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December 15th, 1884.

THE COLLECTOR

Published on the 15th of the Month.

PRICE THREE HALFPENCE.

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Agent for the "Imperial" & "Universum" Stamp Albums.

EDWIN ENGLAND,**FOREIGN STAMP IMPORTER**

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J. H. LACY & Co.

Have issued the following Circular to the Trade:

16, GOMM ROAD, ROTHERHITHE, LONDON, S.E.

November 1st, 1884.

GENTLEMEN,

We have the pleasure to inform you of our intention to resume business as Wholesale Dealers in Postage and Revenue Stamps, and venture to ask you to open trade with us if possible.

You will, doubtless, remember our name, since we started in 1871, and therefore we have not thought it necessary to submit references.

Should you have any large parcels of stamps (used preferred) to offer, we shall be pleased to negotiate for purchase, exchange, or sale on commission.

Parcels sent on approval (if not saleable for our stock) will be offered to the leading English dealers, and in this way we hope to assist our correspondents in selling large quantities, and secure for ourselves a regular supply.

Should you require a specification of parcels (which will be forwarded periodically post-free) please allow us to place your name on our list.

Trusting you may feel inclined to favor us,

We are, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

J. H. LACY & Co.



The Stamp Collector's Journal and Coin Collector's News says:

“The old-established and well-known firm of Messrs. J. H. LACY & Co. has been re-started under the personal supervision of Mr. J. H. LACY,”

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Coins, Paintings, & Engravings, Trinkets,
Curiosities, Musical Instruments.*

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Special prices on application.

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Specimen Copy post-free 1/2d.

ADVERTISEMENTS.—Whole column 9/6; Half do, 5/6; Quarter do, 3/-; One Inch, 1/6; small advertisements, 4 words, 1d. A considerable reduction for a series. *Price Lists free.*

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED.

J. LEE & Co., 13, Castle-st., Southport, Eng.

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Wholesale Dealer in Stamps.

176, SARATOGA STREET,
BALTIMORE, M.D., U.S.A.

Price List sent free, on application, to Dealers only.

All kinds of Postage Stamps bought for prompt Cash.

All Dealers are requested to send me their Wholesale List.

GOOD OFFERS ALWAYS WELCOME.

The Magazine of Philately

With which is incorporated the "Universal Philatelic Magazine."

Quarterly; Subscription, 6d. per annum. Abroad, 1/-, or 25 cents. post-free.

The first number of the New Volume will be issued on the 1st January, 1886, containing 16 pages coloured wrapper.

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Some time ago an English stamp dealer sent a parcel for exchange to the "Nickel Stamp Co.," West Winsted, Conn. After waiting a considerable time without receiving a reply, the dealer threatened the Company with exposure, which brought forth a post-card, on which was the following scrawl:—"We should be please (d) to have you publish us as frauds; we like free advertising; don't think it will pay you to do it though; ta, ta, ta. Yours very respectfully, the remnants of 'Nickel Stamp Co.'" We trust the dealer has learnt a lesson, and will send no more parcels to such youths as these. If the company is not limited its morals must be—*very*.

NEW ISSUES.

Azores.—The new 10 reis Portugese stamp has been surcharged for use in this colony.

Adhesive : 10 reis, green, surcharged in black.

Bahamas.—The *Foreign Stamp Collectors' News* chronicles a new 4d. stamp for postal use.

Adhesive : 4d., yellow.

Brazil.—We learn from *Le Timbre Poste* that the post-cards of Brazil are now printed on green paper, with the reverse white.

Bulgaria.—The unpaid letter stamps are said to have been prepared for this state.

Unpaid letter stamps : 5 stotinki orange,
25 stotinki blue.
50 stotinki carmine.

Ceylon.—The 2c. and 24c. of this colony have undergone a change in colour, the former to green and the latter to purple brown.

Adhesives : 2c. green.
24c. purple brown.

Fiji.—The one-penny stamp is now printed in pale ultramarine.

Senegal.—A new post-card printed in black, on green, without expressed value, is chronicled by *Der Philatelist*.

Greece.—Two new values, 20 and 50 lept., have been added to the present series with the usual effigy of Mercury.

Mexico.—The 3c., 5c., and 10 peso of the current series are now perforated. Doubtless the other values will soon be treated in a like manner.

New Zealand.—We have seen the current one-penny surcharged ^{HALF}₁ in black for temporary use as a half-penny stamp.

Provisional adhesive : ½d. on 1d., black on rose,



Nicaragua.—A reply paid card has been issued for this republic.

Reply card : 3 × 3, blue on yellow.

Paraguay.—The *F.S.C.N.* chronicles, on the authority of Messrs. Whitfield, King, & Co., three new values for this country embellished with the familiar "cap and lion."

Adhesives : 1c. blue green.
2c. carmine.
5c. blue

Porto Rico.—A contemporary tells us that the 1 and 2c. de peso have been seen printed in very dull tints of their nominal colours.

Russia.—A new 1 kopec stamp of same design as the current 2 kopec has been issued.

Adhesive : 1 kopec, orange.

St. Vincent.—The half-penny value is now printed in green.

Santander.—A 1 centavos has been issued of same design as the current 5c.

Adhesive : 1c., blue.

[We should esteem it a favour if our friends abroad would favour us with particulars of new issues immediately they come under their notice.]

THE 3-CENT (U.S.) STAMP.

Good-by, old stamp, it's nasty luck
That ends our friendship so.
When others failed you gamely stuck,
But now you've got to go.
So here's a flood of honest tears,
And here's an honest sigh—
Good-by, old friend of many years—
Good-by, old stamp, good-by !
Your life has been a varied one,
With curious phases fraught—
Sometimes a check, sometimes a dun,
Your daily coming brought ;
Smiles to a waiting lover's face,
Tears to a mother's eye.
Or joy or pain to every place—
Good-by, old stamp, good-by !
You bravely toiled, and better men
Will vouch for what I say :
Although you have been licked, 'twas when
Your face turned t'other way.

'Twas often in a box you got
 (As you will not deny)—
 For going through the mails, I wot—
 Good-by, old stamp, good-by !
 Ah, in your last expiring breath
 The tale of years is heard—
 The sound of voices hushed in death,
 A mother's dying word :
 A maiden's answer, soft and sweet,
 A wife's regretful sigh,
 The patter of a baby's feet—
 Good-by, old stamp, good-by !
 What wonder then, that at this time
 When you and I must part,
 I should aspire to speak in rhyme
 The promptings of my heart.
 Go, bide with all these mem'ries dear
 That live when others die—
 You've nobly served your purpose here—
 Good-by, old stamp, good-by !

Erie (Pa.) Advertiser.

Numismatics.

THE EARLIEST KNOWN COINS.

It was about 800 years before Christ that the first money was actually coined. There is much doubt in the minds of antiquarians as to the precise spot where the custom had its origin. Herodotus ascribes it to the Lydians, but his authority is not conclusive. The oldest coins extant, and probably the first coins ever made, are from Asia Minor. Miletus, a city south of Ephesus, on the shore of the Icarian Sea, probably produced the first money, the gold stater. It is stamped on one side with a deep indentation ; on the other it has a rude picture of a lion's head. A die was evidently used, and the lump of metal placed in it, and a punch struck with a hammer drove the metal into the die and left the rude mark of the punch on the reverse of the coin. What induced the adoption of the lion's head as a design is left to conjecture. It is supposed by some to refer to the regal power of the lion, while others think that it had some connection with the worship of Cybele, the great goddess of the Ionians. There is a somewhat similar coin, which, by numismatists, is supposed to be of earlier date than the Ionian. It is a Lydian coin, and is one of the first, if not the earliest. These coins were the first specimens of what we call money.—*The Old Curiosity Shop.*

SALES BY AUCTION.—COINS.

Messrs. T. Chapman & Son, 11, Hanover Street, Edinburgh, have had for sale a very valuable collection of English, Scottish and Colonial coins, in silver and copper, the property of a collector of many years standing. There were 712 lots, and the amount realised in the three days was £1571 2s. 6d. Amongst the best prices given we notice Lot 15, Anglo Saxon, a fine specimen of Harthacnut, *Hks* 218, OTHTHFNER ON LVD, London, £3 2s. od.; the same price was given for Lot 29, English silver coin, William II., *Hks* 246, IELFWINE ON TAN, Taunton; Lot 48, Stephen, with the flag, *Hks* 271, fetched £5 5s. od.; Lot 76, Richard III. half-groat, London, m. m. *obv.* only, rose and sun united, full edge and intact legedns. This piece, of which only three other specimens are said to be known, was knocked down to Mr. W. Thomas for £7. Lot 109, Elizabeth pattern shilling, sold for £6; Lot 113, James I. crown, with rose m. m., sold for £7 5s.; Lot 140, half-crown of Charles I., Worcester mint, £6 12; Lot 147, Charles I, Carlisle three shilling piece, £10 2s. 6d.; Lot 158, Commonwealth, Blondeau's pattern half-crown, 1651, £19 8s. 6d.; Lot 186, half-crown, 1663, £11; Lot 200, half-crown, 1681, elephant and castle under the bust, believed to be the finest known example of this rare piece, sold for £10 5s.; Lot 225, a pattern sovereign in silver, by Simon, splendid bust of the King to right, laureated, fetched £13 13s.; Lot 246, proof in silver of the Gun Money crown, £10; Lot 322, George I. pattern half-crown, 1715, £15 15s.; Lot 373, pattern for a crown, by Pistrucci, 1818, £20 9s. 6d. Lot 628, James VI. (Scotland) forty shilling piece, 1582, £19 19s. The catalogue was carefully prepared by Mr. Edward Burns, F.S.A., Scot., and member of the Numismatic Society of London.

COINS AND MEDALS.

Messrs. Cronk, Sevenoaks, offered for sale on the 20th ult. a valuable collection of coins and medals, in gold, silver and copper, the property of the late Miss Edwards, of that town. There was a good attendance of buyers, and the auctioneer explained that the coins were collected at a great expense, and left in trust for the Sevenoaks Literary Institution, with the proviso that if that Institution were dissolved the coins were to be sold, and the proceeds given to the endowed almshouses, and he therefore hoped the company present would be liberal in the prices they offered, taking into consideration the fact that they would be conferring a great benefit on the poor people of the almshouses. The sum realised for the coins was £79 3s. 6d.; but there was also a quantity of shells, geological specimens, and other curiosities, of which we have not received the particulars. Amongst the highest prices given we notice lot 331, 2 gold pieces, early British, £3 15s.; Lot 350, five shilling piece in

case, Queen Victoria in gothic crown, £1 10s.; Lot 400, half-guinea, William and Mary, 1689, £1 2s.; Lot 410, thirty shilling piece, James I., £2 6s.; Lot 442, bank token 5s.—George III., 16s. A great many gold and silver coins were sold for very little over their nominal value.

We have seen catalogues of two sales of coins, which are to take place next January by the noted house of Signor Guilio Samton, of Milan. Some idea of the large number of coins that are to be offered may be gathered by the fact that one catalogue contains 361 pages and 3219 lots, the other 345 pages and 3757 lots. Both catalogues are illustrated by the autotype process. It is seldom such collections are brought under the hammer.—*C.E.F.*

Fine Arts.

SALES BY AUCTION.

Mr. Abraham Booth, 284, Camden Road, N., Nov. 20th. The oil paintings, water-colour drawings, and engravings, offered at No. 14, North Terrace, Camberwell, on the above date, fetched very high prices; especially the engraving, "Hunters at grass," in the portfolio, by Sir E. Landseer, R.A., sold for £69 6s., we believe a guinea more than they have ever fetched at Christies' sales. Two fine paintings by Armfield, "Terrier with rat" and companion picture, sold for £26 15s. 6d. Lot 223, "River scene with figure" (E. J. Niemann), fetched £40 19s., and Lots 224 and 225, by the same artist, "Mountain scenery" and companion picture, went for £85 1s.; Lot 230, "Farm yard" (J. F. Herring, sen.), £39 18s.; Lot 234, "Shorthorn cattle" (Wainwright), £25 4s.; Lot 235, "Sheep" (T. Sydney Cooper, R.A., 1863), £32 11s.; Lot 237, "Landscape, with river and figures" (B. W. Leader, A.R.A., 1866), £210; Lot 238, "Fording the stream" (James Peel), £28 7s. The total amount realised was £1076 17s.

Messrs. N. Easton & Son, Imperial Chambers, Hull, offered a valuable collection of oil paintings at their sale rooms, on Dec. 3rd. They had been removed from the residence of Mr. Crowther Harrison, Cottingham. Several rare examples of J. F. Herring, sen., fetched a good price, the principal buyer being Lord Falmouth. Lot 120, "Cydnus," made £26; Lot 121, "Coach and four horses, with passengers," £54; Lot 128, "Surplice," 1848, reached 40 gns.; the next two lots, "Horses drinking" and "Horses in a stable," companion pictures, made 50 guineas each. "Pyrrhus the First" (Derby, 1846), fetched 26 guineas, and "Alice Hawthorne" 40 guineas. The total amount of sale was about £800.

Plate and Jewellery.

Messrs. Phillips, Son & Neale, 73, Bond Street, November 24th and 25th. About 4000 ounces of plate and a quantity of valuable jewellery were sold by these well-known auctioneers on the above dates, amongst which were some very antique specimens. Lot 68, a perforated vase-shaped sugar basin and cover (1776) fetched 27s. 6d. per ounce; and the next lot, a perforated boat-shaped mustard pot, sold at 31s. per ounce; whilst lot 77, a rare old gilt gothic pyx, with figure of angel kneeling under canopy, made 52s. per ounce. The other lots of old plate, dated from 1709, fetched from 10s. 6d. to 21s. 6d. per ounce.

RELICS OF THE OLD HULL GLASS WORKS.—Mr. Sykes, dealer in antiquities, 28, Savile Street, Hull, has in his possession a set of three beautiful green cut-glass vases, the only set that were manufactured by the Old Hull Glass Works. The centre piece is twelve inches high, and the other two about nine inches. They were made in 1850, and sent by Messrs. Oglesby to York, to be cut, the Hull company not being able to execute this part of the work. These unique specimens should be valuable to the collector.

Our London Letter.

Mr. Geo. Redway, of York Street, London, W.C., has in preparation a volume which will be of the greatest possible use to collectors of bibliographical rarities. It is entitled "*Bibliotheca Arcana, seu Catalogus Librorum Penetralium*," and will contain some full descriptive notices of some six hundred volumes, which, to quote the preface, "have been secretly printed, prohibited by law, anathematised, burnt, or Bowdlerised;" together with a copious index. The work is being luxuriously printed on hand-made paper, with very wide margins, and is to be issued only to subscribers, its contents being of a character not exactly suitable for general circulation, though of the highest importance to the bibliographer. The subscription price has been fixed at 30s.

Egyptologists and others may be interested in learning that recent explorers of the Caroline Islands, in the South Pacific, have found there remains of gigantic temples and buildings far exceeding in size anything in Assyria or Egypt. The discovery gives some countenance to the theory that in pre-historic ages our earth was inhabited by a race possessed of greater powers and wider knowledge than are now the property of mankind; for the present aborigines of the Caroline Islands are certainly incapable of having constructed these

magnificent works, and there is no reason to believe that their lineal forefathers were either stronger or wiser than the islanders of to-day.

The recent disturbances in the Island of Skye have directed attention to the utterances of the once celebrated Gaelic prophet, Coinneach Odhar, who is generally known as the Brahan Teer, and was born at Uig, in the Lewis, at the beginning of the seventeenth century. Some of these prophecies were translated and edited about ten or twelve years ago by the editor of the *Celtic Magazine*; and it is not very difficult to trace in them references to the unfortunate events of last month. A newspaper correspondent, who accompanied the military expedition to Skye in November, informs us, at all events, that many of the Skymen believed that Coinneach had foreseen and prophesied the triumph of their cause, and that, even yet, they and the Herbrideans are destined to drive the Sassenach across the Tweed, and win back the liberty and independence of Scotland.

At the sale of the first portion of Mr. Streeter's matchless stock of jewels and precious stones, at Messrs. Foster's auction-rooms in Pall Mall, this week, an event of considerable interest to society and the trade, I understand that the representatives of more than one of the great museums will be present, with the view of securing the "models of the great diamonds of the world," of which Mr. Streeter is so justly proud. The eminent jeweller informs me that this is the most complete collection of models in existence, and, of course, their value is considerably enhanced by the fact that they are not merely glass, but fine crystals. A private view of the whole of the gems to be disposed of this week was given on Saturday, and during the whole of the day the rooms of the auctioneers were quite besieged by fashionable sightseers. This was natural enough, however, as it is seldom that one sees such a vast amount of wealth represented in an auction-room at one time. But the truth is that society regards a tour of the fashionable auction-rooms as a detail of its day's doings, and, indeed, it not unfrequently happens that private view day at Christie's witnesses the best gathering of the upper ten to be seen in semi-public by the curious hunter after semi-aristocratic lions and reigning beauties. The remainder of the stock will be removed by the well-known Bond-street establishment for sale early next year.—London Correspondent *Eastern Morning News*, December 9th.

The new magazine *Book Lore* has made its appearance. It is devoted to old-time literature, and with it is incorporated the "Bibliographer." It is extremely well got up in antique style, and its contents are interesting to all lovers of books. The publisher is Mr. Elliot Stock.

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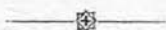
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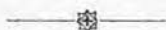
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QUEEN ANNE'S FARTHING.

"But you have not a Queen Anne's farthing; you know there were only three struck." When speaking of coins I have often been asked this or some similar question, and as it arises from a ridiculous fable about these farthings, the following short explanation relating to them may not be uninteresting, affording at the same time some information as to the prices they fetch when brought into the market.

It would scarcely be credited, but persons have at different times travelled from all parts of England up to London, having one of these pieces, or a presumed farthing of Queen Anne, in their possession, which on being taken to the British Museum has caused them severe disappointment. A poor man once travelled from York to London, expecting to make a fortune; and a man and his wife actually travelled all the way from Ireland on the same errand, and were nearly broken hearted at their disappointment; and these are not the only instances, by very many, where persons have been put to considerable expense and inconvenience on account of not knowing their value. Most people labour under the delusion that there were only three farthings of Queen Anne struck. I have a very fine one, of date 1714, one of those made for circulation, and of which several hundreds were struck. The origin of the fable is as follows:—Some sixty or seventy years ago, a lady in Yorkshire lost by accident one of these farthings, which, from some circumstances, was rendered very valuable to her, and by offering a rather large reward for its recovery, put at once a ridiculous value on their prices, many parties believing that the die broke after the third farthing was struck. The *Numismatic Journal* of April, 1836, contains a very curious trial which took place at Dublin relating to one of these farthings.

There are six different types of the farthing of Queen Anne in the British Museum, but the one above mentioned, the common or real farthing, was the only one circulated, and this variety has on the

obverse a bust of the Queen, with the legend "Anna dei Gratia," on the reverse the figure of Britannia, below it in the exergue the date 1714, and is worth 10s. to 15s., but really 20s. to 25s. Some of this style have a broad rim, and are considered by collectors more scarce, and will often bring 30s. The other five varieties are termed pattern pieces, and of which very few were struck, and none of them for circulation. The portraits on the obverse are nearly the same; the reverse of these differ from the common farthing. The one with "Anna Regina" on the obverse is rather scarce, and is worth 30s. to £2, according to condition. The one with "Anne Augusta" on the obverse, and on the reverse the figure of Peace, in a car drawn by two horses (numismatically termed a Biga), in her right hand she holds an olive branch, in her left a wand or spear, the legend "Pax missa per orben" (peace sent forth throughout the world), date 1713, this piece is very rare, and worth £5 to £6. On another reverse the figure of Britannia is seated on a globe beneath a portico, with the legend "Britannia," the date 1713. This type will fetch £2 10s. to £3 10s. Another has Britannia differing from the one dated 1714; [the right leg is more exposed, and the drapery on the bust much different, and the date following the legend "Britannia 1713," instead of the date being in the exergue. This is not so rare, being worth £1 10s. to £2. The scarcest of the whole is the one with the bust of the Queen, rather inferior work, and the letters of her name, instead of being raised, are sunk; and on the reverse Britannia is represented erect, with an olive branch in her right hand, and in her left a spear; legend "Belle et pace." This piece is extremely rare, and will fetch from £8 to £10, and, if very fine, more. These prices are only for those struck in copper. There are a few of each sort in fine gold and silver. It may be as well to mention, after describing the farthings of Queen Anne, that there are a common lot of tokens in brass and copper which at times have caused much trouble to the possessors, and very often to the authorities of the British Museum. These farthings are much thinner than the farthings of Anne. On the head side they have a very poor portrait of the Queen, with long scraggy neck, and not at all like the genuine pieces. They have the legend "Anna dei Gratia" on reverse, royal arms in form of a cross, sometimes with roses, and date generally 1711 (not unlike one type of a shilling of Queen Anne). These pieces are of no value, although even with some of these, parties have gone up to London, much to their expense and disappointment.

JAMES SYKES.

Phillip of Macedon coined the first gold of Greece, procured from the mines of Philippi, in Thrace. The art of refining gold had attained great perfection, for his coins are of the utmost purity. They are rivalled by those of his son Alexander, and of other princes and cities within a few centuries of that age.

Philately.

The question whether we shall or shall not include fiscals in our collections, or provide a separate album, with a view of making researches in this class of stamps equally as fervent and energetic as the great majority of collectors now do in regard to postage stamps, has occupied the minds of many of the most learned writers versed in philately; it being acknowledged a question of great moment and interest to the philatelic world at large, and at the same time a question for which a satisfactory solution would be highly desirable.

It is a well-known thing, however—in fact, a foregone conclusion—that much of the writing referred to is in reality nothing more or less than a puff of some prospering dealer in “things postal” and otherwise, who, cognisant probably of the apothegm that advertising and printers’ ink go hand in hand to wealth and fortune, employs the talent of some fluent writer, possessing in a more or less marked degree the gift, shall we call it, of placing before his readers a glowing account of the advantages or disadvantages produced by adopting this or that branch of our science. It is by no means an uncommon thing to find some of the professed stamp journals of to-day advocating not only the collection of fiscals as a proper and desirable accompaniment in every album, but postmarks also. Some go as far as to advise the inclusion of vaccination forms and other official documents bearing the impressed $\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamp.

We recently learned, on substantial authority, that in the course of the next year or so the various offices established throughout the kingdom for the sale of bill stamps and duty stamps of all descriptions, are to be done away with, these sales having, of course, been hitherto confined to those offices, and kept apart from the respective post-office in each town; the distribution to the public of mortgage, agreement and other fiscal stamps, will then be carried out by the post-office officials. Contemporary with the receipt of this information, we notice a certain stamp merchant devotes a considerable portion of his price list to the analogy between postal and fiscal stamps, which he claims has received a direct impulse by the intended abolition of the distribution of these two distinct classes of stamps at separate offices. For our part we fail to see the analogy, although agreeing with our contemporary in the belief that fiscal stamps are productive of much that is interesting, instructive, and amusing. We must give the palm to postage stamps, however, as the most satisfying and instructive of the two pursuits, but would nevertheless never willingly debar any one who can afford to collect fiscals from doing so.

It is almost needless to add that the price list referred to contains as a sort of sequel to the publishers' preamble—"We have a first-class lot of fiscals for disposal at moderate prices." Q.E.D.

The *Philatelic Courier* in an article on "Protection against Fraud," says: "Many collectors do not realise the labor, time and money that are expended by dealers who do business on anything like a large scale in securing and keeping up a large and varied stock to meet the demands of their numerous customers, of the risks that they must run in carrying on an extensive correspondence with all parts of the civilised, or semi-civilised, world, or of the large amount of capital that is locked up in stamps, etc., in some cases for years before it can be realised upon." This is a very trite paragraph. Take, for instance, a sheet sent on approval to an advanced collector, each stamp representing a dozen or a hundred of its kind, and to supply something especially rare a collection may have been purchased at a cost of forty or fifty pounds. A dealer wants something more than his wits, *i.e.*, capital.

Mr. J. W. Palmer is evidently spending a nice little sum in bringing before the proprietors and editors of newspapers the particulars of his "seventh clause." A circular, printed in legal style, is being freely circulated amongst the press, showing forth the enormous expense (£7000) Mr. Palmer has been put to in bringing to a happy conclusion this labor of many years. Let us hope that the editors will take some notice of it, and that "forged stamps" will be things of the past.

Great praise is due to the publishers of *The Hermes* for the good appearance of their first number. It is printed in a neat style, in a great variety of types, and on good paper. We cannot criticise its literary matter, as it only proposes to be an advertising medium, but both dealers and collectors will find in it many interesting items.

The library of the stamp collector is to be further enriched by another volume of the "Imperial" album, in the shape of a third supplement to the fourth edition: it is to be larger than the previous supplements. These works of Mr. E. S. Gibbons are so well known, and their artistic merits so fully appreciated, that it is needless for us to say more.

THE AMERICAN MAILS.

We gather from *Stubbs' Gazette* some curious facts relative to the conveyance of mails between this country and America. The *Times* has also recently contained some most interesting letters from

various correspondents on the subject from which a fair insight into the existing state of things may be obtained. It appears that eight years ago our Post Office, turning a deaf ear to appeals from those most interested, bound itself by a contract with the Cunard, Inman, and White Star companies for a tri-weekly service to New York. Under that contract mails are despatched from London on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. They are forwarded to New York by whatever vessels these companies see fit to provide. It has long been notorious that the mails often go by slow ships, while fast ships of other lines sail on the same day and arrive in New York one, two, three, or more days in advance of the mail. The Tuesday and Thursday service is divided between the Inman and White Star companies, and the latter has done its work well. That of Saturday has been committed to the Cunard Company. During a great part of the period covered by the contract the Cunard Company had the slowest, or nearly the slowest, mail-carrying fleet on the Atlantic. They none the less had a monopoly of the Saturday mail. The service was tri-weekly in name only. It happened not infrequently that the Tuesday ship was overtaken by that of Thursday, so that letters posted in London on Tuesday reached New York no sooner than those posted on Thursday. This, however, is not the worst, as if the mails were sent *viâ* Southampton by the powerful and fast steamers of the North German Lloyd Company, there would be generally a saving of one day as compared with the vessels leaving Liverpool at the same time; *i.e.*, the Thursday steamer from Southampton generally reaches New York by Friday of the following week; whereas the Thursday steamer from Liverpool does not usually arrive until the Saturday. Our service on Saturdays from Liverpool has, until very lately, been singularly slow. For years past the Cunarder carrying these mails has been regularly outstripped, sometimes being two or three days later in arriving at New York than other vessels which left Liverpool on the same day. The Cunard Company seems, however, to have taken a new departure in this matter, as they have recently added to their fleet several new steamers of great speed. But this, it may be remarked, is not due to any action of the General Post Office, but rather to the fact that other Atlantic companies were successfully competing for the passenger traffic. Last August the Postmaster-General endeavoured to avoid renewing the old contracts for the conveyance of mails, and signified his intention to take up month by month the most efficient vessels. The steamship companies appear to have resented the proposed change, and, therefore the Post Office seems to have reverted to the old system of contracts for a year. The American Post Office does not trouble about obtaining tenders, but sends the mails by whatever ship, sailing on the day of departure, happens to be fastest. Mr. Smalley says that when the American Post Office resolved on its present plan a similar attempt to block it was made by at least one company. The Cunarders refused to carry the mails on the terms proposed. One Cunarder sailed letterless. The following week the opposition

collapsed, and the Cunarders have ever since brought the mails from New York when they happened to have a vessel fast enough to be selected by the New York Postmaster. Is there much reason to doubt that equal courage here would have insured a similar result? But suppose it had not? It is possible to provide a service equal to the present without the help of any one of the three companies which now have a monopoly of mail-carrying. Five ships, it is reckoned, are necessary for a regular weekly service out and home. The North German Lloyd own five of the fastest ships on the ocean, sailing regularly from Southampton on Thursdays, arriving regularly at New York on Friday of the week following. There are, besides these, five other ships belonging to different companies sailing from Liverpool of about equal speed--the City of Rome and Austral, of the Anchor Line; the Alaska and Arizona, of the Guion Line; the America, of the National Line. In all ten of the swiftest ships on the Atlantic, not one of which now carries a letter. The three contract companies cannot amongst them muster five equally fast ships. The ten could supply a bi-weekly service more efficient than the present tri-weekly, and not less regular. Has the Postmaster-General made proposals to the owners of these ten swift vessels? Have they refused? If not, what excuse is there for going on in the old ruts? We have no hesitation in saying that if the Postmaster-General definitely determined to abandon the contract system altogether, and to adopt the American practice of sending the mails by the fastest steamers leaving our ports, there would be no difficulty in the matter, and the existing subsidised companies would fall into the arrangement rather than be left out in the cold. The companies cannot afford to lose the prestige of carrying Her Majesty's Mails, which, there can be no doubt, counts for something in these days of close competition.

Our London Letter.

The Italian journals report that the Pope has recently directed one of the leading Roman publishing houses to issue a series of fac-simile reproductions of some of the chief treasures of the Vatican Library. Among the manuscripts which are to be thus dealt with are a Virgil, and fifty miniatures dating from the fourth or fifth century; a Terence of about the same period; a palimpsest, said to be the oldest extant MS., containing Cicero's "De Republica," under one of St. Augustine's works; a Plutarch, with notes by Grotius; seventeen letters from Henry VIII. to Anne Boleyn; the autograph copy of Boccaccio's "Decameron," with notes by Petrarch; and some correspondence

between the Emperor Henry IV. and Pope Gregory VIII. Last, but not least, there is an old palimpsest of the "Odes" of Horace.

The completion of the large statue which is to ornament the port of New York has led the *Courrier de l'Art* to publish some statistics of other colossal statues. The largest figure in the world is said to be that of an idol, 111 feet high, at Bengalar; and next in point of height—barring, of course, the statue of Liberty—is the emblematic figure of the United States, at Washington. This, however, is only 51 feet high. Of equestrian statues, the loftiest, 36 feet high, is that of Peter the Great, at Moscow. Pierantolis' Liberty group, at Naples, has an altitude of 32 feet. The largest statue in England is said by the French journal to be the effigy, 29 feet in height, of the first Duke of York, at Canterbury.

An old German tumulus, which has just been opened near Rosenheim, was found to contain a human skull, some broken earthen vessels, and a piece of charred wood, presumably the sole relics of a funeral pyre. The geological surroundings show that the tumulus must have been built previously to the eighth century before Christ. The skull is therefore the oldest human remnant known to exist in Germany.

The historical mill of Sans Souci, at Potsdam, is falling into ruins. The Emperor will not allow it to be repaired, and the arms are so rotten and dangerous that the other day they had to be removed.

People who are fond of literary history should read Mr. James Payn's novel, "The Talk of the Town," which is now appearing in the *Cornhill Magazine*. It deals very effectively with the interesting subject of Ireland's Shakspeare forgeries.

Some of the prices which were obtained last month at the sale of the Syston library were astonishingly high, yet more valuable books than any which were then disposed of exist. The truth is that of late scarce books have immensely increased in value: one that forty years ago was worth hundreds of pounds is now worth thousands. There has been a similar marvellous rise in the price of pictures, as the sale of the Marlborough Raphael, to the Government, amply testifies, and people who are behind the scenes think that prices have now reached their highest, and that modern buyers will, ere many years have passed, find that their purchases have proved to be exceedingly bad investments. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the Government will not again be betrayed into giving £70,000 for even a good Raphael. Twenty years hence the same canvas may be worth only half the money.

The Hull Quarterly, edited by W. G. B. Page, reaches its fifth number on the 15th of this month. It is profusely illustrated, which, for an antiquarian journal, means a great expenditure; but as its matter is of the first class, and the subscription 6s. per annum, we trust the proprietor will reap something more substantial than the honour of publishing a work of such magnitude. The contributors for the current

year are Messrs. Charles E. Fewster, J. J. Sheahan, C. Staniland Wake, Jno. Cook, F.R.H.S., Charles S. Whiting, the Rev. J. R. Boyle, Charles Mason, T. T. Wildridge, Eugene Teesdale, Edward Lamplough, W. G. B. Page, and Mrs. Marie Hall.

The best days of the bibliomania have surely returned to us when such a price as £3,900 is realised for the Mazarin Bible at the Syston Park Library Sale. Old books, like old china, have before now realised sensational prices under the hammer of Messrs. Sotheby, Wilkinson and Hodge; but this latest instance of an enormous price being given for an almost unique edition quite eclipses any previous records at book sales. In the same rooms, some five-and-twenty years ago, £190 was given for a Coverdale Bible, the price being at that time considered enormous, as the same copy had been known to have changed hands for a third of the sum it afterwards realised. What would Jacob Tonson and other booksellers of the past say to this latest realisation under the hammer? Of course such sums can only be obtained for fifteenth-century books. The rare books of later generations command by comparison a mere trifle. When it is remembered that a first edition of "Paradise Lost" has been sold within the memory of man for thirteen guineas, we wonder what it would fetch at the present day? — *Whitehall Review*.

At a sale of literary curios, at the well-known rooms of Messrs. Puttick & Simpson, some interesting relics of Lord Nelson have just come under the hammer. These consist of a series of ten autograph letters of England's naval hero, and one by his amanuensis, John Scott, who accompanied his chief through most of his battles, and was killed at Trafalgar only a few minutes before the great admiral received his death wound. The letters are addressed to Dr. Baird (1804-1805), and are interesting both from a historical and a domestic point of view. They are also highly characteristic, and one, evidently written in a state of high dudgeon, confirms the belief that the writer could at times command a considerable amount of vituperation. The most interesting of the series, perhaps, is one dated from on board the Victory, detailing the particulars of an engagement fought with the French shortly before. It will be surprising to many of Nelson's admirers that this unique collection realised only £15, a fact which only further bears out what has already been seen of late, that the demands for the "relics of the brave" is now-a-days nothing like what it was a few years ago. At the same sale a number of letters of Charles and Mary Lamb were put up, and realised much better prices. The letters show the genial essayist and his sister in their domestic life, and are addressed chiefly to Miss Mary Betham. A collection of autographs of literary and artistic celebrities of the past half century was also offered, and sold for the very satisfactory sum of £100. — *Eastern Morning News*.

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" " " " " " " "	12	0	¢ 1000

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THE COLLECTOR.

Vol. I.—No. 3.] FEBRUARY, 1885.

[1d.]

Numismatics.

ROMAN COINS.

By W. H. Taylor.

CHAPTER I.—INTRODUCTORY.

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It was not until the founding of the Roman republic that copper, or rather a mixed metal termed "*Aēs*," which we generally speak of now as brass, became the basis of a great national coinage. Silver being long for practical purposes unknown to the Romans, whilst the Italian copper mines were both numerous and productive, added to the fact that Rome was only a fortified town, without trade or commerce, for some centuries after her foundation, accounts for the preference made for the less valuable but more plentiful copper as a medium of currency.

As in Greece and other countries the first valuation of all money was by weight alone.

The *drachm* and the *obolus* were the weights regulating the size of gold and silver, whilst the *libra*, or pound, and the ounce formed the standard of copper or bronze pieces; hence the early Roman coins were of enormous bulk and size. Indeed the names of coins can scarcely be with propriety given to those ingots of metal which, rudely stamped according to Pliny with the image of an ox, or sheep, constituted the money of the period. These ingots were at first of an oblong square form. A few of them have been found in modern times, but they are of an extreme rarity, our own British museums being, we believe, without a solitary specimen.

From these huge pieces of copper, bearing as we have said rude representations of domestic animals, is derived the Latin word *pecunia*

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From these huge pieces of copper, bearing as we have said rude representations of domestic animals, is derived the Latin word *pecunia*

—money—from *pecus*, cattle : hence our modern word “pecuniary.” We cannot strictly consider this early money as coin proper, which passes by “tale” and not by weight ; for it is certain that when payment by “ases” of copper was made, the total sum was ascertained by weight alone ; and even as late as 40 B.C., Varro describes an ancient pair of scales formerly used for the purpose, as being then preserved in the Temple of Saturn.

The ox on this primitive Roman money denoted, it is generally believed, the Tiber, as on the Greek coinage a river was generally symbolised under the form of a bull.

About 385 B.C. the “as” or pound weight of bronze was issued in a circular form, and from this period may be considered as a true coin. Its weight was soon reduced from one pound to nine and a half ounces, owing to the impoverished state of the treasury after the taking of Rome by the Gauls shortly before this date. With the adoption of the circular form, the ancient type of animals seem to have been superseded by those of the deities, as was the case with the coins of the Greeks. The two-faced head of Janus was the commonest type of the circular “as ;” a ship which appears at this time as the usual reverse of the *uncial* coinage, calculated by ounces, is supposed to refer to the landing of Saturn in Italy.

The street boys of ancient Rome seem to have used the smaller copper pieces for gambling purposes, as in the present day, by tossing up ; and the young Roman, as Macrobius narrates, cried out *Capita aut Navis* (heads or ship), long after both heads and ship had disappeared from the coinage. The subdivisions of the “as” were the *Semis*, or the *Semis*, which has an S upon it to denote its weight, as half that of the “as :” it represented six ounces, and the usual type bears the head of Jupiter.

The *Triens*, or third of the “as,” is distinguished by four globules or dots, and has generally the head of Minerva.

The *Quadrans*, or fourth, has three dots, and for type the head of Hercules.

The *Sextans*, or sixth, represented two ounces, and has the head of Mercury.

The *Uncia*, or ounce, was the twelfth part, and has generally one dot or globule, and for a device the head of Minerva.

These pieces, both in the square and circular form, appear to have been invariably *cast*, and not struck from dies. The weight of the “as” seems to have been continually decreasing, until in the time of the first Punic war it was only two ounces, or the twelfth part of the denarius, a silver coin valued at twenty-four ounces of bronze.

About the time of Augustus, when it disappears in its true character, the weight was at its greatest diminution ; after this it is represented by the *sestertius*, or first brass ; the *dupondius*, or second brass ; and the *assarius*, or third brass.

The last mentioned coin, the *assarius*, or third brass, was the last

coin struck by the Roman Emperors of the West, so that the primitive Roman coin was also the latest issued by the dying empire: larger bronze, silver, and gold disappeared successively, until the wretched substitute of the diminished "as" was the only Roman coin minted; thus the "as" was, though in different forms, both the earliest and the latest coin of the Roman mint.

(To be continued.)

Philately.

THE NEW ENGLISH STAMPS.

Within the last week or so a paragraph has been going the round of the newspapers relating to the final abandonment of the proposal to throw open for competition, among artists and designers, the question of providing new stamps of suitable and improved design. It was originally thought that to admit of every one doing their best to provide their own country with a stamp of approved design, would afford ample scope to those ambitious of a coveted honor, satisfy the public, and assure those who feel especially sore about the matter that a movement was at last on foot for the provision of a new series. We understand that this idea has been found to be of little practical use towards a real solution of the difficulty; and the good old adage about trying to please everybody, with the natural result, has not presented itself in vain to the great minds of our legislators. It would appear, however, that the principles of the original plan are adhered to in the amended scheme just introduced: the post-office will still invite designs, presumably from a few picked artists, and those known to be of good ability in this particular branch, and likely to furnish something satisfactory and useful.

It is a foregone conclusion, and one that has been confirmed in official circles, that Messrs. De la Rue will not be invited to furnish new designs, but will be entrusted with the reproduction of the work of the successful competitors only. The extent of the remuneration to be awarded by the department to the authors of the selected designs is not known, but will probably be included in the invitation circulars when issued. Forty years' experience in the matter of providing these labels should be sufficient to enable the "authorities" to arrive at a balanced decision of the "thing required;" but the further we go away from the date of the first issue of the black penny stamp of 1847, the worse we seem to get. Our stamps, under the hands of the present contractors, have earned a notoriety little to be envied. Who can justly say that any of the present series are worthy of the education and enlightenment of the nineteenth century? Where is our boasted march of art and invention? Official jobbery, and want of even a reasonable

amount of artistic taste, has been paramount, together with an undefined craze about economy, but which has been shewn to be fatal to success when practised on the stamps of Great Britain. Witness the current series—a condiment of old types hashed up with some unintelligible additions by way of flavor! The abominable indistinctness of the stamps, and their wretched designs, are good cause for complaint. In the late Postmaster General's time it was hard to find fault with him on this account, as although his sanction was undoubtedly necessary before the present stamps were produced, he could in no way be held responsible for these brutal designs. Our readers are aware of the great disadvantage he laboured under, and it will be unnecessary for us to dilate upon it.

It is to be hoped that under the amended scheme referred to above, too many professors of the culinary art will not be allowed to provide the conscience and digestion of the British public with another hash, and that the Postmaster General will quickly decide what course shall be taken, now that the always necessary (?) commission of enquiry has finally adjourned itself, and handed in its report—the text of which was so well known as to convince everyone of the little utility of this latest piece of red-tapeism.

PHILATELIC NOTES.

We are afraid that unless new life is put into the committee which has undertaken to arrange for a philatelic exhibition, to be held in London during August next, the scheme will fall through. Why should not all the leading philatelists be asked to co-operate? There is no time to lose if the promoters wish it to be a success.

A fire occurred on the premises of Mr. F. L. Mills, Cincinnati, on the 24th December, destroying his valuable stock of stamps, and many back numbers of the *Stamp World*. We trust Mr. Mills was insured; but in any case it must be a great loss.

We have received so many stamp journals this month that it is impossible to mention them all in the small space at our disposal. Many of them have taken a very kindly notice of our little magazine, and we shall be happy to reciprocate the good feeling when time and space allows. Mr. Nunn's *F.S.C. Journal* is full of interesting matter; and Mr. England's *F.S.C. News* is also of the first order—several other of the English stamp papers are merely price lists. Of the Continental papers for January we must give the palm to the *Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal*, printed in Leipzig. The illustration of the last issue of stamps for Great Britain are almost too good, for if they were struck off on proper paper, and gummed at the back, one might take them for real stamps. From America we have received the *Philatelic Courier*, presided over, and almost entirely written by, Mr. Hechler, who is quite a host himself in either the science of philately or numismatics. The *New England Philatelist*, *Our American Youth*, and the *Philatelic Monthly* are all good.

Mr. Hubbard has sold his *Granite State Philatelist* to Mr. Watkins, of New York, who will continue it under the name of the *Empire State Philatelist*. If the vendor is the same party who is now publishing the *Newspaper Directory of the World*, we can understand him having no time to devote to a stamp journal.

NEW ISSUES.

Argentine Republic.—The variety to be found in this world is singularly great. To those of our readers who love to revel in mutation we recommend the recently issued $\frac{1}{2}$ c. and 1c. provisionals for use in this Republic. It requires one of more than every-day faith to recognise each fresh provisional as Simon Pure—they come to hand with such pertinacity and wilfulness that we are feign to quote the opinion of our contemporary, *Le Timbre Post*. In a recent number appeared the following—"What is curious is that these rare surcharges are frequently obtained by *amateurs*, who use all the influence of themselves and friends to obtain the fabrication of these impossibilities, or what may be called absurdities, but what is still more curious is that the 'authorities' can be found who will lend themselves to these petty calculations."

The much abused 5c. of 1867 has been again turned to account by surcharging it in black *Cuatro Centavos*, 1884.

4 Centavos red: black surcharge.

Belgium.—The assertion that on some of the stamps of the new series the word *Belgique* has been erroneously substituted for the proper rendering, *Belgique*, is explained by a correspondent thus:—"One of the dies was damaged at the printing office, and gave the *Q* in *Belgique* the appearance of a *G*." We are informed that as soon as the apparent error was noticed by the authorities, the damaged die was withdrawn from use. The 5c. has been changed in colour to green.

Adhesive: 5c. Green.

Bulgaria.—A fresh variety of the 25 stotinki value in a surcharged condition is announced to have been issued during December. The overprinted figures "15" are slightly larger than before. We have seen it stated somewhere that the stamps for use in Bulgaria were printed in St. Petersburg, but, on the authority of M. Brietfuss, *Le Timbre Post* denies this, stating at the same time that they are prepared at Sofia, and not at the Russian capital.

Cashmere.—It has recently been a matter of active discussion as to the proper title for stamps coming from this state. Some authorities prefer to call it Cashmere and Jamnu, while others are quite vociferous in the assertion that Jamnu should be placed before Cashmere. Jamnu, or Jummo, is a frontier town, and there seems no earthly reason why its name should obtrude upon the title of the country. A correspondent explains that to quote the stamps of "London and England," or "Ireland and Great Britain," would be just equivalent and quite as logical as quoting "Jamnu and Cashmere."

Ceylon.—We have seen the 2 cents in a new color.

Adhesive: 2c. green,

Cundimarca.—A new 5c. stamp has been issued. The aim of the designer has evidently been to provide something containing an abundance of variety. Surrounded by a horse-shoe shaped hand, and a scroll at the foot, are the usual arms. The latter is inscribed with "Correos," and on the hand "Estado Soberano de Cundimarca." On a straight tablet at top is "E.E. U.U. de Colombia," and at the bottom the value in full, "Cinco 5 cents," lithographed on white paper.

Adhesive: 5 centavos blue, imperf.

Eastern Roumelia.—As a dependency of Turkey, the stamps of Eastern Roumelia, and its general postal arrangements also, are affected by the recently issued regulations for the reform of "things postal" in those parts of the world. For

the information of those who are ignorant of the text of these new rules, as regards the stamps themselves, we may add that the colours of each label will in future consist of a groundwork of faint tinting, while the rest of the design will be printed in the more pronounced color. Thus, violet and pale violet, blue and light blue, will be the order of the day. In our next issue we shall be able to give a list of those stamps which have already appeared in their new colors.

Egypt.—It is with some amount of surprise that we hear of the stamps of this country undergoing some amount of alteration in the matter of color, in consideration of the confusion which Egyptian affairs are now in. As we have not yet seen the new ones we must reserve our chronicle of them until next issue.

Finland.—The postage stamps of Finland have undergone a complete change in colour, with the exception of the 10 penni, which value, we understand, will also be printed in a different color after the 30th April next. The following is a list of those already noted :

Adhesives : 5 penni, green
20 " yellow
25 " blue.

The cards and envelopes of corresponding value have also been changed in color.

Germany.—From a foreign contemporary we learn that the 2 mark stamp is now printed in rose violet instead of violet brown. Is not this a chemical change-ling?

New Zealand has been "provisionally furnished"—to use a very familiar expression—with a halfpenny stamp, formed, as usual, by surcharging the current one penny with $\frac{1}{2}$.

Adhesive : $\frac{1}{2}$ d. pink, black surcharge.

Nicaragua.—A 3c. card has just been issued—the companion to 3 X 3c. reply card introduced last autumn.

Post card : 3c., blue on buff.

Norway.—We have seen the 12 ore value printed in a very light brown.

Adhesive : 12 ore, light brown.

Puttialla.—The force of example set by neighbouring states has induced the Governor, or we ought to call him, perhaps, the Maharajah of Puttialla, to provide a separate series of stamps for the use of his subjects. The usual course has been departed from slightly, that is to say, the stamps of Puttialla are not quite so badly designed and executed as is customary to find the case in those issued by Indian states. The Maharajah has surcharged the current Indian Government stamps vertically with "Puttialla State" in two lines, forming an irregular oval. There seems to have been, however, no rule as to the color of ink used in over-printing. As will be seen from the list below, the surcharge varies considerably.

Adhesives : $\frac{1}{2}$ anna green, red surcharge.
1 " red brown, red surcharge.
1 " red brown, red and black.
4 " blue, red surcharge.
8 " violet, red surcharge.
1 rupee, lilac.
Post Card : $\frac{1}{2}$ anna, red brown, blue surcharge.
Envelopes : $\frac{1}{2}$ " green, red surcharge.

Sweden.—One specimen of a presumably new series for this country has reached us. The general appearance of the stamp is pretty, although very neat, and the engraver has studied the popular American workmanship very closely. The design consists of the profile of King Oscar II. in a "pearled" upright oval, surmounted by a ribbon bearing the word *Sverige*, in white, on colored ground. At foot, also on a ribbon, are the numerals and words of value, thus, "Ore 10 Ore," white letters on colored ground. In the upper angles are the usual post horns ; while the whole design, with the exception of the value at foot, is enclosed in a shield, of fancy shape, and very similar to the one to be found on many of the Peruvian stamps.

Adhesive : 10 ore, carmine.

St. Helena.—The sixpenny (old die) stamp has been surcharged HALFPENNY, in black.

Adhesive : $\frac{1}{4}$ d., dark green, black surcharge.

St. Thomas and Prince.—Messrs. Alfred Smith & Co. tell us, on the authority of a foreign contemporary, that the 5 reis is now printed in dark violet.

Adhesive : 5 reis, dark violet.

Tolima.—*Nil*.

Turks Islands.—The 4d. stamp of the 1881 issue for these colonies, hitherto printed in blue, now comes to hand in a slate grey tint. The latter color tends to improve the stamp, we think, from an artistic point of view.

Adhesive : 4d., slate grey.

Uruguay.—The 10c. of the new series has undergone a change in color to dark brown. That originally allotted to this stamp was bistre.

Adhesive : 10c., dark brown.

Virgin Islands.—The $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. fawn, 1882 issue, comes to hand in blue. It is curious to note that the international postage stamps (the $2\frac{1}{2}$ d.) of Great Britain and her colonies, are, with few exceptions, now printed in blue.

Adhesive : $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., blue.

P o r c e l a i n .

Porcelain, or china as it is commonly called, can be distinguished from pottery, or fayence, by holding it against a strong light. Porcelain will then appear *translucent*; pottery, or earthenware, *opaque*. According to the relative hardness of the paste after firing, porcelain is divided into hard paste porcelain and soft paste porcelain.

Hard paste porcelain can only with difficulty be scratched with a file or a steel point; has a semi-vitreous fracture, and will stand without injury sudden alternations of high and low temperature. It feels cold to the touch, and is bluish milk-white. The rims or projecting rings upon which specimens of hard paste porcelain rest are generally left without glaze, which affords a ready method to distinguish them from specimens of soft paste porcelain. Hard paste porcelain was made at Plymouth, Bristol, and Lowestoft.

Soft paste porcelain is more easily attacked by a file or a steel point, less dense, of a fine porous fracture, feels warm and soapy to the touch, and has a cream-white enamel-like appearance. The supporting rims are generally covered with glass. The paste after firing is nearly equally translucent and sonorous as hard porcelain. Soft paste porcelain was made at Bow, Chelsea, Derby, Pinxton, Worcester, Rockingham, Swansea, Nantgarw, and Liverpool, with the addition of felspar in Shropshire and Staffordshire.

The different degrees of hardness in hard paste and soft paste porcelain are due to different proportions of silica and alkalies in the body. The larger the proportion of silica present, the more compact the resulting porcelain. The average amount of alkaline oxides in Oriental porcelain appears to be 6 per cent.; in Dresden 6.3 per cent.;

in Bristol 4 per cent. ; with about 60 to 65 per cent. silica, and 30 per cent. alumina. The soft English porcelains often contain no less than 33 per cent. of alkaline matters, with only 40 per cent. of silica and 25 of alumina. Soft porcelain is an artificial combination of an alkaline flux with bone ash, sand, chalk, or gypsum. Hard porcelain is composed of *kaoline* and *petunse*, both natural products. *Kaoline* alone would form an opaque body, but by the admixture of a perfectly transparent substance, *petunse*—called “moorstone,” or “chinastone” in England—the paste is rendered capable of transmitting light.—*English Pottery and Porcelain*—London : L. Upcott Gill.



SALE OF THE WHITTALL COLLECTION OF GREEK AND ROMAN COINS.—The remaining portion of this valuable collection was sold by Messrs. Sotheby & Co., at their rooms, on January 26th. We append the prices obtained for some of the rarer coins. *Greek*.—Cyprus-Marium, AR, winged Astarte to right, reverse, MAP, swan to left between a fish and *crux-ansata*, £9; Tarsus, Satrap Abdsomar, AR, lion and bull type, £4 9s; Ænus, head of Hermes, *rev.* a goat within sunken square, AR, £6 2s. 6d.; Cilicia, Soli, archer to left, *rev.* a bunch of grapes, &c., AR, £6 5s.; Cyrene, AU, Quadriga to right, *rev.* Zeus standing, £2 4s. *Roman*.—Silver medallions—Mark Antony, *rev.* head of Octavia, very fine, £5; Claudius and Agrippina, £2 15s.; Domitia, *rev.* Venus, £3 5s.; Augustus, restored by Hadrian, £2 13s. Gold Aurei—Hirtia gens, £3 10s.; Faustina, Senr., £3 10s.; Lucilla, £4 5s.; Commodus, very fine, £7 7s.; Maximinus Daza, £6 10s. Silver denarii—Gordianus Africanus, Senr., £1 10s.; Macrianus, £1; Quietus, £1 1s.

ROBBERY OF VALUABLE COINS.—The museum of curiosities recently opened in a large building at Douglas, Isle of Man, has been entered, and a valuable collection of old coins, including many scarce specimens of Manx, stolen. There were three keys to the museum, one of which was lost or stolen some time ago, and from the examination made of the door it is evident that it was not forced by the thief, but opened with a key. The box of the lock was found bent back on the bottom screw, but it is plain that this was done to make believe the door was forced. The police have no clue to the thief. The coins were worth over £200. Nothing else in the museum was touched.

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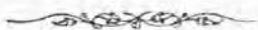
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ROMAN COINS.

By W. H. Taylor.

"The face of an old Roman coin, scarce seen,"—*Lancet*, *Foreign* List.

CHAPTER II.—COINS OF THE REPUBLIC.

As we have shown, the first coinage of the Romans was of bronze or copper, and this during the earlier and poorer days of the republic, was amply sufficient for all wants. In the year 485 of Rome, or 269 B.C., Pliny tells us silver money was first issued. This is in a great measure substantiated by the coins themselves, none of which appear to belong to a more remote period.

Long before this time Greek silver had been circulated in Rome, but it was not until the date recorded by Pliny, that the Romans themselves began to imitate the coins of their vanquished rivals. This was chiefly brought about owing to the large influx of silver obtained by the acquisition of Tarentum (Tarento): it is rather singular that this coinage seems to have been considered of inferior importance to that of bronze, which, so long as the nation existed, remained under the control of the Senate, whilst the minting of the precious metals was peculiarly a prerogative of the Emperors.

The first silver coin, the *denarius*, was worth a little more than eightpence of English money, and equivalent to ten bronze ases, this is denoted by the number X behind the head of Roma. The average weight was from 60 to 68 grains troy. Smaller coins were issued, as the *quinarius*, or half-denarius, and the *sestertius* (an abbreviation of *semis-tertius*), or quarter denarius. The earliest denarius struck at Rome is generally supposed to be that bearing on the *obverse* the double-headed Janus with the word Roma, in sunken letters, and *reverse* the figure of Victory driving a chariot. A later type has on the *obverse* a helmeted head of Minerva with the numeral X behind, *reverse* a chariot with two or four horses.

According to Varro there were also smaller divisions of the denarius, viz:—the *libella*, half the *sestertius*; the *semibella*, half the

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THE COLLECTOR.

Vol. 1.—No. 4.]

MARCH, 1885.

[1½d.]

Numismatics.

ROMAN COINS.

By W. H. Taylor.

"The face of an old Roman coin, scarce seen."—*Love's Labour Lost*.

CHAPTER II.—COINS OF THE REPUBLIC.

As we have shown, the first coinage of the Romans was of bronze or copper, and this during the earlier and poorer days of the republic, was amply sufficient for all wants. In the year 485 of Rome, or 269 B.C., Pliny tells us silver money was first issued. This is in a great measure substantiated by the coins themselves, none of which appear to belong to a more remote period.

Long before this time Greek silver had been circulated in Rome, but it was not until the date recorded by Pliny, that the Romans themselves began to imitate the coins of their vanquished rivals. This was chiefly brought about owing to the large influx of silver obtained by the acquisition of Tarentum (Tarento): it is rather singular that this coinage seems to have been considered of inferior importance to that of bronze, which, so long as the nation existed, remained under the control of the Senate, whilst the minting of the precious metals was peculiarly a prerogative of the Emperors.

The first silver coin, the *denarius*, was worth a little more than eightpence of English money, and equivalent to ten bronze ases, this is denoted by the number X behind the head of Roma. The average weight was from 60 to 68 grains troy. Smaller coins were issued, as the *quinarius*, or half-denarius, and the *sestertius* (an abbreviation of *semis-tertius*), or quarter denarius. The earliest denarius struck at Rome is generally supposed to be that bearing on the *obverse* the double-headed Janus with the word Roma, in sunken letters, and *reverse* the figure of Victory driving a chariot. A later type has on the *obverse* a helmeted head of Minerva with the numeral X behind, *reverse* a chariot with two or four horses.

According to Varro there were also smaller divisions of the denarius, viz:—the *libella*, half the *sestertius*; the *sembella*, half the

libella; and the *teruncius*, half the *sembella*; but as no specimens of these minute coins are extant, some writers have supposed them to be merely terms used in reckoning, and not actual coins.

A number of silver coins were struck by the Greeks for their Roman conquerors at this time, amongst which may be mentioned as best known, those of Capua, Teanum (Tiano), and Asella (St. Arpino). Some of these have the head of Jupiter, and others, the "treaty" type of this class, depicting soldiers taking the oath of allegiance over a swine.

Pliny informs us that the first gold coinage took place about 60 years after that of silver, in the year 207 B.C. The earliest types bear the head of Mars on *obv.* with numerals XX denoting the value, on *rev.* an eagle with the inscription ROMA.

The earliest gold coins were the *aureus*, equal to twenty denarii, and the *semi-aureus*, or half aureus: they were minted in Campania, and were probably the work of Greek artists. In the time of Pompey the *aureus* weighed about 126 grains, but in the days of Nero it had declined to 106 grains; the denarius having also declined in a relative degree.

This early coinage was the foundation of the Roman gold, which lasted till the time of Constantine, and was continued by the eastern Emperors, under whom it circulated throughout Europe; the coins being called *bezants*, or money of Byzantium (Constantinople), for some centuries after the establishment of that empire.

After a time the simplicity of the first gold types gave place to more elaborate ones, as the names of different moneyers and other inscriptions were added to the word ROMA, and the old effigies of Mars and Minerva (or Pallas) were superseded by more ambitious and varied devices.

We have now reached the epoch of the great "Family" or "Consular" coinage, and as this series is both of interest and importance, not only to the numismatist, but to the student of Roman history as well, it demands at least a chapter to itself, so we shall leave the consideration of this portion of the subject until our next article.

(To be continued.)

A HISTORIC TOKEN.

As we are aware that many philatelists are also interested in the kindred science of numismatics we would direct their attention to a local coin of this province—the "Broke Token." This was of the value of a half-penny and circulated for a time as such. It was of copper, and was struck to commemorate the celebrated victory of Capt. Broke, commanding H.M. frigate "Shannon," over Capt. Lawrence, commanding the U.S. warship "Chesapeake." The face bears the bust of Captain Broke, with his name over the bust forming a portion of a circle around the outer edge of the coin, and the legend,

"Halifax, Nova Scotia." The obverse of the coin has the figure of Britannia, bearing a laurel branch in her right hand, her shield behind her, and two ships occupying the sea view, on which she is supposed to be looking, the word "Britannia" in a segment of a circle overhead and "1814" below. This coin is unique, and but few are known to be in existence. It will be remembered that in the war of 1812-14 between the United States and Great Britain a challenge passed between the commanders of the two vessels—which were of about the same size and carried nearly equal armament and force of guns and men—to fight a sort of duel. The battle was "short, sharp and decisive." In fifteen minutes after their meeting all but about five of the Americans were killed or wounded, and the Englishman had lost two-thirds of his men. All the American officers being put *hors de combat*, one of the survivors hauled down the flag of the "Chesapeake" in token of surrender. The "Shannon" was so much injured by the rapid and accurate fire of her enemy that Capt. Broke at first almost decided to abandon her and take to his prize with his crew for safety. With the help, however, of his prisoners he kept both the vessels afloat and brought them into Halifax harbour. Commander Lawrence was killed in the action, and was buried in Halifax, though his remains were subsequently taken home to Boston. Capt. Broke was also mortally wounded, died shortly afterwards, and was interred in the old cemetery on the corner of Pleasant Street and Spring Garden Road, in this city, where his body still rests with many of those of the crews of both ships. The prisoners were exchanged shortly after the battle.—H. V. HECHLER, *Halifax, N.S.*

Philately.

THE POST OFFICE (1882) PROTECTION ACT.

So long as fresh evidence and fresh proofs of the forgerymongers' continued lucrative existence are forthcoming, we shall still indulge in the belief that the legislation which came into force last year, and intended more especially to remedy existing defects in this direction, has proved both hopelessly futile and a piece of unaccountable blundering on the part of its promoters. Our readers are probably aware that there is one man who has lauded himself to the skies as the author and originator of this new Act. Mention of his name is unnecessary; but when we think of the effects of this too primordial legislature, its working and its results, we almost instinctively revert to the author of those lines:

A stiff, ungainly awkward thing of wood,
Which up and down a graceless tongue doth sway,
And coolly spout and spout away,
In one weak wishy-washy everlasting flood.

But apart from this, if we are to believe common report the attempted remodelling of the Post Office Protection Acts, by which the philatelic year of 1884 will long be distinguished, and which it is patent is and

will be conspicuous by its failure, was to a great extent the outcome of one person's thoughts, and when we bear this fact in mind it is scarcely so surprising that the text and provisions of the new Act are primitive, and hardly worthy of the name of legislation at all. The former Acts of Parliament, passed for the protection of the Post Office, were sufficiently extensive in their bearing to afford ample protection to the Department; they were, moreover, carefully modelled and compiled by people competent to cope with the work they had undertaken.

In the present instance, the clause supposedly touching and prohibiting the use of electrotypes and facsimiles as illustrations in stamp magazines and similar publications did, we believe, deter many publishers from running the risk of placing themselves and their reputations in jeopardy while the first blush of the newly introduced legislation remained. But the effect of the withdrawal of these illustrations, which nobody valued so much until they were missing, was surprising to many, but by those who were prepared to witness the effect which was sure to become a result of such puerile and trifling attempts at legislation on the part of those who morally ought to have known better, it was not to be wondered at so much. Collectors indignantly rose in protest against what may be truthfully termed a trespass, not only upon the rights of philatelists, but also upon the privileges and freedom of a nation, the centre and home of which this country has so long been identified. And this outburst of public feeling naturally led to a closer enquiry and a determination to ascertain to what length of tether the meaning of the new Act was capable of going. The result of that enquiry has been the reappearance of the electrotypes as illustrations, and an explanation of the meaning of these doubtful clauses. So long as these facsimiles are made use of honestly, and by honest people, they are virtually within the pale of the law, and consequently not affected by the legislation of 1882. What we want is legislation for the checking and prevention of the wholesale manufacture of forgeries, calculated to cheat and defraud the philatelist and collector, rather than a prohibition of the enjoyment of those privileges which the kind providence of the civilization of the 19th century has given us.

It has been stated that a first case under the 1882 Act has been tried at Bristol. This is simply untrue. There was a charge brought against a man for inciting an engraver to make a fraudulent imitation of the present one penny stamp; but the indictment was under the original Acts passed in 1840-41.

PHILATELIC NOTES.

The Fitchburg Philatelic Society held its first meeting on February the 6th. The officers elected were:—President, Mr. W. L. Emory (of the *New England Philatelist*); Secretary, Mr. W. H. Jewett; Treasurer, Mr. W. A. Browne; Librarian, Mr. L. W. Sherwin. A circular has been issued asking the co-operation of philatelists in different parts of the world as honorary members.

The current number of the *Philatelic Referee* contains some capital items. Among them is a very amusing and useful review of the chief events of interest to the stamp science during 1884. The article is well worthy of reading, and the number is quite up to its usual standard of merit.

The initial number of Messrs. Butler's new magazine is before us, and contains some instructive news items. *En passant* we should like to see a larger and more authentic list of new issues in the next number. The *Observer* is very readable, and does credit to its publishers.

NEW ISSUES.

Belgium.—We have to record another of the new series, viz.: the 25 centimes. The design seems a little mixed and does not compare favourably with the other values just issued, from an art standpoint. The head of Leopold II. is shown in profile, on a lined ground, in an upright rectangle. In the angles appear two escutcheons and two ovals, resembling miniature birds' eggs; the latter being in the lower angles. In the escutcheons are the numerals of value, and in the ovals of which we have spoken are enclosed two tiny discs. The frame is ornamented on both sides with oak and laurel leaves, and on the left hand side with something very much like an anchor.

Adhesive: 25 centimes, blue on pink.

Bermuda.—Regarding the new $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamp, which has just been issued for use in this colony, we are told on substantial authority that the stamp owes its design to colonial genius. Messrs. De la Rue engraved and printed it from a design specially prepared in Bermuda. We learn further, that the reason of its issue is to provide a label for defraying the rate of single postage to the United States. Head of Queen in circle, on background, on horizontal lines, above and below which are the inscriptions *Bermuda, Twopence Halfpenny*, in white letters, on coloured ground.

Adhesive: $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., blue.

Ceylon.—A foreign contemporary tells us that the following stamps have been surcharged as shewn.

5 cents on 8 cents, yellow	
5 " 96 " grey	} POSTAGE AND — CENTS REVENUE.
10 " 24 " brown	
15 " 16 " mauve	
28 " 48 " rose	

The wording of the surcharge being varied according to the value expressed.

Corea.—Our contemporaries chronicle two alleged issues for Corea, but the nature of the information at present to hand strengthens the supposition that the stamps are either wholly bogus or issued for trade purposes.

Costa Rica.—A stamp of 2 centavos is now in course of issue with surcharge "official" in black. We have some doubts of its authenticity.

Falkland Isles.—A Postal Union Card is in use similar to those used for St. Vincent last year.

$1\frac{1}{2}$ brown on buff

Finland.—Since publication of our last issue we have seen the following: the design remains the same as in the case of the 5, 20, and 25 penni quoted last month; the color only being changed.

Adhesive: 10 penni, red.

The cards and envelopes of the values corresponding with these adhesives have all been subject to an alteration in the matter of the colour of the stamp impressed. There has also been an issue of three new values, viz.:

1 mark, grey and red
5 " green and red
10 " blue and red

But up to the time of writing we have not seen a specimen of either.

Gambia.—Messrs. De la Rue have been commissioned to supply this colony with $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. reply paid card of which we have a specimen before us. It is printed on

a buff card and the two portions are separated from each other by machine perforation.

Post Card: 1½d. — 1½d. grey on buff.

Mexico.—In this republic has been introduced a 10 centavos letter card, adopting the example set by Brazil. The border and inscriptions are in black, on white card with a green stamp. Our informant says nothing of the design of this stamp, but we presume it must be identical with the current adhesive of the same value.

Letter Card: 10 centavos, green.

Malta.—Of the new series recently announced we have seen the following:

Adhesive: ½d. green; 1d. rose; 2d. blue; 2½d. dark blue; 4d. light brown; 1s. violet.

Post Card: 1d., rose on buff.

All the stamps are inscribed *Malta* and value in words, and *Maltese* crosses abound in each design. They all bear a resemblance to the current series of Great Britain. We understand there is a 1d. + 1d. card, and a 2d. registration envelope also, but these we have not yet seen.

Nevis.—We omitted to mention last month that sundry changes had taken place on the Nevis stamps. The 1d. is now printed in a dull pink; the 2½d. has assumed the regulation blue; while what is apparently a new stamp altogether—a fourpence in grey.

Adhesive: 1d., dull pink

" 2½d., blue

" 4d., grey

Norway.—A series of local emissions have been made for use in Aalesund. The most conspicuous part of the design is a monogram of the letters H. S. and O. in white letters. Above on a cartouche is inscribed *Aalesund, Bypost, Frimarke*.

Adhesives: 3 ore, red

" 5 ore, blue

" 7 ore, black

Envelope: 5 ore, blue

} IMPERFORATE

Puttialla.—A correspondent asks us to correct an alleged error in the proper spelling of the name of this state. He urges that the second letter should be *a* instead of *n* and should read "Pat." Whether he intends to pun us we cannot say; but although our correspondent is so confident on the matter, we must respectfully stick to the spelling we gave when chronicling this issue last month, thanking him at the same time for his willingness to set right a supposed error. If our readers will refer to a good map, or to the surcharge itself, they will notice the spelling there is the same as rendered by us.

Russia.—We have the new type, 3 kop, before us. This completes the series of small values, *i.e.*, 1, 2, 3, 5, and 7 kop.

Adhesive: 3 kop, pink.

Shanghai.—We learn that the 20 cash and 60 cash stamps have been changed in colour as follows: the 60 cash taking the colour relinquished by the 20 cash.

Sweden.—Following the issue of the 10 ore recorded last month, we have a 20 ore stamp of same design, printed in blue.

Adhesive: 20 ore, blue

Switzerland.—*Le Timbre Poste* states that the 20 cent unpaid letter stamp is now printed in light olive green, and from another source we learn that all the higher values, *viz.*: 10 cent, 20 cent, 50 cent, 100 cent, and 500 cent are printed in the new colour; while the remainder of the series are still printed in blue.

Professor Johnson was lecturing one day before the students on mineralogy. He had before him a number of specimens of various sorts to illustrate the subject, when a roguish student, for sport, slyly slipped a piece of brick among the stones. The professor was taking up these one after the other and naming them. "This," he said, "is a piece of granite; this is felspar," &c. Presently he came to the brickbat. Without betraying any surprise, or even changing the tone of his voice, "This," he said, holding it up, "is a piece of impudence."

Porcelain.

THE PORTLAND VASE.

As so little seems to be known of this work of ancient art, I think a short account of its history may not be uninteresting to your readers. The Barberini Vase was discovered between the years 1623 and 1644, during the Pontificate of Urbanus VIII. (Barberini), beneath a mound of earth called Monte del Grano, about three miles from Rome, on the road to the ancient Tusculum. It was enclosed in a sarcophagus of excellent workmanship, and this in a sepulchral chamber. An inscription on the sarcophagus, which was otherwise covered with fine bas-reliefs, showed it to have been dedicated to the memory of Alexander Severus, and his mother, Julia Mamaea, both of whom were murdered by order of Maximinus, one of his generals, at Mayence, in the year 235 A.D. The vase in height is about 10 inches, and about 22 inches in circumference; it was deposited in the library of the Barberini family, and the sarcophagus in the museum of the Capitol. The material of which the vase is composed was at first conjectured to be a precious stone; but Mr. Wedgwood's examination proved it to be formed of glass, the ground being a dark blue, so nearly approaching black as to appear that colour, except when held in a strong light. The white bas-reliefs are of glass or paste, the material having been fused on in a mass, and then cut out by the skill and patience of the gem engraver into the designs required. The subjects of these bas-reliefs, as also the age and production of the vase, are points so wholly unknown as to be still open to conjecture and criticism. With respect to its age almost every critic has differed. The Barberini vase was brought to this country by Sir William Hamilton, in December, 1784. The Duchess Dowager of Portland, whose passion for augmenting her museum amounted to almost a monomania, heard of Sir William's purchase, and was the first to visit him on his arrival at his hotel, King-street, St. James's. Through the interest of Mrs. Delany and Sir William's niece, Miss Hamilton, maid of honour to the Queen, negotiations for its purchase were opened, and, after two or three interviews between Sir William and the Duchess, she became the possessor of the vase. The duchess died in the following year, July 17th, 1785. Wedgwood opened a treaty for the purchase of the vase with her son, the Duke of Portland. The duke, if he wished to dispose of the museum, was desirous of retaining some of its treasures, and the treaty, from this or some other cause, came to nothing, but, in the spring of the following year, the whole of the duchess's museum was sold by auction, by Messrs. Skinner and Co., at her house in Privy Gardens, extending from April 24th to June 7th, 1786, there being 4155 lots, the Barberini vase being the last lot. It has been reported that Mr. Wedgwood was present, and run the vase up to £1000, but the Duke of Portland's agent, Mr. Tomlinson, was the purchaser for the sum of £1029. The fact probably is that only one

should purchase the vase, the Duke and Mr. Wedgwood having come to an understanding for the latter to have the loan of it for artistic copy, for three days after the sale this famous antique passed into Mr. Wedgwood's care, his receipt of possession and promise to return being attested by Mr. Byerley:—"I hereby acknowledge to have borrowed and received from his Grace the Duke of Portland, the vase described as lot 4155 of the catalogue of the Portland Museum, and also the cameo medallion of the head of Augustus Cæsar, being a lot of the same catalogue, and sold by Messrs Skinner, the seventh day of the present month of June, 1786. I hereby promise to deliver back the said vase and cameo into the hands of his Grace on demand." (Signed) JOS. WEDGWOOD.

(Signed in the presence of) THOMAS BYERLEY.

In Mr. Wedgwood's lifetime it is probable that not fifty copies were made, and these not all of an average degree of merit, some being made white, without any blue in it, and some with the yellow white. There are only sixteen or seventeen of the original copies at present known, and these, of course, are now very valuable. Fifty pounds was Wedgwood's price on those subscribed for. Mr. Wedgwood discovered that the Portland vase had been broken previously, and repaired, as also the bas-relief which forms the bottom had belonged originally to some other vase or fragment of antiquity, and that it had been ground down and then inserted by processes far inferior to those used by the original artist. A mould of the vase was made by Pecken, the gem engraver, whilst it was in possession of the Barberini family, and from this, on its arrival in England, a certain number of copies were taken in plaster of Paris by Tassie, who afterwards destroyed the mould. These copies are extremely rare, and since the serious injury to the original, a few years ago, by a mad fanatic, are now of great value.—J. SYKES.

CORRESPONDENCE.

QUEEN ANNE'S FARTHING.

Sir,—I have received a letter from a gentleman in Manchester, accusing me of sailing too closely to an article on the above subject contributed by him to the *Antiquarian Magazine*. I have not had the pleasure of seeing the number or numbers wherein it was inserted, but I presume it is of recent date. I need only mention, for the sake of those of your readers who do not know of your former publication, *The Archaeologist*, that my MS. had been written 17 years before appearing in that journal.

Yours truly,

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Part IV.

Contents:

EVANGELINE, DESIGN FOR A 14 INCH PLAQUE, BY MARY SALISBURY (PRINCIPAL OF MESSRS. HOWELL AND JAMES'S ART POTTERY STUDIOS).

DESIGN OF HORSE CHESTNUTS FOR CHAIR BACK, FROM THE DECORATIVE NEEDLEWORK SOCIETY.

DESIGNS FOR SIX BUTTER-PLATES, BY MISS E. PEARSON.

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Numismatics.

ROMAN COINS:

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CHAPTER III. CONSULAR OR FAMILY COINS.

Various are the opinions which have been held, and the conjectures made, by different antiquarian writers, as to the origin and use of those Roman coins best known as "Consular," or "Family."

The belief was once prevalent that these coins were issued by successive consuls, and consequently bore their respective names and titles. But as the names of many families occur who never attained to the dignity of the consular office, the theory has been abandoned by modern writers.

It is, however, quite correct to call the series "Consular," inasmuch as all the coins so named were issued, and became current in the consular period.

Another supposition is, that private persons had the right at this time to take gold and silver to the mint to be coined into money for their own use, and that the names of those sending the metal were stamped upon all coins struck from the same. No ancient authority has, however, yet been found to confirm this ingenious suggestion.

An eminent writer on the subject says, "It has been supposed that during the republic, every officer in charge of a new subjected province, had each the privilege of coining money bearing his name; and it is true that many coins of this class bear evidence in the types of having been struck in Asia and Africa. This hypothesis, if found eventually to be correct, would account for the immense variety of types and names; while to account for the great similarity of art displayed on the greater portion of the series, we must suppose that each officer, on receiving his appointment, took out Roman artisans for this purpose."

Whether this theory be the correct one or not, it is an undoubted fact that the names of a large number of the Roman families, both patrician and plebeian, are found on the coins of the later period of the Roman republic.

It may be well to mention in passing that in Roman names, the first, or *prænomen*, denoted the person; the second, or *nomen*, the

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Whether this theory be the correct one or not, it is an undoubted fact that the names of a large number of the Roman families, both patrician and plebeian, are found on the coins of the later period of the Roman republic.

It may be well to mention in passing that in Roman names, the first, or *prenomēn*, denoted the person; the second, or *nomen*, the

family ; and the third, or *cognomen*, further distinguished the individual from others bearing the same name. The *agnomen*, which is often found on the imperial coins, as Germanicus, Africanus, &c., was simply employed as an epithet.

Most of the consular coins belong to a period of about fifty years before the reign of Augustus. Although the head of some deity, generally Roma or Pallas, appears on the obverse, yet the workmanship is superior, and the design more ambitious and elaborate than those of the earlier coins of the republic. No portraits are found until Julius Cæsar, who was the first Roman who figured on a coin.

The most interesting, and easiest to be obtained, of the consular series are the silver denarii : most of the bronze pieces have nothing special about them, either in diversity of type, or beauty of design or execution.

Perhaps no coins of any age or country present such charming variety as those of the "family" series. Nothing can approach them either in interest or importance, from a historical point of view—unless we except our own provincial coins and tokens—which although sneered at by many as beneath serious notice, are yet of considerable import in their way even now, and in future ages will be undoubtedly still more useful to both the historian and antiquary, from the light they will help to shed upon our own times.

The two commonest reverses of the consular denarii are those bearing representations of the *biga*, two-wheeled, and the *quadriga*, or four-wheeled chariot ; but there are very many others of extraordinary interest and utility in illustrating Roman traditions, manners, and customs.

The types of these have been divided into the following classes :—

1. Heads of deities ; as Jupiter, Hercules, &c.
2. Sacred, natural, or artificial subjects.
3. Symbolic figures of certain towns or countries ; as Roma, or Hispania.
4. Heads or figures of allegorical personifications ; as "Honor et Virtus," which appears on a coin of the family Marcia.
5. Fabulous monsters, as Scylla (Pompeia).
6. Heads or figures of ancestral personages ; as that of Numa on a coin of Calpurnia.
7. Events connected with ancestors.
8. Places associated with historical exploits.
9. Symbolic representations commemorating contemporary events.
10. Heads of living persons exercising dictatorial power ; as that of Sulla (Cornelia).
11. Representations connected with military matters ; as legionary standards and trophies.

Madden gives the number of Roman families issuing coins as about 180, but some of these may be considered as rather doubtful, nothing being known of them but their names.

(To be continued).

THE COINAGE OF THE ISLAND OF MADAGASCAR.

Payments are made in Madagascar generally in money, though I have found some tribes still using the primitive method of barter. The only coin recognised at present as currency is the dollar either of France (the 5 franc piece in silver), Germany, Holland, Italy, Russia or Spain. For smaller payments than 4s. these coins are broken up and weighed. They are cut into all sizes and shapes, having no distinctive value attached to each piece, and the worth is only ascertained by careful weighing. For this purpose every one carries a pair of native scales and weights. These are made with so great exactitude that the variation of the 720th part of a dollar can be readily detected. Buying is a tedious process, rendered more so by the fact that a single weighing is seldom accepted by the native, who almost invariably puts the money first in one pan of the scales and then into the other to be quite certain that the balance is perfectly true; but such a cumbersome method, reminding us of the time when Abraham weighed his pieces of silver, must disappear before the onrush of civilisation and commerce. At least one offer has been made to the Prime Minister by an English firm to supply the country with a coinage of its own; but before this can be accomplished many conservative prejudices have to be overcome, and the suspicious distrust of the people to be surmounted. After having been accustomed to weigh every piece of silver, and to reject every smooth dollar, it will not be easy to induce this people to accept coins of a nominal value only, more especially as with them time is not an article of very great value, and haggling a long time over a just pennyworth of silver is a daily amusement.

A new numismatic work has just been issued from the press, entitled "Medallic Portraits of Washington," by W. S. Baker. All the known Washington pieces, to the extent of six hundred and fifty-one, are accurately described and arranged into appropriate groups, each group being preceded by historical and critical notices. Apart from its importance as a numismatic specialty, the work also possesses considerable interest to the historical student. The publisher is Mr. M. Lindsay, Philadelphia.

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A case of very great interest to stamp dealers has just been tried at Llandudno. It appears that Charles R. Chaplin, postman, has been doing a nice little business with Messrs. J. H. Lacy & Co., and Mr. C. W. Jones, Gloucester, and perhaps others in the trade, but according to the evidence given on March 26th, he is likely to pay very dear for the sheets of stamps he is alleged to have purloined. If we lose confidence in our postmen then business is at a standstill, but happily the great majority of these public servants are worthy of our trust, and the few who may be inclined to be unscrupulous are deterred by the heavy punishment which falls upon a delinquent when discovered.

Mr. C. W. Jones, Gloucester, deposed: I deal in foreign stamps, and live at Lincoln Villa, Gloucester. In the month of January I sent a letter to W. H. Jones, pier, Llandudno; on the 28th January I posted it at Gloucester. It contained two sheets of stamps, numbered "five" and "seven," in my handwriting: the sheets produced are the ones I posted. I afterwards discovered that the letter had never reached W. H. Jones.

Matthew Moore deposed: I am a police officer, in the employ of the General Post-office. On the 18th inst. I went to the prisoner's house with Mr. McIntyre (General Post-office) and the Postmaster. Heard Mr. McIntyre ask the prisoner if he had any objection to being searched. He consented. I searched him and the house. Found in the cheffionier and other parts of the house twenty-nine sheets of foreign stamps. Amongst them were the two sheets now produced marked "five" and "seven." They were in a box.

After other evidence had been taken, Mr. Pugh (for the defence) said he did not intend making any remarks at this stage, beyond stating that the defence was reserved.

The Chairman: Prisoner, we have carefully listened to the evidence against you, and it is our painful duty to commit you to take your trial at the ensuing assizes.

The second charge against the prisoner was for obtaining foreign postage stamps by false pretences.

Joseph Henry Lacy, 16, Gomm Road, Rotherhithe, dealer in foreign stamps, deposed: In January last I received the letter (produced) 12th January, from C. W. Oxtan, B.A., St. Cuthbert School, Llandudno, for stamps to be sent on approval. They were to be "really good stamps," for prizes for boys instead of books. I answered that letter; sent three sheets of stamps in a registered letter; received no reply to the letter, and it was not returned through the Dead Letter Office.

By Mr. Pugh: Have sent stamps to another person in Llandudno lately.

By the Chairman: The other person, Mr. Haselden, Cherwood Villa, sent me a post card that he did not receive the stamps sent on February 3rd.

Rev. C. C. Naters, B.A., deposed that there was no person connected with his school named Oxtan, and that he knew nothing about the receipt for the registered letter; and a post-office clerk deposed that the prisoner signed for the letter to C. W. Oxtan, and that St. Cuthbert's School is in the prisoner's delivery district.

After other evidence had been taken the prisoner was also committed for trial on the second charge, but Mr. Pugh said he could not see that the evidence warranted a committal on the charge of false pretences, but only of larceny.

NEW ISSUES.

Bahamas.—In addition to the 1d. and 4d. values already chronicled, we have 5s. and £1 stamps for this place.

Bulgaria.—Two reply cards have been received:

5 + 5 stotinki, green on white.
10 + 10 „ rose „

Corea.—These stamps have been accepted as genuine by our contemporaries, and consist of two values. The design is composed of what the *Timbre Post* calls a cockade, while another of our contemporaries supposes it to represent the Corean national arms, a supposition which appears to be the most correct. It resembles a plate with white rim, and the inside composed of semi-circular bands of white and color so placed that the white are opposed to the colored ones. The 5 mon. has this design in the centre, enclosed in a rectangular frame composed of 8 alternate panels and circles; there is a circle in each corner of the stamp. The inscriptions in the top right and left panels are in Chinese character, those on the side showing the value; while that in the upper reads, "Postage stamps of the Great Kingdom of Corea." The same inscription appears in the lower panel, but is in the Corean dialect. The value is given in the circles in Corean. In the 10 mon. the central design is enclosed by a band bearing inscriptions similar to those on the upper and lower tablets of the 5 mon. Four octagons form the angles. The word "Corean" is shewn on white letters between the upper, and "10 mon." between the lower octagons, while the word "Post" is given on both sides of the stamp. The stamps are typographed on white paper.

5 mon carmine.
10 „ blue.

Cyprus.—The 4 piastre is now printed on the "Crown C.A." paper, thus completing the series with this watermark.

Dominica.—We learn that the 2½d. red-brown is now current, and is also printed on "Crown C.A." paper.

Finland.—The 20 penni envelope comes to hand printed in orange.

Great Britain.—Since April 1st, 1885, the public have been allowed to have post cards printed on their own card.

Guadaloupe.—the 25c. and 40 cent have been reprinted on a small scale since last October, and as per usual variations have been "made to order."

25 cents black on white.

40 " " "

Straits Settlements.—Have again favoured us with a variety of surcharges: first, we have the 8 cents overprinted in black on the 12 cents purple brown, but for some occult reason it has again been surcharged with a large figure "8." The "Two Cents" on 5 cents is to be had in three varieties, one where the letter E is wide and the S is narrow; the second where both are narrow; and the third where both are wide. The .5 cent appears to be a favoured victim for surcharges; not content with imposing on it the various types of Two Cents it has been found necessary (?) to put two different 4 cent surcharges, one in black and the other in red. A new card has been issued for inland service with inscriptions similar to those on the halfpenny card of Great Britain, with the addition of "Straits Settlements" directly under the royal arms. It will, indeed, be a miracle if that escapes the "surcharging mania" now so prevalent.

Adhesive stamps: all surcharged.

2 cents on 5 cents, three varieties, more to follow.

8 cents on 12 cents—doubly blessed.

4 " 5 " two varieties, black, and red.

Post card: 1 cent green on light blue.

Trinidad has got ahead of the mother country, and has issued a series of nine unpaid letter stamps. The design shows the value within a circle and two tablets above and below, with the inscription "Trinidad," above, and "Surcharge Postage" below, in white letters.

Unpaid letter stamps: $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 5d., 6d., 8d., and 1s., all in black and white.

C O R E A .

Supplementary to our remarks under the heading of "New Issues," the following items may be of service and interest to those of our readers, who may not be acquainted with the locality of the last new recruit in the ranks of the stamp issuing countries. Corea occupies a peninsular in the north east of China, and in days gone by has been a bone of contention between the two celestial empires—China and Japan. Both the countries, we believe, now claim a *locus standi* with regard to the internal arrangements and government of the good Coreans, but which power is paramount just at present is not clearly defined. To a certain extent the Coreans claim an independence, and it is alleged to be a native idea that the peninsular should be supplied with a separate

set of stamps for its own particular use. A contemporary states that the new labels bear *prima facie* evidence that the Chinese power rules, and has been instrumental in the preparation of the issue, the inscriptions being partly in the dialect of that country. This statement is, however, counterbalanced by the fact that the stamps themselves were typographed in Japan.

A telegram through Reuter's agency, dated 31st March, says that England has annexed part of the Korean peninsula.

P o r c e l a i n .

SALE OF RARE OLD PORCELAIN AND POTTERY.

The third and final portion of one of the most extensive collections of old china which has ever been disposed of by auction in Yorkshire, was sold by Messrs. Hollis & Webb, at their rooms in Park Row, Leeds, on March 18th and 19th. The collection was formed by Edward Bond, Esq., J.P., of Burnley House, Leeds, who for fifty years had made this his study and pride.

The chief interest at this sale centred in the notable Mandarin Service, which had formerly belonged to an Ambassador, and dispersed at his death. Mr. Bond was 20 years in collecting it together again, and after its completion he refused an offer of £1000, nearly five times the amount realised in the present instance, viz., £205. The service is undoubtedly a magnificent and extremely choice one, and is believed to be unique. The border of each piece is richly decorated with an intricate gold pattern; the centre is painted with landscapes and figures representing various scenes of Oriental life, most tastefully and beautifully executed. With the exception of the small articles, the views and incidents depicted upon each piece are all different. The service comprises complete sets for breakfast, tea, dinner and dessert, and numbers in all 276 pieces. The sale was peculiarly rich in Oriental china, many of the specimens of Japanese, Egg-shell Chinese, and Batavian, being not only exquisitely fine, but of great intrinsic value.

The following are some of the best prices:—Pair of richly-decorated dishes, with pink border, and paintings of flowers, birds, &c., and three plates to match, £11 6s.; pair of large circular dishes, with impressed pattern border, and decorated, £6 15s.; an elegantly-shaped rose-water jug and cover, very finely decorated in red and gold, £7 7s.; handsome large punch bowl, decorated with flowers and pheasants, £6 10s.; a very fine ruby-backed saucer-shaped plate, with river scene in centre, £2 1; pair of very fine vases, deep red ground, with gold pattern overlaid, and painted with figures, compartments, £13 13s.; magnificent large bowl, turquoise-coloured ground, finely decorated with groups of figures, in compartments, £10 10s.; bowl and stand, rich border,

decorated with flowers, £7 7s.; very choice small tea service, 19 pieces, finely gilt, and painted with figures and birds, in compartments, £16 16s.; large vase and cover, richly decorated in panels, a very fine old piece, £22; set of three magnificent tall egg-shell vases and covers, surmounted by dragons, £11 os. 6d.; pair of beakers, decorated in rich enamel colours, very choice pieces, £16 16s.

Oriental white jade ware was represented by 14 specimens, and though it is very rare, and seldom to be met with, the only good price fetched was for a pair of tall female figures, very finely modelled, £6 10s.

Old majolica fetched very fair prices, but not the fabulous ones realised at the recent Fontaine sale: Plate, with cupids in a landscape painted upon it, £4 15s.; tazza, with coat-of-arms and scroll work of animals and figures, £4; pair of very fine oblong plaques, decorated, one with paintings of nymphs and cupids in a landscape, and other with representation of nymphs offering fruit to a river god, £9 9s.

There were in all 399 lots.

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Naples, 2 grana, Arms.....	1	0	
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THE COLLECTOR.

Vol. 1.—No. 6.]

MAY, 1885.

[11d.]

Numismatics.

THE TRADERS' TOKENS OF THE 18TH CENTURY.

It seems strange, when so many persons are collecting the traders' tokens of the 17th century, that more attention has not been attracted to the far better issues, in many respects, struck during the 18th century. These tokens are well worthy of notice among numismatists, some of the specimens being splendidly executed, both with regard to design and striking; while, as a rule, the 17th century issue is very deficient in both respects. Their origin may be traced to the extraordinary increase of almost every branch of industry in England about the latter end of the 18th century, when the clamour for more money, and especially small change, became so pressing that the Government decided on letting the trading public coin copper money for themselves; and a short act was passed legalising such procedure.

The first tokens struck were by the Anglesea Mines Co., in 1787, and consisted of pence and halfpence, of which there are many varieties, some of great rarity. Some tokens became common, and a very large number (mostly halfpence) were in circulation when the Government superseded them with the new "Soho" coinage in 1797.

As soon as the tokens were suppressed, and their collection began to be a hobby, a number of enterprising persons bought up the old dies, and began striking "rare varieties;" this, for the most part, consisted in either altering the inscription on the edge of the coin, or by striking pieces from the obverse die of one token, and the reverse of another. These *pseudo* tokens are now known among collectors as "mules."

There were two tokens struck for Hull, at the period I mention, viz. :—

- 1 *Obv.*—Mounted man to right; around, "Gulielmus Tertius Rex;" and below, "M.D.C.L.X.X X L.X." *Rev.*—Arms of Hull between two oak branches; above, "Hull halfpenny, 1791." Edge, "Payable at the Warehouse of Jonathan Garton & Co."
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The latter coin was the work of Wym & Kempson, to my mind the two best medallists of their time.

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R. S.

ROMAN COINS;

By W. H. TAYLOR.

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CHAPTER IV.—CONSULAR COINS.

Some approximate idea of the great diversity of the types of this Consular series may be gathered from the following list, compiled from Akerman, of the number of varieties extant of certain Roman families —

Æmilia	43 varieties.	Maria	46 varieties.
Antonia	138	Papia	63
Calpurnia	150	Plaetoria ...	57
Cassia	37	Pompeia.....	33
Claudia	43	Roscia	43
Cornelia	121	Sulpicia	32
Crepusia	33	Tituria	33
Fabia	38	Valeria.....	34
Julia	122	Vibia	79
Junia	75	Volteia	34
Marcia	42		

As has been mentioned before, much of the early history of Rome is only to be supplied by the consular coins. We shall therefore proceed to illustrate briefly a few of the remarkable and interesting specimens of the different *gentes* or families.

ÆMILIA.

1. L BVCA. Head of Venus.

Rev.—Diana and Victory near a sleeping figure. Lucius. Æ. Buca was questor in the time of Sylla. The reverse represents Sylla dreaming that Diana introduces him to Victory.

2. Female head (probably Venus Victrix).

Rev.—M. LEPIDVS AN. XV. PR. H. O. C. S. *i.e.* Marcus Lepidus annorum XV. prætextatus hostem occidit civem servavit.

This interesting coin informs us that Lepidus, at the age of fifteen, killed an enemy and saved the life of a citizen. He afterwards achieved several important successes, both by sea and land, over the Gauls and Ligurians.

A statue was erected to Lepidus, in the Capitol, of which the figure on the coins is thought to be a copy.

3. PAVLLVS LEPIDVS CONCORDIA. Diademed and veiled female head.

Rev.—TER. PAVLLVS. A figure erecting a trophy, near which are three captives.

This coin depicts the defeat of Perseus, king of Macedon, by Paulus Lepidus.

The three figures denote the captive monarch and his two sons.

4. M. SCAVR: AED. CVR. EX. S. C. A figure kneeling beside a camel. REX ARETAS.

Rev.—P. HVPSAEVS. AED. CVR. HVPSAE. COS. PREIVER. CAPT. Jupiter in a quadriga holding a thunderbolt.

This coin represents the defeat of Aretas, king of Arabia ; and also the taking of Privernum by M. Scaurus.

The whole of the coins of this illustrious family are very interesting and instructive, but especially those struck during the triumvirate of Lepidus.

ALIA, OR AELIA.

Q. LABIENVS PARTHICVS. IMP. Male head with short beard.

Rev.—A horse standing, saddled and bridled, no legend.

This curious coin is very rare.

ANTISTIA.

Obv.—Head of Augustus.

Rev.—C. ANTIST VETVS CVM GABINIS.

Two men in long robes, holding a sow over an altar.

This type signifies the manner in which the Romans used to conclude a treaty with another nation. Livy explains the ceremony in this way :—Holding up the sow, they called upon Jove to witness the act as they struck it dead with a stone. The particular treaty referred to on the coin, is that concluded by Caris Antistius Vetus, one of the ancient family of the Gabii, with the last Tarquin, on his capturing and plundering their chief town.

To be continued.

—:O:—:O:—

Auction Sales.

CANADIAN COINS AND MEDALS.

The collection of Canadian coins, medals and tokens, catalogued by Mr. Lyman H. Low, New York, and sold by auction by Messrs. Bangs & Co., February 3rd and 4th, is by far the most extensive in the series that has ever been brought under the hammer in America. The catalogue, which was very generally distributed a month before the sale, embodied a good arrangement, and the fullest description of the pieces, both as to type and preservation. The leading and well known rarities were nearly all represented. We quote the following : Indian Peace Medal, Geo. II., 1757, \$11.25, and four of Geo. III. brought respectively \$14.50, \$13.25, 9 dols., and \$12.60, all in silver ; Fort Erie Medal, given to members of Welland Battery for assisting in repelling Fenian invason, June 2nd, 1866, \$5.25 ; the large Confederation Medal, 12 dols. ; Glorium Regni, 5 Sou piece of Louis XIV., 1670, \$9.25 ; Dexton Canadensis, 2 dols. ; Montreal side view, half-penny, 1839, 6 dols. ; Montreal Sou (McLachlan 65, Le Roux 154) in German silver, \$4.50, and a set of 42 Sous brought 25c. each ; six Montreal Bridge tokens sold from 3 dols. to \$5.80 each ; Devins & Bolton's card of 1867, \$1.55 ; R. Sharpley's token, \$1.80 ; Half-penny Copper Company, Upper Canada, \$22.50 ; Colonial quarter dollar of the year 1820, 4 dols. ; Leslie & Son's two-penny, \$15.75 ; New Brunswick half-cent, 1861, \$1.50 ; Nova Scotia and New Brunswick Success, \$8.10 ; three varieties of Barry's Halifax tokens, 42c. each ; White's farthing, \$4.50.

GREEK, ROMAN, AND ENGLISH COINS.

The following are some of the prices realised at a recent sale at Messrs. Sotheby's Rooms:—*Greek Coins*—Thasos AR, rev. Herakles kneeling, £3 5s. od.; Lykkeios, AR, King of Paeonia, £14 15s.; Chalcidice, AR, Head of Apollo, rev. a lyre, £9 15s.; Orestae, AR, Centaur carrying a nymph, £3 1s.; Uranopolis, AR, globe of the sun with rays, rev. Aphrodite Urania, £12 10s., very rare.

English Gold Coins.—Edward IV., rose noble, £2 16s.; Elizabeth, half-sovereign, very fine, £5 5s.; Charles I. Scotch unit, £3 17s. 6d.; Charles II. fine guinea piece, £6 15s.; Charles II. elephant guinea piece, £10 15s. *Silver*—Philip and Mary sixpence, £1 13s.; Charles I. Pontefract half-crown, £6; Cromwell shilling, £2; James I. crown, very fine, £6 10s. And at their sale on April 17th, *Roman Large Brass*—Claudius, rev. Spes, &c., £1; Galba, rev. Victory, £1 18s.; Vitellius, rev. Pax, £2 8s.; Titus, rev. Spes, 13s.; Titus, rev. Coliseum, very rare, £4; Antoninus Pius, rev. Consecratio, £2 2s.; Commodus medallion, BRITANNIA on reverse, very rare, £6 12s. 6d.

CONFEDERATE NOTES, &c.

A large collection of Confederate Treasury notes, etc., catalogued by Mr. Lyman H. Low, was sold by auction on March 26th, by Messrs. Bangs, & Co., New York. A 500 dol. issue of 1861 (written date), Montgomery, with drove of cattle crossing brook, uncirculated, the rarest of the series, brought 11 dols.; one of 1000 dols., with busts of Calhoun and Andrew Jackson, canceled, \$10.26; other examples brought \$4.05, \$3.50, \$3.25, and 2 dols. respectively. A 100 dol. issue of 1862 (written date), J. T. Paterson, Columbia, S.C., with *green back*, very rare, sold for 21 dols. Three Confederate bonds of 1861 (100 dols., 500 dols., and 1000 dols.), registered, with busts of Jackson, Calhoun, and Davis, printed by *Am. Bank Note Co.*, New Orleans, sold for \$2.25; a 50c. U.S. fractional note, with bust of Gen. Spinner (carmine back, *without signatures*, issued by mistake, \$9.25; a set of four pieces (5, 10, 25, and 50 cts.), "postage currency," perforated edges, "ABCo" on reverse, \$1.60; the 25 and 50c. bust of Fessenden, Justice seated, values on solid bronze ground, \$2.50; an essay, design for "postage currency," picture of 1863 half dol., black, obv. and rev., broadside, 4 dols.

BRIC-A-BRAC.

At J. W. Haseltine's sale of bric-a-brac, which took place in Philadelphia, on March 30th last, postage stamps brought the best prices. One lot of 21 boxes, of common varieties, sold at 115 dols. Another lot, of the rarer varieties, brought 125 dols. A collection of about 20,000 war envelopes went for 26 dols. A large series of autograph letters and papers, mostly of noted men of Revolutionary times (numbering probably 1000 pieces), was sacrificed at 34 dols.

The coins and Indian relics brought much less. A collection of mound builders' vessels, pipes, axes, pestles, ceremonial stones and gouges, was sold for \$10.50. A South Sea Island paddle, elaborately carved, went for \$7.50. A case of medals and tokens, numbering about 350 pieces, sold for 11 dols, and a similar lot for 15 dols. A silver "Hard Times" token, of 1837, of which only three or four are known in collections, sold for 15 dollars. Copper cents of 1793 and 1799, with many other rare copper and silver coins and many pieces of paper currency, were included in large lots, which sold for nominal sums.

AMERICAN COINS.

On April 9th, at a coin sale in Philadelphia, a \$2.50 gold piece of 1796 brought \$55.50; a 50 dollar California gold piece, 59 dols.; a 1794 U.S. dollar, 22 dols.; another of 1839, 25 dols.; a half dol. of 1797, 53 dols., and a dime of 1805, \$10.25.

FORTHCOMING SALE.

Mr Lyman H. Low, Broadway, New York, has furnished us with a catalogue of the eighth sale of the famous "Balmanno collection," to take place at Messrs. Bangs & Co's rooms, on June 10th and 11th. It comprises American and foreign coins and medals, Oriental coins, early Irish, Scotch, and British pieces, rare English coins and pattern pieces of the Stuarts, Cromwell, and House of Brunswick, and a choice selection of numismatic works. The lots (1064) are described in 54 pages, and some of the most important are illustrated by the autotype process.



Philately.

PHILATELIC NOTES.

In these days of war and revolution literary men have to wield the sword as well as the pen, and we know with what fatality in the Soudan. We trust that misfortune may not thus betall Mr. Henry Hechler, who at the present time is in command of a company of volunteers fighting the half-breeds in the Dominion. We wish him honour, and a safe return to continue his publication, *The Philatelic Courier*. His subscribers will gladly excuse its non-appearance for a month or two in such a case as this.

The fifth edition of the *Imperial Postage Stamp Album* is promised for August, with spaces for all new issues, but minus the spaces for post cards, as a companion volume exclusively for these is in the press.

The *Philatelic Observer* is anxious to have a "Dealers' Protection Association." Quite right. But is there not one already formed? We have received circulars with the name of the president, secretary, and "official organ" thereon. We have nothing against the *officials*, but we are afraid the *organ* will play a very sorry tune.

We are very glad to receive such publications as the *Philatelic Observer*, the *F.S.C. Journal*, the *Philatelic Referee*, and one or two others published in this country; but there are some so-called journals of four to eight pages—three parts, nay, seven-eighths, advertisements—which seems to us a waste of postage to send out, and we are afraid those who, relying upon profuse promises, have sent in subscriptions will be grievously disappointed. By their fruits ye shall know them.

Talking about "contemporaries," we have just received the initial number of *The Museum*, published in Philadelphia. Its perusal was quite a treat to us, and if it keeps up its present standard of excellence it cannot fail of success, always provided, as the lawyers say, that its price of 15 cents per copy does not tell against it.

NEW ISSUES.

Azores.—We do not appear to have chronicled the following, a copy of which stamp has been in our possession some six weeks.

Adhesive: 20 reis, carmine.

Our contemporaries also mention a post card.

30 reis, green or buff.

Barbadoes.—We have to announce a threepenny value for use in this colony, of same design as usual. The fourpence is now printed in brown.

Adhesives: 3d. violet.

4d. brown.

Belgium.—We understand there will be a separate series of stamps set apart for the Congo States, over which the King of the Belgians has recently declared sovereignty.

Brazil.—The 50 reis has been furnished with a fresh head of the Emperor, larger than in the former issue.

Adhesive: 50 reis, blue.

Cyprus.—The postal officials in this colony have supplied the world of stamp collectors with a multitude of surcharged labels. This seemingly strange proceeding is thought to be due to some radical changes in the postal rates in Ceylon. The following is as near as possible a complete list of those already to hand, or chronicled by *Le Timbre Poste*, *The Record*, and Messrs. Alfred Smith:

Adhesives: 5 cents on 4 cents, rose (Postage and Revenue).

10	"	24	"	brown violet.
10	"	64	"	dull red.
15	"	16	"	purple.
20	"	24	"	green.
20	"	32	"	slate.
25	"	32	"	"
28	"	48	"	pink.
30	"	38	"	blue.
48	"	96	"	light green.
1r. 12	"	2r. 60c.	"	red brown.
5	"	8 cents,	"	orange.
5	"	16	"	blue.
5	"	32	"	slate.
5	"	36	"	blue.
5	"	48	"	rose.
5	"	64	"	red brown.
5	"	96	"	green.
Post cards: 24	"	2	"	purple.
(Surcharged the price is—three cents, including the card).				
5	"	6	"	blue grey.
10	"	8	"	red brown.
Envelope: 5	"	4	"	light blue.
R. Envelope: 15	"	12	"	pink.

Denmark.—A new 10 ore label has been issued, of same design as stamp impressed on the current post card of that value. Also two post cards as follows:

5 ore, green on buff.

5 x 5 " " (reply paid).

Adhesive: 10 " carmine.

Ecuador.—We understand that the whole of the present series in use in this republic have been surcharged with the word "official" in black block letters.

Dominican Republic.—There has just been issued an entirely new set of postage labels and post cards—an event of considerable importance. We have seen the 2 and 5 centavos, and so far as we have yet been able to ascertain the following is a list of the newly issued stamps and cards to hand:

Adhesives: 1c. green, 2c. vermillion, 6c. blue, 10c. red, 20c. brown, and

Post cards: 2c. orange, 3c. blue.

Guinea.—Three new post cards were issued on Jan. 18th last, bearing stamps with profile of the King of Portugal. Values as follows :

10 reis, blue on buff.
20 " carmine.
30 " green.

Japan.—This empire is now possessed of double or reply paid post cards.

Lagos.—The stamps of this colony are coming to hand with fresh colours.

Luxemburg.—New post cards were announced to be issued on the 1st of April, but they have not yet come to hand.

Macao.—A new stamp of 80 reis has been issued ; Color, grey. There appear to be surcharged stamps of 5 and 10 reis also in circulation.

Montserrat.—Similar to Lagos there seem to be some alterations in the color of these stamps. We have two in our possession of new colour :

Adhesives : 2½d. blue. 4d. mauve.

Natal.—The current one penny value has been surcharged in black ½d.

Adhesive : ½d., rose and black.

Portugal.—One more new label.

Adhesive : 20 reis, carmine.

St. Christopher.—The sixpence green has been surcharged "fourpence," and the penny value has been cut in halves diagonally, and made do duty for half-penny labels.

Adhesives : 4d., green and black. ½d., rose and black.

Selangor.—The current two cents Straits Settlements, rose, is now surcharged in larger letters.

Sungei Ujong.—The same stamp has also been surcharged, with Sungei Ujong in italics, on two lines.

St. Lucia.—The old fourpenny has at last been displaced, and the usual De la Ruan design anquired. Our informant does not mention the colour.

Timor.—There are to be some stamps specially issued for use in this colony during the present month.

Victoria.—An entirely new series is in preparation. The use of Fiscal stamps in this colony will now become less.

Bibliography.

It is, says the *Press News*, a common belief with the general public that the large prices obtained for books at various sales, are due, in a great part, to their antiquity alone. Absurd as this may seem, it is, nevertheless, a fact which booksellers know full well. They are always being offered "rare old books" by people who imagine they have something of priceless value. To show that age does not of necessity give value, we may mention that at a sale at Sotheby's, two books, dated 1477 and 1481, fetched, the one 3s. and the other 2s. At the same time they were worth no more.

It is interesting to note in these days of high prices for books that the Osterley Park Library was in 1756 purchased by a wealthy printer, Mr. Francis Child, for £2,000, being a better price than it was thought the books would fetch at an auction. A hundred years before that date the prices got for books that are now eagerly sought after are ridiculously low. At the sale of Sir Kenelm Digby's famous library in 1680, we read of a copy of "Purchas's Pilgrimage" fetching £3 5s. 6d ; "Shakespeare," 1632, 14s. ; Milton's "Paradise Lost," 1668, 2s. ; and

"Piers Plowman's Vision," 1550, 1s. 7d. Alas! sighs the bibliomaniac, for "the days that are no more."

We notice that Mr. Alfred Brothers, of Manchester, proposes during the present year to reproduce the Gutenberg (or, as it is sometimes called, the Mazarin) Bible by means of photo-lithography. This is regarded as the first printed edition of the Bible, and as the earliest book printed with metal types by the inventor of printing. The introduction will give the history and bibliography of this remarkable book. The copy to be reproduced in fac-simile is that in the library of the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, at Haigh Hall, Wigan. Only a limited number of copies will be printed, at a price of ten guineas each.



RELICS OF THE STONE AGE.—During the past century many remains of the great elephants which roamed over this earth during the stone age have been found, and thus enables us to form an opinion of the lost power. The "Jumbo" of to-day is nothing compared with the mammoth and mastodon of the post-tertiary period. Tusks fourteen feet in length, jaw bones three feet long, teeth weighing three and four pounds are only a few facts which may give you an idea of what monsters these elephants were. Every collector knows the faults in regard to the Cohoes skeleton, which was found during the year 1866. You are also acquainted with the finding of the monster in Siberia. It is therefore not necessary that the facts be republished. Big Bone Lick, Ky., is a famous locality for the remains of the mighty monsters. This place is situated about twenty-three miles from Cincinnati. Over one hundred skeletons have been found there. Upwards of twenty-five skeletons of mammoths (*Elephas Americanus*) and about thirty specimens mastodon remains (*Mastodon giganteus*) have been found in Indiana and adjacent parts of Illinois. In 1880 the remains of a mammoth were found near Noblesville, Hamilton County, Ind. During the same year an almost complete skeleton of the mastodon was exhumed near Hoopston, Ill. The tusks of this specimen were nine feet long and "twenty-two inches in circumference at the base." About the 15th of January, 1885, the remains of a monster were discovered near Medora, Jackson County, Ind. A jaw bone three feet in length was exhumed. As soon as the weather permits, further excavations will be made, with the prospect of bringing to light some enormous specimens of bones and tusks. It has generally been noticed that the remains of these monsters have been found in marshes, bogs and swamps; also in drifts. We therefore conclude that they have either met their death by becoming "stuck" in the swamps and mires, and being unable to extricate themselves have been left to sink deeper into the soft soil and in a short time die; or been carried by the glaciers for thousands of miles, deposited in some lake bottom or hollow, covered up and there left until their remains are brought to light by some excavation. What a history they could tell, and what a history they do tell.—*The Hoosier Mineralogist.*

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- LE ROUX, Dr. JOS. Numismatic Atlas for Canada, 225 cuts of Canadian Coins, with Supplement, containing 80 additional cuts, text in English and French; Montreal, 1883. paper, 8vo. 1 dol 50 cent.
- MORRIS, ROBT., LL.D. Coins of the Grand Masters of the Order of Malta or Knight Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem, with a Chapter on the Money of the Crusaders, and an introduction, heraldic and historic notes, by W. T. R. Marvin; Boston, 1884. 70 pp., six plates, small folio, full cloth. 2 dol 50 ct.
- SCOTT, J. W. The Coins of the Bible, illustrated with four metal fac-similes; New York, 1884. 38 pp., 21 cuts, 16mo, cloth. 1 dol.
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THE COLLECTOR.

Vol. 1.—No. 7.]

JUNE, 1885.

[11d.]

TO OUR READERS.

Through the anticipated absence from home of our Editor during next month, No. 8 of *The Collector* will not be published until August 15th. This will make the volume end with the year, instead of in November. During the height of summer comparatively little time is given to the study of either numismatics or philately, but we trust in our next to commence some very interesting articles on both subjects.



Numismatics.

HISTORY AND NUMISMATICS.

By F. W. PALEY.

It is not in this article intended to show or attempt to show that history may be traced by the investigation of coins merely, for such is by no means the case: but to show how history may be exemplified, and in some cases augmented, by a careful study of coinage. Thus, on reference to the coinage of ancient Greece, we find many of the ancient coins, particularly didrachms of the smaller states, bearing the ancient Koph, or the Pegasus of Corinth, and uniting with it the devices or legends of Syracuse and trading towns in the neighbourhood. This, even in the absence of history, clearly points to intercourse, probably trade, between these countries: and to so great an extent was this intercourse carried, that the emblems of Corinth and Syracuse are combined in many cases with those of the Epizephyrian Locri of the Amphilocheian Argos, of Tauromenium, and of other towns which had no original connection whatever with them, but were merely attracted by the common interest of trade. Again, gold coins of Trajan, Hadrian, and Faustina were turned up by the plough about one hundred miles distant from Madras. So, from coins of Larissa, we have evidence of that place possessing a famous fountain, one of the coins bearing "*Mulier stolata amphoram genui impositam tenens, revertitur fonte, qui ex leonis faucibus profluit*;" it has even been surmised that Larissa, after the manner of all antiquity, was proud of the notice taken of its

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fountain in the lines of Homer, and intended to represent on this very coin the case, painfully imagined by Hector, of Andromache, a captive, bearing back water for Messeis; and it may tend to confirm this opinion to observe that the name and head of Homer, and even the word *Illias* may be seen on coins of Chios and other places on the *Ægean*.

Coins are, however, of the greatest value to history, as being a means themselves of measuring and pointing out the state of civilizations and arts at the times in which they were coined; the coins of the ancients being, in fact, works of art. It is almost needless to remark in passing why this does not apply to the modern coinage, as in this mercantile and business-like age, we sacrifice beauty to utility, especially in our coinage, though even this fact will perhaps serve to demonstrate to posterity our present state of mercantile greatness. But, to return to our subject, though one might suppose that the most beautiful and highly finished coinage would point to the greatest time of prosperity of the nation producing such works of art, such is not the case, for we find that, as a rule, when a nation was most flourishing the coinage, though of a bold and massive character, wanted the beauty of finish found in the coins of nations which, though apparently prosperous, were on the verge of rapid decline and fall. But this, after all, is but an illustration of the history of the world: the greatest state of refinement and civilization, falsely so-called, preceding a decline.

A great deal might also be said upon the point of the character of the heads and faces impressed upon coins, denoting the state, manner, customs, and even morals of the state coining them.

We will give a few instances in coins of various dates, in order that our readers may for themselves observe what we have endeavoured shortly to point out. In the coins of Athens, well known probably to all, bearing on the obverse the head of Pallas, and on the reverse the owl, a full length figure of Pallas or of Jupiter with the thunderbolt, all will at once observe the massiveness and bold relief (the earlier coins having these characteristics in a more special degree), shewing the vigour and solidity of the Athenian race. A very good instance of the exactly opposite class of coins is to be found in the later coins of Corinth, especially after it became a Roman province; the workmanship being truly magnificent, and the heads on them having all the characteristics of beauty, though of a luxurious and almost licentious nature, and lacking the bold and striking character of the earlier coins of the same place, denoting, as history informs us, the prosperity and wealth of Corinth, which, however, led to luxury and the decadence of its power. The same things may be observed in the coins of all ancient nations, and our readers may find much instruction of an interesting nature in this position as well as from a merely antiquarian point of view.

ROMAN COINS;

By W. H. TAYLOR.

"The face of an old Roman coin, scarce seen."—*Love's Labour Lost*.

CHAPTER V.—CONSULAR COINS.
(Continued.)

ACCOLEIA.

P. ACCOLEIVS. LARISCOLVS. Female Head.

Rev.—Three females standing, their heads terminating in branches of (larch) trees.

This curious coin refers to the old legend of Phaeton, struck by the bolts of Jupiter for his unskilful driving of the chariot of the sun; and his three sisters, inconsolable for his loss, were changed into trees. The family of Accoleia is unknown in history, but, perhaps, as the member of it alluded to on this coin is called Lariscolus, some of his ancestors added to the important duty of succeeding to their father's the additional one of cultivating larch trees, for profit and amusement.

CÆCILIA.

Head of Piety; before it a stork.

Rev.—Q.C.M.P.I.—*i.e.* Quintus Cæcilus Metellus Pius Imperator.

An elephant.

Two events in Roman history are here recorded. The first allusion is to the rescue of the Palladium by Metellus, on the occasion of a fire in the temple of Vesta; and the other, commemorated by the elephant, to the great victory obtained by Metellus in the first Punic war, when 120 elephants were captured and sent, together with thirteen generals, "to grace in captive bonds his chariot wheels," to Rome.

CASSIA.

Q. CASSIVS. VEST. Veiled head of Vesta.

Rev.—The circular temple of Vesta, within it a curule chair, on one side of which is an urn; on the other a tablet with the letters A. C.

This coin refers to Q. Cassius, one of the predecessors of Lucius Cassius, and notorious for his severity as a judge; and the circumstance depicted on the reverse is one frequently occurring in Roman history. Two Vestals were tried by him for breaking their vows, and condemned to death. The A. C. refers to a law passed by him, which declared the citizens were to give their votes by means of small tablets instead of verbally. A stands for "Absolvo," and C for "Condemno."

CARISIA.

MONETA. Head of Juno.

Rev.—T. CARISIUS, with anvil, a pair of pincers, hammer, &c., &c.

"Moneta" was a Roman name for Juno, who was so called because she had declared that, so long as they (the Romans) carried on just wars, they would never want money.

The various instruments depicted on the reverse are those used in the coinage.

CALPURNIA.

PISO. CAEPIO. Q. A bearded head crowned with laurel ; below, a trident.

Rev.—AD. FRV. EMV. EX. S. C. Two figures in togas, seated between two ears of corn.

In the year B.C. 507, a failure in the harvest caused great scarcity in Rome, when by a decree of the senate, C. P. Piso, and C. S. Cæpio, were sent into other countries to buy corn. This mission was so well performed that the Calpurnian family were allowed to record the event on their coins.

CORNELIA.

FAVSTA.—Head of Diana ; behind, the lituus.

Rev.—FELIX. A male figure clad in the toga, seated ; below, two figures kneeling, one presenting a branch, and the other with his hands tied behind his back.

This coin represents the submission of Bacchus, King of Goetulia, to Sylla (who adopted the name Felix), and the surrendering of the king's son-in-law, Jugurtha.

To be continued.

Auction Sales.

COINS.

An interesting sale of old coins, collected by Mr. Wm. Brooke, of Leeds and Wetherby, was concluded at Messrs. Hepper and Son's rooms, East parade, Leeds, on Thursday last. Competition during the sale was very keen amongst dealers from London, Manchester, and Birmingham. The favourite coins were Anglo-Saxon and early English. Roman, Greek, English, Scotch, and Irish coins were also sold. For a Cromwell five shilling piece £5 was given, and for a coin of the same value in Edward VI.'s reign £3 7s. 6d. A Queen Anne farthing, dated 1714, brought 27s., while thirty Isle of man pennies and half-pennies realised 38s., a Henry VIII. shilling piece £2 4s., a Philip and Mary £1 16s., and a silver pattern piece, crown George II., 1746, £5. A number of tradesmen's tokens, some of which were stamped with curious designs, were also disposed of at good prices. A halfpenny struck at London in 1165, and belonging to the issue known as "Plague money," sold for 10s. 6d. Amongst the best prices in the Anglo-Saxon and early English section, were £2 2s. for different types of Edward the Confessor, and £2 for William the Conqueror pennies, Canute coins of that value bringing 32s.

INDIAN RELICS, &c.

Mr. W. Elliot Woodward's 75th sale was held in New York, by Messrs. Bangs & Co., on May 1st and 2nd last. We make the following quotations: An amulet or bird-shaped stone, from Ohio, sold for \$9.75; a discoidal stone, of compact sandstone, from Georgia, \$17; a stone pestle, nearly 22 inches long, from Massachusetts, \$9; a string of 42 copper beads, from Waterbury, Ct., modern, \$9; three fine grooved axes, from Ohio and Pennsylvania, \$8.50 each; a mound vessel in form of a human female figure—very fine and rare—costing originally \$35, sold for the low sum of \$14; another, with human head, \$10; one with head of a fox, \$12; an urn made by the Eastern Indians (only 11 or 12 similar specimens approaching completeness are known), from the collection of Prof. Kalston, was sacrificed at \$10; a U.S. local stamp, Am. Letter Head Co. (rare), went for \$1.25; a Squier & Co. City Letter Despatch, 75 cts.

STATUARY, &c.

The magnificent collection of statuary, terra cottas, bronzes, pictures, engravings, and bric-a-brac, belonging to M. d'Epinay, was sold by auction, in Paris, on April 20 and 21st. It was valued at 400,000 francs, but only brought 178,700. The following quotations are made: MARBLES.—The Three Hours, from life, 20,000 frs.; David Casting the Sling, 2650; Callixene, 5400. ANTIQUE SCULPTURES.—Centaur Embracing a Bacchante, 4960; Faun, 1680; two chandeliers, in marble, 680; allegorical group, in honor of Louis XIV., terra cotta, 1000; Venus and Cupid, group in marble, by Falconet, 7000. FAIENCE.—Two statuettes of kneeling angels, by Lucca della Robbia, 155; terra cotta Tanagra figurine, 205.



Collectors and Collections.

From *The Museum* (Philadelphia).

The Hon. W. W. Randall recently returned from the United States of Colombia with the largest collection of antiquities ever formed in that country, for which he paid the owner, Senor Ramos Ruiz, the sum of \$25,000. The collection contains 1000 specimens of pottery, 1000 objects of gold, and many of wood, stone, and copper. It includes hundreds of curiously carved images, implements, and ornaments; elaborately moulded earthenware vessels, calendar stones, and many unique objects. This collection is now in New York.

Mr. J. Colvin Randall, of Philadelphia, owns the largest and most complete collection of United States gold coins in the world. Of some dates, notably the 1795 half eagle, he has as many as half a dozen varieties, which collectors generally do not know exist.

Probably the largest private collection of Egyptian antiquities in America is owned by Mr. James Douglas, Jr., of Phoenixville, Pa. It consists of antique pottery, figurines, bronze ornaments and implements, inscribed stones, mosaics, mummified animals, and fine mummy case.

Dr. Jesse C. Green, of West Chester, Pa, is the owner of a very complete collection of Continental and Colonial notes, which includes representatives of all the original thirteen States.

John R. McIlvain, of Philadelphia, whose death occurred in April last, at the age of seventy-two, was a well-known ornithologist, and collector of Indian relics. His collection of modern Indian costumes, photographs, and accoutrements, was probably the most complete collection of the kind in this country. He had a room entirely devoted to his various collections. Around the walls were large standing cases, entirely filled with beautifully prepared birds. Amongst other curiosities, he had a number of nests and sets of eggs of the humming bird, which he had made himself, and which could not be distinguished in appearance from the genuine.

A valuable series of relics from the Swiss Lakes, formed by the late Dr. Ferdinand Keller, of Zurich, is owned by Dr. F. W. Lewis, of Philadelphia. In it are objects of stone, horn, bone, pottery, bronze, textile fabrics, and specimens of charred fruits and cereals. The most interesting objects in the collection are the bronze bracelets, hair pins and razors, and a number of highly polished stone celts set in deer's horn handles.

Mr. Wm. W. Jefferis, of Philadelphia, possesses the original crystals of *clinocllore* and *phlogopite* figured in Dana's Mineralogy. He also has a large crystal of calcite, from Rossie, N.Y., which contains, in one of its cavities, nearly half a pint of water; also the finest crystallized specimen of diaspore ever found, from Chester Co., Pa.

An unique chimney-piece and fire place, consisting of 108 curious old Dutch tiles, is owned by Mr. S. L. Frey, of Palatine Bridge, N.Y.

Mr. Robert Coulton Davis, of Philadelphia, possesses an uncirculated silver dollar of 1804; also a restrike of the same.

Four volumes of Blackstone's Commentaries, printed by Robert Bell, Philadelphia, 1771, formerly owned by Major-Gen. Anthony Wayne, and containing his autograph, are now in the library of Mr. E. A. Barber, of Philadelphia.

The Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Philadelphia recently procured a series of about 30 large amber beads from prehistoric graves

in Northern Russia. Only 14 other specimens (9 in the Smithsonian and 5 in a private collection) are known in the United States.

A lady in West Chester, Pa, possesses some fine old pieces of Delft pottery, amongst which is a large plaque, with polychrome decoration, in a state of perfect preservation.

In the Bloomfield Moore collection, Memorial Hall, Philadelphia, is an unusually fine Lowestoft punch-bowl. It measures over 20 inches in diameter, and is decorated with a gold band, one and one-half inches wide, on the outer rim, with wreath of variously coloured flowers. Clusters of flowers appear at intervals around the sides. In the plain white interior are represented six documents with seals, printed in black, in old German text.

Mr. C. F. Gunther, of Chicago, Ill., has recently come into possession of an old volume, which he is satisfied is the identical copy of the folio edition of Shakespeare, possessed at one time by the Rev. John Ward, vicar of Stratford-on Avon, in 1651, and a great admirer of the famous dramatist. The top board of the binding, and the portrait, unfortunately, are missing. Across the top of the second page, however, is pasted a strip of paper, on which is supposed to be a *genuine signature of the great poet*—one of the very few in existence. Below the autograph is written—

Printed

1623.

The works of William Shakespeare,
born in April, 1564, and died in
April, 1616.

[Signed] INO. WARD.

Mr. Gunther purchased the book from a gentleman into whose hands it had fallen, after having circulated through the West for many years, its true nature not being suspected. We shall await with interest the announcement of the result of the discussion which will undoubtedly take place in England over the authenticity of the book and the signature.

[We have great pleasure in reprinting the above notes, as we consider them of universal interest, and we shall esteem it a favor if our subscribers in England will furnish us with the particulars of some of the rarities in their collections, so that we may publish them in future numbers.—ED. COLLECTOR.]

Philately.

PHILATELIC NOTES.

We have received a copy of Messrs. Martin Meyerotte & Co's *Foreign Stamp Dealer's Directory and Philatetical Guide*. It contains nearly 500 addresses of dealers and collectors in this country and in America, most of which we believe to be reliable, as due care has been taken to exclude those who have given up the pursuit. Of course there are a few whom

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we could bracket with the names of some other well-known dealers, but it is impossible for the publisher of a directory to know, in every case, whether the address be a bogus one or not, as we believe it to be a common practice at the present time to advertise under several aliases.

Another initial number from America, this time in the form of a quarterly, with the title of *The Quarterly Interchange*, conducted by Mr. John Chestershire, and published by Mr. Robert Barrie. It comprises, with advertisements, 20 pages, and includes some very readable leaderettes, and a good list of new issues. The chronicles are given of the "Quaker City meet." On February 14th "A Committee on Constitution was appointed, which was instructed to draw up a constitution, which they very ably did, at the next meeting." On the 27th, the President, Mr. Durburow, gave a lively speech on the subject of lady members, but no mention is made of any being introduced. How nice to have a "philatelic sweetheart!" The third meet seems to have been employed in "trading and selling."

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Alsace and Lorraine.—The issue with background of design has been reprinted, and specimens of these hardly collectable labels may be obtained now for next to nothing.

Ceylon.—The 24c. green, in common with the other values in use in Ceylon has been surcharged.

Adhesive: 10c. on 24c., green.

Great Britain.—We have seen the 2½d. and 5d. values surcharged with "I. R. Official," in same way as the 3d., 6d., and 1s. values, which are already familiar to the public. All the other values will be similarly treated.

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Adhesives: 1 shahi green.
2 " crimson.
3 " purple.
10 " light brown.
1 kran, grey.

Roumania has one more new label, the forerunner probably of a new set.

Adhesive: 3 bani, green.

S. Lucia.—The 1d. black, 1859, and 3d. blue of same issue, together with the 1883 1d. black, have been surcharged for revenue purposes.

Victoria.—The 1876 one shilling value has been surcharged with "Stamp Duty," in black block letters. This has no doubt been done to exhaust the old stock prior to the completion of the new set by the issue of the shilling and other higher values, which we understand will take place as the labels are respectively required.

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- BAKER, W. S. Medallion Portraits of Washington, describes 651 pieces; Philadelphia, 1884. Indexed, 4to, half morocco. 5 dol.
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- CROSBY, S. S. The Early Coins of America; Boston, 1875. 381 pp., ten plates, and many cuts, half morocco. 11 dol.
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- MORRIS, ROBT., LL.D. Coins of the Grand Masters of the Order of Malta or Knight Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem, with a Chapter on the Money of the Crusaders, and an introduction, heraldic and historic notes, by W. T. R. Marvin; Boston, 1884. 70 pp., six plates, small folio, full cloth. 2 dol 50 ct.
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THE COLLECTOR.

Vol. I.—No. 8.] AUGUST, 1885.

14d.

NOTICE.

The next issue of *The Collector* will be on the 15th of October. Our readers will notice that we have given four extra pages of reading matter, and if they will help us by procuring more subscribers we shall be glad to make the enlargement permanent.

Numismatics.

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DESIGNERS, ENGRAVERS, AND MINTERS OF THE TRADESMEN'S TOKENS OF THE 17TH CENTURY.

By J. TEMPLE.

[Reference—O for Obverse ; R for Reverse.]

It is a matter of surprise that in all the works bearing on Tradesmen's Tokens, little or no account is given of the designers, engravers, and minters of these relics of bygone days. This deficiency has to a great extent been supplied from the information given in the valuable MSS. of Alderman Thomas Johnson, twice Mayor of Hull, and who has handed down to us such graphic accounts of the town and its inhabitants for over two hundred years, that any future history of Hull would be incomplete unless it embodied their contents.

A few years before the death of this old chronicler, he commenced a book containing a list and description of all the tradesmen's tokens known at that time, and in one of his biographies he says, in reference to this book, "I have been embusied well-nigh two years at a book that will contain all the tokens, with their impress, the weights ordered by each owner, the letterings put on each quoyne, with the mynter's name and where he liveth, with every 'mo-syll' or information I can ramp and rear together. This said book I beith wishful to have finished before the Almighty taketh me to his kingdom of glory. I am sorrowful to say that I am often hampered with a flotyng in my head and my harnes (brains) feel sometimes on a twyrl, and then a numbness will take place in my fingers, and Dr. Bewholme hath acquainted me years since that I should abandon my penning, but an auld man will be oafyish and is always apt to immagine his own way best. However I am obliged to do

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something, and my lad Mattie is always yeggyn (teasing) me to follow my doctor's 'avysen' and give up what he names 'squasherie.' But as long as I can wag so long I will continue to wield my plume (pen)."

Boyne, who is one of the principal authorities on tradesmen's tokens, only mentions one minter, Thomas Rawlings, of whom Johnson gives some interesting and minute particulars as to his character, and the dissipated life he led. Holler, the well known engraver who engraved the celebrated map of Hull in 1640, was the designer and engraver of numerous tokens, and was for some time a guest of Thos. Johnson, and from whom Johnson received a great deal of information for his *Book of Tokens*.

Unfortunately this book is not in my possession, but this defect is partly supplied in the various biographies Johnson wrote. I have culled from them a mass of information never before known to collectors.

Where the subject of Johnson's biographies had issued a token, he invariably inserted the information at the end of each, which favours the supposition that it had been added sometime after the biography had been written, and after he had commenced his *Book of Tokens*, and this may be implied from the different dates attached to them. Collectors frequently come across what appear to be spurious tokens. It frequently occurs that when a token is found of which there are published accounts, that the readings and description of the same vary, and unless the reader has access to the original token, the discrepancy may be attributed to an error of the author or printer. Johnson shows from the intimate acquaintance he had with the issuers and minters that these were errors of the engravers or minters, and when the second issue was made these errors had been corrected, hence the different readings.

Johnson gives us some curious information about the local minters, and the year several undated tokens were struck. Boyne says there are several tokens with a small initial "R" on them, the dies of which were cut by the noted engraver Thomas Rawlings, amongst others, some of those issued by the Corporations of Bristol, Gloucester, "The Mayor of Oxford," and the two town pieces of the then remote borough of Bideford. We learn from Boyne (see page 91) that Thomas Rawlings, a noted engraver of the period, cut the dies for these; with that exception, we know nothing of all the other artists who engraved the dies for the many thousands of tokens between 1648 and 1672.

With respect to Thomas Rawlings the engraver (Johnson calls him Rowlyns) Johnson says in the year 1665 Mayster Bishopp (of Burlington) put out a token and employed Mayster Rowlyns to make him a stamp dye for the sake of making a token for him. He describes him as another of his drunken swill-tubs that would waste his time in fumyn (smoking) his tube (pipe) and swelving (drinking) Mead or Bacrag (a Rhenish wine) instead of being attentive to his business, and by reason of this he sometimes made mistakes in his business by his intemperate habits, and in this case he made a mistake in Mayster Bishopp's name by putting a "s" over much and a "p" over few, making it

"BISSHOP," and not being what Tommy bargained for he would not have it. After much brangling Mayster Rowlyns said it was a trifling matter and not worth mentioning, and that noboddy would notice it. This branglement got swathed down by Tommie swearing he would not have it, and in the end Mayster Rowlyns was obliged to make another as below:—

O—THOMAS BISHOPP, of Grocer's Arms,
N—BVRLINGTON, 1665. HIS HALFPENY.

This is just as Boyne gives it. This Rowlyns was also employed by a Thomas Hunt, keeper of a hostelry in Doncaster, who put out a token in 1666, and employed Mayster Rowlyns to "amak him a tri dye." Johnson says the expense of mynting did not pay for the gains, and the people would not take them, and Hunt, being a passionate man, threw them all into the river, and his wife ofttimes wished he had thrown himself after them. Richard Perry, alehouse-keeper in Lyle street (Mytongate), at the sign of the White Swan, who was one of Rowlyn's pot companions, had his die made by him.

Perry was a low dissipated character, and kept an alehouse of a disreputable character. Johnson says he was in the service of the Lord of the Manor of Nottingham, who had him punished for bougfaugentheffe (caught in the act with the stolen goods on his person). He came to Hull and commenced horse selling and prygge nappyn (stealing horses), and was a most fatylous (worthless) character. In 1645 he took an alehouse at the corner of Bedford lane (Vicar lane) and Lyle-street (Mytongate). He did a large business and was not particular as to the way he made his money. He was summoned before the Bench more times than all the other alehouse keepers put together for keeping a disorderly house. His sign-board was the White Swan. He had a face as long as a rope-walk and as black as the ace of spades, and was known throughout the town as 'Dark Dick.' A many of the low riff-raff used at election times to make Perry's house a meeting-house to elect the candidates. In 1654 at one of these meetings it was agreed that Perry should be one of the candidates. A low pot-house companion, like a tinker, got a lot of losels to attend at the White Swan, with the promise of a mug of ale each (to make a good show.) When the meeting commenced, this fellow made a long speech (see Hull Celebrities), which was to the effect that they were to have men who would put down the rich and exalt the poor. 'We want such laws as this—that if a poor fellow should happen by chance to get a mug of ale and it is a bit ower strong for him—he has no right to be taken to the lock-up, as I have been a score of times, and then fined by the fat-headed magistrates in at the bargain. He concludes, 'I shall now give out to you all, that our worthy, kind, and good trumpe—Mayster Richard Perry, squir—should be our pickt candidate. Now then, what say you old chypes. Just all hold up your fistes (all put up their hands). Now the other way—well, I declare—not a single one. Now then, men, we have carried it—ay and without a single No. We will very soon have papers

clammid all over the town, and then let's all of us be up and at it—and let your cry be same as ower auld friend, Willie Shakspeyre, said at the Battle of Marston Moor—"Come what may come, and come when it may, you'll find Perry reddie for the battle and anxious for the fray."

The following bargarette was sung in the streets and met with a ready sale. The poor fellow who was selling them was taken before the Bench and sentenced to work for a week at loading vessels with mud for ballast from the side of the haven. It was called

HULL LECTYONE.

Alle Hvll be yppe, an wel ytte maie,
 A mans noghte eythlie yfounde
 Lyke Perry—hee wyl wyn ye daie,
 Ase sure ase kings bee crowned,
 Hee be ye chappe ffor alle wee wante,
 Lette *Lyster wend his waies,
 An *Chaymers toe, he'll niver dow,
 Ffor naughte one yearth hee saies.
 Theyn, †Ripely—hee bee sadlie sore
 Abowghte Trevanyons* tale,
 Hee raves an rants, an fayrelie pants
 Toe shove him into jaol,
 Ye Bench, yy hate toe heere hym talke
 Abowghte yayre shiftie tricks,
 Yy housens buie, wi owre mon-ie,
 An theyn yy selle owre brykes.
 * Fre men, yone ha nowe a godeman,
 Hee makes us alle soe merrie,
 Mynd yt yone geite alle voates yone canne
 Ffor owre gode trumpe—Dick Perry,
 Wheyn hee gets yn ye Bench maie hide
 Yayre ffaces lyke a dummie,
 Ffor nyghte an daie, an backe an edge,
 Hee'll flyghte ffor Mayster Crummie (Cromwell).

Prynted by hym yt dyldde ytte, yn Nobodie Passige, Everibodie
 Strete, Kyngestone vpon Hull.

*The opposing candidates—only one member returned for this year.

† Ripley was Mayor this year.

'Ys lowe felloe, Perry, hadde ye dacite (throghe ye oughtred o ye Maire, Roberte Blome, who was a lyke kynd o charact as Perry, an wone o hys bettermowste customeres) toe dutte oghte a quoyne, yn ye yeere 1665, o ye worthe of a dodkyn (farthing), butte ytte wase seld taken by ye trad.folk or bettermowste sorte; butte by ye losels, tynkers an odders o yt kynde, ytte hadde a waynt (great) passe.'

O.—RICHARD PERRY AT YE WHITE—A swan.

‡d.

R.—IN KINGSTON-VPON-HVLL.—R. M. P.

THE COINAGE OF NORTHUMBRIA.

By W. F. J.

The coins of Britian, though not such splendid specimens of the medallic art as those of Greece and Rome, must still possess great interest for every Englishman, from the light they throw upon the past history of our country, taking him back in imagination to the far away time when England was divided into many small kingdoms.

The most interesting, perhaps, of these kingdoms is Northumbria, the one that retained its independence the longest, and whence issued the only brass coins known to have been struck by the Anglo-Saxons. The earliest known production of its mints is a styca of Egfrith, A.D. 670-684; it is remarkable, as it bears no moneyer's name on the reverse.

No further coins appear to have been issued till the reign of Eanred, who ascended the throne A.D. 808. Of this monarch there are stycas with a cross or other ornament in the centre, and various moneyer's names; and also one silver penny, bearing his portrait on the obverse. The only coins of Edilred, who succeeded him in 840, are stycas, which are tolerably numerous; the types are much the same as his predecessors. The stycas of Redult are not remarkable. On those of Osbercht, 849-862, the title of Rex is sometimes omitted.

On a penny of Regnald is found the first instance of the occurrence of the Saxon word *CVNVNC*, instead of the Latin, *REX*.

On the coins of Anlaf, or Onlaf, who was driven from Northumberland the same year as Regnald, sometimes *CVNVNC* is found, and at other times *REX*. On the obverse of one of them is the Raven, the famous ensign of the Danes.

Yric, a Norwegian viking, who was raised to the throne about the year 947, struck coins bearing the figure of a sword.

In 954, Yric was slain by his own subjects, and Northumbria became finally united to the rest of England.

W. F. J.

ROMAN COINS FOUND AT SWINE, HOLDERNESS.

It was some time after the conquest of the Brigantes by the Romans, that Holderness—peopled by a different although kindred race, the Parisi—was subjected to the rule of the masters of the world; but eventually it was found that the district possessed a convenient harbour, situated either at Patrington or Spurn Point (it is not known which) and there was established a port called *Prætarium*, for the shipment of corn from *Maxima Cæsariensis* to Rome, where the *Prætor Cerealis* resided to superintend the transmission of grain. Thither was constructed a road from *Eboracum*, a *via vicinalis* or secondary road, inferior to those used for military purposes, which ran through *Petuaria*, presumed to have been Beverley, and as it would seem, passed by Swine, as the remains of a military encampment with earthworks, are still, or were a

few years ago, plainly visible. This encampment was in a field called "Wood" on Car-house farm, occupied by the writer's grandfather, and afterwards by one of his uncles, whose ploughmen not unfrequently turned up Roman implements, and on one occasion struck their ploughshares against some piles which seemed to have supported a bridge across the surrounding ditch.

In March, 1826, a school-boy from an outlying farm chanced to lose a piece of money when going to school, and for several days afterwards made diligent search for it along the route. He did not find what he had lost, but he picked up a little black-looking coin which he showed to the boy sitting next to him at school, saying, "Seetha whot a pratty lahtle haupeny ah've fun." Passing from one hand to another, it attracted the notice of the master, who saw at once that it was a Roman coin, and asked the boy where he got it. "Ah fun it," he replied, "I' yan o' Megson's clooases." "Well," said the master, Mark Heseltine, an antiquary in a small way, "see if you can find any more, and I will give you a penny a-piece for them." As soon as the school was dismissed, instead of resorting as usual to leap-frog, tops, and taws, all the scholars, girls as well as boys, hastened to Megson's "Clooas," and commenced grubbing-up the earth. For a long time nothing was found, and they had begun to despair of earning their promised pennies, when one of the boys, who had gone deeper than the others, came upon an earthen vessel. A rush was made towards it by the rest, and in the scuffle which ensued it was broken, and out tumbled a vast quantity of the identical coins they were in search of. Fancying their fortunes were made, they scrambled and fought for them, the biggest boys getting the lion's share, with which they hastened back to school, and displayed them to the master, who finding the market thus glutted backed out of the bargain, merely making a selection from them, and the rest were taken to their homes by the boys. Very few of those boys of half-a-century ago are now living, but one at least who joined in the scramble, one of the lesser, who got a very small share—Mr. George Ross, of Driffield, cousin of the writer—still survives.

The coins, some 15,000 in number, got scattered abroad, and many came into the possession even of the plough lads and milk maids. The writer, who at the time spent his holidays at Car-house, recollects when there in 1826, seeing some servant-girls rubbing them on the "hossin-clog" to give them a polish, an operation the sight of which would make an antiquary shudder. Unfortunately the fragments of the jar were not preserved, else they might have been cemented together.

The coins were chiefly those of Constantine the Great, with others of previous Emperors, and one or more of the Empress Helena, mother of Constantine; the reverses of a great number being Romulus and Remus suckled by the wolf. In the year 1829 Mr. Heseltine presented several to the Society of Antiquaries.

FREDK. ROSS.



Auction Sales.

EXTRAORDINARY PRICES FOR RARE COINS.

The most interesting, as well as the largest, collection of coins relating to England ever offered the public at auction in America, was the cabinet of Mr. Alexander Balmanno, formerly Vice-President of the American Numismatic and Archaeological Society. This collection, through the careful and accurate cataloguing of Mr. Lyman H. Low, brought together at the sale-rooms of Messrs. Bangs & Co., representatives of eminent numismatists from all parts of the world.

Anglo-Saxon silver pennies of Burgred, King of Mercia, brought \$11.25; of Canute "the Little," \$11.70; Alfred "the Great," \$9.25; St. Edmund, \$7.10; and one of St. Peter, which had been struck to pay the endowment yearly collected on Feast of St. Peter (by a land tax), for the English Paysal College at Rome, sold for \$7.35.

Fine silver pennies of the sole Monarchs of Britain sold as follows:—Ethelstan, \$13.10; Eadger, \$2.90; Ethelred II., \$2.10 to \$6.10; Canute "the Dane," \$2.35; Harold II., \$11.25; William "the Conqueror," 45c. to \$4.13; William II. "Rufus," \$6.10. A gold noble of Edward III., \$12.25, and a groat, \$3.90; half groat of Edward "the Black Prince," \$2.20; groat of Richard III. bearing his badge, the *boar's head*, \$6.25; Edward VI., crown of 1551 (the earliest dated English coin), 15 dols. 50 c.; half-crowns, 8 dols. 10 c., and 8 dols. 25 c.; shilling of Philip and Mary, 3 dols. 40 c.; a gold double ryal of Elizabeth, 26 dols.; a series of the "Portcullis money" of the same Queen, which the owner bought for 69 dols., sold as follows:—the crown for 146 dols. 25 c.; half-crown, 22 dols. 50 c.; shilling, 16 dols. 25 c.; and sixpence, 14 dols. 25 c.; a milled shilling of 1561, 12 dols. 20 c.; another for 7 dols. 50 c.; James I., gold unit, 16 dols. 10 c.; crown, 22 dols.; half-crowns, 4 dols. 10 c.

The most remarkable coins in the cabinet were the pound and half-pound silver pieces of Charles I., struck from the plate contributed for his assistance during his troubles in 1642-3-4: the pound of 1642 brought 46 dols.; half pounds, 25 dols. 50 c. and 20 dols. 25 c.; pound of 1643, 69 dols.; quarter pound, 17 dols. 50 c.; and the gem of the series, the pound of 1644, a very fine and valuable coin, struck at Oxford, presumably of the University plate, brought 205 dols.; crowns of ordinary type, 18 dols. and 7 dols. 50 c.; half-crown of York, 9 dols. 10 c.; a series of siege pieces of Newark, 1645-6, 5 dols. to 5 dols. 75 c. each; Pontefract siege shillings, 25 dols. 50 c., and 30 dols. 50 c.

Blondeaus' famous pattern half-crown of 1651, for the commonwealth under Cromwell, 70 dols. 50 c.; pattern sixpence, similar, 16 dols. 80 c.; a pewter $\frac{1}{4}$ ounce token for a farthing, 22 dols. 50 c., making it the most expensive piece of that metal ever sold; silver crown of Cromwell.

25 dols. 50 c.; half-crown and shilling, 10 dols. 50 c. and 11 dols. each; crown of Charles II., 1662, 11 dols.; pattern shilling, 1677, 18 dols.; James II. crown, 10 dols. 25 c.; pewter farthing, 10 dols. 25 c.; William and Mary crown, 16 dols.; pewter half-penny and farthing, 4 dols. 60 c. each; a remarkably fine series of the pattern farthings of Queen Anne, 21 dols., 15 dols., 18 dols. 50 c., 8 dols., 6 dols., and 4 dols. 50 c. each; pattern coins of George III., sold very high, a shilling of 1764, 11 dols., 50 c.; gold $\frac{1}{3}$ guinea, 11 dols. 75 c.; shilling of 1778, 11 dols.; another of 1798, 16 dols. 25 c.; crown of 1817, by Wyon, 31 dols. 50 c.; another of different design, 32 dols. 50 c.; and one in copper of 1820, brought 22 dols.; George IV. crown after Chantreys' design, 17 dols.; shilling and sixpence, 1826, 3 dols. 40 c. each. Patterns with plain edges for coins of William IV. gold double sovereign, 21 dols.; crown, 58 dols.; gold quintuple sovereign of Victoria, 46 dols.; crown of 1839, 15 dols.; others of 1847, 10 dols. 20 c. and 6 dols. 50 c. each; a beautiful set of nine patterns for florins, on which were the remarkable denominations of "Centum," "100 Milles," "Dime," "Decade," &c., brought 109 dols.

A war medal for the battle of Germantown Pa., Oct. 4, 1777, brought 18 dols. 25 c.; another in honor of the Dutch Admiral Heyn, for the capture of the Spanish Treasure Fleet at Matanzas in 1629, 16 dols. 60 c.; one of Cromwell, for Dunbar, 21 dols.

THE ATHOLE COLLECTION.—On June 18th, there was sold at the rooms of Messrs. Bangs & Co., 739 and 741, Broadway, New York, the small but interesting collection of coins and medals, the property of the late Rev. George C. Athole. The catalogue, which was carefully compiled as to arrangement and detailed description, and of unexceptional typography, was by Mr. Lyman H. Low, of 838, Broadway, New York. The prominent features of the collection were the English, Scotch, and Irish coins, for which good prices were realized. Of the coins of the Isle of Man, many of the specimens were from the celebrated Clay collection, and have never appeared elsewhere, nor are they likely to be seen again on the auction boards for many years to come.

POTTERY, PORCELAIN, &c.—A very exceptional sale took place at Hereford, on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, the 30th and 31st July, and 1st August, at Mr. Merrick's Rooms. It consisted of works of art, antique furniture, specimens of tapestry, about 500 ounces of old English and other silver, oil paintings, water colour drawings and engravings, old literature, and English, Continental and Oriental Pottery. The collection was sold by order of the executors of the late W. Watkins Old, Esq., F.R.H.S., and was well known to many of our readers as it had been on exhibition at South Kensington, Worcester, Cardiff, Hereford, Merthyr, and other places. In antique china and pottery we notice a Nantgarn saucer, painted, marked in red, "Nantgarn, W.B." fetched 23/-; pair of blue and white delft Louis Fictoor vases and stands, 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches, 85/-;

oriental transfer punch bowl "hunting scenes" 70/-. Some good prices were fetched in Worcester Transfer: pint mug "King of Prussia" realised 55/-; half-pint mug, Watteau subject, 40/-; sucrier and cover, Watteau scene 52/-; an old Worcester fluted dessert plate, with butterflies and flowers in medallions, square mark, "1780," brought the sum of £19; a tea cup in scale blue fetched £5; and a seven inch saucer, square mark, 60/-; the two best prices for Chelsea-Derby were, an 8½ inch Chelsea figures, 1754, 52/-, and a pair fruit dishes, 1740, 45/-; a pair of Bloor-Derby figures, "Welsh tailor and wife riding goats," realised 70/-; handsome Crown-Derby flower vase, 11 inch, red mark, 1790 period, £4 12s. 6d.; a Sevres biscuit porcelain centre group, "them other of Darius at the feet of Alexander the Great," from the design of *Le Brun* £16 15s.; Berlin figure, "music," first epoch, 1760, 62/6; seven lots (8 pieces) of Indo-European, sacred, realised £20; the oriental porcelain exhibited at Worcester, fetched very fair prices. *Bristol Glass*: pair 9 inch vases and covers, painted, 60/-; one 9 inch vase and cover, painted with "chrysanthemums and roses," 80/-. *Battersea Enamel*, pair 10½ inch pillar candlesticks, 87/6; pair 10 inch ditto, 80/-; antique egg snuff-box, 5½ inch, Dresden enamelled, 1720, 40/-; antique silver sold remarkably well, a lot of 13 spoons realised £34; and a spoon of 1610 (Maidenhead) fetched £8. The catalogue of the three days' sale included 652 lots.

Philately.

BOGUS SURCHARGES.

Surcharged labels in every conceivable form still come to hand. This miserable expedient of disposing of dead stock has grown apace wonderfully within the last twelve months, and to-day collectors of every grade have to exercise a deal of care not to be imposed upon; the good and the bad are said to be hard to distinguish. Our contemporaries make complaint upon the same thing; but no definite remedy has been suggested that is at all practicable or worthy of even cursory examination, with a view to carrying into effect. Ordinary legislature cannot cope with the fast growing evil. We all know with what a deplorable result, comparatively, the law has been resorted to with regard to the sale and purchase of forgeries. The possession of this experience, we think, ought to disabuse our minds of any possibility of good resulting from a second application to bogus surcharges. Some people even hold there is not sufficient analogy between the two subjects to warrant the comparison. Comparisons are at all times odious; but without imputing any undue interest in the issue of these surcharged labels to those people who happen to be of that faith, there will be no harm in our reasserting the truthfulness of the argument, that between

stamps wholly counterfeit and those labels to which a bogus surcharge has been applied, the label itself being genuine, there is not the slightest moral difference. Both are equally at variance with moral law, and the one sample of misapplied ingenuity is just as much a fraud as the other.

Reverting to our remark above, we thoroughly believe legislature powerless to cope with the operations of the forger properly, so that no really useful assistance in the matter is to be looked for from that quarter. The remedy lies with collectors. People who buy so readily of fraudulent dealers are actually assisting them to carry on their work, and, whether unwittingly or otherwise, are equally entitled to blame as the sellers themselves. A thorough knowledge of the nature and character of forged stamps is as essential a part of the stock-in-trade of a collector as the proverbial album. If there were no buyers there would be but a corresponding number of sellers; and we believe the question of providing an effectual remedy is to be solved by an adoption of the same lines as applied to the receiver of stolen goods—he being in the eye of the law more responsible for the theft than the thief.

NEW ISSUES.

Angola.—Three new post cards have been issued, their values being 10 reis, 20 reis and 30 reis respectively. We understand Macao and Timor have been supplied with similar cards.

Bermuda.—In May a provisional $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Card was in use, with an adhesive stamp. It has been replaced by a permanent De la Rue type. Color, blue on buff.

Bulgaria has now two additional values: the 1 stotinki, lilac, and 2 stotinki, dark green, both labels being similar in design to others of the series. The 1 franc stamp has been converted to use as a 50 stotinki label by over-printing in black with 50.

Ceylon.—We append a list of a freshly issued set of provisionals, taken from *Le Timbre Post*.

5c. on 8c. lilac. 10c. on 24c. purple. 15c. on 16c. yellow. 25c. on 32c. slate.
30c. on 36c. brown. 55c. on 96c. green grey. 1 rupee 12c. on 2r. 50c. dull red.

Corea.—Three additional values are said to be in use: 25 mon., green., 50 mon., yellow, and 100 mon., lilac. This statement must be received with a degree of caution, as we have learned since receipt of foregoing that the Seone post office has been destroyed by the mob, and the postal system for the time being also disorganised.

Chili.—The 10c. of the new design is now issued, printed in a deep yellow.

Denmark.—Stamps have been issued for the local post at AALBORG, but our informant does not mention their number or value. The postal authorities have prepared 2 öre and 4 öre service cards, which we understand are to be used this month for the first time.

French Colonies.—**St. Pierre and Miquelon.**—Current colonial stamps have been surcharged for use here with a numeral of value and the letters S.P.M. In the case of the 2c. these letters are on a level with the numeral, but in the others they are directly beneath.

5c. on 2c., brown, imperf. 5c. on 4c., lilac, perf. 25c. on 1fr., green, imperf.

Gwalior.—For this state the current imperial stamps in India have been surcharged *a la* Puttialla.

Hawaii.—The 10c. comes to hand in a dull red color.

Hong Kong.—We are indebted to our Brussels contemporary for the advice that the following stamps have been over-printed with the various values shown :

30c. vermillion, surcharged 20 cents, 48c. brown, surcharged 50 cents.
96c. green grey „ 1 dollar.

India.—A new type of the 4 annas has made its appearance.

Mauritius.—A new die has been provided for the 16c. value. It is an accommodating one, the inscription on the copy before us being evidently moveable. The design consists of a profile of the Queen on ground of horizontal lines, enclosed in a thick oval band of color, upon which appears MAURITIUS POSTAGE, in block letters. Conventional ornaments are used to fill up the corners. Color, dull red, perf. The 8c. card has been surcharged, and used in lieu of the ordinary 2c. value, and the 38c. adhesive has been similarly treated.

Phillipine Islands.—We understand that the fiscal stamps are to be converted to postal use.

Puttialla.—The surcharge—Puttialla state—has been applied to the imperial labels horizontally, thus creating a fresh set. Service stamps are also in course of issue, the word "Service" being added to the over-print, in black.

Roumania.—The 3 bani already chronicled has a companion now in the shape of a 1½ bani value, black.

Senegal.—The whole set of French colonies stamps (1877 and 1881) have been surcharged with the name of this state in blue, for use therein.

Sungei Ujong.—The 2c. Straits Settlements has been over-printed with the usual legend again, *but in italics* this time.

Sirmoor.—A series of stamps are in preparation for postal use in this state.

Victoria.—All the "postal" labels in this colony are now available for use also for all fiscal purposes.

Western Australia.—We have to chronicle the arrival of a ½d value, same type as the current 3d. Printed in green.

ERRATA.—In our May list, for "Cyprus." read Ceylon.

PHILATELIC NOTES.

A revised and enlarged edition of the pamphlet, "How to Deal in Foreign Stamps," by J. H. Lacy, has just been issued by Mr. C. H. Nunn. It contains eight pages of matter of great interest to young dealers, and some good suggestions for the old; but the trade is so much hampered by petty swindling that it is barely profitable. We are continually hearing of youths who have tempted older dealers to supply them with stock on approval, advertising big packets in the *Bazaar* and other papers, and pocketing the money, feeling secure that their tender years will save them from the clutches of the law. Mr. Nunn has also published a new edition of "The Stamp Dealers of Great Britain," post free 5d. We are very glad to see Mr. Nunn has not swollen his pages by including a lot of names of persons known to the trade as "black sheep."

According to Mr. T. Coke, in his article "Shall we Collect Varieties," now running in *The Collector's Companion*, a stamp collector is not a philatelist until he commences to study varieties in

watermark, paper, shade, perforation, etc., etc., in fact, until he makes his hobby a science. True, a collector need not be a philatelist, neither need a philatelist be a collector.

The Collector's Companion also says that the Mexican Government made a fine exhibit of postage stamps at the New Orleans' Exhibition. The three issues of the Port de Mar stamps appeared with the other Mexican labels. Some of these labels have been doubted, but the fact of their having been placed on exhibition by the Government sets at rest all doubts as to their genuine character.

The Postmaster-General of the United States has approved a design for a 10 cent special delivery stamp, authorised by Congress at its last session. The *Philatelic Journal of America* says:—"The stamp will be twice the size of the ordinary postage stamp, and the shape of a dollar note. On the left of the stamp there is a pretty vignette of a messenger boy in uniform; across the top are the words, 'United States special postal delivery;' and along the bottom the price of the stamp, ten (10) cents, is expressed in figures and letters. Conspicuous on the bottom of the stamp are the words 'Secures immediate delivery at special delivery office.' The whole design is very pretty and effective." The engravers are the American Bank Note Company, of New York.

Mr. H. Ecroyd Smith is engaged upon a work which will doubtless be of great interest to the Archæologist. The title is "Conisborough Castle: legendary, historic, and romantic." This pile, magnificent in its decay, is the admiration of all who have travelled on the line from Doncaster to Mexborough. The subscription price of the work is fifteen shillings.

A dog playfully bit a murex-shell to pieces on the beach at Tyre. The juice coloured his lips purple. His master took the hint. The sharp, shrewd Tyrians took the hint. The *murex* was collected in millions of bushels, ground up and utilized. The rich purple dye of Tyre became an object of prime commercial importance. To commemorate the fact and give due credit to the dog, coins were struck, still extant, showing the original dog and shell, and the word "Tutiorum" (of the Tyrians).—*The Agassiz Association Journal*.

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EDWARD C. F., Sydney.—You will notice our advertisement charges on the cover. If for three insertions, deduct 10 per cent.; if for six or over, 25 per cent. The subscription per annum to New South Wales is 2s 3d.

J. E. L., Edinburgh.—We are much obliged for your correction: it had been entirely overlooked. The first number must have been lost in transit.

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American Numismatic Works,*Which I have on Sale, and offer at the prices affixed, postage paid.*

- ANDREWS, FRANK J. An arrangement of U.S. Copper Cents, 1816-1857; Vineland, New Jersey, 1883. 42 pp. 8vo., paper. 50 cents.
- ATTINELLI, E. J. Numisgraphics, or List of Catalogues, in which occur Coins and Medals, which have been sold by auction in the U.S.; New York, 1876. 123 pp. large 8vo. 2 dol. 25 cents.
- BAKER, W. S. Medallion Portraits of Washington, describes 651 pieces; Philadelphia, 1884. Indexed, 4to, half morocco. 5 dol.
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- LE ROUX, Dr. JOS. Numismatic Atlas for Canada, 225 cuts of Canadian Coins, with Supplement, containing 80 additional cuts, text in English and French; Montreal, 1883. paper, 8vo. 1 dol 50 cent.
- MORRIS, ROBT., LL.D. Coins of the Grand Masters of the Order of Malta or Knight Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem, with a Chapter on the Money of the Crusaders, and an introduction, heraldic and historic notes, by W. T. R. Marvin; Boston, 1884. 70 pp., six plates, small folio, full cloth. 2 dol 50 ct.
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