



THE PHILATELIC TIMES.

VOL. I.

AUCKLAND, N.Z., MAY, 1881.

No. 1.

THE Proprietors of this journal, though business rivals, under the belief that in union there is strength, have joined together to supply what they consider has been a long felt want to Philatelists of these colonies, namely, a reliable journal on the subject of stamp collecting.

Our motto will be, "Be brief and to the point;" and although the journal will be small at first, it will contain in a condensed form as much interesting Philatelic news as many a more pretentious publication.

We expect to creep before we walk, and if subscriptions do not come in as fast as we might wish it will not discourage us, as we are convinced that, with the efforts we will make to please the Philatelic public, the ultimate result is bound to be success.

As soon as our subscription list justifies it we will enlarge our paper, and introduce several features which we are compelled through want of space to exclude at present.

A portion of the journal which we hope will prove useful to our patrons is the Collector's Column. In this column subscribers may advertise stamps, coins, crests, &c., they may wish to exchange; and as the paper circulates in all the colonies, North, South, and Central America, Europe, Africa, &c., they will have splendid opportunities of making advantageous bargains. The public

confidence once gained, our efforts shall not cease, our endeavours ever being to place "The Philatelic Times" in the first rank of Philatelic literature. We now ask collectors to encourage us in our good intentions by forwarding 1s 6d in unused stamps, and by also prevailing upon their friends to do likewise. In return they will receive the journal for one year, and also six rare foreign stamps, which are presented with every other issue.

Stamp Collecting.

BY J. J. CASEY.

I have no doubt that many of the readers of "Young People" are stamp collectors, and that many more are ready to become stamp collectors if they are started properly. Little difficulty is experienced at the present day in getting a good assortment of stamps, because the great spread of the postal system, and the resulting increase of correspondence, bring the stamps of every foreign country into the business houses of New York. But the main difficulty is so to manage with the stamps as to make them more than a plaything for a few weeks—to make them really instructive, and their possessors real philatelists.

The materials requisite for the beginner are very few—a blank book, some sheets of very thin writing-paper, and a small bottle of pure gum-arabic dissolved in water and made thin. Of course, when the collection increases and begins to assume form, this blank book must give way to a special album; but in the beginning a small book, worth, say, four or five cents will suffice. Thus provided, you are ready to begin your collection.

Every reader of "Young People" has

friends who have a correspondence more or less extensive, and whose desks are, therefore, store-houses of postage stamps. Requests for these stamps will seldom be denied, and in a very little while the beginner will have enough to make a start. Look over the specimens, pick out those that are cleanest, and put aside as useless those that are torn or much defaced. Remove any superfluous paper from the back of the stamps selected for use by carefully touching the backs with warm water, when the adhering paper can easily be peeled off. Then cut the sheets of thin writing-paper into strips half an inch wide, gum along one edge of the strips, and lay the stamps on the gummed edge. Next cut the strips between the stamps and trim the paper. Now fold this little strip of paper backward, so as to make a hinge, and fasten it to the blank page by a touch of gum. This is called mounting the stamps.

Now you may ask why all this labour, all this patience with a lot of common stamps. Simply this: this system has been adopted by all Philatelists, but only after many trials, and the destruction of many fine specimens; and it is well, therefore to be guided by the experience of others. Again the collection will increase in interest, which could not be the case if no pains were taken in the mounting, and it will increase in size. You will, of course, desire to transfer the stamps to a more pretentious and permanent album. A little moisture will loosen the strip from the first book, when it can be placed in the new book without damage. Even where here you may wish to replace it by a better specimen without injury to the book. Another plan is to mount the stamps on thin cardboard a trifle larger than the stamp, gum a square of paper to the back of the card, and a touch of gum to the centre will fasten it to the page.

But why hinge the stamp? Simply to enable you to write under it the date of issue, its cost, and certain other matters connected with the stamp itself, so that you may have at hand the few facts necessary to be known—all of which is necessary if you wish to be a true Philatelist.

Another point to which particular attention is directed: do not cut the stamps

close up to the printed designs; if perforated, do not cut off the perforations. Aside from destroying the appearance of the stamps, you also destroy their value for collectors. Not long since a very large collection of stamps was sold by auction. Hundreds and hundreds of dollars must have been spent in purchasing the specimens, among which were numbers of all rarities. The owner had trimmed and trimmed his specimens, cutting away everything up to the printed design. The collection went for a mere song in comparison to what it would have brought if the scissors had been left alone. No true collector fancies a mutilated specimen.

Thus far I have told you how to select your specimens, and prepare them for your blank-book. At the outset it is likely you will receive nothing but current stamps of the several countries. Take all you get, select the best of each kind for yourself, and keep the others to make exchanges with your companions. That you may have some idea of the value of your specimens, it would be well to provide yourself with a catalogue of stamps, in which you will find full lists of all stamps issued, and in some many illustrations of the stamps.

(To be Concluded.)

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

"The New Zealand Stamp Collectors Quarterly." This journal has been discontinued, and subscribers who have not yet had their subscriptions returned will be entered on the list of subscribers for "The Philatelic Times." We beg to acknowledge receipt and express our thanks to the publishers of the following journals:—"Illustrirte Briefmarken-Zeitung," "Welt Post," "Erdbal Merkur," "New Jersey Philatelist," "Philatelic World," "Philatelic Review," "Philatelic Star," "Il Timbrofilo," "Dominion Bazaar," "Monthly Reporter," "Stamp World," "Schweizer Illustrirte Briefmarken-Zeitung," "Stamp Collector," "Philatelic Review," "Alfred Smith & Co's Circular," "New South Wales Stamp Collectors' Magazine," &c.

F. A. HENDERSON & CO:

The Philatelic Times.

*A Journal devoted to Stamp Collecting,
issued each alternate Month.*

SUBSCRIPTION—1s 6d per Annum, post free at home or abroad.

Advertisements for the Collector's Column (open only to Subscribers who are amateurs) are received at the rate of 6d for 20 words or under. No dealers advertisements received owing to our limited space.

Remittances, if from the colonies, should be made by unused 2d stamps; and if from abroad, by unused stamps of the lowest value current.

Sole Agent for the United States: B. E. Wright, Cromwell, Conn.; Sole Agent for Canada, R. Rennie, Box 1079, Toronto. The above gentlemen will receive subscriptions and advertisements for the Collector's Column.

We desire to exchange with all other journals. Original articles on Stamp Collecting are invited.

Published jointly by F. MOORE & Co. and F. A. HENDERSON & Co., Auckland, N.Z. Communications should be addressed "The Philatelic Times," P.O. Box 80, Auckland, New Zealand.

POSTAL SCRAPS.

ADVANTAGES OF STAMP COLLECTING.—There is no pursuit of the day more pleasant, innocent and instructive than stamp collecting. It improves the mind, gives a taste for art, and by exciting curiosity as to the countries represented in the album, leads to study that adds much to ones knowledge of all that relates to distant and little-heard-of lands.—"Philatelic Monthly."

All the Letters deposited at the Chicago Post Office at the time of the fire were saved, and the most valuable of the contents of the safes, which had to be left in the building, were found uninjured and in perfect order. The office cat was once before burned out, and was, therefore, in a measure prepared for this calamity. On the night of the fire the cat was present, but did not go. When the work of

removing the safes was in progress, the tearing away of a portion of the ruin revealed the faithful public servant in a pail partially filled with water, apparently enjoying the shelter that it afforded. From her position it appeared impossible that she could have gone away and returned after the fire, and so she may be set down as the only living being who passed the time in the burned district.—*The Philatelist.*

HAMBURG LOCALS.—A large number of fictitious stamps hailing from Hamburg, are known under the name of "Hamburg Locals," and are all equally worthless. It is just possible that one among the many designs was really used, but even that one only served to prepay letters delivered by commissioners stationed in the streets. The entire rejection of these pernicious fabrications is strongly to be recommended. They are a positive disfigurement to every collection into which they are admitted.—"The Stamp Collector."

Professor Fawcett's system of collecting savings by postage stamps has been introduced into New Zealand, but no great benefit is derived, owing to the privilege being extended to school children only.

New Plymouth (N.Z.) has had its philatelic society, and the remaining members have gone into business as stamp dealers. A correspondent informs us that a small society of stamp collectors is to be formed, to hold its meetings whenever a member has any important question to discuss. As New Plymouth is one of the smallest and most unimportant of our provincial capitals, the failure of their society must not be a discouragement to collectors in larger towns.

The last stock of 3d. stamps are being sold off at Auckland, and when they are exhausted no more will be issued.

COLLECTOR'S COLUMN.

For the exclusive use of Amateur Collectors, who must be Subscribers. Rate of insertion, 6d for every 20 words or under.

Advertiser has a quantity of used and unused duplicate Foreign Stamps, which he desires to Exchange with Collectors for unused.—David H. Hill, The Treasury, Melbourne.

OUR STAMP CHRONICLE.

Argentine Republic.—We have received from our Buenos Ayres correspondent the 8c. perforated.

Brazil.—A new issue printed in the mint at Rio has been issued. They have the head of Emperor at left, as in the 20 reis, and are somewhat smaller than their predecessors. 50 reis blue, 100 reis green, 20 reis lilac.

Cyprus.—A new series in Turkish coinage is to be issued.

Chili.—The colors of the 1c., 2c., and 5c. are to be changed respectively to green, rose, and blue.

Eastern Roumelia.—Two values of design somewhat similar to the Turkish stamps have been issued. 5 paras, black on yellow; 10 paras, black on green.

Ecuador.—A new issue has appeared, viz., 1c. brown, 20c. red, 5c. blue, 10c. orange, 20c. slate, 50c. green.

Finland.—An envelope, 25 penni, rose, has made its appearance.

Guinea.—The Cape de Verde Islands stamps have been surcharged "Guine" for use in this colony.

Luxemburg.—Stamps of a design similar to the French are to be issued.

Roumania.—A 25 bani, blue, of the new type, has been issued.

Servia.—A new issue is in circulation. 5 paras, green, 10 rose, 20 orange—yellow, 25 blue, 50 green, 1 dinar, lilac.

Switzerland.—An entirely new series consisting of eleven values and three designs is to be issued. The 2, 3, 5, 10, 12 and 15 centimes are to have large figures of value. The 20, 25 and 40c. the head of "Helvetia;" the 50c. and 1 franc a full-length portrait of "Helvetia." The "Schweizer Illustrirte Briefmarken-Zeitung" illustrates the last type which is an excessively handsome one.

Queensland.—We have received the following officially from the Secretary of Posts and Telegraphs, Queensland:—"Owing to the abolition of the rate *via* Southampton, the rate of postage on newspapers was fixed at 1½d, but was afterwards reduced to a penny, thereby doing away with the necessity for ½d. stamps. We have only about 230 in stock, and they are required as specimens. The stamps current are:—Of the new type, 1, 2, 4, and 6d.—of the old types, 3d., 1s., 5s. Post-cards were issued in November last."

F. M O O R E & C O.,

P A R N E L L,
AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND,
WHOLESALE & RETAIL DEALERS IN STAMPS.
PRICE LIST GRATIS.

Used Australasian Stamps Wanted. Good Consignments solicited from Foreign Dealers.

We send sheets of scarce stamps on approval, marked at prices which will be found on the whole to be much lower than those of other dealers, upon receipt of full address and stamp for postage. Stamps sent on approval must invariably be sent. We do not undertake for those retained.

REMITTANCES.—If under 5s. can be made by unused 2d. stamps (if the stamps are of other Colonies, 5 per cent Exchange must be added), if over 5s. by P. O. Order payable at Auckland, to F. Moore & Co. Return postage must invariably be sent. We do not undertake in any circumstances hold ourselves responsible for Letters, &c., lost in transit.

100 varieties of stamps, including Brazil, Turkey, Russia, India, Uruguay, &c., 2s. 7d. post free.

THE AUCKLAND FOREIGN STAMP DEPOT, BOX 80, AUCKLAND, N.Z.

Result of Philatelic Art Union No. 1.

PRIZE	NAME	PLACE
1st prize	Colin Craig	Auckland
2nd "	Geo. N. Goldie	Port Chalmers
3rd "	Jas. R. Varnom	Auckland
4th "	J. Smith	Auckland
5th "	J. Smith	Auckland
6th "	J. R. Butchart	Melbourne
7th "	A. K. England	Christchurch
8th "	A. K. England	Christchurch
9th "	Geo. N. Goldie	Port Chalmers
10th "	A. Parsons	Christchurch
11th "	W. Skellon	Blenheim
12th "	C. F. Winstanley	Nelson

Philatelic Art Union No. 2 Now Ready

400 SUBSCRIBERS AT 6D. EACH

1ST PRIZE—Collection of 800 stamps in New Album, value £5 5s.

2ND PRIZE—Collection of 500 stamps, value £3; and 13 other Prizes.

Early application necessary. One ticket 6d; Six for 2s. 6d.

PRICE LIST GRATIS.

Stamps sent on approval. Unused Australian stamps taken in payment. *Fiji Times Express* complete (5 kinds unused) 12s 6d.

Printed for the Proprietors by JOHN DICKSON WICKHAM, at the Office of "The Auckland Free Lance," Vulcan Lane, in the City of Auckland, New Zealand May 23, 1881.



THE PHILATELIC TIMES.

VOL. I.

AUCKLAND, N.Z., JULY, 1881.

No. 2.

IN presenting our second number, we are happy to state that the support we have so far received has been, on the whole, satisfactory. Criticisms have been received from some of the leading Philatelists, who are almost unanimous in stating that the *TIMES* is a very useful publication and worthy the support of all stamp collectors. This proof of the appreciation of our patrons will cause us to use still further efforts to retain their good opinion, and make the paper profitable, entertaining, and useful to all collectors.

In accordance with promise, we present with this number a used Brazilian stamp, which we hope will be of use to the majority of our friends. We will, during the course of the year, present *six* different stamps, the value of which will be almost equal to the amount of subscription.

Collectors will therefore see that it is to their interest to subscribe, not only on account of the stamps and other inducements offered, but for the information of new issues, &c., which is indispensable to every stamp collector. If you are not yet a subscriber, kindly forward 1s. 6d. for one year; or if you are already a subscriber you will confer a great favor by trying to induce your friends to follow your kind example.

Stamp Collecting.

By J. J. CASEY.

(Concluded.)

By exercising judgment in your exchanges you will soon be enabled to get together quite a number of good specimens from all quarters of the globe, and these without spending a single penny. Of course there is a limit in this mode of collecting, and you will soon find that you will require some loose change in order to add to your album. But do not let this frighten you. As interest in your collection increases—and it will increase if you start out properly—ways and means will suggest themselves for getting desired specimens, and you will be astonished how much you can do at a little outlay. My collection, which numbers over fourteen thousand specimens, and which at the very lowest estimate is worth \$15,000, has not cost me \$1500 in money. And all this by making judicious use of the knowledge I acquired gradually, and by following out the principles I have laid down for your guidance. And my stamps are to-day as great a source of pleasure to me, if not greater, as were the first specimens I got eighteen or twenty years ago.

What I have written thus far applies only to postage or revenue stamps. Stamped envelopes and wrappers and postal cards must be managed differently, but it will be well to leave the proper mounting of these until you have advanced with your "adhesives." For the present, therefore, it will suffice to say: Do not cut out the designs from the envelope, wrapper or card. Keep whole. However, the system of stamps has increased so enormously that it is next to impossible to keep up with the different classes. As a consequence, collectors are turning to specialities. Some devote themselves to postal adhesives, others to revenue stamps; some to stamped envelopes and wrappers, others to postal cards; and some, again,

collect nothing but the private die proprietary stamps of the United States. Each of these is a field large enough in itself to be covered properly, and the one who attempts to cover all, or even several, will require a very long purse, and more time than can be spared in this busy age.

Make your choice, therefore, and stick to that alone.—Harper's "Young People."

The Stamp of the Fiji Islands.

BY T. H. BARSTOW.

The stamps of these Islands have been so surcharged that a reliable article on them will be rather a boon to the Philatelic community. Having had the good fortune to become the possessor of a very fair collection of these stamps, I will use my best endeavours to turn it to some account for the use of the readers of the "Philatelic Times."

The first stamps used in these Islands were issued by a newspaper—"The Fiji Times," in 1870, for the purpose of pre-paying parcels and copies of that paper to the neighbouring colonies. There are three distinct series of these stamps, viz: on thin laid pink paper, on pink paper with a chessboard pattern, and on a thick, dark rose, wove paper. Whether this last series was ever actually used is very doubtful. The stamps of the different series consist of an oblong type, printed black impression, with figure of value in centre, and inscription "Fiji Times Express," on three of the sides in linear frame and are all rouletted in lines of black. The only difference between the series exists in the sizes and shapes of the figure of value. Taking them in the order named, the figure of value of the 6d of the second series and of the 1d and 9d of the third are far larger than those of the first, while the figures of value of the 6d, of the third and of the 1s of all three are ornamented.

For convenience sake I will number the following series of stamps consecutively in the order as issued:—No. 1. The stamps of this series, which are rect. and perf., were the first ones used for preparing postage on letters, and were issued in 1871 by a kind of local government. They consist of three values, viz.:—1d blue,

3d green, and 6d rose. The design, a crown and initial letters C. R. (Cakambau Rex), on lined circular disc, inscription in label above, and value in curved label below with ornaments in spandrels is common to all, with the exception of the inscription and value of the 6d, being on a coloured label instead of white.

No. 2. The previous issue had a very short reign for at the end of the same year they were surcharged in black, respectively two cents, six cents, and twelve cents.

No. 3. On the annexation of these Islands by Great Britain, in 1874, the then current issue (No. 2), was made do duty, surcharged V. R. in black in plain capital letters. This does not seem to give complete satisfaction, for we have them returning to the pence currency by re-surcharging the six and twelve cents 2d.

(To be Continued).

POSTAL SCRAPS.

The Baden Land Post series are not unpaid stamps, as has hitherto been understood; but stamps for letters which are to be sent to post offices where there is no railway.—"N. J. Philatelist."

When is a schoolboy like a postage stamp? When he is licked and put in a corner to make him stick to his letters.—"Monthly Reporter."

A STAMP ACT.—Treading on a person's toes.

It is probable that the whole of the Australasian colonies will shortly be included in the Universal Postal Union.

The collection in the museum of the Berlin Post Office contained on July 1, 1879, 4,498 varieties of postage stamps. Of these 2,462 are from Europe, 1,143 from America, 441 from Asia, 251 from Africa, and 201 from Australia.—"Philatelic News."

The first stamp paper issued in the United States was the "Stamp Collectors' Record," published by Mr S. A. Taylor, at Albany, New York, in 1864.

NEW ZEALAND.—A penny stamp will soon be issued similar to the one at present in use, but with the words, "For Postage or Receipt."

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OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

The following journals have been received with thanks:—"Philatelic World," "New Jersey Philatelist," "Stamp World," "Universal Postage Stamp Advertiser and Amateurs' Chronicle," "Our Home," "Alfred Smith & Co.'s Circular," "Philatelic Monthly," "L'ami des Timbres," and others.

"The New Jersey Philatelist" referring to the discontinuance of the "N.Z.S.C.Q.," says:—"We are indeed sorry, the paper looked so promising; and hope it will be but temporary." We are exceedingly gratified to receive so favorable a critique on our predecessor from such an authority, and hope their opinion of the "Times" will be equally as satisfactory.

History of the Stamps of New Caledonia.

This stamp was the work of a member of the New Caledonian garrison, Sergeant Triquera, who etched them with a point of a pin. The sheet consisted of fifty stamps, each one separately drawn and consequently differing from all the rest.

Their employment was stopped by the Parisian post office as soon as it heard of their being in use, and curiously enough, the information was incidentally conveyed by a well-known stamp collector, M. Berger Levrault, in the course of a conversation he had with the head of the postage stamp department at Paris in 1861.

Original copies are very scarce, but the stones from which they were printed having been preserved by the military engraver's relatives (he himself being dead), reprints of the entire sheet have been obtained, and are comparatively inexpensive.—"New Jersey Philatelic."

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For the exclusive use of Amateur Collectors, who must be Subscribers. Rate of Insertion, 6d for every 20 words or under.

Advertiser has a quantity of used and unused duplicate Foreign Stamps, which he desires to Exchange with Collectors for unused.—David H. Hill, The Treasury, Melbourne.

Advertiser wishes to exchange rare Fijian, Australian, &c., with advanced collectors for rare South American, &c. Thos. H. Barstow, Auckland.

The undersigned wishes to exchange Native Mauritius, and first issue Britannia for penny and shilling New Zealand, on blue paper, good specimens, and has other foreign stamps for exchange, with collectors only. E. D. E. Van Weenen, Wanganella, New South Wales.

Having a large quantity of duplicates I would be glad to exchange with collectors, John K. Smith, corner of Ponsonby Road and Hepburn-street, Auckland.

OUR STAMP CHRONICLE.

Bahamas.—A beautifully engraved stamped envelope has been issued by this Colony, oval in shape, bearing the head of Her Majesty to left in relief.

Bulgaria.—Two new values are about to be issued in a new coinage—3 statinki, vermilion; 15 statinki, light blue.

Chili.—A new 5c. stamp has been issued, the chief difference being that the word "Centavos" is below the figure 5, instead of crossing it as formerly. The colour remains unchanged.

Cyprus.—The 1d. stamp has been surcharged "half-penny." We hear that the new series was to come into use on the 1st of May.

Finland.—A new local has appeared for Tammerfors—12 penni; brown, green, and blue.

Holland.—A series of unpaid letter stamps, printed in light blue, with figures in centre black, is announced, values as follows—1, 1½, 2, 2½, 5, 7½, 10, 12½, 25, 50, and 100 cents.

Liberia.—A new 3c. stamp has been issued for inland use. The design consists of a landscape with palm tree, the sun and flying bird; colour black.

Norway.—A rather handsome looking set of locals has been issued for the town of Tromsø, bearing a reindeer. 3 öre, brown; 5 öre, carmine; 8 öre, green.

Portugal.—We have received on a letter from a Portugese correspondent the 50 reis, blue, of the new design.

Samoa.—The latest stock of the newly issued 9d. is printed of a much darker brown than formerly.

Servia.—In our last issue we erroneously gave the colour of the new 50 paras as green. We find from specimens since received that it is lilac.

Shanghai.—A provisional has been made by surcharging the 3 cents rose "3 cand," in blue.

St. Domingo.—The new issue has been printed on a reticulated pink ground for official use.

U.S. of Columbia.—The paper on which the latest edition of the 2½, 10, and 25 centavos are printed is of a decidedly bluish tint.

[ESTABLISHED 1871.]

THE NEW ZEALAND FOREIGN STAMP COMPANY.

P. O. Box 207, AUCKLAND.

Circulars and Exchange Lists Gratis.
Good exchange given for used Australasian Stamps. High rates for old issues.
Good consignments solicited from Foreign Dealers.

APPROVAL SHEETS.

We send sheets of scarce stamps on approval, marked at prices which will be found on the whole to be much lower than those of other dealers, upon receipt of full address and stamp for postage. Stamps sent on approval must be returned within 21 days, together with remittance for those retained.

Reliable and active Agents are wanted all over the Colonies, to sell stamps from our sheets at a liberal commission. Reference Necessary.

REMITTANCES.—If under 5s. can be made by unused 2d. stamps (if the stamps are of other Colonies, 5 per cent Exchange must be added), if over 5s. by P. O. Order payable at Auckland, to F. Moore & Co. Return postage must invariably be sent. We do not under any circumstances hold ourselves responsible for Letters, &c., lost in transit.

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2ND PRIZE—Collection of 500 stamps, value £3; and 13 other Prizes.

Early application necessary. One ticket 6d; Six for 2s. 6d.

Choice Sheets of Stamps sent on approval. Agents wanted everywhere.

350 Mixed FOREIGN STAMPS (no English, Colonial, or U.S.), post free, 2s 1d.

Printed for the Proprietors by JOHN DICKSON WICKHAM, at the Office of "The Auckland Free Lance," Vulcan Lane, in the City of Auckland, New Zealand, July 2c, 1881.

THE PHILATELIC TIMES.

VOL. I.

AUCKLAND, N.Z., SEPTEMBER, 1881.

No. 3.

POSTAL SCRAPS.

With this number we present a Foreign stamp, and next issue will be accompanied by two Foreign stamps.

The highest price ever realised by a stamp collection is £3000. It was the property of Sir Daniel Cooper, late President of the London Philatelic Society, and a native of New South Wales, and was purchased by a French amateur in 1878.

It is understood that the clerks of the Post Offices advocate flavouring the mucilage on postage stamps with liquor. Then folks won't tuck their money and the letters in to the clerk and make him lick the stamp.—N. J. "Philatelist."

Philatelic Literature.—The amount of interest taken in stamp collecting is best shown by the fact that a record of philatelic literature, recently deposited in the Boston Library, has two hundred pages of catalogue devoted to the names of extinct and existing journals and works devoted to philatelic research.—Boston "Journal of Commerce."

The Samoan "Times" newspaper has suspended publication; it is therefore conjectured that the stamps will also be discontinued.

Mr T. H. Barstow, one of the most advanced philatelists, is on a visit to Australia. Mr F. A. Henderson has gone South for a few months.

The Postmaster-General of Berlin, has just given what he calls a "Postal Ball," in which everything, as nearly as possible, was "emblematical in some way of his host's profession." Thus the servants were attired as postmen, and during one of the dances a gaily-comparisined mail-cart made the tour of the room. As for the best of it, of course the guests comprised men of "letters" and other people of "note," the majority being "stamped" with some postal peculiarity, and many wearing post-office "orders" and other special insignia. The various couples

"posted" themselves about the "salon," and numerous "addresses" were "registered." The guests began to arrive—or rather, we should say, the "collection" commenced at nine o'clock, p.m., and dancing was kept up until two a.m., and soon after that appropriately double knock-turnal hour the Postal Ball finally ceased to roll.—"Funny Folks."

In our last we stated that New Zealand was about to issue a stamp which would be available for both postage and fiscal purposes. The paragraph should have been headed 'Great Britain' for although the matter of assimilating postage and receipt stamps has been brought up in the New Zealand House of Representatives no immediate steps are to be taken.

The Stamp of the Fiji Islands.

BY T. H. BARSTOW.

(Concluded.)

The surcharge on the six cents exists in both red and black, while that on the twelve cents is in black only.

No. 4. Not content with the preceding they again, in 1875, have recourse to surcharging. This time the stamps of No. 2 were surcharged V. R. in black in ornamental capital letters. In other respects they were identical in value with those included in No. 3, with the addition of a variety of those surcharged 2d which exists in this series both with and without the stop after the 2d.

All the stamps of No's. 1, 2, 3, and 4, were printed on sheets of thin paper, watermarked "Fiji Postage;" thus we find some of them with any one of the letters in the above watermark and some without any at all.

No. 5. In 1876, when the stock of the different values surcharged "cents," was run out, a fresh supply of the three stamps, as originally issued (No. 1), was printed off on unwatermarked thick, white, wove paper, and surcharged "V.R." in

monogram. But as the stamp value 3d. was never used, it was utilised by surcharging it "two pence" in black. Thus we had for the current issue, 1d, ultramarine; 2d, blue; and 6d rose. These were augmented in 1878, by the addition of a new value, viz., 4d, by printing the 3d stamp in mauve and surcharging it "four pence" in black. In addition to the above we have the 2d and 6d respectively—dark green and dark rose, lithographed—but what occasioned this I am unable to say.

No. 6. At last we have a little difference in the design, and, what is of still more consequence, less surcharging. This design, which only differs from the original one (No. 1) by a substitution of a "V." for the "C.," first made its appearance on the stamps issued in 1879. This issue, up to the present time, consists of three values—1d, ultramarine; 2d, light green; and 6d, light rose. It seems evident that the die of the 2d stamp cannot have been ready in time, for there is a provisional one of that value formed by using the die of the 3d of the previous issues, of course with the alteration in the design, and surcharging it "two pence," in black.

ERROR.—The 12c. stamps of both No. 3 and No. 4 series, are to be found with the V.R. inverted; and I also have the 2d green of No. 5 series surcharged V.R. twice. Some of the 2d lithographed (No. 5) are to be found without the surcharge "two pence," but these specimens must have been missed over in printing the surcharges, as there was no 3d value in that series. Several of the stamps are to be met with surcharged with a capital "D," but these were used solely for fiscal and not postal purposes. I have in my possession an essay of a design that was proposed to be used, but when I cannot say. A description of it will not be, perhaps, altogether out of place:—Design: It consists of a shield in the centre, on which is printed the value, viz., sixpence. This shield, which is surmounted by V.R. and a crown, is supported on one side by the figure of a native chief, with a wand in his hand; and on the other by the figure of Britannia, holding a trident. Underneath the above is the inscription, "Fiji postage," in a marginal label. The

whole design is enclosed in a thick rectangular frame, the upper spandrels of which are filled with ornaments. The impression, which is cinnamon in colour, is lithographed on thick white wove paper, and unperforated.

Early History of Postage Stamps.

A correspondent of the Philadelphia "Ledger" attributes the first use and issue of postage stamps to John Lorimer Graham, Postmaster at New York, in 1842. These stamps were, he says, about the size of the stamp now in use, bore the head of Washington, and were of the value of 3 cents. The Postmasters of St. Louis, Baltimore, Alexandria, Va., New Haven, R. I., and Battleboro, Vt., followed about in the order named, in 1845 and 1846. According, however, to the recollection of an old employé of the New York Post Office, stamps were brought into use first by Postmaster Morris, in 1847 or 1848. He issued stamps of his own at 5 and 10 cents apiece, those being the then current rates of postage, but postmasters throughout the country refused to recognize them. In 1851 an act of Congress was passed which led to the introduction of the rates and stamps now in use.

COLLECTOR'S COLUMN.

For the exclusive use of Amateur Collectors, who must be Subscribers. Rate of insertion, 6d for every 20 words or under.

Advertiser wishes to exchange rare Fijian, Australian, &c., with advanced collectors for rare South American, &c. Thos. H. Barstow, Auckland.

The undersigned wishes to exchange Native Mauritius, and first issue Britannia for penny and shilling New Zealand, on blue paper, good specimens, and has other foreign stamps for exchange, with collectors only. E. D. E. Van Weene, Wanganella, New South Wales.

Having a large quantity of duplicates I would be glad to exchange with collectors. John K. Smith, corner of Ponsonby Road and Hepburn-street, Auckland.

The Philatelic Times.

*A Journal devoted to Stamp Collecting,
issued each alternate Month.*

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Stamp Collecting a Fascination—And Why?

A PRIZE ESSAY BY CAPTAIN E. B. EVANS, R.A.
(From the "Stamp Collectors' Annual.")

Mark Twain in one of his amusing sketches, enlarges upon the fact that almost every member of the human race, at some period or another of his or her existence, is afflicted with a species of disease, the principal symptom of which is an irresistible desire to play upon some musical instrument, and which is not got rid of without much suffering on the part both of the patient and of residents in the neighbourhood.

In like manner, I think, we may say that almost every one is fated to experience a desire to collect something; to be afflicted with a mania, more or less transient, for accumulating specimens and arranging them in drawers, glass cases, or books, according to their nature. With boys whose lives are not passed in the heart of some great city, this usually takes the form of birds'-nesting or butterfly-hunting, while their sisters incline to the drying of flowers and fern leaves; and

any father of a family, who has done his duty in passing the summer by the seaside, can testify to the delight attending the collection of sea-monsters, whose residence in the lodgings is shortly denoted by that "ancient and fish-like smell," which only the earnest conchologist or ichthyologist can fully appreciate.

But the pursuit of stamp collecting, or science of philately, whichever we may choose to term it, must, I think, be allowed to have a more universal fascination than any of those to which I have alluded above. That it does possess this power, even those who look upon it as a mere puerile mania cannot deny. They express their astonishment at it; they cannot understand how it is that professional men of high standing and scientific attainments can be so childish as to spend their time, and so extravagant as to spend their money upon stamps. Still, in the face of the facts that an enormous number of people of various nationalities and classes do collect stamps, that a large amount of periodical and other literature has been and is, from time to time, published in connection with the pursuit, and last, but not least, that the trade in stamps affords employment and subsistence to no inconsiderable number of persons in various parts of the world, our detractors cannot refuse to admit that there is some fascination about the mania, puerile though it may be.

In its early days stamp collecting undoubtedly became a fashionable mania. Albums were to be found on every drawing-room table and in every school-boy's desk; and many, perhaps the majority, of its then votaries never got beyond the maniacal stage. Anything resembling a stamp, however remotely, was eagerly sought after, and the smallest contributions, in the form of scraps of rarities, were thankfully received and secured in the album with a reckless extravagance in the matter of gum which produced many interesting varieties of discolouration. Nowadays, the timbro-maniacs have greatly decreased in number; but there is, I fancy, no diminution, but rather a constant increase in the ranks of the earnest philatelists, the scientific students of everything connected with their favourite pursuit.

(To be continued.)

OUR STAMP CHRONICLE.

Azores.—The 50 reis Portugal of the new design has been surcharged "Açores."

Bolivia.—The 10c. Antofagaster issued some time since, has now a companion of similar design, 50c. blue.

Bahamas.—5 and 10 cent. stamps are being prepared.

Fiji.—It is reported that a shilling stamp is shortly to be issued.

Great Britain.—A penny stamp, available for either postage or receipt, bearing the inscription "For Postage or Inland Revenue," has appeared. 1d, light mauve.

Mexico.—An entirely new series is to be issued.

Peru.—The word "Lima" is now included in the surcharge.

Roumania.—The 3 cent, green and 10cent, rose, of the new type, are in use, and a series of unpaid letter stamps is in preparation.

Victoria.—We have received a two shilling stamp, of design somewhat similar to the current penny. Two shilling blue on light yellow green.

U.S. of Columbia.—We have received from Mr Henderson, of Panama, a new series of stamps for this country. The design is similar in all the values, being the national arms in an oval, surrounded with the inscription, in white letters, "Union Postal Universal E. M. de Colombia," with value indicated in corners, unperforated. 1 cent., green; 2 cent., red; 5 cent., blue; 10 cent., lilac; 20 cent., black. We have also received from the same correspondent a registered letter stamp, 10 cent., mauve; arms in large oval, name of country at top, value in figures at sides and "Recomdada" at bottom.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

We have received the following Stamp journals, for which the publishers will please accept our best thanks:—"New Jersey Philatelist," "Alfred Smith and Co.'s Circular," "Philatelic Review," "Philatelic World," "Monthly Globe," "Philatelic Monthly," and others.

[ESTABLISHED 1871.]

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Good consignments solicited from Foreign Dealers.

APPROVAL SHEETS.

We send sheets of scarce stamps on approval, marked at prices which will be found on the whole to be much lower than those of other dealers, upon receipt of full address and stamp for postage. Stamps sent on approval must be returned within 21 days, together with remittance for those retained.

Reliable and active Agents are wanted all over the Colonies, to sell stamps from our sheets at a liberal commission. Reference Necessary.

REMITTANCES.—If under 5s. can be made by unused 2d. stamps (if the stamps are of other Colonies, 5 per cent Exchange must be added), if over 5s. by P. O. Order payable at Auckland, to F. Moore & Co. Return postage must invariably be sent. We do not under any circumstances hold ourselves responsible for Letters, &c., lost in transit.

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THE AUCKLAND FOREIGN STAMP DEPOT,

P. O. BOX 80, AUCKLAND, N. Z.

Sheets of stamps sent on approval on receipt of postage.—The remainder of Art Union Tickets are offered at 4d each, to effect a speedy sale.—50 varieties of used Foreign Stamps, including Cuba, Natal, Bermuda, &c., 1s 1d, post free.—100 varieties used and unused, including rare Venezuela, Cape of Good Hope (provisional), Servia, Argentine, Uruguay, &c., 2s 7d.—200 varieties used and unused, including rare Costa Rica, Cape de Verde Isles, Hayti, Spain (Don Carlos), Switzerland (1 franc gold), Paraguay, and many of equal rarity, 10s 8d, post free (if P.O. Orders are sent, 10s 2d. This packet is recommended as well worth 20s.—Used Colonial Stamps wanted.—4 varieties of Cuba, 6d, post free.—3 varieties Venezuela (Escuelas) 1s, post free.—Immediate application required to secure these bargains.

Printed for the Proprietors by JOHN DICKSON WICKHAM, at the office of "The Auckland Free Lance," Vulcan Lane in the City of Auckland, New Zealand, Sept, 29, 1881.

THE PHILATELIC TIMES.

VOL. I.

AUCKLAND, N.Z., NOVEMBER, 1881.

No. 4.

Post Office of Japan.

Japan, as all philatelists know, is an insular Empire east of China. It is about half as large again as New Zealand, but has a population 68 times greater. In the islands, before 1871, there was no such thing as a post office. There was, however, a system of carrying communication through what was known as "hikiyaku" (flying legs), Professional Carriers. They were a very stout set of fellows, making 50 or 60 miles a day, generally employed by princes and nobles, but very seldom by common people, on account of the enormous fee which they charged. In 1871 a regular post office system was organised—one of the grandest and most successful enterprises in Japan.

In every city and town you will now find a post office, where all classes of people can buy stamps and deposit letters, newspapers, and parcels.

All post offices, however small the town may be, deliver mails to the person addressed by a post office boy. They do not keep private boxes, as the New Zealand post offices do.

There are now, I suppose, seven or eight different railroads, altogether making 200 or more miles. The mail can be carried on these roads in a short space of time; but where no railroad exists, it is carried by a man both day and night. Of course the man is changed at every station. They make a pretty fast trip under the circumstances; usually a letter takes six days to cover a space of 250 miles where no railroad exists.

As Japan has made, and is making, wonderful progress in everything, in twenty-five years hence we have no doubt her mail system will hold a place with any in the world.

The Porte de Mar Stamps.

We are often asked what the real significance of the Porte de Mar stamps

may be, and we are now in a position, thanks to an official communication dated April 16, to afford the following information:—The Porte de Mar stamps were stuck upon the back of correspondence in order that the Post-office at Vera Cruz might be able to certify to the captains of the French and English packets what was the amount of postage to pay on each letter.

Stamp Collecting and the Press.

Stamp collecting, when first commenced was only carried on in England and a few places on the continent, but it soon spread from these limited bounds to America; now it is carried on more or less in nearly every civilized country in the world. As soon as it became known that there were persons who collected stamps, dealers sprang up in various parts, and a philatelic journal started here and there, which, after appearing for a few years, collapsed, to be replaced by a better or worse one as the case might be. Philately has now at the present moment several hundreds of magazines, books, and pamphlets devoted to its cause, some of which undoubtedly do much more harm than they do good. We not unfrequently find something connected with our international pastime in the public Press, and we are pleased to insert the following from the *Boston Journal of Commerce*:—
"The business of stamp collecting is large, extending all over the world, and is aided by many philatelic journals and societies devoted to the same engrossing subject. Your true stamp collector is an enthusiast, such as the average man cannot conceive of or understand. He may be a shrewd business man, a trained lawyer, a doctor of rare skill, or a marvellous dealer in stocks, but he counts no day lost which brings him a really rare specimen, procured at whatever loss of time and treasure."

Stamp Collecting a Fascination—And Why?

(Continued from our last.)

I remember a time when one of the leading philatelic magazines protested against the admission of varieties of watermark; perforations were long scoffed at; and the collection of entire envelopes was looked upon as defrauding the waste-paper basket. Opinions have quite changed now; no collection of any importance exists in which due attention is not paid to watermarks; few collectors of any standing ignore perforations; and, I believe, the value of entire envelopes is almost universally recognised, though cut impressions are admitted by many. All this is evidence of the fascination which has caused philately to be taken up as a serious study; and, again, this suitability of the subject for serious study is one of the main reasons of its fascination.

Another of these causes, indeed the principal one, is the eminent collectibility, so to speak, of these little pieces of paper. Some of them are interesting from their beauty of design or excellence of engraving, others from their inferiority in these particulars; others, again, as denoting the advance of civilization in the most unlikely places, while some even afford us a kind of *résumé* of the history of the country issuing them; and the most uninteresting in appearance not infrequently have claims to our respect on account of their rarity and value. When we add to these a great adaptability for classification and arrangement, it becomes evident that philately has strong claims to be considered a most interesting scientific amusement, if nothing higher.

Examples of the various causes of interest which I have mentioned above will at once occur to every collector. I need only mention a few of them. The first issue of France, some of the British Colonials, and many of the stamps engraved by American firms may be taken as specimens of excellence both of design and execution, while the stamps of our own country and most of those engraved by Messrs. De La Rue and Co. merit commendation in the latter respect only. The Sydney issue of New South Wales and the native-engraved Mauritius

claim our interest from their grotesque drawing and roughness of engraving; while the rarity of such stamps as the Réunions, or the ugly circular British Guianas and Guadalajaras, compensates, in some measure, for their uninteresting appearance. The issue of stamps by such countries as Japan, Persia, and Afghanistan shows us how civilization is gradually making its way into lands once most jealously guarded against any such intrusion, but postage stamps, as a whole are the visible sign of perhaps the most important and marvellous innovation of modern times, namely, the cheap, speedy, and secure transmission of correspondence, &c., not only within the various countries, but from one country to another throughout the world.

(To be Continued).

POSTAL SCRAPS.

A well-known philatelist while in Melbourne was somewhat astonished on being informed by the boy clerk at the stamp window of the G.P.O. that Victoria never had such a thing as a penny envelope. He was afterwards informed by a gentleman clerk that the penny envelopes were a failure, and that the only persons who now use them are some of the wholesale stationers, who send out their almanacs, &c., in them.

We are informed that Mr E. Blunsum, who is well known as one of the earliest dealers in the Colonies, has returned from the stamp business, after "eleven years' hard labour." Mr E. Buckley, his former partner, has gone to England.

It is not to be imagined because Mr Henderson is absent the business of his firm will in any way be neglected, as it is being ably managed by his energetic head clerk and assistants. Customers may therefore depend on their orders receiving prompt attention.

The effigy of Queen Victoria adorns by actual count, according to the new Imperial Album, 906 stamps, as follows: 741 adhesives, 83 envelopes and wrappers, and 82 post cards.

Of the number of adhesive stamps, Spain leads with 212, and the United States comes next with 178 (including 92 official).

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OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

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The New Swiss Stamps.

For some time past there has been talk of changing the postage stamp of this country. There would be three types—The values of 2, 3, 5, and 10 centimes would have the number in a cartouch surmounted with the Swiss cross, with the word Helvetia as if crowning it; the 12, 15, 20, 25, and 40 centimes would have the head of Freedom; with regard to the 50 centimes and 1 franc, they would have the figure of Liberty standing in an oval, crowned with the word Helvetia, the value in figures at the upper corners, and also in large figures at the bottom (in the centre) and francs at the sides.

The Connell Stamp.

New Brunswick has the honor of having produced the rarest stamp in the world, viz.: the 'Connell,' as it is universally called. Now this stamp it not an essay in any sense of that much abused word; the circumstances are as follows:—In the year 1861, the Hon. Charles Connell, a gentleman renowned alike for his integrity, genius, and benevolence, was the Postmaster-General of the province of New Brunswick. Soon after entering on his official duties, Mr Connell discovered that the postage stamps of the province were susceptible of improvement, and to that end, employed the famous American Bank Note Company to execute a set of stamps in lieu of the labels hitherto used. Mr Connell furnished the designs, the idea of which was certainly original, and which speaks for the excellent taste of that gentleman to the present day; for the stamps of New Brunswick are unsurpassed in point of elegance and neatness by any stamps in Christendom. Mr Connell's idea was the sensible one of putting a different design on each stamp, and to that end, a steam-engine on the 1c., a head of Her Majesty of England on the 10c., a steamboat (indicating European postage) on the 12½ cents, a portrait of the possible future monarch of England on the 17 cents, and his own portrait on the 5 cents.

The stamps arrived, and were issued to the public, but, alas! unfortunate Mr Connell had, in the eyes of Her Majesty's lieges of New Brunswick, committed a frightful crime. That he, a mortal created man, a descendant of Adam and Eve, should dare to engrave his honest countenance on a simple piece of paper to that on which the majesty of that broad domain, on which the sun never sets, was depicted! It was monstrous, it was outrageous, it was frightful, it was treasonable! A mass-meeting, presided over by a political opponent of Mr Connell, was instantly called, to express its horror at the dreadful deed, and it was resolved to request Mr Connell to resign; but, long ere the fumes of the whiskey consumed on the eventful night of that mass-meeting had evaporated, Mr Connell had dashed the reins of the post office department back in the face of the Governor,

and retired, at once and forever, from the political arena. The stamp was only used for one day, and a number having passed through the post office, it therefore could not be an essay.

OUR STAMP CHRONICLE.

British Guiana.—A new registered envelope, color vermilion, on white paper.

Bulgaria.—The following have been issued;—3 statinka, carmine and grey, 5 st. black and orange, 15, carmine and green, 25, black and violet, 30, blue and orange.

Cyprus.—This colony has brought forth novelties in every form, namely: adhesives, wrapper, envelope, and post card. $\frac{1}{2}$ piastre, green, 1, rose, 2, blue, 4, olive green, grey, and brown. Wrapper, 1 piastre, brown and grey. Registration envelope, 2 piastre, blue. Post card, $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, and 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ piastre.

Grenada.—The new values have made their appearance. $\frac{1}{4}$ d, violet and black, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d red, 4d blue and black.

Labuan.—The 12 cents has been surcharged 8 cents.

Mozambique.—The color of the 40 Rus. has been changed to yellow.

Tabago.—A new 4d green and the 1d stamp have now the word "Postage" below the Queen's head.

New South Wales.—A 2d envelope is said to be in preparation.

Orange States.—The 5s. has been surcharged 7d in black.

U.S. of Colombia.—A new series has been issued. 1 centago green, 2c., red, 5c. blue, 10 lilac, 20 black. Registration stamp, 10 cents. violet.

Victoria.—A new 4d stamp of a design similar to the current 2d appeared on the 10th October. 4d bright rose.

Tasmania.—A post card has been issued by a private firm which requires a 1d stamp to be attached for town postage and a 2d for inland postage. This will soon be superseded by one issued by the G.P.O.

French Colonies.—A new series of stamps have been issued; the design is a female seated resting her right arm on an anchor which is partly hidden by a square containing the figure of value; also a French flag, the pole of which is resting on her left arm; in her right hand she holds an olive branch, and near the outer border is a sailing ship; in the upper left-hand corner in two lines are the words "Colonies Postes," and in a straight label at the bottom, "Republic Francaise."

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