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THE JUNIOR

STAMP NEWS.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY AS THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE JUNIOR PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA.

President: Courtenay Smith. Hon. Sec.: H. R. Johnson, 25 Berry St., North Sydney.

ALSO THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF

THE WELLINGTON JUNIOR PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

THE CHRISTCHURCH JUNIOR STAMP CLUB.

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THE J.S.N.

At the preliminary meeting of the J.P.S.A. it was decided to issue a quarterly bulletin for the guidance of members, but as so many members were elected who reside in distant parts of the Commonwealth and New Zealand, it was soon apparent that a more frequent publication was absolutely essential to the well-being of the Society to form a bond of connection between the members who are unable to attend the monthly meetings. It was therefore decided to publish "The Junior Stamp News" monthly as the official journal of the J.P.S.A., and also of any other junior philatelic society that may desire to join us.

This journal has no intention of competing with any of the existing philatelic journals, neither do we intend to probe deeply into the hidden mysteries of philately—we leave that to the older and more experienced philatelists. Our mission is the education of the beginner, to teach him, or her, the rudiments of stamp collecting, and initiate him into the mysteries and treasures of philately, and to prevent the frequent loss of interest in their stamps shown by young collectors through want of encouragement and support.

As the "News" is published by junior collectors for junior collectors, the contents will consist almost entirely of articles suitable to the novice, such as on the preparation and mounting of stamps, arrangement of collection, explanation of watermarks, perforation and paper, all in simple language suitable for the young collector. A special feature will be the "Queries" column, in which Mr. E. D. E. Van Weenan, a well-known Sydney philatelist, has kindly consented to answer, to the best of his ability, any questions relating to stamp collecting that may be sent in by any of our readers.

It is essential to the success of this journal that we have the practical as well as the moral support of all the members of the Society, and they are now invited

to contribute any items that they may discover during the course of their studies that may be of interest to our readers.

THE J.P.S.A.

Like the Roman, British, and French Empires, the United States, South American, French, and Chinese Republics the "Junior Philatelic Society of Australia" was founded in an irregular way. But it has come to stay.

Its history is briefly this: During the "First Philatelic Congress of Australia," held in Sydney last year, the subject of the education and encouragement of junior collectors was discussed; although the able and useful addresses delivered thereon referred almost wholly to schoolboys. A permanent committee of seven was appointed to deal with the question, and there, so far as the congress was concerned, the matter ended for the time being, as no convener was appointed—a regrettable omission.

One of the committee, however—Mr. Courtenay Smith—who took a very deep interest in the subject decided not to let it drop, but to "take the bull by the horns" and, following the example of Mr. Percy Bishop in the case of the "C.S.S.C.," start a society "on his own."

At a meeting of the Sydney Philatelic Club on October 25, 1911, only a few days after the termination of the Congress, he propounded his scheme and induced a dozen members of the club to put their names down as "pioneer" subscribers. And thus the Society was founded. This action did not meet with universal approval—that goes without saying. But, nevertheless, the Society grew apace, and continues growing. And some who looked askance at Mr. Smith's splendid audacity have since become supporters of the undertaking. However, in consequence of the effects of an accident the founder—who had elected himself president—found the work too much for him single-handed. Therefore, having convened a meeting of

the members, he, on the 13th March, 1912—just six months ago—handed over the affairs of the new Society, having then a membership of fifty, to a duly elected executive and committee.

Their names were as follows: President, Courtenay Smith; vice-president, W. J. McNeill; hon. treasurer, A. N. Crane; committee, H. J. B. Bruce, T. B. Fulton, J. W. Liddy; exchange secretary, Fred Hagen; hon. secretary, H. R. Johnson.

From that day to this the Society has gone ahead, there being a monthly increase in membership of about ten, until now it numbers over 100. The monthly meetings are held in the rooms of Mr. J. W. Liddy, 80, Hunter Street, Sydney, who takes a great interest in the Society, which, also, is very largely indebted to Mr. Fred Hagen for taking charge of the exchange branch, which is admirably conducted.

The annual subscription is the modest one of 1/ a year for members, under 21 and ladies, and 2s. 6d. for adults, this includes a copy of the official journal. A library is in course of formation, and various schemes for the education and encouragement of junior collectors from 15 years of age upwards are simmering in the intelligent minds of the executive.

The first annual meeting will be held at the Society's rooms, 80, Hunter Street, Sydney, on Wednesday, the ninth October, when a large and enthusiastic gathering is hoped for.

WHY WATERMARKS, PERFORATIONS, ETC., SHOULD BE COLLECTED.

By H. G. B. BRUCE.

While showing my collection the other day to a boy of about 15 I was frequently asked, "What is the difference between these two," in reference to stamps which appeared identical to the enquirer. I would reply that this was watermarked Crown and C.C. and that Crown and C.A., or this perforated 11 and that 12½ x 11. "But I don't see what difference that makes to the stamp, they look quite the same," he objected. After some explanation I managed to convince him that there was something in it after all.

Why are different watermarks, perforations, papers, etc., collected is a question so many young collectors ask that it seems as if some explanation should be given especially in a paper primarily intended for the junior collector.

The writer started to collect these differences when young and energetic, for no other purpose than to accumulate more stamps than the other fellow, and I think that is why a good many start, but of course it is no real reason.

Anyone who becomes really interested in his collection soon tires of and throws aside the mere accumulation of numbers

and turns his attention to the study of his stamps, and this really resolves itself into a study of the post-office and its requirements. Take, as an example, a change that the youngest beginner would notice and include in his collection—that of colour.

In 1909 New Zealand issued a set bearing the head of King Edward. Of these the 4d was orange red and the 1/- vermilion, colours which bear a considerable amount of resemblance to each other, and this the postoffice clerks soon discovered. Consequently they had to examine these values more closely in case of any attempted fraud; in pressure of business this became a considerable waste of time and so in 1912 the colour of the 4d was changed to yellow. This change was therefore to enable two stamps of different denominations to be distinguished at a glance.

(To be Continued.)

MY ALBUMS.

A Paper Read Before the J.P.S.A.

By J. P. Whitworth.

It would seem almost unnecessary to say, at the outset of a paper like this, that the Album must be of necessity a secondary consideration in making a collection of stamps; it appears obvious, and yet it has happened, I fancy, at some time or other, to all collectors, to come into contact with some who appear to consider that the reverse is the case. Some method of arrangement and mounting is, of course, required for the effective display, if not the study of the stamps; and, I fancy that few of us would be inclined to put the collector who kept the stamps in boxes, envelopes, or similar places, as taking front rank as a philatelist. On the other hand, we most of us know the other type who has a magnificent Album, costing — (as we are very early informed) oh! so much; and in which are displayed a few torn, dirty, and badly mounted stamps, that simply detract from what is, in itself, a fine specimen of the printer's art.

It is, of course, the collection that the philatelist looks to; the Album is of use and value only as it assists to display, and in the study of the collection.

This much by way of introduction to a few remarks on "My Albums," which, from their very nature, are somewhat personal in character, and necessitate a rather free use of the personal pronoun.

As a school boy I did not collect stamps to any extent, not at all events to the point of an Album. I have a slight recollection of at various times carrying a few foreign stamps in what I suspect must have been a pretty grubby pocket, and swapping them away again for marbles, or tops. I rather think I must have taken them for a bad debt some time or other, for my interest in them was very feeble, and I first took an serious interest in stamp

collecting when I was about 15 years old. My then employer one day showed me his collection, made as a boy, and mounted in one of Stafford Smith's early albums; it was a glorious collection as I recall it now. Early Mauritius, Ceylon, Capes, and Australian, all neatly mounted, every stamp glued down tight, and the edges carefully trimmed. I recollect well taking it up to D. A. Vindin, in the Victoria Arcade, and his remarks when he looked through it, and saw how the value had been destroyed.

But I am forgetting that it is my Albums I am to talk about. Well, as I say, the sight of these stamps, and the talks I had about them started me as a collector; and I made a start—as I fancy most of us did—with an exercise book, which I ruled into spaces with red ink, and wrote in the names of the countries as I obtained stamps to mount.

Shortly after I started collecting, the Centennial issue came into use, and as it was at first thought to be only temporary in nature, high prices were offered for even the low values, and I sent many thousands of them to the U.S., and by this means added both to my collection, and by medium of catalogues and journals, to my knowledge of stamps, so that when I came to think of a new album to relieve my much overcrowded exercise book, I had a fair idea of the various classes that it was possible to obtain. I had a very decided objection to page after page of blank leaves, with only a few scattered stamps sprinkled here and there amongst them; also I disliked, and still do, the Album with illustrations of the stamps in the spaces they are to occupy, they tend to confuse the eye, and stamps of a neutral tint are often missed by being mistaken for an illustration. At the same time I had not arrived at the stage when the blank album appealed. I still had an idea that the Album should act also as a sort of catalogue, providing special spaces for stamps.

(To be Continued.)

THE EXCHANGE BRANCH.

(Fred. Hagen, Secretary.)

The first Exchange Book has completed the circuit, and settlement has been made.

The book was started at the latter end of April, and took slightly less than four and a half months to complete the circuit. Out of a membership of 64 at the time, 24 contributed 80 sheets, of the value of £40/17/8. During the circulation of the book the membership had increased to 101, of whom 81 saw the book. Members removed stamps to the value of £12/14/11, being slightly over 30 per cent, of the gross value. The sheets contained 1984 stamps, of which 782 were taken, nearly 40 per cent, of the amount sent in; some sheets were completely cleared, one contributor sending in 60 stamps, had 83 removed, others sending in 100 stamps (four sheets)

had 72, 73, and 76 stamps removed.

The members are to be congratulated upon these results, which compare very favourably with any obtained by other Australian societies. The great interest taken by the members, and their promptness in the circulation of the book added materially to this result.

The success of the branch is in the hands of the members, promptness in all things is essential. The society is increasing its membership roll by leaps and bounds, and by the observance of the rule, "that the book must not be delayed longer than 24 hours," will enable these books to complete their circuit in reasonable time.

Some of the members unfortunately, have placed too high a value on their stamps, in some cases over catalogue value being marked. Members should remember that the main object is for them to dispose of their duplicates, so as to enable them to procure others. To produce satisfactory results the stamps should be priced below catalogue value, and the greater the reduction the greater will be the sales.

Owing to the rapid growth of the Exchange system it has been suggested by the Exchange Secretary that in the near future the books be divided, one section to be sent to all the Interstate and New Zealand members. By this means the Western Australian members, who in the past have been debarred from seeing the book due to the distance, will then have the same advantages as other members.

There is no doubt that all are keenly interested in the books. Out of a membership of 98 at the time, 32 contributed sheets to the No. 5 Book issued on the 1st September, and three others sent in sheets too late for inclusion, a result which we doubt if any society in Australia can equal.

ELEMENTARY PHILATELY.

(By the Editor.)

Introduction.—As this journal is primarily intended for the beginner, we have decided to set aside each month a short space to be devoted to the elementary principles of stamp collecting.

From experience we have learned that there are many hundreds of collectors, both young and old, who know little or nothing about their stamps, how they were printed, or where they were issued. They may not even know how to mount them properly. They have not, perhaps, seen a philatelic journal, or even a stamp catalogue. It is for these that these notes are intended, and we shall, as far as we are able, explain any matters that need explanation, to guide the beginner past the many pitfalls that beset his path, often turning the attention of one who would otherwise have reached the front rank as a philatelist, into some other channel.

Each month we shall devote a portion of

our space to explaining how to prepare and mount stamps, to albums, watermarks, perforations, paper, printing, etc, the arrangement of a collection, and to the explanation of the various terms used by philatelists.

Starting a Collection.—As the great majority of the readers of these notes will already have some stamps, either loose in boxes and envelopes, or mounted in some old book not suited to the needs of the present owner, it is hardly necessary to say much on this point. For those who have no stamps at all the best method is to buy a packet from a firm of stamp dealers, by which means some hundreds of stamps may be obtained for a few shillings. If this method be adopted care should be taken to go to a reputable firm, so as to be sure of the genuineness and good condition of the stamps. Many of the commoner current issues may be obtained from business friends or correspondents abroad. It is also advisable for the beginner to join some philatelic society, such as the Junior Philatelic Society of Australia, where he has the advantage of seeing the Exchange Books, obtaining advice from older collectors, and of seeing other collections.

(To be continued.)

TO THE EDITOR.

(1) May I be permitted to put the following suggestion before the members of the J.P.S.A., for their opinion. I am a junior collector in experience if not in years, and I often get hold of a stamp that is shown in Gibbons' in several different perforations or colours, and I am in doubt as to which it is; and I expect that there are many other members troubled in the same way. Therefore, I would suggest that the J.P.S.A. elect a small committee from among their more experienced members, to whom we could send our stamps for their advice.

The stamps should be sent loosely mounted on sheets, with sufficient space under them to insert the catalogue number or other particulars. Of course a small fee would have to be charged to cover cost of postage and registration.

I am sure a committee such as this would be a great boon to many collectors, and no doubt there are several gentlemen in the Society who would be willing to act on it.

A COUNTRY JUNIOR.

(2) Might I suggest to the members of Exchange Societies that it is advisable when prepaying postage on Exchange Books to use the stamps not in every day use, viz., 10d, 8d, 2½d, and 5d. And that owing to the difficulty of obtaining these values in the country districts a few of each should be included with each Exchange Book, obtainable at face, for bonafide use with the Books.

C. B. SCOTT.

NEW ISSUES.

The following new issues have been chronicled in the latest Australian and English journals to hand:—

BRITISH EMPIRE.

Bahamas—Georgian head.

½d, green. 2½d, ultramarine.

4d, yellow. 6d, brown.

1/, grey-black and carmine.

5/, dull purple and blue.

£1, green and black.

Bermuda—Ship type.

½d, brown. 2½d, ultramarine.

6d, red lilac. 1/, black on green.

Ceylon—Georgian head, multi. wmk.

3c., green. 6c., scarlet.

10c., sage green. 15c., bright blue.

Falkland Is.—Georgian head, multi. wmk.

½d, green. 1d, vermilion.

2d, purple. 2½d, blue.

6d, orange. 1/, brown.

3/, bronze. 5/, dull lake.

Fiji—Edwardian head, multi. wmk.

£1, purple and black on red.

Georgian head, multi. wmk.

½d, green. 1d, carmine.

5/, green and red on yellow.

£1, purple and black on red.

Gambia—Georgian head.

½d, green. 1d, carmine.

1½d, olive brown and green.

2d, grey. 2½r, ultramarine.

3d, purple on yellow.

4d, black and red on yellow.

5d, orange and purple.

6d, violet and red lilac.

7½d, brown and blue.

10d, olive green and red.

1/, black on green.

1/6, lilac and green.

2/, violet and blue on blue.

2/6, brown and red on blue.

3/, yellow and green.

Gibraltar—Georgian head.

½d, green. 1d, carmine.

2d, grey. 2½d, ultramarine.

6d, lilac. 1/, black on green.

2/, violet, and blue on blue.

4/, black and carmine.

8/, purple and green.

£1, purple and black on red.

Great Britain—Georgian head, wmk. multi. G.R.

2d, orange.

Kedah—Multi. wmk., perf. 14.

1c., green and black. 3c., red and black.

4c., grey and red. 5c., brown and black.

8c., blue and black. 10c., brown and blue.

20c., green and black. 30c., red and black.

40c., violet and black. 50c., red and brown.

1 dollar, red-brown and green.

3 dollars, blue and black on blue.

5 dollars, Carmine and black.

Leeward Is.—Georgian head, multi. wmk.

½d, brown. ½d, green.

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 ½d, green. 1d, carmine.
 2½d, ultra. 3d, purple on yellow.
 6d, lilac and magenta.
 1/, black and green.
Sierra Leone—Georgian head, multi. wmk.
 1d, carmine.
Southern Nigeria—Georgian head, multi.
 wmk.
 2d, grey.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

- Belgium**—Head of King Albert.
 40c., pale green. 50c., grey.
 1 fr., orange-yellow.
Denmark.
 5 ore, green. 20 ore, blue.
Ecuador.
 1c. or 1/, green. 2c. or 2/, carmine.
Haiti.
 5 centimes de piastre, blue.
Morocco.
 1m., grey. 2m., lilac.
 5m., green. 10m., red.
 25m., blue. 50m., dull purple.
Surinam—Provisionals.
 2½c., green. 12½c., blue.

REPLIES TO QUERIES.

(By E.D.E. van Weenen.)

Question. What does it mean in Gibbons' catalogue when stamps are stated to be perforated, say, 11½, 12? What is the difference between them and those perforated 11½ x 12, or 12 x 11½?

Answer.—The meaning of 11½, 12, is that the gauge is between the two, sometimes 11½, or thereabouts. This is often due to the spreading or contracting of the pins by rough handling of the operator. The 11½ x 12, or 12 x 11½ perforation means that the first is the gauge on the top of the stamp, and the second on the side of the stamp. The narrowest part of a stamp is always the top for measuring the gauge. Thus, the ½d Tasmania, for instance, 12 x 11½, or 11½ x 12, means that the first perforation is on the sides of the stamp, and the second along the top.

SOCIETY REPORTS.

JUNIOR PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA.

at Mr. Tiddy's rooms, 80 Hunter Street, at Mr. Liddy's rooms, 80, Hunter Street, on the 11th September, 1912.

Owing to illness the president (Mr. Courtenay Smith) was unable to be present, and the chair was taken by Mr. Tiddy, and the following members were also present, viz., Miss E. Pines, Miss D. Holcombe, Messrs. Hagen, Crane, Pettifer, Warham, Smyth, Phillips, Whitworth, Bruce Hamilton, Green, Van Weenen, and Johnson.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

An apology was received from Mr. Courtenay Smith (president) owing to illness.

Mr. Hagen (exchange secretary) gave a very lengthy report re No. 1 Exchange Book, and spoke very highly of the way in which members had taken stamps off the sheets, and out of £40 worth £12 had been taken off.

Mr. Tiddy was appointed hon. auditor.

The principal business of the evening was a lecture and lantern display on stamps of New South Wales by Mr. Hagen, and members present were highly pleased at the valuable information they received. The Society are sorry that more of the juniors did not avail themselves of this splendid lecture.

Mr. Whitworth moved a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Hagen for his splendid lantern lecture, which was carried by acclamation.

Mr. Hagen moved: "That a hearty vote of thanks be tendered to Mr. Tiddy for the use of his rooms," seconded by Mr. Whitworth and carried by acclamation.

Mr. Tiddy responded and thanked the members present in a few well chosen words.

The ballot for No. 6 Exchange Book took place.

The following new members were elected by the committee, viz., Miss E. McNeill, Miss E. Henderson, Miss D. Stephens, Messrs. W. A. Weymouth and A. C. Smith.

The meeting then closed.

HENRY R. JOHNSON, Hon. Secretary

WELLINGTON JUNIOR PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Mr. W. Ferguson presided at the ninth monthly meeting of the Wellington Junior Philatelic Society last evening.

Mr. R. F. Joyce resigned the position of exchange superintendent, and Mr. F. H. Smyth was appointed his successor. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Joyce for past services.

Invitations were extended to all members to be present at the next meeting of the New Zealand Philatelic Society, which is to be held in the Dominion Museum on September 6th. On that occasion a collection of United States stamps will be displayed.

A prize of one guinea was received from the New Zealand Society for competition amongst junior members.

Both the invitation and prize were accepted with thanks.

An offer from Australia to supply the Junior Society with an eight-page monthly journal, containing accounts of meetings and philatelic matter of interest to junior members generally was received. It was decided to take 60 copies per month and distribute them gratis among members.

The following were elected members: Messrs. Wardropp, G. S. Harrison, E. J.

Simpson, and T. Sutherland (Masterston).

The stamps displayed at last night's meeting were those from the Balkan States. Mr. M. T. Acocks lent his collection of stamps from Turkey, Servia, and Roumania for inspection. On account of junior members not having collected stamps from the troublous States of Montenegro and East Roumelia, these countries were not exhibited.

R. F. JOYCE, Hon. Sec.

August 24, 1912.

The Display for September will be British Colonies in Africa, and October, Central and South American States—A, B, and C only.

All collections for competition must be in the hands of the hon. sec. not later than October 31st.

Sheets for Exchange Books are to be sent to the new Exchange Officer, Mr. F. H. Smyth, c/o Wellington Gas Co.

R. F. JOYCE, Hon. Sec.,

33 Sydney-street, Wellington, N.Z.

NOTES AND NOTICES.

It is reported in the daily press that the Postmaster-General expects to have the new Commonwealth Stamps ready for issue by 1st January, 1913.

At the September meeting of the J.P.S.A., Mr. Fred. Hagen delivered an interesting lecture on the "Stamps of New South Wales," illustrated by a number of excellent lantern slides. The first slides shown were those of the Sydney View and Laureate issues, Mr. Hagen explaining the difference between the various plates, pointing out the principal varieties of each. After showing several varieties of the later issues Mr. Hagen explained the various forms of perforation used, and showed how they are measured. He then concluded by showing the different water-marks used on N.S.W. stamps.

As we are anxious for this paper to reach as many as possible we will be pleased to receive the names and addresses of any stamp collectors, that we may send them sample copies.

The first annual meeting of the Junior Philatelic Society of Australia will be held at the Society's rooms, fifth-floor, Sabial Chambers, 80, Hunter Street, Sydney, on October 9th, 1912. The chief business will be the passing of reports and the election of officers for the ensuing year.

The following nominations have been received:—

President: J. P. Whitworth.

Vice-President: W. J. McNeill.

Hon. Treasurer: H. R. Johnson.

Committee (three required): H. G. B. Bruce, T. B. Fulton, P. Pantano.

Exchange Secretary: F. Hagen.

Hon. Secretary: J. W. Liddy.

It is also proposed by the committee to move that Rule 8 be altered to read: "The Committee to consist of president, two

vice-presidents, hon. secretary hon. treasurer, exchange secretary, and three other members to be elected annually by ballot at the annual meeting, and the editor for the time-being of the official journal shall be a member of the committee. In the event of a vacancy occurring during the term, it shall be filled by ballot at the next ordinary meeting.

THE JUNIOR STAMP NEWS.

All communications to be addressed to the Editor, Junior Stamp News, J.P.S.A. Rooms, 80 Hunter Street, Sydney.

Terms of Subscription.—Payable in advance, 1/ per annum, post free, within the Commonwealth. Postage extra to New Zealand 6d, abroad 1/.

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THE JUNIOR STAMP NEWS.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY AS THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF
THE JUNIOR PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA.

President: I. P. Whitworth, Hon. Sec.: J. W. Liddy, 80 Hunter Street, Sydney

ALSO THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF
THE WELLINGTON JUNIOR PHILATELIC SOCIETY. THE CHRISTCHURCH JUNIOR STAMP CLUB.

Hon. Sec.: R. F. Joyce, 33 Sydney St., Wellington, N.Z.

Hon. Sec.: P. Carmichael.

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VOL. I. No. 2.

OCTOBER 19, 1912.

PRICE 1d.

MY ALBUMS.

A Paper Read Before the J.P.S.A.

By J. P. Whitworth.

(Continued.)

Therefore, I set to work to make an improved edition of my first book by buying two or three exercise books, taking them to pieces and ruling them into spaces; with a species of shorthand, showing by marks in the spaces the stamp it was intended for. I remember that my catalogue, for the purpose of making this, was one of S.G.'s, in which the first part was catalogue and the second part illustrations only. After ruling up the book, I went to the binder, and as I had not instructed him to put in any guards, as soon as I transferred my stamps, it began to grin in a most humorous fashion. Some of the stamps rather appealed to my sense of humour, I must say. I had all three Sydney views and had not bought any of them, and some other really good things; but after the crash of '93 my book went the way of many a better, and I had no dealings with stamps for some years, but still, "Once a collector always a collector." I had picked up a few from time to time, and in 1896 I began another book in the same way as the last. This time I had a very queer old catalogue that was issued by the J. W. Scott Company of New York; it was made to fit into the breast pocket, and every stamp was priced. By this time my shorthand system of marking the spaces had become so elaborate that I often forgot what they meant myself. Bearing in mind my last experience with bookbinders, I told this man to guard it well, and he did; it was about four inches wide at the back, and one and a half in front, and was almost as funny in appearance as the other.

Apart from its appearance the book was a good one, but unfortunately the countries where I had provided for new issues failed to issue any; but this was more

than made up by the countries for which no provision had been made, they were all to the fore, and another book was demanded. By this time the loose leaf album had arrived, but the price was prohibitive, and I made another start. This time, instead of pulling exercise books to pieces, getting the paper, and ruling it ready for the binder. It was nearly a year from the time I started when I transferred the last stamp, and handed the old book over to another collector. The new album lasted me up to a year or two ago, and it had the usual faults of any album, in which special spaces were marked for stamps, and the blank leaves that I had (warned by previous experience) left for new issues, were mainly in the wrong place.

During the time this book had been in use, however, the loose leaf album at a reasonable figure had become a reality, and I abandoned a project I had partly formed of making an album on the lines of a billfile, such as I had seen made by another collector, and obtained an Acme loose leaf album, which shortly increased to two and then to three.

These seem to me to come very near to the ideal of a collector, who wishes to collect, with some individually, since the questions of what country or issues is entirely in his own hands. I began filling up the books with writing, as before, but as I continue I write less and less, leaving the stamps to tell their own tale, as indeed they do, to the eye of the philatelist. Here endeth the first section; now just a word or two on albums generally.

Why not buy an album instead of doing all that work? I have been often asked. Well, why not? Because if I buy a general album I have pages of countries that I have no interest in, or desire to collect; the sectional album removes this difficulty, says someone else. Does it? Here again I find pages of spaces I can never expect to fill, and

should have to crowd the copies I am really interested in all over the margin. For instance, I take little interest in peris, generally speaking, but in certain countries I collect everything; shades I do collect, all the time, and in some countries there would be more on the margin of the sectional album than in the spaces. It seems to me that the day of the printed album is over, as far as the earnest collector is concerned, because, to have any claim to originality he must specialise, and indeed, short of an income of the Standard Oil pattern, general collecting is out of the question. But for the junior collector it may be said that the old style album is useful; it may be, but I fancy that, rightly guided, the junior collector would find the loose leaf just as useful, and the great mistake of valuing the album rather than the stamps would not so often be made.

There is now no question of cost to be considered, and loose leaf albums can be obtained at as low a figure as will suit any pocket, junior or senior. I have, of course, ceased to rule the spaces since the quadrille removes the necessity and really improves the appearance of the stamps by removing the frames.

There is room for much to be said as to the best methods of arranging and mounting, but that is another story, and requires another story-teller.

Now, by way of postscript, I want to show a few albums that I had the opportunity of borrowing for the purpose of pressing home the point that the expense is no bar to the loose leaf method of collecting.

The prices of some of them are quite amusing; the idea of such an album at 8d certainly appeals to my sense of humour at all events.

But although cheap they are effective, and I can conceive of nothing better for either general collector or specialist junior, or senior that desires individuality in collecting than some form of loose leaf.

WHY WATERMARKS, PERFORATIONS, &c., SHOULD BE COLLECTED.

By H. G. B. BRUCE.

(Continued.)

In the case of watermark, the reason for a change is usually not hard to find. The use of a watermark is of course for the prevention of forgery, as it is with difficulty that a forger can reproduce a watermark or semblance of it on to paper.

The changes in the case of Western Australia will form a good example. The first watermark was a swan, symbolical of the colony, and was, of course, used only for Western Australia. Similarly,

the stamps of Jamaica were watermarked with a pineapple, those of Cape of Good Hope with an anchor, etc. The stamps of nearly all the colonies were printed in England, and after a few years it was decided that it was an unnecessary waste of money to have so many different papers prepared. The watermark was therefore changed about 1865 to "Crown over C.C.," the letters C.C. standing for "Crown Colonies." In Crown Colonies the Crown has entire control of the legislation, and the officers are under the control of the Home Government. This designation did not apply to all parts of the British Empire in which this paper was used, so in 1882 the Crown Agents for the Colonies, who have charge of the arrangements for most of the colonial stamps printed in London changed the watermark to "Crown over C.A.," the C.A. standing for "Crown Agents." The sets of Western Australia of 1872 and 1882, otherwise identical illustrate this. To pursue the matter further the watermark was in 1899 changed to "W Crown A," thus bringing W.A. into line with the other Australian States, whose watermarks were then "Crown and the initials of the State (e.g., Crown and N.S.W., Crown and Q., etc.) Tasmanian stamps were watermarked TAS only—no Crown. Soon, as in the case of the emblematic watermarks, it was found to be more economical to do away with the different papers, and as the stamps of W.A. were printed in Melbourne, the Victorian paper with watermark "V over Crown" was used.

In 1905 the watermark was again changed to "Crown over double-lined A," this being more in keeping with the Commonwealth ideal. It is more than likely that this will soon be changed to "Crown over single-lined A," the reason for this being that, whilst the latter paper is sent out already gummed the former has to be gummed on arrival here.

Thus we find the economy of the Postal authorities, and the change of administration reflected on these stamps by changes of the watermark, while neither of these are even hinted at in the design, which many take to be the only essential of noteworthy part of a postage stamp.

(To be continued.)

ELEMENTARY PHILATELY.

(Continued.)

Requisites.—The tools of the stamp collector are few and cheap. The following is a list of the most important:—

- (1) An Album in which to mount the stamps, of which more will be said later.
- (2) Catalogues. Every collector should have a good catalogue. Many excellent catalogues are published by various English and American firms, and are really

valuable works of reference for the young collector, giving the various varieties of stamps issued, dates of issue, etc. That published by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons Ltd. is the one most used in Australia, and is undoubtedly the best for beginners as well as for those more advanced.

(3) Tweezers. These are for picking up and handling the stamps, as it is inadvisable to touch them with the fingers, which are liable to soil the stamps, and may in course of time completely ruin them. The tweezers may be obtained with either pointed or "spade" ends at small cost. The spade ends are the best, as they are less liable to pierce or tear the stamp.

(4) Perforation gauge. The use of this will be explained later, and will not be required by the beginner at first. There are many kinds made: the one used by us is the "Ideal," manufactured by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons Ltd., and obtainable from most dealers at 6d. each.

(5) Watermark detector. This is very useful for seeing difficult watermarks. It consists of a shallow saucer, blackened inside, to hold benzine, and may be obtained at small cost. A good substitute may be made of a shallow tin about zinc square enamelled black on the inside.

(6) Magnifying glass. A small pocket magnifying glass is very useful for examining fine detail on stamps.

(7) A Rule divided into millimetres is necessary for measuring surcharges, etc.

What to Collect.—This is a point about which it is impossible to lay down definite rules, as it depends almost entirely on the conditions and tastes of the collector. However, we will try and give a few suggestions for the guidance of the novice.

Undoubtedly the best thing for a beginner to start is a general collection, taking stamps of all countries, either excluding perforations and watermarks or including all varieties. This will give him a good training, and general knowledge of the stamps of the world, which will be invaluable to him in his later philatelic career. Later on, as his collection increases, the general collector will most probably acquire a leaning towards one special country or group of countries, let him then expand that country to his utmost limit; but we advise him to keep his general collection by him, so that, should he tire of his special country, he can turn to it in search of new fields for exploration.

The question of whether to collect "used" or "unused" is one that has led to much discussion. In the majority of cases the "used" are the cheaper, and we think of more interest to the general collector. The unused stamps of the early issues are generally of great rarity, and are therefore outside the scope of collec-

tors of moderate means. On the other hand the unused stamps generally prove the best investment. Except in the case of remainders, unused stamps are generally worth face value. Also the stamp dealers cannot afford to sink more than a certain sum in any particular issue, and if the stamp has been in use for some time the probability is that the unused will be much rarer than the used.

(To be continued.)

QUERIES.

Question.—What is the distinction between a "Junior" and a "Senior" collector or philatelist?

Answer.—From a grammatical point of view the difference between "Junior" and "Senior" is the same as between "younger" and "older." For instance, when father and son have the same Christian names, and both are living, the father would be addressed as, say, John Brown, senr., and the son, John Brown, junr., although the latter may be of an advanced age. In philately however, the distinction between the two is wider. A "senior" collector is one that has thoroughly studied the various phases of the science, including a knowledge of the stamp issuing countries, their coinage, postal history, and the printing, etc., of the stamps. A junior collector has to learn all these. To put the distinction in another form: one is a professor, the other a student. When the latter has emerged out of the student class, he becomes an advanced collector, i.e., he has passed the ordinary collecting stage, and entered that of philately; and the more he learns of its ins and outs the nearer he approaches the rank of professor.

NOTES AND NOTICES.

It is with great regret that we have to record the death of one of our members, Mr. Thomas Greenwood, which took place last month. Mr. Greenwood, who has been an invalid for a number of years, took a great interest in stamp collecting.

We desire to thank "A Friend" for a donation of two pounds towards the expenses of publishing this journal.

The next meeting of the J.P.S.A. will be held at the Society's Rooms, fifth floor 80 Hunter Street, Sydney, on Wednesday, 13th November, 1912.

Members are notified that a number of the current philatelic journals, also several catalogues, are available for use at the Society's Rooms.

Members are also notified that their subscription for the year 1912-13 is now due.

NEW ISSUES.

BRITISH EMPIRE.

Barbados—Georgian head.

½d, brown.

½d, green.

Jamaica—Georgian head.

2d, grey.

Morocco Agencies.

½d, Great Britain overprinted 5 centimes.

Sierra Leone—Georgian head.

6d, dull and bright purple.

East Africa and Uganda—Georgian head.

3c, green. 6c, red.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Belgium—Head of King Albert.

35 centimes, light brown.

Denmark—Numerical type.

10 ore, red.

20 ore, blue.

Guatemala.

25c, blue and black (view of G.P.O.)

5 pesos, red and black (head).

Philippines.

2 pesos, brown violet.

Portugal.

½d, chocolate brown.

2c, carmine rose.

8c, dark grey lilac.

10c, dull red brown.

20c, dark brown on green.

30c, brown and pink.

50c, orange.

1 esc, green on blue.

SOCIETY REPORTS.

REPORT OF ANNUAL MEETING OF
J.P.S.A.

The annual meeting of the J.P.S.A. for 1912 was held at the rooms, 80 Hunter Street, on the 9th inst.

There was a good attendance of members, the following being present: Mr. Courtenay Smith (President) in the chair, and Messrs. Hagen, Crane, McNeill, Whitworth, Ridley, Foster, Petrifor, Smyth, Van Weenen, Hamilton, Warham, Rouse, Green, Johnson, and Liddy.

Apologies were read from Miss D. Stephens and Mr. W. A. Hull.

The secretary's report was read, and on the motion of Mr. Van Weenen, seconded by Mr. Ridley, was received and adopted.

The report and balance-sheet of the treasurer was received and adopted on the motion of Mr. Whitworth, seconded by Mr. Foster.

The report of the exchange secretary was, on the motion of Mr. Whitworth, seconded by Mr. Ridley, received and adopted.

The election of office-bearers for the ensuing year then took place, and as only the requisite number of nominations for the

positions were received, the following were declared duly elected.

President: Mr. J. P. Whitworth.

Vice-President: Mr. W. J. McNeill.

Secretary: Mr. J. W. Liddy.

Treasurer: Mr. H. R. Johnson.

Exchange Secretary: Mr. F. Hagen.

Committee: Messrs. P. Pantano, T. B. Fulton, and H. G. B. Bruce.

The retiring President, Mr. Courtenay Smith, then vacated the chair, and Mr. J. P. Whitworth, on taking his place, thanked the members for the honour that they had conferred on him in electing him to the chair.

The other officers who were present also expressed their thanks.

Mr. Van Weenen moved, and was seconded by Mr. Foster, that a hearty vote of thanks be given to Mr. Courtenay Smith, which was carried with acclamation.

Mr. Courtenay Smith briefly responded, and thanked the officers and members for the assistance they had given him during his term of office.

The proposed alteration to rule 8 was then considered.

Mr. F. Hagen moved an amendment that the position of Hon. Life President be embodied in the rule, and after discussing the rule altered to read as follows:—

The Committee to consist of President, two Vice-Presidents, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Exchange Secretary, and three other members to be elected annually by ballot at the Annual Meeting, and the Editor for the time-being of the official journal shall be a member of the Committee. In the event of a vacancy occurring during the term, it shall be filled by ballot at the next ordinary meeting; and that a Hon. Life President be elected who shall have a seat on the Committee.

Mr. F. Hagen then proposed that Mr. Courtenay Smith be an Hon. Life President, which was seconded by Mr. Hamilton and carried with acclamation.

Mr. Van Weenen proposed Mr. Foster for the vacant position of vice-president, which was seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried. Mr. Foster briefly replied.

The ballot for No. 7 Exchange Board was drawn.

During the conversation which wound up the meeting Mr. Johnson's album was shown.

The following new members were elected by the committee, viz., Miss Kenny, Miss Joyce Elder, Messrs. C. V. Hamilton, J. Holmes, R. Murdock, A. S. Kelson, J. Gates, H. E. Calloway, H. W. Shelton, M. Tough, J. Williams, W. F. Greenham, J. F. Pentelow, and S. Armstrong, which brings the number of members up to 117.

J. W. LIDDY,

Hon. Secretary.

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Report of the Committee.

In presenting the report of the Committee for the period ended September 30, 1912, it is with pleasure they have to report the rapid progress the society has made during that time. The first meeting of the society was held in March, 1912, fifty members being then on the roll, and since that time it has been increased by the addition of sixty-six members, making a total membership of 116.

One resignation has been received and accepted with regret, owing to his frequent absence from the city.

They regret the untimely decease of one member (Mr. Thomas Greenwood).

They feel sure they can safely say the society is now firmly established. The rules have been printed, and supplied to each member. They trust every member will take an interest in the society, and endeavour by personal effort to obtain new members, and promote the objects of the society. Only by the co-operation of the members in this respect can their Secretary hope to make the progress he desires during the coming year.

Meetings have been held monthly. The attendance of the older members has been satisfactory, but they regret the attendance of the younger members has been disappointing.

During the last six months readings and lectures have been given by members, and were highly appreciated.

It is with great pleasure they have to announce the publication of a monthly journal, "The Junior Stamp News," which should assist the work of the society greatly.

They also desire to thank those members who made special donations towards the funds of the society.

In conclusion, the Committee desire to express their grateful thanks to Mr. J. W. Liddy for the use of his rooms, in which the meetings are now held.

HENRY R. JOHNSON, Hon. Sec.

Treasurer's Report.

In presenting the first annual balance-sheet of the Junior Philatelic Society of Australia it gives me pleasure to state that, considering the small amount of the subscription for the past year, the financial position of the society is very satisfactory. The total receipts were £8/10/6, and the expenditure only £4/16/6, leaving a credit balance of £3/13/6 to be carried forward to the next year. There are no unpaid subscriptions, but two subscriptions amounting to 14/ are paid until the year 1916, and three others, amounting to 4/6, belong to the ensuing year.

ARNOLD N. CRANE, Hon. Treas.

Oct. 1, 1912.

Balance-Sheet to Year ended 30th September, 1912.

Receipts.

Subscriptions	£5 18 6
Donations	2 11 6
	<hr/>
	£8 10 0

Expenditure.

Rent	£1 9 0
Printing	1 19 6
Postages and Sundries	1 8 0
Balance in hand of Treasurer	3 13 0
	<hr/>
	£8 10 0

ARNOLD N. CRANE, Hon. Treas.

Oct. 1, 1912.

Audited and found correct: J. W. LIDDY. 9/10/12.

Exchange Secretary's Report.

Since the inception of this branch in April last to the end of the present financial year, six books have been placed in circulation, representing a total value of £225/12/, contributed to by an average of twenty-seven members per book.

Of these books, one has completed the circuit, taking slightly less than four and a half months to go round.

Stamps to the value of £12/14/11 were removed from the first book, being slightly over 30 per cent. of the gross value; 784 stamps were removed, being 40 per cent. of the number sent in.

Of the remaining books, No. 2 is nearing the completion of the circuit, but as new members are being continually elected I am sending these books to them, as it gives them an idea of how to send in their sheets. The remaining books are progressing satisfactorily, and the returns, I am sure, will equal if not surpass, those of the first.

Members will no doubt have noticed that it is my intention to issue a book in future for circulation amongst our New Zealand and Western Australian members, thereby giving them the same advantage as other members, which will, no doubt, assist materially in the welfare of the society.

The members are to be congratulated upon the results so far shown, due to a great extent to the members themselves, who have taken great interest in the books, as well as their promptness in circulating the book, which has added materially to the success of the Exchange Branch.

FRED. HAGEN,

Ex Secretary.

CHRISTCHURCH JUNIOR STAMP CLUB.

The Christchurch Junior Stamp Club held a meeting in the Boys' Gordon Hall, Monday, September 16th. There was an attendance of seventeen members, and the President, Mr. W. J. Wilson, was in the chair. The chairman read a paper on the arrangement and mounting of stamps. Several members brought their collections for display, and a number of duplicates were exchanged. Members Bernard Grant and W. Spedding were presented with the awards they had won at the recent exposition in the Boys' Gordon Hall. The chairman complimented them on their success, and stated that he wished more members had taken part in the display. A "Treasure Hunt" was held at the conclusion of the meeting.

G. WILSON, Acting Secretary,
110 Barbour St., Christchurch, N.Z.

WELLINGTON JUNIOR PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Mr. W. Ferguson presided over the tenth monthly meeting which was held at the Y.M.C.A. Sixteen members attended. Three resignations were accepted with regret.

Mr. C. B. Melville, brother of Mr. Fred Melville, was elected Librarian in place of Mr. P. K. Bryan.

Four new members were elected.

The Exchange Secretary, Mr. F. H. Smyth, reported twenty exchange books, valued at £281/6/5 net, had been sent out during the last ten months. Of these twelve had completed circuits and been broken up; 2621 stamps being purchased for £46/10/, giving a percentage of thirty-four.

Mr. W. Jolliffe read an interesting paper on "Transvaal," illustrating it with an excellent collection of stamps. He was accorded a hearty vote of thanks.

Other British Possessions in Africa were shown by Mr. W. Ferguson and Mr. Harrison, and Mr. Joyce showed Egypt and Soudan.

Two new Exchange Books were brought to the meeting, and those present had the opportunity of making cash purchases from them. Everyone took advantage of the innovation, and many stamps were sold.

R. F. JOYCE, Hon. Sec.

NOTICE.

The next meeting will be held at the Y.M.C.A., on Friday, October 11th, at 7.30 p.m.

Display A., B., and C., of South and Central America.

THE JUNIOR STAMP NEWS.

All communications to be addressed to the Editor, Junior Stamp News, J.P.S.A. Rooms, 80 Hunter Street, Sydney.

Terms of Subscription.—Payable in advance, 1/ per annum post free, within the Commonwealth. Postage extra to New Zealand 6d, abroad 1/.

Advertisement Charges.—The charge for advertisements in the Exchange, For Sale, and Wanted Column is 6d for the first 16 words, and 3d for each succeeding 6 words. Charges for display advertisements on application.

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N.Z.

THE CHRISTCHURCH JUNIOR STAMP
CLUB.

Hon. Sec.: P. Carmichael, 109 Hills Road, St. Albans,
Christchurch.

Registered at the General Post Office, Sydney, for transmission by post as a newspaper.

VOL. 1. No. 3.

NOVEMBER 23, 1912.

PRICE 1d.

OUR NEW YEAR.

At the opening of the second year of the Society's existence, it seems as well that we should consider for a little while one or two aspects of our work, and at the request of the committee I wish to outline just a point or two for the consideration of our members.

First, it is well that we should keep constantly before us the fact that we have in establishing a society, and calling it a "junior" society, set before us an aim or object that marks out for us a special line of work in the direction of the encouragement of the junior collector, and it matters not if we be junior or senior ourselves—our duty as members of this society lies in the direction of doing all we can for the encouragement and information of the junior.

Next, we of the committee recognise with regret that we, although only a small section of the Society, from the fact that we are residing in the capital largely control its management; but we desire most strongly to emphasise the fact that we are not a Sydney Society or a N.S.W. Society, but an Australasian Society (as we are so often reminded by Mr. Courtenay Smith), and it is our earnest desire to be of use to all our members either near or distant.

How we can make the Society of use to members is for them to say. We do not know their conditions, but we look to them to show us. How can we be of use to YOU? Write and let us know. Have you any difficulty? Is there any question that we can answer? President and Secretary are not advanced collectors; but we can, and will, obtain the information from competent specialists, whom we know if we do not number them amongst our members.

YOU can be of use to us if you will take an active interest in the work of the Society. You may not be within personal touch of us, but there will be opportunities

on every syllabus that we draw up, especially for members who are out of touch with the city. For instance, suppose you send us a paper on your 10 favourite stamps. Finally, the value to you of this and any other society of a similar kind is just what you make it. If you are content simply to belong to the Society, and take what you get in the ordinary way by exchange book, journal, etc., you will get something, certainly; but if you want to get the most out of the Society for yourself, you must put all you can into it for others. In this, as in many other things, we best help ourselves by helping others.

Keep the Society in mind, work for it, send along what you can to its meetings, and you will be the gainer all the time. We who have joined the Society because we believe there is a place for it and a work for it to do, have determined that it shall not be our fault if it does not progress. We intend it to boom. Are you going to help us?

J.P.W.

WHY WATERMARKS, PERFORATIONS, &c., SHOULD BE COLLECTED.

By H. G. B. BRUCE.

(Concluded.)

Events governing changes of perforations are generally not so radical nor so easily traced as is the case with watermarks. Let us, however, take some samples in which the changes are easily accounted for.

Since 1855 the stamps of Great Britain had been printed at the establishment of Messrs. De la Rue and Co., and were perforated 14 all round (i.e., 14 on all sides). In 1910 the contract was transferred to Messrs. Harrison and Sons, and after 1st January, 1911, the stamps were printed by them. Soon after, certain va-

lues appeared, perf. 15 x 14 (i.e., 15 at top and bottom, and 14 at the sides).

Again, in the case of the New Zealand pictorial issue the stamps were first printed in London by Messrs. Waterlow and Sons, and sent out to the colony, the perforation ranging from 14 to 16. The plates were also sent out, and fresh supplies were printed off out here, but were now perf. 11 instead of 14 to 16.

So in these two cases the change of printers was manifest by the perforation only, thus producing interesting and very collectable varieties.

Many varieties of perforation are not however, traceable to changes like the above, but merely to the fact that the printers of the stamps having in their establishments a number of perforating machines, take no care to have the stamps always put through the same ones. Those who collect perforations are in the habit of taking in all varieties, irrespective of their "historical" value or otherwise, but such haphazard perforations (and as example I may quote most of the variations of N.S.W. perms. and those of Austria) are interesting merely inasmuch as they betray the presence of different machines, and also a certain carelessness or somewhat casual method of procedure.

The paper on which the stamp is printed is also liable to be changed, and although the collection of such varieties is not indulged in as generally as those of watermark and perforation, yet many interesting points may be brought to light by its study.

Changes of paper may be said to be of two kinds:—

1. Adoption of a new paper.

2. Treatment of the old paper with chemicals or otherwise.

1. New paper may be adopted for a variety of reasons. The printers may find that the paper they are using is too hard, so that the ink does not penetrate sufficiently well into it, consequently a paper of a different texture is ordered. Or the manufacturers may take it upon themselves to try a new paper and supply it to the printing office. This latter is, I believe, the sole cause of the thick and thin papers of the British New Guinea issue of 1901-05. Again in 1906, the U.S. Government experimented with a paper manufactured from rags, etc., and not from the ordinary wood pulp, thus producing a set upon a bluish paper. Such a change serves to determine the approximate period of printing, and as such may come to have an important bearing upon certain questions.

2. The chemical treatment of paper is, of course, to prevent fraud. The stamps of nearly every portion of the British Empire are now printed upon chalk-surfaced paper, as it was discovered that many of them were being treated chemically to remove the postmarks, so as to render

them fit for use a second time. Any attempt to effect this with the chalky paper removes the design also.

Lastly, let us look at the collection of different shades.

Many collectors who do not include the perms. or papers, yet admit shades, although this seems to me to be the least interesting of any of these "bypaths." The primary cause of this is perhaps the comparative ease with which they may be distinguished from one another; but the naming of these shades and other difficulties connected with that is a question which has perplexed philatelists for many years. Different shades are so largely dependant upon the "personal equation" that in the vast majority of cases they throw no light whatsoever upon the history of a stamp. A mere deficiency or superabundance of ink upon the plate is all that most of them point to, or when a supply of ink runs out it is a difficult matter to prepare a fresh lot of exactly the same shade.

I said above, "in the vast majority of cases," for sometimes the shade of a stamp does signify something of importance. For instance, in both those cases quoted in regard to change of perforation (i.e., Great Britain and New Zealand), some of the stamps of the different printings showed distinguishable variations of shade.

To sum up, I may say that:—

1. Economy, desire for uniformity and change of administration, lead to changes of watermark.

2. Changes in perforation are occasioned by change of printers, or by the acquisition of a new perforating machine, while varieties of perf. usually point to nothing further than a number of machines used indiscriminately.

3. Alterations in paper are either to prevent fraud, or due to a desire for a more perfect paper.

4. Shades are largely due to the "personal equation," and as such are of small philatelic importance.

I therefore contend that one who does not include these differences in his collection can not be called a student of stamps, for though the history of the country may be reflected in the design of the stamps, yet the history of the stamp itself (which is the important part to the philatelist) is seldom, if ever, traceable upon the face of it, but may be read like a book when one comes to study the changes of watermark, perforation, paper, etc.

ELEMENTARY PHILATELY.

(Continued.)

Specialism.—During the last few years the increase of knowledge in all subjects has been carried on with such rapidity that it has been almost impossible for any one person to keep pace with all

branches of even one subject and the general tendency has been to specialise in one branch only. These remarks apply particularly to philately. It is useless for even the wealthiest collector to hope for a complete collection of the stamps of the world, and if the ordinary collector wishes for anything like completeness he must select a country according to his means, and devote his time and money almost exclusively to the stamps of that country. It is almost unnecessary to remind the collector who can only afford to spend a few pounds per annum on his stamps, that it is of no use trying to obtain a complete collection of such countries as New South Wales or Mauritius. His best plan is to take some standard catalogue, and from the prices of the stamps described therein select a country that comes within the limits of his purse.

Some collectors, instead of collecting the stamps of one country only, confine themselves to those issued between certain dates, such as from 1890 to the end of the century, or those issued during the 20th century. Others, again, only collect those bearing the head of King Edward or King George. This method has the advantage of greater variety than the collection of the issues of one country. Some philatelists even limit themselves to one particular issue of a country.

Besides the ordinary stamp collecting, there are many other bypaths of collecting, of great interest to the student, such as the collection of entries, postal stationery, post-marks, or fiscal stamps. The latter I can specially recommend to the collector wishing for original research work, as little is known about these stamps, and owing to the small demand they may be had at very low prices.

(to be continued.)

REPLIES TO QUERIES.

By E. D. E. VAN WEENEN.

(3) **Question.**—I have often seen in philatelic papers that a watermark may be more easily seen by immersing a stamp in benzine. Does this damage the gum or freshness of an unused stamp?

B. F. M.

Answer.—No. Care should, however, be taken to obtain the pure article. Benzine, or Benzoline, is a mixture of the lower boiling paraffin hydrocarbons, and is known also as petroleum spirit of naphtha. It is obtained by the distillation of American or Russian petroleum. On account of the inflammability of its vapour, collectors must take care not to have a lighted candle near it when in use.

(4) **Question.**—Would you please tell me what the meaning is of the word "Cancelled," sometimes seen on the stamps of Mauritius?

Answer.—The word "cancelled" on the

stamps of Mauritius, and some other countries, was put on them after the issue had been replaced by a fresh one, and the remainders were on sale, or could be bought, but could not be used for postage. For this reason they were overprinted, "cancelled." "Specimen" stamps come, practically, under the same category.

(5) **Question.**—What is the precise meaning of "Controls"? And in what does "Control No." differ from "Plate No." as applied to modern issues?

Answer.—Control marks refer to the quantities printed from a plate. Plate numbers refer to the plates made from dies.

NOTES AND NOTICES.

The "West End Philatelist" announces the discovery of the original copper plate used for printing the one penny and two-pence Post Office, Mauritius. The plate is 3 1/4 inches by 2 1/2 inches, and weighs 1 oz. 9 1/2 pennyweight, and is in very good condition. This plate is the property of Mr. Sydney Loder and was exhibited at the Jubilee International Stamp Exhibition held in London from October 14th to 19th, 1912.

Another curious exhibit at the Exhibition was a sheet of stamps issued by the Government of the Dalai Lama of Tibet, apparently in anticipation of his return to Lhasa. The stamps are very coarsely printed in a ruddy purple colour. The design is crude, and consists of a central figure representing the white lion of Tibet, printed, possibly by error, in colour on a white ground. Round this is an inscription in English and Native characters, the former reading "TIBET POSTAGE," and the latter are interpreted as POD—Tibet, SHUNG—Government, YIG—letter, THEHO—postage or stamp, KHA—anna, KANG—one. The spandrels are filled in with ornament.

The Great Britain 1d. stamp has been issued in an entirely new design. The 1d. has also appeared in a similar design to the 1/2d., and the 3d. in a design similar to the 2d.

We have received from the Hon. Secretary of the J.P.S.A. the following Syllabus:—

- Dec. 11th.—Postage Stamp Designs, with display by E. D. E. Van Weenen.
- Jan. 8th, 1913.—Minor Varieties of Australians, with display by W. A. Hull.
- Feb. 12th.—Lantern Lecture, "Stamps of Victoria," by F. Hagen.
- March 12th.—My 10 Favourite Stamps, with reasons and display by all members.
- March 19th.—Special Country Members' Night.
- April 9th.—Notes and Display, New Hebrides, by H. G. B. Bruce.
- Meetings are held at the Rooms, 80 Hunter-street, at 7.30 p.m. on the dates named.

NEW ISSUES.
AUSTRALASIA.

- Fiji.**—King George.
 ½d. Green.
 1d. Carmine.
 1/- Black on Green.
- Gilbert and Ellice Islands.**—King George.
 4d. Black and Red on Yellow.
 2/- Violet and Blue on Blue.
 2/6 Black and Red on Blue.
 5/- Green and Red on Yellow.
- Papua.**—
 4d. Pale Olive Green.
 2/6 Rose Red.
- Tasmania.**—Provisional.
 2d. Mauve, overprinted.
ONE PENNY in red.
- Western Australia.**—
 2d. Yellow, overprinted **ONE PENNY**.

BRITISH EMPIRE.

- Great Britain.**—New Design.
 1d. Red.
 1½d. Red Brown
 3d. Mauve.
- Barbados.**—King George.
 1d. Carmine.
 2d. Grey.
 2½d. Ultramarine.
 3d. Violet on Yellow.
 4d. Black and Red on Yellow.
 6d. Dull and Bright Purple.
 1/- Black on Green.
 2/- Violet and Blue on Blue.
 3/- Green and Violet.
- Ceylon.**—King George.
 2c. Yellow-Brown.
 5c. Red-Violet.
 25c. Yellow and Blue.
- India.**—King George.
 8a. Bright Mauve.
 12a. Reddish Purple.
- Jamaica.**—King George.
 3d. Grey.
 1/- Black on Green.
- Morocco Agencies.**—
 1d. Red, Great Britain overprinted.
 Morocco Agencies 10 centimes.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

- Angola.**—Provisionals.
 2½ reis in Black on 15 reis Green.
 5 " " 15 " "
 20 " " 15 " "
 25 " " 75 " Red Lilac.
 25 " " 75 " Rose.
- Belgium.**—
 2c. Brown.
 20c. Olive.
 25c. Ultramarine.
- Bulgaria.**—
 5st. Dark Blue Green.
 10st. Lilac Red.
 25st. Grey Blue.
- Chinese Republic.**—Chinese Empire.
 ½c. overprinted in Blue.
 1c. overprinted in Magenta.
- Portugal.**—
 15c. Lilac Red.

Surniam.—Provisionals.

- ½c. Lilac.
 ½c. Mauve.
 5c. Red.

Uruguay.—

- 2c. Red-Brown.
 on this subject.

W.A.

TO THE EDITOR.

(3) I would like to endorse the suggestion by "A Country Junior" in the first issue of the J.S.N. re an "Expert Committee for the J.R.S.A. I also live in the country, and cannot attend the monthly meetings, and seldom have the opportunity of consulting another philatelist. It would therefore be a great advantage to me to have some such committee to send my stamps to for advice. I should like to see the opinions of some of the other members

SOCIETY REPORTS.

THE JUNIOR PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA.

The November monthly meeting was held at the Society's Rooms on the 13th inst., at which the largest attendance of members so far at a meeting was present.

The following were present:—Mesdames F. Hagen, Courtenay Smith, Misses Alymer, McNeill, D. Stephens, Messrs. Whitworth, Courtenay Smith, Foster, McNeill, Hagen, Johnson, Crane, Pantano, Van Weenen, Hull, Green, Howard, Humphries, Ridley A. C. Smith and Liddy.

Mr. Welfare (South Australia) was also present as a visitor.

An apology for non-attendance was received from Mr. Phillips.

The elections of Hon. Life President and second vice-President were confirmed, on the motion of Mr. Hagen.

The principal business of the evening was the reading of a paper by the President, entitled "The Postage Stamp," which was much appreciated by the members present, and at the conclusion Mr. Van Weenen moved a vote of thanks be accorded the speaker, which was supported by Messrs. Foster, C. Smith, Hagen, and Liddy, and carried with acclamation.

Mr. C. Smith gave some interesting notes on the pen-marked Van Dieman's Land Stamps.

Mr. Hagen moved that the meeting as a whole elect Mr. Welfare (South Australia) a member of the Society. Mr. Pantano seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

The Hon. Sec. moved that a vote of thanks be accorded Messrs. Hagen and McNeill for their exhibit of stamps shown in connection with the President's paper. Mr. C. Smith seconded the motion, and it was carried with acclamation.

The Hon. Sec. moved that a vote of

Form of Nomination for Membership.

The Junior Philatelic Society of Australia

I beg to nominate as
 a candidate for membership of the Society.
 is years of age.

Signature of Proposer

Date

Name of Nominee in full

Address

Signature

Rule 3.—All persons interested in Philately, Ladies and Gentlemen of the age of 15 or over, to be eligible for membership. Candidates for admission must be nominated in writing by a member of the Society, who shall state age of Nominee if under 21, and shall be elected by the Executive Committee by a majority of those present.

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thanks be accorded Mr. White for his generous gift of a bookcase, and to Mr. Foster for his gift of a water-bottle and glasses, both gifts which will be much appreciated by the members.

The ballot for No. 8 Exchange Book was drawn.

The Committee elected the following as new members:—Miss Brown, Messrs. Harry Humphries, L. E. Vernazoni, and R. J. Brown.

J. W. LIDDY, Hon. Sec.

WELLINGTON JUNIOR PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Mr. W. Ferguson presided over the eleventh monthly meeting, which was held at the Y.M.C.A. on October 18th last. Sixteen members were present.

Messrs. A. W. Addy and H. W. Lattey were elected members for the following year. Mr. J. L. Dabinett was elected Auditor. It was decided to hold the Annual General Meeting on Friday, Nov. 15th next. The resignation of Mr. R. J. Hewitt, who had caused the Society considerable annoyance, was accepted unanimously. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to Messrs. Sanderson, Bennett, and C. B. Melville for their presentations of books and journals to the Library. A special vote of thanks was accorded Mr. J. H. Smyth for his kind contribution of ten copies of "Philately in a Nutshell" to be distributed among junior members. The meeting closed with a display of Argentine, Brazil and Chili, Messrs. Ferguson and Joyce exhibiting.

R. FRANCIS JOYCE,
Hon. Secretary.

Notice.

The displays for the next meeting will be as under:—

November: Exhibitions of Entries of the Junior Competition.

December: Straits Settlements and Hong Kong.

January, 1913: Borneo and Solomon Islands.

February: India and Ceylon.

The subscription for the forthcoming year will be 2s. 6d. for members over 21.

R. FRANCIS JOYCE Hon. Secretary.

CHRISTCHURCH JUNIOR STAMP CLUB.

The 12th meeting of the Christchurch Junior Stamp Club was held in the Boys' Gordon Hall on Oct. 21st, 1912, at 7.30 p.m., the President (Mr. W. J. Wilson) occupying the chair.

There was an attendance of 18 members, two new members being elected.

The Secretary, Mr. P. Carmichael, was welcomed back, after an absence of about 2½ months in Dunedin. Copies of the

"Junior Stamp News," the official organ of the Club, were distributed to members. As two members of the Committee had resigned, a ballot was held to fill the vacancies, Messrs. L. Mably and W. Spedding being returned.

A new innovation, consisting of a "Lucky Bag" Competition, was held, and proved very interesting. This brought a successful meeting to a close.

P. CARMICHAEL, Hon. Sec.

A meeting of the Christchurch Junior Stamp Club was held in the Boys' Gordon Hall, Hereford-street, Christchurch, on Monday, Nov. 4th, 1912, at 7.30 p.m.

The President, Mr. W. J. Wilson, was in the chair. Sixteen members were present.

Several members displayed their collections, and a number of duplicates changed hands. Several volumes of "Gibbon's Stamp Weekly" were on view.

The Exchange Branch report showed that it was making very satisfactory progress. The beginners were ably assisted with practical advice by the senior members.

P. CARMICHAEL,
Hon. Secretary.

109 Hills-road, St. Albans, Christchurch.

A STUDY IN VALUATIONS.

By Hubert Lyman Clark

(From "Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News").

During a recent vacation I had the opportunity to go over at my leisure three stamp collections, and I undertook the pleasant task of pricing them by the 1911 and then by the 1912 Scott Catalogue. The results proved of so much interest to the owners of the collections and to myself that it occurred to me your readers might be interested.

The smallest collection consists of about 2500 stamps, used and unused, in three sections—United States (including some cheap revenues) and colonies, British Empire, the rest of the world. For convenience we will call the latter "Foreign." In these sections, no distinction is made between nineteenth and twentieth century stamps. The United States section catalogues by the 1912 list, about 42 dollars, which is an increase of 12 per cent. over its valuation by last year's list. The British section catalogues 47 dollars 30 cents, an increase of 14 per cent. over 1911. The Foreign section catalogues 78 dollars 45 cents, which is an increase of 17 per cent. over its 1911 value. It will be noticed that this collection is made up of cheap stamps; indeed, there are only nine stamps in it cataloguing a dollar or more. The most interesting point is that the United States stamps have increased in value the least, while the "Foreign" show a decidedly greater increase than the British.

The second collection consists of one or five

thousand stamps, cataloguing well over a thousand dollars. There are many stamps catalogued at over five dollars each. Both used and unused stamps are included, but the collection is divided into two sections, nineteenth and twentieth century. There are nearly two thousand twentieth century stamps, chiefly from English-speaking countries. They catalogue almost 250 dollars, and show an increase over 1911 of 40 per cent. The nineteenth century stamps (nearly 3300) catalogue about 800 dollars, but, curiously enough, show an increase of only 6½ per cent. This seems to me very odd, for the collection, whilst weak in French and Portuguese colonies, is otherwise fairly representative.

The third collection consists of more than 8000 stamps, cataloguing over 1450 dollars. This collection consists wholly of used stamps, the owner having little interest in mint specimens. The valuation of this collection has increased during the year some 14 per cent.

It seems to me, from my examination of these collections, that three conclusions may fairly be drawn:—

(1.) Postage stamps are a remarkably good investment. Suppose we say, the selling value of these collections is only one-fourth or one-fifth of their catalogue value, the fact remains that their intrinsic value has increased 10-15 per cent. That is much better than many far more hazardous investments.

(2.) Used stamps are fully as desirable property as unused. This conclusion is confirmed by the study of separate countries in the catalogue. For example, Netherlands unused have gone up about 17 per cent., the used about 16 per cent.; Jamaica, unused, have gone up about 30 per cent., used about 48 per cent., if one counts unpriced used stamps at value of unused; Wurttemberg, unused, have gone up 16 per cent., but the used have gone up 50 per cent.!

(3.) Twentieth century stamps seem to be increasing in value more rapidly than nineteenth. In Jamaica, the nineteenth century stamps have increased about 20 per cent., but those of the twentieth have boomed, and average over 100 per cent. higher. The stamps of New Hebrides listed in last year's catalogue are now priced 120 per cent. higher! This, by the way, is the largest increase I have noted for any country. It seems to me probable that the reason for the apparent boom in twentieth century stamps is not the greater demand for them, but the fact that the prices of the nineteenth century stamps represent more nearly the actual value of the stamp, based on definite knowledge as to its relative abundance or scarcity, whilst the prices of the twentieth century are based on much less definite knowledge and are consequently bound to undergo violent changes.

THE JUNIOR STAMP NEWS.

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THE JUNIOR STAMP NEWS.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY AS THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF
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Hon. Sec.: J. W. Liddy, 80 Hunter Street, Sydney

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JANUARY 20, 1913.

PRICE 1d.

THE POSTAGE STAMP.

A Paper read before the Junior Philatelic
Society of Australia.

(By J. P. Whitworth.)

(Continued.)

Even when the actual question of issuing the stamps for prepayment of postage had been settled, all concerned failed to realise the relative values of the envelope, cover and adhesive label; and it was a great disappointment to Rowland Hill and others when it was found that the artistic productions of Mulready had to be withdrawn, although the sale of the Queen's Heads went up by leaps and bounds.

In fact, the storm of abuse and ridicule that was poured out upon the unfortunate Mulready envelopes is hardly understandable at the present day. Certainly our fathers had more intensity of purpose than we, and knew what they liked, and disliked, and took abundant care that others should know also. The year before 1d. postage there were 75 million letters dealt with at the P.O.; in 1840, 168 million; and in 1910, 2947 million.

The alteration under the new system, which doubled the number of letters in one year, is readily understandable. For instance, a merchant sending a parcel to a customer sent a bill of the goods by post when it was only 1d., but at 2/2 it was out of the question; price lists, and information were posted; advertising became possible, the traveller notified his customers in advance, orders were sent by post, friend wrote to friend, brother to sister, and so on, ad infinitum.

As we have seen, the first stamp issued bore the head of Queen Victoria, and marked the new system in postage. The advantages of the system were so

obvious that it was not long before other nations followed in the same road, the first being Brazil; and gradually every nation has come into line, some, however, not for some time. Belgium waiting until 1849, the same year that saw the first French stamps.

According to a recent catalogue (Whitfield King, 1911), the total number of stamps issued by the Governments of the world is 23,404, of which 6984 belong to the British Empire, and 16,420 to the rest of the world. Strange as it may appear, the stamps were not universally popular at first; there was an idea that the Postal Department would not trouble to deliver letters when they had got all they could out of them, and that the fact that there was postage to pay would ensure delivery.

However, this feeling dropped out very rapidly when their cheapness and convenience were discovered. A criticism that has been preserved from a boy at Eton is worth repeating, as showing the way the stamps were regarded. In a letter to his sister, dated 1840, May 5th, he says: "Have you tried the stamps yet? I think they are absurd and troublesome. I don't fancy making my mouth a gluepot, although, to be sure, you have the satisfaction of kissing, or rather slobbering over, the back of her Gracious Majesty the Queen; this is, I fancy, the greatest insult the present Ministry could afford the Queen." As we have seen, however, the Eton boy's view was not general, and the issue of postage stamps now is numbered by millions; in fact, the weight of the annual issue by the United Kingdom some years ago was 114 tons.

From the 1d. black Queen's Head to the latest new issue is a far cry, and

wonderful are the varieties of design. In Great Britain we have adhered to the original plan of using a picture of the ruler, and it is an interesting fact that the illustration of a portrait either on coin or stamp seems to be the natural protection against forgery; the natural training of the human eye to discern those minute differences that distinguish individuals, although they are so alike in the mass, being apparently an educational faculty that is prolonged into the region of pictured faces, and so causes the early detection of even minute differences.

But although Britain has remained loyal and faithful to the one design, in other countries Earth, Air, Sky and Sea have all been laid under contribution to supply the design of that little square of printed paper.

Ships, buildings, maps, scenery, historic pictures and a whole zoological collection of animals, fish, and birds, some of which would cause a great sensation were they to appear in living form, are a few of the things that may be found covering the payment of postage, and the quality of the production is equally varied, beautiful fine engraving, such as only a good magnifying glass will fully reveal, vying with coarse, roughly printed, type set or even typewritten productions, and even taking pride of place with them, from the standpoint of comparative rarity.

To those who do not know much about them, there are few things so interesting as the variety to be found in a good stamp collection, and its examination will prove a revelation.

ART AS APPLIED TO STAMP DESIGNS.

A Paper read by Mr. E. D. E. van Weenen at the December Meeting of the Junior Philatelic Society of Australia.

Art, according to Veron, a noted French writer on Aesthetics, has been defined as the manifestation of emotion obtaining external interpretation, and applied to the subject under review this evening, by expressive arrangement of line, form, or colour, usually described as "arts of the eye." Architecture, sculpture, and painting are expressive arts, for they appeal vividly to the senses, and through the senses to the intellect and imagination. And we know also that all works of art are more or less coloured by the individuality of the artist. Those who are acquainted with the work of our great

painters, and have also read their biography, can, no doubt, bear testimony to this characteristic. It is said of painting that the artist must express his impressions of the visible world, or his dreams and imaginings, in colour and form (or in black and white, as in etching), upon a flat surface, thereby conforming to the convention of art. To sum up, art consists of a combination of fine emotions and skilful expressive technique.

It is the latter which we have to deal with in the art of designing subjects for postage stamps, and while there may be dissentients from a statement made, that the manner and matter of art apply as much to the etching or drawing of stamp designs as to colour painting, no one with the love of the artistic can deny that on many of the world's postage stamps we can find the ideal in art, although conveyed in a diminutive size.

In looking at a number of designs which I have chosen for your inspection, I must ask of you to set colour aside for the moment, and study first the subject, then the arrangement and the surroundings, and if these please the eye, the colours used become a secondary consideration, even when they offend the artistic eye of the observer.

Before continuing on this subject, I wish to engage your attention on the question of design, either by engraving or etching, since they are so intimately associated with colour. In line etching, the beauty of line is of first importance. In texture, the line is of secondary importance; the design of the artist being to render texture and suggest colour, necessarily the more difficult of the two, since he is unable to judge of the effect of his work till a proof is taken of it.

Etching has not entered to any extent in the designing of stamps; hence we can safely say that no artist has succeeded in making his name famous, like, for instances, Albrecht Durer, Rembrandt, Lorraine, etc., of the early centuries, and Rajon, Whistler, Seymour Haden, Brangwyn, Professor Herkomer, etc., of later dates. Claude Lorraine, we are told, was the only one that succeeded in skilfully rendering atmospheric effect in his etchings as well as in his paintings. The most famous engravers on steel and copper were Woollett, Sharp, Blake, Miller, Doo, Lamb, stocks, and Jeans; and on wood, the incomparable Dalziel Brothers.

You all know that a large number of stamps have been produced by lithography. Until recent years this was

done on lithographic stones, a German production. The design in a great many instances was drawn by hand on the stone, but in a number of the large printing establishments aluminium has replaced this stone. There is no doubt that some very beautiful results have been obtained by the lithographic process. "Copper plate" printing, the design in most cases being transferred on to smooth plates of copper and steel, enables the artist to bring out the finest result of his work. There are cheaper processes in reproducing design, and of these, unfortunately, we have too many instances of in stamp printing, but, as we are dealing with fine art only, we need not bother about them.

In colour printing, the designer often has his best work spoiled, either by the parsimony displayed by some Governments or private printers, through the use of inks of an inferior quality, and by colours and shades used out of harmony with the design. Colour plays an important part in bringing out a design. In this matter, however, the artist has seldom any say, since it is decided by the Minister at the head of postal affairs or an official under him. This official may, or may not, be artistic, but even if he is the latter he cannot always be guided by his taste. There are certain regulations he must abide by; for instance, a colour having already been fixed officially for each of the denominations. This, as many of you know, is the case in countries belonging to the Swiss Federal Postal Union, which has set down certain colours for certain values. To print all values in the one colour, as has been adopted in some instances, would never be generally entertained, since it would lead to endless confusion and trouble, both to the post office officials and the public. It is not every buyer of stamps who can read, but he can easily become accustomed to colours; thus when he has to affix a penny stamp to his letter, he knows it by the colour. The only universal colour stamps we have in Australia (Victoria excepted) are the "Postage Due," but as these are put on letters only by post-office officials, the non-reading public are not affected.

To N. S. Wales belongs the distinction of having used certain colours for certain denominations for the longest period. Blue for 2d. and green for 3d. have now been in existence from 1850 to date, nearly 63 years. Next to these comes another stamp from this State: the 5d., in use from 1856 to date, nearly 67 years. No other country approaches

these periods, Holland being the nearest with the 5c. blue, from 1852 to 1898, 46 years. In Great Britain, the founder of the adhesive postage stamp, only two colours enjoy a lengthy period: the 1d. red, from 20th January, 1841, to 12th July, 1881, and the 2d. blue, from 1st May, 1840, to December 7th, 1880, in both cases 40 years. Although the 1d. came back to the original colour on 1st January, 1902, it reigned for 21 years in a lilac shade. It may, perhaps, have escaped your notice, but when the Jubilee issue came out, 1st January, 1887, the penny value was left out, the colours of all the other denominations being changed.

(To be continued.)

INTERIM REPORT FROM EXCHANGE SECRETARY.

No. 3 book completed the circuit, and sheets with remittances were sent to members on the 24th December. The book took slightly under six months to circulate amongst the 120 members. Sales amounted to 32 per cent. of the gross value sent in, and of the 1787 stamps comprised in the book 800 were taken, being about 45 per cent. of the gross number.

No. 9 book was issued on the 31st December, 1912, in two divisions, one local (No. 9), the other Inter-state and New Zealand (No. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$); 35 members contributed sheets, representing a value of £28 7s., and £25 10s. 6d. for each division.

ELEMENTARY PHILATELY.

(Continued.)

Preparing Stamps for Mounting.

Having obtained a number of stamps, the next thing is to prepare them for mounting in an album.

Before beginning, see that all necessary accessories, i.e., tweezers, knife, blotting-paper, water, brush, etc., are close handy.

Having everything ready, examine each stamp and sort out those that require attention, such as the removal of paper or old hinges from the back, removal of creases, etc. Then, putting the others carefully away until you are ready to mount them, divide them again into used and unused. In this and all other operations the stamps should always be picked up with the tweezers, and should be touched as little as possible with the fingers.

We will first attend to the unused stamps. These may have pieces of

paper, parts of old hinges, etc., adhering to the backs, which require removing. As we wish to retain as much of the original gum as possible, we will proceed as follows:—Lay the stamp face downwards on a piece of clean white blotting-paper, and with a small brush well wet the pieces of paper, taking care not to let the water run on to the other part of the stamp. When the paper appears to be sufficiently soaked, blot up the surplus moisture, and with a blunt knife inserted under the edge of the paper, try and lift it off; if it does not come easily, do not try and pull it off, as the stamps are easily torn, but re-wet it again and wait until the gum is soft. When the paper has been removed, scrape away any gum that does not appear to have originally belonged to the stamp, and then put the stamp on one side to dry. Do not dry it before a fire, as the heat causes the stamps to curl and cracks the gum.

Should any of the stamps be creased, they may often be cured, if the fibre of the paper is not broken, by laying them between two thin white glazed cards and pressing with a hot iron. Of course, embossed stamps should not be treated in this way, nor should the gum be at all wet.

Sometimes a stamp will be found in which the original colour has been dulled and turned almost black through chemical action in the pigment, a condition usually known among philatelists as "oxidised." The original colour may be restored by brushing the face over with a solution of hydrogen peroxide, which should be left on until the original colour reappears, then quickly blotted off. If left on too long it may ruin the stamp completely.

Stamps that have been soiled may sometimes be improved by washing the surface lightly with a fine sponge and clean water or benzine; this requires a great deal of care, and is not recommended to a beginner. It should only be applied to stamps printed in fast colours, many stamps being printed in "fugitive" inks, which run upon the application of moisture.

Having prepared all the unused stamps, we will turn our attention to the used ones. These will most probably have pieces of the envelope or old hinges adhering to them. To remove these, float the stamps face upwards in a basin of clean water. Do not immerse the stamps or allow the face to get wet. When the gum is sufficiently softened, gently remove the paper and wash the gum from off the

backs of the stamps, then place them face downwards on a sheet of clean blotting-paper to dry.

Should the beginner get hold of old stamps on the original envelope, he should not remove them before seeking the advice of a more experienced collector, as much valuable information, such as dates of particular varieties, may be obtained from such envelopes.

Stamps that have become "oxidized" or soiled may be treated as described for "unused." Creases may be treated as before directed, or in some cases, where printed in "fast" colours, may be soaked in water and then ironed. In the case of some old stamps the writer has even boiled the stamps for a few minutes before ironing, thus removing much dirt and many creases, but this must be done with great care, as it would completely ruin most stamps.

The edges of stamps should never be trimmed, except under exceptional circumstances, especially in the case of unperforated stamps which have also been issued perforated, as in many cases wide margins are the only means of distinguishing the imperforate variety from a perforated one with the perforations cut off. Perforations should not be cut off, although there is generally no harm in cutting down a projecting tooth, for the sake of neatness.

(To be continued.)

NEW ISSUES.

Australasia.

Australian Commonwealth — Wmk.

Crown over A.

1d., red.

South Australia—Wmk., Cr. & A.

5/-.

Victoria—Current issue.

4d., perf. 12 x 12½ on three sides
x 11.

British Empire.

British Somaliland—King George.

1 anna, carmine.

2 annas, violet.

4 annas, black and green.

6 annas, lilac and green

1 rupee, green.

Ceylon—King George.

20 rupees, black and carmine on
blue.

50 rupees, lilac.

100 rupees, black.

500 rupees, green.

East Africa and Uganda—King George
lc., black.

- 10c., dark orange.
 12c., grey.
 15c., ultramarine.
 25c., red and black on yellow.
 50c., dark lilac and black.
 75c., black and grey on blue.
 1r., black on green.
 2r., black and red on blue.
 3r., green and violet.
 4r., green and red on yellow.
 5r., dark lilac and blue.
 10r., green and red on green.
 20r., dark lilac and black on red.
 50r., green and red.

Great Britain—King George.

Wmk., multi. G. v. R. & Crown.

- $\frac{1}{2}$ d., green, die I.
 1d., red, die I.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., green, die II.
 1d., red, die II.

Hong Kong—King George.

2c., green.

India—King George.

5 rupees, violet and bright blue.

Leeward Islands—King George.

- 2d., green.
 3d., purple on yellow.
 6d., purple and violet.
 1/-, black on green.

Morocco Agencies—

Great Britain overprinted.

25c. on $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. blue.**Northern Nigeria—King George.**

- 5d., purple and olive.
 9d., purple on scarlet.
 1/-, black on green.
 2/6, black and red on blue.
 5/-, green and red on yellow.
 10/-, green and red on green.

St. Helena—King George.

- $\frac{1}{2}$ d., green and brown.
 1d., red and black.
 2d., grey and black.
 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., blue.
 4d., black and red on yellow.
 5d., purple and red on violet.
 8d., dark brown and greyish black.
 1/-, orange and dark brown.
 2/-, blue and black on blue.

Sierra Leone—King George.

- $\frac{1}{2}$ d., green.
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ d., yellow.
 2d., grey.
 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., ultramarine.
 4d., black and red on yellow.
 5d., green and purple.
 7d., purple and orange.
 9d., black and purple.
 10d., lilac and red.

Other Countries.**Argentina—Current type, lithographed locally.**

12c., lilac-blue.

Hayti—Head of President Leconte.

1c., lake.

2c., yellow-orange.

Russian Levant—Current issues surcharged.

- 20 paras on 5 kop.
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ piastres on 15 kop.
 2 piastres on 20 kop.
 $2\frac{1}{2}$ piastres on 25 kop.

NOTES AND NOTICES.

After waiting for twelve years, we have at last had the satisfaction of seeing a Commonwealth stamp issued, the 1d. value being put on sale in Sydney on the 2nd January last, and the other denominations are expected shortly. The principal features of the design consist of a white outline map of Australia, enclosing a rather dejected-looking kangaroo, the dejection being, no doubt, caused by the recent loss of portion of its tail; above this are the words "Australia Postage," and below the words "One Penny," and the value, 1d., in figures in a white circle; the background consisting of horizontal lines. The whole thing reminds us of nothing better than the maps used in infants' schools for teaching natural history. The stamps are printed at the Stamp Printing Office, Melbourne, in sheets of 480 on a new paper watermarked Crown and single-lined A. These sheets, before being issued to the public, are cut in half to form sheets containing 240 stamps in 4 panes of 60 each. The perforation is from a new machine gauging 11 $\frac{1}{2}$, 12. However, unsatisfactory as the design and printing are, it is something to have a uniform design for all the States, instead of the heterogeneous mixture hitherto used, and we have no doubt that before long it will be replaced by a stamp more worthy to represent the Australian Commonwealth.

At the last monthly meeting of the J.P.S.A., Mr. W. A. Hull and Mr. W. J. McNeill both announced their discovery of a new retouch of the twopenny value of the perforated diadem issue of New South Wales. The principal features of the retouch consist of a straight line, possibly a slip of the engraver's tool, commencing at a point just in front of the Queen's nose and extending to a point just under the chin, the point of which is cut off. There also appears to be a slight retouching of the lines of the background under the chin.

The next monthly meeting of the Junior Philatelic Society of Australia will be held at the rooms, 80 Hunter-street, Sydney, on Wednesday, Feb. 12th, at 8 p.m., when Mr. Hagen will deliver a lantern lecture, entitled "The Stamps of Victoria."

SOCIETY REPORTS.

THE JUNIOR PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA.

Report of the monthly meeting of the Junior Philatelic Society of Australia, held at the Society's Rooms on the 8th Jan., 1913, at 7.30.

The following members were present:—Mr. and Mrs. Whitworth, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Hull, Miss Smith, Miss White, and Messrs. McNeill, Foster, Hagen, Crane, Johnson, Van Weenen, Ridley, Wareham, and Liddy.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Mr. and Mrs. Courtenay Smith and Miss D. Stephens.

Mr. Hagen read a report on the Exchange Branch, which is published on another page.

The reading of a paper entitled "Minor Varieties of Australian Stamps" by Mr. W. A. Hull was the principal business of the evening, and proved very interesting. At the conclusion of the paper Mr. McNeill, supported by Mr. Van Weenen, moved a vote of thanks to the reader, which was carried by acclamation.

The discovery of a new retouch in the 2d. Diadem of N.S.W. was made by Messrs. W. A. Hull and W. J. McNeill, who seem to have both seen it about the same time.

The meeting then developed into a general stamp talk, which brought it to a close.

J. W. LIDDY,
Hon. Sec.

The committee elected the following new member:—Miss Julia White.

WELLINGTON JUNIOR PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The Y.M.C.A. was again the meeting-place of many small boys and big collections. Twenty-seven members rolled up to the 12th monthly meeting on Friday, November 22, at which Mr. W. Ferguson presided. The following nine new members were elected:—Rev. C. F. Askew, Messrs. W. Phipson, Seton, N. Skinner, E. C. Smyth, Thomson, Underwood, Brown.

The first Annual General Meeting then took place, and the officers for the ensuing year were elected. Mr. W. Ferguson, in resigning from the presidential seat, said he thought it well that the senior members should take turn about in occupying the position of President. Mr. W. Jolliffe was elected President, and expressions of thanks

were conveyed to Mr. Ferguson for taking care of us during the past year. The other officers elected are as follows:—Vice-Presidents, Messrs. W. Ferguson and P. B. Phipson; Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. R. F. Joyce; Assistant Secretary and Librarian, Mr. C. B. Melville; Exchange Superintendent, Mr. F. H. Smyth; Committee, Messrs. E. C. Smyth, O. Borer, R. J. G. Collins, R. Dryden, G. A. Jenness, G. F. Harrison, E. K. Rishworth, and A. Wiren. The Annual Report and Balance Sheet were passed. The subscription of members over 21 was raised to 2/6, and exchange rule 6 was added the following:—"... or fined 6d. per week for each week after a statement of the account has been sent by the Hon. Secretary until the amount is paid, such fine to be subject to remission by the committee on due cause shown by the member."

The report of the Judges of the Junior Competition was then read, and the prizes distributed to the winners. Messrs. A. Hamilton and P. B. Phipson, the Judges, were cordially thanked for their kindness in judging the competition. The collections of the competitors were then exhibited, Mr. P. K. Bryan showing a fine collection of Solomon Islands, for which he was awarded first prize; Mr. C. B. Melville, who came second, showed an almost equally fine collection of Italy and States. Displays of the United States of America were exhibited by Messrs. E. J. Simpson, who received third prize, and Master R. J. G. Collins, who came fifth. E. K. Rishworth was fourth with a collection of New Zealand. The collections of the other four entries were also displayed, the countries selected being Spain and Colonies, the Islands under the administration of New Zealand, and Canada.

It was decided to hold a competition during the coming year on similar lines subject to alteration.

R. F. JOYCE,
Hon. Secretary.

WELLINGTON JUNIOR PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Junior Competition, 1912.

List of Prize Winners.

First Prize: One guinea (presented by the Philatelic Society of New Zealand) — P. K. Bryan (Solomon Is.)
Second Prize: Fifteen shillings (presented by the Wellington J.P.S.)
C. B. Melville (Italy & States)

Third Prize: Ten shillings (presented by Mr. W. Ferguson)

E. J. Simpson (U.S.A.)

Fourth Prize: Five shillings (presented by Lieut. H. J. Lancaster, R.N.)

E. K. Rishworth (N.Z.)

Fifth Prize: Packet of stamps, value 5/- (presented by Mr. C. H. Osmond) ..

R. J. G. Collins (U.S.A.)

Judges' Report.

We have much pleasure in congratulating the Wellington Junior Philatelic Society on their first Annual Competition. We, as Judges, have been agreeably surprised at the excellence of some of the entries, and have no hesitation in saying that for general arrangement and neatness in mounting the collections of Messrs. Bryan and Melville would compare very favourably with anything that could be shown by the majority of senior societies, and we have much pleasure in inviting these gentlemen to exhibit their collections at the December meeting of the Philatelic Society of New Zealand.

Several of the Juniors made the mistake (common to beginners) of overcrowding the pages, while in some there was little or no attempt made in arranging the various issues in chronological order. We advise these competitors to study the two collections mentioned above, and then to try again next year.

In some cases the writing up was overdone, much of the information being quite unnecessary. In writing up a collection one wants to avoid the obvious. Don't tell us the value of the stamp is 3 cents and the colour red, because we can see that for ourselves, but take us behind the scenes and tell us who designed it, the name of the printers; describe the paper, whether wove, laid, etc., the perforation, date and length of issue, and if you can tell us how many were printed, so much the better. Of course, we are aware that much of this information is not available to the Junior Collector; still, you will not always be Juniors, and you will gain far more information, and far more enjoyment from your hobby, if you only start about it the right way.

(Signed)—

A. HAMILTON, F.I.S.,

PERCY B. PHIPSON, F.C.S.,

Judges.

Wellington, 22/11/12.

THE CHRISTCHURCH JUNIOR STAMP CLUB.

A meeting of the Christchurch Junior Stamp Club was held in the Boys' Gordon Hall, Hereford-street, on Monday, Nov. 18th, at 7.30 p.m.

This meeting was the best attended since the Club was founded, there being 23 members present. A copy of the first annual report of the Wellington Junior Philatelic Society was received.

The Exchange Branch report showed very satisfactory progress, the third book having nearly completed its circuit. As only a few members, however, availed themselves of the advantages of this branch, members were urged to make more use of it.

A very successful "question box" was held, a large number of useful questions on philatelic matters being capably answered by different members.

Several members displayed their collections, and after these had been examined and commented upon, the meeting was brought to a conclusion with the usual "treasure hunt."

P. CARMICHAEL,

Hon. Secretary.

Mr. W. J. Wilson presided over the 15th ordinary meeting of the Christchurch Junior Stamp Club, which was held in the Boys' Gordon Hall on Monday, Dec. 9th, 1912, at 7.30 p.m. There was an attendance of 16 members.

The committee reported that from January 1st the Secretary and Exchange Superintendent had decided, with the approval of the committee, to exchange their positions.

The evening was spent in looking over the President's and several members' collections, and in the exchanging of duplicates.

P. CARMICHAEL,

Hon. Secretary.

109 Hill's-road, St. Albans,
Christchurch.

THE JUNIOR STAMP NEWS.

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ART AS APPLIED TO STAMP DESIGNS.

A Paper read by Mr. E. D. E. van Weenen at the December Meeting of the Junior Philatelic Society of Australia.

(Continued.)

My next effort will be to point out to you to what extent the beauties of art can be brought out even on a diminutive piece of paper, measuring a little over $\frac{7}{8}$ inch by $\frac{3}{4}$ inch. Notice, for instance, the 2d. Queen's Head, Queensland, 1st issue. If you will look closely at the design, in the block of proofs before you, you can easily grasp, not only the fine and even lines of the background, but the graceful poise of the head and bust, and, in the whole, the softness and harmony of the engraving. The same fine work can be observed on the proofs of the 6d and 1/- values, Tasmania, 1858. Both the Queensland and the Tasmanian were engraved and printed by Perkins, Bacon and Co., London, the first printers of steel engraved postage stamps. As far as my opinion goes, the 2d. Queensland is the finest work of stamp-engraving art in existence, not even excepting the United States Columbian stamps, two of the best specimens of that set which you will find on card No. 3. The nearest approach to these is again in heads, the Queen's, on the 12½ cents Nova Scotia, engraved and printed by the American Bank Note Company. On the card (No. 1) you will note also a block of proofs of the 6d. Victorian, 1858, another production of Perkins, Bacon and Co. They will well bear in-

spection, since the design is probably the best of a Sovereign on the throne used on postage stamps. The other stamps on the same card are: block of proofs of the 6d. diadem, 1854, N.S.W.; proof of the "Universal" penny issue of N.Z., 1901; New Brunswick 5c., 1860; and Turks' Island 1d., 1867. The first and fourth were engraved and printed by Perkins, Bacon and Co.; the second by Waterlow and Sons; and the third by the American Bank Note Company.

To save changing the cards about too much, I will ask you to take up card No. 2, which has on it some other heads of Queen Victoria, some heads of King Edward, and two of King George, the first as Prince of Wales. Of the four heads of the late Queen in widow's attire, I prefer the two rupees of India, 1895, the head being a reproduction of Von Angeli's painting. Looking at it from an artistic point of view, the colour of the stamp does not harmonise with the design. On the other hand, a good glance at the reproductions of the heads of Kings Edward and George forces one to the conclusion that the engraver's art in Great Britain has not made much progress, at least as far as postal designs are concerned. Perhaps the reason for this is that the Aestheticism in art ruling sixty-five or seventy years ago has been crushed down to a large extent by the materialism, rationalism, and commercialism that have entered into the social and industrial walks of our life of late years.

As regards the designs other than heads on card No. 2, you will note they all belong to the British Empire series, Protectorates included. I might suggest that the Tonga 2/-, 1897, British New Guinea 2½d. 1901, Kedah 10c. (re-

cent issue), and North Borneo 4c. 1909, please the eye most. You may, however, possibly pick out other designs; and had all of them been printed in black on paper that would have brought out the best points of the engraver's work, it is possible both of us might alter our opinion.

Now, just a few more words on colour as applied to design. If you will again take up card No. 1, you may understand my remarks on how the engraver's art can be minimised by some of the colours used in printing. Look at the proof in black of the Victoria 1856 and then at the 1d. green, same design; next at the 6d. diadem, N.S.W., dull purple, and compare with its proof in black. I can name plenty of others the design of which has been partly destroyed by the colour of the ink. You can easily pick out in all the cards colours and combination of colours (the latter, in my opinion, the best to bring out a design), which can be said to be in harmony with the drawers' art.

We will now come to card 3, which contains some of the finest examples of the steel engraver's art used in the production of foreign stamps. The palm, you must admit, ought to be given to those done by the American Bank Note Company. All of them may be called works of art in miniature. The 2c. Department of Interior, U.S.A., 1873, head of General Jackson, by the Continental Bank Note Company, is a fine production also. I have shown the two centesimos, Uruguay, 1900-1, as the conception of the design is very fine, and the execution (by Waterlow and Sons) most excellent, but the central part of the design has been drawn too large for the frame, and thus, as a whole, it loses a good deal of its beauty. The Siam of 1863 may be considered a harmonious whole.

Card 4 gives us an insight into lithographic and typographic work, and they are shown more as a companion with the fine steel and copper engraved stamps on the other cards; a few, as you will have noticed, are not steel engravings. No one here will, I hope, say that such productions as the large Obock, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Sudan, etc., are artistic as a whole, whatever the designs may be, although the Sudanese one shows better execution than the others. The Bavarian 7 Kr. is placed with them merely to show how little art was studied in Germany in the production of postage stamps.

One must regret that Australia, which has demonstrated its superiority in

many branches of sport over contestants in other parts of the world, has not yet been able to bring forward an artist-engraver that can equal the fine work produced in either Great Britain or the United States of America. Perhaps this defect may be remedied in the near future.

I have to thank Mr. F. Hagen for his kindness in placing at my disposal his stock of stamps from which to choose those I required for illustration. With the exception of one of the proofs, all have been lent by him.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE COMMONWEALTH ISSUE.

A Paper read before the February Meeting of the Junior Philatelic Society of Australia by Walter A. Hull.

The latest thing to burst up our startled view and dim the brightness of the heavens by its effulgency, as Mr. Bones would say, is the Commonwealth postage stamp. As in the first syllable of our Federated name, it is Common, common in design, common in its watered colours, common as to its common textured paper, and common as to its "sick kangaroo" design.

And yet consider the time, labour and thought necessary to produce any new issue, which plus common sense ensures a beautiful production, and minus that saving grace our present monstrosity. Surely never before has the mountain so moved and produced, not even a mouse, but only one poor desolate "roo" who is to do duty for a whole series of stamps from 1d. to 40/-.

Looking back on the unique difficulties in the way of producing an interchangeable issue of postage stamps for the Commonwealth, all of which have been successfully overcome, it seems a pity that the culminating point should be the disgraceful effusion we now have.

Australia federated in 1901 (12 years ago), and it was expected that we would have a universal issue straight away, or at least the various State stamps surcharged "Australia," so that the outside world might know that the various scattered States were now one indissoluble Commonwealth.

But for 10 years a bar existed to the desirable event. "The Braddon Blot," as it was called, which was a clause in the Constitution that provided for 10 years after the commencement of

Federation, three-fourths of the revenue collected from the States by the Commonwealth should be returned to the States. Under this clause it was deemed impossible with one issue of stamps to gauge accurately the revenue each State post-office would gain by the sale of stamps, as stamps purchased in one State would possibly be used to prepay postage in another State.

When by effluxion of time this clause became inoperative, the various State issues were allowed to be used indiscriminately in any State, and we had humorous minds plastering single letters with low value stamps of all the six States.

The Braddon blot being disposed of, nothing apparently stood in the way of a universal issue but State jealousy; N.S. Wales and Victoria each claiming that they should be the only ones to produce and print the much desired issue. This contention was squashed by the Federal Government appointing their own Government Printer from Adelaide to do the work, and in this they had an absolute just right. The printing offices of N.S. Wales and Victoria are both State-owned concerns, and after Federation printed stamps under contract to the Federal Government, while the South Australian printing office was in two divisions, the ordinary printing department being State and the stamp printing department was attached to the post-office, being taken over by the Federal Government at the time of Federation. Later on the stamp printing office was transferred from Adelaide to Melbourne as being more central, and all looked rosy for our much-desired issue.

A Board was appointed to deliberate and report upon same, and of which I had the honour to be a member. The various suggestions made and submitted by the Board to give effect to the production of the finest issue that art, skill, science, machinery and money could produce have all been passed over with the one exception of calling for competitive designs. This competition was a great success. Hundreds of suitable designs were submitted, and three, more or less suitable, were selected and awarded prizes. This was done under the regime of Mr. Josiah Thomas, the then Postmaster-General. But another Postmaster who knew not Josiah arose, and he has placed those designs on one side and has evolved one with the aid of some artistic (?) collaborateur more after his own heart.

The design chosen, then proceeds the

work of producing the finished article as a sheet of stamps, gummed and perforated ready for the maiden's kiss or the lick of the office boy.

The first thing to be considered is the size of plate the printing machine will carry, so that you may have your stamp of such a size that, allowing a couple of millimetres for the perforation, you will get an even and useful number on the sheet, say, 120, 240 or 480. For the purpose of counting, valuing and checking, it is obviously better to have sheets of the value of 10/-, 20- or 40/- than, say, 9/6, 19/- or 38/-. That matter settled, the paper is ordered; this is made in London, specially with the watermark as desired, and in sheets the size of the plate that has been decided upon. It is now sent out ready gummed, which saves the printer a lot of trouble. Then the steel master die has to be cut. In the case of our famous kangaroo this was done locally. I wonder does the P.M.G. know (his officers do) that a die could have been cut in England at a cost of £40 to £50, that would have made even the present wretched design look beautiful. The die being cut, electros are made by impressing this die on sheets of lead the requisite number of times; the sheet is then placed in an electric bath, in which it receives a coating of copper. After being trimmed and planed to an accurately level surface, it is now ready to print from.

Printing having proceeded, which in the case of the Commonwealth stamps is in sheets of 480 from a machine capable of printing 1,500 sheets, or about half a million stamps per hour, comes the question of perforating, and for these great sheets a new perforating machine had to be installed.

It is difficult to get even the most simple information from the G.P.O. Letters are simply acknowledged as "received" or "the information you desire will be sent you in due course." Once, I fancy, some statesman said that "the post-office existed for the convenience of the public." That was evidently an ideal, as it seems the P.O. exists for the convenience of the public only so far as such suits the convenience of its officers. The latest figures as to quantity of stamps issued I have been able to get are those for 1906, in which year N.S. Wales printed 125 million stamps, W.A. 23 millions, Victoria 102 millions, Queensland 42 millions, S. Aust. 28 millions, and Tasmania 14 millions, or 334 millions in all. Since then, with the introduction of 1d. post-

age and increase of population, I reason that our Commonwealth issue will run into 500 millions for the year 1913, a very respectable total.

When the States were printing stamps under contract to the Federal Government, the published prices for same were:—Queensland, 8d. per 1000 stamps; N.S. Wales, 7½d.; Victoria, 5½d.; and S. Aust., 4d. per 1000. The South Australian figures were contested, but Mr. Cooke, the Federal stamp printer, proved his estimates were correct, and the argument used by the Federal Government in transferring all the stamp printing to Mr. Cooke was simply because it was cheaper to do so, when it would have been better to have simply said they did so because he was their own printer.

Referring back to the 1906 figures, we find the S. Aust. output was 28 millions, at an estimated cost of production of 4d. per 1,000. Now, it is obvious that 500 millions stamps can be printed at a very much less average cost than 28 million, so would it not have been better policy if Mr. T. B. Cooke had been given a free hand to produce the best works he could (and he has proved himself capable of turning out very fine work—the 1887-93 De-la-Rue type of S. Aust. are very fine examples of electro work, and the beautiful 2/- crimson of steel plate printing; these were Mr. Cooke's work), instead of a demand that the only thing to be considered was cheapness. Another farthing or so per 1,000 would ensure deep rich colours, and the same amount, a better quality paper that would receive the design and show it to more advantage. But, no! the cry is cheapness, cheapness, cheapness; and instead of a very fine series, such as the Borneo, Newfoundland, or Tonga; that would have been Australia's finest advertisement all the world over, we have got a "kangaroo coupon."

Let us hope that those in authority will take thought.

HELPING THE JUNIORS.

The Work of the C.J.S.C.

(By William J. Wilson, President.)

In a quiet, unobtrusive way, the Christchurch Junior Stamp Club has been doing good work amongst the junior collectors. The Club does not pretend to be anything more than it is,

and it is content merely to tackle the kindergarten work of philately.

The Club was established in March, 1912, but for nearly a year before that it was in existence as the Christchurch Junior Section of the Chums Society of Stamp Collectors. However, it was not until its independence that the Club commenced any active work, and now, after a year of independence, it may safely be said that it has done very good work in guiding the young and inexperienced collector in the way he should go.

The present membership is about 40, and with the exception of about half-a-dozen, all of these are under sixteen years of age. Advanced collectors are not invited to join, for, even though they may be willing to assist the juniors, the Committee recognise that the objects of the Club can best be accomplished without their assistance. The highest attendance has been 23 members, and it would be difficult to get this number of schoolboys present if seniors were also present.

An Exchange Branch is conducted by the Club, and this has proved a great success. A Library is also being got together, but progress in this direction is naturally slow, owing to the expense incurred in buying books.

At the meetings which are held fortnightly in winter and monthly in summer, an instructive and entertaining programme is carried out. After the routine business the collections of various members are displayed, the senior members explaining to the juniors where their collections could be improved, etc. The greatest "crime" a member of the C.J.S.C. can commit is to mount stamps with thick gum paper or to paste them in the album. Following on this, the President usually reads some article from a philatelic paper or explains the uses of perforation, gauges or watermark detectors, and other philatelic requisites.

If there is time, a Question Box is usually held after this, and this item is always welcome. But the greatest event in the whole of the meeting, and the one most popular, is the Treasure Hunt. It would take too much space to explain this here, but I will do so at another time. Needless to say, the Treasure Hunt is a great draw for the members, for everyone goes away with several "treasures" in the matter of stamps.

A competition is now being held in connection with the Club, and at the annual meeting in March prizes will be

presented to the three members who have made most progress during the past year. In fact, the Christchurch Junior Stamp Club is very much alive, and is going to continue in the good work of helping those who are not always able to help themselves. Well may it prosper.

NEW ISSUES.

AUSTRALASIA.

Australia—

- ½d., dull green.
- 2d., pearl grey.
- 2½d., Prussian blue.
- 3d., olive green.
- 5d., brown.
- 6d., blue.
- 2/-, brown.

New Zealand—Life Insurance.

- ½d., green.
- 1d., deep carmine.
- 2d., bright purple.
- 3d., yellow-brown.
- 6d., rose.

BRITISH EMPIRE.

Bermuda—Ship type.

- 2d., grey.
- 3d., lilac on yellow.

Bechuanaland Protectorate—

Overprinted on 1/- King Edward of Great Britain.

Cayman Islands—King George.

- ½d.

Cyprus—King George.

- 10 paras, orange and green.
- 2 piastres, ultramarine and red.
- 12 piastres, red-brown and black.

Jamaica—King George.

- 1d., red.
- 2½d., ultramarine.
- 4d., red and black on yellow.
- 6d., lilac and violet.

Hongkong—King George.

- 1c., dark brown.
- 4c., red.
- 6c., orange red.
- 8c., grey.
- 10c., ultramarine.
- 12c., lilac and yellow.
- 20c., yellow-green and lilac.
- 30c., orange and lilac.
- 50c., black on green.
- 1dol., ultramarine and lilac on blue.

- 2dol., grey and red.
- 3dol., lilac and green.
- 5dol., red and dark green on green.
- 10dol., black and lilac on red.

Somaliland Protectorate—King George.

- 1a., red.

Seychelles—King George.

- 12c., olive-brown and green.
- 18c., olive-green and red.
- 30c., violet and green.
- 45c., dark brown and carmine.
- 75c., yellow and violet.
- R.1.50, black and carmine.
- R.2.25, red-violet and green.

Straits Settlements—King George.

- 100dol.

Turks' and Caicos Islands—King George.

- ½d., green.
- 1d., carmine.
- 2½d., ultramarine.
- 3d., dark lilac on yellow.
- 4d., red on yellow.

OTHER COUNTRIES.

China—Waterflow overprint on current issues.

- 2c., green.
- 3c., blue green.

Macedonia—Current Greek issue overprinted in Greek with inscription meaning Greek administration.

- 11., green.
- 21., carmine.
- 31., scarlet.
- 51., green.
- 101., carmine.
- 201., lilac.
- 251., ultramarine.
- 301., carmine.
- 401., deep blue.
- 501., indigo purple.
- 1dr., ultramarine.
- 2dr., vermilion.
- 3dr., rose carmine.

Postage Dues.

- | | |
|-----|-----|
| 11. | 21. |
| 31. | 51. |

Russia—Commemorative issue, with portraits of rulers.

- 1 kopee, brown orange.
- 2 kopee, green.
- 3 kopee, red.
- 4 kopee, red-brown.
- 7 kopee, dark brown.
- 10 kopee, blue.
- 14 kopee, blue green.
- 15 kopee, brown.
- 20 kopee, olive green.
- 25 kopee, dark lilac.

35 kopee, dark lilac and green.
50 kopee, dark brown and slate.
70 kopee, light green and brown.

Siam—Portrait of new King.
2 satangs, brown.

U.S.A.—Parcel Post Stamps.
All values red.

1c., 2c., 3c., 4c., 5c., 10c., 15c., 20c.,
25c., 50c., 75c., 1dol.

U.S.A.—Parcel Post Postage Dues.
All values green.
Large numeral in centre.
1c. 2c., 5c., 10c., and 25c.

NOTES AND NOTICES.

Up to date the following values of the new Commonwealth issue have been put on sale, viz., $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., 2d., $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., 3d., 5d., 6d., 1/-, and 2/-.

The fifth Philatelic Congress of Great Britain is to be held in Edinburgh on the 23rd, 24th, and 25th of April, 1913. It is also proposed to hold a small exhibition at the same time.

The death is announced of the Earl of Crawford, President of the Royal Philatelic Society, at the age of 66 years.

We have received a copy of a circular announcing the holding of an exhibition at Durban by the Philatelic Society of Natal, about the first week of July, 1913.

The exhibits are divided into ten classes. That of most interest to members of the J.P.S.A. is

Class 4, for Junior Collectors.

For competitors under 21 years on July 1st, 1913.

Div. 1.—Specialised collection of any country.

Div. 2.—General collection of over 3000 stamps.

Div. 3.—General collections of under 3000 stamps.

For competitors up to 17 years of age.

Div. 4.—Specialised collection of any country.

Div. 5.—General collections of over 2000 stamps.

Div. 6.—General collections of under 2000 stamps.

Awards: One Silver and one Bronze medal in each section.

A Junior Championship Cup will be presented for the best collection shown in this or any class by an exhibitor not over 21 years of age.

For further information, application should be made to Mr. Norman Welsford, Hon. Sec., P.O., Box 588, Durban, South Africa.

Owing to his absence from the city, Mr. Hagen was compelled to postpone his lantern lecture on "The Stamps of Victoria," which was to have been given at the last meeting of the J.P.S.A.

The next monthly meeting of the Junior Philatelic Society of Australia will be held at the rooms, 80 Hunter-street, City, on Wednesday, 12th March, at 8 p.m. The subject for the evening will be "My Ten Favourite Stamps," with reasons and display, by all members. It is essential to the success of this evening that all members attending should contribute a short paper. A special country members' night will be held on March 19th, when Mr. W. F. Johnson will give a display of his stamps at Papua.

THE JUNIOR PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA.

The February meeting of the Junior Philatelic Society of Australia took place at the Society's Rooms on the 12th inst. at 8 p.m.

The following members were present:—Mr. and Mrs. Courtenay Smith, Miss Alymer, Messrs. Whitworth, Foster, McNeill, Fulton, Johnson, Pantano, Crane, Ridley, Van Weenen, Hamilton, and Liddy.

An apology was received from Mr. Hagen for non-attendance.

The President read a paper by Mr. W. A. Hull on the new stamps of the Commonwealth, which was listened to with much interest, as well as opening up some interesting remarks on Australian stamps generally, particularly by Mr. Van Weenen, who also moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Hull, which was carried by acclamation.

Mr. Fulton suggested that a copy of Mr. Hull's article be sent to the P.M.G., which was approved.

Owing to the unavoidable absence from the city of Mr. Hagen, the lantern lecture set down for this meeting had to be postponed until some future date.

The President opened a discussion on "The Arrangement of Stamps in Albums," which the rest of the members present entered into, and some interesting talk took place.

Mr. Crane showed an album with Queensland Stamps, which proved of great interest.

The sale by tender of some stamps sent by Mr. Henckel, of U.S.A., caused some amusement, and the opinion was expressed that such sales should become a regular feature of the meetings.

The committee elected the following as new members:—Dr. and Mrs. Avery and F. Tipping.

J. W. LIDDY,

Hon. Sec.

WELLINGTON JUNIOR PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Nine new members have been elected during the last two months, including Messrs. H. R. Rogers, J. Mason, Miss Hunter-Brown and Miss Staveley. The resignations of Messrs. Myers and Kelly have been accepted.

It is with very great regret we have had to accept the resignation of Mr. C. B. Melville from the office of Assistant Secretary and Librarian. He has left us to join Mr. Powell, of Auckland, and we wish him success in his new venture. Mr. E. C. Smyth has been appointed Assistant Secretary and Librarian in his stead.

Twenty members and one visitor were present at the fourteenth monthly meeting held on 7th February. The meetings for the year were arranged as follows:—

Fri., Mar. 14.—Victoria, N.S.W., Queensland.

Fri., April 18.—Tasmania, South and West Australia.

Fri., May 9.—N. Zealand and Dependencies.

Fri., May 23.—Straits Settlements and Hong Kong.

Fri., June 20.—France and Colonies. Paper by Mr. E. C. Smyth.

Fri., July 18.—West Indies and Philatelic debate.

Fri., Aug. 8.—Switzerland, Servia, Sweden.

Fri., Sept. 19.—German Empire, States, and Colonies. Paper by Mr. W. Ferguson.

Fri., Nov. 21.—Annual General Meeting. Display of competitors' entries.

Fri., Dec. 12.—Countries composing Union of S. Africa.

The meeting closed with a display of India and Ceylon, Messrs. Ferguson and Joyce exhibiting.

R. F. JOYCE,

Hon. Sec.

THE CHRISTCHURCH JUNIOR STAMP CLUB.

A meeting of the Christchurch Junior Stamp Club was held in the Boys' Gordon Hall on Monday, Jan. 13th.

Mr. W. J. Wilson presided over an attendance of 12 members.

It was decided to give two prizes of the value of 10/- and 5/- to the two junior members who had made the best progress with their collections throughout the year. All members were asked to bring their collections to the next meeting, so that the Committee could decide who had made the most progress.

It was decided to hold the next meeting on Feb. 17th.

P. CARMICHAEL,

Hon. Secretary.

Alteration in Report of Meeting held Dec. 9th.

The Committee reported that, with its approval, the Secretary had agreed with the Exchange Superintendent to carry on both positions till the annual meeting in March.

THE JUNIOR STAMP NEWS.

All communications to be addressed to the Editor, Junior Stamp News, J.P.S.A. Rooms, 85 Hunter Street, Sydney.

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