	10d. green and carmine (114) ...	1/0	3/11
<b>Bermuda.</b>			
3341.	¼d. on 1/- grey (30) ...	1d.	2d.
3342.	¼d. green (21) ...	1d.	3d.
3343.	1d. carmine (24) ...	2d.	5d.
3344.	2d. violet-brown (26) ...	3d.	11d.
3345.	2½d. ultramarine (27) ...	3d.	1/0
3346.	3d. grey (28) ...	4d.	1/3
3347.	4d. orange-red, CC. (20) ...	5d.	1/8
3348.	6d. violet, CC. (7) ...	8d.	2/4
3349.	1/- green, CC. 14 × 12½ (11) ...	2/3	—
3350.	1/- yellow-brown (29) ...	1/3	4/8
<b>British Columbia, 1867-69.</b>			
3351.	5c. red & blk., CC., 12½ (23) ...	40/0	—
3352.	50c. lilac & blk., CC., 14 (31) ...	20/0	—
3353.	1 green and black, CC., 14 ...	60/0	—
<b>British Guiana, 1876 type.</b>			
3354.	6c. chocolate (132) ...	4d.	1/3
3355.	1c. grey (129) ...	2d.	—
3356.	2c. lilac & blk., (135, cat. 1/6) ...	8d.	2/6
3357.	3c. " (136) ...	3d.	—
3358.	4c. " (137) ...	4d.	—
3359.	6c. " (138) ...	9d.	—
3362.	20c. " (141) ...	1/4	5/4
3363.	40c. " (142) ...	3/0	12/0
3364.	72c. " (143) ...	4/6	18/0
<b>British Guiana, current type.</b>			
3365.	1c. green (170) ...	1d.	3d.

## British Honduras.

3368.	1c. dull green (51) ...	1d.	3d.
3369.	2c. carmine-rose (52) ...	2d.	6d.
3370.	5c. ultramarine (54) ...	—	—
3371.	5c. " "Revenue" long (66) ...	4d.	—
3372.	5c. " " " " short (74) ...	—	—
3373.	5c. grey and blue (78) ...	3d.	1/0
3374.	6c. ultramarine (55) ...	4d.	1/4
3375.	10c. mauve and green (56) ...	—	—
3376.	10c. "Revenue," long (67) ...	7d.	2/1
3377.	10c. " " " " short (75) ...	—	—
3378.	12c. violet and green (58) ...	8d.	2/4
3379.	24c. yellow and blue (59) ...	1/4	4/8
3380.	25c. brown and green (61) ...	—	—
3381.	25c. "Revenue," long (68) ...	1/3	5/0
3382.	" " " " short (76) ...	—	—

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AS.	138	6d. lilac " " ...	11/0
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With which is incorporated EWEN'S WEEKLY CIRCULAR. (Established October, 1897.)

A JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

THE ONLY WEEKLY STAMP PAPER PUBLISHED IN EUROPE.

(Entered at Stationers' Hall. Illustrated by permission of the Board of Inland Revenue.)

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(Whole Number, No. 198.)

LONDON, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1901.

[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

## CONTENTS.

Editorial Note. The Week's News.  
Mafeking Besieged Stamps.  
Post Card Column.  
Colonial Stamp Market.

## Editorial Note.

COMMENCING with this week's issue of *E.W.S.N.* we are classifying all news items under the headings of the respective countries to which they refer. As these notes will refer equally to obsolete stamps, current issues and novelties just appearing or about to appear, the title of this feature has been altered from "New Issues and Varieties" to "The Week's News." In order however that collectors may still see at a glance what newly issued stamps have appeared, a synopsis of such, in smaller type, so as to be readily distinguishable, will immediately follow the descriptive notes. In future, all the paragraphs will be numbered, thus providing readers with a sort of current index, whereby a reference to any country in a back number may be easily traced. The system can perhaps be best explained by illustration. Our first note this week refers to stamps of Great Britain, and we append the number "N 111." The letter N signifies that this is the 14th note (N being the 14th letter of the alphabet) which has appeared in the current volume (which commenced with No. 93). The number 111. signifies that the 13th or immediately preceding note on the same subject (stamps of Great Britain) appeared in our issue No. 111. The next note will be numbered "O 112."

## The Week's News.

The Editor will be much obliged for Early Information of New Issues, or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors, and will have pleasure in forwarding the sender of every accepted contribution several interesting newly issued stamps.

The index number and serial letter after the title of each paragraph indicate the issue of *E.W.S.N.* in which the last reference to that country appeared.

**GREAT BRITAIN (N 111).**—*King's Head Issue.*—The *Daily Mail* states that the new ½d. and 1d. stamps are not to be issued until January. They are on paper similar to that of the present stamps, so the Crown watermark is not to be changed.

*A supposed discovery.*—Several correspondents have recently announced the discovery of two 2d. black British stamps by a Newcastle-on-Tyne collector. It is stated that they were taken from old correspondence of the early fifties. From one source we learn that they are Wmk. Large Crown, perf. 14. If that is so, their date cannot be earlier than July, 1855. We have not seen them, but should imagine they are only more than usually oxidised specimens.

*Dates of Printing and Issue, 2½d. Plate Nos.*—In another column, we continue the list of these which was commenced last week.

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*Postcards of Great Britain, overprinted "Bechuanaland Protectorate" in black.*

½d. blue-green.  
1d. carmine.

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2 centavos black on red.	" 100,000.

The stamps are printed in sheets of 100, divided into panes or blocks, each consisting of two rows of five stamps and separated from its neighbour by a black line.

The control marks are of two kinds:—

(a) Double-lined rectangle containing the letter S repeated fifteen times. One impression from this rectangular handstamp is sufficient to cancel a row of five stamps.

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2 centavos, 4,000,000	10 " 400,000
2½ " 2,000,000	10 " Express, 20,000
3 " 4,000,000	

(b) *Special Designs.*

1 centavo, 4,000,000	5 centavos, 2,000,000
2 centavos, 7,000,000	10 " 600,000
3 " 2,000,000	10 " Express, 100,000

(c) *Postage Due U.S. overprinted "Cuba."*

1 centavo, 100,000	5 centavos, 70,000
2 centavos, 200,000	10 " 60,000

In addition, the following quantity of stationery, envelopes, U.S.A., 1c. 20,000, 2c. 10,000, 4c., 5c. unknown; envelopes, current, 1c. 10,000, 2c. 100,000, 5c. unknown; Postcards, 1c. 1,003,000, 2c. 581,750; bands, number unknown.

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This authority was withdrawn ten days later (July 12th), in consequence of the receipt of fresh supplies of stamps, but on the other hand permission to halve the 10c. stamps and use them as 5c. was given.

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*Unpaid Letter Stamps, surcharged on those of France.*

5 centimes, blue,	surch. "Chine" in carmine.
10 " black-brown	" " "
15 " green	" " "
30 " red,	surch. "Chine" in black.
50 " lilac	" " "

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7.—When a selection is returned, another will be sent unless otherwise requested.  
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# Ewen's Weekly Stamp News.

With which is incorporated EWEN'S WEEKLY CIRCULAR. (Established October, 1897.)

A JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

THE ONLY WEEKLY STAMP PAPER PUBLISHED IN EUROPE.

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(Whole Number, No. 198.)

LONDON, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1901.

[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

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Making Besieged Stamps.  
Post Card Column.  
Colonial Stamp Market.

### Editorial Note.

COMMENCING with this week's issue of *E.W.S.N.* we are classifying all news items under the headings of the respective countries to which they refer. As these notes will refer equally to obsolete stamps, current issues and novelties just appearing or about to appear, the title of this feature has been altered from "New Issues and Varieties" to "The Week's News." In order however that collectors may still see at a glance what newly issued stamps have appeared, a synopsis of such, in smaller type, so as to be readily distinguishable, will immediately follow the descriptive notes. In future, all the paragraphs will be numbered, thus providing readers with a sort of current index, whereby a reference to any country in a back number may be easily traced. The system can perhaps be best explained by illustration. Our first note this week refers to stamps of Great Britain, and we append the number "N 111." The letter N signifies that this is the 14th note (N being the 14th letter of the alphabet) which has appeared in the current volume (which commenced with No. 93). The number 111, signifies that the 13th or immediately preceding note on the same subject (stamps of Great Britain) appeared in our issue No. 111. The next note will be numbered "O 112."

### The Week's News.

The Editor will be much obliged for Early Information of New Issues, or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors, and will have pleasure in forwarding the sender of every accepted contribution several interesting newly issued stamps.

The index number and serial letter after the title of each paragraph indicate the issue of *E.W.S.N.* in which the last reference to that country appeared.

**GREAT BRITAIN (N 111).**—King's Head Issue.—The *Daily Mail* states that the new ½d. and 1d. stamps are not to be issued until January. They are on paper similar to that of the present stamps, so the Crown watermark is not to be changed.

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50 " "	lilac " " "

There is also a new letter-card, surcharged on the ordinary French issue.

Letter Card, "Chine" in red on 25c. black on rose.

**GERMANY** (B 107).—*Postcard*. Herr Dr. jur. P. Kloss sends us a postcard impressed in the right hand top corner with two stamps, 2pf. slate+3pf. brown, both of the current type, with Head of Germania. This is we believe the first instance of a postcard being issued in Europe with a compound stamp (Mexico created a precedent for America) and was no doubt struck to a private order, as it bears a pictorial view on the back, inscribed "*Herzlichen Glückwunsch zur Jahreswende, 1901.*"

**GOLD COAST** (A).—The Current 6d. lilac and violet has been surcharged "One Penny."

**GREECE** (D 98).—The 1 and 2 lepta of the new series of postage stamps are now appearing on unwatermarked paper according to the *M.D.Z.*

**GUAM** (A).—Mr. A. W. Batchelder, writing to the *Stamp Collector*, states that the following is a complete list of the Guam stamps which were actually issued.

Adhesives, surcharged on U.S.A.

1c., 35,000; 2c., 105,000.  
3c., 4c., 6c., 8c., 15c., each 5,000.  
5c., 20,000; 10c., 10,000.  
50c., 4,000; \$1, 3,000.  
10c., Special, 5,000.

As affairs in the Island of Guam have now been transferred to civil government, there is no occasion for further surcharging.

**ITALY** (F 109).—Mr. Karl Wiehen writes us:—"In connection with the report in your issue of October 26th about the town of Averso in Italy being without postage stamps, I think the enclosed envelope posted in Genoa on the 4th of August last may be of interest to you. It bears no stamps and evidently a Post Office official has received payment for the letter in cash and has receipted for the same in the right hand upper corner in lieu of affixing the necessary 25c. stamp. I have rarely seen a letter prepaid in this way."

The letter in question is of considerable interest, as it travelled from Genoa to London, without surcharge, although it is unstamped and bears no sign of having been stamped. In the upper corner is scrawled what looks like "*pagato 0.25c.*"

**MAURITIUS** (C 105).—In our issue of September 28th, we chronicled the new 1c. adhesive as being slate in colour. Most of our contemporaries give the colour as grey, with value in black. On going through the stock of the Colonial Market, we find that the latter description is most correct in the majority of cases. Several sheets are however in a uniform grey-black shade, the rest of the stamp being as dark as the value.

**MONACO** (D 105).—The colour of the 15c. adhesive postage stamp has been changed from rose to red-brown on yellowish paper. The exchange of colours between the 10c. and 15c. values is now therefore completed.

Adhesive, 15c. red-brown on yellowish.

**PERU** (B 94).—Sr. Manuel Benito, of Seville, writes to *L'Essor Philatélique* stating that he has a copy of the 1 peseta, red of 1858 with value clearly inscribed "Un Peseta," the O being well formed. Can any reader confirm the existence of such a variety?

*L'Ami des Timbres* states that an order has been given for 500,000 of the 10c. current adhesive to be printed in lake instead of slate-black; also 300,000 22c. green and black with the figure of Liberty instead of the Portrait of Sr. don Eduardo de Romana. The work is to be done by the American Bank Note Company.

**PORTO RICO** (A).—The *Bay State Philatelist* states that the following quantities of stamps have been printed since January 1st, 1899.

(a) Adhesives of U.S.A. overprinted "Porto Rico" or "Puerto Rico"; proportions unknown.

1 centavo	1,500,000	8 centavos	75,000
2 centavos	3,000,000	10 centavos	500,000
5 "	500,000		

(b) Postage Due U.S. similarly overprinted.

1 centavo	75,000	10 centavos	10,000
2 centavos	75,000		

Stationery was requisitioned for in the following quantities:—Envelopes, 1c. 13,000, 2c. 206,500, 5c. 20,500; bands, 1c. 15,000; postcards, 1c. 34,925.

Mr. Ben Van Cortright sends us the following note:—"The 4 ctvos. on 5m. mentioned by Mr. C. J. Hawkins in the Postcard Column of *E.W.S.N.* No. 107 is altogether a logis stamp; no such value exists surcharged on the 5m. The stamp bearing that surcharge has been sold all over Europe, but is known to be a fraud devised by a San Juan party."

**REUNION** (B 111).—In our note last week respecting the issue of new provisionals, the date of the decree authorizing their issue (or creation?) is given as Sept. 7th. *La Revue Philatélique Française* gives the date as Sept. 27th, or only one day before the supposed date of issue.

**SPAIN** (A).—New postcards have been issued here, according to the *D.B.Z.*

Postcards. 5c. black-green on brown.  
5+5c. black-green on brown.  
10c. dark brown.  
15+15c. black.

**SUDAN** (B 109).—*L'Essor Philatélique* states that the current 1 millième postage stamp has been perforated with the initials "S.G." for official use.

Adhesive, Official, perforated "S.G."  
1 mill. carmine, brown centre.

What the initials "S.G." stand for, we are unable to state (? Soudan Govt.)

**SWITZERLAND** (A).—The recent competition for designs for new stamps appears to have proved a failure, as none of those sent in have been adopted. Further suggestions for new designs are now to be solicited from a select few of the artists.

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA** (D 108).—Recent supplies received by the Colonial Market contain sheets bearing the following consecutive numbers (which, by the way, are stamped on the sheets of paper before printing).

Adhesive.	Plate No.	Sheet No.
3d. green, G.P.O.	1	3d., 024954 (in blue).
1d. pink	2	1d., 544249 (in red).
2d. violet	3	2d., 651991 (in black).
2½d. dark blue	1	2½d., 008831 (in grey).
4d. violet	1	4d., 007458 (in grey).
6d. blue	1	6d., 008213 (in yellow).

If any reader has others, we should be glad to have particulars of same. In August, 1900, we chronicled a sheet of the 2d. value with No. "2d. 645912," so presumably no fresh printing has been made since then. It will be noticed that the 6d. stamps have been printed on paper intended for the 4d.

**VICTORIA** (H 108).—Mr. N. C. Horwood writes us under date October 5th:—

"Following is an extract from a letter received by me from the Comptroller of Stamps, dated October 2nd, in answer to an enquiry *re* the £1 and £2 stamps with Head of King Edward, and the alteration to Postage Due Stamps of this State.

"The £1 and £2 postage stamps have not yet been received but are expected during the present month. No information has been received of any intention to alter the Postage Due stamps either in value or design."

"I think this may be taken as conclusive evidence that the rumours circulated about the Postage Due stamps are incorrect."

**WURTEMBERG** (A).—The *Morning Leader* of November 6th publishes the following telegram. "After 1st April [1902?] the distinctive stamps used for Wurtemberg will cease to be used and ordinary German stamps will be used."—*Reuter.*

## Our Postcard Column.

WILL readers hearing of any interesting item of News, kindly jot it down on a postcard and address to the Editor, "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News," Norwood, London. For every contribution we publish, we will send the author an interesting and newly issued stamp. (N.B.—Postcards preferred).

Mr. G. W. J. Potter sends an interesting note relative to railway postmarks.

"Two unique methods of cancelling Railway Letter Stamps are those in use by the Colne Valley and Northampton and Banbury Junction Companies. The former employ a rubber stamp with the words "RAILWAY CHARGE" arranged in a semi-circle surrounding the figure 2d. and use violet ink. The N. & B. J. R. also adopt the same words, but arrange them in a straight line, and appear to make three impressions: from corner to corner diagonally, and horizontally across the centre; in this case smaller type is used and black ink."

[Railway Letter Stamps are generally cancelled at the present day simply with a cross in chalk, pencil or ink. The metal stamps served out by the Post Office for use in Railway Telegraph Offices are also frequently employed. These are of two types:—

- Single-lined Circle, with office number in centre.
- Single-lined Oval, with name of office at top and initials of Railway Company at bottom, with the word "Station" in the centre.

Of course, many of the Railway Companies, notably the London & North Western and North London serve out special hand stamps, usually of rubber. The L.B. & S.C. Ry. stamps were frequently cancelled in 1892 with a hand-stamp consisting of two concentric circles, with the inscription "GOVT—RATE" between.—Ed.]

Mr. F. Grove Powell writes:—

"Mr. J. H. Parry says in your issue of the 9th

inst. that he thinks that 'the game' of picking up bargains in stationers or newsagents shops, 'is long since played out.' Heaven forbid! For, if that were the case, I should expect to see a falling off in the numbers of stamp collectors, as one of the pleasures of the chase would be gone. I am a comparative tyro, yet during the last year I have found the following bargains in this manner:—Austria, 50kr., perf. 13, cat. 7/6, bought for 1/- as if perf. 12.; English 1d. black, the corner letter variety, D. over 1., mentioned and illustrated in Ewen's Catalogue, for 6d.; fine English 1d. red, imperf., the corner letter variety, RYH, one letter inverted, catalogued by Morley at 50/-, for 1d.; fairly fine Victoria, 1865, 6d. blue, watermarked 4 (S.G. 135), for 3d. This last was a great haul, as it was a fine specimen and was taken from a very well known dealer's book, while waiting, weather-bound, at a small shop in Kingston. My experience is that a keen eye, when combined with a little knowledge and a good deal of enthusiasm, will still help a collector to find good produce from the most unlikely soil.

I am greatly obliged for your most interesting note *re* the issue of the English 2½d. lilac-rose, and am glad to see that I possess by far the earliest known copy of any of the plate numbers therein mentioned, *i.e.*, one posted one month and twenty-one days after printing."

[Several of the later plate numbers of the 2½d. value were issued much sooner after being printed than plate 5 referred to by Mr. Powell. As will be seen from the appended list, the earliest known date of use for pl. 9 is only 25 days after the plate was put to press.]

(a) 2½d. rose, wmk. Orb.

Pl.	Reg. Sht.	Put to Press.	Earliest Date.	Printing Stopped.	Issue Stopped.	Quantity Printed.
7	11. 9.76	16. 2.77	21. 4.77	5. 6.77	Sept., 1877	6,720,000
8	5. 4.77	4. 6.77	2. 7.77	13. 9.77	Mar., 1878	"
9	11. 7.77	14. 9.77	9.10.77	7.12.77	" "	"
10	20. 9.77	7.12.77	16. 1.78	19. 3.78	Oct., 1878	"
11	13.12.77	19. 3.78	16. 5.78	25. 7.78	Jan., 1879	"
12	30. 4.78	25. 7.78	23. 9.78	30. 9.78	Feb., 1879	"
13	22. 8.78	30. 9.78	13.12.78	11. 2.79	May, 1879	"
14	15.11.78	11. 2.79	12. 4.79	8. 5.79	Aug., 1879	"
15	19. 3.79	8. 5.79	17. 6.79	15. 8.79	Dec., 1879	"
16	21. 6.79	15. 8.79	20.10.79	22.10.79	Mar., 1880	"
17	19. 9.79	23.12.79	23. 1.80	" "	" "	960,000?

(b) 2½d. blue, wmk. Orb.

17	—	1. 1.80?	5. 2.80	23. 3.80	July, 1880	5,760,000?
18	22. 1.80	11. 2.80	8. 3.80	15. 4.80	Oct., 1880	6,720,000
19	6. 4.80	6. 4.80	4. 5.80	6.10.80	Dec., 1880	11,520,000
20	28. 5.80	11.10.80	12.11.80	2. 2.81	Apr., 1881	Unkn.

(c) 2½d. blue, wmk. Crown.

21	3. 2.81	3. 2.81	1. 4.81	Unkn.	Aug. 1881	Unkn.
22	11. 6.81	9. 6.81	11. 7.81	"	June, 1884	"
23	"	"	6. 7.81	"	"	"

The issue of the 2½d. blue was announced in a Post Office Circular dated 3.2.80, two days only before the earliest recorded date of use. The 2½d. blue, wmk. Crown, was similarly announced on 22.3.81. The above particulars are mostly taken from the Standard Catalogue of British Stamps and Postmarks, No. 6 (2/6 post free) and the History of the Adhesive Stamps of the British Isles (24/- post free).

Relative to the recent issue in France of special stamps for soldiers' letters, Mr. C. H. McDiarmid Fish sends us the following note:—

"There are two British Colonies that have had 'soldier' stamps. On May 9th, 1860, the 8 pies lilac of India was prepared to prepay postage on soldier's letters to Great Britain. In October, 1876, the rate was raised and the 9 pies lilac stamp was introduced; its colour being changed to carmine in 1883. The Canadian 2 cents rose of August, 1864, was issued to prepay soldiers' letters to Great Britain. The ordinary rates being 12½c. on letters via Quebec and 17c. on letters via the Cunard Line via Boston and New York. If any reader could tell me of other 'soldier' stamps I should be much interested."

## Mafeking Besieged Stamps.

CHARGE AGAINST A KIMBERLEY PRINTER.

[REUTER'S TELEGRAM.]

KIMBERLEY, Oct. 12.

BEFORE the Resident Magistrate to-day, Gustave Adolph Ettlind, Master Printer, was charged with fraud. The affidavits stated that the accused employed members of his staff to print the words "Mafeking Besieged" on postage stamps. A large number is alleged to have been printed, the establishment being kept locked while the work was going on. Thomas Henry Reaman, Stamp Collector, deposed to having extensively purchased stamps from the accused some of which were returned from London, as being forgeries. A local engraver named King deposed that the accused requested him to manufacture a brass stamp for cancelling postage stamps. The accused stated that he wanted to cancel some genuine stamps, received from Mafeking. King made two stamps at different dates. The accused, who was defended by Messrs. Mallett and Bowen, was remanded until the 6th November, but was admitted to bail.

(Cape Argus)



**FOREIGN ARRIVALS.**

(NOTE.—Most foreign stamps are almost as good an investment in mint unused condition as those issued by British Colonies, if purchases are made with care, and countries like Abyssinia, Persia, Nicaragua, Honduras, etc., are ignored. That there is a good market for unused foreigners is evidenced by the fact that a collection consisting entirely of unused Europeans recently sold for £30,000).

- Port Said, surcharged on French, old type. 1c. black on blue, pair with mill. o, nett 2d.
- China, surcharged on French, old type. 5c. yellow-green, pair with mill. o, nett 3d.
- France, "Chiffre Taxe" 1c. black, 5c. blue, 10c. brown, set of 3, nett 3d.
- Belgium, unpaid. Set of 5, 10, 20, 50c. 1fr., nett 1/11.
- Belgium, Sunday stamps. Set of ten, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 25, 35, 50c., 1, 2fr., nett, 4/5.
- Luxemburg, 1fr. violet, (old type), nett 2/-; 5fr. orange-brown (old type), nett 5/10.
- Denmark, new 24 öre, brown, nett 5d.
- Sweden, New 25 öre, orange, nett 5d.
- Finland, 1901, 1 markka, nett 1/3.
- Finland, 1889 type, 2, 5, 10, 20, 25p., 1m., set of 6, 2/3.
- Hungary, 1900, values in filléres. 25f., blue and black, nett 4d. 30f., brown and black, nett 4d. 50f., lake and black, nett 6d. 60f., green and black, nett 8d.
- Roumania, 5, 10, 15 bani, set of three, 4d.
- Greece, Small Head of Mercury. 1 lepton, brown, 1d.; block of 4, 1d. 2 " green, 1d.; block of 4, 3d. 5 " orange, 1d.; block of 4, 2d. 10 " orange, 2d.; block of 4, 6d.
- Greek Provisionals, surcharged on old types. Large Head of Mercury. 30 on 40 lepta, 5d.\* 40 on 2 " 5d.\* 50 on 40 " buff, 6d.\* 3dr. on 10 lepta, 2/9. 5dr. on 40 lepta, lilac on blue, 3/9.
- \*NOTE.—Pairs can be supplied, showing wide and narrow "O," 1/- each.
- Small Head of Mercury. 1dr. on 40 lepta, violet, 1/- (imperf.) 2dr. on 40 " 1/9 (perf. 13).
- Olympian Games (Axia Metalliki). 25l. on 40 lepta, nett 5d. 50l. on 2dr. stone, nett rod. 1dr. on 5dr. green, nett 1/3. 2dr. on 10dr. brown, nett 2/6.
- Cuba, pictorial set, 1, 2, 3, 5, 10c., nett 1/3.
- Sweden, low values, 1, 2, 3, 4 öre, set of 4, 2d.
- Siam, 1901, head to left. 2 atts, bright green, nett 1d.; block of 4, 3d.
- Siam provisional, 3 on 12 atts, 1½d. each.
- Japan, new, 1½ sen blue, 1d. each; block of 4, 3d.
- Bolivia, 1899, used, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20c., set of 5, 6d.
- Bolivia, 10c. orange, nett 1d. (used). " 20c. rose (cat. 6d.), nett 2d. (used).
- Bolivia, surch. "EF 1899" on 1894 issue (used). 5c. violet on green, nett 3d. 10c. violet on brown, nett 2d.
- Chile, old type, 15c. green, fine, used, 2d. 20c. slate-grey, fine, used, 1d. 1 peso, black and brown, used, fine, 8d.
- Costa, 1900, new 10c. blue, 20c. lilac, 1d. each (used).
- Costa Rica, old 5c. and 20c. (1892), nett 2d. (used). " new 10 and 20c. (1901), nett 5d. (used).
- Ecuador, 10c. lilac and black, used, 4d. " 10c. blue and black, used, 4d.
- Mexico, 1900, new 5, 10, 15, 20c., set of 4, nett 5d. (used).

**WHOLESALE.**

**LOW VALUES IN DOZENS.**

(All in mint unused blocks, unless otherwise described. Panes or sheets have margin on all four sides). PER DOZ.

France, new 1c.	...	...	2d.
" " 2c.	...	...	—
" " 3c.	...	...	6d.
" " 4c.	...	...	—
" " 5c.	...	...	—
Port Said, 1c. blk. on blue	...	...	2d.
China from France, 5c. green (pane of 25, 1/6)	...	...	9d.
Belgium, Sunday Stamp, 1c. grey	...	...	2d.
Spain, 1901, new 25c. blue	...	...	3/-
Italy, just obsolete, 1c. brown	...	...	2d.
" " 2c. red-brown	...	...	4d.
" " 5c. green	...	...	8d.
Eritrea on Italy, 1c. brown	...	...	2d.
" " 2c. red-brown	...	...	4d.
Luxemburg, 1895, 1c. grey	...	...	2d.
" " 2c. grey-brown	...	...	4d.
" " 4c. olive-yellow	...	...	8d.
" " 5c. green	...	...	9d.
Norway, 1898, 1 öre, drab (sheet 100, 1/9)	...	...	3d.
" 2 öre, brown ( " 3/-)	...	...	6d.
" 3 " orange ( " 4/3)	...	...	8d.
" 5 " green	...	...	11d.
Hungary, 1900, 1f. grey (sheet 100, 1/3)	...	...	2d.
" 2 filler, bistre ( " 2/4)	...	...	4d.

**HISTORY OF Railway Letter Stamps.**

COMPILED BY H. L'ESTRANGE EWEN.

THIS Work is now ready, and orders are being executed in rotation. Only a very small supply has been printed and the book will be one of the rarest philatelic works ever published. The price has been fixed at the nominal amount of One Guinea, post free. Abroad, carriage extra (weight, with packing, 5½lbs.) The book contains about 440 pages, arranged as follows:—

Preface	..	..	Pages.
Index to 106 Railway Companies	..	v. to vii.	iii., iv.
The Railway Letter Post	..	1, 2.	
The Railway Letter Stamp	..	3, 4.	
Printers of Railway Letter Stamps	..	5 to 16.	
English Railways	..	17 to 258.	
Scottish Railways	..	259 to 310.	
Irish Railways	..	311 to 424.	
Appendix	..	425 to 431.	

No fewer than 1209 stamps are illustrated. The illustrations are interleaved with the letterpress and consequently conveniently arranged for reference.

The total number of Railway Letter Stamps printed since the service originated in February, 1891, is as follows:

	Total printed.	No. of Issues.
English & Welsh R'lways	1,800,000	311
Scottish Railways	275,000	54
Irish Railways	425,000	112
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,500,000</b>	<b>477</b>

The total number of different issues which are known to have been made, including three issued since the book went to press, amounts to 480, or a smaller number than the collector of Colonial postage stamps has to look for in New South Wales alone. Owing to the general ignorance prevailing on the subject of these letter fee stamps, many bargains are continually being picked up by those "in the know." The present offer of a complete History and Catalogue of the stamps enables any purchaser to become equally well informed. The work is beautifully printed by Messrs. Pardy & Son, of Bournemouth, and sumptuously bound. The illustrations are by the Meisenbach Co., of West Norwood.

**MINT UNUSED COLONIAL STAMPS.**

**I.—WEST INDIES, EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA.**

			Block
			Single. of 4.
Bahamas.			
3303.	1d. carmine (33)	...	2d. 6d.
3304.	2½d. ultramarine (35)	...	3d. 1/0
3305.	4d. deep yellow (36)	...	5d. 1/8
3306.	6d. mauve (37)	...	8d. 2/4
3307.	1/- yellow-green, CC. (24)	...	1/3 5/0
3308.	1/- blue-green, CA. (38)	...	1/3 5/0
Barbados, Queen's Heads.			
3309.	½d. green (90)	...	2d. —
3310.	3d. purple (96)	...	1/4 —
3311.	4d. brown (98)	...	7d. 2/4
3312.	1/- red-brown (102)	...	3/0 —
3313.	½d. on 4d. brown (104)	...	4d. —
Barbados, current issue.			
3326.	½d. grey and carmine (107)	1d.	2d.
3327.	½d. dull green (108)	...	1d. 5d.
3328.	1d. rose (109)	...	2d. 5d.
3329.	2d. blue and orange (109a)	3d.	10d.
3330.	2½d. ultramarine (110)	...	3d. 1/0
3331.	5d. olive-brown (111)	...	7d. 1/11
3332.	6d. mauve and carmine (112)	8d.	2/4
3333.	8d. orange and blue (113)	10d.	3/2
3334.	10d. green and carmine (114)	1/0	3/11
Bermuda.			
3341.	½d. on 1/- grey (30)	...	1d. 2d.
3342.	½d. green (21)	...	1d. 3d.
3343.	1d. carmine (24)	...	2d. 5d.
3344.	2d. violet-brown (26)	...	3d. 11d.
3345.	2½d. ultramarine (27)	...	3d. 1/0
3346.	3d. grey (28)	...	4d. 1/3
3347.	4d. orange-red, CC. (20)	...	5d. 1/8
3348.	6d. violet, CC. (7)	...	8d. 2/4
3349.	1/- green, CC. 14 x 12½ (11)	2/3	—
3350.	1/- yellow-brown (29)	...	1/3 4/8
British Columbia, 1867-69.			
3351.	5c. red & blk., CC., 12½ (23)	40/0	—
3352.	50c. lilac & blk., CC., 14 (31)	40/0	—
3353.	51 green and black, CC., 14	60/0	—
British Guiana, 1876 type.			
3354.	6c. chocolate (132)	...	4d. 1/3
3355.	1c. grey (129)	...	2d. —
3356.	2c. lilac & blk., (135, cat. 1/6)	8d.	2/6
3357.	3c. " (136)	...	3d. —
3358.	4c. " (137)	...	4d. —
3359.	6c. " (138)	...	9d. —
3362.	20c. " (141)	...	1/4 5/4
3363.	40c. " (142)	...	3/0 12/0
3364.	72c. " (143)	...	4/6 18/0
British Guiana, current type.			
3365.	1c. green (170)	...	1d. 3d.

**NEW Approval Books.**

THE FOLLOWING

FINE NEW APPROVAL BOOKS ARE NOW READY.

Used English. Mounted in eleven volumes, each containing over 3000 stamps, priced reasonably, to select from.

- A1. Line-Engraved, used; specially strongly in 1d. black, 2d. blue in strips. Also contains unused 1d. red plate numbers.
- A2. Fine general selection of 2½d. and higher values, including £1 Cross and Anchor, Officials, etc.
- A3. Line-Engraved. Fine lot of the 1855 perforation and watermark varieties.
- A4. Surface-printed; general selection; some unused.
- A5. Line-Engraved. Specially strong in ½d. red, arranged for plating.
- A6. Surface-printed. Specially strong in plate numbers, of 2½d. and higher values.
- A7, A8. In preparation.
- A9. Used 1d. red plate-numbers.
- A10. Unused 1d. red plate-numbers. Very fine lot, comprising singles, pairs and blocks, and including the rarest plate-numbers.
- A11 and A12. Railway Letter Stamps.

Unused Colonials, in mint condition (singles, pair and blocks).

- B1. West Indies.
- B2. Africa, Bechuanaland to Niger Coast.
- B3. Orange Free State to Zululand.
- B4. Orange River Colony.
- B5. Asia, except Straits Settlements.
- B6. Straits Settlements, Johore, Negri Sembilan, Perak, Pahang, Selangor, etc.
- B7. Australasia, Cook Islands, to New Zealand.
- B8. Australasia, Queensland to Western Australia.
- B9. New Zealand, a very fine lot.
- B10. West Indies, Vol. II.
- B11. European and American Colonies.
- B12. High Values, General. A very valuable book.

Used Colonials, general selections (with discount).

- C1. Antigua to Newfoundland.
- C2. New South Wales to Zululand.
- C3. General.
- C4. General, including some unused.

Unused Foreigners, in blocks, mint.

- E1. General, mostly Europeans.
- E2. Europeans, Austria to Iceland.

Used Foreigners, general selection (with discount.)

- F1. Europeans, Austria to Holland.
- F2. Europeans, Hungary to Wurtemberg.
- F3. South Americans, Argentine to Peru.
- F4. General.

The above list consists solely of large approval books and is in addition to the list of booklets and sheets advertised on the fourth page.

As the books are worth, in the aggregate, thousands of pounds, they can only be sent to clients well known to us, or who furnish first-class references.

**MIXED LOTS OF USED ENGLISH.**

OLD ISSUES.

AA.	645	6d. lilac, various plates	...	52/0
AB.	21	3d. rose, small letters	...	30/0
AC.	62	6d. grey, various plates	...	10/0
AD.	72	3d. rose, various plates	...	6/0
AF.	225	4d. rose, no letters...	...	13/6
AG.	20	6d. chestnut, various plates...	...	7/6
AH.	123	4d. vermilion, various plates	...	10/0
AI.	500	½d. red, various plates	...	10/0
AJ.	185	2½d. blue, plate 21, a reconstructed sheet, all but 55	...	15/0
AK.	149	3d. rose, plates 17-20	...	12/0
AM.	4685	½d. red, various plates, but no plate 9	...	55/0
AN.	100	2½d. lilac, 1884	...	6/0
AO.	478	½d. red, various plate Nos.	...	9/0
AP.	207	6d. lilac, various plates...	...	16/6
AQ.	367	4d. vermilion " "	...	22/6
AS.	138	6d. lilac " "	...	11/0
AT.	357	½d. slate, 1884	...	4/6
AU.	2704	2½d. rose, various plates	...	110/0
AV.	1400	2½d. " " "	...	65/0
AX.	1000	1d. red, ditto	...	2/0
AY.	85	2½d. lilac, 1884	...	4/0
AZ.	651	1d. red, plate Nos.	...	1/0
BA.	1170	2d. blue, in box, various plates	...	46/0
BB.	216	3d. rose " " "	...	16/0
BC.	1135	2½d. blue " " "	...	18/6
BD.	2372	3d. rose " " "	...	110/0
BE.	3142	1d. red, imperf., in box	...	7/6
BF.	1174	1d. venetian red, in box	...	10/6
BG.	299	½d. green, 1880	...	8/6

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PUBLISHED IN EUROPE.

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## The Week's News.

The Editor will be much obliged for Early Information of New Issues, or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors, and will have pleasure in forwarding the sender of every accepted contribution several interesting newly issued stamps.

The index number and serial letter after the title of each paragraph indicate the issue of E.W.S.N. in which the last reference to that country appeared.

**GREAT BRITAIN (O 112).**—King Edward's Stamps.—We take the following excerpt from the *Daily Graphic* :—

“According to present arrangements, states a news agency, some of the new postage stamps will be issued early in the New Year. The original intention was to put them on sale at the principal post offices on the King's birthday. This, however, was found to be impossible, a sufficient number of sheets not being ready at the time. Good progress is now being made with the printing. Merely the head of the King is shown, and he has been drawn bareheaded, without the crown. This is a departure from the accepted custom when Her late Majesty was on the throne, Queen Victoria always being portrayed as wearing a small crown or diadem, King Edward's choice, however, is in accordance with the general practice of reigning Kings and Emperors, though the young Queen of Holland follows the example of Queen Victoria. The likeness of the King has been approved by His Majesty.

The design of the stamps has undergone changes also in matters of detail, and it has been decided to abandon some of the colours formerly in use. The half-penny stamps will be green, as hitherto, but the design that Mr. Emile Fuchs has prepared is of a more elaborate character than that with which the public is familiar, and the effect has been to give the stamp the appearance of being in a green of a deeper shade.

In the penny stamp the existing mauve colour will no longer be used. Its place will be taken by stamps of a dull crimson, a colour which has been found by experiment to be the most suitable for the purposes for which it is required. Indeed, it is in contemplation to use the colour for other stamps of higher value, the price being plainly indicated in figures to prevent confusion. But this is a matter that is understood to be still under consideration.

The design of the stamps of highest value has not yet received the King's approval, and it is probable that those in most general use will be the first issued. As in the case of the coins, it is not intended to stop the issue of the Victorian stamps until the reserve in hand has been exhausted. These are likely to be on sale at the sub-offices for some considerable time.

**Variety of the recent 4½d.** Mrs. Lane informs us of a curious variety in the recent 4½d. stamp which does not appear to have been yet noticed anywhere. There is a distinct coloured dot between the figure 1 of “4½d.” and the upper part of the figure “4,” in the lower right hand corner of the stamp. Our correspondent believes that one stamp on each sheet shows this variety, its position being probably in the bottom right hand corner of the lower left hand pane. By the way, can any reader say when this value was issued? All the authorities give the date of issue as September 15th, 1892, but we notice that the *History of British Stamps* published by the London Philatelic Society states that the plates were only put to press on that date, although the *imprimatur* sheet was struck on 15.8.92 and registered the following day. Has anyone an early-dated copy which will support the date of issue given above?

**Variety of £1 green, I.R. Official.**—The Rev. A. Ogle, who is well known as a specialist in British stamps, writes: “I have discovered in my collection of British stamps, what I think must be a rare error in the overprint of the £1

green I.R. Official. On my copy which is unused but stamped ‘specimen’ I find there is no trace whatever of any stop after the R. I know the stamp to be genuine and as the overprint is of the usual thick and heavy description the omission of the stop after the R cannot be due to any wearing of the overprinting type. I have never seen any mention of this variety in any catalogue or Philatelic paper, so conclude that it must be unknown, for surely if known an error of this kind in one of our carefully printed British stamps is infinitely more worthy of recognition than say the many dot varieties of the Orange River Colony stamps to which just now so much attention is directed. I shall be glad to hear whether any of your readers met with this error. My stamp is lettered B in all four corners!!”

**ANTIOQUIA (A).**—The *A.J. of P.* chronicles two type-set provisionals.

*Postage Adhesive.* 1c. carmine, wove paper, perf.  
*Too late Adhesive.* 2½c. violet, laid paper, perf.

Each is reported to be set in blocks of four varieties and printed on white paper.

**ALWUR (A).**—The *Monthly Journal* records the receipt recently of a sheet of the ½ anna stamp which is evidently printed from a fresh stone. There are thirty-five stamps on the sheet, arranged in five horizontal rows of seven. They are in a light green shade and much more clearly printed than the emerald-green edition, and the stamps are not quite so close together as last time. They are badly perforated, with the same machine as before.

**BAHAMAS (F 112).**—The new pictorial 1d. stamps are printed in sheets of 60, arranged in five horizontal rows of twelve. On the margin at each corner is a circular blot of colour, with two plate numbers “1,” one in red and one in black, over the lower left hand blot.

**BOSNIA (B 93).**—A new value, 35 heller, is stated by *L'Écho de la Timbrologie* to have been issued here.

*Adhesive,* 35 heller (colour?), value in black.

The 20 and 50 heller are also to be printed with value in black.

**BULGARIA (C 111).**—The new set was placed in circulation on Monday, October 14th (old style, 1st) and not on the 13th, as stated in *E.W.S.N.* No. 107. The sheets consist of 100 stamps as usual, and according to the *Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal* are divided into four panes of 25, each arranged in five rows of five.

The *A.J. of P.* notes that the current 5 stot. unpaid letter stamps (and probably other values also) have a watermark in the sheet, consisting of the Bulgarian lion on a vertically lined sheet, surmounted by a Crown, with an inscription above and below, which is stated to mean “Government of Bulgaria.” The watermark extends over a block of sixty stamps (10 rows of 6) and has been noticed on stamps purchased as long ago as 1898.

**BRITISH NEW GUINEA (C 102).** A rumour states that the ½d. and 1d. values are running short at Port Moresby. As further supplies have to be ordered from London, will surcharging be resorted to?

**BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA (D 101).**—The new set has been increased by the addition of a 7/6 value.

*Adhesive,* 7/6, black (Gibbons' type II.)

**COSTA RICA (A).**—We do not appear to have chronicled the current issue surcharged “OFFICIAL” (horizontally in black).

*Official Stamps.*

1c. green and black, surch. “Official.”
2c. orange and black “ ”
5c. blue and black “ ”
10c. ochre and black “ ”
20c. marone and black “ ”

The 1899 and 1892 sets were surcharged as high as the 50c. value.

**ECUADOR (B 112).**—The *Monthly Journal* states that all the values in the new colours have been surcharged “Official” in black, thus reverting to the 4d system in force from 1886 to 1892. From this latter year down to the present time it has been the practice to print the various sets in a uniform colour (1892, all values in blue; 1894,

1895, both sets in grey; 1896 in olive-bistre, and 1899 all values in orange), and to surcharge them “*Franqueo Oficial*” in red or black. According to the *M.J.* the colours of the postage series are now retained as well as the design.

*Official stamps, surch. “Official” on postage adhesives.*

1c. red and black.	20c. grey and black.
2c. green “	50c. blue “
5c. grey “	1s. brown “
10c. blue “	5s. lilac “

The *M.J.* characterises the distinction between the colour of the 5 sucres, lilac, of 1901 (Postage adhesive), and the 5 sucres, violet, of 1899, as a case of hair-splitting.

**GERMANY (C 112).**—Herr Dr. jur. Kloss has shown us two specimens of the current 10pf. adhesive in very distinct shades.

10pf. dark carmine. Rather a dull shade, and presumably first printing. Cream white paper.  
10pf. bright rose, bluish white paper.

We understand that on and from April 1st next, all the current stamps of the Germania type are to be modified, *Deutscherichspost* being substituted for *Reichspost*. This alteration is to be made in consequence of the agreement recently come to, whereby the stamps are to circulate in Wurtemberg.

**GOLD COAST.**—(B 112).—We understand that the 1d. on 6d. lilac and mauve chronicled last week is already obsolete. The surcharge is the same as that of the 1d. on 6d. orange of March 1889. A few copies are reported to have changed hands at 1/3, but there are very few as yet on the market.

Rumour states that the 2½d. lilac and blue has now been similarly surcharged, but no definite particulars are yet to hand.

*Adhesive Provisionals, surcharged in black.*

Sept. ? 1901. “One Penny” on 6d. lilac & violet.  
Oct. ? 1901. “ ” on 2½d. lilac & blue ?

**GUADELOUPE (A).**—The current 5c. has been changed in colour from dark green and rose to yellow-green and rose.

*Adhesive,* 5c. yellow-green and rose.

**GUATEMALA (B 95).**—*La Revue Philatèlique Belge* chronicles some new provisionals for use here. The fiscal stamps of 1 and 50c., 5 and 10 pesos have been surcharged “*Correos Nacionales 1901*” [“National Posts, 1901”] together with a new value, and are to be used as postage stamps.

*Fiscal stamps, surcharged for postal use.*

(a) Surcharge in red.
1c. blue.
(b) Surcharge in black.
5 centavos on 1 peso, rose.
10 “ on 50c. orange.
50 “ on 10 pesos, green.

**LAS BELA (A).**—The *Monthly Journal* describes the new value, 1 anna, which was first recorded in August last. This Indian Native State has hitherto (1897-1901) been contented with stamps of ½ anna, of which there are three catalogued varieties. The new 1 anna is square and the design shows a circular band inscribed “Las Bela” at top and “One Anna” below. Across the centre is a label bearing a native inscription; in the semi-circles above and below this label are characters on a lined ground, among which the value may be read in the upper portion. The spandrels have a groundwork of vertical lines on which are trefoil ornaments. The paper is a deep orange and the impression (presumably in black.)

*Adhesive,* 1 anna, black on deep orange.

**PANAMA (A).**—The *Monthly Circular* states that the 10 centavos adhesive Registration label, issued last year in black on pale green, is now appearing in a new colour.

*Registration label.* 10c. red on white, perf. 11.

The control or rotation number is inserted in blue, as before.

**PARAGUAY (D 97).**—*L'Écho de la T.* states that a new stamp of 1 peso has recently appeared. It was printed as far back as 1896, and bears the portrait of General Eguzquiza, late President of Paraguay. The colour of the stamp is not stated.

**QUEENSLAND** (C 108).—*Fiscal Stamps*. Thus the A.7. of P.:—Mr. Whitney, of Sidney, has shown us the 2d. and 3d. values of the new Duty stamps, bearing portraits of the King. They are the most wretched things ever turned out of a stamp-printing office in Australia."

**SERVIA** (B 93).—The 10 on 20 paras of 1900 has now been succeeded by another provisional, 15 paras on 1 dinar red on blue (S.G. No. 116). The *I.B.J.* states that the plate for the 15 paras had become so worn as to be useless, and presumably (although this is not stated by our contemporary) the price of a new plate is to be obtained from stamp collectors by means of this and possibly other provisionals. The 15p. on 1d. was issued on September 29th.

*Adhesive, surcharged in black.*

Sept. 29th. "15 Para" on 1 dinar, red on blue.

**ST. PIERRE ET MIQUELON** (B 111).—Another Parcel Post Stamp is chronicled by *L'Echo de la Timbrologie* and is surcharged "COLIS-POSTAUX" in capitals, in two lines, on the 10c. black on lilac, of 1892.

**SUDAN** (C 112).—The *I.B.J.* states that the perforated initials of the 1 mill. signify "Service Gouvernemental."

**TASMANIA** (B 106).—The *Australian Journal of Philately* quotes a letter received from the Superintendent of the Stamp Branch, Hobart, dated Sept. 25th, which seems to show that the ½d. pictorial stamp may be only temporarily exhausted. It reads as follows:—"As far as we know there is no intention of withdrawing any of the values of the pictorial issue: the halfpenny green stock is exhausted."

**TRANSVAAL** (H 111).—Messrs. N. Yaar & Co., add the following varieties to the list chronicled in our issue of November 9th. Our correspondents write: "We have in our possession a vertical pair of 1d. V.R.I. in which the top stamp has the dots omitted after both R and I, whilst the lower one has no stop after I. We have also a sheet of the ½d. green E.R.I. whereof the last stamp in the lowest row has the E broken so has to look like a defective F."

**VICTORIA** (I 112).—Messrs. S. H. Toole & Co., write:—"There is a very striking error in the recently issued ½d. green Victoria without Postage." The word "Victoria" is spelt "Victoria" in the 7th row from the top and the 2nd stamp from the right hand stamp (*i.e.* last but one in the 7th row). This error has occurred in every pane the Colonial Market has sent us, and we have also picked up two copies from dealers. Also, in the first row, on the 3rd stamp from the right hand side, the "½d." is joined to the D in the left hand top corner. Both of these varieties occur only once in each sheet of 240 and we should think the 'C' variety is more worth cataloguing than some of the war varieties."

## The Exhibition of South African Stamps.

THE Exhibition of South African Stamps, held at the Rooms of the Philatelic Society (Effingham House, Arundel Street, London, W.C.) on Saturday last, was an undoubted success, and, in spite of the thick fog which must have kept many collectors away, was crowded nearly the whole time it was open. Owing to the same cause (the train which conveyed the Editor from Norwood to the City took 1½ hours to accomplish the intervening 8 miles!) we had but a short time to inspect the numerous gems exhibited, representing in monetary value considerably over £20,000.

Some of the most notable things shown were the following:—

*Cape Triangulars* (Mr. Vernon Roberts). There were several hundred Woodblocks, including a superb block of four *unused* of the 1d. red, four of the 1d. blue errors (one in pair with ½d. blue *se tenant*), and two ½d. red. The engraved triangulars were represented by rows upon rows of fine used and unused copies, the latter including two mint blocks, each of 32 stamps, of the 1/- emerald, and similar mint blocks of 32 of the 1/- dark green and other values! In the later issues of Cape Colony we note that the 5/- CA. was not shown unused.

*Orange River Colony* (Mr. C. J. Daun). This display was of a really superb nature. We noticed three entire panes of 60 of the 6d. carmine, V.R.I., two having level stops and one raised stops (2nd printing). The third printing of the 6d. carmine (that with thick V) was represented by a pair only, one stamp having the "thick V." Only one other pair is believed to exist. Another pair of the 6d. carmine showed the error with figure "6" omitted. In the 5/- value, an entire pane with full margins of the *first print*, with level stops, was shown. Its rarity may be imagined when we say that we have never previously seen more than a block of 4! The 5/- value was also represented by a block of 8 showing the mixed stop varieties (unique) and two pairs, each having the level

and raised stop varieties side by side (probably also not far from unique). The other values were also shown in singles, pairs, blocks and sheets. Of the rare ½d. with level stops, for instance, there were no fewer than four panes showing different settings and the positions of the errors before and after correction.

*Transvaal*.—This colony was represented by the fine collections of the Earl of Crawford and Mr. H. J. Duveen. Amongst other things, some very interesting errors of the early Transvaals were shown.

The Orange Free State was also shown by the Earl of Crawford, together with British Bechuanaland, Swaziland, Stellaland, Mafeking, Pietersburg (reconstructed sheets of most varieties), Wolmaranstad, etc. Mr. Mortimer Menpes, the famous War Correspondent, showed a number of interesting errors in the Free State and Orange River Colony stamps. Griqualand was ably shown by Messrs. Dorning Beckton and Yardley, but the reconstructed sheets and blocks showing the arrangement of the different types attracted so much attention that we could not get close enough to examine carefully. The issues of the British South Africa Company found a champion in Mr. Eliot Levy, formerly well-known as a specialist in British stamps, all values up to and including the highest values, being shown in mint unused condition. Natal was shown by Mr. T. W. Hall, who exhibited several very fine copies of the first issue (together with an interesting series of reprints) and Zululand by Mr. J. H. Abbott.

## Stamps at Auction.

*November 7th and 8th. Messrs. Ventom, Bull & Cooper.*

Great Britain, 1d. red, imperf., a reconstructed sheet of 240	20/-
Ditto, L.C. 14, 1d. rose, sheet of 240	15/-
France, a very fine collection of 895 Essays	£10/10/-
Modena, 1852, Errors "CNET 40" and "CENT 49," both used on entires	42/-
Oldenburg, ½gr. green, error "Oldeiburg"	58/-
Moldavia, 27 paras, black on rose	£35
" 108 paras, blue on pink	£25
Russian Locals, a fine collection of 1172, including many rarities, catalogue value about £190	£36
Wurtemberg, 1858-60, imperf., without thread, 6kr. green, unused, fine	£20
Lagos, 10/- lilac-brown, used	£10
Chile, Unpaid Letter Stamps, 1896, perf. 13½, 40, 50, 60, 80, and 100c. All unused in one strip with bottom and side margins	£12
Peru, Medio Peso, rose, used on piece	£10

*November 12th to 15th. Messrs. Puttick & Simpson.*

Austria, Newspaper stamp, 6kr. red, unused, nearly full gum	£40
Bavaria, unpaid 1895, 2 in red on 3pf. grey, very fine used pair, on entire original envelope, of the greatest rarity, only two other similar pairs being known	£22
Great Britain, 1d. black Mulready Cover, used on the day of issue, May 6th, 1840	15/-
Naples, ½ tornese, blue cross, mint	£12
Prussia, 1857, 2 sgr. dark blue, superb mint, vertical pair	£25/10/-
Moldavia, 81 paras, blue on blue, a fine used copy	£160
Ditto, 108 paras, unused, with gum, slightly creased, with pinhole	£38
Ditto, proofs in black on thin paper, of the 27, 54, 81 and 108 paras	£12
Geneva, 5×5c. yellow-green, the double stamp, unused, no gum	£22
Tuscany, 3 lire yellow, rather heavily cancelled	£30
Hong Kong, 1879, stamp surcharged for use on postcards, "Three" on "5 cents" on 18c. lilac, unused	£3
Cape, ½d. red, error, fair but repaired	£25
British Columbia, 2½d. pink, imperf.	£12
Queensland, 2d. blue, 1860, imperf., strip of 3, on small piece	£17/17/-

## Perforation.

WHAT is the true definition of a variety of perforation? To this question, the *Australian Journal of Philately*, in its October issue just to hand, supplies an admirable answer. It would define a perforation variety as "such a variation in gauge, size or shape of punctures, as conclusively points to the use of a different machine." This would make but *one* variety of the New Zealand London prints, and would amalgamate the New South Wales 11×11½ and 11½×11, etc.

The same principle might with advantage be applied to watermark, colour, etc. Collect shades only when they mark a distinct printing; watermarks when they mark the use of a new paper, and so on.

## Universal Standard Catalogue

OF THE

## Postage Stamps of the World.

NEW EDITION, 1902.

(Obtainable from the Colonial Stamp Market, price 1/3, post free).

MESSRS. WHITFIELD KING & Co. have just published the 1902 edition of their simplified catalogue of postage stamps, listing all known standard varieties issued up to the end of October, 1901. This work is of special value to collectors just starting, or to those who wish to form a general collection without taking note of minor variations of shade, perforation and watermark, etc., in other words, to form a general collection which there is some chance of getting fairly representative. The number of varieties to be collected is by this means reduced to 16,081, instead of the 50,000 or more, that the specialist catalogues list.

Of this total of 16,081, more than a quarter or 4,483 belong to the British Empire. There are 3,823 sorts in Europe, 2,966 in Asia, 2,775 in Africa, 5,268 in America and 1,249 in Oceania. These figures are likely soon to be added to, to judge by the recent rate of increase, for 1,455 new descriptions have appeared even within the past eighteen months.

Salvador has been the most prolific in the creation of stamps, doubtless to keep up its revolutionary record. It is responsible for 403 varieties, so huge a neighbour as the United States following lamely behind with 303. With the solitary exception of Spain, which has 293 sorts to its credit, all the countries with numerous stamp issues belong practically to the New World. The Philippines account for 228 and Cuba is responsible for 217, though the onus of both should probably be relegated to Spain. Nicaragua has 279 descriptions, Uruguay 221, Victoria 220 and Mexico 214.

The Catalogue forms a useful guide for those who wish to collect stamps rather than study them, and the book has the advantage of being neatly got up and printed, with over 2500 illustrations. Perhaps the fact that every stamp is priced will appeal as much as anything to those contemplating its acquisition. Existing catalogues are somewhat apt to omit the values of the stamps that are at all scarce and that the publishers may not perhaps have in stock. Our readers will perhaps be interested in the following quotations taken from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.'s book.

		UNUSED. USED.	
*Trinidad, 10/- green and blue	£6	—	—
*Tasmania, £1 green and yellow	£3	—	—
(The above quotation is too low).			
*Southern Nigeria, 1899, 10/- violet (our old friends, the "Niger Coasts," are now hidden under their new title)	20/0	—	—
*B.C.A., 3/- green and black, 1897	10/0	4/0	—
*B.E.A., small, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5rs., 1896	31/6	31/0	—
*British Honduras, 25c. brown and green	7/6	—	—
Chile, 30c. rose, 1900	2/0	—	—
*Gold Coast, 5/- lilac and blue	10/0	—	—
*" 10/- lilac and rose	20/0	3/6	—
" 20/- green and carmine	£7	—	—
Hawaii, 50c. red	30/0	25/0	—
" \$1 rose	45/0	40/0	—
*Negri Sembilan, 50c.	5/0	—	—
N.S.W., 6d. emerald	17/6	9d.	—
" 5/- map stamp	25/0	12/6	—
N.Z., 2/-, London print	8/0	8d.	—
" 5/- "	20/0	20/0	—
" 6d. green, Local print	4/0	2/6	—
O.R.C., V.R.I., 2½d. on 3d.	15/0	15/0	—
" " 6d. rose	27/6	30/0	—
*Perak, \$1, 2, 5, set of 3	41/0	—	—
*" 50c. lilac and black	4/0	—	—
(Value of Perak dollar is 2/-).			
*Sarawak, \$1 green and black	5/0	5/0	—
*Tasmania, old type, 3d.	1/0	6d.	—
*" " 4d.	2/0	1/0	—
*" " 5/- St. George	12/0	6/6	—
*" " 10/- "	25/0	12/0	—
*" " 10d. lake and green, 1899	3/0	—	—
*Victoria, 6d., no "Postage"	1/6	1/6	—
*" " 1/- "	2/6	2/6	—
*" " 2/- "	5/0	5/0	—
*" " 5/- "	15/0	15/0	—
Zululand, £1	50/0	40/0	—
" £5	£10	£7	—

Space does not permit of a longer list. All those marked with an asterisk have been supplied at one time or another since October, 1899, by the Colonial Stamp Market at its normal rate of 5/10 per 5/- face value.

The advance in the price of the Zululand £1 and £5 stamps has been expected for some time. The new Gibbons quoted them at 60/- and £10 respectively. Most collectors would not purchase because they thought they were current, consequently price kept low; but their real rarity is now beginning to be realised.

**FOREIGN ARRIVALS.**

(NOTE.—Most foreign stamps are almost as good an investment in mint unused condition as those issued by British Colonies, if purchases are made with care, and countries like Abyssinia, Persia, Nicaragua, Honduras, etc., are ignored. That there is a good market for unused foreigners is evidenced by the fact that a collection consisting entirely of unused Europeans recently sold for £30,000).

(N.B.—The numbers given are those of the Universal Standard Catalogue, 1902 edition).

(a) Venezuela, 1899, Unsurcharged.		USED.
121	5c. blue-green	...
122	10c. red	...
123	25c. blue	... 2d.
124	50c. black	...
125	1 bol. green	...
126	2 bol. orange	...

(b) 1900, Surcharged "Resellada R.F.M."		
127	5c. blue-green	...
128	10c. red	...
129	25c. blue	... 4d.
130	50c. black	... 4d.
131	1 bol. green	... 8d.
132	2 bol. orange	...

(c) 1900, Surch. "Resellada, Castro, 1900."		
133	5c. blue-green	... 2d.
134	10c. red	...
135	25c. blue	... 4d.

(d) 1900, Surch. "1900" only.		
136	50c. yellow	... 6d.
137	1 bol. black	... 9d.

**Peru.** Issues of 1896-1901.  
 110 22c. green and black ... 2d.  
 111 50c. rose ... 5d.

**United States, surcharged "Porto Rico."**  
 176 1c. green ... 1d.  
 177 2c. carmine... 2d.  
 178 5c. blue ... 3d.  
 179 8c. puce ... 6d.  
 180 10c. brown ... 6d.

**Port Said, surcharged on French, old type.**  
 1c. black on blue, pair with mill. o, nett 2d.  
**China, surcharged on French, old type.**  
 5c. yellow-green, pair with mill. o, nett 3d.

**France, "Chiffre Tax"**  
 1c. black, 5c. blue, 10c. brown, set of 3, nett 3d.

**Belgium, unpaid.**  
 Set of 5, 5, 10, 20, 50c. 1fr., nett 1/11.  
**Belgium, Sunday stamps.**  
 Set of ten, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 25, 35, 50c., 1, 2fr., nett, 4/5.

**Luxemburg, 1fr. violet, (old type), nett 2/-; 5fr. orange-brown (old type), nett 5/10.**  
**Denmark, new 24 öre, brown, nett 5d.**  
**Sweden, New 25 öre, orange, nett 5d.**

**Finland, 1901, 1 markka, nett 1/3.**  
**Finland, 1889 type, 2, 5, 10, 20, 25p., 1m., set of 6, 2/3.**

**Hungary, 1900, values in filléres.**  
 25f., blue and black, nett 4d.  
 30f., brown and black, nett 4d.  
 50f., lake and black, nett 6d.  
 60f., green and black, nett 8d.

**Roumania, 5, 10, 15 bani, set of three, 4d.**  
**Greece, Small Head of Mercury.**  
 1 lepton, brown, 1d.; block of 4, 1d.  
 2 leptas, bistre, 1d.; block of 4, 2d.  
 5 " green, 1d.; block of 4, 3d.  
 10 " orange, 2d.; block of 4, 6d.

**Greek Provisionals, surcharged on old types.**  
**Large Head of Mercury.**  
 30 on 40 leptas, 5d.\*  
 40 on 2 " 5d.\*  
 50 on 40 " buff, 6d.\*  
 3dr. on 10 leptas, 2/9.  
 5dr. on 40 leptas, lilac on blue, 3/9.

\*NOTE.—Pairs can be supplied, showing wide and narrow "O," 1/- each.  
**Small Head of Mercury.**  
 1dr. on 40 leptas, violet, 1/- (imperf.)  
 2dr. on 40 " " 1/9 (perf. 13).  
**Olympian Games (Axia Metalliki).**  
 25l. on 40 leptas, nett 5d.  
 50l. on 2dr. stone, nett 10d.  
 1dr. on 5dr. green, nett 1/3.  
 2dr. on 10dr. brown, nett 2/6.

**Cuba, pictorial set, 1, 2, 3, 5, 10c., nett 1/3.**  
**Sweden, low values, 1, 2, 3, 4 öre, set of 4, 2d.**  
**Siam, 1901, head to left.**  
 2atts, bright green, nett 1d.; block of 4, 3d.  
**Siam provisional, 3 on 12atts, 1½d. each.**  
**Japan, new, 1½sen blue, 1d. each; block of 4, 3d.**

**Bolivia, 1899, used, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20c., set of 5, 6d.**  
**Bolivia, 10c. orange, nett 1d. (used).**  
 " 20c. rose (cat. 6d.), nett 2d. (used).  
**Bolivia, surch. "EF 1899" on 1894 issue (used).**  
 5c. violet on green, nett 2d.  
 10c. violet on brown, nett 3d.

**Chile, old type, 15c. green, fine, used, 2d.**  
 20c. slate-grey, fine, used, 1d.  
 1 peso, black and brown, used, fine, 8d.  
**Chile, 1900, new 5c. blue, 10c. lilac, 1d. each (used).**  
**Costa Rica, old 10 and 20c. (1892), nett 2d. (used).**  
 " new 10 and 20c. (1901), nett 5d. (used).  
**Ecuador, 10c. lilac and black, used, 4d.**  
 " 10c. blue and black, used, 4d.

**MINT UNUSED COLONIAL STAMPS. I.—WEST INDIES, EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA.**

				Block Single. of 4.
Bahamas.	3303.	1d. carmine (33)	...	2d. 6d.
	3304.	2½d. ultramarine (35)	...	3d. 1/0
	3305.	4d. deep yellow (36)	...	5d. 1/8
	3306.	6d. mauve (37)	...	8d. 2/4
	3307.	1/- yellow-green, CC. (24)	...	1/3 5/0
	3308.	1/- blue-green, CA. (38)	...	1/3 5/0
Barbados, Queen's Heads.	3309.	½d. green (90)	...	2d. —
	3310.	3d. purple (96)	...	1/4 —
	3311.	4d. brown (98)	...	7d. 2/4
	3312.	1/- red-brown (102)	...	3/0 —
	3313.	½d. on 4d. brown (104)	...	4d. —
Barbados, current issue.	3326.	½d. grey and carmine (107)	...	1d. 2d.
	3327.	½d. dull green (108)	...	1d. 3d.
	3328.	1d. rose (109)	...	2d. 5d.
	3329.	2d. blue and orange (109a)	...	3d. 10d.
	3330.	2½d. ultramarine (110)	...	3d. 1/0
	3331.	5d. olive-brown (111)	...	7d. 1/11
	3332.	6d. mauve and carmine (112)	...	8d. 2/4
	3333.	8d. orange and blue (113)	...	10d. 3/2
	3334.	10d. green and carmine (114)	...	1/0 3/11
Bermuda.	3341.	½d. on 1/- grey (30)	...	1d. 2d.
	3342.	½d. green (21)	...	1d. 3d.
	3343.	1d. carmine (24)	...	2d. 5d.
	3344.	2d. violet-brown (26)	...	3d. 11d.
	3345.	2½d. ultramarine (27)	...	3d. 1/0
	3346.	3d. grey (28)	...	4d. 1/3
	3347.	4d. orange-red, CC. (20)...	...	5d. 1/8
	3348.	6d. violet, CC. (7)	...	8d. 2/4
	3349.	1/- green, CC. 14 X 12½ (11)	...	2/3 —
	3350.	1/- yellow-brown (29)	...	1/3 4/8
British Columbia, 1867-69.	3351.	5c. red & blk., CC., 12½ (23)	...	40/0 —
	3352.	50c. lilac & blk., CC., 14(31)	...	80/0 —
	3353.	½ green and black, CC., 14	...	60/0 —
British Guiana, 1876 type.	3354.	6c. chocolate (132)	...	4d. 1/3
	3355.	1c. grey (129)	...	2d. —
	3356.	2c. lilac & blk., (135, cat. 1/6)	...	8d. 2/6

**MISCELLANEOUS OFFERS.**

CEYLON.				
105	2c. dull green, 3d.			
108	8c. orange-yellow, nett 10d.			
131	30c. on 36c. blue, inv. pair, 45/- nett, 22/6 each.			
154	15c. sage-green (cat. 8d.) 4d.; block of 4, 1/3.			
156	28c. grey, now obsolete, 8d.			
199	3c. terra-cotta and emerald, 2d.			
200	4c. carmine, 5d.			

GAMBIA.				
2	4d. brown, imperf., fair, cat. 32/- nett, 20/-			
3	6d. deep blue, imperf., very fine, 30/-			
16	4d. brown, CC. 14, mint, 22/6; well-centred pair, 50/-; mint strip of three, with corner margins, but off-centre, nett 65/-			
35	1/- violet, pair 3/9; block of 4, 7/6			

GOLD COAST.				
1	1d. blue, CC 12½, mint single, 45/-			
2	4d. mauve, CC. 12½, mint single, 22/6.			
5	1d. blue, CC 14, no gum, 1/3; mint, with value in grey, 1/9.			
4	½d. olive-yellow, CC14, mint 3/9; pair 8/-			
9	" " CA14, part gum, 27/-			

LAGOS				
1	1d. lilac, CC12½, no gum, fair, 4/6 (cat. 10/-)			
2	2d. blue, CC12½, mint, 11/3; no gum, 10/-			
4	3d. red-brown and chestnut, CC12½, mint, 21/-			
9	1s. orange, value long, used, very fair, 11/3.			
10	1d. lilac, CC14, no gum, fair, 2/-			
12	3d. red-brown, CC14, mint, cat. 45/-, nett, 30/-			
14	4d. carmine, CC14, mint, rarity, nett, 50/-			
14A	" " CC14, wmk. sideways, unchronicled, used, lightly cancelled, nett, 18/6.			
19	3d. chestnut, CA14, mint, nett, 7/6.			
20	4d. carmine, CA14, mint, 30/-, pink shade, 30/-			
26	6d. sage-green, 2/3.			

SIERRA LEONE.				
2	6d. purple, no wmk., perf. 14, bluish paper, mint, 11/-; mint side pair, cat. 40/-, nett, 27/-			
5	6d. bright violet, no wmk., perf. 14, used, 7/6.			
19	6d. bright violet, CC14, mint, 3/9.			
7	1d. rose-red, wmk. upright, 3/-; inverted, 4/-; sideways, 4/-; inverted and sideways, 4/-			
8	2d. mauve, CC. 12½, no gum, cat. 40/-, nett 16/-			
9	3d. saffron yellow, CC. 12½, used, cat. 10/-, nett 2/- only.			
12	1/- green (a), CC. 12½, used, fair, 7/-			
18	4d. blue, CC. 14, mint, 35/-			
23	" CA. 14, mint, £10.			
25A	1d. rose, CA. 14, unchronicled variety, used, 5/-			

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AJ.	185	2½d. blue, plate 21, a reconstructed sheet, all but 55	...	15/0
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AM.	4685	½d. red, various plates, but no plate 9	...	55/0
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AP.	207	6d. lilac, various plates...	...	16/6
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AS.	138	6d. lilac " " " " " "	...	11/0
AT.	357	½d. slate, 1884	...	4/6
AU.	2704	2½d. rose, various plates	...	110/0
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BC.	1135	2½d. blue " " " " " "	...	18/6
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BG.	299	½d. green, 1880	...	8/6

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Each stamp in the above selections is priced separately. When ordering any particular country or countries it is advisable to state whether used or unused are wanted, and whether a general selection is required, or one showing perforation and watermark varieties.

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5.—Spaces should not be marked.  
6.—Sheets should be returned folded as sent.  
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With which is incorporated EWEN'S WEEKLY CIRCULAR. (Established October, 1897.)

A JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

THE ONLY WEEKLY STAMP PAPER PUBLISHED IN EUROPE.

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(Whole Number, No. 200.)

LONDON, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1901.

[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

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## The Week's News.

The Editor will be much obliged for Early Information of New Issues, or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors, and will have pleasure in forwarding the sender of every accepted contribution several interesting newly issued stamps.

The index number and serial letter after the title of each paragraph indicate the issue of E.W.S.N. in which the last reference to that country appeared.

**GREAT BRITAIN (P 113).**—King Edward's Stamps. The Daily News publishes the following interesting statement received from the Secretary to the Post Office.

"Some of the new postage stamps will be issued early in the New Year, and the remainder at varying dates thereafter, as the supply of the present stamps becomes exhausted. The values of the stamps will range from ½d. to £5, as now.

"As regards the design, the head of the King will, of course, be substituted for the head of Queen Victoria. The likeness of the King has been approved by his Majesty. Merely the head of the King is shown, looking to the left, without the crown, which, however, appears at the top of the design. In other respects there will be no change in the design of the stamps, except in the case of the halfpenny, penny, twopence-halfpenny, and sixpenny stamps. In these the design shows the head of the King in an upright oval, on the left of which is a branch of bay, and on the right a branch of oak leaves.

"The new penny stamp will be red instead of mauve, red being the colour generally adopted by countries of the Postal Union for stamps of equivalent value; and the new sixpenny stamp will be mauve instead of red. There will be no other changes of colour."

**Newspaper Tax Stamps.**—The Editor acknowledges with thanks the receipt from readers of a number of lists of unchronicled die numbers and will publish a revised list shortly.

**Railway Letter Stamps (F 112).**—Mr. F. G. Warwick sends an interesting query:—"What is the earliest date you have of a Railway Letter Fee stamp? I have a railway letter sent from a station on the Midland Railway via Bath and postmarked 'Bath, January 31st, 1891.' The stamp is the first issue of the Midland Railway and bears the control number 2165. This is one day before the authorised date of issue, Sunday, February 1st, 1891."

We are now able to state that the control numbers of the current printing of the Neath & Brecon Railway Letter stamps, described in E.W.S.N. No. 110, run as high as 144, and of these Nos. 1 to 96 have already been issued. Should any readers wish to have specimens we have no doubt the Secretary to the Neath & Brecon Railway, Neath, would oblige. A complete sheet of eight stamps amounts to ¼ in face value.

Mr. E. G. Collins has shown us a railway letter franked with a L. & N. W. parcel stamp, 2d. red, No. F 351855 instead of a 2d. letter fee stamp. It is postmarked twice (Stafford, 26. 2. 01), so the postal authorities evidently intended to recognize it.

**The 4½d. adhesive (B 113).**—Mr. F. C. Scarr informs us that his earliest dated copy is postmarked "Clifton, Bristol, 27, September 24, 1892." As mentioned last week, the London Society's work states that the plates were only put to press on September 15th, which must, we think, be an error. Mr. A. H. Stamford writes:—

"Referring to your note on the variety of the recent G.B. 4½d. I have referred to a full sheet I have of this stamp and find that the variety which is very clearly defined is the extreme right-hand bottom corner stamp of the lower left-hand pane. It does not appear in either of the other three panes."

**Cheque Stamps.** Two new dies of the Rose series (for England), have lately been brought into use, the earliest dates we have seen, being: DD., 11.6.01; DE., 18.10.01. The A and B series

of dies are fast disappearing, but we have an impression (very worn) of die AH., dated as late as 17.6.01. We do not recommend our readers to collect these stamps, but those who have large numbers of cheques constantly passing through their hands may find occasional entertainment for an idle moment in looking out for new dies. So far we have not seen dies DA., DB., or DC. In the thistle series, we have dies A, B, C, D, E, only, and shamrock, A, B.

**BAHAMAS (G 113).**—There seems to be quite an epidemic of discovery in the perforations of Bahamas stamps. Messrs. Ventom, Bull and Cooper sold the following variety by auction on Friday for £10 10s.

(a) "1d. vermilion, wmk. Crown and CC., perf. 14×12½, unused, not catalogued and probably unique."

The P. J. of I. publishes the following note respecting another perf. 14×12½ variety. "Mr. A. H. Stamford is to be congratulated on his discovery of a hitherto unknown stamp of Bahamas—1/- green, wmk. Crown CC., perf. 14×12½—in a collection which he bought recently."

(b) 1s. green, wmk. Crown and CC., perf. 14×12½.

**BELGIUM (C 94).**—Telephone and Telegraph Adhesives.—The colour of the 2fr. telephone and the 5c. telegraph stamps has been changed from red to red-brown. The red portion of the 25fr. telegraph stamp has been similarly changed.

**BOLIVAR (A).**—We would warn readers against purchasing recent Bolivar stamps on the basis of catalogue prices, as a stock of remainders appears to have got on the market. A New York firm are quoting "unused, o.g." as follows:—1879, set of four, 5c., 10c., 20c., and 40c., cat. 3/9, for 1/- the set; 1882, set of six, 5, 10, 20, 40, 80c., and 1p., (stamps dated "1882"), cat. 13/10, for 2/- the set; high values, 5 and 10 pesos, dated "1882," cat. 32/- for 6/- the pair.

**BOSNIA (C 113).**—A German contemporary states that the colour of the new 35 heller mentioned last week is "cornflower-blue" (kornblumenblau) with, of course, the figures of value in black.

**BRAZIL (B 112).**—The A. J. of P. states that the current 10 reis, adhesive, is now appearing in deep carmine and dark blue instead of the much paler colours heretofore in use.

**BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA (E 113).**—The 7/6 value chronicled last week is Gibbons type 11 (not 11), and is issued in sheets of 60 arranged in six rows of ten. The British South Africa Company have on view an entire sheet, as printed, of a new 10/-, similar in type to the 7/6, and printed in a very pale bluish-green, but this value has not yet been issued. The sheet as printed consists of 240 stamps, divided into 4 panes by horizontal and vertical margins (or "gutters," as someone inelegantly described them). When this is issued the current set of high values will consist of the following—1/-, 5/-, 7/6, 10/-, £1, £5 and £10. No doubt later on the set will be filled in with values between 1/- and 5/-.

**CRETE (B 95).**—We find we have omitted to chronicle the new unpaid Letter Stamp, 1 drachma, with value overprinted in black. The issue was mentioned in E.W.S.N. of July 20th, as being likely, on account of the similarity of its appearance with that of the 1 lepton.

**Unpaid Letter Stamp.** 1 dr. red, surch. '1 Drachma' in black.

Crete has issued three sets of high-value postage adhesives; the first, in 1900, with overprint "Prosorinon" in red, and a second issue with same in black, and in 1901, a set without any overprint. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. state that the following quantities of the first set, with red overprint, were surcharged:—1 dr., 7,500; 2 dr., 5,000; 5 dr., 2,500.

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (D 111).**—The Official Gazette announces that an issue to commemorate the founding of the city of San Domingo is in preparation. This issue will be placed on sale on February 27th 1902, states the American Journal of Philately. The following description is given:—

**Postage adhesives.**  
1c. green Duarte 60,000

2c. red	Sanchez	60,000
5c. dark blue	Duarte	60,000
10c. yellow ochre	Sanchez	60,000
12c. violet	Mello	60,000
20c. light grey	Mello	60,000
50c. bronze	View of San Domingo	60,000

### Official adhesives.

2c. red-vermilion	50,000
5c. dark blue	50,000
10c. light green	50,000
20c. yellow	50,000

A portion of the quantities above named—10,000 of each variety—will be reserved for the Board of Public Works, and will not be sold until after June 1st, 1902. The issue would seem to be entirely speculative; the fact that equal quantities of each value are to be printed, seems to show the expectation of selling them in sets only.

**ECUADOR (C 113).**—It seems doubtful whether the 5s. "lilac" of 1901 is not after all merely a shade of the 5s. "violet" of 1891. Various contemporaries chronicle this stamp printed entirely in black, and in this colour it is probably the true complement of the 1901 series.

Adhesive, 5 sucres, black, with black centre.

The 1898 provisional sets—1c. rose, 2c. blue, 5c. green and 10c. olive—are being offered unused in New York at 1/- per set (cat. over 3/-).

**Remainders.**—According to L'Annonce Timbrologique, the Government of Ecuador has addressed a circular letter to the foreign consuls, announcing that it will cause to be sold at auction on January 15th, 1902, the various stocks of obsolete postage and telegraph adhesives. Since 1893, Ecuador does not appear to have sold any of its stamps uncancelled, below face value, with the consequence that the "high values" of the postage sets are at present catalogued as follows.

1 sucre, 1892, 6d.; 1894, 1896, 1897, 1898, each	5/-; 1899, 4/-; 1901, 3/6 (current).
5 sucres, 1892, 9d.; 1894, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899,	20/-; 1901, 16/- (current).

We believe that the obsolete sets are still obtainable under face value postmarked, and it is to be hoped that remainders will also be cancelled in some way before being sold, or Ecuador will finally discredit its issues in unused condition.

**FRANCE (G 112).**—Franchise Militaire.—Owing to the fact that the French Army Official stamps (ordinary 15c. stamps overprinted F.M.) are not sold to the public, they are quoted at present at considerable premiums. No less than 8/- is asked for a pair showing the millésime 1 encadré (framed), such being obtainable unused only, as not more than a single stamp may be put on a letter.

**GERMANY (D 113).**—According to Le Moniteur de l'Empire the new series is to bear the inscription "Deutsches Reich" and not Deutsches Reichspost, as stated in our issue of last week. The present series is to be surcharged in black with the new inscription and issued on April 1st, 1902. The various stamps issued in German offices abroad (Levant, Morocco and China) will also receive the overprint.

**GOLD COAST (C 113).**—Several correspondents have kindly submitted examples of the recent provisionals, the earliest postmark on the "ONE PENNY" on 2½d. lilac and blue being "Cape Coast, Oc. 22, 1901." Letters from Cape Coast on Oct. 14, were franked with the 1d. on 6d. so that presumably the date of issue of the 1d. on 2½d. was somewhere about the middle of October. The earliest postmark recorded on the 1d. on 6d. is "Sekondi, Oc. 3rd, 1901" but earlier than this must surely exist. We notice two varieties of the latter; in the earlier examples, the bar across the value is quite solid, whilst in later copies, it appears to be two thinner bars placed close together. Perhaps the earlier impressions were heavier or better inked.

The inevitable varieties of broken type occur. Mr. A. J. Hudson sends one of the 1d. on 6d. in which the first stroke of the letter N of "One" is missing. Another has the same stroke of the second N of "Penny" bent. Messrs. Ashworth & Co. state that errors occur without the word "one."

### Rumoured Issue

Nov. 1901? "One Penny" on 3d. lilac and orange.

We give the above variety on the authority of Dame Rumour only. The idea of the Gold

Coast authorities is evidently to get rid of the stock of various values at once, so as to make way for a general issue of the King's Head series at an early date (perhaps January 1st?)

**GUATEMALA** (C 113).—Although we stated in *E.W.S.N.*, No. 95, that the current stamps of Guatemala would probably be surcharged 1 or 2c. in order to make way for the rumoured pictorial series, we do not appear to have definitely chronicled any of these varieties. *La Revista de la Sociedad Filatélica Argentina* mentions the following:—

*Adhesives*, surch. in black "1901-1 (or 2)-centavos."  
1 centavo on 20c. green.  
2 centavos on 20c. green.

Both varieties were issued some months ago (July?).

**JAPAN** (B 95).—The *A.J. of P.* is informed by a Correspondent at Yokohama that the new  $\frac{1}{2}$  sen stamp was actually issued some two years ago, but after only a few thousand had been sold, was withdrawn in favour of the 5 rin of the 1899-00 series. Can any reader confirm this?

**LAGOS** (A).—*Stanley Gibbons'* Catalogue mentions several instances of De la Rue Colonial stamps being found with watermark sideways, the Sierra Leone CC. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$  issue, for instance, but is silent in the case of Lagos. We have seen the 4d. carmine, CC. 14, with watermark clearly sideways. Can any reader add to the list. A further reference to sideways watermarks will be found under New South Wales.

**NEW SOUTH WALES** (D 108).—*Issue 1872, with sideways watermark.* The 3d. green, perf. 10 is known with wmk. "Crown and N.S.W." sideways. (See post card column).

**NICARAGUA** (C 111).—The *I.B.J.* states that the following quantities have been surcharged of the provisionals chronicled in *E.W.S.N.* No. 94 of July 13th last. Postage, 2c. on 1c., ?; 2c. on 1p., 20,000; 10c. on 5p., 7,000; 20c. on 2p., 4,000. Unpaid, 1, 2, 10, 20c., 5,000 each; 5c., 8,700; 30c., 7,620; 50c., 7,700.

**ORANGE RIVER COLONY** (C 105).—*Postcard.* We do not appear to have yet chronicled the 1d. brown on buff Reply Card of Cape Colony, overprinted "Orange River Colony" in three lines on each half of the card. *Reply Postcard*, O.R.C. on Cape, 1d. + 1d. brown on buff.

**PARAGUAY** (E 113).—We are now informed that the colour of the new 1 peso, with portrait of Sr. don Eguzquiza is slate. In general design it is similar to its predecessor, the 1 peso, sage-green, of 1892. *Adhesive*, 1 peso, slate.

**PHILIPPINE ISLANDS** (B 103).—A correspondent writes:—"The talk of changing the name of the Philippine Islands to McKinley Islands bids fair to materialize into an actuality. It is understood the Post Office Department is favorable to the change and from Washington it is learned that Congressmen without exception approve the plan. Undoubtedly a bill will be introduced into Congress early in the approaching session making provision for the change. In this event the present surcharged series would be immediately superseded by a series surcharged "M'Kinleys," and while the present set would be available for postage, all remainders would be withdrawn and destroyed."

**TRANSVAAL** (I 113).—*Minor varieties.* We add the following to our list of dotless varieties, on the authority of Messrs. J. J. Arthur & Co.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d. green, V.R.1.  
No stop after I, 1st row, No. 9.  
" " R 2nd row, No. 10.  
" " V 3rd row, No. 8.

The above all occur on a block of nine. Were the sheet to come up to sample, variety specialists would have quite a happy hunting ground!

Several correspondents describe a variety of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 2d. E.R.I., in which the vertical stroke of the Y of "Penny" is missing, giving the letter the appearance of being a small V. Sometimes the stroke is represented by a small detached dot.

**UNITED STATES** (G 109).—The following new plates have been recently put to press by the Bureau of Engraving:—

1213 to 1216 3c. ordinary.	1291 to 1302 2c. ordinary.
1251 to 1252 2c. "	1303 to 1306 1c. "
1265 to 1266 2c. "	1307 to 1314 2c. "
1287 to 1290 1c. "	1315 to 1318 1c. "

A post card is to be issued shortly bearing a portrait of the late President McKinley.

**URUGUAY** (B 92).—The 20c. value is now again of the ship design.

*Adhesive*, 20c. pale blue and black, 'ship' design of 1895.

It may perhaps be of interest to give a list of the various 20c. stamps issued by Uruguay since 1890.

	Unused.	Used.
	s. d.	s. d.
1890, 20c. orange. Figures of value type.	1 9 0 9	0 9
1894, 20c. brown. " " "	2 6 2 0	2 0
1895, 20c. green & blk. "Ship design"	4 6 1 6	1 6
1897, 20c. mauve & blk. " " "	2 0 1 0	1 0
1899, 20c. pale blue. Figures of value type	1 6 0 6	0 6
1901, 20c. blue & blk. Ship design	C C	C

We have also to chronicle a new official stamp. *Official stamp*, surch. "OFICIAL" on current postage adhesive, 50c. lake.

**VICTORIA** (J 113).—*Minor variety.* Mr. J. N. Mostyn informs us that he has a copy of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. green, "without Postage," with a broken O like an inverted C in the title "Victoria."

## King Edward's Stamps.

PRESS OPINIONS.

From the *Daily Mail*.

The new stamps, with the portrait of King Edward, are being printed by Messrs. De la Rue at the rate of about 40,000,000 a week. Over 500,000,000 have already been turned out.

The portrait of the King is from a design by Mr. Emil Fuchs, the sculptor, the profile facing left, like that of the late Queen on the present stamps. The head is enclosed in an oval, with bay leaves on the left and a branch of oak on the right. Above is the Imperial Crown, surmounted by cross and ball. On either side of this, in the form of an arch broken by the crown, are the words "Postage and Revenue" in white letters. At the foot of the stamp is its value, also in white letters.

The colour is red instead of lavender. This will serve to bring the stamps into conformity with those used by other countries of the Postal Union. The number of 1d. stamps used in this country reaches the formidable figure of close on 2,500,000,000 per annum.

From the *Darlington Star*.

"As was announced a few days ago, some of the new postage stamps are to be issued early in the new year. The particulars that have transpired regarding the new issue have quickened rather than diminished the interest with which the stamps are awaited. Regarding the general appearance and colour of the stamps, the public now know all there is to know, and though it will seem strange at first to use red penny stamps in place of the old mauve ones we have grown accustomed to, no one is inclined to criticise a step that will bring us into line with the other countries of the Postal Union. The design which Herr Emil Fuchs has prepared, however, cannot be judged till it is seen, and the general public will have no opportunity of doing this for six or eight weeks to come. The design is, I am able to state, rather unique, the deeply shaded oval in which King Edward's head is enclosed tending to throw the face into strong relief. One who has seen the stamp says the slight baldness of the crown of his Majesty's head "is indicated." As a matter of fact, it is rather exaggerated, and I rather question whether the portrait of his Majesty will be a popular one with those of his loyal subjects who know his feature. This, however, time will show."

From the *Daily News*.

"The Government of this country is literally throwing money away. Yesterday (writes a representative) I became for the nonce an ardent stamp collector, and offered a sovereign for one of the new red penny stamps which are to be issued to the public in a few weeks. The offer was scornfully refused. As Messrs. De la Rue have already printed something like five hundred millions of the new stamp, and are turning them out at the rate of five or six millions a day, while the Chancellor of the Exchequer is at his wits' end for cash, a simple arithmetical calculation will be sufficient to show the criminal folly of failing to realise the stock at present values, instead of waiting for the inevitable slump.

"However, although not allowed to purchase, I was permitted to look at a whole sheet of the new stamps, with King Edward's portrait, in a bright ruby-carmine ink, repeated two hundred and forty times. The portrait has been executed from a design by Mr. Emil Fuchs, the sculptor, who, it will be remembered, went to Osborne after the death of Queen Victoria to make a cast of Her Majesty's face. The new stamp shows the profile of the King, which has a dignified, somewhat severe, and stately expression. It is the reigning monarch, and not the "first gentleman in Europe," that is here depicted. The picture is natural, grows on one, and is likely to be popular. The slight baldness of the crown of his Majesty's head is indicated, and the moustache strongly marked. The features are thrown into strong relief by being enclosed in a deeply shaded oval. The face turns to the left, like that of the late Queen in the present stamps. On the coinage it is customary to reverse the profile with each new Sovereign; but on a stamp, if the face turned to the right, it would be looking off the letter, stamps being usually placed at the right-hand top corner. King Edward is far too courteous to turn his back on the addressee in that way.

"On the left side of the oval is a curved branch of bay-leaves, with berries. I was assured that the branch was bay—it might have been privet for anything I knew. To the right is a branch of oak, the peculiarly-shaped leaves being easily recognised. Above the oval is an Imperial Crown, surmounted by a cross and ball, and on either side of this—forming an arch broken by the Crown—are two carved labels, with the words, "Postage and Revenue," in white letters. A straight tablet below the oval shows the value of the stamp, also in white letters. The designs of the sage-green halfpenny stamp, the red one penny, and the blue twopence halfpenny, are the same, except for the values named on the label at the bottom. It was hoped to get the new stamps out by the King's birthday, but this was found to be impossible, as the number printed was not enough. When the new stamps are issued there will be for a short time be a sale enormously in excess of the regular requirements of the country, as people will all want to buy the new stamps at once. It is, therefore, necessary to have enough printed to meet any possible demand. Otherwise the man desiring to post a letter might be unable to get his penny stamp. It would be no comfort to him, if he could not get one at the Post Office, to know that millions of sheets were lying in private writing desks all over the country. Probably the new stamps will be issued early in January.

"The number of penny stamps alone printed for the Government by Messrs. de la Rue now reaches nearly 2,500,000,000 a year. The machines are kept at work night and day. A steel die is engraved for each stamp, and from this large numbers of matrices are struck in lead. These matrices are arranged in "formes" of 240, and from them an electrotype block is cast, capable of printing a whole sheet at once. By a new process the block is coated with steel, and its wearing power is so great that sometimes seventy or eighty million impressions can be taken from the same block. Of course, all blocks do not wear so well as that. When there is the least sign of battered or blurred impressions the block is discarded and a new one made."

## Catalogue Price £0 Os. 0d.!

MR. TH. LEMAIRE of Paris has just published a new Catalogue, in which he deals with the question of valuing very common stamps on distinctly novel lines. Hitherto French catalogues, like those of this country, have usually put a minimum value of  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. or 5 centimes on the commonest stamps. M. Lemaire goes one better than this and prices them 4, 3, 2, 1 and even 0 centimes! The valuation "0.00" is found opposite several of the very commonest stamps such as 10 pfennig Germans and current 1d. British. M. Lemaire is prepared to give these stamps gratis to his clients, should anyone be found who would care to have them as a gift. Even if he gets a wholesale order, his generosity is hardly likely to ruin him! Personally, we doubt if it really pays to price these very common stamps at only 1 and 2 centimes, orders must be few and far between and there is also a certain amount of trouble in reading and executing such orders as are obtained. If the stamp is worth nothing, surely the time and trouble are?

## Notes.

A new American firm calls itself the "Anti-Trust Stamp Company."

\* \* \*

The August number of *Le Philatliste Français* is almost entirely taken up by a description of the treasures shown at the philatelic exhibition held at the Hague. The lion's share of attention is appropriated by Count Durrieu's magnificent collection of the stamps of France, one of the world's best collections. To show how a great collector like M. Durrieu goes about it, here is a list of the pieces shown on the sheet devoted to the 5 franc stamp of Napoleon.

- 1 The fiscal stamps which serve as model for the design.
- 2 Study for the transformation of fiscal stamp into the 5 fr. stamps (original sketch of Mr. Hulot).
- 3 First proof of the background before the addition of the Greek border.
- 4 Second proof of the background after addition of the Greek border.
- 5 Proof of the machine-engraving of the background.
- 6 Proof of the centerpiece.
- 7 Proof of the entire block formed by the combination of centerpiece, background and border.
- 8 Proof of the complete stamp with surcharged figures of value (6 copies in black on various papers).
- 9 Twenty color trials in various shades including one in brown with violet figures.
- 10 A vertical pair in black impressed from the entire plate.



**Our Postcard Column.**

MILL readers hearing of any interesting item of News, kindly jot it down on a postcard and address to the Editor, "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News," Norwood, London. For every contribution we publish, we will send the author an interesting and newly issued stamp. (N.B.—Postcards preferred).

*Mr. W. Warwick writes:—*

"I observed last week a Contributor taking notice of the apparent difference in spacing of the V.R.I. and E.R.I. Transvaal Surcharges. But there seems to be an actual difference in the points themselves. The new ones are perceptibly larger than in the V.R.I. surcharge; technically, the latter are 'wrong fount' points, while the E.R.I. are right fount."

*Mrs. Hine writes:—*

"I have a 1 cent. on 3c. yellow Sarawak with a very distinct double surcharge. This is not catalogued by Gibbons. Respecting bargains, I may say that I came across a very good one not so long ago, as for 15s. I secured a collection of about 500 or 600 stamps, and among them I found a fine specimen of the 2/6 Lagos olive-black."

*Mr. Joseph Dinsdale writes:—*

"I have in my possession a stamp of the Duchy of Holstein, 1½ schilling, unused, square in shape. It has no posthorns in the two lower corners, a variety I have never seen listed. I have had it about six years; can you say if it is a genuine variety?"

*Mr. E. Seed writes:—*

"As Mr. Parry says, the day of great bargains seems to have gone by. Some time ago, however, I purchased 72 mixed stamps for 1/2, and one of them turned out to be a Bahamas, 1861, 6d. lilac-grey, no watermark, catalogued by Bright's at 22/6. There were several other good ones amongst the lot too."

*Mr. F. Grove Powell writes:—*

"May I be allowed to intrude again on your 'Postcard Column'? I have just found a copy of the Great Britain 1d. rose-red, perf. 14, Large Crown, of 1857, obliterated by a black Maltese Cross. 'Stamps and Postmarks' says that this obliteration was used till May or June, 1844, 'though in a few small Post Offices its use appears to have survived even later.' I should be much interested to know if there is any record of its being used at any later date than my specimen points to, i.e., at least thirteen years after its general disuse. There can be no shadow of doubt, I think, about the genuineness of my specimen, but if you have any doubts I shall be pleased to submit it to you."

[Examples of the various 1854-57 perforated 1d. stamps are well known with the Maltese Cross postmark, but we have never seen such an example on the entire letter, nor have we been able to discover where the old cancelling stamp survived so long.—Ed.]

*Mr. E. G. Collins writes:—*

"In response to Mr. McDiarmid Fish's request in your Post Card Column of 16th inst., I beg to call his attention to the 'Soldier and Seamen's Envelope' issued for India in 1879 with a very handsome embossed stamp in crimson, value 9 pies, subsequently surcharged (1895), "one anna" in old English letters with a crown at intersection of the words. I believe this is now obsolete, as owing to the general reduction of postage to 1d. per ½oz. to India and other Colonies, it is not now considered necessary to make any distinction on behalf of our gallant defenders on land and sea."

*Mr. H. H. Harland writes:—*

"The watermarks of the New South Wales 1871-83 issues are just as often as not inverted, but a friend calls my attention to a copy of the 3d. green, perf. 10, with the watermark sideways."

Have any of your readers noticed this variety? I have looked through my N.S.W.'s and have only found a single specimen which is also a 3d., perf. 10. My copy is most curious; it looks as if it had done something wrong and been severely punished for it. I think that a fair way of describing it would be as a case of perforation and watermark *versus* printing (for if it was printed rightly it most surely was watermarked and perforated wrongly). It is nearly square, the perforations top and bottom being so close together that the value has been left on some other stamp although it is closely perforated at the top, whilst the side perforations are just the reverse, it being slightly broader than long.

[It would seem that the sheet from which this most remarkable specimen emanated was not only fed into the printing machine sideways, but also into the perforating machine.—Ed.]

*Mr. F. R. Swatridge writes—*

"Re Messrs. Toole's discovery of an error in the ½d. green Victoria. I was fortunate enough to secure two copies on Saturday afternoon in Croydon. Evidently a "C" was used in the setting up of the type instead of an "O." It is very distinct and appears only once in a sheet of 240."

**Stamps at Auction.**

*In future, we intend to number each lot, in order to facilitate indexing at the end of the volume.*

*November 12th to 15th. Messrs. Puttick & Simpson (continued).*

Queensland, 2d. blue, 1860, imperf., strip of 3, on small piece ... £17/17/-  
Ditto, a set of the rare reprints, in pairs, including the 1d., 2d., 3d., 6d., 1/- and registered stamp, very fine... .. £7/10/-

*November 19th and 20th. Messrs. Plumridge & Co.*

- 1 British Columbia, CC. 14, 10c. mint (pair 85/-) ... .. £2
- 2 British Columbia, CC. 14, \$1 mint (pair 87/6) ... .. 42/-
- 3 Ceylon, perf. 13, 6d. brown, mint pair, wmk. "TH" on no wmk. paper ... 50/-
- 4 Ceylon, CC. 14×12½, 2c. brown, unused, creased ... .. 18/-
- 5 Jamaica, wmk. pine, half 1d. used as ½d. on a large piece of the original ... .. 11/-
- 6 Orange Free State, 6d. rose carmine, mint block of twelve ... .. 26/-
- 7 Orange River V.R.I., ½d. orange, mint sheet of 240 showing minor varieties ... .. 30/-
- 8 Orange River V.R.I., 2½d. pair, showing square top after R ... .. £2
- 9 Orange Free State, 2½d. and 3d. blue, pane of 4 ... .. 90/-
- 10 Sierre Leone, surcharged "Revenue," a mint pane of sixty each of 1d., 3d., 6d., and 1/- ... .. 14/-
- 11 Tasmania, 2/6 black on lilac, rare De La Rue Essay, mint ... .. 9/-
- 12 Tobago, 1880, manuscript surcharge 1d. on half 6d. orange (S.G. No. 7). A fine copy used on piece ... 63/-
- 13 Schweizer Reneke provisionals, surcharged "Beseiged," ½d., 1d., and 2d. set of three ... .. 12/- & 10/-
- 14 Transvaal, ½d. green, E.R.I., eleven panes of 60 each were offered and withdrawn, the reserve of 30/- per pane not being forthcoming.
- 15 Transvaal ½d. on 2d., four panes of 60, the lot ... .. 26/-
- 16 Trinidad, 1/- orange-brown, mint sheet of 120... .. £8
- 17 Western Australia, ½d. on 3d. brown, surcharged in red and green, two mint blocks of four, one on CC. paper and the other CA. (the latter according to S.G. and Co., "printed off to supply a local philatelic demand"—See p. 240) ... .. £11

*November 21st and 22nd. Messrs. Ventom, Bull and Cooper.*

- 18 Bulgaria, error of colour, 1882, 5 stot., rose and pale rose, used on piece ... £5/10/-
- 19 Servia, error of colour, 1st issue, 2 paras, deep green on lilac-rose, unused and fine ... .. £6/15/-
- 20 Philippines, 1st issue, 1 real blue, error "Corros," rare... .. £4
- 21 Bangkok, 1st issue, "B" on 32c. Straits, fine and rare... .. £10/10/-
- 22 Johore, Provisional, 2c. on 2¼c. green, error, "Censt," fine ... .. 52/-
- 23 Selangor, \$1, 2, 3, 10, used, fine ... .. 37/-
- 24 British Bechuanaland, ½d. vermilion, surcharged "Protectorate" twice ... 21/-
- 25 B.C.A., £25 blue, oblong [essay?] with Blantyre postmark ["trial" cancellation?] fine ... .. 42/-
- 26 British East Africa, small 1896 set, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 rupees, mint ... .. 30/-
- 27 Ditto, large set, similar ... .. 32/-
- 28 Cape, 1/- emerald, mint, slight crease ... 84/-
- 29 " '3' inverted on 3d., used, and "One Penny" on 2d., without stop, unused ... .. 22/-
- 30 Egypt, 5 piastres rose, error, with overprint of 10 piastres ... .. £5/5/-
- 31 Northern and Southern Nigeria, complete set of both, mint, face 34/4½ ... 47/6
- 32 St. Helena, 4d. carmine, short bar, double surcharge, one 18 and the other 17 mm. in length, torn ... £10/10/-
- 33 Sierra Leone, 1897, 1½d. on 1/-, type a, but with slanting serif to "d" ... 36/-
- 34 Transvaal, 1869-70, 6d. blue, with word "ZES" erased, wide roulette ... .. 75/-
- 35 Transvaal, error "Pennv" on 6d. type 14, fine ... .. £6/6/-
- 36 Transvaal, ½d. on 3d., error "PRNNY," unused, with gum ... .. 16/-
- 37 Transvaal, 8 stamps postmarked Dundee, Glencoe, Modderspruit, and Newcastle ... .. 17/-
- 38 Trinidad, Lady McLeod, perfect and very fine, cancelled with pen-cross ... .. £10
- 39 Sydney View, 3d. emerald, very fine ... £5/15/-

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BC.	1135	2½d. blue " " " "	... 18/6
BD.	2372	3d. rose " " " "	... 110/0
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A JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

THE ONLY WEEKLY STAMP PAPER  
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LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1901.

[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

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## The Week's News.

The Editor will be much obliged for Early Information of New Issues, or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors, and will have pleasure in forwarding the sender of every accepted contribution several interesting newly issued stamps.

The index number and serial letter after the title of each paragraph indicate the issue of E.W.S.N. in which the last reference to that country appeared.

**GREAT BRITAIN (Q114).**—The Money Maker states definitely that the new 1d. postage stamps, with King Edward's portrait are to be issued on January 1st.

**Archer Perforation.** In another column will be found a few notes on how to distinguish Archer-perforated stamps, which it is hoped may prove of value to specialists in British stamps.

**The Twopence Black.** A further reference to this mystery will be found in next week's issue of E.W.S.N.

**Cheque Stamps (B114).** We have now seen die DA, dated 15.5.01, and die DC, (rose series), dated 8.10.01.

**The 4½d. Adhesive (C114).** Mr. H. T. Jenner writes: "I have examined a lower left hand pane of the 4½d. stamp, and fail to find in the bottom right hand corner stamp the coloured dot discovered by Mrs. Lane and confirmed by Mr. A. H. Stamford. In the upper right hand corner of the same stamp the figure "1" is broken near the base and resembles slightly a note of exclamation "!". This is the only pane I have been able to examine." It would be interesting to know whether the relative positions of the four plates from which the sheets of four panes are printed (each pane from a separate plate) are ever altered; if so, the position of the variety might change.

**New Machine Cancellation (A).** The E.C. District Office now employs a machine cancellation consisting of the lower half of a circle with the inscription "London, E.C." substituted for the upper semi-circle, the date and hour being in the centre, "Nov. 18-3-P-1901." To the right of the circle are seven long bars, 2½in. in length.

**ABYSSINIA (A).**—*Le Courrier de Timbres-poste* chronicles a new set consisting of the old stamps surcharged "Ethiopie" in violet at the top of each stamp.

Postage Adhesives, surch. "Ethiopie" in violet.

¼ guerche, green.	4 guerches, brn.-lilac.
½ " rose.	8 " violet.
1 " blue.	16 " black.
2 " brown.	

A notice appeared in the Journal "Djibouti" of October 5th, to the effect that the Ethiopian postal administration could not trace the source of large quantities of stamps which were being used to frank letters, and fearing that the continued use of such stamps would be to the detriment of the revenue, ordered that all stamps sold at the post offices should be surcharged "Ethiopie," and that stamps not so overprinted should not be recognised. Permission to exchange stamps or have them surcharged was accorded, and this could be done at either Addis-Ababa or Harrar. The order was dated "Addis-Ababa, 18th July, 1901."

The fact is that the Postal Administration did not foresee that by selling the stamps in Paris as demonetized, at a fraction of their face value, they would affect the value of the very same stamps in Abyssinia! It was however soon made clear to them, hence the above notice. The earliest copies of the surcharged stamps are postmarked "Harrar, 12th Sept. 1901."

*Le Collectionneur de Timbres Poste* is also our authority for the statement that a new set is in preparation in St. Petersburg. Our contemporary states: "Ces timbres-poste sont, nous dit-on, gravés en taille-douce et très jolis de composition. Peut-être sont-ils destinés seulement aux prov-

inces équatoriales dont le Comte Léontieff a été nommé Gouverneur par l'Empereur Ménélik?"

**ANTIOQUIA (B113).**—Further particulars of the two new stamps chronicled in our issue of Nov. 23rd, are published by *L'Echo de la T.* The Postage Adhesive, 1 centavo red, was issued July 27th. The first printing of 5,000 was bought in entirety by a speculator and the second supply will in consequence not be sold to the public, but will be affixed to letters by postal employés. The 2½c. Retardo was issued on August 6th.

**BAHAMAS (H114).**—*L'Echo de la Timbrologie* learns that new pictorial stamps of 5d., 2/- and 3/- are in preparation.

**BARBADOS (B101).**—The 6d. value of the current set (Gibbons' No. 112) is now obsolete and appears to have been out of stock at Barbados for some months.

**BOLIVIA (B90).**—In *E.W.S.N.* of June 15th, we chronicled a set of five new stamps which were stated by a contemporary to have been issued. Amongst the set was a "1c. green." We have now received a new stamp of this value, but it is printed in brown-violet, not green, so that we think it advisable to withdraw the list as previously given.

Postage adhesive.

1c. brown-violet, perf. (about) 12.

The stamp is similar in size to the preceding issue. Our earliest dated copy is Sept. 16th. With this exception correspondence by recent mails from Bolivia appears to have been uniformly franked with stamps of the 1899-1900 issue.

*L'Essor Philatélique* states that the 5 centavos and 2 bolivianos, as already chronicled, have also appeared, together with a 2c. value.

Postage Adhesives. Perf. 12.

2c. green.

5c. and 1 bol. (see *E.W.S.N.* No. 90).

**BULGARIA (D113).**—We are informed by the Postal Authorities at Sophia that the 2 leva, chronicled in *E.W.S.N.*, No. 111, is not on sale to the public. In giving the colours of this bi-coloured series we should have stated that those mentioned first are of the portrait in the centre; "3 leva brown-lake and grey" signifies "3 leva grey, with the centre portrait in brown-lake." According to *Le Collectionneur de Timbres Poste* the stamps are printed in St. Petersburg, and the following quantities have been furnished: 1st., 30,000,000; 2st., 5,500,000; 3st., 5,000,000; 10st., 5,400,000; 15st., 15,000,000; 25st., 5,000,000; 30st., 2,500,000; 50st., 1,000,000; 1 leva, 500,000; 2 leva, 50,000; 3 leva, 50,000.

**Unpaid Letter Stamps.** The *London Philatelist* states that a new set of Postage Due stamps is in preparation—5, 10, 30 and 50 stotinki.

**CARTAGENA (B112).**—Since chronicling the new 1 and 2 centavos provisionals in *E.W.S.N.* No. 112, (Nov. 19th), we have received a supply of both and are now able to give a description at first hand. They are each issued in sheets of 100, in 10 rows of 10, but it seems not unlikely that only two horizontal rows are printed at a time. If this is the case, the impressions on the lithographic stone were as follows:—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20

To print a sheet five impressions of these twenty types would have to be made, one below the other. Each of the types is readily distinguishable, and although the distinctions are not, perhaps, of very great philatelic importance, we indicate a few of the defects as an illustration of how the types may be identified.

- 1c., type 1. Black dot at foot of letter C of "Centavo."
- " " 2. Blot on both lines under C of "Centavo."
- " " 3. Blot over C of "Correos."
- " " 4. Blot between "Un" and "Centavo," &c., &c.

A very similar duplication of the types on a sheet would result if the block was transferred five times to the lithographic stone, and, of course, a whole sheet could be "run off" then at one stroke.

**COOK ISLANDS (D108).**—Mr. Housom has shown us a 1d. brown, surcharged with a Crown in black.

1d. brown, surch. a Crown, in black.

**CRETE (C114).**—The 1dr. red unpaid Letter Stamp with surcharge, "1 drachma," which we chronicled last week, seems to be already obsolete. According to *Friedl's Illustr. Briefmarken-Offertenblatt* two unsurcharged high values, printed in distinctive colours, have been issued.

Unpaid Letter Stamps.

1 drachma, violet.

2 drachmai, brown.

Following our remarks in last week's issue, we notice an interesting article on Cretan stamps in the *Philatelic Record* by Mr. Guy Semple, who subdivides the issue with "Prosorinon" surcharge in black into (a) London overprint, made in "deep and even black," 25, 50c., 1, 2, 5dr.; and (b) Local overprint, "colour irregular and sometimes almost grey," 1, 2, 5dr. only. An error of the 1 drachma occurs with red surcharge inverted and at the top of the stamp. They were discovered early, confiscated and burnt, but not before the inevitable few (in this case some 30 or 40) had got into circulation.

**CURACAO (B97).**—The current set of Unpaid Letter Stamps, with the word "cent" inserted under the figures of value in the centre, has been augmented by the issue of a 20c. value. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. state that 30, 40 and 50c. values are also to appear, in which case the complete set will comprise the same ten values as its predecessor of 1890.

Unpaid Letter Stamp, new type, 20c. green and black

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (E114).**—We are informed that the new series of postage adhesives chronicled in *E.W.S.N.*, No. 109, were only issued in the Republic on the 15th (November?), but were obtainable in New York for some time previous. A correspondent of the *Mekel's Weekly Stamp News* states that they are very handsome stamps, both design and workmanship being good. The central design—the Arms of the Country—is in violet throughout. The inscriptions read: at top, "Republica Dominicana"; at bottom, "Dios, Patria, Libertad" with figures and words of value.

In another column, we reproduce from the *Montreal Philatelist* an interesting article on the subject of the new issue described last week and which is to be in circulation from Feb. 27th to May 31st, 1902.

**GIBRALTAR (A).**—Stanley Gibbons' catalogue describes the 20 centimos (No. 36) as printed in "olive-green and brown." The value is not, however, always in the darker colour; Mr. H. Baron has shown us a specimen which is uniformly a pale olive-green throughout.

**GOLD COAST (D114).**—The rumour of a 1d. on 3d. is unconfirmed. Apparently the old 1d. lilac and carmine is again in issue, as a supply of this value received by the Colonial Stamp Market by last mail consisted wholly of it.

**GREECE (E112).**—The new stamps appear to be running short and the 5l. value is reported out of stock altogether. Rumour states that the design may be modified.

**JAPAN (C114).**—The *Montreal Philatelist* states that a new 3 sen stamp commemorating the late Prince Kitashirakawa is to be issued shortly. The stamps will have in the centre the picture of the Formosa shrine, which is dedicated to the Prince, with the Imperial crest beside it surrounded by the letters "Imperial Japanese Post." Its size will be almost the same as that of the postal stamps now in use.

**MAFEKING (B93).**—Errors. The list of inverted and double surcharges is growing. So far as we are aware it now stands as follows:—

- Inverted surcharge. Nos. 6, 9, 11.
- Double surcharge. Nos. 7, 9, 11.
- Ditto, lower surcharge inverted. No. 11.
- Treble surcharge. No. 11.
- Head reversed. No. 18.

The numbers are those of Gibbons' Catalogue. We know of the following "Mafeking Besieged" issues uncanceled:—Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, but presume all are in existence in that condition, although no exhibitor at the recent Exhibition had a complete set.

**MAURITIUS (D112).**—A new reply-card has been issued.

Reply Postcard, 2+2 cents on 8+8 cents, rose on buff.

**NICARAGUA** (D114).—It is stated that the 2c. on 1c. chronicled in *E.W.S.N.*, No. 94, is really an error, a quantity of sheets of the 1 centavo having been mixed with those of 1 peso, and surcharged along with them. As soon as the error was noticed, the 2c. on 1c., which had not of course been officially authorized, were withdrawn.

**NORTH BORNEO** (C108).—Mr. G. Hutson, Jr. has shown us a 1c. orange, 1st issue, perforated 18½. All the catalogues give the perforation as gauging 14. Are other values known perf. 18½?

**PERU** (C112).—We are informed that the new 22c. (Liberty) will be printed entirely in green and not in green and black (*E.W.S.N.*, No. 112). *Le Collectionneur de Timbres Poste* states that the 5c. value will revert to blue, but will be in a different shade, and that 2,000,000 have been ordered.

**PHILIPPINES** (C114).—*L'Essor Philatélique* states that the following quantities of the dollar values chronicled in *E.W.S.N.* No. 103, have been surcharged:—\$1 and \$2, 1,000 each; \$5, 500.

**SALVADOR** (B86).—It is rather remarkable that we should have had nothing to chronicle from this Republic for over six months. We now have two labels of rather doubtful status; perhaps the best description is "fiscals used for postage."

*Adhesive Postal-Fiscals.*

1. 1c. black, Revenue (?) Stamp inscribed "Timbre de Instruccion Primaria" and date "1900" above; Arms in centre; "Un Centavo" below. (Issued 1900).

2. The same, surcharged "Revisado" in violet. (Issued 1901).

*Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* is informed that the stamp represents a special tax of 1 centavo on each letter mailed, proceeds to be devoted to the support of schools for primary instruction. Another explanation is that it is merely used with the 12c. stamp to make up the postage rate of 13c. But then the ordinary set of stamps includes both a 13c. and a 1c. stamp.

**SEYCHELLES** (D108).—New supplies of the low values appear to have reached this Colony. If so, the epidemic of surcharged varieties should cease. Rumour states that the King's Head series will appear on January 1st. In fact *Le Collectionneur de Timbres Poste* states definitely that the new stamps have already arrived in the Colony.

Later.—In a recent consignment of stamps received from Seychelles, we note that the 3c. value is alone printed from plate 3, so is perhaps the only value recently reprinted. The other values still have marginal plate No. 2, and so must have been printed at least a year ago. The 6c. is apparently obsolete entirely, as none were sent us.

**SIAM** (A).—The *Monthly Circular* chronicles four new letter cards.

<i>Letter Cards.</i>	2 atts, carmine on blue.
4 "	blue "
10 "	brown "
12 "	green "

**TRANSVAAL** (J 114).—In a recent large parcel of sheets of the ½d. on 2d. provisional postage adhesive, it is interesting to note that half showed the Error "Pennv" on the 2nd and 3rd stamps in the 4th row, whilst the remainder had the word very clearly spelt "Penny." The whole of the sheets had the following minor defects in common:—

4th row, No. 8. "Penny" badly printed and very defective.

5th row, No. 2. Left foot of H of "Half" broken off.

In all the sheets, there were numbers of stamps showing two capital I's (II), instead of a capital H, and the "e" of "Penny" would often have equally done duty for a 'c.' The y of "Penny" appeared distinctly smaller on the last stamp in the 3rd row of some sheets.

**UNITED STATES** (H 114).—*McKinley Postcard*.—The *Metropolitan Philatelist* furnishes the following description of the new postal card: "The design for this postal card has been approved and the plates, or rather dies, are now in course of engraving. In a way, the new postal card will be an innovation, several new and unique features being incorporated. Instead of the heavy black lettering used in the line "United States of America," an open-faced type will probably be used, and the line will read "U.S. Postal Card." This line will appear a little above the centre of the card, and above this in small type will appear the legend in substance: "The space above is for use of the postmark;" whilst below it will be another line in small type, in substance: "This side exclusively for address." A space of more than an inch at the top will be left for the postmark, which heretofore has not been distinguishable on account of the heavy type used in the main line. Inside the border at the right, in approximately the same position now occupied, will appear the face of McKinley in place of Jefferson. . . . In addition, there

will be an inscription giving name, date of birth and death, either above or beneath the portrait."

**URUGUAY** (B114).—The current Official stamps have a microscopical surcharge "H.R." in addition to the word "Oficial." According to *Le C. de T.P.* they are the initials of the Postmaster-General, Honoré Roustan.

**VENEZUELA** (C 111).—In our issue of November 9th, we chronicled tentatively the current 5c. green without surcharge "1900" and with the "Resellada—Castro" overprint inverted. We now have part of a sheet which agrees with this description except that the overprint "1900" is not omitted, but is in its normal position.

*Variety of Postage Adhesive.*

5c. green, surch. "1900" and "Resellada—Castro," the latter being inverted.

A sheet consists of 200 stamps, in 20 rows of 10, and on the margin at each side is the imprint "American Bank Note Company, New York." The sheets are cut in two before issue. *L'Echo de la Timbrologie* states that the 25c. blue is also known with inverted overprint, but that only one sheet of 200 was so surcharged.

**VICTORIA** (K114).—The new series with "Postage" seems to vary greatly in shade. We have noticed great variations in the 1d., 1½d., 1s. and 5s. values. The 1/- occurs in both yellow and orange. The 1st stamp in the 5th row of a sheet of 120 of the 5/- value shows a broken P in "Postage," very like an F.

We have seen a letter from the Premier of Victoria (Mr. A. J. Peacock), dated October 16th, stating that the new £1 and £2 stamps were not then ready.

**VRYBURG** (B 98).—The *London Philatelist* chronicles several varieties of the surcharge placed on stamps of Cape Colony by the Boers during their temporary occupation of Vryburg in November, 1889. As is well known the stamps are surcharged "½ PENCE—Z.A.R." in two lines (or 1, 2, 2½ Pence). The surcharge "Z.A.R." varies and may be either 9 or 12½mm. wide. The ½d. and 1d. are found with both types, the 2d. with the narrow type, and the 2½d. with wide type only. A minor variety with italic Z occurs in all four values. Mr. W. Laird has shown us an unsurcharged Cape stamp cancelled "Vryburg, Oct. 21st, 1899," and an unsurcharged Transvaal 1d. red and green, "Vryburg, Jan. 31st, 1900."

### Northernmost Post Office.

POST OFFICE INSPECTOR JOHN P. CLUM recently returned from a trip of inspection through Alaska. He has reported to the department that the service generally is in excellent condition, more particularly in the Yukon Valley, where the various towns have a mail service of once a week in each direction. He established the northernmost post office in the United States, and what is probably the northernmost post office in the world. This is at Point Barrow, where Rev. Dr. H. Richmond March, the missionary at the little settlement, was appointed postmaster. This place, where the northernmost newspaper in the world is published once a year, will receive the mails once a year by a United States revenue cutter. Heretofore a few natives in the vicinity have had to send for their mail about 700 miles and often much further. Point Barrow is in latitude 71.24.—(*The Adhesive*).

### Stamps at Auction.

November 21st and 22nd (cont. :—) Messrs. Ventum Bull & Cooper.

40 Sydney View, 2d. plate V, pick and shovel omitted	... £5/10/-
41 New South Wales, current £1, but perf. 10, mint	... 42/-
42 N.Z., old type, 6d. blue, mint block of seven	... 47/6
43 Tasmania, £1 green and yellow, unused mint [very cheap]	... £3

November 26th and 27th. Messrs. Puttick & Simpson.

44 Austria, 6kr. red Mercury, unused and v.f. with original gum	... £18
45 Great Britain, 1d. black, V.R., mint	£7/15/-
46 Moldavia, 1854, 27 paras, square	£18/10/-
47 " " 54 " " "	£10/5/-
48 " " 108 " " "	£14/10/-
49 " " 108 " cut round	£7/15/-
50 Lagos, 10/- purple-brown, unused, mint	... £11
51 Sierra Leone, 1894, 1d. on 6d. lilac and green, unused, mint	... 85/-

November 28th. Messrs. John Edwards & Co.

52 Great Britain, the rare "Prince Albert" Essays, 1d. black and 1d. brown, v.f.	... 26/-
53 Great Britain, entire envelope, unused, 10d.+10d. blue	... 42/-
53 Ditto, 10d. blue+1d. pink, with Kensington "Jubilee" Cancellation	... 25/-

## Commemorative Series for Dominican Republic.

By M. D. SENIOR.

WITH the new set for this country not yet in circulation [October], the Dominican Government has already authorized the issue of a new series to commemorate the founding of Santo Domingo City, which is the capital of the Dominican Republic.

As your readers are aware, Santo Domingo was one of the first Islands visited by Columbus in his voyage of Discovery, and was at that time named "La Espanola"; the capital was founded in 1502, and ranks therefore among the oldest cities in the Western Hemisphere. History bears repetition, and in this instance will explain the reasons for the designs selected. Like all old Spanish towns, Santo Domingo City was walled in, to keep out invaders, and had one large barricaded door, allowing egress to the interior of the island. This door was called the "Puerta del Conde," or "Baluarte del Conde," and still stands though the walls have long ago disappeared.

In later years, on this parapet or door, General Mella fired the first shot in the war for Independence against Spain. He and Generals Duarte and Sanchez are the liberators of the country, and their pictures adorn the centre of these new stamps. This issue is in two colours; the central pictures, or vignettes, are all in black on white and surrounded by different coloured frames for each value. There are ordered 60,000 stamps of each of the following values:

1c. green.
2c. red.
5c. dark blue.
10c. yellow-ochre.
12c. violet.
20c. light grey.
50c. bronze.

The central design of the 1c. and 10c. is the picture of Gen. Sanchez, of the 2c. and 5c. Gen. Duarte, of the 12c. and 20c. Gen Mella, and of the 50c. the "Puerta del Conde."

Besides the name of the country in the frame and the numeral of values in the lower corners, there is a label with the motto "Serie Comemorativa"—"1502-1902."

There are also ordered 50,000 each of the following values, for official use:—

2c. vermilion-red.
5c. dark blue.
10c. light green.
20c. yellow.

The central design, being the "Puerta del Conde," and besides the country's name and numerals of value have the following inscription: "27 Febrero 1844 y 16 Agosto 1863"—"Oficial."

The frames for the whole issue, we are informed, are to be exact counterparts of those of the U.S. Columbian Issue.

This commemorative series will be first offered for sale on February 27th, 1902, and will be retired on May 31st, 1902, after which date it becomes demonetized.

Of the officials, it is decreed that 30,000 sets are to be laid aside and delivered on 1st June, 1902, to the Secretary of Public Works, to be sold, and the proceeds to be used in repairing and beautifying "Independence Square" at the capital.

The government decree for this issue appears in the last Official Gazette I have just received from that country.

### Average Age of Stamp Collectors.

WHAT is the average age at which stamp collectors are sufficiently advanced in philately to become members of a Philatelic Society? The *Deutscher Philatelisten-Verband* recently sent out an enquiry to its thousand members and no fewer than 731 kindly obliged with the date of their birth. The result is published as follows:

108 members,	21 to 30 years of age.
298 "	31 to 40 "
240 "	41 to 50 "
69 "	51 to 60 "
15 "	61 to 70 "
1	member over 70 years of age.

Apparently a pursuit of philately is not very conducive to old age, or perhaps with advancing years interest in the hobby declines.

At the same time the Society asked for particulars of the number of stamps in each member's collection, but here the results are less interesting as 60% of the members confessed to collecting Europe or a portion only. Sixteen members out of the 731 claimed to have 30,000 'varieties' or more, whilst altogether sixty-nine possessed at least 10,000. Seventy-five had fewer than 2,000 stamps.

## Our Postcard Column.

WILL readers hearing of any interesting item of News, kindly jot it down on a postcard and address to the Editor, "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News," Norwood, London. For every contribution we publish, we will send the author an interesting and newly issued stamp. (N.B.—Postcards preferred).

Mr. W. A. Bois enquires:—

"France—current issues. I should like to know how to tell the stamps printed at one printing from those with the figure values put in afterwards. In some cases the figures are over the design, so they speak for themselves, and the colour varies also."

Mr. A. Baldock also sends an enquiry:—

"I have recently purchased an 8d. Ceylon, 1863 issue, with watermark double-lined 10. Have you heard of this before?" [We submitted Mr. Baldock's enquiry to Baron A. de Worms, the foremost specialist in Ceylon stamps, who has kindly furnished the following explanation:—

"The earlier printings of the 1863 issue of Ceylon were on paper which had 'Crown Colonies' in double lined letters through centre of the sheet. The '10' referred to by your correspondent is merely the 'OL' of 'Colonies' inverted or reversed. I have part of a sheet of 1d. showing this."—Ed.]

Mr. S. Chapman writes:—

"In your last number (112) page 182, under Germany, you speak of the compound postcard stamps as being the first European example, but you appear to have overlooked Finland, 1875, 8p.+8p. (Stanley Gibbons, No. 15)."

Mr. C. J. Sidey enquires respecting the status "Foreign Postmarks," about which there was so much discussion a few years ago:—

"I have in my possession a 4a. 6p. green, India 1882 issue, with postmark "Zanzibar—Reg.—Sep. 24—88" in four lines within a circle. Do you call that a Zanzibar stamp?" [In the Editorial opinion, a foreign postmark does not change the nationality of a stamp, but may occasionally be the only evidence that the nationality has already been changed. We should consider that this change has taken place, when the whole revenue from the sale of the stamp goes to the country of issue. Our contention can perhaps be best illustrated by the following examples.

(a.) The current 1d. English stamp is not really an 'English' stamp, but a stamp of the 'United Kingdom.' It was printed in England but the revenue derived from its sale forms part of the revenue of the United Kingdom.

(b.) The current 1d. British stamp is issued in Constantinople, but remains a British stamp because the Post Office is British and the revenue derived from its sale forms part of the revenue of the United Kingdom.

(c.) The current 1d. British stamp was issued in Malta until 1885, but the Maltese Post Office was at that time a British Office, controlled from London in the same way as those at Manchester or Liverpool. Consequently the stamps remained British.

(d.) Supposing, for the sake of argument, Messrs. De la Rue & Co. shipped a consignment of these 1d. stamps to Malta at the present day, in error, and that the Maltese Post Office decided to issue them in the same way as the ordinary Malta 1d. stamp, we then maintain that they would be Maltese stamps pure and simple, because the revenue derived from their sale would form part of the revenue of Malta. Nevertheless, they would only be distinguishable by the postmark. Philatelic history provides many nearly similar cases, e.g., first issues of Gibraltar, Cyprus, etc., but the stamps are always surcharged first.

(e.) Current 1d. stamps have been issued at Panama and other South American Ports, but here again the revenue derived from their sale reverts, through the Consulates, to Great Britain, and they consequently attain their British nationality.

(f.) Has the British Post Office a world-wide copyright in the designs of its postage stamps? No instance has ever occurred of two distinct countries or states issuing stamps of exactly similar design, but if they did, the stamp would have to be credited to each; and each would only be distinguishable by the postmark.

Apart from the question of nationality, however, we consider, nevertheless, that a specialist collector (not a "general") of, say, the stamps of Zanzibar, should undoubtedly study the issues of the foreign as well as those of the local post offices in that island.—Ed.]

A new colour name recently used by a German contemporary: *dunkelfotografiebraun* ("dark photographic-brown").

## Archer Perforation.

It is well-known that the regular issue of perforated British stamps commenced early in 1854, and also that a small number of sheets which had been experimented on in connection with the trials of the Archer machine were issued at Exeter in 1850. As "Archer perforation" gauges 16 and is exactly similar in all respects to the Government perforation of 1854, it has been generally supposed that the two could not be distinguished (unless on letters showing post-marks). By indirect means, however, it is not improbable that the rarer variety can be detected without difficulty. Specialists in British stamps are well aware of the difference in the size of the corner letters of 2d. blue, plate 4 (constructed in 1849), and plate 5 (constructed in 1855). The lettering of the latter is distinctly larger. The 1d. red stamps show the same variations, although there are, of course, a large number of plates in each class. We have the authority of the London Society's work on British stamps for the statement that plates 1 to 131 had the small lettering, whilst No. 132 and all later plates had the larger lettering. Since the Archer perforated stamps were all operated upon in 1850, it follows that they must all have had the small corner lettering.



Archer Perforation.



1854 Perforation.

This is borne out by a specimen submitted us by Mr. R. Tyeth Stevens. It has the corner letters T and E both small, and is on an entire letter sent by the West of England Insurance Office, Exeter, to a branch office at Devonport, and bears the postmarks "Exeter, No. 14, 1850 F" and "Devonport, No. 15, 1850 A." Inversely, all perforated stamps having the larger corner lettering are not the genuine variety perforated by Archer. A correspondent submits for our opinion a letter franked with a supposed Archer perforated stamp, the postmarks being both Oct. 26th, 1850. The stamp has large corner lettering, however, and a closer inspection shows that the postmark on the stamp does not extend on to the envelope, so that there is hardly any doubt that the original imperforate stamp has been removed, or, perhaps, fallen off, and a perforated example of the 1854 issue substituted.

It would be interesting to know whether any of the plates with the small lettering remained in use until January, 1854, when the regular perforation of the sheets commenced. Until we know this it is not possible to say whether all perforated 1d. red stamps with small corner lettering are "Archer's." There is, however, a strong likelihood of that being the case, as no plate earlier than No. 152 was at press when perforation commenced, and Nos. 153, 154, 156, &c., had been already worn out, whilst we have seen above that the last plate to have small corner lettering was No. 131. The only doubt is as to what became of the reserve stock. Was it perforated before it was issued? If it was perforated, had it been in reserve long? In the latter case it may possibly have included some sheets from the earlier plates.

## STANLEY GIBBONS' NEW CATALOGUE.

Part I.—Colonials.

Remarkable advances in values of nearly all Colonial stamps. Every reader should obtain a copy at once.

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AF.	225	4d. rose, no letters...	...	13/6
AG.	20	6d. chestnut, various plates...	...	7/6
AH.	123	4d. vermilion, various plates	...	10/0
AI.	500	½d. red, various plates	...	10/0
AJ.	185	2½d. blue, plate 21, a reconstructed sheet, all but 55	...	15/0
AK.	149	3d. rose, plates 17-20	...	12/0
AM.	4685	½d. red, various plates, but no plate 9	...	55/0
AN.	100	2½d. lilac, 1884	...	6/0
AO.	478	½d. red, various plate Nos.	...	9/0
AP.	207	6d. lilac, various plates...	...	16/6
AQ.	367	4d. vermilion " "	...	22/6
AS.	138	6d. lilac " "	...	11/0
AT.	357	½d. slate, 1884	...	4/6
AU.	2704	2½d. rose, various plates	...	110/0
AV.	1400	2½d. " " " "	...	65/0
AX.	1000	1d. red, ditto	...	2/0
AY.	85	2½d. lilac, 1884	...	4/0
AZ.	651	1d. red, plate Nos.	...	1/0
BA.	1170	2d. blue, in box, various plates	...	46/0
BB.	216	3d. rose " " " "	...	16/0
BC.	1135	2½d. blue " " " "	...	18/6
BD.	2372	3d. rose " " " "	...	110/0
BE.	3142	1d. red, imperf., in box	...	7/6
BF.	1174	1d. venetian red, in box	...	10/6
BG.	299	½d. green, 1880	...	8/6

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# Ewen's Weekly Stamp News.

With which is incorporated EWEN'S WEEKLY CIRCULAR. (Established October, 1897.)

A JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

THE ONLY WEEKLY STAMP PAPER  
PUBLISHED IN EUROPE.

(Entered at Stationers' Hall. Illustrated by permission of the Board of Inland Revenue.)

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LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1901.

[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

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### The Week's News.

The Editor will be much obliged for Early Information of New Issues, or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors, and will have pleasure in forwarding the sender of every accepted contribution several interesting newly issued stamps.

The index number and serial letter after the title of each paragraph indicate the issue of E.W.S.N. in which the last reference to that country appeared.

**GREAT BRITAIN (R 115).—Archer Perforation (B 115).**—We have been shown another example of an Archer-perforated 1d. red stamp, lettered DK in the lower corners in the small type of lettering, and undoubtedly genuine. It is on a small piece of the original letter sheet, showing postmarks "York, November 9th, 1851" and "[Name of town omitted—Edinburgh?] November 10th, 1851," whilst the obliteration of the stamp bears the number "930" (York), with a blot under the figures 93. In addition to the above, a correspondent sends us a pair of rouletted 1d. red stamps, bearing exactly the same type of postmark 930, so that presumably both Archer "roulettes" and "perfs" were issued at York.

**The Twopence Black (B 112).**—A further reference to this mystery will be found in another column.

**Cheque Stamps (C 115).**—We have seen Thistle die G, 7.3.01.

**Railway Letter Stamps (G 114).**—Since the Editor's History of Railway Letter Stamps was compiled, the North-Eastern Railway Company have made two new issues of these stamps (52nd and 53rd). The issues of 1901 are now as follows:—

Issue.	Printing.	Control Numbers.	Date.	Perf.	Quantity.
49	O	169001 to 172000	March	11	3000
50	O	172001 to 175000	May	11	3000
51	O	175001 to 178000	July?	11	3000
52	O	178001 to 181000	September?	11	3000
53	O	181001 to 184000	November	11	3000

All are almost exactly alike, but sheets of the latest issue, the 53rd, have much wider margin. The 52nd issue we have not yet seen.

**Registration Envelopes.**—We have size H2 in the new shape, with square flap and stamp impressed in the top corner. The stamp is very finely embossed and shows up very clearly, but there is no trace of any die-number.

**AUSTRIA (C 107).—Unpaid Letter Stamps.**—A correspondent of the *Monthly Journal* states that various values of the current unpaid letter stamps have been found with pin-perforation, some having been used at Karlsbad in December, 1900.

**Unpaid Letter Stamps.** Pin-perforated, 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 15, 20, 40 heller.

This perforation is at most semi-official and was presumably applied to some of the imperforate sheets issued last year.

**AUSTRIAN LEVANT (A).**—The *Monthly Circular* chronicles the current 1 piastre, with "shining diagonal lines" overprinted.

Postage adhesive, with diagonally-lined 'varnish.' 1 piastre on 25 heller, blue.

## NOTICE.

The next issue of "E.W.S.N." will  
be our

# Christmas \* Number

AND WILL BE PUBLISHED ON

Thursday Morning, December 19th

**BRITISH GUIANA (J 111).** The new 2c. black on red paper, chronicled in *E.W.S.N.* of Sept. 7th, is stated by the *Philatelic Trader* to have been first issued on August 12th, together with the 1c. grey-green.

**BRITISH NEW GUINEA (D 113).**—The *Australian Journal of Philately* states in its issue of November 7th that at a conference of State Premiers held in Melbourne on the preceding Saturday (November 2nd?) and presided over by the Federal Premier, it was decided that the Commonwealth should take over the administration of British New Guinea, and the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth promised that this should take place with only such delay as was absolutely necessary. Such being the case, the recently issued British New Guinea stamps may possibly become obsolete before long. It will be remembered that the reason for their issue was the inclusion of Queensland in the Australian Federation, and the consequent separation of the latter (at any rate as regards postal matters) from British New Guinea, which remained independent, and which could therefore no longer use Queensland stamps, as heretofore.

**CHILI (I 112).—Telegraph Stamps.**—A third issue of telegraph stamps has commenced to appear. *Le Timbrophile Belge* states that they bear the portrait of Sr. P. Valdivio, instead of the Arms of the Country, as heretofore; values, 5c. rose; 10c. grey-green; 20c. blue; rouletted; inscribed at top "Telegrafos del Estado." The two preceding issues appeared in 1883 and 1894, and certain values of the first of these were allowed to be used postally in 1891.

**COCHIN (A).**—The *Monthly Circular* publishes the following interesting explanation of the design of the first issue (1892) of Cochin.

The umbrella on the left represents the Hindu Emblem of Royalty. The *P. lanquin* on the right, one of the Prerogatives of Royalty, as none but a Sovereign could in ancient days ride on a Palkee *Conch*, the device of the Rajahs of Kerala (viz.: the Zamorin of Calicut and the Rajahs of Travancore and Cochin) adopted from the tradition that Parsurama made the land of Malabar to rise out of the sea, west of the western Ghauts, by blowing his Conch. The top device represents the *Crown*.

The three stamps of this design were superseded in 1898 by a second issue (still current) with figures of value in the centre, but are not of any great rarity and may still be had for about 1/6 the set.

**ECUADOR (D 114).—Telegraph Stamp.**—The 20 centavos, slate, fiscal stamp has been surcharged "Telegrafos" in capitals.

**FALKLAND ISLANDS (A).**—The 2½d. value with Head of Queen Victoria is now obsolete, and we believe has not been obtainable at the Post Office for several months. The last supply received by the Colonial Market was issued in March.

**HONG KONG (C 101).**—The 30c. brown referred to *E.W.S.N.*, No. 90, has only recently been issued, probably in October.

Postage Adhesive. 30c. brown, CA. 14.

The new 4c. rose and 5c. yellow are issued in sheets of 240, divided by marginal paper into four panes of 60. At the top right hand corner of each sheet is the consignment letter (T in both cases) and a consecutive number.

**INDIA (A).**—Colonel Lukis writes to the *P.J. of India* that the current 2 rupees postage adhesive may be found with the frame in two quite distinct shades, one being bistre and the other brown.

**JHIND (A).**—The *P.J. of India* states that the following indent for stamps for Jhind has just been sent in:—Ordinary postage, 3,600 ½ anna; 61,000 ¼ anna; 12,000 1 anna; 3,600 2 annas; "Service," 30,000 ½ anna. Will they be surcharged on the old or the new colour Indian adhesives?

**MONACO (E 112).**—M. Jean Vaud has shown us the 25c. printed in blue, instead of green, but does not say date of issue. Our earliest dated example is December 2nd. Same design and perf. as formerly.

Postage Adhesive. 25c. blue.

**NEGRI SEMBILAN (A).**—The *Monthly Journal* chronicles a provisional stamp which seems to have escaped notice hitherto, although it must have been issued over a year ago, as an example is known with postmark, October, 1900.

Adhesives. Surcharged "One Cent" with bar above. Gibbons' type 4.

"One Cent" in black on 15c. green and mauve.

Ditto, variety with inverted period after "Cent" (nearly on a level with the top of the letter 't.')

**NORTH BORNEO (E 115, 109, 108).**—*Unpaid Letter Stamps.*—The current set, from 1c. to 24c., has now been surcharged for use as unpaid letter stamps. The previous set, which appeared in 1895 and remained in use only a short time, was surcharged on the 1894 pictorial types (without native inscriptions). The present set is overprinted on the 1897 series (native inscriptions added).

*Unpaid Letter Stamps*, surcharged "Postage Due" vertically in black.

2c. green and black.

3c. lilac and black.

4c. carmine and black.

5c. orange and black.

6c. ochre-brown and black.

8c. lilac and black.

12c. dull blue and black.

18c. green and black.

24c. red and blue.

A forerunner of this second series, in the shape of the 2c. lake and black, 1897 type, appeared in 1898. The particulars of the new varieties are given on the authority of *Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal*.

**ORANGE RIVER COLONY (D 114).**—In another column, we give the Post Office report of the Orange River Colony (on the authority of the *P.J. of India*). It is interesting to note that since the 17th March, 1900, when the British took charge of the Post Office, to June 30th, 1901, postage stamps to the face value of no less than £40,668 have been sold, whilst post cards brought in a revenue of £505. The nett profit on the 16 months' working was £18,790.

**PATIALA (A).**—The *P.J. of India* states that the following indent for stamps for Patiala has just been sent in:—Ordinary postage, 120,000 ¼ anna; 120,000 ½ anna; 120,000 1 anna; 12,000 2 annas; 120,000 ¼ annas; "Service," 480,000 ½ anna. Will they be surcharged on the new colour Indian stamps, or on the old colours?

**PERAK (A).**—The *Monthly Journal* states that an example of the \$2 green and blue fiscal stamp (long, rectangular design, with "Revenue" at top and value at foot), of the Straits Settlements, surcharged across the centre "Perak," is known used postally in 1898.

**SALVADOR (C 115).**—*Der Philatelist* chronicles some new provisionals, but whether they were issued this or last year is not clear.

Postage Adhesives. Surcharged "1900—1 centavo" in two lines, in black.

1c. on 2c. carmine-rose.

1c. on 3c. pale green, with and without wheel.

1c. on 5c. blue-green.

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA (E 112).**—The *Stamp Collector's Fortnightly* chronicles a current 1d. red, with surcharge "O.S." inverted, on the authority of Mr. L. S. Charlick. It is post-marked "Lincoln."

**ZANZIBAR (B 102).** A newspaper paragraph states that "On January 1st next, the British Protectorate over Zanzibar will be resigned in favour of Germany, presumably in exchange for the latter's rights (?) over Delagoa Bay." There is evidently some truth in this somewhere, as the Colonial Market has received several unusually large orders for Zanzibar stamps lately.

In another column we take the liberty of reprinting from the *P.J. of India*, an interesting article on Zanzibar Errors, by Mr. J. Godinho. Collectors should be careful in purchasing stamps surcharged 'Zanzibar,' as a great many forgeries of this overprint are on the market just now and appear to emanate from Bombay.

The current 3 rupees appears in two distinct shades, the earlier one having a slight tinge of lilac.

## Orange River Colony.

### POST OFFICE ACCOUNT.

STATEMENT of Income and Expenditure from March, 1900, to 30th June, 1901.

Revenue.		£	s.	d.
To Postage on Parcels (Customs Refunds) ...	...	312	14	0
„ Private Box and Bag Rents ...	...	532	7	6
„ Commission ...	...	747	16	7
„ Unpaid Postage ...	...	274	3	8
„ Stamps Sold... ..	...	40,668	0	4
„ Interest Account (Savings Bank) ...	...	93	14	8
„ Post Cards Sold ...	...	505	19	8
„ Poundage on Postal Notes ...	...	3	17	2
		£43,138	13	7
Expenditure.		£	s.	d.
By Advertising and Printing ...	...	258	13	8
„ Transit Dues ...	...	1428	6	11
„ Customs Duty on Parcels ...	...	1869	14	1
„ Transit Dues Rhodesian Correspondence ...	...	3	4	8
„ Postage on Oversea Correspondence ...	...	11	2	0
„ Conveyance of Mail ...	...	5037	11	7
„ Overtime ...	...	1	15	0
„ Monies Commandeered by Boers ...	...	128	7	6½
„ Shortage at Springfontein ...	...	16	10	3
„ Travelling Allowances ...	...	83	3	9
„ Salaries and Allowances ...	...	13,729	1	1
„ Stores and Stationery ...	...	1703	8	3
„ Rents ...	...	2	3	7
„ Sundries ...	...	62	6	8
„ Savings Bank Books... ..	...	12	19	3
		£24,348	8	3½
Balance of Income over Expenditure ... ..	...	18,790	4	3½
		£43,138	13	7

We certify that the foregoing Statement is made up from the books in this office, and that to the best of our knowledge and belief it is correct.

A. FALCK,  
Postmaster-General.

JAMES VAN ZIJL,  
Acting Accountant.

General Post Office,  
Bloemfontein, O.R.C.,  
28th August, 1901.

## Zanzibar Varieties.

(From the *Philatelic Journal of India*.)

By J. GODINHO.

ZANZIBAR, like a few other British Settlements, entered its postal existence with the stain of surcharge.

The overprint on the Indian stamps was made on several occasions, and each impression, it would appear, had its characteristic defects.

A good many of these have been brought to the notice of collectors by studious philatelists. I append below a small list of minor varieties which I do not think have yet been noted.

The familiar adage, "mind your p's and q's," applies specially to the case of Zanzibar. Besides the occasional playful substitution of the letter q for b, and of p for d, we have also to pay our respectful attention to the staggering attitude of the central letter z of the smaller fount.

I shall attempt to propound a theory explanatory of the inebriated condition of this terrible z. Its attitude in the surcharge has differentiated the printings. Being from a smaller fount it naturally could not be wedged tightly between the leads spacings on either side. Hence it was at liberty to assume three distinct poses. When first the type block was fixed in the press, it was no doubt in the centre. In this printing the z is seen in the centre, smaller than the companion letters to the right and left of it. When the type block after use was removed and placed on the inclined tiers in the office, or in a safe, if that precaution was adopted, this little z being slightly loose between its leads, suffered a displacement. We see it either above or below the level of the other letters of the surcharge.

The chief point in which the letter q when inverted differs from b is that it has a cross stroke on its head projecting to an equal distance on either side, whereas b has but one stroke, and that is always pointed to the left.

The difference between d and p inverted is not so apparent, but the chief characteristic, a cross stroke on the top of the letter p, distinguishes it from d.

### VARIETIES OF THE ERROR "ZANZIDAR"

- (a) "Zanzidar" with a small z down.  
(b) "Zanzidar," inverted p, two types, one with

small z up, the other with small z below the line.

The error "Zanzidar" occurs twice in a sheet of 120, once with d, the other with p, inverted.

(c) "Zanzidar," all letters equal. This variety occurs on 2½, and 8 annas, and belongs to a different printing.

There is still another variety in which this unfortunate z figures. It is the *italic* z in the 2½ annas va ue. It is the second stamp in the last last row on the left.

It is confidently asserted that there were but two errors of this description.

## Our Postcard Column.

WILL readers hearing of any interesting item of News, kindly jot it down on a postcard and address to the Editor, "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News," Norwood, London. For every contribution we publish, we will send the author an interesting and newly issued stamp. (N.B.—Postcards preferred).

Mr. Adolf Sonn sends some further interesting information relative to the Vryburg provisional stamps:—

"In the last number of your esteemed paper I saw that Mr. Laird has shewn you an un-surcharged Cape stamp cancelled Vryburg, Oct. 21st, 1899. I am sorry to say that I fail to see anything surprising in the cancellation, as Vryburg is a town in the Cape Colony where only Cape stamps are used. [Our object was to show which stamps preceded and succeeded the Vryburg provisionals.—Ed.] The Boers occupied the town on or about the 24 Nov., 1899, and surcharged the Cape stamps they found there, i.e., 2400 of ½d. and 1d. each, and 480 of the 6d. and 2½d. These stamps were authorised by the Postmaster-General in the Official Postal Gazette of 29th Nov., 1899. The issue was entirely sold out on the 30th Nov., having been sold at the P.O. on the 27th, 28th and 29th. The variety of 10 or 12½mm. is in the width of the surcharge vertically from ½ Pence to Z.A.R. After the provisional issue was sold out the Boers used their own stamps, as in all the towns during occupation.

I made enquiries at the G.P.O. if the surcharged stamps of the Cape would be admitted for postage in the Transvaal. The Postmaster General replies that the money for the stamps sold at Vryburg had gone to the Transvaal P.O., therefore the stamps could be used in the Transvaal. I asked a friend to send me a letter from Johannesburg to my address there franked with a Vryburg surcharged stamp to test the case. This letter arrived safely and I had no extra fee to pay. I enclose the envelope for inspection. This Vryburg provisional is the only Boer stamp which was issued during the war. All the others which were chronicled are speculative stamps of private collectors as for instance the so-called Commando Stamp of the O.F.S., the official stamp of the O.F.S. (in Dienst and R.D.M.,) etc. The Vryburg Provisionals ought to be catalogued under Transvaal, because the revenue derived from their sale formed part of that of the Transvaal.

Mr. C. E. Russell Rendle writes:—

"Referring to Mr. Sidey's question as to Indian stamps postmarked Zanzibar, I have always looked on such as Zanzibar's, and collected accordingly. I find I have the ½, 1½, 2, 2½, 3, 4½, 8, 2½ on 4½ annas, and the rr. slate, all thus simply postmarked on Indian, no surcharge; and as Zanzibar was never a dependency of the Indian Post-office, I cannot regard them as anything but a Zanzibar issue."

Mr. G. Sandiford writes:—

"Gibbons' chronicle a variety in the Official Stamps of New South Wales, 1871-83, in which the distance between the letters 'O S' measures 8½ mm., instead of 7 mm. I have a specimen of the 3d. green, perf. 10, which only measures 5½ mm. between the letters. Has this been previously noted?" [Is the specimen genuine?—Ed.]

## Notes.

An enterprising American druggist has introduced a novel feature in his postage stamp business. He keeps the stamps in compartments which have been flavoured in various ways, and when a customer asks for a stamp, he inquires, "What flavour will you have; lemon, vanilla, or peppermint?" The customer usually looks mystified, but soon discovers that the stamps are really flavoured, and the druggist thinks he has hit upon a way to retain his stamp business.

The late Mr. M'Kinley's likeness will undoubtedly appear upon one of the postage stamps of the United States, says the "Houston Chronicle." The Post Office Department now contemplates bringing out an entirely new series of postage stamps, probably next spring, and it is not unlikely that the face of President M'Kinley will appear upon one of them. The regular current series of stamps has been in use eleven years, since 1890, and it is deemed proper by the department that the old set should be superseded.

## The Mystery of the 2d. Black, Great Britain.

WE have received quite a number of letters referring to the note headed "A supposed discovery" which appeared in our issue of November 16th, but so far the mystery is not elucidated. The owner of the two 2d. black British stamps (date 1855) has exhibited them to various North of England collectors, who seem to be very certain they are genuine black examples. We suggested to a correspondent that they might be merely oxidised, and in reply we get the following note: "I have seen the black 2d. English, which is no more oxidised than I am; if I could get it for £100 I would think I was lucky." Here is a chance for the owner we would advise him not to throw away. Collectors in the South of England have unfortunately only had the privilege of hearing about these wonderful rarities, and consequently must be excused for not being as enthusiastic over the discovery.

As we were informed that the stamps had been examined by a town member of the Philatelic Society, London, we applied to him for any details which he could give. We learn from this gentleman that he has not seen the stamps. It appears that he was approached by a "friend" of the owner, with a view to their acquisition by a very "prominent" collector. The history given was that the stamps had been found amongst old correspondence, but that the envelope from which they were removed had not been kept. On a request that they might be sent to London for inspection, our informant was told that the owner did not care to allow them out of his possession, but that they could be seen by appointment at Newcastle, or, if this could not be arranged, that the owner might himself call and produce them "when next in London."

Later on an offer was invited from our informant, but he has heard nothing from them on the subject since his reply—now nearly a month ago—to the effect that no offer could be made without seeing the stamps, and expressing personal doubts as to the possibility of the issue of a 2d. stamp printed in black. At the same time it was pointed out to the "friend" that if the owner were satisfied as to the genuine character of the stamps, the discovery would prove of such great interest that it would be desirable to send them to London for verification.

It seems to us that if the owner wishes to have his stamps properly authenticated, he should come forward and not hide behind his friends. Until he allows experts to have the stamps for examination the majority of collectors will naturally remain sceptical. Personally we do not see how any 2d. stamps could have been printed in black without detection and consequent destruction, whereas it is a well known fact that oxidation often causes these 2d. blue stamps to turn black, although it is true that discolouration is not always even throughout and is sometimes retarded in places by the ink of the cancellation. The perforated 2d. blues are if anything more susceptible than the imperforates.

## Stamps at Auction.

December 3rd and 4th. Messrs. Plumridge & Co.

57	Gold Coast and Sierra Leone, £1, both surcharged 'Specimen' ...	20/-
58	Great Britain, Mulready 1d. black Envelopes, three entire uncut sheets of twelve*, each ...	£3
59	Ditto, 2d. blue, Envelopes, six ditto sheets*, each, £3/17/6 (twice), £4, £4/2/6 and £4/7/6 (twice)	
60	Great Britain, 2½d. plate 2, Error of Lettering, LH—FL, off centre, poor ... ..	36/-
61	New South Wales, 1854, 1d. scarlet, block of 12 with full gum, four stamps are creased and one a little torn into, but very rare in a block (cat. £9) ... ..	£8
62	St. Christopher, 1886, 'One Penny' on 6d. green, twice surcharged, penmarked, and a little defective, but very rare ... ..	20/-
63	St. Lucia, 1881, Fiscal Postal, CC14, 1/- deep orange, surcharged in error, 'Shielding Stamp' (S.G. No. 106), unused, with gum, v.f.	63/-
64	St. Vincent, 1880, Provisional 1d. in red on half 6d. blue-green, mint pair ... ..	£13
65	Tasmania, 1d. blue, 1st Issue, horizontal strip of four, on letter, v.f.	£11
66	Trinidad, 10/- green & ultramarine, used, postmarked Oct. 26, 1896, very fine ... ..	77/6

\*The sheets of Mulready Envelopes were composed of the following die numbers:

One Penny.				Two Pence.			
187	180	178	179	208	209	197	210
177	176	181	182	198	201	202	203
174	164	175	172	195	199	200	196



## FOREIGN ARRIVALS.

(NOTE.—Most foreign stamps are almost as good an investment in mint unused condition as those issued by British Colonies, if purchases are made with care, and countries like Abyssinia, Persia, Nicaragua, Honduras, etc., are ignored. That there is a good market for unused foreigners is evidenced by the fact that a collection consisting entirely of unused Europeans recently sold for £30,000).

Bosnia.  
35 heller, cornflower-blue, nett 5d.  
20 heller, perf. 11½, nett 3d.; block of 4, 11d.

Sweden, 25 öre, wmk. Crown inverted, 5d.

Venezuela, surch. "Resellada-Castro" inverted.  
5c. green, mint, 1/-; block of 4, 4/-.

Cartagena Provisionals.  
1 centavo, black on white, 1d.

Greece, Small Head of Mercury.  
1 lepton, brown, 1d.; block of 4, 1d.  
2 lepta, bistre, 1d.; block of 4, 2d.  
5 " green, 1d.; block of 4, 3d.  
10 " orange, 2d.; block of 4, 6d.

Greek Provisionals, surcharged on old types.  
Large Head of Mercury.  
30 on 40 lepta, 5d.\*  
40 on 2 " 5d.\*  
50 on 40 " buff, 6d.\*  
3dr. on 10 lepta, 2/9.  
5dr. on 40 lepta, lilac on blue, 3/9.

\*NOTE.—Pairs can be supplied, showing wide and narrow "O," 1/- each.

Small Head of Mercury.  
1dr. on 40 lepta, violet, 1/- (imperf.)  
2dr. on 40 " " 1/9 (perf. 13).

Olympian Games (Axiá Metallika).  
25l. on 40 lepta, nett 5d.  
50l. on 2dr. stone, nett 10d.  
1dr. on 5dr. green, nett 1/3.  
2dr. on 10dr. brown, nett 2/6.

(N.B.—The numbers given are those of the Universal Standard Catalogue, 1902 edition).

(a) Venezuela, 1899, Unsurcharged. USED.

121	5c. blue-green	...	...	—
122	10c. red	...	...	—
123	25c. blue	...	...	2d.
124	50c. black	...	...	—
125	1 bol. green	...	...	—
126	2 bol. orange	...	...	—

(b) 1900, Surcharged "Resellada R.F.M."

127	5c. blue-green	...	...	—
128	10c. red	...	...	—
129	25c. blue	...	...	4d.
130	50c. black	...	...	4d.
131	1 bol. green	...	...	8d.
132	2 bol. orange	...	...	—

(c) 1900, Surch. "Resellada, Castro, 1900."

133	5c. blue-green	...	...	2d.
134	10c. red	...	...	—
135	25c. blue	...	...	4d.

(d) 1900, Surch. "1900" only.

136	50c. yellow	...	...	6d.
137	1 bol. black	...	...	9d.

Peru. Issues of 1896-1901.

110	22c. green and black	...	...	2d.
111	50c. rose	...	...	5d.

United States, surcharged "Porto Rico."

176	1c. green	...	...	1d.
177	2c. carmine	...	...	2d.
178	5c. blue	...	...	3d.
179	8c. puce	...	...	6d.
180	10c. brown	...	...	6d.

Port Said, surcharged on French, old type.  
1c. black on blue, pair with mill. o, nett 2d.

China, surcharged on French, old type.  
5c. yellow-green, pair with mill. o, nett 3d.

France, "Chiffre Taxe"  
1c. black, 5c. blue, 10c. brown, set of 3, nett 3d.

Belgium, unpaid.  
Set of 5, 5, 10, 20, 50c. 1fr., nett 1/11.

Belgium, Sunday stamps.  
Set of ten, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 25, 35, 50c., 1, 2fr., nett, 4/5.

Luxemburg, 1fr. violet, (old type), nett 2/-; 5fr. orange-brown (old type), nett 5/10.

Denmark, new 24 öre, brown, nett 5d.

Sweden, New 25 öre, orange, nett 5d.

Finland, 1901, 1 markka, nett 1/3.

Finland, 1889 type, 2, 5, 10, 20, 25p., 1m., set of 6, 2/3.

Hungary, 1900, values in filléres.  
25f., blue and black, nett 4d.  
30f., brown and black, nett 4d.  
50f., lake and black, nett 6d.  
60f., green and black, nett 8d.

Roumania, 5, 10, 15 bani, set of three, 4d.

Cuba, pictorial set, 1, 2, 3, 5, 10c., nett 1/3.

Sweden, low values, 1, 2, 3, 4 öre, set of 4, 2d.

Siam, 1901, head to left.  
2 atts, bright green, nett 1d.; block of 4, 3d.

Siam provisional, 3 on 12 atts, 1½d. each.

Japan, new, 1½ sen blue, 1d. each; block of 4, 3d.

Bolivia, 1899, used, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20c., set of 5, 6d.

Bolivia, 10c. orange, nett 1d. (used).

" 20c. rose (cat. 6d.), nett 2d. (used).

Bolivia, surch. "EF 1899" on 1894 issue (used).  
5c. violet on green, nett 2d.  
10c. violet on brown, nett 3d.

Chile, old type, 15c. green, fine, used, 2d.  
20c. slate-grey, fine, used, 1d.  
1 peso, black and brown, used, fine, 8d.

Chile, 1900, new 5c. blue, 10c. lilac, 1d. each (used).

Costa Rica, old 10 and 20c. (1892), nett 2d. (used).  
" new 10 and 20c. (1901), nett 5d. (used).

Ecuador, 10c. lilac and black, used, 4d.  
" 10c. blue and black, used, 4d.

## MISCELLANEOUS OFFERS.

CEYLON.

105	2c. dull green	3d.
108	8c. orange-yellow	nett 10d.
131	30c. on 36c. blue, inv. pair	45/- nett, 22/6 each.
154	15c. sage-green (cat. 8d.)	4d.; block of 4, 1/3.
156	28c. grey, now obsolete	8d.
199	3c. terra-cotta and emerald	2d.
200	4c. carmine	5d.

GAMBIA.

2	4d. brown, imperf., fair, cat.	32/- nett, 20/-
3	6d. deep blue, imperf., very fine	30/-
16	4d. brown, CC. 14, mint, 22/6; well-centred pair, 50/-; mint strip of three, with corner margins, but off-centre, nett 65/-	
35	1/- violet, pair 3/9; block of 4,	7/6

GOLD COAST.

2	4d. mauve, CC. 12½, mint single	22/6.
5	1d. blue, CC 14, no gum, 1/3; mint, with value in grey, 1/9.	
4	½d. olive-yellow, CC14, mint 3/9; pair 8/-	
9	" " CA14, part gum, 27/-	

LAGOS

1	1d. lilac, CC12½, no gum, fair, 4/6 (cat. 10/-)
2	2d. blue, CC12½, mint, 11/3; no gum, 10/-
4	3d. red-brown and chestnut, CC12½, mint, 21/-
9	1s. orange, value long, used, very fair, 11/3.
10	1d. lilac, CC14, no gum, fair, 2/-
12	3d. red-brown, CC14, mint, cat. 45/-, nett, 30/-
14	4d. carmine, CC14, mint, rarity, nett, 50/-
14A	" CC14, wmk. sideways, unchronicled, used, lightly cancelled, nett, 18/6.
19	3d. chestnut, CA14, mint, nett, 7/6.
20	4d. carmine, CA14, mint, 30/-, pink shade, 30/-
26	6d. sage-green, 2/3.

SIERRA LEONE.

2	6d. purple, no wmk., perf. 14, bluish paper, mint, 11/-; mint side pair, cat. 40/-, nett, 27/-
5	6d. bright violet, no wmk., perf. 14, used, 7/6.
7	1d. rose-red, wmk. upright, 3/-; inverted, 4/-; sideways, 4/-; inverted and sideways, 4/-
8	2d. mauve. CC. 12½, no gum, cat. 40/-, nett 16/-
9	3d. saffron yellow, CC. 12½, used, cat. 10/-, nett 2/- only.
12	1/- green (a), CC. 12½, used, fair, 7/-
18	4d. blue, CC. 14, mint, 35/-
23	" CA. 14, mint, £10.
25A	1d. rose, CA. 14, unchronicled variety, used, 5/-

GIBRALTAR.

1	peseta, bistre, mint, 4/6.
5	pesetas grey, mint, 5/9.

CHILE, old type, 5c. blue.  
Mint block of four, 1/-; pair, 6d.

BERMUDA, 2d. blue, CA 14.  
Block of four, 2/6; pair, 1/3; single, 8d.

BARBADOS, 6d. just obsolete.  
Single, 1/6; pair, 3/-

NEW ZEALAND, current, 2d.  
2d. violet, nett 3d.; block of four, 11d.  
2d. lilac, nett 3d.; block of four, 11d.

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AQ.	367	4d. vermilion " " "	...	22/6
AS.	138	6d. lilac " " "	...	11/0
AT.	357	½d. slate, 1884	...	4/6
AU.	2704	2½d. rose, various plates	...	110/0
AV.	1400	2½d. " " "	...	65/0
AX.	1000	1d. red, ditto	...	2/0
AY.	85	2½d. lilac, 1884	...	4/0
AZ.	651	1d. red, plate Nos.	...	1/0
BA.	1170	2d. blue, in box, various plates	...	46/0
BB.	216	3d. rose " " "	...	16/0
BD.	2372	3d. rose " " "	...	110/0
BF.	1174	1d. venetian red, in box	...	10/6
BG.	299	½d. green, 1880	...	8/6
BH.	66	1d. red, various plates, unused, but damaged	...	—
BI.	236	Reconstructed plate, all but 5, of 1d. red, imperf., in pocket album	...	2/6
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LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1901.

[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

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The Editor desires to thank his readers for the support kindly given to "E.W.S.N." during 1901, and to wish them

A Merry Christmas . . .

AND

Prosperous New Year.

"E.W.S.N."

DURING the year, now drawing to a close, we have said very little about the aims and policy of the *Weekly Stamp News*, and the present seems a favourable occasion for saying a few words on the subject. "The first and only weekly stamp paper published in Europe" had its origin in *Ewen's Weekly Circular*, which was established some four years ago, and of which the first number was published on October 16th, 1897, whilst the *Circular*, in its turn, was a continuation of the *English Specialists' Journal* (a monthly publication), originated in November, 1895. The *Weekly Circular* issued 86 numbers, and was succeeded on September 30th, 1899, by No. 1 (whole number 87) of the *Weekly Stamp News*, which has continued to appear with uninterrupted success ever since, and which also possesses the proud record of never having been a day late. The issue of November 30th was "No. 200" of the whole weekly series.

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We take this opportunity of thanking our readers for the generous way in which they have supported our venture, and for the liberal manner in which they have recommended it to their stamp-collecting friends. In consequence we are pleased to be able to state that the circulation has gone up by leaps and bounds, the sale through newsagents having doubled during the twelve months.

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The aim of the Editor is to make the *Weekly Stamp News* a newspaper rather than a scientific magazine, and to cater for the general collector rather than the specialist. Experience has shown that the average collector takes most interest in the stamps of his own time, whilst "New Issues" is a subject which appeals to well-nigh everyone. We are accordingly intending in the future to make special efforts to secure early and reliable information of all new issues, and hope that readers will co-operate with us in this endeavour when in a position to obtain reliable data. We hope to chronicle all descriptions of new stamps, even fiscals when of exceptional interest, although these latter cover such a wide field that a detailed chronicle is out of the question, at any rate at present. Out of this varied collection of new issues, each collector can choose for himself those descriptions which most interest him.

H. L'ESTRANGE EWEN.

## NOTICE.

The next issue of *E.W.S.N.* will also be a 12-page number, and will contain the Index to Volume VII. It will be published on Tuesday morning, December 24th.

## The Week's News.

The Editor will be much obliged for Early Information of New Issues, or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors, and will have pleasure in forwarding the sender of every accepted contribution several interesting newly issued stamps.

The index number and serial letter after the title of each paragraph indicate the issue of *E.W.S.N.* in which the last reference to that country appeared.

**GREAT BRITAIN (S 116).**—Minor variety of 6d. grey.—A correspondent points out that the 6d. grey, plate 15, lettered KE, has a very defective K in the upper corner.

**New Envelope die (B 109).**—Mr. Oswald Marsh has shown us two examples of the ½d. die 57, impressed in green. The earliest is postmarked November 15th, 1901. Dies 55 and 56 have not yet been met with. The Editor possesses impressions from dies 50, 51 and 53 in green, and has seen die 54, so that probably all from 50 upwards occur in the new colour. Die 54 is the highest which has been seen in the old colour, vermilion.

**ANGOLA (A).**—Remainders.—A notice has appeared in the Lisbon papers that the remainders of the 1886-87 issue of Angola and Cape Verd, to the face value of 117 contos (about £17,800) are for sale by tender.

The conditions of sale are that tenders must be sent in by February 20, and they will be opened on February 21 at the saleroom at the Mint. The highest offer will then be advertised, and bidders will be invited to advance on that price.

We doubt if under these conditions anyone will be found to tender.

**ANTIOQUIA (C 115).**—In our issue of November 23rd we chronicled a new 1c. carmine postage adhesive. The *Metropolitan Philatelist* chronicles two varieties of this stamp, one printed in carmine and the other in blue.

**BECHUANALAND (E 112).**—Envelope.—The ½d. green envelope has now been surcharged "Bechuanaland Protectorate."

Adhesive provisional.

1c. blue (printed in blocks of 4 types).

**ECUADOR (E 116).**—Postcards.—The *M.P.Z.* chronicles two provisional postcards, overprinted on the 2c. red and 3c. green of 1896, with the *Habilitado* surcharge of 1899, dated "1901/02."

Postcards. Surcharged 1901/02 in black.

2c. red on rose.

3c. green on bluish.

**JAMAICA (B 100).**—The new bi-coloured 1d. Llandoverly Falls is issued in sheets of sixty, arranged in ten rows of six. On the margin under the left corner of the first stamp in the lowest row is the plate number 2, doubly printed, once in red and once in black.

**NEW ZEALAND (I 109).**—Advertisements (A 102).—We have received the following addition to the list of advertisements found on the backs of New Zealand stamps which was published in *E.W.S.N.* of September 7th.

No. 104. For slight cold, use at once Bonnington's Irish Moss. Value, 6d.

The following new values have been found:—No. 4, 8d.; 6, 3d., 8d.; 11, 2d., 1/-; 13, 8d.; 18, 2½d.; 19, 8d.; 21, 3d., 5d.; 22, 3d., 1/-; 23, 3d.; 24, 2½d., 4d.; 29, 2½d.; 31, 6d.; 35, 8d.; 39, 2½d.; 40, 5d.; 43, 5d.; 46, 1/-; 49, 2½d., 8d.; 50, 2½d.; 52, 4d., 8d.; 54, 2½d.; 55, 2½d.; 56, 5d., 8d.; 58, 3d.; 60, 2d.; 61, 1d., 3d.; 63, 8d.; 67, 1/-; 68, 8d.; 70, 3d.; 73, 2½d., 3d., 8d.; 74, 3d.; 75, 3d., 5d.; 76, 3d., 1/-; 77, 2½d., 1/-; 82, 2½d., 3d.; 84, 2½d.; 86, 3d., 8d.; 87, 4d.; 89, 6d.; 94, 2½d., 1/-; 96, 1/-; 97, 5d.; 99, 2d.; 103, 2½d., 3d.

**NORTH BORNEO (F 116).** The Secretary to the British North Borneo Company informs us that the reason for the surcharge on the current set is as follows:—"North Borneo having been a British Protectorate for some years, the Court of Directors decided, in order to make this fact more generally known, that the stamps should be surcharged accordingly."

The first mail from Borneo, franked with the "British Protectorate" surcharged stamps, is reported to have been dated "Sandakan, October 8th."

**REUNION (C 112).**—Envelopes.—Two novelties are chronicled by the *Metropolitan Philatelist*. Envelopes. 15c. grey-lilac on greenish. 25c. blue on rose.

**PORTUGAL (A).**—A new issue is in preparation.

**PORTUGUESE COLONIES (C 106).**—Madame de le Retord writes to the *Revue Philatélique Française* that a new series of postage stamps is in preparation for the various Colonies, including the islands of Azores, etc., which are administered from home.

**ST. CHRISTOPHER (A).**—The Colonial Market announced some weeks ago that a pictorial issue was in preparation, such to be on sale side by side with the ordinary Leeward Islands series, in the same way as is now being done in the Virgin Islands. *La Revue Philatélique Française* states "on emploierait les anciennes planches en attendant la confection de nouvelles avec vues de l'île." But it seems hardly credible that a colony would at this late date re-enter the stamp-issuing arena with a "Queen's Head" series.

**UNITED STATES (I 115).**—Pan-American Remainders.—The work of recalling the Pan-American stamps from the various United States post-offices is going actively forward, and probably something between one and two million dollars' worth will ultimately have to be destroyed. Considering the stamps cost 10d. per 1,000, this must mean a heavy loss and will interfere considerably with the profits of the issue. It was reported that the 1c. and 2c. values had been sold out, but at Washington alone the remainders of the 1c. amounted to 25,000 stamps. Notwithstanding a definite statement on the part of the department that no more Pan-Americans will be issued, there seems to be a decided slump, and dealers in U.S.A. report very little enquiry for these stamps.

**Inverted Centres.**—Meekel's Stamp Collector states that a pair, one damaged, realised \$40.20 (about £8) in a Chicago auction recently. Dealers' price for a single mint copy is \$25 to \$27.50. Here in London half this price rules at auction.

## New British Stamps.

With Portrait of King Edward.

TO BE ISSUED WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1st.

The following Notice was published by the Post Office on Tuesday, December 17th:

"POSTAGE STAMPS.

"ON and after the 1st January next, new Postage Stamps bearing the King's portrait, of the value of ½d., 1d., 2½d. and 6d. respectively, will be on sale at the various Post Offices in the United Kingdom. The colour of the new 6d. stamp being the same as that of the present Penny Stamp, care should be used to avoid mistaking one for the other. New Stamps of other denominations also bearing the King's portrait will be issued afterwards.

"All the Adhesive Stamps of the present issue bearing the portrait of the late Queen will still be available: a description of them is given below:—

Value.	Colour.	Value.	Colour.
½d.	Green or Red.	5d.	Purple and Blue.
1d.	Purple.	6d.	Purple on Red Paper.
1½d.	Purple and Green.	10d.	Purple and Blue.
2d.	Green and Red.	10d.	Purple and Red.
2½d.	Purple on Blue Paper.	1/-	Wholly Green or Green and Red.
3d.	Purple on Yellow Paper.	2 6	Purple.
4d.	Green on Brown.	5-	Rose.
4½d.	Green and Red.	10-	Blue.
(This stamp will no longer be supplied when the existing stock is exhausted.)		£1	Green.
		£5	Orange.

The Stamps with the late Queen's portrait embossed or printed on envelopes, wrappers, post cards and letter cards will also be available.

No other Stamps are valid in payment of postage."

By Command of the Postmaster-General.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,  
17th December, 1901.

## Our Postcard Column.

WILL readers hearing of any interesting item of News, kindly jot it down on a postcard and address to the Editor, "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News," Norwood, London. For every contribution we publish, we will send the author an interesting and newly issued stamp. (N.B.—Postcards preferred).

*Mr. W. H. Harland writes :—*

"I have a curious marginal watermark of the 5d. New South Wales (which will confirm the note to one of your readers a few weeks back), viz.: 5d. green, perf. 10 X 11, watermarked OUT in large block letters about half-an-inch long. The stamps are not perforated at the top, the sheet evidently being issued like U.S.A.'s without marginal perforation.

[The 5d. value is printed on the ordinary Crown and N.S.W. paper, used for the 1d. and other values. These latter are printed in sheets of four panes, A, B, C, D, arranged as shown. AB Each pane contains sixty stamps, in ten rows of six. Consequently the paper is CD also watermarked in four panes, with a single continuous line round each. Between panes AB and CD is a plain margin (as in the current ½d. and 1d. British stamps) and this is watermarked in large capitals "NEW SOUTH WALES POSTAGE."

The 5d. stamps are printed from a differently shaped plate, consisting of 200 stamps arranged in 20 rows of 10 (all close together), and although the number of stamps is smaller, yet on account of their larger size it is only just found possible to get an impression from the plate on each sheet of paper. As it is, one row of stamps is printed on the centre margin, wmk. "New South Wales Postage" intended by the paper makers to be left blank, whilst the bottom or top rows of stamps fall partially on the unwatermarked margin of the sheet, and sometimes one or the other is entirely without watermark. The sheets of 200 are cut in two before issue, hence the stamps with the abnormal watermark are imperforate on one side.—Ed.]

*Mr. Thos. Marston writes :—*

"I read with much interest in this week's 'Ewen's' of the discovery of the errors in the E.R.I. halfpenny on 2d. brown Transvaal.

You do not, however, mention the error in the latter half of the word halfpenny, viz.:—PENAY, instead of penny.

I have discovered two copies on one pane with the a instead of the n. Have you noticed this?"

[We have noticed broken N's, which by a stretch of the imagination might pass for A's, but have not met with a distinct error.—Ed.]

*Mr. C. W. Hellowell writes :—*

"I have carefully examined a lower left hand pane of the 4½d. stamp, and cannot find in the right hand stamp of the bottom row either the coloured dot mentioned by Mrs. Lane, or the imperfect figure "1" discovered by Mr. Jenner."

*Mr. T. F. Phillpot writes on the same subject :—*

"With reference to the 4½d. variety, I have just examined a sheet of 4½d. stamps, but there is no variety on it as mentioned in No. 113."

*Mr. F. Taylor writes :—*

"The 4½d. adhesive G.B. stamp with dot variety referred to in your news the last three weeks is certainly an interesting subject. I have recently examined three whole unused sheets and could only trace the broken 1 described by Mr. Jenner, in the right hand bottom stamp of the lower left hand pane of the three sheets. There was no dot which in any way agreed with the description given by Mrs. Lane or Mr. Stamford.

"I might mention that I have also carefully examined a large number of used 4½d. stamps without tracing one with the broken 1 variety, so the stamp is likely to be very scarce.

"Also I have examined several 4½d. Govt. Parcels stamps, and failed to see the variety among them. Indeed the 'S' of the word Parcels comes directly over the ½d. and would hide the break in the 1, I think."

[There would seem to have been three different sets of plates for printing the 4½d. stamp. In one set we get the dot variety discovered by Mrs. Lane and confirmed by Mr. Stamford, and in another the broken "1" described by Messrs. Jenner and Taylor, whilst a third plate without any defects is recorded by Messrs. Hellowell and Phillpot.—Ed.]

*Capt. Halford writes :—*

"I have a 1d. red on fiscal paper, New South Wales, Gibbons' No. 257, with postmark, 'Nouvelle Calédonie, 19 Sept. 88. Were N.S. Wales used in New Caledonia? Can you tell me if Maltese stamps surcharged Revenue are only used for Revenue, as Gibbons does not catalogue them? Do spaces between O. S. in N.S. Wales Service Stamps vary in other stamps beside the 3d.?"

[Perhaps the 1d. red N.S.W. may have been used on a ship letter, which was posted on foreign territory. The Maltese stamps surcharged "Revenue" have never been available for postal use.—Ed.]

*The Rev. R. B. Earle writes :—*

"I note in your No. 198 a query concerning a Peruvian stamp, labelled 'Un Peseto.' I suggest that this is probably the forgery described in the second edition of my 'Album Weeds,' page 488."

*Mr. F. Goldsworthy enquires :—*

"With the view of specializing, will you kindly give me your opinion as to the best countries to take up, stamp collecting having become such a big thing to go in for in late years."

[Unless you are collecting with a view to making money, the best stamps to specialize are those which interest you most. The Editor takes a great interest in Railway letter fee stamps and die numbers of envelope stamps (cut square), and specializes these at present to the exclusion of almost everything else. Major Evans, Editor of *Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal*, specializes Indian Native States. Mr. C. J. Phillips, of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, used to specialize Russian Locals. Here you have three precedents for collecting something that no one else cares much about. If, however, you are interested mainly in the financial side of things, take a more popular country or group. West Africans are generally supposed to be a good tip. Australians might be, but you will find it impossible to specialize them unused, and their very rarity will always check their popularity. West Indians are nearly always in favour because they are so common unused. There are comparatively few varieties in that group to wait for. Grand countries to specialize are the South American Republics, but some years may have to elapse before the silly prejudice against them, created by the Seebeck and Asenjo contracts, is subdued. What a splendid specialist array the Salvador sunbursts would make! And on the other hand (prejudice apart) do not the first issues of Nicaragua, Peru and Chili compare favourably with those of our own Colonies? But it requires a certain amount of courage to depart from the beaten track, although the reward is well worth the having. Two things to remember when specializing are to always give the preference to unused specimens and to ignore as far as possible existing catalogues. That is to say, do not endeavour to collect just those varieties which are catalogued.—Ed.]

*Mr. J. S. Mostyn writes :—*

"I have a copy of the 3 ore Norway yellow (type VIII, Gibbons), without the transverse stroke on the O in ore."

*Mr. A. H. Stamford writes :—*

"Have you noticed in the New Jamaica Pictorial 1d. stamp a somewhat similar printing of the plate as in the case of the Bahamas which you note in your issue No. 113; only that in the Jamaica stamps the printing is not in each corner, but I think only in the bottom left-hand corner. In my strip the plate numbers are printed in red and black over each other, and on the right-hand side of the circular blot of colour of red within a black circle."

*Mr. S. Chapman writes :—*

"It may interest you to note that the 'Found open and officially sealed' labels are still being used with V.R. unchanged, although the post office have re-painted their mail carts 'E.R.' and altered their stationery generally."

[We presume "E.R." is to be the official contraction of "E.B.O.R.I.I." Yorkshiremen should be flattered by this choice of initials, the old name of their principal city being so nearly represented. It is rather curious that the initials of "*Britanniarum Omnium Eduardus Rex*" spell "Boer," but of course officially, "Eduardus" comes first in the title, and the initials then spell "Ebor."—Ed.]

*Mr. Karl Wiehen writes :—*

"I have three copies of the 1893 issue, Nigeria 2d. green, and one of them is printed in a very distinctly dark shade of green, more pronounced than the recognised differences of the 1d. blue of the same issue, or the 2½d. blue of the 1894 issue. I have not seen these two shades (I have them both mint) listed in any catalogue, and should be glad to hear whether other readers of your paper have noticed the same difference."

[There were two printings of each value in the 1893 set, generally distinguishable by the texture of the paper. Doubtless the shades also differ slightly in all the values, but hardly sufficient in any case, we should think, to merit catalogue rank.—Ed.]

*Mr. C. E. Russell Rendle sends an interesting enquiry :—*

"I have two penny reds, plates 205 and 216, surcharged Cyprus Halfpenny, 18mm. long, and have seen plate 208 with a similar surcharge. These plates are not listed by Gibbons in their catalogue, whereas their "British Empire" album has spaces for them. Can any of your readers inform me which is correct, the album or the catalogue? The 216 is used, and the postmark plainly visible. I should have thought the surcharges forged, but for the fact that the album—published under Gibbons' auspices—leaves some for them."

## News from the United States.

THE transference of the negotiations in the Danish West Indies matter from Copenhagen to Washington, placing the diplomatic features in charge of Minister Brun, has already been effective. With Secretary Hay and Mr. Brun left to themselves there seems no question but that a settlement of differences will be reached speedily. The very fact that Denmark consented to the change of base is taken in official circles as a tacit concession that Denmark will not insist upon the points at issue, in the last extremity and that the deal will be made practically upon the terms proposed by the United States.

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The Bureau of Printing and Engraving is rushing the requisition for the new Porto Rican revenue stamps and by the time this appears in print the stamps will be *en route* to the Island. The plates have been ready for printing for three months, the delay being occasioned by the indecision of the Revenue officers in the matter of colours for the various denominations. One million of each value are being printed as follows:

1 cent, pale blue.	\$1.00, bright brown.
5 cents, pale brown.	3.00, bright purple.
10 " pale pink.	5.00, bright blue.
25 " pale purple.	10.00, bright green.
50 " dark yellow.	50.00, bright red.

The stamps from one cent to fifty cents inclusive are about the size of the Pan-American stamps, while the dollar values are about the size of the Columbian series. It is reported by those who have seen the sheets that the colours of the high values are very brilliant and that the design is very fine. But what the Porto Rican authorities can want with a million \$50 stamps is a puzzle. The face value of such a quantity is equal to about £10,000,000 sterling!

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The forthcoming edition of the new American Standard catalogue is issued in advance sheet form up to and including Great Britain. There are some noticeable advances in Hawaii and the Danish West Indies have jumped, although not to the extent that might have been supposed. The advance in British Colonies is steady, although not sensational, and the quotations on Great Britain indicate a natural rise. An increasing demand for the stamps of Britain and her colonies is reported generally here in America.

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The postal status of Cuba is very much improved over last year. The deficit for 1900 was \$350,000 and for this year only \$83,000. The receipts for 1901 were \$367,000.

\* \* \*

A veritable epidemic of post office robberies is sweeping over this country and the Post Office Department, unable to check it or to apprehend the thieves, is very much exercised over the matter. The great Chicago robbery of three weeks ago, when \$75,000 worth of stamps were stolen and safely secreted, seemed to start the fever, since which time burglaries of post offices have been of daily occurrence. It is understood the matter will be laid before Congress, and that some method of identifying stamps will be made use of. The suggestion of printing the name of the larger offices in small type across the face of the stamp has been made, and this, or some other plan is likely to be adopted. It is said in Washington that Congress will be asked to take up this problem and provide a way of apprehending stamp burglars.

\* \* \*

The report of the Postmaster-General for the year ending June 30th, 1901, shows that there are now about 77,000 post-offices in the United States, an increase of only about 250 during the year. The small increase was due to the large number of rural mail deliveries established, cutting off about 3,000 small post-offices.

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It is thought the face value of the Pan-American remainders will amount to close upon \$2,000,000. It is reported from Washington that the redemption division of the Post-office Department is literally covered up with the Pan-Americans sent in by Postmasters.

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It costs the United States for postage stamps during the past year approximately \$260,000, of which amount \$38,000 was expended for the Pan-American series.

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It is now said that the Post Office Department is opposed to future "commemorative" issues, for the present at least, and that in case the promoters of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition at St. Louis make request for a series to be used contemporaneous with the Exposition, the proposition will be turned down.

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High value Columbians are at low ebb, unused, quotations being made as low as 25% discount from face for the \$2, \$3, \$4 and \$5 denominations. The \$30 revenue, obsolete, however, now sells readily at \$40.

## The Philatelic Press in 1901.

MANY excellent articles on stamps appear from time to time in the various philatelic journals, but unfortunately, even where a collector is possessor of complete files, they are often not available for reference, for the reason that it is impossible to remember—unless one has an exceptionally good memory—in which particular journal to look for the desired subject. It has occurred to us that a list of some of the principal articles—we do not by any means claim the list to be complete—which have been published (or reprinted) during the year just drawing to a close, might be of value to readers in assisting them to select the best and most reliable information on the stamps which interest them.

With this end in view we examined the following philatelic magazines and have classified the principal articles which have appeared since January. In most cases, the October or November number was the last to hand when we compiled the list, so that it is not quite representative of the whole year.

In order to save space, the journals are referred to by their initials:

AC	Les Archives des Collectionneurs.
AJ	American Journal of Philately.
AS	Alfred Smith & Son's Monthly Circular.
ASC	Anales de la Sociedad Filatélica de Chile.
CT	Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste.
DZ	Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung.
EP	L'Essor Philatélique.
ET	L'Echo de la Timbrologie.
IBJ	Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal.
LP	London Philatelist.
MPJ	Morley's Philatelic Journal.
MZ	Mitteldeutsche Philatelisten Zeitung.
P	Die Post.
PC	Postal Cards and Covers.
PF	Le Philatéliste Français.
PJ	Philatelic Journal of Great Britain.
PJI	Philatelic Journal of India.
PR	Philatelic Record.
PMR	Philatelic Monthly Referee.
RF	Rivista del Francobollo.
RP	Revue Philatélique Française.
RPB	Revue Philatélique Belge.
RSA	Revista de la Sociedad Filatélica Argentina.
S	Stamps.
SC	Stamp Collector.
SCF	Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly.
SG	Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal.
TB	Le Timbrophile Belge.

It should be stated that in no case are "New Issue" lists indexed, although in the more important magazines such frequently contain valuable articles that might well lay claim to a special title. In the case of monthly journals, the month of issue is given; in that of fortnightly, the "whole number."

- Abyssinian Postage Dues, ET 205  
 Alsace and Lorraine—Bouvèz, AJ Sept., Nov.; Fiscals, S., Apr.  
 Argentine—Early printings by the American Bank Note Co., by P. F. Coni, RSA Aug., Sep.; Issues 1882-87, SG Aug., Sep., Issue 1888-89, SG Nov.; see also RSA generally; Fiscals, MPJ Feb. to Nov.; RSA, Feb., Apr., Jun., Aug.  
 Austria, Newspaper Stamps, PR May; AS, April  
 Austrian Italy—1863 wmk., PR Dec.  
 Bangkok, SG, Aug.  
 Baden, postmark numbers, MZ, May  
 Bavaria, postcards, IBJ, 531, 535, 542, 550  
 Belgium, history to 1870, Bouvèz, AJ, Jan. to Apr.; Chiffre Taxe, PF, June; Postcard reprints, SG, March; Postmarks, PF, March  
 Bermuda, 4d. on 1/-, PR, April; first issue, S, July  
 Bolivia, EF, 1899 forgeries, AS, Sept.  
 Brazil, types of current 200 reis, SCF, 153; revenue stamps of Alagoas, MPJ, Nov.  
 British Central Africa, Registration Envelopes, Tilleard, LP, Jan.  
 Bundi, 2nd issue, SG, Feb.  
 Canada, 2d. black, SCF, 176; ET, 202  
 Cartagena, copy of contract with printer for 1c. and 2c. 1901, AJ, Aug.  
 Ceylon, pence issues, E. D. Bacon, LP, March; Baron P. de Worms, LP, April, PR, May  
 Chili, see ASC generally. Chilian stamps used in Bolivia and Peru, with illustrations of Army postmarks, etc. ASC, January to May; Decrees, statistics, etc., 1902 issue, ASC, May  
 Colombia, 1901 surcharges, PR, May  
 Cook Islands, A. F. Basset Hull, SG, April, May, June, August; Morley, MPJ, January  
 Cordoba, AS, May; 10c. black, RSA, February, March  
 Corea, AS, November  
 Corrientes, Origin of Stamps of, SCF, 157, SG, February, RSA, April; further notes, SG, May  
 Crete, SC, December; Notes, ET, 205; TB, July, November; Rethymo, EP, January, P, May, MZ, August  
 Cuba, Y $\frac{1}{2}$ , SG, January; retouches of 1882 issue, AJ, January; Cuban stamps surcharged at Puerto Principe, SG, January  
 Danish West Indies, PJ, May, SC, Sept.

- Denmark, statistics, PJ, May, SC, July  
 Dominican Republic, by Jalouzet, PF, Mar., Apr.; decree, 1901 issue, PF, July  
 Dutch Indies, 10c. 1865, PR, Dec.  
 Egypt, Salt Dept. Revenues, MPJ, Aug.  
 Faridkot, statistics, PJI, April, SCF, 162  
 France, tête-bêches, LP, Sep.; AJ, Nov.; ET, 208; Liberty. 15c. error, Maury, CT, July; perforation La Suisse, ET, 198; Bordeaux, AS, June; SG, Oct., Nov.; CT, Sep., Oct., Nov.; Bordeaux control marks, Maury, CT, Sept., Oct.; Issues of 1849 Colonially used, Piet-Lataudrie, PJI, Mar.; Balloon Post, IBJ, 529-531; 5c. 1871, on azure, AS, September; Early postmarks, 1588-1838, CT, August; Minor varieties, PR, April; regulations for use of unpaid letter stamps, LP, March; varieties of current issue, PJ, April; ET, 198, 201; 'N under U' and 'N under B' types, Maury, CT, November; New French reprints, AJ, July, ET, 202; C.E.F. (China) postmarks, ET, 198; foreign postmarks, ET, 206; rare postmarks, ET, 210-212; Droits de la Femme, ET, 212; millésimes, ET, 209  
 Germany, variety 50pf. 1880, PR, June; Colonial post offices, concise list, IBJ, 546; Colonial postmarks, Starke, P, October; sea post office and ship marks, Dr. Knopf, MZ, January to April  
 German S.W. Africa, 25pf. 2nd issue, DZ, March  
 German China, PR, January; Futchau provisionals, LP, March; Tsingtau provisionals, AJ, April, July; IBJ, 529, 530, 539; PR, September  
 Great Barrier Island, SCF, June  
 Great Britain, demonetization, PR, June, SCF, 163, LP, May; 4d. cards, PC, October; 4d. reply cards, January, April; Customs duty bands, MPJ, July; Newspaper tax, MPJ, September to November  
 Greece, Paris prints, PJ, February; distinguishing types, S, October; notes by P. L. Pemberton, PJ, March to October; by Crawford Capen, AJ, September to November; postage dues, ET, 211; surcharge statistics, IBJ, 534; minor varieties of 1900 surcharge, TB, April  
 Grenada, 1d. and 6d. values, wray mercer, LP, April, May  
 Griqualand, types and values, SCF, 153  
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## Portraits of Stamp Collectors.

PORTRAITS of the following eminent stamp collectors have appeared in the philatelic journals during 1901:—

W. B. Avery, S.C., Jan.; P.J., Feb.	Jonkheer van Kinschot, P.R., Dec.
G. Bridgman, S.C., Nov.	Baron v. Mutzenbecher, P.R., Mar.
H. A. Chapman, Ref., Aug	P.R., Mar.
A. B. Creeke, jr., P.R., Mar	E. J. Nankivell, P.J., Apr.
C. J. Daun, P.J., Nov.	W. Pimm, S.C., Apr.
Dr. E. Diena, P.R., Apr.	T. W. Peck, S.C., May.
P. Y. Deakin, S.C., July.	Gordon Smith, P.J., Oct.
Rev. R. B. Earle, P.J., Sept	W. Scott, S.C., Oct.
Ferrary, P.J., Jan.	E. Shorthouse, S.C., Dec.
Wm. Fish, Ref., Apr.	A. H. Stanford, P.J., Mar.
G. F. H. Gibson, P.J., June	C. A. Stephenson, S.C., June
L. L. R. Hausburg, P.J., My	D. Stadlbauer, M.Z., Mar.
R. Hollick, S.C., Mar.	W. S. Vaughton, S.C., Aug.
A. M. van Hoek, P.R., Oct.	Dr. C. W. Viner, P.J., Aug
T. H. Hinton, Ref., Feb.	W. F. Wadams, S.C., Sept.
G. Johnson, S.C., Feb.	Baron A. de Worms, P.J., July
J. W. Jones, P., Mar.	Baron A. de Worms, P.J., July
Fred Jeppe (P.M.G. Trans-vaal), P.R., Feb.	C. S. Wilson, P.R., Nov.

## Stamps at Auction.

December 3rd and 4th (contd.) Messrs. Plumridge and Co.

67	Uganda, current set, from 1a. to 5 rupees, face value 9/7 ... ..	13/9
68	U.S.A., 1c. green and black, with inverted centre, mint ... ..	50/-

December 5th. Messrs. Ventom, Bull & Cooper.

69	£1 green, G.B., current, two fine shades, unused, one creased ...	38/-
70	Morocco Agencies, set of 8 mint unused pairs, each showing the error inverted V, fine ...	£11/10/-
71	Bechuanaland, 1888, 2/- surcharged Protectorate, unused, with gum	£3
72	Orange River, V.R.I., 6d. carmine, a mint unused pane of 60, 2nd printing ... ..	£50

## Early Dates of "Id. Red."

As it is now eight months since we published any lists of early dates of id. red British stamps, and as in the meantime *E.W.S.N.* has gained many hundreds of new readers, some of whom may be interested in the subject, we take this opportunity to publish the list as it stands at present. The idea, it should be explained to readers who have not seen our previous lists, is to find the earliest postmarked copy of each plate number.

Plate No.	Plate put to press.	Record (Earliest date of use).	Record-holder.
71	1.3.64	London, 17.5.64	S. G. Dudley
72	"	Glasgow, 3.6.64	H. P. Stewart
73	"	London, W., 23.5.64	C. F. D. Marshall
74	"	London, W.C., 25.5.64	P. P. Wood
76	"	York, 15.6.64	G. Verméeren
78	"	Liverpool, 17.5.64	G. Gaffe
79	"	London, N.W., 9.5.64	H. W. Harrison
80	"	London, W., 3.5.64	C. F. D. Marshall
81	"	"	H. P. Stewart
82	"	Birmingham, 19.5.64	H. L. Ewen
83	"	London, W., 21.5.64	P. P. Wood
84	"	Dundee, 14.6.64	G. Gaffe
85	"	London, E.C., 19.5.64	H. W. Harrison
86	"	Dublin, 25.5.64	O. Firth
87	7.3.64	Bristol, 24.5.64	"
88	17.3.64	London, S.W., 3.6.64	C. F. D. Marshall
89	22.3.64	Kirkcaldy, 6.7.64	O. Firth
90	30.3.64	London, N., 15.6.64	P. P. Wood
91	5.4.64	Brighton, 29.6.64	"
92	12.4.64	Hull, 4.6.64	H. L. Ewen
93	19.4.64	London, 15.6.64	P. R. Devis
94	26.4.64	Manchester, 29.6.64	C. F. D. Marshall
95	4.7.64	Ashbourne, 30.8.64	W. D. Roebuck
96	11.10.64	Nottingham, 28.12.64	P. P. Wood
97	7.3.65	Liverpool, 21.6.65	O. Firth
98	20.3.65	Huddersfield, 3.6.65	M. Raffalovich
99	6.1.66	London, N.E., 2.3.66	H. P. Stewart
100	19.1.66	Canterbury, 22.3.66	W. D. Roebuck
101	12.4.66	London, E.C., 18.6.66	O. Firth
102	16.4.66	"	"
103	8.8.66	Manchester, 10.10.66	G. Gaffe
104	22.1.68	London, W., 12.3.68	P. P. Wood
105	31.1.68	London, E.C., 11.4.68	"
106	29.2.68	Chard, 20.5.68	C. F. D. Marshall
107	18.3.68	Barnsley, 6.5.68	H. P. Stewart
108	23.3.68	London, E., 14.8.68	C. F. D. Marshall
109	"	Edinburgh, 22.5.68	W. D. Roebuck
110	"	Bury, Lanc., 29.5.68	G. Gaffe
111	"	London, E.C., 29.5.68	C. F. D. Marshall
112	12.5.68	London, S.W., 25.7.68	H. P. Stewart
113	"	Dublin, 26.8.68	M. Raffalovich
114	"	Bradford, Ys., 24.7.68	O. Frith
115	"	Hull, 5.7.68	H. P. Stewart
116	"	Birmingham, 20.6.68	G. Gaffe
117	9.6.68	London, E.C., 25.9.68	P. P. Wood
118	"	Manchester, 4.8.68	G. Gaffe
119	18.8.68	London, W.C., 23.10.68	P. P. Wood
120	8.9.68	London, 20.11.68	G. Gaffe
121	17.12.68	Burton-on-T., 27.2.69	P. P. Wood
122	16.1.69	Edinburgh, 16.3.69	"
123	18.1.69	London, W.C., 6.3.69	"
124	"	Hastings, 14.3.69	"
125	15.2.69	London, W.C., 9.7.69	"
127	3.5.69	Glasgow, 28.6.69	J. R. W. Clark
129	10.5.69	Chester, 6.9.69	W. D. Roebuck
130	5.6.69	London, E.C., 30.9.69	"
131	3.8.69	Hull, 9.10.69	P. P. Wood
132	4.9.69	Newry, 22.11.69	"
133	1.10.69	Birmingham, 16.3.70	G. Gaffe
134	8.10.69	Southampton, 12.2.70	H. W. Harrison
135	14.12.69	London, 2.3.70	H. P. Stewart
136	6.1.70	Liverpool, 19.3.70	P. P. Wood
137	5.3.70	Belfast, 13.5.70	G. Gaffe
138	10.3.70	Edinburgh, 25.4.70	P. P. Wood
139	19.3.70	Liverpool, 16.5.70	H. P. Stewart
140	9.4.70	Edinburgh, 23.6.70	P. P. Wood
141	7.5.70	Clevedon, 8.7.70	J. C. Rowley
142	13.7.70	London, 13.10.70	H. P. Stewart
143	7.10.70	"	H. L. Ewen
144	3.1.71	"	"
145	16.1.71	Chatham, 21.4.71	P. P. Wood
146	23.1.71	Liverpool, 25.3.71	"
147	4.2.71	London, W., 27.4.71	H. L. Ewen
148	29.4.71	Ayr, 29.7.71	H. P. Stewart
149	15.5.71	London, S.E., 21.7.71	P. P. Wood
150	30.5.71	Leith, 21.8.71	H. W. Harrison
151	14.11.71	Glasgow, 13.12.71	S. G. Dudley
152	"	London, 2.1.72	H. L. Ewen
153	27.12.71	Swansea, 5.3.72	"
154	30.1.72	Reigate, 26.4.72	A. W. Chambers
155	20.4.72	"	H. L. Ewen
156	24.4.72	Glasgow, 18.6.72	"
157	"	Craven Arms, 31.7.72	J. C. Rowley
158	4.5.72	Barton, 9.8.72	J. Mitchley
159	17.8.72	London, S.E., 9.11.72	H. W. Harrison
160	"	Edinburgh, 4.10.72	W. D. Roebuck
161	17.9.72	Liverpool, ? 72	H. P. Stewart
162	26.10.72	Manchester, 6.12.72	P. P. Wood
163	5.11.72	Bristol, 9.1.73	"
164	30.11.72	Newtown, Mont., 21.2.73	J. C. Rowley
165	17.1.73	Bristol, 13.7.73	P. P. Wood
166	18.1.73	London, W.C., 27.5.73	"
167	8.2.73	Bromley, 7.4.73	H. P. Stewart
168	8.5.73	Bute Docks, 13.8.73	H. W. Harrison
169	21.6.73	Leamington, 8.9.73	A. W. Chambers
170	11.10.73	Lincoln, 28.1.74	G. Verméeren
171	27.10.73	Manchester, 9.1.74	H. P. Stewart
172	"	Liverpool, ? 73	"
173	2.4.74	Abergavenny, 26.7.74	C. F. D. Marshall
174	20.4.74	H. Heath, 17.7.74	P. P. Wood
175	5.9.74	"	H. L. Ewen
176	12.12.74	Ryde, 13.5.75	C. F. D. Marshall
177	29.12.74	Newnham, 3.6.75	"

Plate No.	Plate put to press.	Record (Earliest date of use).	Record-holder.
178	1.2.75	London, S.W., 14.4.75	H. G. S. Fell
179	15.5.74	Mallow, 31.8.75	C. F. D. Marshall
180	25.5.75	Tewkesbury, 19.8.75	P. P. Wood
181	26.5.75	Huddersfield, 22.10.75	J. J. Thorp
182	19.9.75	Manchester, 1.8.75	G. Gaffe
183	9.8.75	"	Miss C. Hoblyn
184	20.10.75	London, S.W., 6.3.76	A. W. Chambers
185	4.12.75	Birmingham, 12.2.76	P. P. Wood
186	18.12.75	Manchester, 12.2.76	G. Gaffe
187	3.1.76	York, 9.3.76	P. P. Wood
188	8.1.76	London, S.E., 4.3.76	C. F. D. Marshall
189	"	Aylesbury, 6.3.76	P. P. Wood
190	31.1.76	London, 24.3.76	G. Verméeren
191	19.2.76	Maidenhead, 8.5.76	P. P. Wood
192	"	Lisburn, 25.4.76	Miss C. Hoblyn
193	2.9.76	London, W., 11.11.76	P. P. Wood
194	13.11.76	London, W.C., 24.1.77	C. F. D. Marshall
195	18.11.76	London, W., 8.1.77	"
196	15.1.77	Chatham, 2.4.77	"
197	20.1.77	Holloway, N., 9.3.77	A. W. Chambers
198	27.1.77	London, 22.5.77	P. P. Wood
199	5.2.77	Bristol, 24.4.77	"
200	3.3.77	Newcastle, 7.6.77	G. Gaffe
201	21.4.77	Wallingford, 4.6.77	C. F. D. Marshall
202	19.5.77	Goole, 31.7.77	G. Verméeren
203	"	London, W.C., 27.8.77	"
204	23.6.77	Tewkesbury, 8.9.77	P. P. Wood
205	8.9.77	Rochester, 3.12.77	"
206	"	Reigate, 22.12.77	A. W. Chambers
207	12.11.77	Cork, 29.1.78	G. Gaffe
208	17.11.77	London, E.C., 30.1.78	P. P. Wood
209	24.11.77	Wellington, Salop, 20.1.78	C. F. D. Marshall
210	8.12.77	Brighton, 6.2.78	"
211	16.3.78	London, 26.4.78	"
212	20.5.78	Lombard St., 20.7.78	G. Gaffe
213	1.7.78	Tewkesbury, 14.10.78	P. P. Wood
214	6.8.78	London, 1.10.78	C. F. D. Marshall
215	"	Neath, 14.10.78	H. G. S. Fell
216	2.9.78	Edinburgh, 15.11.78	W. D. Roebuck
217	23.11.78	"	Miss C. Hoblyn
218	30.11.78	Scarborough, 31.12.78	H. P. Stewart
219	11.1.79	Leeds, 13.3.79	W. D. Roebuck
220	"	Windsor, 9.3.79	A. W. Chambers
221	3.4.79	London, S.W., ? 6.79	G. Verméeren
222	6.5.79	Oxford, 17.8.79	H. G. S. Fell
223	21.6.79	London, 16.9.79	W. D. Roebuck
224	23.6.79	London, 10.9.79	"
225	27.10.79	London, 16.1.80	H. L. Ewen

### LIST OF COMPETITORS.

MR. P. P. WOOD STILL HEADS THE LIST.  
The following is a summary of the number of records held by the principal competitors on three of the dates on which the complete list has been published. Every stamp bearing a record date has been carefully examined by the Editor.

	Mch. 24, 1900.	Ap. 6, 1901.	Dec. 21, 1901.
P. P. Wood	35	40	39
H. P. Stewart	"	15	15
C. F. D. Marshall	29	15	20
G. Gaffe	3	14	14
W. Denison Roebuck	34	11	10
H. L. Ewen	4	12	11
O. Firth	14	7	7
H. W. Harrison	"	7	6
G. Verméeren	"	6	6

Most plate-numbers appear to have been issued very shortly after being put to press, the following records being the nearest:—

29 days.	Plate 151, S. G. Dudley.
21 "	Plate 218, H. P. Stewart.
38 "	Plate 116, G. Gaffe.
41 "	Plate 162, P. P. Wood.
41 "	Plate 211, C. F. D. Marshall.
43 "	Plate 182, G. Gaffe.
46 "	Plate 138, P. P. Wood.

On the other hand, the earliest dates yet recorded for the following plates numbers are exceptionally late. No doubt, however, the diligence of our readers will soon result in their being considerably improved upon.

177 days.	Plate 165, P. P. Wood.
175 "	Plate 108, C. F. D. Marshall.
167 "	Plate 133, G. Gaffe.
156 "	Plate 177, C. F. D. Marshall.
150 "	Plate 176, C. F. D. Marshall.
149 "	Plate 181, P. P. Wood.
144 "	Plate 125, P. P. Wood.
138 "	Plate 184, A. W. Chambers.
129 "	Plate 166, P. P. Wood.

The tables of records for plate-numbers of other values will be found in the following numbers of *E.W.S.N.*:—

3d., 14d., 2d.	No. 80, page 55.
24d.	No. 22, page 99.
3d.	No. 22, page 99.
4d.	No. 24, page 115.

Several of the records were broken subsequently, the new dates being given in *E.W.S.N.*, Vol. III., No. 32, p. 33, and No. 38, p. 79.

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THE PUBLISHER.

# Ewen's Weekly Stamp News.

With which is incorporated EWEN'S WEEKLY CIRCULAR. (Established October, 1897.)

A JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

THE ONLY WEEKLY STAMP PAPER PUBLISHED IN EUROPE.

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No. 118. (VOL. VII.)  
(Whole Number, No. 204.)

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1901.

[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

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The Week's News. Foreign Extracts.  
Our Postcard Column. Stamps at Auction.  
Colonial Stamp Market. Cyprus "½" Piastre.

## The Week's News.

The Editor will be much obliged for Early Information of New Issues, or of Discoveries of interest to Stamp Collectors, and will have pleasure in forwarding the sender of every accepted contribution several interesting newly issued stamps.

The index number and serial letter after the title of each paragraph indicate the issue of E.W.S.N. in which the last reference to that country appeared.

**GREAT BRITAIN (H 115).**—The first of King Edward's stamps are to appear on Wednesday next, January 1st.

Adhesives. ½d. green.  
1d. carmine.  
2½d. lilac on blue?  
6d. lilac (purple).

Doubtless all post offices, or at any rate all the principal ones throughout the kingdom, will receive their supplies on the preceding day or even earlier, so that it may be just possible a few examples may get postmarked during 1901.

**ANGOLA (B117).**—Remainders. The exact number of the remainders to be offered by auction in February next, is stated by the *Diario de Noticias* to be as follows:—

Value.	Quantity.	Catalogue.	Forecast.
5 reis, black	12,565	1½d.	2d.
10 " green	58,205	3d.	2d.
20 " carmine	2,419	3d.	4d.
25 " violet	16,184	4d.	4d.
40 " chocolate	169,931	10d.	2d.
50 " blue	19,023	7d.	4d.
100 " brown	32,153	1/0	4d.
200 " lilac	130,002	2/6	4d.
300 " orange	131,588	3/6	4d.

The stamps are all of the second issue, 1886, with embossed Head of Don Suiz I. We append Catalogue prices and a forecast of what the values may be if the remainders come on to the market in quantity.

**BELGIUM (D 114).**—Parcel Post Stamps. The third issue of parcel post stamps is to be augmented shortly by the addition of five new values. Messrs. Yvert & Tellier's new catalogue lists a set of nine, 10, 15, 20, 50, 60, 80c., 1, 2fr.—and according to the *Revue Philatélique Belge*, the following additions are to be made, 30, 40, 70, 90c., 3 francs.

Parcel Post Stamps. Current type (1895).  
30c. orange | 90c. bright red  
40c. dark green | 3fr., black  
70c. dark blue

**BOLIVIA (C 115).**—Stationery. In addition to the four new adhesive postage stamps recently described, we have now to chronicle the following stationery.

Envelopes, on yellow paper.  
5 centavos, red.  
10 " dark blue.  
20 " violet, black centre.  
New wrappers, on yellow paper.  
5 centavos, carmine.  
6 " orange.

**CANADA (A 108).**—This colony has generally been cited as most likely to be one of the first to issue a series of new stamps with portrait of King Edward. We have official authority for the statement that up to December 10th "no steps have been taken in regard to a change in the stamp issue."

On the other hand the Queen's Head series appear to be running out of stock. Not long since the Colonial Market was unable to obtain any 10c. stamps, and from another source we learn that the 3c. and 6c. cannot be had. Will these values be reprinted or will the gaps be filled by surcharging? We should not be surprised if not Canada alone, but many other Colonies, resorted to this method of getting rid of surplus stocks. In several cases Colonies are known to have at least 5 or 10 years' supplies of particular stamps.

**CANTON (C 111).**—The 15c. grey Indo-China as well as the 15c. blue has been overprinted 'Canton' (see lists in E.W.S.N. Nos. 107 and 111).

Adhesive. Surcharged in red.  
"Canton" on Indo-China, 15c. grey.

**CAPE VERDE (B 117).**—Remainders.—The D.B.Z. states that the following quantities of stamps of the 1886 issue are to be sold by auction on February 21st next year.

Value.	Quantity.	Catalogue.	Forecast.
5 reis, black	20,693	2d.	2d.
10 " green	49,314	3d.	2d.
20 " red	93,554	3d.	2d.
25 " violet	13,884	4d.	4d.
40 " brown	5,058	6d.	4d.
50 " blue	41,952	9d.	4d.
100 " brown	[49,000]	1/3	4d.
200 " lilac	[90,000]	2/0	4d.
300 " orange	98,664	3/0	4d.

The 100 and 200 reis are not to be sold, but it is believed are being held over till a later auction so as to induce the buyer of the above to bid for another lot which may be then offered. The Portuguese officials have very naive ideas of the value of the stamps and mention 10% over face as being likely to be realised! 10% of face value is nearer the mark, but still a great deal too much.

**CARTAGENA (C 115).**—New provisionals. The two new 1c. and 2c. stamps described in E.W.S.N. Nos. 112 and 115 are already obsolete. *Mekel's Weekly* chronicles two more provisionals similar in design but lithographed in blue and brown respectively, instead of in black on white and red paper.

Adhesives. Pin perforated.  
1c. light blue.  
2c. light brown.

They are surcharged in red with chains, 14½ links in length, each chain covering five stamps.

**CHILE (J 116).**—The *Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal* states that the 5c. value of the new series has already made its appearance. It is somewhat like the Southern Nigerian stamps in design and still bears a portrait of Columbus, beardless this time.

Postage Adhesive. 5c. clear ultramarine, perf. 12

The stamps are printed by the American Bank Note Company of New York, in sheets of 100, arranged in 10 rows of 10.

**DUTCH INDIES (A).**—A new series of low values is about to appear here. It is very similar in design to the current low values of Holland; oblong, with figure of value in centre. So far we have the following only, but *Nederlandsch Tijdschrift* states that the following were all exported to the Indies in November—½c. violet, 2c. brown-red, 2½c. green, 3c. orange, 5c. carmine-red.

There are also two new postcards, one bearing a stamp of 5c. similar in design to the new 1c. adhesive, and the other a stamp of 7½c. in the old design and a new colour.

Postcards.—5c. carmine on rose card (new type).  
7½c. lilac-grey on white card (old type).

*Der Philatelist* also chronicles a 7½c. postcard with stamp in the small oblong type, like the 5c.

Postcard, 7½c. grey on white.  
Adhesive, perf. 12.  
1c. olive-green.

**FRANCE (H 114).**—Millésimes.—In E.W.S.N. No. 112 we chronicled the 1 and 4c. of the current issue with date-figure 1, and asked for particulars of any others which might have been issued. M. Cayetano Cervigon has now kindly obliged. Only seven values have as yet appeared with figure 1, namely the 1c., 2c., 4c., 5c., 10c., 15c., and 25c. The rest still have "0."

**GERMANY (E 114).**—Postcard. The 2pf. card is reported by *L'Echo de la T.* to have a watermark, consisting of the letters SIS placed one below the other.

**LABUAN (C 105).**—As in the case of North Borneo, we have two new values to chronicle.

Adhesives. Stamps of North Borneo surcharged at top "Labuan" in black. Perf. "Waterlow."  
10c. lilac-grey, centre dark brown (Honey-bear).  
16c. brown, centre green (train).

**NEW HEBRIDES (A).**—*L'Echo de la Timbrologie* states that a regular postal service has been established between the New Hebrides and Noumea, and predicts a new issue of stamps in the near future.

**NICARAGUA (E 115).**—Having cancelled its contract with Sr. Asenjo, this republic seems to be getting very hard up for stamps. The regular 1900 issue appears to have been used up, at any rate the low values. The peso values were then surcharged, to be followed by the unpaid letter stamps of 1900, surcharged "Correos, 1901." The *I.B.Z.* now states that most of these provisional stamps having been bought up by New York and Parisian dealers, the natives are again left without the wherewithal to frank their correspondence. This time it is the service stamps which have come to the rescue. The new series inscribed "Oficial" at each side, which appeared in 1900, is now allowed to be used postally up to and including the 20c. value (*i.e.*, 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 20 centavos). It is perhaps somewhat remarkable that they are not surcharged in any way, but perhaps the officials at Managua are at last getting tired of having their stamps bought up by dealers.

The 2c. on 1c. error, described in our issue of July 13th (see also No. 115), is stated to be little better than a private speculation. About 800 to 1,000 were printed, and although never authorized, the postmaster is stated to have allowed them to be "issued" to a speculator.

The 30 and 50c. envelopes and 2 and 3c. wrappers are unobtainable at the Post Office, although specimens are to be had "by favour." Of the wrappers, it is stated, the public were actually permitted to have about 100 of each, but none are now in issue; *sie schlummern irgendwo in den Kisten*, states our contemporary.

**NORTH BORNEO (G 117).**—Two new values have been issued. Both are very handsome in design and appearance, and worthy of a place in the current set. The stamps are oblong in shape, and are inscribed "State of North Borneo" at top (with "Postage and Revenue" in smaller letters, immediately beneath,) and "Ten Cents" or "Sixteen Cents" at foot, with figures of value in each corner and native inscription at either side. In the centre of the 10c. is a representation of the Honey-bear, walking along the branch of a tree, and on 16c. we have an express train apparently about to dash into a flourishing tree growing at the left-hand side.

Adhesives. Perf. "Waterlow."  
10c. lilac-grey, centre dark brown (Honey-bear).  
16c. brown, centre dark green (train).

It is a matter of surprise that neither stamp is overprinted "British Protectorate," but no doubt this omission will be 'discovered' and rectified in due course.

**PATIALA (B 116).**—The 6 annas service is reported to be obsolete.

**ST. HELENA (A).**—Remainders.—As is well-known, the remainders of the old surcharged line-engraved issue, after being offered unsuccessfully for sale in London *en bloc*, were shipped back to the Colony, and have been on sale side by side with the De la Rue types. The supply of the 1d. value has now been exhausted, and none are to be had in the island.

**SERVIA (C 113).**—The D.B.Z. states that the provisional 10 on 20 para of 1900, has been reprinted. In the new printing, the figures of value are slightly larger, but owing to the letters of "PARA" being placed closer together, the whole surcharge measures only 14 mm. instead of 15 mm. in length.

Adhesive. 10 para on 20 para, larger figure of value.

**SURINAM (A).**—As in the case of the Dutch Indies, Surinam will probably shortly have a series of low values similar in type to the current set of Holland. So far we have one value of which to record the actual issue.

Adhesive. ½c. pale-violet, perf. 12½.

**TRINIDAD (E 107).**—Latest advices state that the three new adhesives chronicled in E.W.S.N. of October 12th are to be issued on Wednesday next, January 1st.

**UGANDA (B 105).**—The new King's Head series of postage stamps is to be increased by the addition of two new values, writes a correspondent. The present set with portrait of Queen Victoria comprises seven values, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 8 annas, 1 and 5 rupees, and there is no stationery. The new series will probably have in addition adhesives of ½ and 2½ annas post,

cards of  $\frac{1}{2}$  and 1 anna, and a registration envelope of 2 annas.

It is stated upon good authority that, pending the arrival of the supplies with portrait of King Edward, a provisional issue will be made by surcharging the corresponding adhesives, cards and envelopes of British East Africa.

It is somewhat strange that the  $\frac{1}{2}$  anna value should not have appeared some time ago, as there is such a general tendency now-a-days for full sets.

**VIRGIN ISLES (A).** — *Postcard.* — The *Weekly Philatelic Era* states that the new  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. card in the Virgin type was issued about the middle of October. It measures 121 x 74mm.

## Stamps at Auction.

December 10th, 11th and 12th. Messrs. Puttick and Simpson.

- 73 Ceylon, imperf. 6d. claret, unused in mint state, cut close at right side ... £7/10/1  
 74 Orange River, V.R.I., 6d. carmine, no stop after V, mint ... £7/5/-  
 75 G.B., six £1 green, used, fine ... 23/-  
 76 Pahang, 1897 provisionals, with MS. surch. '2' and '3' in red, on half of 5c. blue, in blocks, on piece of original, 25 for ... £5/5/-

December 5th and 6th. Messrs. Ventom, Bull and Cooper.

- 77 Sierra Leone, 1884, 6d. brown-purple, on blued paper, mint ... 16/-  
 78 Do., 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 2/- Provisional, 1897, mint ... 67/6  
 79 Jamaica, 1861, half a 1d. blue, used on entire as  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. ... 14/-  
 80 Fiji Islands, 6c. with Gothic V.R., unused and fine ... 27/-  
 81 New Zealand, half a 1/- green, 1856, blue paper, used on front of envelope as 6d., fine ... £6/10/-

December 16th, 17th and 18th. Messrs. Plumridge & Co. (98th, 99th and Centenary Sales).

- 82 British Bechuanaland, 'Protectorate 4d.' in red on 4d. lilac, the error 4 appearing as ' $\frac{1}{2}$ ,' mint ... 21/-  
 83 B.C.A., 1898, 1d. in red on 3/- black and green, a creased horizontal pair with gum, one stamp the error 'PENN' ... 14/-  
 84 British Guiana, 1862, provisional, rouletted, 1c. black on rose with border of pearls, a superb mint copy with roulettes complete ... £26  
 85 Cape Triangular, 1d. rose-red, a superb mint large margined pair ... 42/-  
 86 Do., 6d. slate, very fine, unused ... 57/6  
 87 Do., 1/- yellow-green, with gum, v.f. ... £4/5/-  
 88 Do., 1/- deep green, superb mint corner block of four ... £15/15/-  
 89 Do., De la Rue print, 1d. blood-red, pair ... £4  
 90 Do., do., superb corner block of four, mint ... £7/10/-  
 91 Do., 4d. slate-blue, block of four, mint ... £5/5/-  
 92 Do., 6d. mauve, mint block of four ... £10  
 93 Do., 1/- deep emerald-green, mint pr. ... £13  
 94 Do., 1/- pale emerald-green, mint pr. ... £11/11/-  
 95 Mafeking, 1d. on Bechuanaland Protectorate  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. vermilion, surch. inverted, v.f. on piece ... £9  
 96 Gold Coast, £1 green and red, unused, dirty ... £4/5/-  
 97 Orange Free State, "Halve Penny" on 3d. double surcharge, one inverted, v.f. ... £2  
 98 Orange River Colony, V.R.I. level stops, pane of 60 1d. violet, showing dotless V variety ... £7 5/-  
 99 Transvaal, V.R.I. inverted.  
 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. used, v.f. ... 9/- & 10/-  
 1d. " v.f. ... 8/- & 9/-  
 2d. " on envelope ... 24/-  
 2d. mint, unused ... 22/-  
 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. used, on envelope ... 44/-  
 1/- used, v.f. ... 12/- to 14/-  
 100 Schweizer Reneke,  $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d. and 2d. used, on pieces of envelope ... 9/-  
 101 Transvaal, E.R.I.  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 2d., five mint sheets of 60 ... 21/-  
 102 Trinidad, 1896, 10/- mint ... 67/6  
 103 " 10/- mint block of 5 ... £16  
 104 Zanzibar on India.  
 2a. twice surcharged, mint ... 38/-  
 5r. " " (once inv.) mint ... £3  
 105 Zululand, 5/-carmine, mint ... 65/- & 75/-  
 106 Ditto, a mint pair ... 115/-  
 107 Ditto, used on piece of original ... 65/-  
 108 Zululand on Natal Revenue Stamp £20, a very rare fiscal ... 20/-

December 19th and 20th. Messrs. Ventom, Bull and Cooper.

- 109 Malta, 4d. imperf. pair, mint ... £9  
 110 B.E.A. 1891-94.  
 $\frac{1}{2}$ a. in black on 2a. red ... 85/-  
 $\frac{1}{2}$ a. in violet on 2a. red ... 80/-  
 1a. in violet on 4a. brown ... 130/-

## Foreign Extracts.

Extract from "I francobolli del Regno d'Italia."

La provvista di questi francobolli [Emissione Vittorio Emanuele II., 1863] venne eseguita dalla Casa De la Rue di Londra, che per effetto del contratto 28 aprile 1863 ne fornì al Governo italiano, al prezzo di 9 pence per ogni migliaio, le seguenti quantità:

Da	1 centesimo N.	27,700,000
"	5 centesimi "	11,150,000
"	10 "	11,044,100
"	15 "	41,400,000
"	30 "	3,681,200
"	40 "	4,880,500
"	60 "	464,400
"	2 lire "	400,000

Totale N. 100,720,200

E quanto al merito di questi francobolli ci sembra superfluo spendere parole, giacchè di giorno in giorno ce ne dobbiamo convincere col semplice confronto dei tipi successivamente emessi. Basterà ricordare che in un documento ufficiale del 1864 se ne dava il seguente giudizio:

"Nel dicembre decorso vennero emessi i nuovi francobolli fabbricati a cura del Ministero delle finanze i quali, e per finezza d'incisione e per colorito, poco lasciano a desiderare, attalchè vanno meritamente annoverati fra i più belli che si conoscano." (Rivista del Francobollo.)

\* \* \*

Si la rareté d'un timbre constitue l'un de ses plus grands attraites aux yeux du collectionneur, il est facile d'expliquer l'engouement dont sont l'objet, de l'autre côté de la Manche, les *Railway Letter Stamps*. On en cite certains dont trois exemplaires seulement sont venus jusqu'à nous, et, à côté de ces pièces rarissimes, beaucoup d'autres auxquelles un tout petit tirage assure un brillant avenir philatélique.

Ces timbres sent à peu près inconnus aux collectionneurs français; en Angleterre même, il n'y a que trois ou quatre ans qu'on en parle, et beaucoup moins longtemps encore qu'on s'en occupe. Il est évident cependant que bientôt ces vignettes apparaitront sur le marché philatélique international et que dès maintenant tous les collectionneurs ont intérêt à les connaître.

(L'Echo de la Timbrologie.)

\* \* \*

La série Canton a assez de succès. L'un des timbres qui la composent est particulièrement recherché. Elle renferme deux 15, l'un bleu et l'autre gris, et c'est le bleu que'on accapare par suite de la croyance dans la quelle on est que ce timbre est épuisé.

On tire, en ce moment, la surcharge Pékin, toujours sur la série Indo-Chinoise. Peut-être y aura-t-il ensuite Shanghai. C'est la question chinoise qui se développe avec ses conséquences.

\* \* \*

Une correspondance de Nouvelle-Calédonie nous fait connaître qu'un service postal régulier vient d'être établi entre l'archipel des Nouvelles-Hébrides et Nouméa. On peut donc s'attendre à voir, un de ces jours, surgir quelque nouveauté philatélique du côté des antipodes.

(L'Echo de la Timbrologie.)

A prize of a Complete Set of the New North Borneo "British Protectorate" stamps, from 1c. to 24c., is offered to the reader who points out the most mistakes in the above foreign extracts before New Year's Day. We have endeavoured to make the paragraphs correct, but there may be a mistake here and there we have overlooked.

## Our Postcard Column.

WILL readers hearing of any interesting item of News, kindly jot it down on a postcard and address to the Editor, "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News," Norwood, London. For every contribution we publish, we will send the author an interesting and newly issued stamp. (N.B.—Postcards preferred).

*Mr. G. Fox writes:*—

"With reference to the two-penny black, Messrs. Wright and Creeke's book (pp. 22, 23) states that the 1840 1d. and 2d. stamps were printed both in black and blue. Specimens of the 1d. blue exist, possibly of the 2d. black also."

*Capt. Halford writes:*—

"With regard to postcard column, re distance apart of O.S. in New South Wales 1871-83 service value. I have the following:—

1d. red, perf.	11 x 12	} The space between O.S. is about 7mm. in all these.
" " "	10	
2d. blue, "	11 x 12	
3d. green "	10	
4d. brown "	11 x 12	
6d. lilac "	10	
6d. lilac "	12 x 10	
1/- black "	11 x 12	

Gibbons note says the variety of space is '9 $\frac{1}{2}$  instead of 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm.' Is not this a mistake for '5 $\frac{1}{2}$  instead of 7mm.' as in the illustration the letters O.S. are 7mm. apart. All 1888 to 1892 issues seem to be 7mm."

(MYSTERY OF THE 2D. BLACK.)

*Mr. H. B. Buckland writes:*—

"I see in your issue of 14th the article on 'Mystery of the 2d. Black,' and as I am the 'friend' of the possessor of these two very rare stamps it may perhaps interest your readers if I give you a little of the history of them as far as is known, as I see you have got your information from the gentleman I wrote to in connection with it in London.

"I have a moderate collection of about 10,000, but my friend is not what you can call a philatelist, and had only got a few hundred together for his little son. Meeting him one day he told me he had a lot of old letters to destroy and found that there were a lot of old stamps on them, and amongst them he found two black 2d. English. I told him he had made a mistake and backed up my opinion with a bet. Next day he brought one down and showed it to me, and after careful examination with a powerful microscope, I had to pay up and look pleasant. I then showed it to one of the best collectors in the North, who likewise said it was undoubtedly genuine and a very great rarity. My friend has since shown it to the gentleman who wrote and told you it was no more oxidised than himself, which I fully endorse.

"I have tried to get some information concerning the date of the issue and how many there were issued, from the Postmaster-General, but the reply I got was that as they were out of issue, he deeply regretted the information I asked for could not be given. There was no denial that such a stamp had ever been issued, so I think we may safely assume that it was. Up to the present my friend seems to be the only lucky possessor of any of them, so you will readily see that he does not care about risking a stamp, that is worth hundreds of pounds, out of his personal possession, as if anything happened to it he would hardly like to blame me, and on second thoughts I think he was right. When he is at liberty we will probably both come to London and let you see it. It is as perfectly black as the best impressions of the black penny, and on white paper watermarked with large crown. All the letters he had to destroy were about 1851 to 1855, but unfortunately my friend not knowing sufficiently about stamps took them off the envelope. As I told "the member of the Philatelic Society" in one of my letters my friend is a man who would not even think of, and not do, such a thing as to treat the stamp so as to turn it black. I have to-day seen another gentleman who offered £100 cash for it, and I think he is justified in refusing it.

"I may say that amongst some stamps I got the other day I found a 70 plate 1d., the O is not very clear, but the general printing of the stamp varies considerably from any of the other seventies, which makes me certain it is a 70 and not a 76 or 79 badly printed. I, of course, know this is a vexed point, hence my mentioning it."

[We will give a further reply to Mr. Buckland next week, but may mention here that the Postmaster-General could hardly be expected to have a scientific philatelic knowledge, and that we must adhere to our opinion that the "errors" are merely oxidised.]—ED.]

## Cyprus $\frac{1}{2}$ Piastre.

THE Editor of the *Stamp Collector* recently set his readers the question given below. We append it together with the very interesting reply sent in by the Rev. P. E. Raynor.

Why have the 1881-82 CC and CA half piastre stamps of Cyprus received the seemingly useless additional surcharge of " $\frac{1}{2}$ "; and why twice? Surely the stamps were not intended to be cut, each half passing for a half piastre value?

It was discovered by the authorities that the colour of the half piastre green could, by means of acid, damp, &c., be easily changed to a blue, resembling that of the 2 piastre stamps, and thus made to pass for that value; so it was officially recommended that the remainder of the stock should be surcharged with ' $\frac{1}{2}$ ,' in large black figures, on each side of the Queen's head. The position of the surcharge at the side was apparently to avoid defacing the Queen's head, and the repetition of the surcharge merely a concession to symmetry, not with any idea of cutting the stamps in half. It seems to have been the intention of the Postal Authorities to change the type or colour when the existing stock was exhausted; but they must have thought better of it, and regarded the danger of tampering with the colour as exaggerated. At any rate, the next supply was unsurcharged; though possibly the dull green colour was considered less liable to be altered than the original emerald green (see also *Phil. Record* Vol. IV., pp. 93 and 125.)

[Perhaps the dull green was the result of experiments showing that it was less liable to turn blue; after repeatedly surcharging, the authorities would hardly have re-issued the stamp in green without being assured that the risk of the colour changing had been minimised.]—ED. E.W.S.N.]



**FOREIGN ARRIVALS.**

(NOTE.—Most foreign stamps are almost as good an investment in mint unused condition as those issued by British Colonies, if purchases are made with care, and countries like Abyssinia, Persia, Nicaragua, Honduras, etc., are ignored. That there is a good market for unused foreigners is evidenced by the fact that a collection consisting entirely of unused Europeans recently sold for £30,000).

**Bosnia.**  
35 heller, cornflower-blue, nett 5d.  
20 heller, perf. 11½, nett 3d.; block of 4, 11d.  
**Sweden,** 25 öre, wmk. Crown inverted, 5d.  
**Venezuela,** surch. "Resellada-Castro" inverted.  
5c. green, mint, 1/-; block of 4, 4/-.  
**Cartagena Provisionals.**  
1 centavo, black on white, 1d.  
**Greece,** Small Head of Mercury.  
1 lepton, brown, 1d.; block of 4, 1d.  
2 lepta, bistre, 1d.; block of 4, 2d.  
5 " green, 1d.; block of 4, 3d.  
10 " orange, 2d.; block of 4, 6d.  
**Greek Provisionals,** surcharged on old types.  
*Large Head of Mercury.*  
30 on 40 lepta, 5d.\*  
40 on 2 " 5d.\*  
50 on 40 " buff, 6d.\*  
3dr. on 10 lepta, 2/9.  
5dr. on 40 lepta, lilac on blue, 3/9.

\*NOTE.—Pairs can be supplied, showing wide and narrow "O," 1/- each.  
*Small Head of Mercury.*  
1dr. on 40 lepta, violet, 1/- (imperf.)  
2dr. on 40 " " 1/9 (perf. 13).  
*Olympian Games (Axia Metallika).*  
25l. on 40 lepta, nett 5d.  
50l. on 2dr. stone, nett 10d.  
1dr. on 5dr. green, nett 1/3.  
2dr. on 10dr. brown, nett 2/6.

(N.B.—The numbers given are those of the Universal Standard Catalogue, 1902 edition).

(a) *Venezuela, 1899, Unsurcharged.*

	USED.
121	5c. blue-green ... —
122	10c. red ... —
123	25c. blue ... 2d.
124	50c. black ... —
125	1 bol. green ... —
126	2 bol. orange ... —

(b) *1900, Surcharged "Resellada R.F.M."*

127	5c. blue-green ... —
128	10c. red ... —
129	25c. blue ... 4d.
130	50c. black ... 4d.
131	1 bol. green ... 8d.
132	2 bol. orange ... —

(c) *1900, Surch. "Resellada, Castro, 1900."*

133	5c. blue-green ... 2d.
134	10c. red ... —
135	25c. blue ... 4d.

(d) *1900, Surch. "1900" only.*

136	50c. yellow ... 6d.
137	1 bol. black ... 9d.

**P ru.** Issues of 1896-1901.  
110 22c. green and black ... 2d.  
111 50c. rose ... 5d.  
**United States,** surcharged "Porto Rico."  
176 1c. green ... 1d.  
177 2c. carmine... 2d.  
178 5c. blue ... 3d.  
179 8c. puce ... 6d.  
180 10c. brown ... 6d.  
**Port Said,** surcharged on French, old type.  
1c. black on blue, pair with mill. o, nett 2d.

**China,** surcharged on French, old type.  
5c. yellow-green, pair with mill. o, nett 3d.  
**France,** "Chiffre Taxe"  
1c. black, 5c. blue, 10c. brown, set of 3, nett 3d.  
**Belgium,** unpaid.  
Set of 5, 5, 10, 20, 50c. 1fr., nett 1/11.  
**Belgium,** Sunday stamps.  
Set of ten, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 25, 35, 50c., 1, 2fr., nett, 4/5.

**Luxemburg,** 1fr. violet, (old type), nett 2/-; 5fr. orange-brown (old type), nett 5/10.  
**Denmark,** new 24 öre, brown, nett 5d.  
**Sweden,** New 25 öre, orange, nett 5d.  
**Finland,** 1901, 1 markka, nett 1/3.  
**Finland,** 1889 type, 2, 5, 10, 20, 25p., 1m., set of 6, 2/3.

**Hungary,** 1900, values in filléres.  
25f., blue and black, nett 4d.  
30f., brown and black, nett 4d.  
50f., lake and black, nett 6d.  
60f., green and black, nett 8d.  
**Roumania,** 5, 10, 15 bani, set of three, 4d.  
**Cuba,** pictorial set, 1, 2, 3, 5, 10c., nett 1/3.  
**Sweden,** low values, 1, 2, 3, 4 öre, set of 4, 2d.  
**Siam,** 1901, head to left.  
2 atts, bright green, nett 1d.; block of 4, 3d.

**Siam provisional,** 3 on 12 atts, 1½d. each.  
**Japan,** new, 1½ sen blue, 1d. each; block of 4, 3d.  
**Bolivia,** 1899, used, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20c., set of 5, 6d.  
**Bolivia,** 10c. orange, nett 1d. (used).  
" 20c. rose (cat. 6d.), nett 2d. (used).  
**Bolivia,** surch. "EF 1899" on 1894 issue (used).  
5c. violet on green, nett 2d.  
10c. violet on brown, nett 3d.

**Chile,** old type, 15c. green, fine, used, 2d.  
20c. slate-grey, fine, used, 1d.  
1 peso, black and brown, used, fine, 8d.  
**Chile,** 1900, new 5c. blue, 10c. lilac, 1d. each (used).  
**Costa Rica,** old 10 and 20c. (1892), nett 2d. (used).  
" new 10 and 20c. (1901), nett 5d. (used).  
**Ecuador,** 10c. lilac and black, used, 4d.  
" 10c. blue and black, used, 4d.

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105 2c. dull green, 3d.  
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131 30c. on 36c. blue, inv. pair, 45/- nett, 22/6 each.  
154 15c. sage-green (cat. 8d.) 4d.; block of 4, 1/3.  
156 28c. grey, now obsolete, 8d.  
199 3c. terra-cotta and emerald, 2d.  
200 4c. carmine, 5d.

**GAMBIA.**  
2 4d. brown, imperf., fair, cat. 32/- nett, 20/-  
3 6d. deep blue, imperf., very fine, 30/-  
16 4d. brown, CC. 14, mint, 22/6; well-centred pair, 50/-; mint strip of three, with corner margins, but off-centre, nett 65/-  
35 1/- violet, pair 3/9; block of 4, 7/6

**GOLD COAST.**  
2 4d. mauve, CC. 12½, mint single, 22/6.  
5 1d. blue, CC 14, no gum, 1/3; mint, with value in grey, 1/9.  
4 ½d. olive-yellow, CC14, mint 3/9; pair 8/-.  
9 " " CA14, part gum, 27/-.

**LAGOS**  
1 1d. lilac, CC12½, no gum, fair, 4/6 (cat. 10/-)  
2 2d. blue, CC12½, mint, 11/3; no gum, 10/-.  
4 3d. red-brown and chestnut, CC12½, mint, 21/-.  
9 1s. orange, value long, used, very fair, 11/3.  
10 1d. lilac, CC14, no gum, fair, 2/-.  
12 3d. red-brown, CC14, mint, cat. 45/-, nett, 30/-.  
14 4d. carmine, CC14, mint, rarity, nett, 50/-.  
14A " " CC14, wmk. sideways, unchronicled, used, lightly cancelled, nett, 18/6.  
19 3d. chestnut, CA14, mint, nett, 7/6.  
20 4d. carmine, CA14, mint, 30/-, pink shade, 30/-.  
26 6d. sage-green, 2/3.

**SIERRA LEONE.**  
2 6d. purple, no wmk., perf. 14, bluish paper, mint, 11/-; mint side pair, cat. 40/-, nett, 27/-.  
5 6d. bright violet, no wmk., perf. 14, used, 7/6.  
7 1d. rose-red, wmk. upright, 3/-; inverted, 4/-; sideways, 4/-; inverted and sideways, 4/-.  
8 2d. mauve, CC. 12½, no gum, cat. 40/-, nett 16/-.  
12 1/- green (a), CC. 12½, used, fair, 7/-.  
18 4d. blue, CC. 14, mint, 35/-.  
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A JOURNAL FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

THE ONLY WEEKLY STAMP PAPER  
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Wholesale Publishers: Messrs. W. R. RUSSELL & Co., Ltd., Paternoster Row, London, E.C.

No. 117. (VOL. VII.)  
(Whole Number, No. 203.)

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1901

[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

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[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

## Special Offers of Unused Colonials FOR INVESTMENT PURPOSES.

IN making an investment in Stamps, it is necessary above all not to buy too many of any one Stamp. If a large quantity of one kind are acquired, they will be difficult to realize, owing to the necessity of finding a large number of buyers. If on the other hand, a small quantity of a number of different stamps are put by, they can be realized without difficulty on even a small market. The best way to make money out of Colonial stamps at present is to consider oneself the advance agent of a future generation of collectors, and to put by as many collections of current issues as can be obtained nearly complete. They must be complete or nearly so, or you will perhaps miss just the stamps which have gone up in prices most. About 70 sets are now current and practically all must soon become obsolete. Such a change is absolutely unprecedented in the History of Philately and being on so large a scale, it will be more difficult than ever before for dealers to adequately stock the old sets. Collectors consequently have a better opportunity of catching the market short and making big profits. Speculators who have bought up one or two kinds largely may cause a slump in such, but collectors who follow this advice and spread their investment over the whole of the Colonies have nothing to fear. Experience leads us to recommend the following Collections as the best possible investment for small sums of money.

For £10 10s. od. an almost complete Collection of Colonials can be obtained, containing values up to 1s. and a few over.

(In blocks of four, £42, pairs £21).

For £45 an almost complete collection, including high values up to £1, can be supplied. (In blocks of four, £180; pairs, £90.)

For £650 a unique Collection, containing nearly every present issued Colonial stamp up to 2/- face value can be furnished in complete panes of 60. Some few of the stamps are in sheets of 100 or 120.

The above Collections are all supplied at slightly under our already remarkably low quotations. For a fee of two guineas, they can be supplied neatly mounted in a blank album (one guinea extra, if required with moveable leaves). Otherwise they are supplied unmounted, in small grease-proof envelopes, every stamp being guaranteed in absolutely mint condition, with full gum.

## Ewen's Colonial Stamp Market,

32, Palace Square, Norwood, London, S.E.

# Periodical Sales by Auction

— OF —

## . . . Rare Postage Stamps

— HELD BY —

Messrs.

# VENTOM, BULL & COOPER

(Who originated them in this country) at the

## BLENHEIM ROOM,

## HOTEL CECIL, Strand, LONDON, W.C.

Messrs. VENTOM, BULL & COOPER beg to announce that their Dates of Sales for the next Season will be as under:

1902.—January 9 and 10, and 23 and 24; February 13 and 14, and 27 and 28th; March 13 and 14; April 3 and 4, and 17 and 18; May 1 and 2, and 22 and 23; June 18 and 20.

**January 9th and 10th.**—A fine selection of BRITISH, FOREIGN AND COLONIAL POSTAGE STAMPS, comprising

A very fine Collection of GREAT BRITAIN, mostly used, and including amongst other large blocks one of 8 of the 1/- octagonal, a valuable lot. AFGHANISTAN, value in tablet, 1 rupee purple, strip of 3, unused, and other rare unused strips and blocks, CEYLON, 8d. yellow brown, wmk. Star, unused, mint. BRITISH EAST AFRICA on Company's Stamps, set complete, unused, mint. UNITED STATES, Periodicals, including 60 dollars complete, mint. Fine AUSTRALIAN Reminders, and many others. Also COLLECTIONS.

**January 23rd and 24th.**—A VERY FINE SELECTION, being a portion of a well-known Private Collector's Duplicates, and including the following Rarities:

SPAIN, 1851, 2 reales on piece, and fine blocks of the scarce early issues, 1865, 12cts., with frame inverted MADRID, 1 and 3 cuartos bronze. SAXONY, 3pf red, on piece. Fine MODENA errors. NAPLES, Arms and Cross LEVANT, the two rare provisionals. SWITZERLAND, Basle, Winterthur, &c. CEYLON, 4d. and 1/9, imperforate. CAPE, Woodblocks. Fine MAURITIUS. NEWFOUNDLAND, 4d. carmine. Fine SYDNEY VIEWS. Rare pelure paper NEW ZEALAND. And many others.

**All future Sales will be held at the HOTEL CECIL, STRAND.**

These Sales are attended by all the principal known Collectors and Dealers, and afford the best means of disposing of Collections and Rarities, the prices obtained being most satisfactory to owners. It is advisable that owners desirous of obtaining special days of sale should communicate as early as possible, as the dates are being rapidly filled up.

Owing to the large number of applications that the Auctioneers receive from America and the Continent for their Catalogues, these are issued, when practicable, one month before the date of sale. In order to facilitate this arrangement owners intending to include Stamps should forward them at the earliest possible moment. The greatest care is requisite in the preparation of these Catalogues so that a correct and comprehensive description of the Stamps may be given.

**Valuations made if required. Advances made on Collections pending Realizations, if desired.**

CATALOGUES of all Sales, and Terms, can be had on application to—

# Messrs. VENTOM, BULL & COOPER,

## PHILATELIC DEPARTMENT,

## 35, OLD JEWRY, LONDON, E.C.

Telegraphic Address: "VENTOM," LONDON. Telephone Number, 5076 Bank. Established 1761.