

# THE UNIVERSAL STANDARD CATALOGUE

OF THE

## POSTAGE STAMPS OF THE WORLD.

FOURTH EDITION 1903.

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February, 1903.

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.. THE ..

# NEW ZEALAND PHILATELIST

With which is incorporated "The Sterling Monthly."

VOL. I. No. 1.

JANUARY, 1904.

PRICE 3D.

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All communications to be addressed "THE NEW PHILATELIST"

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| .. 1898, 25, 50 and 1 dollar                                | .. ..           | 15.       |
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| .. 1897, unpaid 2 to 24cts                                  | .. ..           | 11.       |
| Mozambique, 1886, 5-300 reis                                | .. ..           | 12.50     |
| Nyassa, 1898 on 1894 Mozamb. 2½-300 reis                    | .. ..           | 30.       |
| .. .. 1898 .. 2½-300 ..                                     | .. ..           | 12.       |
| .. 1901, 2½ to 300 ..                                       | .. ..           | 25. 230.  |
|   | 100.            | 1000.     |
| 1900, France Military Stamp, used 15c.                      | .. ..           | 12.       |
|   | unused 15c.     | 40.       |
| 1902 .. .. 15c.   | .. ..           | 25.       |
| Hungary, 1900, 50 filler                                    | .. ..           | 4.        |
| .. .. 60 filler   | .. ..           | 2.50      |
| .. .. 1 krona   | .. ..           | 2.50      |
| .. .. 2 ..  | .. ..           | 15.       |
| .. .. 3 ..  | .. ..           | 15.       |
| .. .. 5 ..  | .. ..           | 60.       |
| Iceland, 1902, 1 gildi 3 aur yellow                         | .. ..           | 40.       |
| .. .. 5 .. green  | .. ..           | 40.       |
| .. .. 16 .. brown   | .. ..           | 95.       |
| .. .. Service 3 .. yellow                                   | .. ..           | 30.       |
|   | 4 .. grey       | 30.       |
|   | 5 .. brown      | 10.       |
|   | 10 .. blue      | 20.       |
|   | 16 .. rose      | 110.      |
|   | 20 .. blue      | 40.       |

**Our new Catalogue, 1903-4**, has been issued. It contains all issues until 15th Sept., 1903, many cuts and 800 pages, a highly interesting Catalogue for earnest collectors wishing to increase their collections, with advantage. Very reasonable prices. Post free, **2s 6d**.

Our "**Monthly Bulletin**" is issued every 25th and forms a supplement to our Catalogue for all Novelties, Bargains, offers of Sets and Wholesale offers to dealers. Specimen post free.

# The New Zealand Philatelist.

---

## PHILATELIC LITERARY COMPETITION.

In order to encourage our neglected branch of Philatelic journalism we offer a prize of **£2 2s** for the best

### Story or Sketch

on a Philatelic subject sent to us by any subscriber to our Journal before 1st May, 1904.

---

#### **Conditions.**

1. No paper sent in for competition must exceed 1,200 words.
2. Competitors must write on one side of the paper only in a legible handwriting.
3. Every competitor must use a *non de plume*, inclosing real name and address in a sealed envelope.
4. Every competitor must be a subscriber to the NEW ZEALAND PHILATELIST.
5. Every story or sketch sent in shall be regarded as the property of THE NEW ZEALAND PHILATELIST whether successful or not, but the M.S.S. not required for publication will be returned if stamps are sent to pay return postage.

The successful story will be published in our May number, with the name and address of the successful competitor.

Address all communications—

**The Editor,  
NEW ZEALAND PHILATELIST,**

**P.O. Box 12, Nelson.**

# EXCHANGE ADVERTISEMENTS.

*Advertisements are inserted under this heading at a uniform rate of a penny for three words. No advertisement of less than 36 words will be inserted. If advertisements are insufficiently paid they will not be inserted. All advertisements must be prepaid. We cannot guarantee the good faith of advertisers, but will refuse notices from persons proved to be dishonest or unsatisfactory.*

**Wanted for Cash.**—Wholesale lots of common New Zealand and Australian Stamps.—Sets N.Z. 1898, ½p. to 9p. 1s, 2s and 5s, used.—N.Z. 1873-78, 1s, 2s, 5s, used.—N.Z. 1855, 1864, not perforated, all value, on approval, used or unused. *I paid for Sydney view 1850, 1p. 2s., 2p. 16s., 3p. 22s. each.* Registered letters. Cash by return mail or exchange for Champagne Wines.—CH. V. SECONDE, Merchant, Les Petites Loges, Champagne, France.

**Newfoundland.**—27 varieties, including many rare and obsolete stamps—price 3s 6d. post free. Unused stamps of New Zealand (mint condition) accepted in payment. Send for price list of British North American Postage Stamps.—CENTURY STAMP Co., P.O. Box 197, Montreal Canada.

**Exchange.**—H. BRUSEWITZ, Nelson, New Zealand, will give good New Zealand stamps in exchange for old issues and high values of British Colonies. Fine specimens only desired. Reference to proprietors of this paper.

**Collectors** in New Zealand, Tasmania, South Australia, West Australia, Victoria, and New South Wales send their exchange sheets to LESLIE W. ROBINSON, care of Walter Reid & Co., Ltd., Rockhampton, Queensland, and receive old Queensland stamps in exchange.

**Exchange.**—Send 25-100 stamps of your country and receive same value and number of Holland, Dutch Indies, Germany, France, &c. View cards in exchange for stamps. Register sendings.—F. W. MOHLMANN, Haarlemmerstraat 14, Hillegom, Holland.

**James Bros.,** Waterford, Ontario, Canada, offer a large assortment of Canada, Newfoundland, and British Colonial stamps for cash or exchange.

**Send me 200**—2000 stamps from any country in Asia, Australia, Africa, South America and I will return European well mixed. Belgian stamps in sets by large lots, and with coupon in fine condition.—EDM. VAN DER PLASSCHE, editor of the philatelic paper *Annuaire Anversoise*, 12, Comte rue van Bloer, 12, Antwerp, Belgium.

**Ceylon.**—Exchange desired with postage stamps collectors all over the world. King's head stamps are just out. Answer by return mail. Can offer good exchange in unused.—G. C. WARD BROUWER, Commission Agent, Kegalle, Ceylon.

**Cancelled**—All price lists and offers of the Sterling Stamp Co., Nelson, are hereby cancelled.

**South African**—Wanted—Good foreign stamps, no English. I will send good South African (old and new issues) in return. I always answer.—A. BRUNETT, care of Blaine and Co., Jetty St., Port Elizabeth, Cape Colony.

**The Sterling Stamp Co.,** Nelson, New Zealand, will discontinue their regular retail trade until further notice; wholesale and purchasing business as usual. Catalogues supplied as advertised, also stamps of the Great Barrier Pigeon Post Service.

**Terje Knudtzon,** Ulleberg, Larvik, Norway, exchanges view cards written with pencil; stamps on the view side. Price lists and philatelic journals wanted.

**Russia.**—Exchange 200-1000 common; good for approvals; unused value nominal against value. I send view cards and entires against stamps. 1000 stamps of Russia (no 7 Kop) 15d, postage extra. Reply guaranteed.—PASHUKANIS, Snamenka, Moscow.

**Collectors** look! If you want to get stamps of Canada (King's head), Newfoundland and United States send 50-100 and receive same number and value by return mail.—WILLIAM CARLYLE, Winchester Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

# THE New Zealand Philatelist.

With which is incorporated The Sterling Monthly.

VOL. I. NO. 1.

JANUARY, 1904.

PRICE 3D.

**The Subscription** to the "NEW ZEALAND PHILATELIST" is 2s 6d per annum, post free to any part of the world. New Zealand subscriptions should be sent by postal note or coin in registered envelope, those from abroad by post office order only. Stamps will not be accepted in payment.

Address all communications to—

"THE NEW ZEALAND PHILATELIST"  
P.O. Box, 12,  
Nelson,  
New Zealand.

## EDITORIAL.

### The New Zealand Philatelist.

With this issue we are making a new departure, assuming a larger responsibility, and moving forward to fill a more important place in the Philatelic world. Those who have followed with interest the fortunes of "The Sterling Monthly" and who have felt that in our colony there is room and need for a journal devoted to the interests of stamp collectors will doubtless welcome "THE NEW ZEALAND PHILATELIST." Our paper in thus making a new beginning under a new and more distinctive title ceases to be the organ of a trading firm. It is essentially the same journal, but enlarged both in size and scope. With stronger confidence we appeal to New Zealand collectors for their support. Our success in the past has been quite as great as we had any reason to expect. Every week since the issue of our first number the names of fresh subscribers have been added to our list, and not only is our local circulation a large one, but

already we have subscribers in most English-speaking lands and many foreign countries. That our circulation will continue to increase we have little doubt, and if we adopt some of the methods recently tried with success by other journals to secure a large addition to our subscription list, we do so, not through fear of failure, but because we desire a more complete and thorough-going success. To every reader of our journal we confidently appeal for help in this matter. Other stamp journals have been started in this country and have had but a brief life. We have confidence that the life of THE NEW ZEALAND PHILATELIST is going to be a long and useful one. Every effort will be made on our part to render our paper worthy of enthusiastic support, to make it more and more useful to collectors, and to foster through its columns the science of Philately.

### Our Policy.

Although certain changes have been made in the management of our paper, although it goes forth under a new name and with certain changes in form, there will be no change in its policy. Our objects are to encourage philately as opposed to stamp speculation, to offer a strong resistance to all the forces that are so harmful to stamp collecting, to render help to young collectors and record the labours and discoveries of advanced collectors, and generally to do all in our power to keep the pleasures of philately clean and healthful. In attempting to carry out this programme we may of course look for

opposition, but we are very certain that in adhering to it we shall more and more win the confidence and respect of our readers.

### Original Papers.

During the seven months which have elapsed since its first appearance the "Sterling Monthly" has probably contained a larger amount of original matter than nine-tenths of the leading stamp journals of the world. In THE NEW ZEALAND PHILATELIST the same policy will be pursued. Selections from the best that we find in the world's philatelic literature will be given a place in our columns and duly acknowledged, but original work sent us by our readers, if of sufficient general interest, will never be set aside for the work of writers in other journals. Items of stamp news, and articles on stamp matters will always be welcomed.

### New Zealand on her Defence.

There are two sides to every question and it is with genuine pleasure that we are able to record the fact that the article the "Disgrace of New Zealand" which appeared in the *London Philatelist* has roused the New Zealand Postal Department. That is the great end which has so long been desired by very many of the stamp collectors of this colony. To know that the philatelic sin of issuing a multitude of varieties of the penny and half-penny stamps of the current issue was not premeditated and for the purpose of making gain from the philatelist is a great matter. We had our fears, we are glad to have them dispated. We yet await a reasonable explanation of the issues for Niue, Aitutaki and Penrhyn. That may also be given as the course of inquiry goes on.

Now, on the other side there still remain the plain facts that the recent printings of New Zealand stamps have been so varied and complex as to prove beyond a doubt that there has been very serious mismanagement somewhere. The blame may be shifted from the Post Office to the Printing Department, but blame there is, and it must still rest somewhere. We are not living in the early days of experimen-

tal stamp production. Surely as good workmanship could be secured here as in other colonies. It has been stated that the vagaries of our stamp issues have been confined to the half-penny and penny values. Strictly speaking this is hardly the case. Not counting shades there have been issued during the last five years or so four varieties of the 2d., four of the 2½d., three of the 3d., four of the 4d., three of the 5d., five of the 6d., and three each of the higher values. These numbers, of course, are nothing as compared with the long array of varieties of the lower values, but still they afford convincing proof that the business of stamp production in New Zealand is not conducted as it might be. We are animated by no desire to throw discredit on any government department, but we are as little pleased that our colony should get a reputation for slipshod work as that it should be accused of petty dishonesty. We want to feel that in stamp matters as well as in everything else ours is the best country in the world. If the attack of the *London Philatelist*, sudden, swift, and from all outside appearances justifiable as it was, has the effect of securing for us good workmanship and uniform stamps we shall certainly have good reason to be thankful. If beyond doing that it should create a wholesome terror of issuing new stamps among colonial governments then Mr. M. P. Castle deserves to be classed among the world's reformers.

### The Fiscal Stamps of New Zealand.

In view of the fact that complete catalogues of the Fiscal stamps of New Zealand are soon to appear the articles under the initials of "J. H. S." will not be at present continued. Later on we hope to publish a series of articles from the same pen when the catalogues referred to will be reviewed and additions possibly made to the lists contained in them. The catalogues referred to are that of Messrs Hamilton and Hooper, of Dunedin, the completed list of British Colonial Fiscals compiled by the Fiscal Society (London) and the new illustrated edition of Walter

Morley's catalogue of Fiscal stamps of the British colonies. All these works are, we understand, to be issued almost immediately and will doubtless be welcomed by fiscal collectors the world over. Hitherto the collectors of New Zealand fiscals have had to sail in unknown waters, now they will be charted and navigation will become easy and pleasant. The first mentioned of these works as it is confined to New Zealand will doubtless possess for our readers the largest interest. We do not yet know whether it is to be illustrated or not, nor the price at which it is to be sold, but the reputation of the compilers should be a fair guarantee of good and accurate work, and we have no doubt that it will be produced in a manner worthy of the growing importance of Fiscal Philately.

### A RARE FIND

"BY MAITAI."

I was trying to get away but I could'nt. That was how most people felt when Mr. Highlay got hold of them. He was tall and spare, bald as to the head, and he spoke quickly and in a softened tone as one who imparts important secret information and is afraid of being overheard by the verandah posts. We were standing by his verandah. He lingering in the shadow, I fidgeting in the sun, digging my stick into the gravel walk and trying to get away. Still his soft persuasive eloquence held me. I had come about a matter of trivial business, I wished now that I had deputed my business to someone else.

"Look here," Mr. Highlay, "I really must get away. I have an appointment at three o'clock."

He did not take my hand proffered in farewell but dropped his voice a little lower.

"You saw my advertisement for stamps in *The Guardian*?"

The question roused my flagging interest. Stamps are stamps.

"Did you get any replies?" I said.

"I thought, you know," he went on, not answering my question, "that there must be old settlers here who had letters with stamps on them. I thought I might do a good thing out of it. I offered to give

more than the dealers, you know."

"Yes, but did you get anything?"

Again he ignored my question.

"I knew you were a collector, and I thought you would like to see the stamp I've got here."

"What is it?" I asked.

"It's the lozenge watermark, catalogued by Stanley Gibbons at five pounds."

My eyes opened. I thought of one of the blanks in my collection filled at last. Highlay would sell it I knew, for the mercenary spirit in him far outweighed the instinct of the collector. I scented a bargain and was content to linger now. Highlay had taken out his pocket book and held it closed in his hand.

"By jove," I said, "that's a find. How did you get it?"

The unlucky question further postponed my sight of the treasure.

An old lady came to me the other evening with a bundle of letters. I saw in a moment who she was. Old Mrs Price—very poor woman—very poor woman.

He rubbed his hands as if the thought of poverty awakened in him a kind of delight.

"Well," I said "were the letters any good?" "All old letters written before 1870. I looked through them. I said to her that a dealer would'nt give more than two shillings for the lot, but I would do better I'd give her two-and-six. She seemed so grateful. Poor thing, it meant five loaves of bread for her."

As he had been speaking of that bundle of old letters visions had risen before me of pelures in pairs, stars of 1855, rare N.Z.'s, postmarked four pences without watermark, pin perforated, rouletted, serrated, priceless treasures saved by a miracle from the destroying hand of time. Now I looked at the man who spoke to me. What variety of scoundrel was the man who could offer a poor woman half-a-crown for a bundle of letters like that?

"Many good things among them?" I enquired, hiding my feelings on the matter of the purchase, for after all a stamp is a stamp, and I wanted that lozenge.

"A few little things I sent to London,"



he said, "I saved the lozenge for you, though. I thought you might like it, and I can let you have it a good bit under catalogue."

"Thanks," I said, remembering the half-crown paid for the lot.

His voice dropped again to a seductive whisper.

"I wouldn't do it for everyone" he said, "Only I knew you wanted it for your collection."

"Let's have a look at it," I said.

Slowly he opened out his pocket book and revealed the treasure.

Great Scott! What a fool the man was. The stamp he showed me was a one-penny of the 1863 issue of the carmine-vermilion shade. The sun became hot again and I got weary of the fool and his folly.

"What do you call that thing?" I said. "Why isn't it right?" he said, his voice now rising shrill and harsh.

"Right," I said, the lozenge is a two-penny. Let me see the thing.

I held it to the light. Of course, as I expected the watermark was a star, but there was a crease diagonally across the stamp that Highlay had taken for a line of the lozenge.

"Study your catalogue," I said as I handed it back to him and turned away in disgust.

Perhaps Mrs Price got full value for her stamps after all.

### Varieties of the N.Z. One Penny Universal and Half-penny Pictorial.

(BY M. L. COTTON).

(Concluded.)

½d, green pictorial 1900-03.—"Waterlow paper. Perf. 11, 11 x 14, 14 x 11, 14,

"Basted Mills" paper.—Perf. 14, 14 x 11, 11 x 14, 11.

The last mentioned is one of the rarest of the series only one sheet having yet been found.

"Cowan" paper, no wmk.—Perf, 14, 11, 14 x 11, 11 x 14.

Of the 14 x 11 only part of a sheet (204

stamps) is known, while the 11 x 14 has never been found unused.

"Cowan" paper, wmk star and N.Z.—Perf. 14, 14 x 11, 11 x 14.

### The Philatelic Society of New Zealand.

#### REPORT.

The fifteenth annual general meeting was held in the Society's room, 24 Lambton Quay, on Friday, December 12th, 1903, at 8 p.m.

Mr A. T. Bate, vice-president, occupied the chair.

The following were present:—Messrs Thos. Acocks, A. T. Bate, Leon Cohen, Chas. Jones, J. E. Mourant, E. G. Pilcher, R. Pye-Smith, P. B. Phipson, J. H. W. Wardrop, L. A. Sanderson.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The annual report and balance-sheet were read and adopted.

The following officers were elected for season 1903-4:—Patron, The Right Hon. the Earl of Ranfurly; President, The Hon. the Postmaster-General; vice-Presidents, Mr A. T. Bate and Mr E. G. Pilcher; Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Mr L. A. Sanderson; Assistant Hon. Secretary, Mr J. E. Mourant; Exchange Superintendent, Mr Thos. Acocks, Committee, Messrs R. Pye-Smith, J. H. W. Wardrop, Chas. Jones, Leon Cohen.

The following were elected members of the Society:—Mr P. B. Phipson, Wellington, proposed by Mr L. Cohen; Mr R. Courtenay Webb, Farnham, England, proposed by Mr L. Magnee; Mr E. W. Hensinger, Texas, U.S.A., proposed by Mr L. Sanderson; Mr Hp. Winkelmann, Auckland, proposed by Mr J. Leech; Mr Geo. Rourke, West Maitland, N.S.W., proposed by Mr A. Deaville.

The meeting then discussed at some length an article published recently in the *London Philatelist* headed "The Disgrace of New Zealand," which had been copied and supported by several other philatelic papers, apparently without the slightest enquiry. The members present were unanimous in their condem-

nation of the slur cast upon the New Zealand postal authorities, who were charged by the paper in question with the manufacture of unnecessary issues for the purpose of increasing its revenue through the purchases of collectors. It was pointed out that the Postal Department had nothing to do with the selection of papers or printing of stamps, and official documents were produced in support of this. The Postal Department had facilitated the utmost enquiry into the matter, and after very full discussion the following resolution was passed:—Proposed by the Chairman, and seconded by Mr Pilcher, "That in the opinion of this Society the article appearing in the *London Philatelist*, under the heading of 'The Disgrace of New Zealand,' and other similar attacks made in other Philatelic journals on the Postal Administration of New Zealand, are wholly unwarranted, and, after enquiry and examination of the official records, this Society is satisfied that there is no ground whatever for the statement that the Postal Administration has created varieties for the purpose of adding to its revenue, and further that the assertion that these issues are prompted "doubtless by speculators outside (or perhaps inside) the Post Office, who are desirous of making money by the buying up and retailing of these varieties" is entirely without the slightest foundation, and unworthy of the journal in which it appears.

Mr. Pilcher moved, and Mr. Acocks seconded that the Secretary of this Society be instructed to forward the above resolution to the editor of the *London Philatelist*.

L. A. SANDERSON,  
Hon. Sec.

#### FIFTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

Year ended August 31st, 1903.

Your Committee has great pleasure in submitting to you the fifteen annual report, and balance sheet, which show that the affairs of the Society still maintain a good sound condition, which is very gratifying.

Meetings.—During the past season the

meetings have been well attended, and much interest manifested therein.

Membership.—The roll of membership now total 106. Eight new members have been added, two resigned, and three have been dropped.

The following is a list of new members:—Morford Cottle, Palmerston North; Miss Wright, Windermere, Ashburton; P. W. Berry, Auckland; Capt. Bignell, Hokitika; G. Brumell, Napier; Leon Cohen, Wellington; T. R. Mowatt, Hunterville; Samuel Wylie, Sydney.

Exchange Branch.—The Exchange System still continues to work satisfactorily under the able control of Mr. Thos. Acocks, Exchange Superintendent. During the session 124 sheets containing 4176 stamps, valued at £1672 14s, have been received for circulation, and out of these, stamps valued at £350 18s 4d, have changed hands. Several Exchange Books are still in course of circulation, and it was impossible to include selections from these in the returns.

Accounts.—The receipts for the session amounted to £175 15s 7d, and the expenditure to £158 6s 8d, leaving a balance in hand of £17 8s 11d. The liabilities amount to £5 2s 4d, and the assets are valued at £57 3s 3d, leaving a balance of £52 0s 11d, to the credit of the Society.

For the Committee,

L. A. SANDERSON,  
Hon. Sec. and Treas.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure,  
Year ended, Aug. 31st, 1903.

#### RECEIPTS.

|                              | £   | s    | d    |
|------------------------------|-----|------|------|
| To Cash Stamps               | ... | 139  | 8 4  |
| „ Subscriptions & Commission | ... | 29   | 2 6  |
| „ Catalogues, Sheets, &c.    | ... | 7    | 4 9  |
|                              |     | £175 | 15 7 |

#### EXPENDITURE.

|                                     | £   | s   | d    |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|------|
| By Cash A.C. Stamps                 | ... | 128 | 5 4  |
| „ <i>London Philatelist</i>         | ... | ?   | 5 0  |
| „ <i>Australian Philatelist</i> ... | ... | 10  | 0 0  |
| „ Catalogues                        | ... | 11  | 10   |
| „ Postages                          | ... | 5   | 16 0 |
| „ Telegrams                         | ... | 6   | 6    |

|                      |         |      |    |    |
|----------------------|---------|------|----|----|
| „ Exchange ...       | ...     | 1    | 0  | 8  |
| „ Legal Expenses ... | ...     | 1    | 3  | 10 |
| „ Advertising ...    | ...     | 9    | 6  |    |
| „ Printing ...       | ...     | 7    | 19 | 6  |
| „ Cheque Book ...    | ...     | 2    | 6  |    |
| „ Bank Charge ...    | ...     | 10   | 0  |    |
| „ Petties ...        | ...     | 16   | 6  |    |
| „ Balance Bank       | 13 19 6 |      |    |    |
| „ On hand            | 3 9 5   | 17   | 8  | 11 |
|                      |         | £175 | 15 | 7  |

Statement of Liabilities and Assets, year ended, August 31st, 1903.

LIABILITIES.

|  | £  | s | d  |
|--|----|---|----|
| To Sundry Creditors ...                  | 5  | 2 | 4  |
| „ Balance of Assets over Liabilities ... | 52 | 0 | 11 |

£57 3 3

ASSETS.

|                           | £  | s  | d |
|---------------------------|----|----|---|
| By Sundries outstanding . | 24 | 7  | 4 |
| „ Library Books and Case  | 9  | 16 | 0 |
| „ Stationery, &c. ...     | 1  | 7  | 0 |
| „ Sheets, Envelopes, &c.  | 1  | 2  | 0 |
| „ Control Stamps ...      | 3  | 2  | 0 |
| „ Cash in hand ...        | 3  | 9  | 5 |
| „ Cash in Bank ...        | 13 | 19 | 6 |

£57 3 3

Wellington,  
August 31st, 1903.

### The Post Office in 1754.

The following is the article given under the heading "Post" in a dictionary of Arts and Science published in London in 1754:—

In England posts were first established by act of parliament in the twelfth year of Charles II. which enabled the king to settle a post-office and appoint a governor in Lombard-street. The General Post Office, London, is now managed by two postmasters general, who have under them about forty other officers of their own appointing, as the receiver-general, accountant-general, secretary, solicitor, resident and principal surveyor, comptroller, accountant, clerk of the franks, six clerks of the several roads with their assistants, a window-man, and ten sorters for the inland office; besides which there are for the foreign office a receiver-general, an ac-

comptant-general, a comptroller, an alphabet keeper, a solicitor, supervisor of letter carriers, six clerks, &c., and twenty three letter carriers.

On this grand office depend one hundred and eighty postmasters in England and Scotland, who keep regular offices for their several stages, and sub post-masters in their branches; and such is the disposition of the stages, that there is no considerable market town in England but has an easy and certain conveyance for letters to and from the said office in the due course of the mails every post.

For foreign intelligence in times of peace, Mondays and Thursdays are the post days for France, Spain and Italy; Tuesdays and Fridays for Holland, Germany, Denmark and Sweden; on Mondays and Fridays the post also goes to Flanders, and from thence to Germany, Denmark and Sweden; and on the last Thursday of every month a packet-boat sets out from the Thames for Barbadoes, Montserrat, Nevis, St. Christopher's, Antego, and Jamaica. Letters are sent to all parts of England, Scotland and Ireland, except Wales, on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, and are returned from all parts of England and Scotland every Monday, Wednesday and Friday; from Wales every Monday and Friday and from Kent and the Downs every day.

The charge of a letter of a sheet of paper eighty miles, is 3d., of two sheets 6d. For above eighty miles, a sheet 4d., two 8d. An ounce of letters for eighty miles is, for above is 6d., &c. A single sheet from London to Edinburgh or Dublin, 6d.

The post travels at the rate of one hundred and twenty miles in twenty-four hours. And for those who choose to travel by the post, horses are ready at the rate of 3d. per mile, and 4d. to the post boy every stage.

*Penny post*, a post established for the benefit of London and the adjacent parts. by which any letter or parcel not exceeding sixteen ounces weight, or ten pounds value, is speedily conveyed to and from all parts within ten miles of London. This office is managed by a comptroller, under

whom are a collector, an accomptant, six sorters, eight sub-sorters, and sixty-nine messengers.

### **Nelson Philatelic Society.**

The quarterly meeting of the Society was held on January 5th, in the Bishop's School, when in spite of the heavy rain there was a fair attendance of members. Mr. Brusewitz, Vice-President in the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, and the report for the quarter adopted.

On the proposal of Mr. Kingsley seconded by Mrs. Renwick it was resolved that in future 5 members form a quorum.

Some discussion followed as to the admission of new members, and it was resolved that the question of subscriptions stand over till the annual meeting.

The dates of meeting and subjects for the next quarter are as follows:—

Jan. 26th : The Stamps of Great Britain.

Feb. 23rd : New South Wales.

March 29th: Annual Meeting. "Victoria."

NINA JONES, Hon. Sec.

### **Art in Picture Postcards at the Continental Gallery.**

(BY CONSTANCE A. BARNICOAT.)

Years ago one could hardly move at any continental railway station without tumbling over some one busily scribbling on a picture postcard. Four years ago in Holland I got at least as pretty view postcards as I can to-day get in England, where even now they are often dearer, and were until recently generally twice as dear as on the Continent, quality of course considered. We used to smile indulgently at the foreigner and his picture postcard mania; but when abroad we were not above buying his postcards, which our friends at home admired so much that for years they have made our continental holidays more or less hideous by exacting fulfilment of a host of promises to send them postcards wherever we went, often quite a serious addition to the ordinary expenses of travel.

Finally, the last year or two, what was

thought quite impossible has happened, picture postcard collecting has become quite as much a mania in England as it ever was in the Fatherland or Switzerland. Every stationer's shop now displays these cards in unlimited variety. The view postcard long held the day, but has lately had to give way before the celebrity, and popular actor and actress postcard. The silly and occasionally vulgar postcard is also, I am sorry to say, sometimes in evidence.

Last November a most interesting exhibition of picture postcards was held at the Continental Galleries, Grafton Street, W. The postcards are all those of the well-known firm of Wrench Ltd., whose founder, Mr Evelyn Wrench, is but just of age. The topical postcard, he it noted, does not appear in this selection. In France in particular the topical card has been most popular; and it must ever remain, commemorating as it always does some event of importance, one of the most truly and permanently interesting of all forms of postcards. When, for instance, the Tzar and Tzarina visited Paris, quantities of extremely pretty postcards bearing their portraits (full-length, face only, in court dress or in uniform,) immediately made their appearance. Kruger's visit to Paris was admirably exploited—in fact in the matter of public events all was fish that came to the postcard artist's net. In England the topical postcard does not seem as yet to have won great popularity.

Conspicuous among this most varied collection of Mr Wrench's are no less than twenty-two picture postcards in colour of the "World's Children," reproduced by permission from the book of that title just published by Mr Mortimer Menpes. They are, of course, as much picture and as little writing space as possible, as a rule none at all on the back. Most of the postcards are coloured, and very well coloured, with all the latest improvements in the art of colour-printing; but the view postcards are in black and white. Some of Mr E. T. Reed's "Prehistoric Peeps" that appeared in Punch make excellent postcards. Illus-

and even Meredith) appear very frequently; as do the "celebrities of the stage" cards (Mrs Brown-Potter, Miss Edna May, Sir Henry Irving, Miss Julia Neilson, etc.) beautifully reproduced in black and white; and "the Plays of the Period." Other series are: "Famous Golfers" (among them Mr Balfour and Mr Asquith,) reproductions of scenes from "Quality Street," with Mr Seymour Hicks and Miss Elloline Teriss, Monsieur Beaucaire, with Mr Lewis Waller and Miss Grace Lane: and the Toreador with Mr G. Grossmith jr. and Miss Gertie Miller; the "National Gallery series" of reproductions from works in the National Gallery, among them Rosa Bonheur's "Horse Fair," and Gainsborough's "Mrs Siddons"; the especially charming set devoted to black and white reproductions of Greuze's girls' heads; the "gnome trations of modern popular novelists (Edna Lyall, Miss Braddon, Marie Corelli series," weird and extravagantly coloured; famous cricketers (Mr Grace and Mr C. B. Fry); reproductions of Turner, of Charles Keene's drawings. Du Maurier's "Society Types," and Phil May's pictures all from Punch. Quite a new feature also is the series of puzzle post-cards.

The zoological series is particularly good, reproducing well-known favourites of the Zoo, among them the baby Syrian bears and the hippopotamus, in the act of opening a cavernous mouth. Even the Twopenny Tube has been enlisted, and the three views of it form quite one of the most interesting series of the collection. But the gem of all, in the writer's opinion at least, is the solitary postcard No. 14, "the little black coon," quite a charming picture of a fluffy black Persian kitten, with that look of wondering innocence about its round face that is the chief charm of kittenhood, and which is, as we well know, quite consistent with the extremest capacity for mischief.

### Chronicle.

Earliest information respecting new issues and varieties is specially requested from our readers at home and abroad.

### BRITISH GUIANA.

Watermark crown and C.A. Perforated 14.

6oc. grey, green and carmine.

### BRITISH SOMALILAND.

Watermarked star. Current stamps of India with Emperor's head, surcharged for use in British Somaliland. Perforated 14.

|                  |                           |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| 1a. carmine      | 8a. red violet            |
| 2a. violet       | ½a. green, official       |
| 3a. brown orange | 1a. carmine, official     |
| 4a. olive green  | 2a. violet, official      |
|                  | 8a. red violet, official. |

### INDIA.

Wmk. star. Perf. 14. Emperor's head.

12a. brown on red.

1r. carmine and green.

2r. yellow brown and carmine.

Official, black surcharge, "On H.M.S."

3p. grey, 1r. carmine and green.

### MALTA.

King's head, perf. 14, wmk. crown and C.A.

4d. light chocotate and black.

### TASMANIA.

*The Australian Journal of Philately* records the issue of the 1s. stamp for this state on paper watermarked V and crown.

### Notes and Clippings.

We hear that a feature of the new catalogues will be the rise in price of many medium colonials.

To make a picture of a United States stamp is forbidden in the Great Republic. *The American Journal of Philately* gets over the difficulty nicely by posting an unused specimen of the new 2 cents stamp in each number—rather expensive though.

The stamp referred to above is a great improvement both in design and colour on that which it replaces. The engraving is, of course, very fine indeed.

The effect of the coming metrical system on the stamps of New Zealand is being largely speculated upon. It will mean a complete new series, we fear, but the gain will far outweigh the loss.

Mr. W. Haddow is printing his auction catalogues on paper prepared before the war for an issue of Transvaal stamps. The paper has the watermark Z A.R.

THE  
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| 1781 2d. brown ...      | 0  | 5  | ,, 10   |
| 1886 1d. green ...      | 0  | 1½ | ,, 10   |
| 1901 ½d. green (small)  | 1  | 3  | ,, 100  |
| 1d. rose, scarlet       | 1  | 9  | ,, 1000 |
| 1d. mauve ...           | 0  | 9  | ,, 100  |
| 3d. mauve ...           | 0  | 6  | ,, 10   |
| Offil. 1d. large O.S.   | 0  | 1½ | ,, 10   |
| Post, Dues 1 and 2d.    | 0  | 4½ | ,, 10   |

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## PREFACE.

Sixteen months having elapsed since the publication of the third edition of the UNIVERSAL STANDARD CATALOGUE, a fourth edition becomes a necessity, owing to the numerous changes which have taken place in values, as well as to the large number of new issues, the most important of which are the stamps of Great Britain and Colonies bearing the portrait of King Edward VII., of these we have included all known to be issued up to the end of *February*, 1903.

Numerous improvements in classification have been made, our aim being always simplicity and clearness, and whilst rigidly excluding all minor varieties, especially of perforation, we have felt it necessary in some cases to extend the lists by including many varieties which are not found in previous editions; these include Bavaria, Belgium, Brazil, Newfoundland, New Republic, Oil Rivers, Switzerland, &c., all of which have been entirely re-written. The whole catalogue has been re-set in fresh type, and as the alterations are very numerous, the numbers in many countries do not agree with those of the third edition. Arrangements have now been made to keep the whole of the type standing, and it will be our endeavour in future editions to disturb the catalogue numbers as little as possible.

The stamps of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., Suez Canal and Tierra del Fuego have now been omitted, as they must be considered as locals.

As to prices, this subject is dealt with on the next page, and we do not consider it necessary to add anything here.

The fifth edition of this catalogue will be published when the present edition is sold out, it is impossible to fix the date, even approximately, but due notice of same will be given in our Monthly Novelty List, and in our various advertisements.

The following statistics, compiled at the last moment before going to press, may not be uninteresting:—The total number of stamps issued to date, as included in this catalogue, is 17,382, of which \*4,952 are apportioned to Great Britain and Colonies, and \*12,430 to the rest of the world. Europe has issued 3,917, Asia 3,120, Africa 3,342, America 4,214, the West Indies 1,411, and Oceania, 1,378. The Republic of Salvador has issued the greatest number of varieties, and Boyaca, Poland and Wadhwan the smallest. Of course these figures refer to standard varieties only.

WHITFIELD KING & CO.

IPSWICH, *March 1st*, 1903.

These figures differ slightly from those given in the Preface to Catalogue an error having been discovered after the edition was all printed.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

NEWFOUNDLAND—contd.

|                 | Unused. |    | Used. |    |
|-----------------|---------|----|-------|----|
|                 | s.      | d. | s.    | d. |
| 10c., black ..  | 7       | 6  | 3     | 6  |
| 12c., red-brown | 2       | 6  | 2     | 6  |
| 13c., orange .. | 3       | 6  | 4     | 6  |
| 24c., blue ..   | 2       | 6  | 2     | 6  |



1868-73. *Perforated.*

|                   |    |   |    |   |
|-------------------|----|---|----|---|
| 1c., purple ..    | 3  | 6 |    |   |
| 1c., lilac-brown  | 4  | 6 | 3  | 6 |
| 3c., vermilion    | 15 | 0 | 12 | 6 |
| 3c., blue ..      | 6  | 0 | 2  | 0 |
| 5c., black (seal) | 18 | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| 6c., rose ..      | 1  | 0 | 1  | 0 |

1876. *Rouletted.*

|                   |   |   |   |   |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|
| 1c., violet-brown | 7 | 6 | 5 | 6 |
| 2c., green ..     | 3 | 0 | 3 | 6 |
| 3c., blue ..      | 8 | 6 | 1 | 9 |
| 6c., ..           | 6 | 6 | 1 | 0 |



1880-97.

|                   |   |   |   |   |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|
| 4c., rose-red ..  | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| 5c., vermilion    | 0 | 4 |   |   |
| 6c., black ..     | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| 1c., lilac brown  | 0 | 4 | 0 | 6 |
| 1c., grey-brown   | 0 | 2 | 0 | 5 |
| 1c., deep brown   | 0 | 9 | 1 | 6 |
| 1c., green ..     | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| 2c., yellow-green | 0 | 6 | 0 | 9 |
| 2c., dark green   | 0 | 6 | 1 | 0 |
| 2c., orange ..    | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| 3c., blue ..      | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| 3c., deep blue    | 1 | 6 | 1 | 6 |
| 3c., brown ..     | 0 | 9 | 0 | 2 |
| 3c., slate ..     | 0 | 5 | 0 | 2 |

| No. |                  | Unused. |    | Used. |    |
|-----|------------------|---------|----|-------|----|
|     |                  | s.      | d. | s.    | d. |
| 52  | 5c., deep blue   | 1       | 0  | 0     | 4  |
| 53  | 5c., sky blue .. | 1       | 0  | 1     | 0  |
| 54  | 6c., lake ..     | 0       | 6  | 0     | 6  |
| 55  | 10c., black ..   | 1       | 0  | 1     | 3  |
| 56  | 12c., brown-lake | 1       | 3  | 1     | 6  |



1897. *Cabot Celebration issue.*

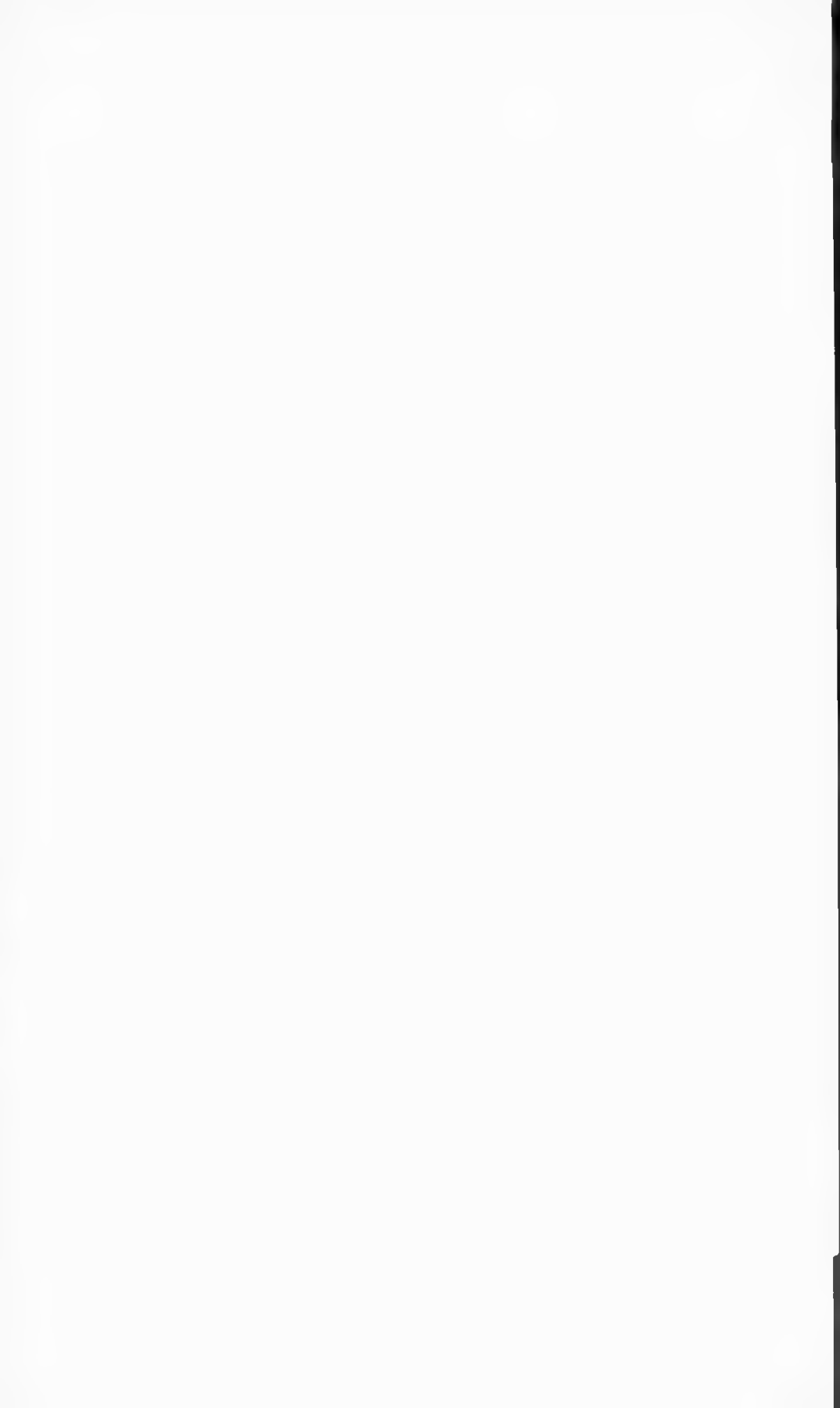
|    |                  |   |    |   |    |
|----|------------------|---|----|---|----|
| 57 | 1c., green ..    | 0 | 3  | 0 | 5  |
| 58 | 2c., carmine ..  | 0 | 4  | 0 | 5  |
| 59 | 3c., blue ..     | 0 | 5  | 0 | 2  |
| 60 | 4c., olive-green | 0 | 1  | 0 | 4  |
| 61 | 5c., mauve ..    | 0 | 5  | 0 | 4  |
| 62 | 6c., red-brown   | 0 | 6  | 0 | 6  |
| 63 | 8c., orange ..   | 0 | 7  | 0 | 7  |
| 64 | 10c., deep brown | 0 | 9  | 0 | 9  |
| 65 | 12c., deep blue  | 0 | 10 | 0 | 10 |
| 66 | 15c., vermilion  | 1 | 0  | 1 | 3  |
| 67 | 24c., violet ..  | 1 | 6  | 2 | 0  |
| 68 | 30c., grey-black | 1 | 9  | 2 | 0  |
| 69 | 35c., red ..     | 2 | 3  | 2 | 6  |
| 70 | 60c., black ..   | 3 | 6  | 4 | 0  |

No. 51, surch. "One Cent" in black.  
71 1c. on 3c., slate 2 6 3 6



1898.

|    |                     |   |       |   |       |
|----|---------------------|---|-------|---|-------|
| 72 | 1/2c., bronze-green | 0 | 0 1/2 | 0 | 0 1/2 |
|----|---------------------|---|-------|---|-------|



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With which is incorporated "The Sterling Monthly."

Vol. I. No. 2.

FEBRUARY, 1904.

PRICE 3D.

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4. Every competitor must be a subscriber to the NEW ZEALAND PHILATELIST.
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**Exchange.**—Send 25-100 stamps of your country and receive same value and number of Holland, Dutch Indies, Germany, France, &c. View cards in exchange for stamps. Register sendings.—F. W. MOHLMANN, Haarlemmerstraat 14, Hillegom, Holland.

**James Bros.**, Waterford, Ontario, Canada, offer a large assortment of Canada, Newfoundland, and British Colonial stamps for cash or exchange.

**Send me 200**—2000 stamps from any country in Asia, Australia, Africa, South America and I will return European well mixed Belgian stamps in sets by large lots, and with coupon in fine condition.—EDM. VAN DER PLASSCHE, editor of the philatelic paper *Année Anversoise*, 12, Comte rue van Bloer, 12, Antwerp, Belgium.

**Ceylon.**—Exchange desired with postage stamps collectors all over the world. King's head stamps are just out. Answer by return mail. Can offer good exchange in unused.—G. C. WARD BROHIER, Commission Agent, Kegalle, Ceylon.

**Cancelled.**—All price lists and offers of the Sterling Stamp Co., Nelson, are hereby cancelled.

**South African**—Wanted—Good foreign stamps, no English. I will send good South African (old and new issues) in return. I always answer.—A. BRUNETT, care of Blaine and Co., Jetty St., Port Elizabeth, Cape Colony.

**The Sterling Stamp Co.**, Nelson, New Zealand, will discontinue their regular retail trade until further notice; wholesale and purchasing business as usual. Catalogues supplied as advertised, also stamps of the Great Barrier Pigeon Post Service.

**Terje Knudtson**, Ulleberg, Larvik, Norway, exchanges view cards written with pencil; stamps on the view side. Price lists and philatelic journals wanted.

**Russia.**—Exchange 200—1000 common; good for approvals; unused value nominal against value. I send view cards and entires against stamps. 1000 stamps of Russia (no 7 Kop) 15d, postage extra. Reply guaranteed—PASHUKANIS, Snamenka, Moscow.

**Collectors** look! If you want to get stamps of Canada (King's head), Newfoundland and United States send 50-100 and receive same number and value by return mail.—WILLIAM CARLYLE, Winchester Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

**Fiscals.**—Will purchase, exchange or sell. Only scarce revenues wanted. Can submit good, cheap selections of all kinds.—A. B. KAY, Secretary Fiscal Society, 2 Haarlem Mansions, West Kensington, London, W., England.

**Major A. G. E. Newland, I.M.S.**, 10th Battalion, Hakka, Chin Hills, Burma, desires to correspond with a New Zealand collector who can supply scarce stamps of recent issues, unused, in pairs taken from the corners of sheets with marginal numbers showing.





THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF RANFURLY,  
Governor of New Zealand and Patron of the Philatelic Society of  
New Zealand.

# THE New Zealand Philatelist.

With which is incorporated The Sterling Monthly.

VOL. I. No. 2.

FEBRUARY, 1904.

PRICE 3D.

**The Subscription** to the "NEW ZEALAND PHILATELIST" is 2s 6d per annum, post free to any part of the world. New Zealand subscriptions should be sent by postal note or coin in registered envelope, those from abroad by post office order only. Stamps will not be accepted in payment.

Address all communications to—

"THE NEW ZEALAND PHILATELIST"  
P.O. Box, 12,  
Nelson,  
New Zealand.

## EDITORIAL.

### "Officials."

THE recent cases in connection with the Official stamps taken from Somerset house have given an impulse to the resolve of many collectors to cease collecting "officials" which only differ from the regular Postal issues through being surcharged or perforated. No doubt there is much to be said for their retention as also something for their rejection. To speak, however, of a collection as *incomplete*, as some of our contemporaries have been doing because such officials are ignored is a mistake. "Officials" certainly, have an interest of their own, and they are undoubtedly "postage" stamps, but when they are not obtainable in unused condition by the public they fall into a class by themselves, and doubtless in the days to come they will have a catalogue of their own and their collection will come to be looked upon as a separate branch of philately. Collectors may well be par-

doned if they ignore stamps which differ from the regular types only in having a more or less defacing overprint, which are difficult to obtain in the used condition, and can only be obtained unused by fraudulent means. The question may well be asked

### What is a Complete Collection?

With regard to the general collector this question may be difficult to answer. To perhaps the greater number "a stamp is a stamp" and a place will be found for almost anything be it postal, fiscal, railway or local. Others there are who collect only unused postals, others will have only used postals, while many ignore all varieties of perforation. Again there are other general collectors who, not without good reason, refuse to touch whole countries or who reject certain special issues of stamps either owing to their speculative nature or owing to the difficulty of detecting reprints and forgeries. To say what a complete general collection should contain is impossible without having some hint of the general scheme formed in the mind of the collector. With the specialist it is different. He may limit himself to a country, to certain years in the stamp issuing history of a country, to certain definite issues or even certain values of stamps issued by a country or group of countries, but within the limits he imposes he must collect every minute variety of perforation, shade, and die, otherwise his collection does not deserve the distinction of being highly specialised. A tendency, very much to be deplored, is now and

again noticeable among collectors. We refer to the care lavished on rarities and scarce stamps while the commoner values are almost ignored. This is not good collecting. The minute varieties of a common penny stamp deserve and should obtain just as much consideration as those of higher and scarcer values.

### New English Stamps.

Rumours continue to reach us from England of a new series of stamps for Great Britain which are supposed to be in course of preparation. No one seems to have any definite information on the subject, but we think it will generally be conceded that the present series are not all that might be desired. Looking at the British stamps of to-day and those of the earliest days of stamp issuing we cannot but feel that the art of stamp making has sadly declined. If the old line engraved 1d. which did duty for such a long period could only be revived with a pleasing portrait of His Majesty upon it how much more satisfactory it would be. Probably the cost would be regarded as too great, but then England is not usually looked upon as one of the very poor countries, and it is just possible to have a stamp that is so much a discredit to our national taste that it is dear at any price. This is not quite the case with the present stamps of Great Britain but they might be a very great deal better.

### Ourselves.

The reception given to "THE NEW ZEALAND PHILATELIST" by our many friends has been very gratifying. Every effort will be made to keep our paper up to the level of the best Philatelic publications of the world. The complaint may be made by some that our journal is very small in size. Strictly speaking there is not very much force in this charge. We are actually giving a larger amount of literary matter than the majority of stamp journals. However, our readers may rest assured that "The New Zealand Philatelist" will increase in size in direct proportion to its increasing subscription list.

### REVIEWS.

**The Scott Catalogue.**—The Standard American catalogue for 1904 is to hand. In point of size it is about the same as last year, but room has been found for a large number of new varieties through the exclusion of envelopes from the list. The present volume is printed on a more highly surfaced paper than in previous years and consequently there is a very marked improvement in the illustrations which are now as good as they possibly can be for their purpose. In stamps of our own Colony we note very few changes in price, but the upward tendency is noticeable in most cases where changes have been made. The arrangement of our recent issues is passably good for a general catalogue and the manner of inserting sub-varieties in smaller type we have always liked. On the whole this catalogue more than holds its place among similar publications and as a work of reference should have a place in every philatelic library.

**The British Empire Stamp Exchange Medium.**—The second edition of this work, published by Mr. S. N. Bickers, of Cork, Ireland, has just reached us. The arrangement is better than that of the 1st edition, but the list of names is less extensive. Many collectors who desire to exchange duplicates would find the Exchange Medium useful. The number of Australian and New Zealand collectors whose names are given is not very large. We note that according to this list Mexico, Persia and the United States are now included in the British Empire. We have not heard of the annexation, but coming from Ireland the information is no doubt correct. One satisfactory feature of the present edition is that nearly all those whose names are included have furnished references. The price of the Exchange Medium is one shilling.

Of 12,000 million letters written in a year by the world at large 8,000 million are in English, 1200 million in German and 1000 million in French.

## THE PHILATELIC STORY-TELLER.

### Mr. Plimson's Desk.

(BY MAITAI.)

Yes, I refused Messrs Hadon and Miller's offer of £7000 for my New Zealand collection. Most of my friends thought me very foolish and no doubt from one point of view they were right. Wait till you hear the story of how I came to possess some of those unique rarities that have now become world-famous before you pronounce judgment. I tell you that there are stamps in that collection that I could not in honour part with if I were offered a million pounds instead of the price actually named.

I had come to the township for a holiday—a genuine holiday. The doctor had ordered me a quiet retreat for at least a couple of months. The strain of business anxiety and the constant, unremitting work of the office had told its tale. I was thoroughly run down. Maylands, the doctor said, was an ideal place for such a rest as I needed. Might I take my stamp albums with me? The doctor shook his head at that, but afterwards gave his consent on one condition to which I readily enough agreed. The condition was that whatever work I did among my stamps I should do in the open air in the broad verandah of Plimson's boarding house.

When the cab drew up at the gate of my temporary home a thrill of pleasure ran through me. This was something like a place to spend the philatelic holiday I had promised myself. The quiet street along which we had driven had been full of the restful calm of some old world village and now when I reached the boarding house itself that feeling deepened. The old house stood some distance back from the road in a very wilderness of green trees and careless ordered garden. Round three sides ran the broad shady verandah banked with stands of flowers and glossy green ferns. Surely life would pass pleasantly here.

Within the house everything was in keeping with the outside appearance. The

place was plainly furnished, but everywhere spotless cleanliness reigned. Everwhere there was the same sense of shadowy calm, of deep restfulness. The old house had been built at various times in the far past, added to and altered and re-planned until now it was full of doors and passages and strange nooks and crannies. Host and hostess were in keeping with their home. They had grown old amid their quiet pleasant surroundings. Everything that they could do for the comfort of their guests was done in a quiet, unostentatious way that made the place thoroughly home-like. If any philatelic friend should desire a real holiday far from the madding crowd I do not think I could possibly recommend a better place for the purpose than Plimson's boarding house in Maylands.

Need I say that I enjoyed my holiday thoroughly. My neglected collections were brought out examined, re-arranged, brought up to date. Recent rarities that I had missed owing to the pressure of work at my office and my consequent neglect of my hobby I tried to secure by letter from some of the leading dealers. By and by I began to look eagerly for the coming of the postman, and always when he came there was a registered letter and something to be added to my treasures.

My host used to come out and sit beside me while I worked. No doubt he thought me an amiable kind of lunatic, but he was far too polite to say so. Mounting little scraps of coloured paper in bulky albums day after day does look rather an absurd occupation in the eyes of an outsider who has not tasted of the sweetness of philately. Turning over the pages of an album with a gentleness of touch seldom seen in a non-collector he would remark that they looked very nice, and then fall into telling me about a Professor who once stayed in Maylands and employed his time in catching flies and beetles and sticking them with pins on strips of cork.

My friendship, however, which I thus formed with good, old Mr. Plimson had an effect on my collection of which I could never have dreamed. Some of the choices, of all my treasures I owe to him and I

gratefully record here my sense of his generosity. I am reputed to have the very finest collection of old New Zealand stamps in the world. I dare say that is true, but I am quite sure that it would never have been true had I not gone to stay at that dear old boarding house in Maylands.

One day there came to stay at the house an old gentleman who though not a collector was much interested in my hobby. He had been all over the world in his younger years and the sight of the old stamps which he had used to frank his letters from many lands in days gone by revived old memories and brought us many a story of chance and adventure overseas "in the days when the world was wide." One day it chanced that he mentioned Mauritius and it came out in conversation that he had been there in the days before the Crimean war. At once the thought of "Post Office" and "Post Paid" Mauritius stamps came to me. If this old man thinking nothing of the value of the old stamps had kept his old correspondence what treasures might there not be in his possession still. I resolved to wind about his friendship with circumstances when opportunity offered.

The next day Colonel Mason, Mr. Plimson and myself were sitting in the verandah when I led up the conversation to the desired point. I had the album open at the earliest page of Mauritius and mentioned the fact in a careless kind of way that I had many blank spaces in the early issues of that country.

"By the way, Colonel Mason," I said, "you lived in Mauritius in the early days. Do you happen to have kept any of your old correspondence?"

The Colonel smiled a doubtful smile and shook his head.

"What, destroyed it all." I said, "what a pity, with all these blanks in my album waiting to be filled."

I laughed as I said it as if the matter had been of no consequence.

"I destroyed all the correspondence," he said in his slow way, "but I kept the stamps. They are for my grandson."

I felt snubbed. To have asked in a

careless way for these treasures worth a fortune and then to find out that he whom I had asked was quite aware of their value made me feel very small and mean. I could find nothing at all to say. Colonel Mason was silent too looking out with an amused smile at the mass of waving greenery in front of the house. Presently he got up and went away. Then good, old John Plimson came to the rescue. The old man did not understand the true inwardness of the situation, but he felt that things were uncomfortable in some way and it was one of his fixed rules that no guest at his house should ever be in any way uncomfortable if he could help it.

"Are old New Zealand stamps of any interest" he said.

"All the old Colonial stamps are good," I answered.

"I have an old desk with some bundles of letters from the early days," he said, "you can have all the stamps you can find if you can take them off without hurting the letters."

I assured him that nothing could be easier, and he went away and brought the desk. The afternoon that followed was the happiest that a philatelist could well spend. The bundles of letters were treasures indeed. There were some that dated back beyond the introduction of stamps and some that had been received from Australia all bearing rare and valuable stamps, but the great bulk of the letters were posted in New Zealand between 1855 and 1862. Any collector of New Zealand stamps will realise what that meant especially when it is added that there were more than fifteen hundred envelopes and letter-sheets tied up in the bundles.

I was happy, happy beyond the dreams of philately, but there entered just for a moment a serpent into my Eden. The value of the stamps was very great and my host was not a rich man. I wanted these stamps, felt that life would not be worth living without them, and yet I had not money enough to offer Mr. Plimson the fair market value for his treasures. If I said nothing about it he would say nothing; but if I said nothing about it I would

deserve to be kicked for my meanness. I had a little struggle with myself which ended in victory. I told Mr. Plimson all about it, told him the value of his stamps if he liked to sell them, told him how much I should like to have them and how little I could afford to buy them.

While I was talking he looked at me with an indulgent smile. I suppose he still regarded this as part of my harmless lunacy.

"Keep them," he said "I shouldn't have known their value if you hadn't told me. I shouldn't know how to sell them if I wanted to. Keep them, they are no use to me."

"Well," I said, trying to hide my delight "I'll keep them for you. If ever you do want to sell them I'll sell them for you to the best advantage."

He never did. We buried old John Plimson last spring up on the green hillside overlooking quiet Maylands and the rare old stamps, his great gift, are still in my collection, but those who have read this brief account of how they came into my possession will understand how I came to refuse Messrs Hadon and Miller's great offer of £7000 for my New Zealand collection.

## RECENT AUCTION PRICES.

(Compiled from the London Philatelist.)

### NEW ZEALAND.

|  | £ | s. | d. |
|--|---|----|----|
| 1864 watermarked N.Z., 6d red brown, roulettes all round | 6 | 0  | 0  |

### NEW SOUTH WALES.

|  |    |    |   |
|--|----|----|---|
| Laureated, 8d yellow   | 4  | 0  | 0 |
| Sydney View, 2d plate II   | 2  | 6  | 0 |
| " " " "  | 2  | 0  | 0 |
| " " 2d, plate III, fan with six segments                           | 2  | 2  | 0 |
| 1890-8, 5s mauve, and 20s ultramarine, both unused, mint           | 3  | 17 | 6 |
| Sydney View, 2d., plate II.  |    |    |   |
| "Crevit" omitted   | 4  | 4  | 0 |
| Sydney View, 1d., red plate I, unused, mint, very slightly creased | 18 | 10 | 0 |

### VICTORIA.

|   |   |    |   |
|---|---|----|---|
| 1850, 1d. brown red, unused, with gum   | 4 | 0  | 0 |
| 1850, 2d., lilac, fine background on entire   | 3 | 12 | 6 |
| " " " " "   | 3 | 0  | 0 |
| 1864, 1d. green, watermark 6d, unused mint  | 4 | 0  | 0 |
| 1864, 1d. green, wmk. 8 mint  | 3 | 10 | 0 |
| 1868, 5s. blue on yellow  | 3 | 7  | 6 |
| 1858-61, 2s. green, perf., unused without gum, perfs. cut a little at sides but fine copy | 3 | 10 | 0 |
| 1864, 1d. green, watermark 6d, unused mint  | 5 | 15 | 0 |
| 1863-4, 1d. green, watermarked doubled lined four   | 1 | 10 | 0 |

### TASMANIA.

|  |   |    |   |
|--|---|----|---|
| First issue, 1d. blue                      | 2 | 17 | 6 |
| 1892-09, £1, green and yellow, unused mint | 8 | 0  | 0 |

### WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

|  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| 1857, 2d. brown on red, unused no gum                                    | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| 1857, 2d. brown on red, rouletted no gum                                 | 7 | 7 | 0 |
| 1872-78, watermark C.C. perf 14 4d. carmine, vertical pair, unused. mint | 3 | 0 | 0 |

### SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

|   |    |    |   |
|---|----|----|---|
| 1859, 6d. slate blue, rouletted, unused, no gum   | 2  | 10 | 0 |
| " " " "   | 2  | 5  | 0 |
| 1867-70, 10d. black on yellow, the scarce error with inverted surcharge, a very fair copy but rather off centre | 13 | 10 | 0 |
| 1d., blue-green, pair 11½ x roulette, unused, mint, very fine, but top label slightly cut into by perfs.        | 3  | 10 | 0 |
| 1d., yellow green, unused mint  | 3  | 0  | 0 |
| 6d., sky-blue, unused, mint, a strip of three, top label cut into by perfs.                                     | 4  | 5  | 0 |
| 10d., black on yellow, perf. 10 x 11½, a superb strip of three unused, mint                                     | 6  | 0  | 0 |



1876-7, 6d., blue, watermark broad pointed star, perf. 10, unused mint, so widely perforated as to show portions of all the surrounding stamps 6 to 0

The highest price realised at recent auctions was for a 4d., red, error, Cape of Good Hope, a very fair copy but with small margins. This brought £41. One of the poorest prices seems to have been obtained for a large and exceedingly fine specialised collection of Mexico, in twelve books, containing a large number of the early issues surcharged with the district names and numbers, mostly in very fine condition. The whole, consisting of 3,200 stamps, brought only £31. A general collection of 8000 stamps sold for £16.

### The Ethics of Philately.

The leading article in the *Australian Journal of Philately* for Jan. is entitled "The Ethics of Philately" and deals with the decision of Messrs Stanley Gibbons not to sell unused stamps which are not openly sold to the public. The article closes with the following pertinent remarks:—

"The subject of remainders is also 'a thorn in the flesh.' Postal authorities have no more right to sell them for philatelic purposes than they would have to issue bank notes which they were not prepared to honour on presentation. Will the universal abolition of such a practice ever be an accomplished fact? We hope so.

'Reprints' and 'specimens' should be treated with contempt. Happily they are by many.

There are besides, and unfortunately too, several *shady* features in connection with our hobby which require tramping down. Every one should help to this end. Publicity should be given to the existence of forgeries, as a safeguard to the unwary; and members of philatelic societies should exert themselves more enthusiastically in the unravelling of many of the mysteries which at times surround the little labels.

Acting on Messrs Gibbons' initiative,

every collector should take his unused O.S. and unpaids out of his collection and *destroy* them. All dealers should do the same. Will they? That's where the shoe pinches, and kicks to the winds 'The Ethics of Philately.'

P.S.—Since writing the above, Mr. Donne has informed us that the sale of Victorian Dues ceased about 1893, and our attention has been drawn to the fact that those of New Zealand are included in the catalogue; from which it may be assumed that they can be purchased at face value at any post-office in that Colony."

[The latter information is quite correct. New Zealand has pursued the wiser course at least with regard to postage dues.—Ed. N.Z.P.]

### Nelson Philatelic Society.

At the meeting held on January 26th, the stamps of Great Britain were under discussion. Mr. Bruzewitz kindly showed his collection containing some fine specimens of early issues, and also gave the members present some valued general information on collecting British stamps.

The new issue revenue stamp for the State of Guernsey, English Channel Islands, was exhibited by a lady member—some general conversation ensued of philatelic interest. The next meeting will be held on February 23th, subject: New South Wales.

NINA JONES, Hon. Sec

### The Fiscal Philatelic Society, London.

Meeting held December 3rd, 1903. Present: Mr. Schwabacker (chair), and Messrs Felcher, Morley, South, Thompson, Thomson and Kay.

Several unchronicled varieties of fiscals were submitted by A. E. Lawrence, and A. B. Kay showed a previously unknown English Cocoa Tax label.

The Marine Policy stamps of Great Britain were taken.

Received for library: "Filatelia" (July), "Revista S. F. Argentina" (September and October).

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 7th, 1904, when the Tobacco stamps of Peru and Marine Policies of Great Britain will be discussed and catalogued.

Will members whose subscriptions are outstanding kindly remit same without delay. Vide rules 4 and 5.

The sales from the Home packets of the Exchange Section have lately been very satisfactory. Upwards of £23 was taken from the September packet (value £69) and over £21 from the October selection. The Dec. packet, amounting to £94, has lately been sent out. Will members send sheets regularly by the first of each month.

Any interested in fiscal stamps should apply for rules, &c., to the Hon. Sec. A. B. KAY, 2 Haarlem Mansions, West Kensington, London W.

### NOTES AND CLIPPINGS.

Mr. H. B. Marriott Watson writes in the *Daily Mail*. "If grown men can find time to play at stamp collecting there can surely be nothing wrong with the position of the nation." Mr. Marriott Watson might have reached the same conclusion in another way. If grown men and women can find time to read the literary inanities of a fourth rate writer of fiction there can surely &c., &c.

The design on the new St. Kitts-Nevis stamps shows Christopher Columbus sighting the shores of the West Indies through a telescope. That instrument, unfortunately for the artist's imagination, was not invented for a century or more after the time of the scene depicted.

The interest in Philatelic Literature is rapidly increasing, and as the amount of the output is also constantly on the increase it is fair to suppose that the Philatelic libraries of the future will be pretty bulky.

We wonder if the native artist who drew the portrait that adorns the 2a. stamps of Kishengarh was put on his trial for high treason, or whether the picture is really a "speaking likeness" of the ruling potentate. Look up the stamps in

your catalogue if there isn't an original handy.

An American price list describes the emu on the stamp of New South Wales as a *turkey*. We should like to know what variety of fowls our own huias and kiwis may be thought to belong to in the Great Republic, or better still, what bird (beast or fish) that may be which spreads its wings in the foreground of our 1½d. stamp.

The advertisement of Mr. W. H. Robinson, the leading Queensland dealer, which appears in this issue should be of interest to all collectors of Australasian stamps.

The following are the numbers issued of the early stamps of Canada which appeared before the change of coinage to the decimal standard. The list is extracted from James Bro's. "History of Canada Stamps" and includes both imperforate and perforated varieties:—

|     |    |    |           |
|-----|----|----|-----------|
| ½d  | .. | .. | 3,389,960 |
| 3d  | .. | .. | 3,528,700 |
| 6d  | .. | .. | 402,900   |
| 7½d | .. | .. | 82,110    |
| 10d | .. | .. | 151,500   |
| 12d | .. | .. | 1,510     |

It is not difficult from the above to understand the high prices for which the 12d. has been sold, but the catalogue prices of the ½d. and 3d. are in such marked contrast that the collector is inclined to ask why.

There are at present about fifty journals devoted to Philately published in the English language. Seven of these are weeklies and the majority of the rest monthlies. England issues considerably the larger number, with the United States an easy second. Australia has two and Canada, India and New Zealand one each.

To Mr. R. Stewart, of Invercargill, New Zealand, belongs the honor of having brought under public notice the discovery of a simple process whereby watermarks may be easily distinguished. Photographic material is brought into use, but a camera is dispensed with. All

that is required is the usual photographic printing paper, a printing frame, and a bright sun. Place the stamps (preferably face downwards) on the paper in a frame, expose it to the sun, and that portion bearing the watermark, being thinner, allows the rays of light to penetrate more rapidly through to the sensitized surface and a distinct photograph is the result. This may be "fixed" in the manner known to photographers (and who is not a photographer now).—*The Australian Journal of Philately.*

Mr. Stewart's claim to be the discoverer of the above process has been disputed in many quarters, but then the claims of every inventor for James Watt down to Edison have been similarly challenged. Mr. Stewart will doubtless have the thanks of very many workers in the difficult fields of Philately, and that is the chief matter.

"David Kaphokohoakinokeweonah has been appointed post master of Koeke in the Hawaiian Islands. They call him 'Kap' for short. He was recommended as a lineal descendant of the famous King Kalitapokamikohiwealoho 'who was very fond of missionaries'!"

Thus far the *Daily Express*; but it would be gratifying to be told whether the famous King Kalitapokamikohiwealoho "was very fond of missionaries" *au naturel* or served in a stew.—*S. G.'s Monthly Journal.*

The late sub-postmaster of a primitive part of Oxfordshire had a wooden leg. Since his resignation it has transpired that in performing a minor delivery of letters he made use of a donkey and cart. He found it difficult to get up and down; so it was his custom to take with him a tin bucket of large stones. These he hurled at the front door when occasion demanded.—*St. Martin's-le-Grand.*

The Rising Sun Inn at North Bensted, in Sussex is a very interesting and curious place, says the "People's Friend." The proprietor is a great stamp collector, and he has practically every room in the house covered with stamps. The parlour of the inn is called the Jubilee Stamp Room, which took the enterprising de-

corator five years to cover with stamps of all nationalities. Even the table and chairs are adorned in this manner. A picture of the late Queen is hung upon the walls, and another of the Eiffel Tower, both very prettily depicted with stamps. The original value of the stamps in the room is stated to be £40,000. In a rustic little summer-house, where a similar decoration is displayed, is kept the visitors' book, which contains about 85,000 signatures.

China has still, in many parts of the country, the old-fashioned system of private letter-carrying. If he has a letter to send the Chinaman goes to a letter shop and bargains with the keeper thereof. He pays two-thirds of the cost, leaving the receiver to pay the rest on delivery.

One day a pompous Post Office official happened to be passing through a Government office with which he was connected. There he saw a man standing before a fire reading a newspaper. Hours after returning the same way, he was shocked to find the same man, legs extended, before the same fire, still buried in the columns of a newspaper.

"Halloa, sir!" said the indignant head of the department; "what are you doing?"

"Can't you see what I am doing?" was the answer.

"Sir, I came through this office four hours ago, and found you reading a paper; I return, and you are still wasting your time in the same manner."

"Very true; you have stated the case to a nicety."

Hereupon the head of the department naturally fired up

"What is your name, sir?" he yelled.

"Well, I don't know that my name is any affair of yours—what is your name?"

"Sir, I would have you to know that I am So-and-so of the Post Office."

"Indeed; well, I am very glad to hear it. I am, sir, simply one of the public who has been kept waiting here four hours for an answer to a simple question, and I shall be much obliged if you will use your influence to get me attended to."



THE HON. SIR J. G. WARD,  
Postmaster-General and President of the Philatelic Society of  
New Zealand.



THE  
NEW ZEALAND PHILATELIST.

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**Post Free 2s 6d. per annum.**

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In order to increase the circulation of our journal among New Zealand stamp collectors we make the following offer :—

To all New Zealanders who subscribe before the 1st April, 1904, we will send the journal post free for twelve months for 1s 6d.

In addition to the above we offer a

## **Prize of £2**

To the subscriber who obtains for us the largest number of new subscribers before the 1st of May, 1904. This offer is, of course, open to all who originally subscribed for THE STERLING MONTHLY.

To anyone sending us the names and subscriptions of three or more new subscribers before the 1st May, 1904, we will give a copy of the UNIVERSAL STANDARD CATALOGUE.

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# NEW ZEALAND PHILATELIST

With which is incorporated "The Sterling Monthly."

VOL. I. No. 3.

MARCH, 1904.

PRICE 3D.

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**Terje Knudtzon**, Ulleberg, Larvik, Norway, exchanges view cards written with pencil; stamps on the view side. Price lists and philatelic journals wanted.

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A PAIR OF "POST OFFICE" MAURITIUS, On Entire

*With Acknowledgments, from Stanley Gibbons Monthly.*

# THE New Zealand Philatelist.

With which is incorporated The Sterling Monthly.

VOL. I. No. 3.

MARCH, 1904.

PRICE 3D.

**The Subscription** to the "NEW ZEALAND PHILATELIST" is 2s 6d per annum, post free to any part of the world. New Zealand subscriptions should be sent by postal note or coin in registered envelope, those from abroad by post office order only. Stamps will not be accepted in payment.

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## EDITORIAL.

### The War.

WHAT are likely to be the Philatelic results of the war now being waged? Collectors having in view the interest caused through the recent war in South Africa in the issues of all the South African States, and the immense number of minor varieties directly due to military changes, are freely asking the above question. It is early yet to predict, but we shall not be surprised if as an immediate result the stamps of Japan assume a more important place in the philatelic world. No specialist could complain of any lack of scope in connection with the stamp issues of the Island Empire. The collector who delights in mastering difficulties has a fine field here. What with forgeries to be avoided, plates to be reconstructed, plate numbers indicated by mysterious characters, and an endless variety of perforation there is enough to occupy an enthusiast for half a dozen life times. We trust that

the number of war varieties will not be large.

### Original Gum.

Judging by the number of articles and letters appearing in various Philatelic publications the question of the value of original gum is now prominent in the minds of collectors the world over. In a recent article the *Australian Journal of Philately* suggests the division of stamps into three classes described as unused, uncanceled, and obliterated. No doubt this is theoretically correct, but most collectors go in for stamps in all three conditions, and an uncanceled stamp is generally speaking an unused stamp. The probable outcome of the controversy will be to somewhat reduce the comparative value of gum. Certain countries are issuing stamps without gum. Some of the ablest philatelists have given it as their opinion that a number of the older European stamps are positively injured by the gum. While original gum will doubtless continue to have some value as the hall-mark of a perfect stamp, less stress is likely to be laid on it in the future, and a good deal of faking and re-gumming which has troubled collectors in the past will cease to be known.

### Lightly Cancelled.

While writing on the condition of stamps it may not be out of place to say a word on the present day rage for exceedingly light cancellations. Is this the best condition in which to secure used stamps?



We venture to suggest that it is not. The desire of the collector should be not to secure specimens almost untouched by the cancelling stamps, but with clean and definite postmarks which, while showing clearly that a stamp has been used, and how it has been used, yet enable the collector to see and study the design. The ideal used stamp is that which shows all its freshness of colour, is clean, uncreased, has none of the design cut off by perforations, and bears a clear, well defined, and characteristic postmark. There are a few collectors who argue that the desire for well-centred stamps is a sign of the modern decadence of collecting and that the collector's object should be to secure, not perfect specimens, but characteristic stamps. We admit that there is some force in the contention, but we do not think that very many collectors are likely to regard the ill-centred stamp as better than the well-centred one. However, badly stamps may be produced the collector usually looks to the condition in which it was intended to issue them.

### Our Competitions.

We trust that our readers are keeping in mind the competitions of which the full conditions are given in our advertising pages. If you like the journal do what you can to further its success by entering for one or other of the competitions, and recommending "THE NEW ZEALAND PHILATELIST" to your friends.

### REVIEWS.

#### Messrs Stanley Gibbon's Catalogue Part 1. 1904 (16th edition).—

The new edition of this famous catalogue has just reached us. There is a considerable increase in size, the present edition being larger by thirty-one pages than that for 1903. The same admirable features presented in previous years are still prominent, and justify the very high esteem in which this catalogue is held the world over. Our experience extending over many years has more and more convinced us that the greatest possible care is taken in fixing the prices of stamps. Of course there will be many differences of opinion

in regard to individual stamps, but the prices given here are based upon supplies actually held by the publishers together with a comparison of the price lists of the world. Of Australasian countries New South Wales, New Zealand and Victoria have received special attention. Local interest will chiefly centre on the revisions in the New Zealand list. These are very numerous and will greatly enhance the value of the catalogue in the esteem of many of our readers. The general tendency of prices is upward, but while this is so we notice that in the early issues of the "full-faced queen" type there are ten reductions in price. The varieties of the ½d. rose (1873-75) are now more fully priced than for many years and the same may be said of the whole issue 1874-1878 which has been entirely re-arranged. The 2d rose on white paper perf. 10 x 12½ is priced for the first time for many years at 50s. The 2s. and 5s. of 1878 show a decline in price which we cannot regard as justifiable. The list of stamps of 1882-97 is now extended to include those perforated 12½ and 10 compound, but we can hardly regard this list as being yet complete. All the later issues have been arranged with due care though not with that minuteness of detail which some specialists might desire. This list of postal fiscals we cannot regard as useful or satisfactory. On the whole we welcome the new edition of this catalogue as a work of very great value to the Philatelist. When we say that this issue is even better than that of 1903 we feel that we cannot by any use of superlatives go further in praise.

#### Messrs Theodore Champion & Co.'s Catalogue, 1904. (8th edition).—

This is the standard French catalogue being identical with that of Messrs Yvert and Tellier. It contains a price list of the postage stamps of the world together with envelopes, wrappers, telegraph stamps and stamps of Government railways. The whole forms a bulky volume of over 800 pages. The illustrations throughout are excellent and the prices seem to have been carefully considered. The day is past when collectors were satisfied with the

use of one catalogue only, and most advanced collectors will desire to have this work by them for reference, while those who make a speciality of France and her colonies will find it invaluable. Looking through the prices of the stamps of New Zealand it will be noticed that they are generally somewhat lower than those given in English catalogues, but not to a very marked extent, and the same seems to be true in a general way throughout the whole list. The arrangement of this catalogue is excellent, and brief notes are here and there appended which might well be inserted in English catalogues. The work is rendered of additional value by an explanation of philatelic terms, a table of foreign money and a plate of seventy watermarks. We heartily recommend this catalogue as a work of reference. The price of the book is three francs.

**The Century Stamp Co.'s Price List.**—We have received from the Century Stamp Co., of Montreal a neat little priced catalogue of British North American stamps. The lists are almost completely priced for used and unused and the prices themselves should prove attractive to those who have blanks to fill in this portion of their albums.

## THE PHILATELIC STORY-TELLER.

### "Post Office" Mauritius.

(BY B. HERVEY.)

Some years ago I was an ardent stamp collector; and though out in India, where members of the philatelic persuasion were fewer and farther between than they are now, I managed to maintain a pretty lively exchange business with local as well as foreign enthusiasts. My collection numbered some four thousand—bona fide varieties; clean of all those abominations such as reprints, facsimiles, fakes, and forgeries which have so increased during the last quarter of a century; and I did not go in either for those minuter distinctions of watermark, perforation and shade, which are all the vogue nowadays.

I was stationed in the interior, and

having been granted a short leave of absence, I decided on spending it at Madras, a city I had hitherto never visited. Arrived there, I took up my abode in the detached bachelor wing of the Imperial Hotel; and in the process of making myself comfortable I set out my stamp books, &c., on a side table in my sitting-room; for, mid the *dolce far niente* of other attractions, I meant to keep my eye on my pet hobby. This sitting-room had a large barred window looking on to the front verandah, common to the entire row of apartments, which stood distinct from the main building, where families were located and meals served.

Returning from town after a day's shopping, I left the hack conveyance at the hotel porch, and, to save time, walked across to my diggings. On stepping up into the verandah I was surprised to see a knowing-looking, middle-aged white man planted at my window and intently regarding the interior; while, jealously eyeing him, my servant kept sentry over the door.

"Halloa, sir! What interests you in my room?" was my natural query.

He turned to me and smiled. "Stamps?" he said, interrogatively, nodding at the same time in the direction of that side table.

"Yes; but what on earth do you—"

"Shake!" he shouted, interrupting me, and extended his "paw," while the smile expanded into a grin of delight.

We shook.

"I'm a stamp crank too!" he continued eagerly. "I'm from Philadelphia, I am; my name is Theodore S. Bratt, and I'm just prospecting creation—to see the world, but mainly to hunt up stamps. I've got the dollars, stranger, and am on my own keel. I landed from the French boat this morning, and, 'cording to the Guide Book I drove slick here. While mooching about the location, I chanced to squint through your window, and by the fixings on your table I guessed that a pretty considerable stamp man owned that lot. I've been squinting in off and on the whole day. Don't know your temperature on the subject of philately, mister, but if it can be

gauged by mine I calculate you're just as glad to drop across me as I am to run up against you."

He spoke genially; but the use of Americanisms and a certain roughness of tone and manner did not suggest refinement. However, I cared little for this; he was a brother stamp collector. I unbent at once; told him all about myself, and, for the rest, the philatelic bond or union speedily made us as thick as thieves.

At my invitation he brought his books into my room, and we forthwith set to examining each other's collections. My brain whirled during the process; but we said nothing, beyond giving vent to an occasional exclamation as he or I came upon some gem or curiosity. Our albums done with, we proceeded to trade. But whereas my single duplicate book contained about two thousand, this fellow had half a dozen closely crammed volumes! As for his collection proper, it far outnumbered mine, and must have quadrupled it in value. True, I beat him in Asiatics; but when I say that he had complete Spain from 1850 to 1855; several U.S. Postmasters; every specimen of the subsequent general issues to date; all the Thurn and Taxis used; many of the coveted old Australasians, British Guiana, and others—you will understand my feelings as I looked through Theodore S. Bratt's albums.

Then his duplicate books! I held my breath as I turned the pages—thick with rarities; on almost every sheet appeared stamps I had dreamt of, and hitherto endeavoured in vain to acquire. My mouth simply watered!

We agreed to exchange stamp for stamp; mine being the smaller assortment, he had first innings, and took 120 from my duplicates. Needless to mention that I found no difficulty in paying myself from his.

"Shake!" he ejaculated at the close of the transaction.

We shook.

"Tain't much of a swop after all," he remarked. "But I see, Mr. Walker, you're in the same box as myself as regards those 'Post-Office' Mauritiuses."

"In the same box not only with you,

but every collector under the sun, barring perhaps half a dozen or so. I've been trying to get them for the last twenty years."

"And so have I—for thirty years; both the things! Now, as we're brethren in misfortune, I'll let you down on to something which I've a mind we can work between us. Will you stick?"

"Like wax!" I replied, reckless of what he might want me to stick to.

"First, are you your own boss?"

"Yes, for the next four days."

Producing and spreading out a folding map of India, he consulted a note book, then, after searching the chart for a little: "There!" he exclaimed, "that's the nearest depot, Pendarum; and the clearing is about twenty-five miles to the north."

"What clearing?" I asked, gaping at him.

"The clearing where I've a notion we can sail in on some 'Post-Office' Mauritiuses. Listen, Mr. Walker, and I'll tell you. My boat stopped three days at Galle, during which guess I passed the time ashore hunting round for stamps. While so, I knocked against an old coloured Dutch mister at the hotel. We foregathered; and after we had become friendly like, I told him who I was and what after. He said he was sorry he could not help me in my line nohow; but after a heap of palavering, and more explaining on my side, he calculated he could give me a tip which might be useful. He said as he had been for a grist of years emigration agent or factor, or something under the Madras Government at a sea-coast town, by name Adeenarainvasel; he had recently come from there on the close of the concern. He fingered it out on the hotel map—also the railway depot, Pendarum, and I chalked down the name slick. This Adeenarainvasel, he said, used to be a head-centre of emigration to Mauritius, and some other locations; but Mauritius was quite enough for me. He also said the niggers'd remain there from two to ten years, making their pile and sending money and notions of sorts to their families and friends at home;

and that, as the natives of those parts are known to preserve every scrap of mail matter, he calculated that I could make a fairish haul of Mauritiuses at the place—if so be I sloped over there some fine day. What do say Mr. Walker?"

I trembled with suppressed excitement as I listened; it was all news to me. The bare idea of unearthing "Post Offices," perhaps by the dozen, set my fibres tingling; for even in those days the stamps commanded fabulous prices.

"You didn't let out to the Dutch mister on the intrinsic value of old Mauritius, did you?"

Bratt winked candidly. "No, siree! This child ain't no pickaninny just yet. Old Dutchy knows nothing about the stamp craze; you bet I did not enlighten him, and he couldn't fix it up nohow why I should be round for little bits of useless smudged paper—as he called them. He said he was sure that ne'er a white man had ever poked his nose into Adecen-arainvasel—for stamps, tkat is."

"Well, what do you propose doing?"

"What's the lingo down there?"

"Tamil."

"As good as Choctaw to me. Can you lay tongue to it?"

"Yes; fluently."

"Good. Well, it strikes me more nor ever then that you and I have to take the curs there. The idea entered my head directly I sighted your stamp fixings, and it has just dug claws into my brain since we've palavered. I'd be helpless—with-out you to do the jawing and conducting. What d'you say?"

"By all means! Let's go."

"Shake!"

We shook.

"You run the show straight away, I'll find the dollars for everything, and we can square afterwards. See?"

"Yes."

"And we'll divide the booty. Shake!"

We shook once more.

(To be continued).

## STAMP COLLECTING AND WHAT IT TEACHES.

[Through the kindness of Mr. T. H. Nicolle, the well-known Sydney stamp dealer, we have been enabled to see a copy of the first number of *The New South Wales Stamp Collector's Magazine* published in Sydney in November, 1879. The magazine gives a very fair idea of stamp collecting as it was in Australasia at that date. We extract one article, with trifling alterations, which seems to have lost none of its force even after the lapse of so many years and the growth and extension of Philately.]

Philately, or its kindred French term "Timbrologie," has been defined in the constitution of the French Society as having for its object "the study of stamps both in themselves, and also in their connection with chronology, history, geography, government and finances, philology and the fine arts." This definition, admirable as it is, is apt to confuse the beginner. Stamp collecting for the purposes of studying the stamps themselves seems rational enough to all, but the objection may be raised, why neglect the ordinary methods and resort to stamps to acquaint us with the other sciences mentioned? The answer is simple enough—do not neglect the ordinary methods. The most ardent philatelist does not claim that postage stamps alone can thoroughly familiarise us with geography, history, &c., but rather that they are a valuable assistant in impressing facts acquired in the school room or the study.

Take geography for instance. How few of us would remember such names as Cabul, Sarawak, Deccan, Antioquia, Tolima, Cudinamarca and a dozen others if we did not have some peculiar reason for impressing them on our memory? Or even if we remembered the names, would we have any idea of the localities designated? With the philatelist, however, the case is different. He acquires a stamp of Sarawak, fastens it in his album, and every time he turns over the pages the name and the stamp stands out before

him. He must of course remember both, for he prizes the stamp and in speaking of it must employ the name. Perhaps some day has occasion to turn to the map of Borneo and is confused by the outlandish names figuring thereon. Suddenly his eye lights on *Sarawak*. "Ah," says he, "there's the place from which that stamp of mine comes," and the locality is impressed upon him and brought to mind every time he sees the stamps. And so it is with dozens of places (and important places, too) with which the general public is totally unacquainted, for even if they read the names they leave no impression, and cannot be recalled five minutes afterwards.

viewed in connection with chronology, ory and government, stamps are of a greater usefulness as they nearly all bear the heads of rulers, the arms of the country, or some emblematic device. Take for instance the stamps of Great Britain. All of them were adorned with the Queen's head. We find the same head on the stamps of Antigua, Bahamas, Bermuda, British Columbia, British Honduras, Ceylon, Dominica, Gambia, Gold Coast, Grenada, Heligoland, Hong Kong, India, Jamaica, Lagos, Mauritius, Natal, Newfoundland, New South Wales, New Zealand, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Queensland, Sierra Leone, St. Helena, St. Vincent, Straits Settlements, Tasmania, Turks Island and Victoria. From this cursory glance through an album we cannot fail to be impressed with the fact that the Englishman utters no vain boast in saying that on the empire of his sovereign the sun never sets.

Or turn to the stamps of France, and we see the first issue 1849-50 adorned with the head of Liberty and bearing the inscription "Republic Francaise" in an abbreviated form. [The writer is hardly correct here. It is the head of Ceres the goddess of corn and harvest that is represented on the French stamps.—Ed. N.Z.P.] In 1852 we find the inscription unchanged, but the emblematic profile has given place to that of Napoleon. A year later and even the semblance of

republicanism is thrown off, and the stamps announce "Empire Francaise," and from 1863 to 1869, as if to mark the zenith of his power, we find the emperor's head encircled with a laurel wreath. In 1870 the old dies again appear commemorating the birth of the third republic; but, to remind us of the Franco-German war, we meet an unpretentious set of labels, issued by the Germans, for use in such portions of France as were held by them, and more especially in Alsace and Lorraine.

Or take Peru. Here is the Llama reminding us of the Peruvian wool. Or more historic still are the stamps bearing a picture of the sun. We think at once of Cuzco with its temples of gold, of the Incas and the children of the sun. But here we have another label, with an American locomotive portrayed thereon, reminding us that "Yankee" enterprise has overcome even the Cordilleras. And so we might continue with nearly every country, but space will not permit. It is, however, hoped that the examples cited will convince all that postage stamps serve to impress indelibly facts learned in the ordinary course of study of chronology, history and government.

As aids in the study of finances and philology the sphere of stamps is perhaps somewhat limited, but nevertheless considerable information can be gathered therefrom. Nearly all stamps bear the names of their respective countries, and have their valuations expressed. Turn to Bavaria, for instance, and we have the cardinals, *ein, drie, sechs*, etc., or to Italy and find *cinque, dieci, venti*. Nearly all philatelists can enumerate the cardinal numbers (or many of them) in several languages. Or, as to currencies: for Austria and the Southern German States we find the *kreuzer* as the unit of value; Northern Germany has the *groschen*. The uniform currency of France, Switzerland, and Belgium, can be learned from their stamps, all the values being expressed in *centimes* and *francs*; or, in the case of Italy, by *centesimi* and *lire*, which are equivalent to *centimes* and *francs*.

The fact that a decimal currency is coming more and more into vogue can be gathered from postage stamps. Some of the British Colonies, such as Canada and Ceylon, whose early issues bore values in pence, have since changed their currency to dollars and cents, and their postal labels perpetuate the fact. Some of the early Canadian stamps are records of the transition state, the values being expressed in pence, and the equivalent in cents.

As to the fine arts, it must readily appear to any one that the study of postage stamps acquaints the collector with engraving and lithography in all its stages. What a contrast, indeed, between the stamps of the early days of Mauritius and New South Wales and the finely engraved labels of to-day. Take the magnificent productions of the bank note companies, or of De La Rue, of London: they illustrate the perfection of the engraver's art, and the longer one studies them the better fit one becomes to appreciate minuteness of detail and perfection of finish, which, while recognised as indispensable upon works of a larger scale, are nowhere more readily appreciated or quickly missed than upon postage stamps, where everything has to be reduced to such diminutive proportions.

CHAS. H. COSTER.

### A STAMP WORTH £1,450.

Messrs. Puttick and Simpson recently offered at their auction rooms a twopenny blue Mauritius postage stamp, the property of Mr. James Bonar, of Hamstead, who discovered it recently in a collection made by him when he was a boy at school in 1864. A stamp of the same kind sold a few years ago for more than £1,100, and only four or five unused specimens are in existence. The room was crowded at the time of the sale, more than 600 persons being present. The first bid was £500. The bids rose by hundreds, and there was no slackening of the competition until £1,300 was offered. Then a gentleman raised it by £20, but the bid

was disregarded and a Mr. Crawford became the purchaser at £1,450.

[NOTE.—It is understood that Mr. Crawford purchased for the Prince of Wales].

### NELSON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

THE Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 26th, at 7.30 p.m. at "Newstead," instead of on the 29th as previously arranged. A full attendance is hoped for, as several matters of interest to members will be discussed.

NINA JONES,

Hon. Sec.

### EXHIBITION OF RARE STAMPS.

At the Albemarle Galleries, Albemarle-street, the other day, Mr. D. Field held a Press view of his exhibition of rare stamps. The display, which was on for a week from 10 o'clock in the morning to 8 in the evening, includes some of the choicest stamps sought after by the British specialist. Of the first adhesive stamp issued, the British 1d. black of 1840, a block of 30 specimens in mint condition is on view. The 3d. stamp of Great Britain, impressed from plate 4 in 1867, is rare as a single stamp, but Mr Field displays it in panes of twenty. The 6d. of 1855 on bluish paper is exceedingly rare, being worth about £100. A curiosity in the stamps of Great Britain is a 5d. stamp of 1880, without the value, the omission being caused by an error in the printing. An interesting set were shown of the stamps which were issued by the Circular Delivery Companies from 1865-68, and were suppressed by the Postmaster-General. The rarest stamp in the collection is a local issue of the town of Hamilton in Bermuda. This is a label of no particular design but bearing the names, "Hamilton, Bermuda," in type, set in a circular form. The facial value, "one penny," is written and the stamp bears also the signature of the postmaster, Mr. William B. Perot, who issued the stamp in 1849. Only two specimens of this stamp are known to

exist. There is also a complete set of Mafeking stamps in blocks, including the rare 6d. surcharged on British Bechuanaland stamps. The only two complete sheets of the 6d. Transvaal stamps of 1877 known are included in the display. The triangular Cape of Good Hope stamps are well represented, one 4d. dark blue in the unused condition being worth about £200. There is also a specimen of the 1d rare woodblock error which was printed in blue instead of red. This is worth £100. Two pages of Griqualand specimens represent a total value of about £100. The New Brunswick 1s. stamp of 1851 is shown; its value is about £12. The 7½d green stamp of 1852 is one of Canada's best known rarities, and is worth £25 in mint condition, as shown at the Albemarle Galleries. One early stamp of New South Wales, the 1d of 1850, is worth £50, while a pair of penny Tasmanian specimens on pelure paper, issued in 1856, is valued at £100. A £5 Natal stamp, surcharged for use in Zululand, is worth £60. The whole collection shown by Mr. Field is one of the best displays of rare philatelic specimens ever exhibited by an English stamp dealer. The only similar display was Mr C. Whitfield King's exhibition at Morpeth House, Ipswich, in 1895. The total value of the display at the Albemarle Galleries is estimated at £20,000.

### NOTES AND CLIPPINGS.

Very kindly mentions of the *New Zealand Philatelist* appear in both the *Australian Philatelist* and *The Australian Journal of Philately*. We heartily reciprocate the good will expressed, and trust that our journal may fill as useful a place among the collectors of the colony as the journals mentioned are filling in the Australian Commonwealth.

Mr. James Cocks, of New South Wales, informs us that he has the New Zealand 4d discount stamp on paper watermarked "postage," and also the 6d carmine, pictorial doubly impressed.

We hope to begin publishing in our

next issue a series of portraits of the leading New Zealand collectors.

We are threatened with a new surcharged issue of stamps for Mangaia in the Cook Islands.

In the *Australian Philatelist* attention is called to the variation in size of the star watermark of the early New Zealand issues. Mr Joseph Davis, of Melbourne, has shown some specimens of the 1872 issue in which one star measures 17 mm and another 13 mm.

The current New Zealand wrapper (King's Head) has been issued on surfaced buff paper. The first issue was on rough cream.

The *New Zealand Graphic* has a capital article in defence of the New Zealand postal administration in the matter of recent stamp issues. There are two sides to every question, and the discussion of the matter will do nothing but good.

Intending subscribers to the *New Zealand Philatelist* should not delay longer, but take immediate advantage of the offer made in our advertising pages. We cannot promise that the special offer will be renewed.

A trial has been made recently, in Washington, U.S.A., of a letter box, designed particularly for special delivery letters. If you inserted a letter bearing a 2 cent stamp and dropped a dime in a slot, a special delivery stamp would be affixed to the letter. Messenger boys collect every half hour. It has not been decided whether or not these boxes will work successfully.

### CHRONICLE.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, JOHORE — *Even's Weekly* chronicles the 3 dollar stamp, purple and blue, surcharged 50 cents in black.

COREA.—A new series have been issued with the inscription in French instead of English.

There has been a marked falling off in the number of new stamps and varieties appearing during the last few weeks. We trust this is an earnest of a better state of affairs.



SOME KING'S HEAD TYPES.





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## PREFACE.

Sixteen months having elapsed since the publication of the third edition of the UNIVERSAL STANDARD CATALOGUE, a fourth edition becomes a necessity, owing to the numerous changes which have taken place in values, as well as to the large number of new issues, the most important of which are the stamps of Great Britain and Colonies bearing the portrait of King Edward VII., of these we have included all known to be issued up to the end of *February*, 1903.

Numerous improvements in classification have been made, our aim being always simplicity and clearness, and whilst rigidly excluding all minor varieties, especially of perforation, we have felt it necessary in some cases to extend the lists by including many varieties which are not found in previous editions; these include Bavaria, Belgium, Brazil, Newfoundland, New Republic, Oil Rivers, Switzerland, &c., all of which have been entirely re-written. The whole catalogue has been re-set in fresh type, and as the alterations are very numerous, the numbers in many countries do not agree with those of the third edition. Arrangements have now been made to keep the whole of the type standing, and it will be our endeavour in future editions to disturb the catalogue numbers as little as possible.

The stamps of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., Suez Canal and Tierra del Fuego have now been omitted, as they must be considered as locals.

As to prices, this subject is dealt with on the next page, and we do not consider it necessary to add anything here.

The fifth edition of this catalogue will be published when the present edition is sold out, it is impossible to fix the date, even approximately, but due notice of same will be given in our Monthly Novelty List, and in our various advertisements.

The following statistics, compiled at the last moment before going to press, may not be uninteresting:—The total number of stamps issued to date, as included in this catalogue, is 17,382, of which \*4,952 are apportioned to Great Britain and Colonies, and \*12,430 to the rest of the world. Europe has issued 3,917, Asia 3,120, Africa 3,342. America 4,214, the West Indies 1,411, and Oceania, 1,378. The Republic of Salvador has issued the greatest number of varieties, and Boyaca, Poland and Wadhwan the smallest. Of course these figures refer to standard varieties only.

WHITFIELD KING & CO.

IPSWICH, *March 1st*, 1903.

\* These figures differ slightly from those given in the Preface to Catalogue, an error having been discovered after the edition was all printed.

**NEWFOUNDLAND.**

**NEWFOUNDLAND—contd.**

|                 | <i>Unused.</i> | <i>Used.</i> |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
|                 | <i>s. d.</i>   | <i>s. d.</i> |
| 10c., black ..  | 7 6            | 3 6          |
| 12c., red-brown | 2 6            | 2 6          |
| 13c., orange .. | 3 6            | 4 6          |
| 24c., blue ..   | 2 6            | 2 6          |



**1868-73. Perforated.**

|                   |      |      |
|-------------------|------|------|
| 1c., purple ..    | 3 6  |      |
| 1c., lilac-brown  | 4 6  | 3 6  |
| 3c., vermilion    | 15 0 | 12 6 |
| 3c., blue ..      | 6 0  | 2 0  |
| 5c., black (seal) | 18 0 | 12 0 |
| 6c., rose ..      | 1 0  | 1 0  |

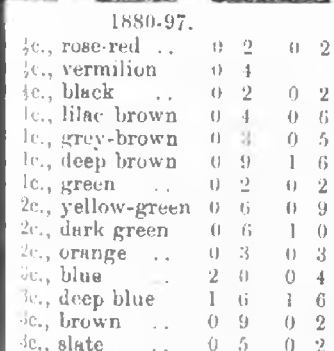
**1876. Rouletted.**

|                   |     |     |
|-------------------|-----|-----|
| 1c., violet-brown | 7 6 | 5 6 |
| 2c., green ..     | 3 0 | 3 6 |
| 3c., blue ..      | 8 6 | 1 9 |
| 6c., ..           | 6 6 | 1 0 |



**1880-97.**

|                   |     |     |
|-------------------|-----|-----|
| ½c., rose-red ..  | 0 2 | 0 2 |
| ½c., vermilion    | 0 4 |     |
| ½c., black ..     | 0 2 | 0 2 |
| 1c., lilac brown  | 0 4 | 0 6 |
| 1c., grey-brown   | 0 3 | 0 5 |
| 1c., deep brown   | 0 9 | 1 6 |
| 1c., green ..     | 0 2 | 0 2 |
| 2c., yellow-green | 0 6 | 0 9 |
| 2c., dark green   | 0 6 | 1 0 |
| 2c., orange ..    | 0 3 | 0 3 |
| 3c., blue ..      | 2 0 | 0 4 |
| 3c., deep blue    | 1 6 | 1 6 |
| 5c., brown ..     | 0 9 | 0 2 |
| 5c., slate ..     | 0 5 | 0 2 |



| No. |                  | <i>Unused.</i> | <i>Used.</i> |
|-----|------------------|----------------|--------------|
|     |                  | <i>s. d.</i>   | <i>s. d.</i> |
| 52  | 5c., deep blue   | 1 0            | 0 4          |
| 53  | 5c., sky blue .. | 1 0            | 1 0          |
| 54  | 6c., lake ..     | 0 6            | 0 6          |
| 55  | 10c., black ..   | 1 0            | 1 3          |
| 56  | 12c., brown-lake | 1 3            | 1 6          |



**1897. Cabot Celebration issue.**

|    |                  |      |      |
|----|------------------|------|------|
| 57 | 1c., green ..    | 0 3  | 0 5  |
| 58 | 2c., carmine ..  | 0 4  | 0 5  |
| 59 | 3c., blue ..     | 0 5  | 0 2  |
| 60 | 4c., olive-green | 0 4  | 0 4  |
| 61 | 5c., mauve ..    | 0 5  | 0 4  |
| 62 | 6c., red-brown   | 0 6  | 0 6  |
| 63 | 8c., orange ..   | 0 7  | 0 7  |
| 64 | 10c., deep brown | 0 9  | 0 9  |
| 65 | 12c., deep blue  | 0 10 | 0 10 |
| 66 | 15c., vermilion  | 1 0  | 1 3  |
| 67 | 24c., violet ..  | 1 6  | 2 0  |
| 68 | 30c., grey-black | 1 9  | 2 0  |
| 69 | 35c., red ..     | 2 3  | 2 6  |
| 70 | 60c., black ..   | 3 6  | 4 0  |

**No. 51, surch. "One Cent" in black.**

|    |                   |     |     |
|----|-------------------|-----|-----|
| 71 | 1c. on 3c., slate | 2 6 | 3 6 |
|----|-------------------|-----|-----|



Prince Edward.



Queen Victoria.



Edward VII.



Queen Alexandra



Princess of Wales.



Prince of Wales.

**1898.**

|    |                   |      |      |
|----|-------------------|------|------|
| 72 | ½c., bronze-green | 0 0½ | 0 0½ |
|----|-------------------|------|------|



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With which is incorporated "The Sterling Monthly."

VOL. I. No. 4.

APRIL, 1904.

PRICE 3D.

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## EDITORIAL.

### Patriotism.

We in New Zealand take to ourselves the credit of being among the most patriotic subjects of the British Empire. Not only are we patriotic as regards the Empire itself, but we hold our own land the best of all the lands, and are proud, as we think justly, of our own Britain of the South. This feeling of patriotism extends even to the collection of postage stamps. Among our New Zealand collectors no stamps are so popular as those of our own colony. Even the multiplicity of new issues within the last few years has failed seriously to shake our faith or lessen our interest. We are proud to think that our record is after all so clean. No reprints have ever been issued and no stamps have been surcharged for public use within the colony itself. Our postal issues are exceedingly interesting without being difficult beyond the intellectual powers of the ordinary collector. Many

fine collections of the stamps of the colony already exist in New Zealand, and many that promise to be still finer are in the course of formation. While this is so, is it not reasonable to expect that the patriotism of New Zealand collectors should lead to the enthusiastic support of the only journal published exclusively in their interests in the colony? We are not complaining of our subscription list which continues to steadily rise, though even in this direction much help might still be rendered by our leading philatelists, but we feel that we have a real grievance in the fact that our subscribers send us so little information of general philatelic interest. Everywhere philatelists of energy and intelligence are working among us and yet only in rare cases do they favour us with the results of their study. This is not patriotic. We don't want newspaper clippings, we want original notes likely to interest and help our readers. We trust that it is only necessary to mention the matter in order to have the help we need to make our paper more and more worthy of enthusiastic support.

### The Breadth of the Field.

Turning to a catalogue list of our stamps it is no very difficult matter to make suggestions as to lines of study and information which would be of real value to our readers. What do you know about the first issue of New Zealand on the star watermarked paper? What information can you give us about the rouletting, pin

perforating and serrating of our early stamps? Can you add anything to our store of knowledge about the lozenge watermark? What have you to tell us about early New Zealand postmarks? Here are four questions of intense interest all relating to the "full-faced-queen" issues. Going on through the list many similar problems suggest themselves. To the few they may be problems already solved, to the many they present real difficulties, or at least the explanations given will go far to increase the interest of collectors. Those who desire the permanence of our hobby should be ready to give to others from their store of information and the true medium of enlightenment should be a philatelic journal published in our own colony. We wait with expectancy to see whether the patriotism of our advanced philatelists will stand the test.

### A Collector's Priced Catalogue,

To produce a priced catalogue which is not a dealers' price list has been the dream of many of our philatelic brethren. The latest attempt is being made by 64 leading collectors in France. We cannot think that the result will give much satisfaction. There can be no finality in such a compilation. No argument from official records of numbers issued or from numbers known to exist can get beyond the plain fact on which the whole question of stamp prices turns that a stamp is worth just as much as you can get for

it and no more. The "post office" Mauritius stamps are not the rarest in the world, but they have brought the highest prices. The only true catalogue is that based on stocks held and the wholesale prices in the issuing countries. The truest catalogue is likely to be that based on the largest stock. In the best of priced lists there will be errors of judgement, but the errors of a similar kind are likely to be far more numerous in a work compiled by a committee who are not offering the stamps for sale. A collector's catalogue should be a work of very great value if the matter of prices were left alone and the whole energy of the compilers directed towards getting a complete and absolutely accurate list of the stamps themselves.

### Variation in Prices.

In order to form some idea of the extent to which prices vary in the actual selling lists of the various dealers it is necessary to compare the current catalogues. We have compiled the following list of the prices of New Zealand stamps from the catalogues of reliable dealers, taking a few varieties at random. Nothing, we think, could more clearly demonstrate the hopeless nature of the task which the French committee are attempting than such a comparison, and if to this list were added the various prices realised by these stamps at auction the difficulty would be only the more accentuated.

| Stanley Gibbons' No.<br>1904. | Stanley Gibbons<br>English |   | Scott<br>American |    | Whitfield<br>King, Stan-<br>dard universal |   | Champion and<br>Yvert & Tellier<br>French |   | Nicolle,<br>Australia |   | Hagen,<br>Australia<br>1903. |    |   |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---|-------------------|----|--|---|---|---|-----------------------|---|------------------------------|----|---|
|                               | s                          | d | s                 | d  | s  | d | s   | d | s                     | d | s                            | d  |   |
| 6                             | 55                         | 0 | 56                | 3  | 55   | 0 | 41  | 8 | —                     | — | —                            | —  |   |
| 12                            | 6                          | 0 | 4                 | 2  | 4  | 0 | 3   | 9 | 4                     | 0 | —                            | 3  | 9 |
| 29                            | 40                         | 0 | 45                | 10 | 45   | 0 | 41  | 8 | —                     | — | —                            | —  |   |
| 41                            | 10                         | 0 | 10                | 5  | 5  | 0 | 4   | 2 | 7                     | 6 | —                            | 9  | 0 |
| 51                            | 12                         | 0 | 10                | 5  | 7  | 6 | 6   | 8 | 7                     | 6 | —                            | 8  | 6 |
| 66                            | 10                         | 0 | 9                 | 4½ | 5  | 0 | 5   | 0 | 5                     | 6 | —                            | 5  | 6 |
| 85                            | 8                          | 0 | 7                 | 8½ | 6  | 0 | 6   | 8 | 7                     | 6 | —                            | 7  | 6 |
| 96                            | 2                          | 0 | 2                 | 1  | 1  | 6 | 0   | 9 | 1                     | 6 | —                            | 1  | 6 |
| 140d                          | 10                         | 0 | 15                | 7½ | 11   | 6 | 8   | 4 | 12                    | 6 | —                            | —  | — |
| 208                           | 17                         | 8 | 25                | 0  | 20   | 0 | 14  | 7 | 15                    | 0 | —                            | 15 | 0 |

Note.—For convenience of comparison we have converted American and French prices, given in dollars and cents or francs and centimes, into the exact equivalent in English currency.

When it is added that the labours of the committee have extended over a period of three years another element of difficulty confronts us. Three years is a period long enough for changes of the most important kind. In that time a stamp may increase in value tenfold or there may be a corresponding fall. Philately has its fashions, large supplies of a stamp may be thrown on the market, or the relative rarity of a variety may be demonstrated by research, a thousand and one things may happen to cause the charge. In New Zealand the three years period has not been momentous, but the following table compiled from the three last issues of Stanley Gibbons' catalogue is instructive:—

| Stanley Gibbons No. 1904 | 1902 |    | 1903 |    | 1904. |    |
|--------------------------|------|----|------|----|-------|----|
|                          | s.   | d. | s.   | d. | s.    | d. |
| 6                        | 60   | 0  | 55   | 0  | 55    | 0  |
| 12                       | 4    | 6  | 4    | 6  | 6     | 0  |
| 29                       | 45   | 0  | 45   | 0  | 40    | 0  |
| 41                       | 10   | 0  | 10   | 0  | 10    | 0  |
| 51                       | 10   | 0  | 12   | 0  | 12    | 0  |
| 66                       | 6    | 6  | 10   | 0  | 10    | 0  |
| 85                       | 7    | 6  | 8    | 0  | 8     | 0  |
| 96                       | 2    | 0  | 2    | 0  | 2     | 0  |
| 140d                     | 15   | 0  | 15   | 0  | 10    | 0  |
| 208                      | 25   | 0  | 25   | 0  | 17    | 6  |

Note.—These particular numbers are chosen pretty much at random, and seem to indicate steadily falling prices. Such is, of course, not really the case when the full lists are examined.

To all the above difficulties must be added yet another—the question of condition. Hitherto no dealer has fairly faced this, unless we except our Australian cataloguers whose prices are, we believe, for stamps in fine condition unless otherwise stated. The fine condition of a rare stamp may treble its value, and it seems all but impossible that a catalogue should be devised which would clearly indicate the value of a stamp according to condition. On the whole we are prepared to welcome the collector's catalogue, but it will not be worth much until the idea of pricing is given up.

## OUR SOUTH AMERICAN LETTER.

### Algo Nuevo.

The conservative spirit of the average Englishman follows him into matters philatelic. "Great Britain and her Colonies" is his almost invariable speciality. But he loses much by his conservatism, for his collection is hardly ever fairly complete and never artistic. It is my purpose in this short article to tell of something not British and yet something good.

Almost immediately on coming to the Argentine I started an extreme specialist's collection of the stamps of this country and those of Chili and Uruguay, the pleasure afforded me by this effort being so decidedly genuine that I now seek to enlist a wee bit of interest amongst New Zealanders in these most enhancing countries.

I want to tell you and make you believe the truth about our stamps in these much libelled parts, for, personally, I would much rather possess a complete collection of, say, Uruguayan stamps than one of all our colonies combined.

First, the stamps of the countries I have mentioned are so artistic that they immediately attract attention. New Zealand started dabbling in art in 1898 whilst we neighbours had been already about 20 years teaching the world by example. Just look at the 1889 and 1894 issues of Uruguay! The world is beaten by them. It has been a favourite occupation of mine to show non-collecting friends the excellence of the engraver's work on these veritable gems by means of the microscope. The "peso" values, more especially, are wonderful productions.

Then, there are just enough interesting varieties to give zest to the collector of our stamps. The Confederation Argentines are only to be completed with a struggle and so are the Rivadavia imperforate issue of 1864-7. The limited number of Argentine surcharges are a very clean lot, and, with the exception of

the 1887 issue, which an Englishman has falsified extensively, are free from forgeries. In the 1888-90 the two cents "Lopez" has five varieties and these are not difficult to obtain. Coming on to the current issue we find two perforations (this is refreshing to the New Zealander) viz., 14¼ and 12. The latter is the rarer variety and should be picked up quickly. The 12 cent olive and 16 cent orange of this issue are going to be high priced later on.

The high values—pesos 5, 10 and 20—are principally used on post office box receipts and are found cancelled in black and violet. The latter colour, I believe, should not be depreciated. The only other use these stamps are put to is as receipts for periodical payments made by newspapers for the transmission of their publications, when they are cancelled by perforation. In the 1892-8 issue this was done by a large O and in the present issue the word "inutilizado" is punched through about every six. Such cancellations are, of course, not to be valued like the former, though a complete collection should contain them.

And now for a final word. It will be with reference to the businesslike postal administrations in our countries in southern South America. We are thousands of miles from San Salvador and Nicaragua and yet we have to bear the sneer of the ignorant on account of the latter countries' large "deals" of late. With this we have as much to do as New Zealand has to do with Labuan and North Borneo. No, our stamps appeared only when they were needed, are cleanly perforated, and of uniform colours. What more can be said of any administration?

This is necessarily an incomplete article. How about specializing the stamps of Argentine, Uruguay and Chili? Do it, and I'll guarantee to you what a philatelist seeks when he gets heartily enthusiastic.

R.S.H.

Rosario-de-Santa Fe.

## NEW ZEALAND FORGERIES.

The maker of counterfeit stamps has

never turned his attention seriously to the stamps of this Colony. Years ago there were some paltry lithographs made in imitation of some of our older stamps, but none of these were dangerous, and to-day such specimens would probably be as hard to find as the genuine originals. Our earliest dies were the work of Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, and no one could with reasonable success imitate that work except at very great cost. For all this we should be most devoutly thankful.

But the collecting of New Zealand stamps is not without its dangers and some manufactured varieties there are to which attention may well be called. Such "fakes" are apt to be very dangerous to beginners and in some cases might deceive even experienced collectors. A list of such forgeries as may be met with is all that we can offer here. Their detection is a matter of skill acquired by practice and the knowledge of the real articles.

(1). The early issue of 1856 on white paper without watermark offers facilities for imitations of the pin-perforation and rouletting, as does also the issue with star watermark of 1863. So difficult would the detection of these "fakes" be that they could hardly be decided upon with certainty unless on the original and showing the post-mark clearly over the separation.

(2). The issue on pelure paper has also been faked by the very simple process of splitting the paper of the previous issue. The peculiar appearance of the printing on pelure paper offers a safeguard in the case of the 2d and 6d but not so decidedly in that of the 1d. The 3d would be peculiarly dangerous as few collectors have ever seen this stamp, but for the fact that there was no issue of the 3d on paper without watermark and the forgery must be produced from that with the star watermark. Splitting the paper will not get rid of the watermark. Split paper can generally be discovered by careful examination under the magnifying glass.

(3). The issues of 1872 and 1874 are found sometimes with "faked" perforations. Some of these were recently produced in Sydney and they are unquestionably dangerous. The method has been to

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*PHILATELIC PORTRAITS—No. 1.*



**MR. A. T. BATE,**  
*Vice-President Philatelic Society of New Zealand.*

clip off the 12½ perforations at the top and bottom and substitute a "faked" perforation 10. Only very close examination and comparison with the original will help here, as the genuine perforation varies much in appearance, the holes being sometimes very large and at other times small. The genuine stamps are also sometimes very badly centred.

(4.) In connection with stamps issued later than 1882 we know of no instances of "faking," but we have had a hint which we give for what it may be worth that stamps with the "O.P.S.O." surcharge coming from America require to be watched. Whether any such stamps have come from America or not we are not in a position to say.

(5.) Postal fiscals present danger. We have seen several palpable "fakes" where genuine postmarks are seen over the partially erased fiscal cancellations. We have also seen them stamped with postmarks which were a good imitation of the old cancellations. We do not think that many varieties of the fiscals have been treated in this way but the series are certainly dangerous in the opportunities they offer to dishonest persons.

The reader of the above notes may be inclined to think that the possibilities of forgery in the stamps of New Zealand are after all greater than he had supposed, but, lest anyone should get hold of an exaggerated idea of the danger we hasten to add there are very few countries whose stamps offer less opportunities to the dishonest and few countries in which the opportunities offered have been taken less advantage of.

## THE PHILATELIC STORY-TELLER.

### "Post Office" Mauritius.

By B. HERVEY.

(Concluded.)

Accompanied by my two servants, we reached Pendarum after a comfortable night's run by train; thence in creeping, jolting bullock-carts to Mulluckunbady, nineteen miles, where we dined and slept;

then, having made a good early breakfast, we started again, reaching Adeenarainvasel, the Mecca of our hopes, early in the forenoon. The place boasted not of a Travellers' Bungalow or single white resident; so, making a virtue of necessity, we unlimbered beneath some trees on the outskirts of the town. Here crowds of natives watched our movements from a respectable distance, wandering, evidently, what had brought us to that out-of-the-way spot; for by our slender retinue and humble means of conveyance they had already concluded that we were no Government officials on tour. I did all the talking—in Tamil; as not a man-jack of them spoke any English.

"Your slave, my lords," said an individual, presently pushing his way to the front and bowing low. "I am the village headman. What supplies do your honours require?"

"We don't want any supplies, headman," I said. "We have come provided with all necessaries."

"Your honours wish to shoot?"

"No, we are not shooting; we are searching for old used postage stamps."

"Old postage stamps!" he echoed in mystified tones, while several men who had followed him exchanged glances of perplexity.

"Yes; old stamps off letters that have come through the post."

They stared harder than ever, and then the headman pertinently remarked, "Why do the lords seek for worthless things, and which you could procure elsewhere? Why have your honours come to our humble village for the purpose?"

I could not help feeling amused at the awe depicted on the faces of all as the headman spoke. The natives of India are, I should say, the most childishly suspicious of the whole human race; and in this instance it was evident that they feared lest some ulterior motive lurked behind the avowed object of our visit. The sooner I allayed the growing alarm the better for us.

"Look here," I said, opening and displaying a pocket exchange-book that I happened to have about me. "We require

them merely to stick in a book—like this.”

They scrutinised the page all ways, muttering to each other that the stamps were more or less obliterated, thus confirming our demand for used ones. They were partially reassured.

“Your honour,” whined the headman, “we are your slaves, and do not wish to infringe the laws that you, our masters, have imposed. Do you require the old stamps to clean and use them? Only last year a Brahmin of Pendarum was convicted of such a practice and sent to prison for five years.”

“Have no fear,” I replied, soothingly; “I am an officer of Government, and I repeat, we want only used stamps—to stick into books.”

Still they were not wholly convinced; nevertheless, at the headman's bidding, several went off to their huts and presently returned with bundles of letters; but the stamps were mostly common current Indians. I had not sufficiently explained myself.

“These are not exactly what we require, headman,” I observed, after looking through the packets. “What we want are Mauritius stamps—the older the better.”

“Oh, ho” he exclaimed, in a tone as if of relief. “Mauritius stamps, even if cleaned, would be of no use here; excuse our suspicions, my lords. If you will come to the Maurice Paliem (the quarter inhabited by returned emigrants) no doubt we can find the stamps for you.”

Quite agreeable to the move, we hastily swallowed a mouthful of breakfast, and buoyed with hope, proceeded to the region indicated, a sort of suburb to the town itself. News of our mission and its object had proceeded us to the Maurice Paliem, for barely had we entered its precincts when an aged native approached, and with a deep salaam (obeisance) tendered a piece of brown paper bearing a strip of six fourpennies surcharged on green Britannias of 1854!

“If they are of any use, take them,” said the ancient.

Any use! Neither Bratt nor I posses-

sed a specimen; these were in capital order, and we simply “grabbed” at them.

“Looks like as if we've struck rich!” chuckled my companion in a low undertone and voicing my own thoughts. “Better give the old chap something for that lot; 'twill encourage the crowd to tote along with some more.”

Veiling my exultation—for an over-show of galumping would have set their suspicions going—I gave the old fellow a quarter rupee (sixpence). “There!” I said, “that's for your stamps.”

A silence of stupefaction; blank astonishment on the faces of all.

“Why, sir,” at length gasped the recipient, turning the coin in his palm and regarding me as if I had been some gnome or lunatic, “this is good money!” “What is it for?”

“Your reward for the stamps, I repeat.”

“But they are used stamps!” they shouted, in an ecstasy of perplexity. “Even if cleaned they would be of no value here! How is it your honours pay for what is worthless?”

To explain the principles of philately to these simple Asiatics would have been obviously impossible. I merely smiled, flourished my open exchange book in their faces, and told them that we were prepared to pay even more for older stamps.

Enough! We had touched their weakest point, cupidity: their hesitation melted away—money, silver money for nothing! Had ever such miracle happened on this earth? As if by magic they awoke into activity; all those who possessed Mauritius correspondence hied off to ferret about and bring their quotas along; I and Bratt examined batch after batch, handful after handful. Oh, the rapture of that time! Truly had we alighted on a veritable philatelic El Dorado! Without counting the shoals of more ordinary varieties, we succeeded by mid-day in netting three id. Post Paid of 1848; four red Britannias of 1854; five 2d. blue—Queen's head—of 1849; eleven 6d. slate, and four 1s. green of 1862! Verily, a glorious bag, all used

and lightly marked, but, alas! no "Post Offices."

As we made each selection we paid prompt cash; and the natives, their greed now thoroughly aroused, frantically turned their belongings inside out in the search for stamps—the whole place became a pandemonium. Carried away by the fascination of so easily coining money, old men and women pressed on us with faded letters and papers in their hands imploring us to buy them—to manifest the bitterest disappointment if we pronounced their offerings unacceptable, for we had no intention of loading ourselves with the commoner kinds.

Hitherto the highest price we had paid was one rupee for a single stamp. I wondered whether a heavier bribe would still further stimulate them; perhaps the gems we sought lurked in some forgotten corner, and it would be a pity indeed did we quit without our mission fully accomplished. The afternoon was drawing to a close, we had a long way before us to Pendarem; I could not spare another day, while Bratt vowed he'd not remain without me. Clearly, then, something must be done.

"Listen!" I shouted. "We must leave shortly, so there is no time to lose. We have bought all the stamps that we require, but you have not yet produced the kind that we particularly want. What do you say if we promise to pay you five rupees for each specimen you bring us?"

They stared at us in silence; they were already persuaded in their minds that we were lunatics, but they now suspected that we were "pulling their legs."

"You are making fun of us, sir!" at length explained one man.

"I take my pranatum (oath) that I am in earnest," I replied.

This convinced them that there was no humbug about it; they respected my pranatum. "What are the stamps?" they wailed. "We have shown you all we have!"

"Stand out the oldest man who either went himself or had relatives who went to Mauritius!" I bawled.

After a little consultation, a white-moustached patriarch hobbled forward. "I, mylords," he mumbled. "You have already purchased several stamps from me."

In the speaker I recognised him who had produced the "Post Paid" of 1848. "Well we want the stamps that yet older men or their relatives must have used; bring them to us, and earn five rupees for each."

Another burst of despair; and the ancient said, "I am the oldest surviving \_\_\_\_\_"

"No!" interrupted another man. "What about Aggallappen the recluse; he who lives near the temple of Mooniappaswamy by the sea? Surely he is an older man than you O Moothoocurrppen! His sons emigrated; I have often heard him say so. Let us go to him."

More uproar; all spoke at once, and the din was deafening. At length the headman, after partially quietening the noise, begged us to accompany him to Aggallappen's house, as the old devotee was too feeble to leave it. Accordingly, off we tramped, carrying the mob with us, and in due course reached the sea shore temple, under the lee of which huddled a miserable shanty, the abode of the recluse.

The headman and others entered, and after a long palaver they carried out the inmate on a charpoy or native bed, and set him in our midst. Now the same ground had to be retraversed. Aggallappen, suspicious as the rest, swore by every god in the heathen pantheon that he had not such a thing as an old letter in his possession; and it was not until those of his fellow-villagers—who had made their money out of us—showed the old dotard their respective gains; not until Bratt and I clinked a handful of rupees in his ears, that his scruples were dispelled. "Bring me my box," he whispered to the folks about him. "By chance I may have preserved some of my son's letters."

The box produced, the owner unlocked it, and proceeded to empty out the contents; old clothes, then a layer of inscribed papyrus leaves, followed by more clothes, and lastly, at the bottom, sev-

eral bundles of letters! We pounced on them, and eagerly scanned the stamps. "Post Paid," "Post Paid," one after another; one penny—twopence; twopence—penny; vermilion—blue; blue—vermillion in endless succession, till we hated the very site of these exquisite stamps! We were fast becoming disgusted; we tumbled the letters carelessly about, we were on the point of giving the search up as a bad job, when, chancing on a faded piece of brown paper, I mechanically opened it—and imagine the state of mind that Bratt and I were thrown in when we gazed on a strip of "Post Offices," two id vermilion, two 2d blue!

We could not have spoken to save our lives; we dumped down the twenty rupees, cleared out, went back to our carts as if in a dream, inspanned, and set out on our way back to Pendarum. It was not until we had left the village far behind, and the last of the crowd had dropped off, that we overcame the mental paralysis in which our amazing good luck had steeped us.

"Shake!" suddenly ejaculated Bratt, in a foggy voice.

We shook. But we conversed no more. We travelled all night, reaching Pendarum early in the morning. The single train for Madras left at 10 a.m., consequently we had leisure to overhaul our treasures. We first floated them in a basin of water, freed them from paper, and then dried them. I took charge of the lot, all barring the "Post Offices," which Bratt proposed placing in his watch back for greater security—a measure to which I agreed.

We reached Madras that evening, and arrived at our hotel in time for a late dinner. We were fairly fagged out, both in mind and body; so, when the meal was over, and we had once more gloated over those four "Post Offices," we bade each other good-night and turned in, resolved to divide our spoil on the morrow.

At dawn I was startled from sleep by hearing some very unparliamentary language in Bratt's voice. Hurrying out, I

found him on the verandah, yelling away in choice Yankee, while several hotel servants stood cowering before him.

"What on earth's the row, Mr Bratt?" I asked, rubbing my eyes.

"Row enough, I calculate, mister!" foamed he. "Guess some stinker has laid claws on my watch and vamoosed! Don't care so much for the ticker, although it cost me 200 dollars last fall; but the Mauritiuses have gone with it!"

Within the hour we were both at the chief police office, where we gave information of the robbery, Bratt offering a reward of 200 rupees for the recovery of his watch. The police did not allow the grass to grow; for later that very day, while we were seated at luncheon, an inspector, whom we had seen at the office, drove up to our quarters, with a couple of constables guarding an East Indian youth, whom we immediately recognised as one of the hotel clerks.

"Your property, sir?" said the inspector interrogatively, handing Bratt the watch.

"I calculate that is so, mister, considering there's my monogram on it," answered the recipient, unable to conceal his satisfaction, in which, needless to say, I thoroughly participated.

"We've had an eye on this chap for some time, sir," continued the inspector, pointing at the wretched clerk; "and, suspecting him directly you reported the theft, we looked him up, and caught him in the act of selling the watch to a native."

"I'm main glad to get it back again; and shall be a heap more so if I find that the cuss has not been gallivanting with the works," proceeding as he spoke to open the back. "Snakes and scissors!" yelled Bratt, as he found the receptacle void. "What've you done with what was inside of here, eh? Speak! or I'll twist your gullet!" he vociferated, striding up to the prisoner and regarding him furiously.

"I only finding some dirty paper, sir," gurgled the culprit.

"Where's that dirty paper, then? What've you done with it, I say?"

"I done burn it, sir" faltered the youth. "This morning when I finding paper inside

*PHILATELIC PORTRAITS—No. 2.*



**MR. E. G. PILCHER,**  
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watch, I thinking sometime meaning clue, therefore I throwing into fire sir."

I had never set eyes on a genuine "Post Office" Mauritius before I owned a pair of those philatelic treasures for a few hours as above described; and I have never set eyes on unquestionable specimens since. I intend, however, to pay Adeenarainvasel another visit as soon as I can manage it, for I know that the place itself and the neighbouring villages are covers that have not yet been found and beaten by the stamp-hunter; and that they may remain so till I have had a second prowling round is my earnest hope. Bratt I have no fear of. Some months after our adventure he wrote from the States saying he had married and "chucked" stamp-collecting. Moreover, before we parted we exchanged a promise never to divulge the locality; therefore, the names figuring in this little narrative are, I need hardly say, fictitious; for, otherwise, I should be giving myself away, and the place would be overrun with stamp people before I could manage to get down there!

## REVIEWS.

### Sinned in Philatella's Cause.

The Stamp-fiends' Raid, a philatelic phantasy by W. E. Imeson. Published by Horace Cox, London, E.C., 1903.

Last month I had rashly promised to review a volume of "Poetry," entitled "The Stamp-fiends' Raid," filling the appalling number of 278 pages besides 16 pages of greatly needed explanations in the shape of a "glossary of terms, &c," and 20 pages of excuses for having done such thing, with promise not to do it again. How I wish I had not seen the book, for my head began to swim after ploughing through the red-bound story of the blood red triangular Cape, and I marvelled exceedingly how it was possible to write so much harmless nonsense. The book contains the pretentious dream caused by a severe attack of influenza and its attending fever heat. Opinion must of necessity be divided as to the merit of such work—if we can speak of merit—personally I like best the chapter called "War stamps extraordinary" and will give my readers

an inkling of what they may expect if they feel inclined to dip into "Philately extraordinary."

In the course of the stamp hunting expedition "Will" meets the "Boer of Bethnal Green," who

"Forthwith

Produced a leathern pouch  
The held War Stamps and other stamps,  
Unique indeed, I'll vouch.  
Upon the bench we spread them out,  
Then I picked out the best,  
For which I gave the "Boer" five "bob."  
And now I'll give the list."

This is a bad enough rhyme but this is a good one. Here are some of the choice morsels:—

"A dozen Transvaals, £5 green (I'm holding for a rise!)  
With V.R.I.'s without the dots, and dots without the P's.  
This lot contained an "error" ('twill be rarer by and-bye),  
A V.R.I. without the V., and *minus* R. and I.

An orange Orange Free State, showing on the orange tree

An overprint—"The late O.F.S., now the O.R.C."

A set of seven postal-fiscal-telegraphs (what coons

Are half the War Stamp specialists!)  
for franking war balloons.

No speculative issue these for those who specialise,

For, tho' not yet 'inflated,' the 'Balloons' are bound to 'rise'!

They will not 'drop'—no matter what the wary Phil opines.

(The only Transvaal stamps that drop are stamps dropped at the mines.)

Gibraltar's rare provisional (poor Lady smith bereft!)

With bust of White with head to right—the only one that left.

A very 'scarce' gray Kruger's Head, with hair lines, just a few.

The face looks very much cut up, and also rather 'blue.'



A Baden-Powell, on bicycle, perf. ten,  
with punctured tyres  
(The watermark's a 'Bathing Towel,' sup-  
ported with barbed wires);  
On safety paper, B.B.'s 'safety' (tinted  
orange-peel),  
A 'Rhodester' pattern Mafeking, fitted  
with Free State wheel.

"This last looks rather doubtfull, Bill.  
The front wheel isn't true,  
And that blued safety *bleute*—well,  
I half suspect the blue."

"Wot blooming' rot yet talkin' nah;  
That Bad'n-Pal's orl gay—  
I'ad it of B.-P. 'isself,  
Wot swared it was O.K.,"

Well, that's a guarantee, of course,  
But what about the rest?  
Have any dealers seen them, and  
How did they stand the test?"

Now comes a really amusing skit relat-  
ing the 'Boers' experience in trying 'to  
do' the wily dealers in the Strand.  
Peckitt pecked at them; Giwelb asked if  
they were made in Germany or made in  
Bethnal Green; Hadlow sent for a "cop-  
per"; when the Boer asked Hiscox of  
Stanley Gibbons how much he should get  
for them, he answered "About six mon-  
ths!" And so it goes on merrily, every  
dealer gets his share; but enough has been  
quoted already—I must not omit to state  
that the story is also illustrated (fearfully  
and wonderfully at the same time) with  
28 full-page pen and ink perpetrations by  
the apparently versatile pen of the author,  
charitably called by him "pictorial absur-  
dities" and, like the story, results of  
influenza delirium.—*The Stamp Collector.*

### History of Canadian Stamps.

Messrs James Bros. of Canada, send us  
this interesting little booklet which though  
issued a couple of years ago is still prob-  
ably new to most of our readers. The  
story of each issue is briefly traced, the  
numbers of early issues and their uses are  
given, and the relative rarity of some  
recent issues shown. Though very brief  
the little work has a great deal more to  
recommend it than many far more pre-

tentious volumes. Every collector of  
Canadian stamps will find it useful, and  
the general collector will find there prac-  
tically all that he wants to know in the  
most condensed and handy form. It has  
been carefully compiled, is accurate and  
well printed. The little work can be  
obtained for sixpence from its publishers,  
Messrs James Bros., Waterford, Ontario,  
Canada.

### NELSON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The annual meeting was held at "New-  
stead" on Saturday, March 26th, at 7.30,  
a large number of members being present.  
Mr. H. Brusewitz was voted to the chair.  
After the minutes of the last meeting and  
the report had been read and adopted,  
Mr. Brusewitz said a few words on the  
keeping of the Society together, mention-  
ing several little things the members could  
do to help the Hon. Secretary with the  
work. The following officers were elected  
for the ensuing year:—President: Mrs.  
Renwick, Vice-President: Mr. Brusewitz,  
Hon. Secretary and Treasurer: Miss Nina  
Jones, Committee: Miss Trolove, Miss  
Hunter-Brown and Mr. Kingsley.

The Hon. Sec. mentioned a few little  
things which would be an assistance in  
the work of the Club if the members  
would remember *not* to do.

After the business was concluded Mr.  
Brusewitz very kindly gave an interesting  
talk about the stamps of Victoria; stamps  
being shown by the President, Vice-Presi-  
dent and the Hon. Secretary.

NINA JONES, Hon. Sec.

### BALLARAT PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The usual monthly meeting of the Ball-  
arat Society was held in the Society's  
room in the Ballarat East Free Library on  
Wednesday, the 2nd of March, at 8 p.m.  
1904.

Members present, President: Dr. Guth-  
rie, M.D. presiding, Messrs Jensen, Hol-  
tham, Duyr, Mather, O'Shea, Hamilton,  
Remard, B.A., O'Brien, Dr. Morrisson,  
Wilsoncroft, Tompkins, Inglis, Captain

Marsh, Newbury, Clark, and the Hon. Sec. R. D. Breen.

On the motion of Mr. Holtham the choice of 15 post cards to be sent as a members ticket was taken from the Victorian P.O. 1½d. On the proposal of Mr. Jensen it was carried that an exhibition of Victorian Adhesive stamps take place in July next for members only—but that outsiders be invited to forward exhibits. On the motion of Mr. Duyr, the President, (who has a collection worth 1,000 sovereigns) was appointed judge. Severe comments were made on a business man in in Bendigo who obtains access to forbidden grounds on the plea of being an amateur enthusiastic collector and then sells the collected old treasures to the highest bidder, steps will be taken by the Society to suppress this many occupationed man's little game carried on in Victoria for three years.

R. D. BREEN, Hon. Sec.

### THE FISCAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY, (London.)

Meeting held March 3rd, 1904, present Mr. Schwabacker (chair), Messrs Cooper, Fulcher, Marsh, Morley, Thompson, Thomson, South and Kay

A. G. Burgoyne (U.S.A.) was duly elected a member.

Mr. Morley showed some interesting "specimen" Great Britain fiscals, viz:—Chancery Court 3s 6d, Foreign Bill, value in red, perf. 16, 6s 8d, 13s 4d; perf. 14, 1s 4d, and several others. Mr. Schwacher exhibited a Spain Giro (lilac) with large type of War Tax surcharge, and Mr. Thompson some lately issued Uruguay fiscals.

The Swiss revenues of Aargau and Basle were discussed and catalogued.

The Secretary would be glad to hear from any home members who intend exhibiting fiscals at the Philatelic Exhibition to be held at Berlin in August next.

Received for the library, with thanks, "The Sterling Monthly" (Dec. 1903.)

The Home Exchange Packet for March amounted to £94, and the contribution to the Continental section to 756 francs nett.

Members will oblige by sending sheets regularly before the end of each month.

Applications for rules and information respecting the Society should be addressed to the Hon. Sec.

A. B. KAY,  
2 Haarlén Mansions,  
West Kensington, London, W.

### A SYDNEY DISCOVERY.

A few months ago Mr. F. Hagen brought to light in Sydney a pair of stamps which were regarded with very great interest. These were nothing less than a pair of Sydney views unsevered and to all appearance printed *tele beche*. Subsequent investigation proved that they were in reality two stamps from different sheets the sheets themselves having been unsevered. This while taking away something from the interest of the find yet served to increase our knowledge of the way in which the earliest issue of New South Wales was produced.

We are now favoured with information of another discovery in the same city. This time it is to Mr. T. H. Nicolle that the honour of increasing our knowledge of the stamps of New South Wales belongs. The discovery in question is of a 2d. blue diadem, perforated 12, of the issue of 1860, bearing the watermark doubled lined "1." Such a thing has never been heard of before and Mr. Nicolle informs us that his specimen is a beautiful one showing the watermark clearly and distinctly in the centre of stamp. We heartily congratulate the discover on his unique find.

### CHRONICLE.

We shall be pleased to receive early information of new and projected issues from any of our correspondents.

#### BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA.

Watermark Crown C. A. Perf. 14.  
1s. blue and black.

#### CEYLON.

Watermark Crown C.A. Perf. 14.  
2c. orange brown, King's head, over-printed "on service" in black.

## INDIA.

Watermark star. Perf. 14. King's head type.

3r. green and brown.

5r. violet and blue.

## JAMAICA.

Watermark crown C.A. Perf. 14.

1d. carmine and black.

## STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

Watermark a flower. Perf. 14.

"One dollar" surcharged on 2 dollars, lilac and carmine.

## NOTES AND CLIPPINGS.

We call attention to the new advertisement of Mr. T. H. Nicolle appearing in this issue. Among Australasian dealers Mr. Nicolle holds an honoured place and he has facilities for the supply of Australasian stamps possessed by few others. We have no doubt that this fact is already known to a large number of our readers, but to those who have not yet had dealings with him, we can only say that it will be very greatly to their advantage to study his advertisements.

The new Republic of Panama has brought itself into immediate discredit with philatelists by issuing surcharged stamps in endless variety for the mere purpose of raising revenue from the collector. The representative of a great English stamp firm on applying at a Panama Post Office for a large quantity of the provisionals was given a supply of unsurcharged sheets, furnished with a rubber stamp, and allowed to betake himself to a hotel in the locality and apply the surcharge in any form or with any ink he chose.

Mr. Fred Hagen's new Australasian catalogue is announced.

Adhesive postage stamps for the prepayment of letters were not it appears first issued as generally supposed in 1840. A French decree of 1670 has been found which sanctions the issue and use of such stamps. Should specimens of these be found even the "post office" Mauritius must hide its diminished head.

A new Philatelic Society for North Queensland has been successfully formed at Charters Towers.

The *Australian Philatelist* again mentions the rumour of a New Zealand issue of official stamps.

The *Revue Philatelique Francaise* gives the statistics of the world's stamp production for 1903.

|                                 |       |      |
|---------------------------------|-------|------|
| Portugal and possessions issued | 134   | var. |
| Great Britain                   | 376   | "    |
| Spain                           | 58    | "    |
| Germany                         | 10    | "    |
| United States                   | 18    | "    |
| Holland                         | 3     | "    |
| Russia                          | 5     | "    |
| France                          | 237   | "    |
| Various countries               | 342   | "    |
| Total                           | 1,183 |      |

British Australasian possessions were responsible for the issue of 185 varieties during the year.

The new system, "The Cistafle," which is how largely advertised, seems likely to work a revolution in the matter of keeping and arranging collections. The album has never been quite satisfactory to the advanced collector. Very fine albums with moveable leaves have been issued, but even these do not quite get rid of the necessity for altering and re-mounting stamps. The new method by which each stamp is mounted separately on a card and filed in its place in a cabinet should prove of real advantage to many specialists.

Without boasting, and without any desire to discredit our excellent Australian contemporaries, we think we may claim that our present issue (24 columns) offers a larger amount of letterpress than any current Australasian philatelic journal. We trust this will be appreciated by our readers.

We begin in this issue a series of portraits of prominent New Zealand collectors.

We again remind our readers who are members of Australasian philatelic societies that we shall be pleased to receive reports of their meetings for insertion in this journal.

# EXCHANGE ADVERTISEMENTS.

*Advertisements are inserted under this heading at a uniform rate of a penny for three words. No advertisement of less than 36 words will be inserted. If advertisements are insufficiently paid they will not be inserted. All advertisements must be prepaid. We cannot guarantee the good faith of advertisers, but will refuse notices from persons proved to be dishonest or unsatisfactory.*

**No Collector** of Australasian Stamps can afford to be without Nicolle's catalogue. It will save you pounds. The **STERLING STAMP Co.**, Nelson, agents for New Zealand.

**Champion & Co.'s Standard Catalogue.** This is the recognised French catalogue and identical with that of Yvert and Tellier. 1904 edition just out. **THE STERLING STAMP Co.**, Nelson, agents for New Zealand.

**Whitfield King's Universal Standard Catalogue.** The world in one volume. The best for the beginner and invaluable for the general collector. No minor varieties of perforation listed. The cheapest of all the great catalogues. New Zealand agents, **THE STERLING STAMP Co.**, Nelson.

**Newfoundland.**—27 varieties, including many rare and obsolete stamps—price 3s 6d. post free. Unused stamps of New Zealand (mint condition) accepted in payment. Send for price list of British North American Postage Stamps.—**CENTURY STAMP Co.**, P. O. Box 197, Montreal Canada. Reference filed with *N.Z.P.*

**Exchange.**—**H. BRUSEWITZ**, Nelson, New Zealand, will give good New Zealand stamps in exchange for old issues and high values of British Colonies. Fine specimens only desired. Reference to proprietors of this paper.

**Exchange.**—Send 25-100 stamps of your country and receive same value and number of Holland, Dutch Indies, Germany, France, &c. View cards in exchange for stamps. Register sendings.—**P. W. MOHLMANN**, Haarlemmerstraat 12, Hillegom, Holland.

**James Bros.**, Waterford, Ontario, Canada, offer a large assortment of Canada, Newfoundland, and British Colonial stamps for cash or exchange.

**Send me 200**—2000 stamps from any country in Asia, Australia, Africa, South America, and I will return European well mixed. Belgian stamps in sets by large lots, and with coupon in fine condition.—**EDM. VAN DER PLASSCHE**, editor of the philatelic paper *Annuaire Annuaire*, 12, Comte rue van Bloer, 12, Antwerp, Belgium.

**Collectors** in New Zealand, Tasmania, South Australia, West Australia, Victoria, and New South Wales send their exchange sheets to **LESLIE W. ROBINSON**, care of **Walter Reid & Co., Ltd.**, Rockhampton, Queensland, and receive old Queensland stamps in exchange.

**South African**—Wanted—Good foreign stamps, no English. I will send good South African (old and new issues) in return. I always answer.—**A. BENNETT**, care of Blaine and Co., Jetty St., Port Elizabeth, Cape Colony.

**Terje Knudtzon**, Ulleberg, Larvik, Norway, exchanges view cards written with pencil; stamps on the view side. Price lists and philatelic journals wanted.

**Russia.**—Exchange 200—1000 common; good for approvals; unused value nominal against value. I send view cards and entire stamps. 1000 stamps of Russia (no 7 Kop) 15d, postage extra. Reply guaranteed.—**PASHUEANIS**, Snamenka, Moscow.

**Fiscals.**—Will purchase, exchange or sell. Only scarce revenues wanted. Can submit good, cheap selections of all kinds.—**A. B. KAY**, Secretary Fiscal Society, 2 Harlem Mansions, West Kensington, London, W., England.

**Major A. G. E. Newland, I.M.S.**, 10th Battalion, Hakka, Chin Hills, Burma, desires to correspond with a New Zealand collector who can supply scarce stamps of recent issues, unused, in pairs taken from the corners of sheets with marginal numbers showing.

**Pigeon Post.**—Original Great Barrier Service. 1s, first issue, 2s 6d; 1s, second issue, 1s 6d; 1s, current, 1s 3d. **The Sterling Stamp Co.**, Nelson.

**2000 Special Bargains** in sets and single stamps. A detailed list will be sent on receipt of 2d in unused New Zealand stamps. **ALFRED SMITH AND SON**, 4, Southampton Row, London, W.C. (Established in Bath, 1863).

**Wanted in Exchange**—N.Z. 1898, London-print, 5d, 8d, 5s; colonial print 6d, 2s, 5s; also earlier issues. I will give Malta, Colonials, Italy and States, and Levant. **W. R. GATT** 51, Sda. Vescovo, Valetta, Malta.

Price 6d.

**NOW READY.**

Post Free

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## Illustrated Priced Catalogue of Australasian Stamps.

### SETS, PACKETS, &c.

NOTE—In this Catalogue ALL MINOR VARIETIES of perforation, &c., &c., which are so confusing to the average collector, ARE OMITTED, and no collector need go outside the stamps listed in this book, which mentions and prices all those issued in the ordinary way. The book is pocket size, and contains some useful "HINTS TO COLLECTORS" and a preface of interesting matter. Prices moreover, will be found most reasonable.

**EVERY COLLECTOR SHOULD HAVE ONE.**

Accompanying the above is sent a Special

### **PRICED LIST OF VARIETIES OF PERFORATIONS.**

And for those who take the minor varieties, will be found most useful.

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Estab. 1890

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THE AUSTRALASIAN SERIES consists of Books of each separate state and Collectors may begin with, say, New South Wales, and go through the series—some eight or nine countries (including the Oceanic Islands).

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14 HUNTER ST., SYDNEY.**

.. THE ..

# NEW ZEALAND PHILATELIST

With which is incorporated "The Sterling Monthly."

VOL. I. No. 5.

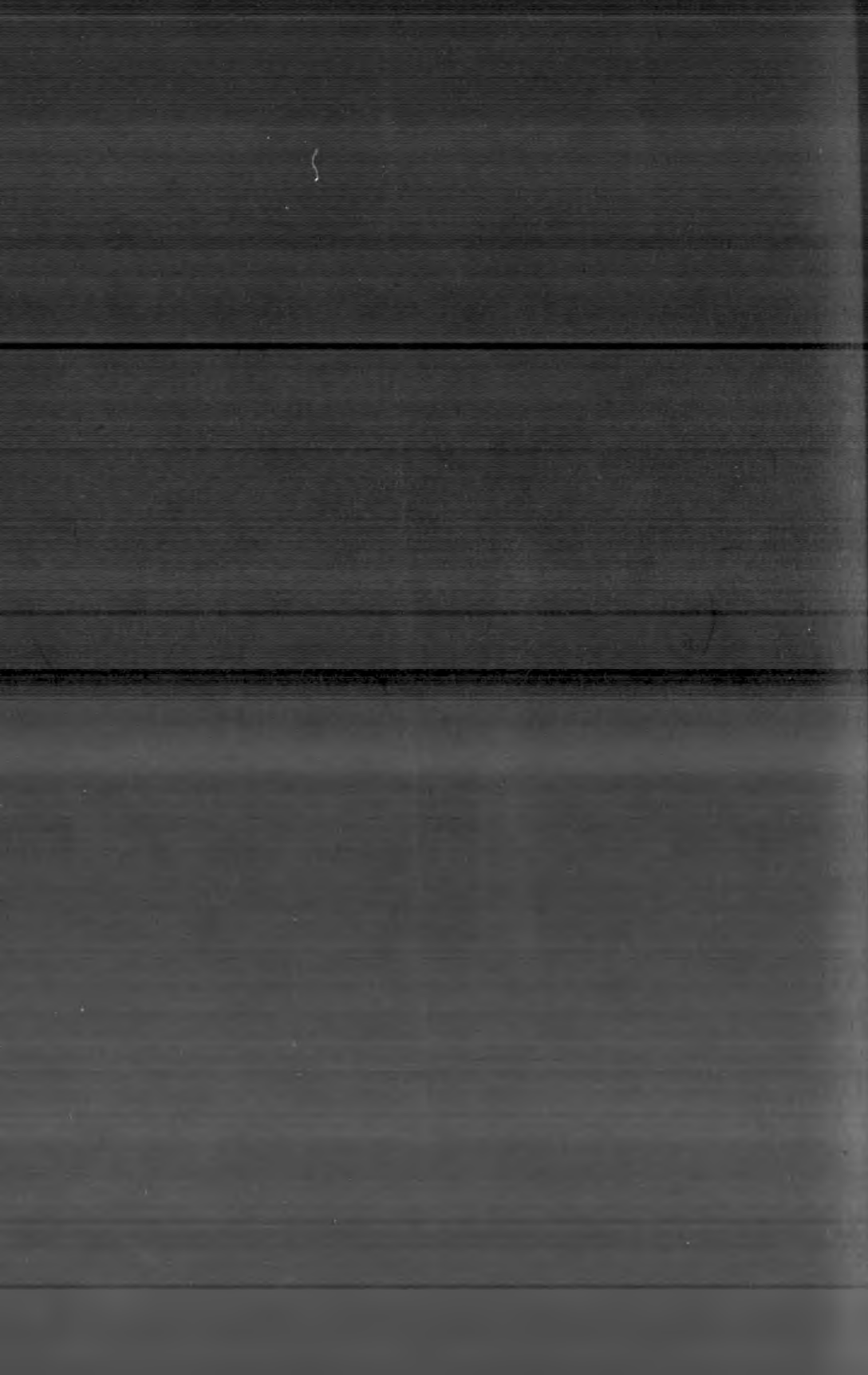
MAY, 1904.

PRICE 3D.

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| 1882—7s. blue (postmarked) ... ..   | 367                               | 3 0                          | 2 0                 |
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1. **Australasian** Stamps, priced from ½d to 2s each
2. **British Colonial** „ „ „ „ „
3. **Foreign** „ „ „ „ „
4. **Australasian** Stamps, priced from 2s 6d to 10s each
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### POSTAGE STAMP MERCHANT,

14, Hunter Street, Sydney, N.S.W.

# THE New Zealand Philatelist.

With which is incorporated The Sterling Monthly.

VOL. I. No. 5.

MAY, 1904.

PRICE 3D.

**The Subscription** to the "NEW ZEALAND PHILATELIST" is 2s 6d per annum, post free to any part of the world. New Zealand subscriptions should be sent by postal note or coin in registered envelope, those from abroad by post office order only. Stamps will not be accepted in payment.

Address all communications to—

"THE NEW ZEALAND PHILATELIST,"

P.O. Box 12,

Nelson,

New Zealand.

## EDITORIAL.

### THE STAMP SEASON.

It is a hard matter to say when the stamp season opens. Like most pursuits of the home and the quiet hour philately is in vogue more or less all the year round. The heat of summer and the cold of winter are alike to the philatelic enthusiast. But there are many whose enthusiasm is not of this intense quality and it is safe to say that with the return of winter many half neglected albums are re-opened and the "stamp fever" again becomes a prevailing malady. Some are looking into the new catalogue and regretting the stamps which they might have purchased last year and which have now become unobtainable or have gone up to prices never dreamt of. Others are

filled with a not unpardonable pride that they were sapient and astute last year and show their treasures to envious friends who might have had them but didn't. Some are evolving new plans for their collection, plans of enlargement or specialism, or pondering its removal into larger albums. In fact there is a general flutter in the habitations of Philatelia and collectors are thinking of a thousand things in connection with their hobby. Only one thing they are not thinking of—giving it up.

### THE PERMANENCY OF STAMP COLLECTING.

Stamp collecting has held its own for sixty years. Its votaries were laughed at, endured in a measure the minor social persecutions of satire, were regarded by compassionate friends as seized with a dangerous form of mental derangement, but in spite of it all the borders of Philatelia were extended and her people continued to increase and multiply. To-day Philately has a stronger hold than ever. The man who laughs at us to-day reveals at once his lack of knowledge. Our prizes are in the great Museums of the world. Our merchants are in the high places of commerce. Statesmen (worse luck!) of hungry and impecunious nations fawn upon us. We are an important people. But the surest proof of the stability and permanence of stamping collecting is found in the

## INCREASING RARITY OF OLD ISSUES.

In addition to the evidence of this furnished by the catalogues every collector and dealer is made aware of the fact by the difficulty found in obtaining first-class specimens of even moderately rare stamps. Stamps that a few years ago were priced at a few pence now sell readily at as many shillings, and there is little doubt that many of the comparatively common stamps that may be picked up easily to-day will become the rarities of to-morrow. Here for instance are the prices of the Cape triangulars as given in Lincoln's catalogue less than twenty years ago.

### WOOD BLOCK.

|             |     | s. | d. |
|-------------|-----|----|----|
| 1 penny red | ... | 5  | 0  |
| 1 " blue    | ... | 35 | 0  |
| 4 " red     | ... | 35 | 0  |
| 4 " blue    | ... | 5  | 0  |

### BLUED PAPER.

|                   |     |   |   |
|-------------------|-----|---|---|
| 1 penny red brown | ... | 1 | 0 |
| 4 " blue          | ... | 1 | 0 |

### WHITE PAPER.

|                  |     |   |   |
|------------------|-----|---|---|
| 1 penny red      | ... | 0 | 4 |
| 4 " blue         | ... | 0 | 3 |
| 6 " lilac        | ... | 0 | 6 |
| 1 shilling green | ... | 1 | 0 |

A glance at Stanley Gibbons' latest catalogue will reveal the fact the higher priced wood blocks are entirely out of the regular market. When sold they realise from £40 to £50. The lowest increase in value in the list is that of the 4d blue on blued paper which has only risen to four times its former value, but in the case of the other stamps listed the increase has been much greater. Roughly speaking, most of the stamps are worth twenty times as much now as then. This is only an example taken at random. Look where you will the same proportional increase has been going on, bearing out what every collector knows by experience that the rarer stamps are becoming harder and harder to get.

## REVIEWS.

### Priced Catalogue of Australasian Stamps, T. H. Nicolle, Syd- ney, 1904. Fifth edition.

Mr. T. H. Nicolle's catalogue for 1904 is that of 1903 with a few minor manuscript alterations. Mr Nicolle follows the example of Messrs Whitfield King and Co., in omitting all minor varieties of perforation from his list and thus making it essentially the catalogue of the beginner and the general collector. There are very many collectors far advanced in the science of Philately who at times almost regret the invention of the perforation gauge and certainly the perforations of some of our Australasian States and Colonies are enough to drive the young collector from the pursuit of a study so intricate and difficult. Mr. Nicolle's catalogue thus comes to fill a very valuable place. The collection formed by following the plan of this catalogue will be interesting, and will thoroughly represent the countries collected without the presence in the collectors' album of a single minor variety. Afterwards the study of perforations may be taken up and the collector will have the stronger interest of adding to an already representative collection. While issuing his catalogue arranged on these lines the publisher has not forgotten the needs of the more advanced collector for side by side with it he has published a very complete list of minor varieties of perforation. The only fault we have to find with the latter list is that it is in some particulars *too complete*. Mr. Nicolle's catalogue is well printed, well illustrated, and of a handy size.

### Fred. Hagen's Illustrated Priced Catalogue of the Stamps of Australasia, 1904. 4th edition.

This work of which the fourth edition is now in our hands does not profess to be a Standard Catalogue in that it does not list all varieties of Australasian stamps, but merely those which the publisher has

for sale at the time of going to press. We do not attempt to define what a standard catalogue may be, though we are inclined to think that the modesty of the publisher has compelled him to make the definition somewhat strict. There is no *complete* catalogue in existence, as far as we are aware, and in the stamps of most of the Australasian countries Mr. Hagen's list would require but a very little in the way of the addition of a few unpriced varieties to render it as much a *standard* catalogue as any in existence. In the matter of prices it offers perhaps a more reliable standard than most similar publications that reach us from Europe.

While the prices of which our N.Z. stamps are offered are in most cases considerably lower than those quoted in England. It is with satisfaction that we note the steady rise in price of the older issues. There is nothing sensational here, but while fully one third of the stamps of the "full-faced queen" issues have risen in value we cannot find a single variety that has been priced down. This would seem to afford additional proof if any were needed of the increasing difficulty that dealers and collectors alike find in obtaining specimens of the older stamps of the colony. Mr. Hagen's publication is a little altered in form, and while containing more matter has been slightly reduced in size so that it is even more convenient than before. The little book is well-printed and admirable illustrated, and a work that should be in the hands of everyone interested in the stamps of Australasia.

## RECENT AUCTION PRICES.

(Compiled from the London Philatelist.)

|                                  | £  | s. | d. |
|----------------------------------|----|----|----|
| GREAT BRITAIN 1847-54, octagonal |    |    |    |
| 6d, dark violet, unused, mint,   |    |    |    |
| a little close at top ...        | 3  | 10 | 0  |
| GREAT BRITAIN 1888, £1 purple    |    |    |    |
| brown, wmk. orbs, unused,        |    |    |    |
| mint ...                         | 10 | 10 | 0  |
| CEYLON, 8d brown, imperforate    | 12 | 10 | 0  |
| CAPE OF GOOD HOPE 1863-64, 1d    |    |    |    |
| carmine, block of eighteen,      |    |    |    |
| unused mint ...                  | 15 | 5  | 0  |

|                                    |    |    |   |
|------------------------------------|----|----|---|
| BRITISH GUIANA 1850-51, 12c pale   |    |    |   |
| blue, a superb copy, cut           |    |    |   |
| square on entire ...               | 11 | 0  | 0 |
| DOMINICA 1886, "one penny" on      |    |    |   |
| 6d, green, used on entire en-      |    |    |   |
| velope with eight other            |    |    |   |
| values ...                         | 46 | 0  | 0 |
| NEW SOUTH WALES 1855, 8d           |    |    |   |
| yellow, imperf. ...                | 4  | 0  | 0 |
| VICTORIA 1850, 2d lilac fine back- |    |    |   |
| ground ...                         | 5  | 7  | 6 |
| 1858-61, 2s. green rouletted,      |    |    |   |
| pair on entire, roulettes show-    |    |    |   |
| ing on three sides ...             | 5  | 10 | 0 |

## THE OLD RED BRITISH PENNY.

(BY MAITAL.)

Many of us look back through a mist of years to the days when in an English home the postman brought the daily letters franked with the fine old red line engraved stamp that had done duty almost from the beginning of penny postage. It was and is a fine old stamp and, though in most of its varieties common, yet of intense interest to those who value their collections for the pleasure they give rather than because they hope some day to realise a fortune by their sale.

The old red penny came into use in its permanent form with four letters in the corners in 1854. It had existed in some form since 1841 and the design itself was practically that of the first stamp of all, the black penny of 1840. It went out of use in 1880, and was replaced by a poorer stamp printed in Venetian red, which a year later gave place to a still poorer one of an un-romantic, washed-out lilac colour. Finally the year before last a new red penny appeared, but. Ah! what a fall was there, my philatelic brethren! The old red penny in one form and another did duty for thirty-nine years. For twenty four years it has been numbered among the relics of the past, and take it all in all that *was* a stamp, and we ne'er shall look upon its like again.

Except in collections. There it will

abide "a thing of beauty and a joy for ever." A thing of intense interest it is too. When one considers the rage for high-priced, badly-surcharged war stamps with their intentional errors, when one remembers that philatelists (Save the mark!) will continue to buy *commemorative* labels, when one groans to think that Bornean menageries and Central American cotton reel tops have places set apart for them in albums produced by otherwise self-respecting firms of dealers, then with a surge of emotion one remembers the old red penny, its shades, its lettering, and its plate numbers and feels that that man is a benefactor of his philatelic kind who amidst the corruptions of a debased and degraded age will say a word for the stamp of stamps.

You can buy mixed packages of this stamp for anything from eightpence a thousand upwards. I shouldn't wonder if you purchased by weight that you mightn't be able to get it cheaper than that. Who knows! It was a common stamp, there can be no denying that. It franked millions on millions of letters. It franked your grandfather's correspondence when he was a lad and it saw the blushes of your grandmother when she got his letters. It did the same kindly service for your father and mother, and it carried gaily through the mail bag the great news that a young philatelist was born into the world (unless, poor youth, you were born in the degenerate days of the sickly, nondescript, washed-out, lilac imposter that usurped its place). Doubtless it had a premonition that you would collect it in the days to come. That grand old stamp had a share in history. It carried the tale of the horrors of the Indian Mutiny from home to home. It helped to swell the wave of rejoicing that told of the fall of Sebastopol. Ah, what romances it had a hand in, what trembling fingers put it in its place, what hot tears fell upon it, what heroic tongues licked it.

A representative collection of the old red penny in its permanent form as it reigned from 1858 to 1880 should number on a very moderate computation not less than 60,000 specimens. Are you startled? Had

you underestimated the capacity of this stamp? What a glorious field is here. There are at least 150 plate numbers and every sheet has 240 varieties, not minute varieties, but good honest ones, clearly defined by the different lettering in the corners. Multiply 150 by 240 and you get 26,000. Then consider the shades. Is 60,000 an overestimate? Nay, rather let us say 100,000 and be well within the mark. Then consider the possibilities of specimens on the entire with rare and interesting postmarks! O collector-fleecers of Venezuela, O Surchargers of Panama! What are your poor efforts beside the work of the honest British postal administration? O Mercury, god of thieves and the post office, lend your winged speed to eye and hand. Come, O Dove, make me a million stamp mounts. I will at once to every wholesale dealer in England, I will buy me old red pennies by the quarter, the hundredweight, the ton. I will make me of this single stamp a monumental collection that may stand forever like the pyramids—a triumph of human industry and skill.

Good old red penny! Life is short and the tale of your varieties very, very long. But sure, when every jest is jested, you can afford as much genuine pleasure to any true lover of stamps as any other six of your brethren born into being since Roland Hill first taught the British people to lead the world into ways of harmony and brotherhood by an adhesive label.

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## THE PHILATELIC STORYTELLER.

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### The Perforation Guage.

(BY R. T. SCOTT.)

She was more beautiful than the Queen on the stamps of Nova Scotia, sweeter than the picture of Liberty on the labels of Liberia, I prized her more than if she had been a Cape triangular error. I loved her for her beauty, her sweetness, her philatelic emotions. Yet poor enough seemed my chances of winning her, for as



Philatelic Portrait No. 3.



MR. T. ACOCKS,  
Exchange Superintendent, Philatelic Society of New Zealand.

the days and weeks of my stay at Holyford wore on I felt that her regard for me was only that of an enthusiastic novice for one versed in the ways of philately.

She was a beginner and I an advanced specialist, but I won her, won her through the medium of the perforation gauge. This is what happened.

"Mr. Tete Beche, will you show me how to use the perforation gauge?"

"I shall be most happy Miss Roulette," I replied.

"How do you do it" she said. "Do you count the holes in the stamp before you put it on the gauge or after?"

"You don't count the holes at all," I said, "bring the gauge and I'll show you."

She brought the gauge. It was an "Ideal" one. We put it to an ideal use.

"It's this way you see," I said putting the edge of a penny stamp along the 14. "When the teeth of the perforation exactly fit the round dots on the gauge it's 14."

"I see," she said, "but how do you know it's 14 in the first place?"

"I knew this one was already because I've gauged it before. But if I didn't know I'd look at the stamp and make a guess. If it looked like 14 I'd try it, and then if it didn't fit I'd try 13½ or 14½ and so on until I got it right."

"I see. Let's try another stamp" she said.

We tried a dozen others. The light of evening was beginning to fail. We had to look so closely at the stamps our heads almost touched. Anything else you might teach one without coming so close, but to teach the use of the perforation gauge you must get very close indeed. She was an apt pupil, and we bent together over the little bit of grey cardboard until it became too dark to see.

But even when it got too dark to see we still sat very close together and Miss Roulette sighed and remarked what a pity it was that the evenings got dark so soon. She declared it was a shame to light a lamp while it was still daylight and yet it was such a bore that there

hadn't been light enough to finish the lesson.

"Still, I think I'll remember how to do it," she said, and then she sighed again.

"Miss Roulette," I said "I'm going home to-morrow."

"Oh, yes," she said, "and you'll be sure and try and get me a set of those funny provisionals. The ones with the red line and the blue line, and one dot not there and the other one up above."

I promised I would be sure and get it, and then we drifted on into talk about rare stamps and great finds.

All the time we were talking I had been making up my mind to speak of the subject that was nearer to my heart than philately. I am naturally a shy man, but when I really make up my mind to a thing I generally carry it through.

"Of all the great stamps which would you soonest have in your collection?" she said.

It was now quite dark and my courage was rising.

"There is something I would rather have," I said, "than any stamp in the world."

"An entire envelope or something of that sort," she said, puzzled.

"No, guess again."

"What is it like?"

"Well," I said, "there's a head on it beautifully modelled, and I might say that it is not perforated but Rouletted, and I have never been able quite to gauge it yet."

"What can it be?" she said.

"Can't you guess?"

"No, I give it up."

"It's a young lady with an enthusiasm for stamp collecting," I said in a whisper.

She gave a little start of surprise.

"Miss Roulette," I cried eagerly. "I love you better than my collection, would rather have you than a post office full of "post office" Mauritiuses, and I couldn't go away without telling you."

She bent towards me in the twilight. She didn't get up and run away or say anything, and my heart was beating



faster than when I found the 1½d rose red with an error in the lettering.

"Dear Miss Roulette, don't say no," I pleaded.

She didn't say anything at all, but her hand slipped into mine and somehow our lips got very close in the darkness, and I knew that I had gauged her correctly.

Next month the philatelic journals announced a philatelic wedding, and we started on our honeymoon with our albums and a perforation gauge to continue our lessons at leisure.

In our home there is a little bit of grey cardboard bearing the famous legend "The Ideal." Little wonder we treasure it and look fondly back to the deepening gloom of an autumn evening when first we used it together and became for evermore an unsevered pair.

## THE LATEST SYDNEY DISCOVERY.

[From the *Australian Philatelist*.]

It is but a few months since I had the pleasure of describing a discovery which, at first sight somewhat startling, was, however, capable of a simple explanation but was nevertheless very interesting. I refer to the *tele beche* pair of Sydney views.

It is now my privilege to describe another discovery of even greater interest, inasmuch as it possesses the same quality of uniqueness as attached to the pair of views, and at the same time has the additional advantage of constituting a variety which will have to be added to our catalogues.

The stamp in question was found by Mr. T. H. Nicolle, a Sydney stamp dealer, and having been acquired in the ordinary way of business amongst a number of contemporary stamps of well-known varieties adhering to portions of the original covers, is entirely free from any suspicion of having any but a perfectly legitimate origin.

This new discovery is the Two Pence, New South Wales, of the "Diadem"

type 1856-62), with watermark *double lined figure 1, perforated 11½, 12*.

The stamp is a fine specimen in a clear full blue shade, well centred, and judging from the margins, which show no encroachments from adjoining stamps, is from the second of Perkins Bacon and Co.'s steel plates, on which the stamps were more regularly spaced than on the first plate. It is used, the cancellation being the office number 18 surrounded by a number of rays, in black. This number in 1860 2 (the period when the perforated stamp was in use) belonged to the Post Office at Mudgee.

The watermark is in the normal position, and is placed rather close to the right hand margin, looked at from the back of the stamp. The whole figure, however, is clearly visible, the sloping top touching the perforated edge of the stamp.

The Diadem and Large Square Series which were contemporaneously issued, are both remarkable for deviations from the normal watermark, or so-called "errors." Of the Diadems, the One Penny has only one variety, which, however, cannot be called an error, viz., that with water-mark single-lined figure 1. The Two Pence on the other hand is much more favoured! In variation from the normal double lined figure 2, we find the comparatively, double-lined 5, the *imperforate* stamp with double-lined 1 (of which I believe only two specimens are known), and the same with double-lined 8 (of which only one *genuine* copy is known). The last mentioned was cleverly imitated a few years ago, but the fraud was fortunately exposed. The Two Penny Diadem is also found on the single-lined 2 paper properly belonging to the De la Rue type, but this is only a reprint. The Three Pence is known in an imperforate condition, with watermark double-lined 2, and perforated, with double-lined 3 and italic 10. The six-pence of the large square series, imperforate, has the "error" of watermark 8, and the perforated stamp is known with two errors—5 and 12; while the One Shilling imperforate bears the error 8

Mr Nicolle's discovery, therefore, adds another to the already large number of varieties of the Two Pence, Diadem. It is true that it differs from one of the recorded "errors" only in the matter of perforation, but this is quite sufficient to constitute an entirely new variety.

It might be interesting to recall the history of the two recorded imperforate stamps with a similar error of watermark.

On the 11th April, 1890, Mr M. P. Castle read before the Philatelic Society of London a paper upon the Stamps of New South Wales with watermark of double-lined numerals. Upon this occasion he exhibited the 2d. blue, watermark double-lined numeral 1 and 3d. watermark double-lined numeral 2, both imperforate. He said, "The existence of the former has been known to more than one member of the Society for a considerable period, and was formerly in the collection of Mr Tilleard, but in spite of the most strenuous search no further copy has been found. As the error 5 exists on this stamp, thus causing the examination of the watermarks at the hands of the collectors, it seems very probable that this will always remain a very scarce variety, even if it does not preserve its present unique position."

As the London Society's work on the stamps of Oceania, published in July, 1887, did not contain any reference to this error, it is fair to assume it was discovered shortly afterwards, as Mr. Castle says its existence was known for a considerable period. How the lucky finder must have searched for others, all the while holding his secret deep hidden in his breast, until hope died away and he resolved to let the knowledge of the discovery go forth to the world.

Barely two years elapsed after Mr. Castle described the error before another copy turned up. At a meeting of the London Society held on February 12th, 1892, a letter was read from Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, forwarding for inspection a copy of the 2d Diadem imperforate, wmk. 1.

The variety with watermark 8 was discovered by Mr George Callf in March,

1892. In commenting upon this discovery Mr. Castle said "The marvellous vitality—if I may use the expression—in the stamps of the Australian colonies has frequently been demonstrated by philatelic writers, while it is but a few weeks since I ventured to prophesy that there would always be discoveries in the lifetime of the present generation. No more complete exemplification of this could be afforded than the recent discovery of Mr. Callf.

After describing the new discovery, Mr Castle referred to the variety with wmk. 1, exhibited by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd. This stamp, he considered, was of a different shade from the one described in 1890, which would indicate that more than one printing took place, or that perhaps one sheet was inadvertently mixed with those containing the normal numbers on more than one occasion. He concluded: "May I prophesy the possibility of an error being found on the 1d, and I think it will be cheerfully conceded that the first issue of New South Wales will in most albums be complete long before the third! However, we must all wait and watch our opportunity. 'Hope springs eternal in the human breast.'"

It was considered remarkable that these discoveries, recorded 12 years ago, should have remained undiscovered for 34 years. What are we to think of an error such as Mr Nicolle has discovered, awaiting discovery for 41 years! It is still within the bounds of possibility that an error of watermark, probably a double lined figure 2, will be found on the 1d, Diadem. As the 2d, with error 1 doubtless resulted from a sheet of the 1d. paper being accidentally bound up in a book of 2d paper, what more likely than that a similar mistake occurred in binding a book for the 1d. stamps. Let us all live in hope! —A. H. BASSET HULL.

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Victorian stamp duty stamps are now appearing in a new design with numeral in the centre.

The designs have been approved for the St. Louis Exhibition stamps.

## PAPERS AND WATER-MARKS.

With special reference to the stamp issues of New Zealand.

[*A paper read before the Nelson Philatelic Society by the Rev. D. McKee Wright.*]

Paper is made from the pulp of various fibrous materials such as cotton and linen rags, straw, timber and various grasses. These materials are reduced to pulp by grinding, bleaching, beating and boiling. Thin coatings of this pulp are then placed on frames of fine wire net or blanket and the water is allowed to drain off. Size or weak glue is then usually added and the sheets are passed under rollers and subjected to great pressure.

The frame on which the pulp is first placed to drain gives its character to the paper, the pattern of the wires or blanket covering the frame showing in the paper when held to the light. Varieties of paper are due either to the nature of the frame, the chemical matter added to the pulp, the kind of fibre employed, or the final mode of pressing and drying.

Watermarks are formed in two ways.

(1). Either they are impressed in the pulp through pieces of wire of the required shape soldered on the original frame or on a roll which passes over the pulp in an early stage, or (2) they are impressed into the paper when its manufacture has been completed. The first is the common method used for most British Colonial stamps. Examples of the second are to be seen in the stamps of Switzerland or in the impressed N.Z. monogram on some of the fiscal stamps of New Zealand.

I now proceed to describe some of the varieties of paper.

(1). "Wove" paper is that which has been first caught in frames of blanket or fine crossed wire. On holding it up to the light it shows a faint pattern of alternate light and dark dots. Most of our New Zealand stamps are printed on "wove" paper.

(2). "Laid" paper differs from "wove" in having when held to the light a pattern

of parallel lines and lighter spaces. This again is due to the wires of the frame being arranged in parallel lines. On this paper some of our Railway stamps, the Discount stamps, and a few sheets of our current 2s. were printed.

(4). "Ribbed" paper is that in which the "laid" lines are so accentuated as to give an uneven surface to the paper. Ribbing is sometimes caused also by shrinkage while drying. Nearly the whole series of our pictorial stamps have been printed on paper of the latter kind.

(5). "Quadrille" paper shows a pattern of crossed rectangular lines. No New Zealand stamps have been printed on this paper, but it has been used for several stamps of France.

(6). "Granite" or "Silurian" paper is paper containing minute pieces of fibre scattered irregularly through the pulp. This has not been used for New Zealand stamps but is well-known in connection with Austrian issues.

(7). "Silk" paper is similar to Granite paper but with a smaller number of fibres of silk in the pulp. This has been used for United States fiscals.

(8). "Dickson" paper has running through it a silk thread. It was used for some of the early English embossed stamps.

(9). "Pelure paper" is extremely thin, hard "wove" paper. It was used as a makeshift for printing a very small number of New Zealand stamps.

In addition to the above, stamps are described as being on papers of various colours, as in the case of the first colonial printing on New Zealand stamps which were on blue paper. One set of New Zealand fiscals were printed on yellowish paper. "Toned" paper is that which has a slight surface colouring of any shade. "Blued" or "bleute" paper is not always a variety of paper in the first instance, but often, as in the case of early English and first issue of New Zealand stamps, has become blued on the back through the chemical action of the colours used for printing and the

Philatelic Portrait No. 4.



A well known Philatelist.

The Hon. Col. Pitt, Attorney General.



gum on the stamps. The paper for the issues of 1874-78 described as bleute was probably faintly blued in the first place being similar to that used for the fiscal stamps, but this is a most unsatisfactory variety as the colour runs off into white and is most difficult to decide upon with certainty.

Taking our New Zealand stamps in their order of issue we find the first set printed in London by Messrs Perkins, Bacon and Co. They were imperforate and had as a watermark a six rayed star. Some of these as mentioned before, became blued through the chemical action of the printing ink and the gum. The blue is found irregularly on the backs resembling the blueing on the backs of the early stamps of Britain.

On the dies and plates being sent out by Messrs Perkins, Bacon and Co. to New Zealand the stamps were printed on blue, wove paper without watermark.

This gave place to a white wove paper showing great variety of texture and thickness. It is described as "hard and soft" in the catalogues. Possibly this variety was intentional. We know it to have been so in the case of the early stamps of Britain and the supplies of paper for New Zealand probably came from the same source.

Paper without watermark was used from 1856 to 1862.

During this period regular supplies running short a small printing of all varieties then in use was made on "pelure" paper. This was probably procured locally in Auckland. There is practically no official information extant about the "pelure" printings, and there is always the possibility of these being experimental. The fact that the 3d lilac, was printed on this paper lends colour to this supposition as this stamp was not issued until 1862 and the first pelure stamp bears the date 1860.

From 1862 to 1874 nearly all our stamps are on white, wove paper varying in thickness and watermarked a six rayed star. This star watermark, as has recently been shown, varies very much in size; but it is

more than likely that the various sizes are all to be found on the same sheet.

In 1864 printings were made on paper intended to be used for fiscal stamps and watermarked N.Z.

In 1872 three varieties were issued on thick wove paper without watermark, and two varieties on the fiscal paper watermark N.Z.

In the same year was also issued the 2d vermilion with the "lozenge" watermark. This watermark was originally supposed to be a pattern of crossed diagonal lines covering the sheet. It is now regarded as the centre watermark of a sheet otherwise unwatermarked. More information is required about the watermark as I am assured on the best of authority that Stanley Gibbon's description in the new catalogue is still incorrect.

In 1873 the ½d stamp was issued on wove paper unwatermarked or bearing the fiscal watermark N.Z. The thickness of the paper here varies more than any in of the previous issues, one printing being on what might be described as thin cardboard. In 1875 the same stamp was printed on wove paper watermarked a small star. Stanley's Gibbon's illustration of this watermark is still incorrect. The picture given being apparently that of the truncated star of Queensland while the New Zealand star is pointed.

From 1874 onward the regular watermark is the N.Z. and small star with which we have become so familiar. The large star of the original issues was in 1875 used again for a small printing of two values, but with this exception the N.Z. and star on various kinds of wove paper remained in use until the pictorial stamps were issued in 1898.

Of the various papers and watermarks which follow I content myself with giving merely a list,

(1) Stamps printed in London by Messrs Waterlow and Sons on fine wove paper without watermark.

(2) First colonial printing of ½d, 1d, and 2d on thick wove paper with a watermark of a double lined N.Z. and star almost, if not quite, obliterated in the process of printing. The 1½d value

engraved in the colony was issued on the same paper.

(3) Ribbed paper. On this all the values above 2d. except the 5d. and perhaps the 5s, were printed. It is without watermark. The  $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, and 2d are found on ribbed paper with watermark.

(4) Fine wove paper without watermark. On this all the values above 2d were printed.

We next come to the papers and watermarks of the 1d "Universal" and  $\frac{1}{2}$ d green pictorial. The 1d "Universal" was issued on January 1st, 1901, and the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d green had already been printed on the soft thick paper supplied by Messrs Waterlow and Sons with the double lined watermark

(1) Fine "wove" paper without watermark, 1d.

(2) Waterlow paper as for first colonial printing with double lined watermark, 1d.

(3) "Basted Mills" paper. Hard fine "wove" with double lined watermark. A very close grained paper with a smooth surface, inclined to curl even when washed free from gum.  $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1d.

(4) "Cowan's" paper without watermark. Hard wove paper, varying a little in thickness. Not so close grained as "Basted Mills,"  $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1d.

(5) "Cowan's" with watermark N.Z. and 1 star, single lined. This watermark differs from that introduced in 1874 in that the letters N.Z. and the star are close together,  $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1d.

The higher values of New Zealand stamps have now all been issued on "Cowan's" paper with the single lined watermark. Stamps of the smaller size show the watermark upright, while the larger stamps show it sideways. It is also being used for the Government insurance stamps.

"Lisbon Superfine." This watermark twice in the sheet (not once as stated by Stanley Gibbons) was used for the printing of the 6d pictorial.

"New Zealand Postage." These words are found watermarked in the margins of sheets with the current watermarks, as the sheets did not fit the plates.

Corner stamps from these sheets show no watermark.

The Two Shilling blue-green has been printed on laid paper, as have also the whole set of the railway stamps except the 6d.

Of the fiscal stamps little need be said. They are all on "wove" paper of various thickness. They bear the watermark N.Z. in two forms, the two stars of the postal issues, the star and N.Z. watermark of 1874 and the impressed N.Z. monogram. Many of the varieties are blued, but I believe the Fiscal Society of London have decided to ignore the blued varieties of New Zealand and New South Wales as the blue while in many cases well defined runs off imperceptibly into white. In my opinion the blue postal varieties of 1874-78 should be treated in the same way.

The papers and watermarks of New Zealand offer a good deal of scope for one who has time and inclination to study them. The following lines of study I might suggest as worth following up:

(1) A comparison of the star watermarks of the early issues. A sufficient number of the commoner variety of these stamps may be obtained to make this comparison possible.

(2) A comparison of the papers of the issues of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d rose. This is a more difficult matter, as most of these stamps are exceedingly difficult to obtain.

(3) A study of the "lozenge" watermark. As a single specimen of this stamp is worth £5 it is clear that it is no easy matter to obtain material to work upon.

(4) A study of the various papers used for the stamps of 1882-97 in their relationship to the various perforations. I believe that this should prove exceedingly interesting and that it would lead to much more satisfactory results than might at first thought be expected. For instance, the following facts are known to many of us: The stamps perforated 12 x 11 $\frac{1}{2}$  are usually on a fine, thin, "wove" paper, showing a pattern in the grain. The stamps perforated 11 are

usually on a thicker "wove" paper showing a somewhat similar pattern. The stamps perforated 10 are usually on thick, soft, smooth paper resembling a hard blotting paper. Many of the stamps perforated 10 show advertisements on the back."

To discover how far these characteristics are constant, and to describe more accurately the nature of each paper, with other varieties which doubtless exist, would be a task well worthy the attention of a collector with time and energy to spare.

It is unnecessary to say that our recent issues offer good opportunities for similar study.

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

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### "Seebeck" Stamps: Should they be Collected?

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TO THE EDITOR N.Z. PHILATELIST.

Dear Sir,—I have read a good deal of late on the above question but could not quite understand how to act, not knowing the true meaning of "Seebeckism." I have only just learned the history in connection with such stamps. I here quote it—it may benefit some collectors:—"About 1886 a Mr. F. N. Seebeck formed a company, of which he was chairman, and entered into contracts with quite a number of the impecunious Governments of Central and South America, binding himself to supply stamps to them free of charge, as many as they wanted, for postal purposes only.

Each issue, he stipulated, should be good for one year only, and every succeeding issue was to be different in color and design from that preceeding it, his company meanwhile to retain the dies and to be at liberty to issue as many reprints as it chose for any *but* postal purposes."

To my mind such stamps are not worthy a place in any album. However, a collector should be largely guided by what he or she considers worth collecting. I

should be pleased to see others write on the above subject.—I am, etc.,

PAKAKA.

Denniston, N.Z.

[We agree with Pakaka to a point, but as the Seebecks were really used for postage where are we to draw the line. Ed. N.Z. P.]

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## Railway Stamps.

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TO THE EDITOR N.Z. PHILATELIST.

Dear Sir,—The ways of stamp catalogues are sometimes dark and mysterious. I write to ask you why the railway stamps of New Zealand are included in Messrs Stanley Gibbons' catalogue, while those of Queensland, New South Wales, etc., which are equally interesting, are excluded? There seems to be no reason why fish should be made of one and flesh of another. If it only means that S. G. and Co. have only one sort of stamp for sale and not the other, are we to suppose that many other stamps are left out which ought to have a place simply because the publishers have not got them in stock? I think this is a question that ought to be answered because many collectors are puzzled about it.—I am, etc.,

COLLECTOR.

Nelson.

[We do not profess to understand Messrs Stanley Gibbons' method in this matter, but think that the key is to be found in the inscription on the stamps. The New Zealand stamps are inscribed "Newspaper," while those of Queensland have "Newspapers and Parcels" and those of New South Wales "Parcels" only. None of the stamps are in any true sense postage stamps as they have nothing to do with the Postal Department. They are undoubtedly interesting, but they should be collected in a section by themselves.—Ed. N.Z.P.]

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We call attention to the advertisements of the Sterling Stamp Co. appearing in this issue.



## NOTES & CLIPPINGS.

With this issue our journal in its two forms completes a year of its existence. This, of course, constitutes a record for New Zealand, the life of stamp journals previously published here having been exceedingly brief.

Subscribers who read and enjoy this journal should show it and recommend it to their friends. We ask the assistance of all to enable us to keep it as it is at present, the largest and best stamp journal published south of the line.

"Mr. Harper, of Wanganui, N.Z., writes that he has discovered a 2d. N.Z., blue, watermark star, pin perf. about 16, on original cover."—*The Australian Journal of Philately*.

*The Australian Philatelist* records a copy of the current 4d of New Zealand perforated 14 at the top and sides and 11 at the bottom.

*Morley's Philatelic Journal* for March gives illustrations of the two dies of the early New Zealand stamp duty issue.

*The Stamp Collector* gives the location of the 24 known copies of the two values of the Post Office Mauritius. Ten are in Great Britain, twelve in France, while Germany and Russia have one each. Of the known copies 23 are in collections where they are likely to remain. One is held by the well-known French dealer, Mons. Lemaire, who does not like to part with it as he believes it to be the finest specimen in existence.

*The Australian Philatelist*, commenting upon the fact that private envelopes are stamped to order by the New Zealand Government and even the usual stamp space utilised for advertisements, concludes that "the New Zealand Postal Department wants a thorough shaking up." We are not inclined to think the matter here complained of a very grave one, and in any case Great Britain set the example a very long time ago when the postal authorities allowed Messrs. W. H. Smith and Sons to circle the stamp with the name of their own firm.

Dangerous forgeries from Spain which were recently called attention to in Stanley Gibbons' Monthly have been seen in New Zealand. They consist mostly of surcharged British colonials and are interspersed with good stamps.

Four hundred pounds for an early West Australian 4d. with inverted swan constitutes, says the *Australian Journal of Philately*, a record for an Australian stamp. This sum was recently obtained at auction in London.

Stanley Gibbons' catalogues of locals and postal stationery are not to be issued again. It seems a pity that the local catalogue should be dropped. Many locals are very interesting and collectors will be at a loss for a guide.

*Mekeel's Weekly* states that a new issue of stamps of Belgium will be issued next year to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the independence of that country.

We have received from the publisher, Victor March, a copy of his very useful "International Directory of Philatelic Literature" which we hope to review next month.

We learn from *S. G.'s Monthly Journal* that Great Britain has followed the lead of other countries in issuing stamp booklets. These are printed from special plates and so arranged that 50 per cent show the watermark inverted.

In 1870 a Stamp Dealer in London, by way of novelty and advertisement, prepared his shop window, walls and ceiling with unused Ionian Islands stamps, which were then a drug on the market. Now the same stamps fetch about 15s. per set of 3, and at a rough estimate the value of this curious wallpaper would be £8000 or more.

A new issue of Chili is to be produced by the American Bank Note Co. It is a matter for regret that Chili should have resolved so soon on a new issue. Her record in the past was so clean, and her stamps in every way so satisfactory that it will take a good deal to shake the faith of collectors in her issues, but a new set every year is a little too much. The new set is to contain fourteen values.

# EXCHANGE ADVERTISEMENTS.

*Advertisements are inserted under this heading at a uniform rate of a penny for three words. No advertisement of less than 36 words will be inserted. If advertisements are insufficiently paid they will not be inserted. All advertisements must be prepaid. We cannot guarantee the good faith of advertisers, but will refuse notice from persons proved to be dishonest or unsatisfactory.*

**No Collector** of Australasian Stamps can afford to be without Nicolle's catalogue. It will save you pounds. The **STERLING STAMP Co.**, Nelson, agents for New Zealand.

**Champion & Co.'s** Standard Catalogue. This is the recognised French catalogue and identical with that of Vvert and Tellier. 1904 edition just out. The **STERLING STAMP Co.**, Nelson, agents for New Zealand.

**Whitfield King's** Universal Standard Catalogue. The world in one volume. The best for the beginner and invaluable for the general collector. No minor varieties of perforation listed. The cheapest of all the great catalogues. New Zealand agents, **THE STERLING STAMP Co.**, Nelson.

**Newfoundland.**—27 varieties, including many rare and obsolete stamps—price 3s 6d. post free. Unused stamps of New Zealand (mint condition) accepted in payment. Send for price list of British North American Postage Stamps.—**CENTURY STAMP Co.**, P. O. Box 197, Montreal Canada. Reference filed with *N.Z.P.*

**Exchange.**—**H. BRUSEWITZ**, Nelson, New Zealand, will give good New Zealand stamps in exchange for old issues and high values of British Colonies. Fine specimens only desired. Reference to proprietors of this paper.

**Exchange.**—Send 25-100 stamps of your country and receive same value and number of Holland, Dutch Indies, Germany, France, &c. View cards in exchange for stamps. Register sendings.—**F. W. MOHLMANN**, Haarlemmerstraat 14, Hillegom, Holland.

**James Bros.**, Waterford, Ontario, Canada, offer a large assortment of Canada, Newfoundland, and British Colonial stamps for cash or exchange.

**Send me 200**—2000 stamps from any country in Asia, Australia, Africa, South America, and I will return European well mixed. Belgian stamps in sets by large lots, and with coupon in fine condition.—**EDM. VAN DER PLASSCHE**, editor of the philatelic paper *Annuaire Annversoise*, 12, Comite rue van Bloer, 12, Antwerp, Belgium.

**Collectors** in New Zealand, Tasmania, South Australia, West Australia, Victoria, and New South Wales send their exchange sheets to **LESLIE W. ROBINSON**, care of Walter Reid & Co., Ltd., Rockhampton, Queensland, and receive old Queensland stamps in exchange.

**South African**—Wanted—Good foreign stamps, no English. I will send good South African (old and new issues) in return. I always answer.—**A. BRUNETT**, care of Blaine and Co., Jetty St., Port Elizabeth, Cape Colony.

**The Oceania Philatelic Journal** is the best medium to advertise in, as your advertisement will be seen by collectors in all parts of the world. Full particulars on receipt of 1d. stamp **S. J. HOWARD**, Greatford, Rangitikei.

**N.Z. Stamp Co., Dunedin**, will send their list of Sets, Packets, etc., post free on application; also fine approval sheets of Foreign, British Colonial, and scarce N.Z. stamps. Agents wanted.

**Fiscals.**—Will purchase, exchange or sell. Only scarce revenues wanted. Can submit good, cheap selections of all kinds.—**A. B. KAY**, Secretary Fiscal Society, 2 Haarlem Mansions, West Kensington, London, W., England.

**Major A. G. E. Newland, I.M.S.**, 10th Battalion, Hakka, Chin Hills, Burma, desires to correspond with a New Zealand collector who can supply scarce stamps of recent issues, unused, in pairs taken from the corners of sheets with marginal numbers showing.

**Pigeon Post.**—Original Great Barrier Service. 1s, first issue, 2s 6d; 1s, second issue, 1s 6d; 1s, current, 1s 3d. The **Sterling Stamp Co.**, Nelson.

**2000 Special Bargains** in sets and single stamps. A detailed list will be sent on receipt of 2d in unused New Zealand stamps. **ALFRED SMITH AND SON**, 4, Southampton Row, London, W.C. (Established in Bath, 1863).

**Wanted in Exchange**—N.Z. 1898, London print, 5d, 8d, 5s; colonial print 6d, 2s, 5s; also earlier issues. I will give Malta, Colonials, Italy and States, and Levant. **W. R. GATT** 51, Sda. Vescovo, Valletta, Malta.

Are you  
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WE will send POST FREE to any address 40 Fiscal Stamps of Austria and Hungary for 2s 6d.

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TO CLEAR we offer a parcel of 40 packets of stamps ready for sale, with stamps on the outside, originally offered at 38s 8d, for 16s cash. The packets are priced from 4d to 3s 6d, and were the cheapest in the market at the original price. Write at once as they will be snapped up quickly.

**THE STERLING STAMP CO.,**  
NELSON, N.Z.

**FOREIGN :: STAMPS.**

Collectors of Foreign Stamps should send to us for sheets on approval. Our prices for the medium varieties are very low indeed.

**STERLING STAMP CO.**  
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Order at once as the stock of these is very limited.

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*Sterling Stamp Co., Nelson.*

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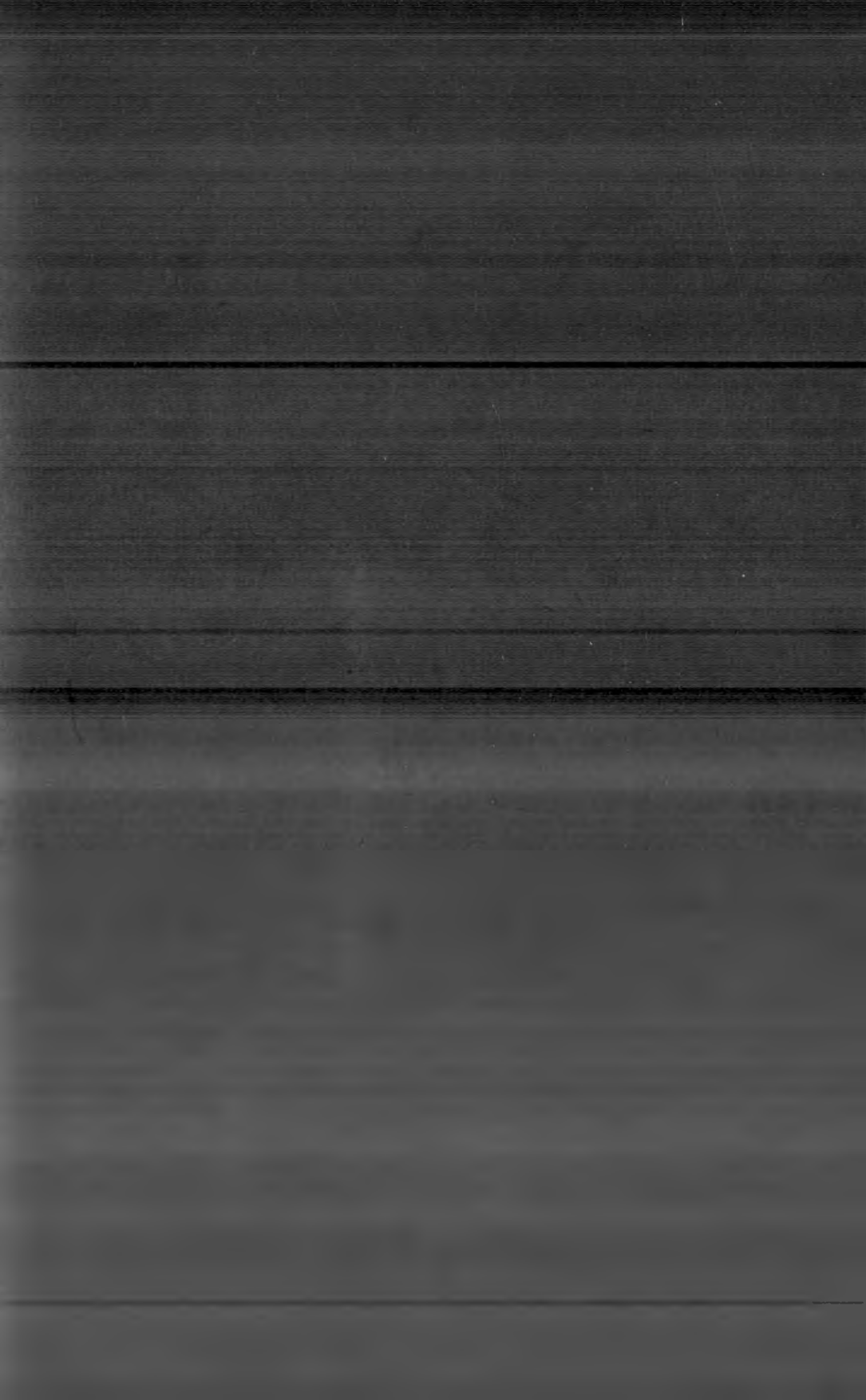
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NOTE—In this Catalogue ALL MINOR VARIETIES of perforation, &c., &c., which are so confusing to the average collector, ARE OMITTED, and no collector need go outside the stamps listed in this book, which mentions and prices all those issued in the ordinary way. The book is pocket size, and contains some useful "HINTS TO COLLECTORS" and a preface of interesting matter. Prices moreover, will be found most reasonable.

**EVERY COLLECTOR SHOULD HAVE ONE.**

Accompanying the above is sent a Special

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And for those who take the minor varieties, will be found most useful.

**T. H. NICOLLE, Postage Stamp Merchant,**

Telephone 3008.

**14 HUNTER ST., SYDNEY.**

Estab. 1890

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# .. THE .. NEW ZEALAND PHILATELIST

With which is incorporated "The Sterling Monthly."

VOL. II. NO. 1.

JUNE, 1904.

PRICE 3D.

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### POSTAGE STAMP MERCHANT,

14, Hunter Street, Sydney, N.S.W.

THE  
New Zealand Philatelist.

With which is incorporated The Sterling Monthly.

VOL. II. No. 1.

JUNE, 1904.

PRICE 3D.

EDITORIAL.

WITH this number we begin a new volume. This fact may require some explanation. *The New Zealand Philatelist* under its present title has not yet seen the normal twelve months of existence required to complete a volume, but, taken with its forerunner *The Sterling Monthly*, that period has been covered and the publishers finding it necessary to completely remodel the journal have decided to begin with the present issue a new volume. The reasons for this are many. The quantity of matter contained in the journal has been larger than the amount of the subscription and the support received could justify. The type used to allow of the quantity of matter being inserted was too small for convenient reading, and the colour of the cover was objected to by advertisers as on it their notices could not be sufficiently displayed. We trust that our readers will bear with us while our journal is in the experimental stage. We believe that *The New Zealand Philatelist* has now reached its permanent form, and if it be found to contain less reading matter than formerly every effort will be made to compensate for this by setting a higher standard in the quality of our articles and notes.

Philatelic Literature.

The collection of philatelic literature is rapidly assuming an important place. In this country there are very few collectors who possess even the rudiments of the good philatelic library, but in England and America many of the libraries possessed by collectors are both large and valuable. Although most philatelic works of importance are still to be purchased at very reasonable prices, the cost of forming even a moderate library is very considerable and most collectors prefer adding to their stamp collections proper rather than expending money on the literature of their hobby. The result is that many have got together very large collections of stamps of the history of which they are almost wholly ignorant. Some there are whose whole philatelic library consists of the catalogue of a single dealer, and whose knowledge of the stamps in their albums is entirely gleaned from its pages. Such knowledge is of necessity very limited and superficial, and a collection based upon it is likely to be faulty in arrangement, imperfect, and not by any means the source of pleasure that it might be.



## A Philatelic Library.

Collectors who can afford it should begin at once the formation of a philatelic library. Every Club and Society should make the formation of a really good library one of its chief aims. To say in broad outline what such a library should contain is no very difficult matter, but the special requirements of the society or the individual collector will, of course, have great influence in the choice of books. Briefly then, such a library should contain a few complete sets of the bound volumes of leading philatelic magazines. It should contain all the great catalogues, British or Foreign, and these should be kept when they become obsolete for purposes of comparison and reference. To these should be added as many of the philatelic works published in book form as possible. The publications of the London Philatelic Society and the handbooks of Messrs Stanley Gibbons and Co., together with those issued by the Scott Stamp and Coin Company are in themselves the nucleus of a very fine library of philately. It goes without saying that the very early literature of stamps and stamp collecting is much sought after, and this has a peculiar interest of its own, but in the suggestions we have made we are thinking of a working library that will help the student of philately rather than of a library of merely historical interest.

## Philatelic Societies.

There are very many districts in this colony where nothing in the nature of a philatelic club or society exists, but there are very few districts in which there are not to be found a considerable number of collectors. It is a pity that these do not band themselves together for mutual pleasure and profit. A philatelic society need not be large to fill a useful place. Three or four collectors meeting monthly over their albums will learn more at two or three meetings than they are likely to glean in years while working independently. The pleasure of rare finds and interesting discoveries is fourfold when shared with kindred spirits. Such societies are also useful for the exchange of duplicates. Many so-called Philatelic Societies are merely exchange clubs. As such they are, no doubt, useful, but the exchange of stamps is really quite secondary to the exchange of ideas about stamps. The formation of a philatelic society depends largely upon a suitable secretary being found, but we feel sure that in scores of districts such are to be found and that the time is not far distant when we shall have the pleasure of recording the formation of many new clubs and societies. One collector in each place with sufficient enthusiasm to make a beginning by bringing a few other collectors together to talk the matter over is all that is required. When once the matter has been talked over the usefulness of such a society will be so apparent that it will make its successful formation a certainty.

## MOUNTING STAMPS.

A great deal too little is apt to be made by the general collector of the matter of mounting stamps. In the good old days stamps were usually *glued* down in any kind of book that came handy. An old scrap or exercise book usually filled the bill admirably. The

stamps were not numerous, the minor varieties were not noted, and there was no reason why anything more than the face design of the stamp should be seen. Then followed the day of the printed album. Spaces were ruled off for the specimens and a collector thought nothing of cutting the perforations off a rare stamp in order to make it fit the ruled square in his album. Doubtless there were some who even in the earliest days took some pains to preserve their stamps, but the great majority of stamp collectors forty or fifty years ago were school-boys and the methods they adopted were crude in the extreme. Since then there have been very great changes, but the art of stamp mounting is not even now practised as it might be. The artistic arrangement of stamps may or may not be worth while. To some who have not the necessary taste it is impossible, but the proper *mounting* of stamps as apart from their arrangement is imperative. Stamps should be mounted in such a way that the back can be seen as easily as the front, and the hinge of the stamp turned without injury to the perforated border. Most collectors prefer to hinge their stamps from the top, but there are a few who hinge them from the left side, and those who adopt this method claim that it offers greater security to the stamp when the leaves of the album are turned over. A common method of affixing the mount, and one which has been recommended in several "Hints to Collectors," given in popular publications, is to bend the mount in half wet one portion and affix it to the stamp and the other and affix it to the album. This in a general way indicates the method of using the mounts, but something more than this is required to make the mounting thoroughly satisfactory.

In order to secure the best results affix about one eighth of an inch, or less, of the mount to the back of the stamp at the top, seeing that it is neatly and squarely in position. Then lay the stamp face downward with the margin to which the mount is affixed exactly on the line below which the stamp is to be placed. Then wet the larger portion of the mount and fix it to the album. Allow it to dry in this position. Then turn the stamp over on the hinge that has been formed. Mounted in this way the stamp can be turned backwards or forwards at will without injury to the perforated border, and without any portion of the mount showing above the stamp. This method of mounting takes a little time, but it is time well spent.

The best mounts only should be used. Using the gummed margins of stamp sheets is very objectionable. Adhesive tape is also unsatisfactory as it is rather thick and becomes yellow with age.

The way in which a collection is mounted often gives a very fair indication of the character of the collector. Stamps should be carefully handled and well kept, and they can only be carefully handled and well kept when in the first place they have been properly mounted.

### Stamps Used to Order.

**A**N attempt is being made in some English journals to get up an agitation against stamps which have been sent through the post merely to receive the post mark. Writers seek to show that such stamps are on exactly the same footing as stamps cancelled to order. Surely this is not really so. Stamps cancelled to order are usually bought under face value, the others are bought at face value and sent in

a perfectly legitimate way through the regular post offices. That more stamps than are required for pre-payment of postage may sometimes be placed on the letters is perfectly true, but it is equally true that by a little *management* every stamp can be thus sent carrying only the weight of postal matter which it is legitimately entitled to carry. It is utterly impossible to draw the line between stamps which have carried a letter and stamps which have carried an empty envelope. We are inclined to dismiss the question as one of the idlest ever raised.

### The First King's Head Error.

THE well-known London dealer, Mr. D. Field, has secured two copies of a stamp of remarkable interest. This is nothing less than the current Transvaal 5s. with the King's head inverted. A solicitor in the Transvaal purchased two of these stamps in the ordinary way of business and soon afterwards discovered their remarkable nature and returned to secure some more of them. He found the sheet withdrawn from sale, and the postal authorities desired him to return the copies he had secured. This he declined to do, and consequently the specimens have found their way into the hands of an English dealer. The Transvaal stamps are printed by Messrs De la Rue, and considering the very great care exercised by this famous firm it is astonishing that there should have been any error in printing. The action of the Transvaal authorities in immediately withdrawing the sheet from sale is one to be altogether commended.

### The Cistafile.

MESSRS Lawn and Barlow of 99 Regent Street, London, W., send us full and detailed pamphlets describing a new and exceedingly important invention which they have named the Cistafile. The cistafile is not an album, but a new arrangement by which each stamp or group of stamps is mounted on a separate card and filed in such a manner that all friction is prevented and the stamp can be readily seen and examined. We have carefully studied the description of the method and are convinced that it possesses an immense advantage over the arrangement in any kind of album. With the Cistafile there is never a blank space, re-arrangement is managed without unmounting a single stamp, full details regarding the stamp are always at hand, and the risk of damage to the stamp itself is reduced to a minimum. Add to these advantages the fact that the Cistafile is certainly cheaper than the better class albums, and that it never becomes obsolete, and we may fairly conclude that the new invention will work something like a revolution in philately. The facts we have mentioned are clearly apparent on studying the detailed and illustrated description. Doubtless there is very much more that might be said when the invention has been given an exhaustive trial. In all such new inventions we are inclined to be suspicious of radical faults which may destroy all the apparent usefulness, but the testimonials of a number of world-famed collectors who are using the Cistafile set these doubts at rest.

## The International Directory of Philatelic Literature.

The work edited and published by Mr. Victor Marsh will be found exceedingly useful to all who are interested in the literature of Philately. The book contains a history of Philatelic publications to the end of 1900, with special notes on many handbooks and journals, and list of Collectors and Dealers in philatelic literature, and a reference list of current periodicals. We cordially recommend this little book to any of our readers desirous of forming a library of their hobby. The price of the publication is one shilling and three pence, and the publisher's address is 389 Brixton Road, London, S.W.

## Sale of Rare Stamps at Glendining's.

THE remarkable prices realized in London at Messrs Glendining's sale of unused English postage stamps seem to indicate that most men of middle-age have had the opportunity—and lost it—of realising a fortune. In one case, for instance, 3d invested in 1852 brought a return of £18. The sale is of importance to collectors, being the first consisting entirely of unused English productions. A strip of six penny black stamps, 1840, made £13. Other remarkable prices were 1840, twopence blue without white lines, £5; the same with the watermark a large crown, £7 10s; 1870, 1½d, like red, with error of lettering, £5 5s; 1847-54, one shilling, green, £7 10s; sixpenny, mauve, a pair, £10; 1855-6, fourpenny, pale carmine, £18 10s; 1862, threepenny, with secret dots, £18; 1855-7, ninepenny, green, watermark emblems, £35; 1867-80, two shilling, brown, £5 10s; 1867-83, ten shilling, grey-green, watermark, Maltese Cross, £12 10s; £1, brown lilac, ditto, £21; five shilling, watermark anchor, £6 15s; ten shilling, green, watermark anchor, £20; £1, brown lilac, watermark anchor, £75; and five shilling, rose, watermark anchor, £9.—*Collector's Advertiser.*

## Ballarat Philatelic Society.

AT the Ballarat Philatelic Society, April meeting, Mr. Holtham editor of the *Echo* newspaper, was unanimously elected Vice-President on the motion of the Secretary and Mr. Mather. The President, Dr. Guthrie announced his intention of taking a trip through the Continent and the British Isles, returning through America, and applied for seven months leave of absence. On the proposal of Mr. Hamilton 7 months leave was granted.

An interesting and instructive debat followed on Postal v. Fiscal Cancellation of Stamps. Mr. Breen opened the issue on the side of fiscal, and said that fiscal cancellation properly and neatly done looked better and cleaner, and he was glad to say that philatelists at home and abroad were taking more interest in that mode of cancellation at the present time than hitherto, the speaker then corroborated his statement by reading an article from the *Sterling Monthly* now altered to the *New Zealand Philatelist*. He then showed where a leading and prominent society of fiscals were carrying on in London, and next produced as

evidence the 5s, 2s 6d, 2s, 6d and 1d fiscals of Queensland issue 1880—all beautifully pen and bank cancelled. The debater also showed as a contrast several 1d, 2d and 4d Victorians very heavily postally cancelled.

Dr. Guthrie championed the cause of postal cancellation, his chief point being the want of variety in 'fiscals' so much so that philatelists would not be satisfied with the small field to operate on, the vicissitudes in postals gave the moderate collector ample scope for his craze, he had no objection to fiscals—but like wine and tea would not mix—they should be classified in a separate part of the album or have one to themselves. The Vice-President commended both speakers on the able manner in which their views were advocated, although the stamps produced for fiscals showed a decided advantage. He would not call for a division.

### Notes and Clippings.

We call attention to the changed advertisements of Mr. T. H. Nicolle appearing in this issue. Mr. Nicolle has kindly consented to receive subscriptions for this journal.

We have received specimens of the new values issued by the Argentine Republic. These are of the current type with the large sun watermark, 4 centavos orange-yellow and 6 centavos black. The latter is a particularly handsome stamp. Our correspondent informs us that neither value will be common.

American journals record the capture of a notorious stamp forger Richard Wolle. He is said to be the most dangerous forger ever known and the daring of some of his exploits is simply astounding. While in jail for altering bank notes he advertised for rare stamps signing himself No. 3333, Box 47, Jefferson City. This was his convict number and the post office box of the prison!

A new British Stamp journal has been issued under the title of "*The West End Philatelist*." It is published by Mr. D. Field, and edited by the well-known philatelic journalist Mr. Bertram Poole.

We call attention to the advertisement of Ewen's Colonial Stamp Market appearing in this issue.

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## THE NEW ZEALAND PHILATELIST.

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**The Subscription** to the "NEW ZEALAND PHILATELIST" is 2s 6d. per annum post free to any part of the world. Address all communications "**The New Zealand Philatelist**" P.O. Box 12, Nelson, New Zealand.

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**Undisplayed Advertisements** of Sale and Exchange are inserted at a uniform rate of three words for 1d. No. adv. of less than 36 words accepted.

TERMS.—STRICTLY CASH IN ADVANCE.

# EXCHANGE ADVERTISEMENTS.

*Advertisements are inserted under this heading at a uniform rate of a penny for three words. No advertisement of less than 36 words will be inserted.*

**No Collector** of Australasian Stamps can afford to be without Nicolle's catalogue. It will save you pounds. The STERLING STAMP CO., Nelson, agents for New Zealand.

**Champion & Co.'s** Standard Catalogue. This is the recognised French catalogue and identical with that of Yvert and Tellier. 1904 edition just out. THE STERLING STAMP CO., Nelson, agents for New Zealand.

**Whitfield King's** Universal Standard Catalogue. The world in one volume. The best for the beginner and invaluable for the general collector. No minor varieties of perforation listed. The cheapest of all the great catalogues. New Zealand agents, THE STERLING STAMP CO., Nelson.

**Newfoundland.**—27 varieties, including many rare and obsolete stamps—price 3s 6d. post free. Unused stamps of New Zealand (mint condition) accepted in payment. Send for price list of British North American Postage Stamps.—CENTURY STAMP CO., P. O. Box 197, Montreal Canada. Reference filed with *N.Z.P.*

**Exchange.**—H. BRISSEWITZ, Nelson, New Zealand, will give good New Zealand stamps in exchange for old issues and high values of British Colonies. Fine specimens only desired. Reference to proprietors of this paper.

**Send me 200**—2000 stamps from any country in Asia, Australia, Africa, South America, and I will return European well mixed. Belgian stamps in sets by large lots, and with coupon in fine condition.—EDM. VAN DER PLASSCHE, editor of the philatelic paper *Annuaire Annuaire*, 12, Comte rue van Bloer, 12, Antwerp, Belgium.

**2000 Special Bargains** in sets and single stamps. A detailed list will be sent on receipt of 2d in unused New Zealand stamps. ALFRED SMITH AND SON, 4, Southampton Row, London, W.C. (Established in Bath, 1863).

**Wanted in Exchange**—N.Z. 1898, London print, 5d, 8d, 5s; colonial print 6d, 2s, 5s; also earlier issues. I will give Malta, Colonials, Italy and States, and Levant. W. R. GATT 51, Sda. Vescovo, Valletta, Malta.

**Collectors** in New Zealand, Tasmania, South Australia, West Australia, Victoria, and New South Wales send their exchange sheets to LESLIE W. ROBINSON, care of Walter Reid & Co., Ltd., Rockhampton, Queensland, and receive old Queensland stamps in exchange.

**South African**—Wanted—Good foreign stamps, no English. I will send good South African (old and new issues) in return. I always answer.—A. BRUNETT, care of Blaine and Co., Jetty St., Port Elizabeth, Cape Colony.

**N.Z. Stamp Co., Dunedin.** will send their list of Sets, Packets, etc., post free on application; also fine approval sheets of Foreign, British Colonial, and scarce N.Z. stamps. Agents wanted.

**Fiscals.**—Will purchase, exchange or sell. Only scarce revenues wanted. Can submit good, cheap selections of all kinds.—A. B. KAY, Secretary Fiscal Society, 2 Haarlem Mansions, West Kensington, London, W., England.

**Major A. G. E. Newland, I.M.S.,** 10th Battalion, Hakka, Chin Hills, Burma, desires to correspond with a New Zealand collector who can supply scarce stamps of recent issues, unused, in pairs taken from the corners of sheets with marginal numbers showing.

**Pigeon Post.**—Original Great Barrier Service. 1s, first issue, 2s 6d; 1s, second issue, 1s 6d; 1s, current, 1s 3d. The Sterling Stamp Co., Nelson.

**The New Zealand Philatelist** besides circulating in every part of New Zealand and Australia has readers in Great Britain, United States of America, Canada, India, South Africa, Ceylon, Burmah, Malta, New Brunswick, Holland, Belgium, France, Russia, Norway, Switzerland, Argentine Republic, &c. This being so you cannot place your notices of sale or exchange better than in this column.

**If you want** a selection of Cheap Stamps of medium or rare varieties **On Approval** write to THE STERLING STAMP CO., NELSON, New Zealand.

# STAMPS WANTED ON APPROVAL.

We Buy largely and quickly. Cheques written every day.

**E**WEN'S COLONIAL STAMP MARKET, LTD., 32 Palace Square, Norwood, London, S. E., invite collectors and dealers to send selection of mint unused stamps on approval (single copies or blocks, but not more than 20 of a kind). All countries wanted, especially New Zealand and Australia, but no surcharged stamps, no official stamps, no postage due stamps, no varieties (neither of shade, watermark or perforation). We also buy used stamps if in sets.

**WE PAY HALF GIBBON'S CATALOGUE PRICES.**

We pay return postage of all stamps not accepted. Correspondence, Engl., Fr., Germ., Ital., Span., Portug., Du., Dan., Swed., Russ.

**EWEN'S COLONIAL STAMP MARKET, LTD., NORWOOD, S.E., LONDON.**

## Are you Interested in **Fiscals ?**

We will send **POST FREE** to any address 40 Fiscal Stamps of Austria and Hungary for 2s 6d.

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**The Sterling Stamp Co.**  
Nelson. N.Z.

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To CLEAR we offer a parcel of 40 packets of stamps ready for sale, with stamps on the outside, originally offered at 38s 8d. for 16s cash. The packets are priced from 4d to 3s 6d, and were the cheapest in the market at the original price. Write at once as they will be snapped up quickly.

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NELSON, N.Z.

## CATALOGUES.

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| NICOLLE'S (Australian), post free  | 6d     |
| WHITFIELD KING'S (Standard Universal)  | 1s 3d  |
| CHAMPION'S (Standard French Catalogue, being identical with that of Yvert and Tellier) | 2s 10d |

*Sterling Stamp Co., Nelson.*

## FOREIGN :: STAMPS.

Collectors of Foreign Stamps should send to us for sheets on approval. Our prices for the medium varieties are very low indeed.

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# The Sterling Stamp Company



Nelson, New Zealand.

The following SCARCE STAMPS are offered at very REASONABLE PRICES:

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|---|--------------------------------|------------------|-------|------------|----|
|   |                                | s.               | d.    | s.         | d. |
| <b>VICTORIA—</b>  |                                |                  |       |            |    |
| 1854—1d. brick red ...  | 5                              | 5                | 0     | 3          | 6  |
| 1854—1d. rose ...   | 6                              | 3                | 0     | 3          | 0  |
| 1861—rs. blue ...   | 44                             | 7                | 6     | 5          | 0  |
| 1856—1d. green ...  | 46                             | 10               | 0     | 6          | 6  |
| 1860-62—6d. black (beaded oval) ...   | 85                             | 4                | 0     | 2          | 6  |
| 1861—1d. green (medium copy) ...  | 96                             | 10               | 0     | 3          | 6  |
| 1865-75—1s. blue on blue ...  | 148                            | 1                | 9     | 1          | 0  |
| 1873-83—1d. green on yellow ...   | 173                            | 12               | 6     | 9          | 6  |
| 1873-83—2d. mauve on buff ...   | 179                            | 8                | 0     | 6          | 0  |
| 1881—4d. Carmine ...  | 187                            | 2                | 0     | 1          | 6  |
| 1885—4d. magenta ...  | 202                            | 7                | 6     | 5          | 0  |
| 1887-97—9d. green (medium copy) ...   | 241                            | 4                | 0     | 1          | 9  |
| 1887-97—2s. green ...   | 249                            | 2                | 6     | 1          | 9  |
| 1901—1d olive bistre (post marked) ...  | 265                            | 2                | 0     | 1          | 3  |
| Set of four current official perforated O.S. (1d, 3d, 6d, 2s)                       |                                |                  |       | 2          | 6  |
| <b>NEW SOUTH WALES—</b>   |                                |                  |       |            |    |
| 1850—2d. Sydney view (rather heavy cancellation) ...                                | 27 (?)                         | 40               | 0 (?) | 10         | 0  |
| 1852—3d. yellow green ...   | 65                             | 15               | 0     | 9          | 0  |
| 1853—6d. brown (no leaves right of south, medium copy, a little cut into at top ... | 73                             | 50               | 0     | 25         | 0  |
| 1854-56—3d. green ...   | 95                             | 17               | 6     | 12         | 0  |
| 1854-55—6d. grey ...  | 101 A                          | 7                | 6     | 4          | 0  |
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| 1882—7s. blue (postmarked) ...  | 367                            | 3                | 0     | 2          | 0  |
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| 1882—£10 blue (postmarked) ...  | 286                            | 30               | 0     | 17         | 6  |

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During this year I have purchased many **EXTREMELY FINE** things, most of which were at once sent to customers who had previously bespoken them. Any requirements not in stock, are entered in my books, and sent on approval to clients as they come to hand.

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# T. H. NICOLLE,

Telephone 3008.

14 HUNTER ST., SYDNEY, N.S.W.

.. THE ..

# NEW ZEALAND PHILATELIST

With which is incorporated "The Sterling Monthly."

VOL. II. No. 2.

JULY, 1904.

PRICE 3D.

## ... CHEAP SETS. ...

|   | <i>No. of Varieties.</i> | <i>Price.</i> |           |
|---|--------------------------|---------------|-----------|
|   |                          | <i>s.</i>     | <i>d.</i> |
| Argentine 1892-97 (including 1 and 2 pesos) ... ..              | 13                       | 2             | 6         |
| ,, 1899-01 (including 1 peso) ... ..                            | 14                       | 2             | 0         |
| Bolivia 1894 ... ..   | 6                        | 0             | 7         |
| Bulgaria 1889-96 (including 1 leva) ... ..                      | 8                        | 0             | 9         |
| ,, 1901, 1 st. to 50 (unused) ... ..                            | 9                        | 2             | 9         |
| Cape of Good Hope ... ..  | 8                        | 0             | 3         |
| Colombian Republic (including three 10 peso stamps) ... ..      | 27                       | 10            | 0         |
| Costa Rica (unused) ... ..                                      | 6                        | 0             | 6         |
| Dutch Indies ... ..   | 11                       | 0             | 10        |
| France ... ..   | 60                       | 2             | 0         |
| Greece obsolete ... ..  | 8                        | 0             | 4         |
| ,, current ... ..   | 8                        | 0             | 4         |
| Hayti ... ..  | 6                        | 0             | 9         |
| Honduras, including high values (unused) ... ..                 | 13                       | 3             | 6         |
| ,, 1890, official (unused) ... ..                               | 7                        | 1             | 9         |
| Italy, current (unused) ... ..                                  | 6                        | 0             | 9         |
| Nicaragua, official, map, (unused) ... ..                       | 4                        | 0             | 3         |
| Orange River Colony, surcharged, scarce set (unused) ... ..     | 4                        | 1             | 2         |
| Peru, including surcharged and high values ... ..               | 14                       | 2             | 0         |
| Portugal, 1892, catalogue value 12s. (unused) ... ..            | 9                        | 6             | 0         |
| Roumana, 1893-99 (including 1 and 2 leu) ... ..                 | 14                       | 1             | 0         |
| Russia, current, (unused) ... ..                                | 8                        | 2             | 6         |
| Seychilles, surcharged and unsurcharged, scarce (unused) ... .. | 4                        | 1             | 4         |
| Siam ... ..   | 7                        | 0             | 9         |
| Salvador, mostly high values (unused) ... ..                    | 12                       | 3             | 0         |
| Turkey ... ..   | 8                        | 0             | 4         |
| Venezuela, including high values ... ..                         | 10                       | 0             | 8         |

THE STERLING STAMP CO., NELSON.

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I MAKE a Specialty of sending by post small books of Stamps to Collectors in all parts of the world, so that they may quietly compare same with their collections at home, and purchase just those they may be short of. This method is very popular, as it prevents an undesirable accumulation of duplicates. The stamps are arranged in Countries, neatly mounted in order of issue, distinctly described and priced separately, and on receipt of small cash deposit, or Sydney reference, I shall be glad to send any from the following list, for inspection. Books which can be enclosed in an ordinary sized envelope may be kept for a few days, and then they not required returned, together with remittance for those taken. Correspondence Solicited.

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2. **British Colonial** „ „ „ „ „
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### POSTAGE STAMP MERCHANT,

14, Hunter Street, Sydney, N.S.W.

THE  
New Zealand Philatelist.

With which is incorporated The Sterling Monthly.

VOL. II. No. 2.

JULY, 1904.

PRICE 3D.

EDITORIAL.

The Foes of Philately.

PHILATELY has lived through sixty years of chance and change. It has survived laughter and scorn. It has even succeeded often in turning the laugh upon its enemies. The multitudes of new issues have not stayed its progress, even surcharges have not daunted its votaries, nor have speculative issues cast more than a shadow across its path. The deadlier enemies of Philately are of quite another kind. They are the speculators who collect or hoard stamps because they hope to make large profits by them. Stamp collecting as an investment is perfectly legitimate. Stamp buying as a speculation is calculated to do untold harm to our hobby. Recently in the columns of *The Stamp Collector* the question of speculation in new issues was raised, and the opinions of leading dealers sought. Almost all were ready to condemn such speculation. One only took the opposite view, he held that in the interests of the *dealers* speculation in new issues should be encouraged as it would save them from the necessity of locking up large sums of money. Ten years hence the speculators would be ready to sell to the dealers at about face value and the latter would be enormously the gainers by the transaction.

We cannot doubt that many speculators in current issues will suffer very great disappointment in the days to come. The supply is naturally increased to meet the demand and there is practically no limit to the numbers in which a particular stamp may be turned out. Add to this fact another, that the governments of the smaller states and colonies *will not* repurchase even at a discount their own stamps and the unsound nature of speculation in modern issues is clearly demonstrated.

Here and there a speculator will get hold of rare varieties and make a very large profit, more often he will be glad to sell at a little under the price he paid after holding his purchases for several years.

Stamp collections begun from ten to twenty years ago almost always show a good margin of profit on expenditure when sold, but the same cannot be said of sheets of unused stamps purchased and kept for a rise. Modern issues of even the smallest states are imported into Europe and America in very large quantities and the knowledge of the number

issued has much to do with regulating the market price. Thus the speculator is doomed to almost certain disappointment, and after waiting many years for a rise he is often forced to sell at a lower price than that originally paid.

Nothing is more calculated to do injury to philately than stamp speculation. The true collector has an interest in his stamps in no way connected with their money value. He will take as much trouble to secure common as rare specimens, and his collection will bring him real recreation and pleasure. It is the true collector whose collection nine times out of ten will be a source of profit if it should come on the market.

The stamp speculator is the enemy of the philatelist, and the sooner the latter comes to recognise it the better for our hobby. It is the speculator who is in the last resort responsible for multitudes of new issues, freaks of surcharging, commemorative stamps and the like. The collector does not want them, but the speculator does, and so they come pouring out. Philately is hard to kill, and we have no fear that its death will take place for many a long decade yet, if indeed it ever should die out, but the strongest force working against its permanence to-day is stamp speculation by those who do not love collecting for its own sake.

## BENEATH THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER.

(By AMY LOUISE SWIFT.)

**G**REETING! From America to New Zealand, from writer to reader, greeting! What do you say friends? Have you a welcome for an "American Letter"? There is always something to talk about over here, as is only natural considering the size of our country and the multitude of people inhabiting it who must of necessity have a good many ideas to talk over; when other things fail us (and alas! often when they do not) we get out a new issue of stamps, and bandy opinions about that.

Just now we are solemnly passing judgment upon the St. Louis issue which was put on sale on April 30th, as far as the general public was concerned, although a few favoured individuals who had neither patience nor honour enough to wait, managed to obtain, and even use, specimens as early as April 25th. With these stamps as with all else it is a case of "many men, many minds," what one likes another does not, so I make no criticisms, being content to let you form your own opinions even as I form mine. Concerning the ten cent value, which bears a map of the territory purchased. I feel, however, a bit of responsibility, as the design was of my suggestion, and credit therefore has been given me by *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* which first published my idea. Of course I am proud of having my suggestion adopted, but I am not proud of the stamp! It isn't a beauty (I'm not responsible for the colour chosen, please note!) still, perhaps it is educational, indeed I am sure it is, for already it has brought out a fact new to most of us.

Scarcely had the issue appeared when a writer called attention to the difference between the map on the ten cent stamp, and the map of the Land Office, showing that the former included within the purchased area

more of some states and less of others than the latter. Then critics put on that exasperating "I knew it would be so" manner, and asked witheringly if I did'nt feel cheap! I did—for a week. Then the same writer appeared again, this time with the explanation that the map stamp was historically correct after all, as it gives the "rough outline used in concluding the treaty with France, who gave no guarantee as to amount of land but conveyed what she owned," whereas the Land Office map "shows the territory after the boundaries had been adjusted by treaty with owners of adjoining territory (about 1819)."

Apropos of the above: When our last two-cent stamp came out a certain "close observer" rushed into print with the announcement that part of the design was wrong, inasmuch as the portion of the flags showing at either side ought to have the outside stripes of colour instead of in the white. At this the Department shrugged its shoulders pityingly, and replied that the side ornaments represented the shield of the United States, not the flag, and that any good American ought to know that without needing to be told, the outside stripes always being white in the shield. How "close observer" felt then I don't know, for he has not risen with any comments since; may be he is studying up a little so as to be able next time to criticise without danger of showing ignorance. Truly "a little learning is a dangerous thing" especially in the philatelic line. Remember the designer of 1903 St. Kitts-Nevis set who showed Columbus sighting land through a telescope, careless of the fact that telescopes did not come into use until about a century after the great navigator had ceased his journeyings!

Ever since the Stanley Gibbons' corporation dropped stamped stationery from their catalogue, the collecting of that line has been subject to considerable talk, and a general feeling of unrest concerning it pervades the philatelic atmosphere. Gibbons' catalogue was consistent, for it dropped the envelopes and cards of the Home country, Great Britain, as well as of foreign countries, but Scott, the American standard catalogue, held fast to the stationery of its own land when it ruthlessly dropped that of all other lands. There would be a pronounced and unanimous wail all over the States if our envelopes were omitted from our catalogue, yet is it fair, is it consistent, is it properly philatelic, to bar out the stamped stationery of the entire rest of the world while our own, no more artistic or interesting, is still granted catalogue space? Much better treat all alike, and better too I think, if economy of space has grown to be an actual necessity, to omit the long list of paper and perforation varieties that can't be discovered without a magnifying glass, a perforation gauge, infinite patience, and a more or less severe strain on the eyes. I know this is not a scientific recommendation, and will be scouted by many readers, but nevertheless, it is common-sense. I venture to say stamped envelopes and postal cards have more admirers than perforations, &c. Why then, exalt the latter at the expense of the former?

Those who still cling to the slighted branch are always exercised whether to collect their envelopes entire or cut square. It seems to me that depends entirely whether one is collecting stamped envelopes or envelope stamps. If the first, of course one would need to have the whole thing regardless of bulk, but if the second, then surely the stamp, cut with margin enough for a frame should be sufficient.

## FISCAL NOTES.

**T**HERE are many ardent stamp collectors who are under the impression that fiscal stamps are hardly worth studying, owing to the small number of varieties issued. There are many ardent collectors of fiscals who, having gone a little further into the matter, regret that the number of fiscals issued should be so great. Certainly fiscals offer a bigger field than postals, and the general collector of the fiscals of the world will soon have a collection numerically larger than that of his brother the general collector of postage stamps.

The new Cistafile system should offer special advantages to the collector of fiscals. In an album neatness of arrangement is made difficult by the infinite variety of size and shape, found among these stamps, and to place side by side a stamp the size of a normal penny postage stamp and another measuring about three inches by two does not produce a good effect. The Cistafile system will do away with the difficulty and display large and small alike to the greatest advantage.

The New Zealand discount stamp does not seem to be a pronounced success. In days to come it may even be a rarity much sought after by fiscal collectors, very few of whom have troubled to secure a specimen. The stamp was issued to enable tradesmen to give discount on small cash purchasers. The stamps which show a face value of a farthing are saved by those receiving them until they have a sufficient number and are then re-sold to the Post Office.

A collector of New Zealand fiscals wants to know whether she should include in her collection stamps bearing the inscription "Postage and Revenue." We should certainly say that a collection of fiscals would be incomplete without the stamps mentioned, but, of course, they must not be postally cancelled. We fancy that many of the recent varieties will be sufficiently difficult to obtain with satisfactory fiscal cancellations. Failing good fiscal cancellations the stamps should be added in unused condition because all are possible fiscal stamps.

The differences between Die I. and Die II. in the early "Stamp Duty" issues of New Zealand present some difficulty to the collector of these stamps. In Die I. the white dots on either side of the portrait of Queen Victoria are small and indistinct. In Die II they are large and clear. The vertical shading lines at the top of the stamp are closer together in Die I. they are wider apart and more clearly defined in Die II. In Die I. there is a small dot of colour in a white space near the left hand fern leaf in the top right hand corner. This is absent in Die II. In Die II. the whole engraving is clearer and better defined.

### Yvert and Tellier's Catalogue of the Stamps of France, 1904.

**T**HIS volume of more than 400 pages is devoted entirely to the Stamps of France and the French Colonies. Each variety is minutely described and almost everything that can be designated a stamp is listed. Here we find not only the postal issues, but also essays, telegraph stamps, telephone stamps, postmarks, stamped envelopes, postcards and every kind of fiscal label. Prices for blocks of four

are frequently given and the dates of issue of particular varieties are inserted with great minuteness. The whole book is well printed and well illustrated, and the arrangement seems to be all that can possibly be desired. The number of our readers who specialise in the stamps of France is probably not large, but those who do so cannot afford to be without this catalogue. After all, the genuine pleasure to be derived from the collection of the stamps of some of the European countries can hardly be too highly estimated. While in adhering to British colonies collectors find the field restricted and the price of almost every stamp such as to make a considerable drain on the pocket, many of the European countries may be brought to something approaching completeness for a comparatively small outlay. We do not, of course, mean that a highly specialised collection of a European country can be got together for little cost, but that the normal varieties with fairly representative sets of shades may be collected without heavy expenditure. A country like France possesses great attractions, and looking through the long lists of cheap stamps in such a work as that before us we feel the attractiveness strongly. Are we not ignoring some of the most useful features of philately altogether when we shut out from our consideration the non-British countries.

### Notes and Clippings.

Mr. T. H. Nicolle kindly sends us the catalogue of Exhibits of the exhibition held under the auspices of the Philatelic Society of Victoria, on June 25th, last. The description of stamps shown is rather meagre. Mr. W. R. Rundell seems to have been the chief exhibitor of those of New Zealand.

The first of a regular series of American Philatelic letters from the pen of Miss Amy Louise Swift the well-known philatelic journalist appears in this issue. Arrangements have also been made for an English letter to be contributed monthly by Mr. Bertram W. Poole. We hope to insert the first of Mr. Poole's letters in our September number.

We have received from Mr. T. Lemaire, of Paris, his catalogue of all stamps issued during the twentieth century. Minor varieties are not listed. The New Zealand section records only three stamps, the 1d. "universal postage," the "express delivery" stamp, and the current 2d. postage due. To these may be added the stamps of Niue, Penryn, and Aitutake; and four stamps of the Cook Islands.

The surcharged official stamps of the various British Government departments are now a relic of the past. This is as it should be. The stamps in question were never satisfactory from the collector's standpoint.

The current number of *The Australian Philatelist* contains two very fine plates illustrating the perforations of South Australia, on which subject Mr. Geo. Blockey is contributing some valuable information.

We have to thank several correspondents for sending us specimens of the St. Louis exhibition stamps. Although a little late we may describe them for the benefit of any readers who have not yet seen the set. There are five varieties of which the one, two, three and five cent



values bear respectively the portraits of Livingston, Jefferson, Monroe, and McKinley. The ten cent. stamp has a map of the Louisiana Purchase. The colours are as follows :—

|            |            |
|------------|------------|
| 1c. green  | 5c. blue   |
| 2c. red    | 10c. brown |
| 3c. purple |            |

The stamps are, in our opinion, below the average of those produced by the United States in design and execution.

A correspondent has shown us the 5 sucres stamp of Ecuador, 1892, in *blue green*. Can anyone tell us what this is?

We have to thank those of our friends who have so kindly furnished the lists of names we asked for.

We again call attention to Mr. T. H. Nicolle's advertisements which appear in this issue.

The French Colonies in the Pacific are henceforward to be known as "Australasie" and are to have new stamps of a pictorial design. We are yet in the dark as to whether this means a reduction in the number of varieties of French Colonial stamps or merely a commemorative issue.

We have received from the publisher a copy of an excellent little book by Fred. J. Melville, entitled "The A. B. C. of Stamp Collecting." We hope to notice the work at length next month.

The current ten shilling stamp of New Zealand has been issued on the paper now in general use with N.Z. and star close together. Probably other values will follow. New Zealand is sharing with the Commonwealth of Australia the honour of being the last British country to relinquish the use of Queen Victoria's portrait on her stamps. All the values above 5s. are still of the old type.

If you should get a second copy of our journal this month confer a favour on us by handing it to a friend.

## THE NEW ZEALAND PHILATELIST.

**The Subscription** to the "NEW ZEALAND PHILATELIST" is 2s 6d. per annum post free to any part of the world. Address all communications "**The New Zealand Philatelist**" P.O. Box 12, Nelson, New Zealand.

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**No Collector** of Australasian Stamps can afford to be without Nicolle's catalogue. It will save you pounds. The STERLING STAMP Co., Nelson, agents for New Zealand.

**Champion & Co.'s** Standard Catalogue. This is the recognised French catalogue and identical with that of Yvert and Tellier. 1904 edition just out. THE STERLING STAMP Co., Nelson, agents for New Zealand.

**Whitfield King's** Universal Standard Catalogue. The world in one volume. The best for the beginner and invaluable for the general collector. No minor varieties of perforation listed. The cheapest of all the great catalogues. New Zealand agents, THE STERLING STAMP Co., Nelson.

**Newfoundland.**—27 varieties, including many rare and obsolete stamps—price 3s 6d, post free. Unused stamps of New Zealand (mint condition) accepted in payment. Send for price list of British North American Postage Stamps.—CENTURY STAMP Co., P.O. Box 197, Montreal Canada. Reference filed with *N.Z.P.*

**Exchange.**—H. BRISWITZ, Nelson, New Zealand, will give good New Zealand stamps in exchange for old issues and high values of British Colonies. Fine specimens only desired. Reference to proprietors of this paper.

**2000 Special Bargains** in sets and single stamps. A detailed list will be sent on receipt of 2d in unused New Zealand stamps. ALFRED SMITH AND SON, 4, Southampton Row, London, W.C. (Established in Bath, 1863).

**Wanted in Exchange.**—N.Z. 1898, London print, 5d, 8d, 5s; colonial print 6d, 2s, 5s; also earlier issues. I will give Malta, Colonials, Italy and States, and Levant. W. R. GATT 51, Sda. Vescovo, Valletta, Malta.

**Collectors** in New Zealand, Tasmania, South Australia, West Australia, Victoria, and New South Wales send their exchange sheets to LESLIE W. ROBINSON, care of Walter Reid & Co., Ltd., Rockhampton, Queensland, and receive old Queensland stamps in exchange.

**South African**—Wanted—Good foreign stamps, no English. I will send good South African (old and new issues) in return. I always answer.—A. BRUNETT, care of Blaine and Co., Jetty St., Port Elizabeth, Cape Colony.

**N.Z. Stamp Co., Dunedin,** will send their list of Sets, Packets, etc., post free on application; also fine approval sheets of Foreign, British Colonial, and scarce N.Z. stamps. Agents wanted.

**Fiscals.**—Will purchase, exchange or sell. Only scarce revenues wanted. Can submit good, cheap selections of all kinds.—A. B. KAY, Secretary Fiscal Society, 2 Haarllem Mansions, West Kensington, London, W., England.

**Major A. G. E. Newland, I.M.S.,** 10th Battalion, Hakka, Chin Hills, Burma, desires to correspond with a New Zealand collector who can supply scarce stamps of recent issues, unused, in pairs taken from the corners of sheets with marginal numbers showing.

**Pigeon Post.**—Original Great Barrier Service. 1s, first issue, 2s 6d; 1s, second issue, 1s 6d; 1s, current, 1s 3d. The Sterling Stamp Co., Nelson.

**The New Zealand Philatelist** besides circulating in every part of New Zealand and Australia has readers in Great Britain, United States of America, Canada, India, South Africa, Ceylon, Burmah, Malta, New Brunswick, Holland, Belgium, France, Russia, Norway, Switzerland, Argentine Republic, &c. This being so you cannot place your notices of sale or exchange better than in this column.

**If you want** a selection of Choice Stamps of medium or rare varieties **On Approval** write to THE STERLING Co., NELSON, New Zealand.

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**THE STERLING STAMP CO.,  
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# T. H. NICOLLE,

Telephone 3008.

14 HUNTER ST., SYDNEY, N.S.W.

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# NEW ZEALAND PHILATELIST

With which is incorporated "The Sterling Monthly."

VOL. II. No. 3.

AUGUST, 1904.

PRICE 3D.

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| ,, current ... ..   | 8                        | 0 4                          |
| Hayti ... ..  | 6                        | 0 9                          |
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| ,, 1890, official (unused) ... ..                               | 7                        | 1 9                          |
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| Siam ... ..   | 7                        | 0 9                          |
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THE STERLING STAMP CO., NELSON.

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MAKE a Specialty of sending by post small books of Stamps to Collectors in any part of the world, so that they may quietly compare same with their collection at home, and purchase just those they may be short of. This method is very popular, as it prevents an undesirable accumulation of duplicates. The stamps are arranged in Countries, neatly mounted in order of issue, distinctly described and priced separately, and on receipt of small cash deposit, or Sydney reference, I shall be glad to send any from the following list, for inspection. Books which can be enclosed in an ordinary sized envelope may be kept for a few days, and then those not required returned, together with remittance for those taken. Correspondence Solicited.

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15. Books of poorer copies of the scarcer and more expensive stamps **priced according to condition.** Some of the older issues in very fine condition are beyond the means of many collectors who would be perhaps just as well satisfied with a stamp a trifle defective, **but costing about one sixth of ordinary price.**

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### POSTAGE STAMP MERCHANT.

14, Hunter Street, Sydney, N.S.W.

THE  
New Zealand Philatelist.

With which is incorporated The Sterling Monthly.

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VOL II. No. 3.

AUGUST, 1904.

PRICE 3D.

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THE A.B.C. OF STAMP COLLECTING.

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THIS little book by Fred. J. Melville, President of the Junior Philatelic Society, of London, is one of the most interesting publications of the kind we have ever seen. It is evidently designed for the beginner, but even the advanced collector will find much that is of the greatest interest in its pages, while the very large class of people who decry stamp collecting if they could be induced to read it would begin to understand the mysterious charm that the hobby possesses for so many of us. The book is charmingly written, and the author has got together in small compass a wonderful store of information about stamps, their history, the development of collecting, the romance of collecting, and a thousand and one other topics of interest to philatelists, old and young. Let me name the headings of a few of the chapters as affording some idea of the contents of the volume. "On Starting a Collection," "Stamps of Great Price," "Local Postage Stamps," "Errors," "Many Inventions," "Clues to Classification," "Philately and the Fine Arts," "The Religious interest in Stamp Collecting," and "Philately in Fiction." There are in all thirty-one chapters occupying one hundred and sixty pages, and these are illustrated by nineteen well executed plates. Perhaps the most valuable chapter from the point of view of the beginner is that entitled "Clues to Classification," and perhaps the most interesting to the advanced collector is that entitled "Many Inventions," but where all the chapters are so good it is difficult to particularise. There is not a dull line in the book, and we have failed to find in it a single inaccuracy. We cordially recommend this little book to our readers. The published price is one shilling.



## The Sheet Arrangements of Victorian Stamps.

(By R. R. THIELE).

(From the Adhesive.)

OF all the Australian Colonies there is none that offers a better field for the specialist than Victoria, though its intricate issues are almost enough to discourage one from beginning their collection. The sheet arrangement of these issues are almost as variegated as their designs are.

The first issue appropriately bears a half-length portrait of Queen Victoria with scepter and orb, though the face bears but slight resemblance to other pictures of the queen. This was a local issue, the 1d, 2d and 3d. were all lithographed from transfers taken from copper dies engraved by Thomas Ham, an engraver of Melbourne. These were printed in sheets of 50, 5 rows of 10, without reference to the currency, as only the 3d. sheets give a face value in a fairly round sum, viz., 12sh. 6d. The 1d. and 3d. of this design were later printed by J. S. Campbell & Co., lithographers, of Melbourne—in 1853—and still later, in 1854, by Campbell & Ferguson, successors to this firm. They used stones of the same arrangement, but it seems that they took two transfers to make up the stones, so that full sheets contained 100 stamps in two panes of 50 each; I do not know whether they were issued in this shape. The 2d. of this design was not printed by this firm, as the die had been damaged and Ham had engraved a different design of this value in 1852, the so-called "Queen on Throne." This was also printed by him from a steel plate in sheets of 50, 5 rows of 10. In 1853 and 1854 it was printed from lithographic transfers by the firm already named; the stone seems to be made up with two transfers, so as to print sheets of 100, as of other values. These stamps, as is well-known, are the only ones outside of Great Britain on which the British system of corner letters was adopted, though with rather indifferent results, so that the system was soon abandoned. When it was proposed to issue other values in this design, it was decided to turn their engraving and printing over to other hands and the job was thus given to Perkins, Bacon & Co., of London, who produced the 1856 issue other values became necessary and were printed locally. The first was the one shilling in octagonal frame (Scott Type A4.) This was engraved and the lithographed by Campbell & Ferguson in sheets of 100, 10x10, so that the face value as a sheet was just £5. About the same time two other values, the 6d. orange and the 2sh. green both with POSTAGE STAMP at the sides of the design (Scott Type A3) were engraved on boxwood by Samuel Calvert, an engraver at Melbourne. They were also printed by him. I believe these were printed from stereotype plates. The 6d. was arranged in sheets of 100, 10 x 10, so that the face value of a sheet was £2 10s. The two shilling was printed in sheets of 30, composed of 2 panes of 15 each, 3 rows of 5; the face value of a sheet thus was £3. This stamp was later printed on paper procured from De La Rue & Co.; this paper was watermarked with single-lined figures 2 (Scott No. 28) 120 times in the sheet, 10 rows of 12, so that one sheet contained 4 panes of 30 of this stamp. As there was no doubt some

space between the four impressions the stamps did not register very well with the watermark and this probably accounts for the apparently unwatermarked specimens known of this stamp. As they were issued about this time, I may as well mention the one shilling Registered and six pence Two Late stamps here. They were engraved by the same artist as the 6d. and 2sh. just mentioned, Samuel Calvert, and printed by him. Both are from the same die and the title and value were printed in from type at a second operation. Both were in sheets of 100, 10 x 10, so that the sheets had the following face value :

Sheet of 6d = £2/10/-.

Sheet of 2sh = £10.

Next comes the 1856-58 issue, comprising the 1d. green and 6d. blue (Scott Nos. 29 and 30). As before mentioned these were engraved and printed by Perkins, Bacon & Co.—the order said that they were to be printed in sheets of 50, presumably to be in uniform with other stamps then in use. But the printing firm disregarded the order, and printed the stamps in sheets of 240, their usual arrangement, already described elsewhere. They did this because the "Star," watermarked paper used for these stamps (as well as those of other colonies) came in sheets of this size. I suppose the colonial authorities had no objections to the change, as they followed the example in the next local issues. This size of sheet of course gives round face values for the sheets of sterling currency stamps.

*(To be continued).*

## UNDER THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER.

(BY AMY LOUISE SWIFT.)

IT is really astonishing to note how few of our new issue, the St. Louis commemoratives, are being used. Perhaps it is their large size which renders them objectionable, for we Americans are such proverbially busy people that we grudge the loss of even the tiny fraction of time consumed in moistening a large stamp rather than a small one ; then again, the fact that post office clerks in general almost invariably supply customers with the ordinary stamps unless the others are specially asked for (and sometimes even when they are) is another reason. Although the issues has been current since April 30th, I have not received all told more than a dozen of the stamps in my mail, which is always a generous one, in the two months since, and other collectors tell a similar tale. Taken all in all the indications are that the St. Louis stamps will be the least plentiful, used, of any commemorative set we have had.

While as thoroughly patriotic as need be, I must admit absolute disapproval of this set, no matter if my own country is the aggressor, nor do I think that the fact of the set being a small one is any excuse for it. Two postal issues at once are unnecessary for any country ; we frowned upon St. Helena, Nevis, &c., for such a proceeding, yet our own doings are not a bit better. The extra set is smaller, but it is just as needless, and the principal involved (and outraged) is the same in both cases.

The daily press tells us of a post office clerk at Norfolk, Conn., who

has recently been obliged to submit to an operation for the removal of a portion of his tongue because of blood poisoning brought on by "licking so many postage stamps," and then solemnly adds that the warning is one its readers will do well to heed. Not more than two months ago a story of entirely different type was going the rounds of the daily papers. In that we were told of a young lady post-office clerk whose weight and general health had vastly improved since taking her official position, and that she gave the entire credit to the benefit derived from "licking so many postage stamps," about 800 a day in her case. Then followed an interview with a certain Washington official of the Post Office Department who was quoted as saying it was no wonder at all; that the department took most extra, careful, particular care to have its gum absolutely free from anything that might possibly endanger the health of the "licking public" even to the extent of including something that might very possibly prove of actual benefit, although that was one of the secrets of the Department, to be hinted at, but not told out-right. So you can take your choice. As for me, I would like to know about that young man's tobacco and cigarette habits before laying full blame upon the stamps and gum thereof.

This same convenient news-monger, the daily press, laments the dangerous life of railway postal clerks, and says that the subject of having steel postal cars for their protection is being agitated. The poor clerks! Everything connected with stamps from gum to transit of mail matter seems to have its dangers, nevertheless we keep on writing the letters, and moistening the gum, and the more civilised we are the more we do of both. A late estimate of supposed authoritative source informs us that the people of the United States and Great Britain combined handle more letters and periodicals than all the rest of the world put together. That sounds pretty big, but then we are big ourselves and Great Britain is quite portly too, moreover we are both of sociable inclinations to our friends near or afar, so probably the report is not much, if at all over-drawn.

Monday, August 15th, has been appointed Collectors' Day at the St. Louis Fair. Will you come? It does not matter whether you collect stamps, curios, or the failings—excuse me, I should have said the work—of amateur photographers: simply collecting something, and you will be welcome at the gathering of collectors on August 15th.

Aside from Collectors' Day there will doubtless be many meetings of stamp enthusiasts at St. Louis during the time the Fair is open. To help along such meeting there has been, or soon will be, a register installed at the Post Office exhibition in the Government building, and if visitors will only take advantage of the facilities thus afforded, many feasts of reason, flows of soul, and new acquaintances not to mention stamp exchanges, may be the result.

One important warning, however: Be careful where, and of whom, you make philatelic purchases, for report has it that the foreigners do not disdain to offer counterfeits in their booths, some of those specially noted being complete sets of Japan, all forged except the common values, (this troublesome offering deceived some visitors to the Pan-American Exposition also, and is in altogether too frequent evidence at other

times), counterfeit surcharges of Soudan on Egypt, and counterfeit Suez Canal.

For minor varieties commend the advanced specialist to the Jubilee (1900) issue of Switzerland. Some studious busy-bodies who might have been in more helpful business have discovered, listed and described 1043 varieties of those three values! Think of it!! 1043!!!

## Notes and Clippings.

The first of Messrs Stanley Gibbons supplements to the catalogue has reached us. The additions to the New Zealand list are not important. Four varieties of Postal Fiscals on the new paper are listed and there are also several O.P.S.O. stamps described surcharged variously in rose, magenta, violet and green. Four new minor varieties of the Insurance stamps are also given. New South Wales has but two additions both of a minor kind, Queensland and Western Australia have none at all, but South Australia and Victoria have 15 and 6 respectively.

The advertisements of Messrs T. H. Nicolle and the Sterling Stamp Co., appearing in this issue are worth studying.

Post card collectors who are at present interested in Japan should communicate with Mr. Karl Lewis, of Yokohama. Specimens of his work which we have seen are very fine indeed.

Messrs Alfred Smith & Son, one of the oldest stamp firms in the world, advertise in this issue.

Stamps have been issued for Samos, an island in the Ottoman Empire.

We have to thank the Secretary of the Philatelic Society of Victoria for catalogues of its recent stamp exhibition. The exhibition itself seems to have been a great success and to have reflected the highest credit on the management. The Victorians are to be congratulated on the enthusiasm and interest manifested both by exhibitors and the general public.

Should you receive a second copy of this journal confer a favour on us by handing it on to a friend.

"A bright little monthly reaches us regularly from New Zealand, and each issue shows an improvement. . . . Its literary contents are above the average. Collectors desirous of subscribing should address:—*The New Zealand Philatelist*, Box 12, Nelson, New Zealand."—*From "The Philatelic Trader."*

A man in Geneva, Switzerland, is sending out circulars advertising facsimiles of rare stamps. His circular says the facsimiles are practically undistinguishable from the originals and that they have been awarded eight gold medals for their great resemblance to the originals.

It has been calculated that, last year, the money spent on the purchase of rare stamps amounted to  $2\frac{1}{4}$  millions sterling, and the collections of some of the leaders of the art represent as substantial a fortune as many picture galleries or libraries.

## Australasia's Federal Issue.

PHILATELISTS will look forward with interest for the report of the sub-committee appointed at the June meeting of the Sydney Philatelic Club to deal with Mr. Mahon's (Postmaster-General) proposal to call for designs for a Commonwealth issues of stamps. From the date Federation was established the Club has taken an active and unselfish interest in the question of Federal stamps; and we are of opinion that to the stand it has taken, the hands, to a large extent has been stayed of the interested individuals in Melbourne, who were over anxious to see the issue of, what we may term, provisional stamps. Had the Club been able to see the design of the gd. "Commonwealth" issue, its protest may have saved the Federal Post Office authorities the ridicule heaped upon it from all parts of the world. The issue of that stamp, and the tampering with the design of the New South Wales postage-due stamp should show the authorities that in matters they lack knowledge of, it is safer to seek the advice—and disinterested at that—of those who do know. The authorities must ere this have also found out that it is a very simple matter to make a mistake, and a very costly one to repair it. We see no objections to allegorical designs; on the contrary, we think they are a great desideratum in colonial possessions of an empire. We are not a whit less loyal than the most loyal of the residents of the British Isles; but we claim that the King's head would not be the most suitable design for either Australia or any other branch of the Empire, for the following reasons:—The time taken from the calling of designs for stamps to the day stamps are ready for issue is close on a twelve-month. It may happen that the King's Head has been the chosen design, that His Majesty may demise shortly after the stamps are issued, and that the new King may also wish to see his head portrayed on the stamps. This latter contingency would entail an extra cost that would not be warranted. Thus appropriate allegorical or representative designs would be far preferable, and, from an economical point of view, more desirable than the head of the reigning sovereign. If the Federal Postmaster-General can be made to see the question in this light he may probably insist that the designs should represent local scenery.—*The Australian Philatelist.*

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## THE NEW ZEALAND PHILATELIST.

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**The Subscription** to the "NEW ZEALAND PHILATELIST" is 2s 6d. per annum post free to any part of the world. Address all communications "**The New Zealand Philatelist, P.O. Box 12, Nelson, New Zealand.**"

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**Send 6 used stamps** catalogued at 6d. each, and I will send you a copy of "The British and Colonial Directory" 70 pages, post free. W. Webster, 11 Leonard St., Derby, England.

**Alfred Smith & Son's** Monthly circular (30th year of publication) contains a fully illustrated chronicle of all newly issued adhesives, envelopes and post cards. Subscribers' Want Lists inserted free of charge. Annual subscription, 1s. post free to all parts of the world.—4, Southampton Road, London, W.C.

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THE ENGLISH COLLECTOR'S PAPER.

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**No Collector** of Australasian Stamps can afford to be without Nicolle's catalogue. It will save you pounds. The STERLING STAMP CO., Nelson, agents for New Zealand.

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14 HUNTER ST., SYDNEY, N.S.W.

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With which is incorporated "The Sterling Monthly."

VOL. II. No. 4.

SEPTEMBER, 1904.

PRICE 3D.

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# THE New Zealand Philatelist.

With which is incorporated The Sterling Monthly.

VOL. II. No. 4.

SEPTEMBER, 1904.

PRICE 3D.

## PERFORATIONS.

THE importance of perforations in marking different varieties of stamps has possibly been very much over-estimated. No doubt while the field of stamp collecting was somewhat restricted, the number of stamp issuing countries small, and the number of varieties issued by each still smaller, zest and interest were given to the hobby by such minute classification of the stamps on the use of the perforation gauge rendered possible. That time has long passed away and the question may well be asked, what real interest can the minute differences of perforation have for anyone? Some important firms of stamp dealers have issued catalogues in which the existence of the perforation gauge is ignored. Is this the sign of an effort towards emancipation from the thrall of the minutiae of the stamp collector's craft? The fact that such catalogues are issued would seem to indicate that there are a very large number of collectors who do not and will not collect varieties of perforation, but on the other hand there are certain facts which cannot be ignored that make for the continuance of the use of the gauge. First among these is the very large amount of money already paid by collectors the world over and still being paid for stamps differing from others only in perforation. Thus, according to Stanley Gibbons' catalogue, the New Zealand 6d. blue of 1871 is worth 2s. when perforated  $12\frac{1}{2}$ , but the same stamp perforated  $10 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$  is worth 45s. The collector who buys the latter stamp at that figure (and the price is a reasonable one) has just 43s. money interest in the continuation of the perforation gauge on the strength of that single transaction. Follow this out throughout the collections of the world and it will probably be found that the perforation gauge represents vested interests running into millions of money.

The second fact making for the permanent recognition of varieties of perforation is the undoubted historical interest which many of the older perforations possess. Thus the perforations of Great Britain gauging 16, or the various and intricate early varieties of Tasmania and South Australia clearly deserve recognition. But, if these be recognised, how are we going to deny a place to the intermediate and recent varieties of New South Wales and New Zealand which often terrify the young collector by their number and complexity?

We fancy that the solution of the problem is not so far away as it might seem at first glance. The general collector of the future will collect on general lines and no longer seek to "specialise the world." For him varieties of perforation and unimportant varieties of watermark will cease to have any charm. On the other hand the specialist in single countries and groups of countries will continue to study every minute variety in detail. Both schools will have their disciples, but the boundary lines of specialism and generalism will be more strongly marked than they are to-day.

## BENEATH THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER.

(BY AMY L. SWIFT.)

**T**HO the ingenuity of the busy little sprite who sits up aloft preparing fresh ideas for the use of stamp manufacturers, there seems really no end! Seeing that perforation differences are of slight interest to the majority; that paper varieties are little better, and that surcharges, simple or complex, are being viewed with suspicion; seeing also that even new designs no longer have the charm, general or universal, that once they had, this energetic little sprite aforesaid put a finger to his eye-brow, evolved the idea of a multiple watermark, and straightaway whispered the thought to the British postal authorities. As a consequence the familiar Colonial Crown C.A. watermark is to slowly disappear, giving place to one in which the design shows itself repeatedly in whole or in part, on each stamp. Cyprus, Gibraltar and the Virgin Islands have begun to lead this procession of new issues, and the expectation is that the other colonies will follow suit until all are in line. It's a bit hard for the collector, but that cherub is going to have lots of fun looking on at the struggles of those who try to keep their sets complete.

Very naturally the question "Why?" will occur to those who like to feel there is some really good reason for whatever changes may be made. In this case the explanation seems to be that the one watermark per stamp plan necessitated the keeping of numerous sizes of paper in stock so as to accommodate the varying sizes of stamps, some of which are much larger than others. With the new plan only one size of paper will be required, thus saving lots of trouble and expense to the postal departments. Undoubtedly there is a sensible excuse for the new proceeding, but why didn't that little sprite think of it long ago instead of waiting until this late day when a change of any kind wrings a groan of helpless exasperation from myriads of "middle class collectors" who see slight chance of ever catching up with the issues of even their pet countries in the way they would like to do.

And now for a word of warning. When you get the new 9d. brown and carmine of Cyprus and want to examine the late style of watermark it bears, the multiple Crown and C.A. do it without having recourse to the aid of benzine, because the stamp and the fluid do not get along together with any degree of good nature. In other words, the carmine runs when benzine is applied. Not many stamps are thus resentful of the presence of this convenient watermark detector, the only others I

recal at this instant being the 5s. value of Jamaica, and the Exposition labels of Belgium.

Recent reports show that the Rural Free Delivery plan now in operation by Uncle Sam has proved a greatly appreciated blessing to the thousands of his country nephews and nieces. The carriers have a record of over 400,000,000 pieces of mail collected and delivered in a year, and though the Michigan carriers are said to have expended more than 16,000 dol. for repairs to their travelling outfits in the same space of time, still, the advantage gained is admitted to more than compensate for the cost. Rural Free Delivery may come high in some places, but it is fast becoming one of the necessities of life, a thing we cannot do without. The only marvel is that we managed to get along without it for so long.

It seems almost as if real magic had been at work when we consider the history of the world's postal service, and the long strides forward made within the last few years. People are still living who remember clearly the time when stamps were unknown for postal purposes, and large numbers there are who can tell the story of days when postage was so high, and the mails so slow and unsafe that it was a wonder people wrote at all. Coming down to late years the changes, always for the better, have been so thick and fast that now even children can recall how "much better things are than they used to be." "So much more convenient," as one nine year old tot wisely told me when he ran to his Rural box for the daily paper the carrier had just left there. If the advancement of the coming years keeps step with that of the past ones, I am afraid to imagine the bliss of the next century people, so many seemingly impossible improvements may be common by then. It would be highly interesting to have an inspection of our postal service by the gentleman who adorns our two cent stamp, George Washington who died in 1799. It is easy to guess that he would be considerably amazed, but perhaps no more so than we of the present would be over the postal improvements by 2004.

In looking over the foreign stamp journals an American reader cannot fail to be struck by the absence of the so-called "philatelic politics" which fill such a large portion of our columns. Come summer time, we are always sated with talks about the convention, who is going, what has been or is to be done, who want to serve as officers, reasons why they should or should not be voted for, descriptions of the Convention City, Convention feasts and side pleasure trips, and so forth. It is interesting to the society members, perhaps, but hardly to other folks. From the foreign papers all this nonsense is refreshingly absent; society reports there are, certainly, but they keep their own corner without invading the journals proper. Would that ours did the same.

### The Philatelic Society of Victoria.

THE ordinary General Meeting of the above Society was held on September 8th at Equitable Buildings at 8 p.m. The President Mr. W. T. Littlewood occupied the chair and there were twelve members and the secretary present. The minutes of last meeting were

read and confined. Mr. Rivington proposed and Mr. Donne seconded Mr. E. Hallenstein as a member for election at next meeting.

A recommendation of the Committee to remove the place of meeting to 128 Russell Street was then discussed, and it was proposed, seconded and carried unanimously that the meetings in future be held at that place, so that the official address of the Society is now at 128 Russell street, where members may inspect the library whenever they choose, as the rooms will be open from 10 a.m. until 5.30 p.m., excepting Saturdays, on which day the place will be closed at 12 o'clock.

To infuse more interest in the meetings it was proposed that members bring their collection for exhibition, and the Secretary will be pleased to hear of any member who is willing to exhibit his or her collection. Mr. Kelson has kindly promised to bring his collection for next meeting.

After balloting for positions in exchange Book 136 and No. 2 Sydney Book, the meeting closed.

W. BRETTSCHEIDER, Hon. Sec.

Sept., 1904.

123 Russell St.

## THE WANGANUI DISCOVERY.

### A New British Variety.

MR. H. K. Harper, of Wanganui is to be congratulated on having made a discovery no less remarkable than to add a new variety to the long list of stamps of Great Britain. Most collectors rejoice when they discover a rarity already known to exist, but to Mr. Harper belongs the credit of making a new discovery in one of the well trodden paths of Philately.

Collectors of British stamps know that there is a gap in the list of plate numbers of the one penny red where No 126 should occur. The number was unknown, and the plate was said never to have been used, until Mr. Harper's recent discovery. The number on the stamps has been submitted both to philatelic experts and to practical engravers and there seems to be no doubt whatever about its genuine nature. Mr. Harper writes us about the history of the stamp as follows:—

"The 1d English Pl. 126 I purchased with a lot of others some two years ago and have had it in my collection ever since. Some months ago I wrote to J. H. Smyth & Co., about it, but they were very sceptical and suggested that I should refer it to Mr. A. T. Bate, of Wellington, for his opinion, I followed this course and after a very exhaustive examination he pronounced it to be undoubtedly Pl. 126. The only thing he cannot understand is that this plate was supposed never to have been used. I was in Wellington a few weeks ago and I again took the stamp with me and he made a further examination, comparing it with 123 as he thought it might be this number badly printed, but after measuring the figures and examining it with a microscope he wrote saying that his former opinion was only strengthened. He has now sent the stamp home to England so we shall probably hear more about it."

The discovery will no doubt create quite a flutter among collectors of stamps of Great Britain. That a new variety of British stamp should turn up after so many years at the remotest end of the Empire is cer-

tainly remarkable enough. Doubtless many in England will be sceptical at first, but knowing, as we do, the value of the expert testimony to its genuineness we have no doubt that Mr. Bate's decision will be upheld by the great British collectors.

We congratulate Mr. Harper on his discovery and on the possession of a stamp of such unique interest. The discovery is probably the greatest yet made in the stamps of Great Britain by any collector residing outside the British Isles.

## The Sheet Arrangement of Victorian Stamps.

BY R. R. THIELE.—(*continued.*)

THE next issue was again a local one: the so-called "Emblems" issue. It comprised three values, the 1d. green, the 2d. lilac and the 4d. red, all in numerous shades (Scott Nos. 31-55, Type A6.) These were engraved by Calvert Brothers (Samuel and William Calvert) of Melbourne, on bookwood and printed by the same firm from electrotype plates. The order was for sheets of 100, but the firm used their own judgment on this and printed them in sheets of 120, composed of 4 panes of 30 each, 5 rows of 6. The 2d. was printed in sheets of this size, but for the 1d. and 4d. the plates were impressed twice, so that the printed sheets contained 240 stamps. These were cut in two before issue.—In 1858 these stamps were printed by Francis W. Robinson, of Melbourne, who then held the printing contract; the size and arrangement of the sheets remained the same. This was also the case when the later printed these stamps on paper (procured from Thomas H. Saunders) watermarked value in words (Scott Nos. 51, 52 and 53) and still later on paper (from De la Rue & Co.,) watermarked with the single-lined figure of value (Scott Nos. 54 and 55.) The sheets thus had the following face values:

Sheet of 1d—10 shillings.  
 Sheet of 2d—£1.  
 Sheet of 4d—£2.

Next comes the so-called "Beaded Oval" set, consisting of the 3d blue (later claret), 4d. rose and 6d. orange (later black). This set was engraved on steel by Frederick Grosse, an engraver at Melbourne, but the printing was done from electrotyped plates by F. W. Robinson. (The latter's outfit had been purchased in 1859 by the colonial government and he had been appointed official Stamp Printer). The sheets of this issue, that of 1860 (or 1861), consisted of 120 stamps in 10 rows of 12, so that the sheets had the following face values:—

Sheet of 3d—£1/10/-.  
 Sheet of 4d—£2.  
 Sheet of 6d—£3.

I have somewhere seen it stated that the 4c. of this set came in sheets of 180, 15 rows of 12. I do not know the authority for this; it sounds rather improbable, as no other stamps were issued in sheets of this size.

The next issue was the 6d. black of 1862 (Scott type A9). The design was merely an alteration of the Beaded Oval type (Scott A7), as the inscriptions of the latter were rather too indistinct. The new type



was engraved by the same artist, Mr. Frederick Grosse, of Melbourne; the plates were electrotyped and the printing was done by the stamp printer. Sheets of 120 had now become the fashion and the sheets of this stamp form no exception; the face value of a sheet was thus £3.

Why the 1d. of the Emblems type was no longer satisfactory, I cannot say; at all events a new design was adopted in 1861, viz. ; the design with netted corners (Scott type A8). This was engraved by De Gruchy (or De Grouchy) and Leigh, of Melbourne. The sheet was again in the 120 arrangement. This, in fact, thereafter seems to have become the regular style of sheets up to the present time and it is therefore hardly necessary to enumerate all the various issues. After the latter part of the Sixties the stamps were all engraved and printed at the Stamp Printer's office, except the 2d. of 1870, which was a De la Rue production. The only exception to the normal sheet arrangement of 120 is found in the small ½d. of 1875 (or 1873?) and later adaptations of the same design. This small stamp being only about half the size of the other stamps, the sheet contains twice the number of stamps, 240, in 10 rows of 240 each, so that the face value is 10 shillings. The new £1 and £2 stamps with head of Edward VII. are also an exception; I have seen and stated that they are printed in sheets of 60, 6 rows of 10, but I have not felt able to buy a sheet to verify the count. The gentle reader is no doubt not very apt to collect them in full sheets, either.—*From the Adhesive.*

### Notes and Clippings.

The most sensational event that has recently transpired in the stamp world has been the introduction of paper watermarked C.A. many times in the sheet without reference to the position of the stamps. This paper is now being used by Messrs De la Rue & Co., who print the stamps of 42 British Colonies.

The new paper is introduced with the object of suiting any plate and giving satisfactory results with stamps of any size. Doubtless the various large pictorial labels have been a source of trouble and expense to the printers and this will now be obviated by the use of a paper suitable for large and small alike.

For the sake of brevity in price lists and catalogues it has been suggested that the new watermark should be described as C.A.C. Beyond doubt there will be difficulty in distinguishing C.A. from C.A.C. on particular stamps.

While looking through a specialized collection of the postage stamps of Fiji some time ago we noticed several copies of the earlier stamps apparently surcharged with a "D" in two different types and pen-cancelled. The date on one copy was "1872." The owner of the collection did not know what they were. Can it be that these represent a provisional issue of fiscals for these islands, the letter "D" standing for "Stamp Duty." The *Fiscal Philatelic Society's* list gives the date of issue of the well-known long stamps as "1883." Assuming that we deciphered the pen-cancellation correctly as "1872" it would seem that these stamps, if provisionals they were, existed for some time, so that it is strange we have not heard of them before. We shall be glad to receive information on this subject.—*Morley's Philatelic Journal.*

Transvaal 5s stamps with King's head inverted are not quite so rare as recent English information would have led us to suppose. A dealer in Johannesburg had a block of seven in his window for which he asked £2 10s. and there were besides more than twenty copies known to members of the Johannesburg Philatelic Society.

Attention is called to the advertisements of Mr. T. H. Nicolle, of Sydney, which appear in this issue.

Benadir is not merely a bogus country as some collectors think. Stamps of this colony, it is true, were on sale in Italy before post offices were established in Benadir, but this was remedied about this time last year and there is now a regular service with at least four post offices. The letter rate is 2 annas to Italy and 2½ annas to all other countries of the Postal Union.

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*Advertisements are inserted under this heading at a uniform rate of a penny for three words. No advertisement of less than 36 words will be inserted.*

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**The Oceania Philatelic Journal** was first published in June. Annual subscription 1s 6d. Exchange advertisement 4 words one penny. Inch spaces 10s. per 12 insertions, or 5s 6d. for six. Good foreign circulation and plenty of exchange advts. Specimen copy free.—**S. J. HOWARD**, Greatford, Rangitikei, N.Z.

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OCTOBER, 1904.

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MAKE a Specialty of sending by post small books of Stamps to Collectors in any part of the world, so that they may quietly compare same with their collections at home, and purchase just those they may be short of. This method is very popular, as it prevents an undesirable accumulation of duplicates. The stamps are arranged in Countries, neatly mounted in order of issue, distinctly described and priced separately, and on receipt of small cash deposit, or Sydney reference, I shall be glad to send any from the following list, for inspection. Books which can be enclosed in an ordinary sized envelope may be kept for a few days, and then those not required returned, together with remittance for those taken. Correspondence Solicited.

1. **Australasian** Stamps, priced from ½d to 2s each
2. **British Colonial** „ „ „ „ „
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15. Books of poorer copies of the scarcer and more expensive stamps **priced according to condition**. Some of the older issues in very fine condition are beyond the means of many collectors, who would be perhaps just as well satisfied with a stamp a trifle defective, **but costing about one sixth of ordinary price**.

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## T. H. NICOLLE,

### POSTAGE STAMP MERCHANT,

14, Hunter Street, Sydney, N.S.W.

# THE New Zealand Philatelist.

With which is incorporated The Sterling Monthly.

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VOL. II. No. 5.

OCTOBER, 1904.

PRICE 3D.

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## THE OLD ISSUES AND THE NEW.

THE *American Journal of Philately* in a recent issue publishes an article entitled "The Beginning of the End" in which there is a general condemnation of new issues, particularly those of British Colonies. The text upon which the sermon is preached is the "multiple crown and C. A. watermark," and the inference is that the British Colonies are the worst offenders in respect to unnecessary new issues. Remembering the St. Louis stamps, and those of the Canal Zone swiftly following, we have an idea that some other countries stand in the same condemnation. However this may be, we heartily agree with the main proposition that the old issues are more interesting than the new. The exquisite beauty of the early American issues and the fine old British colonials engraved by Perkins, Bacon & Co., will always give to these a place and distinction of their own, but, having regard to the costliness of the older stamps and the modest resources of the vast majority of the general collectors who make up the rank and file of stamp lovers, we cannot join in the tirade against new issues. That these have increased to an unnecessary and alarming extent is, of course, too true, but there are also signs of a better order of things to come. Federal Australia will soon issue a single series of stamps to take the place of seven sets now current. French Australasia will do a like service in uniting numerous stamps issuing rocks and islets in the Pacific. Federated South Africa is still a dream of the future, but doubtless a decade or two will see that also an accomplished fact. Indian Natives States will slowly pass into integral portions of our Indian Empire, while in the New World it needs not gift of prophesy to foretell the day when a hundred and one republics will be part and parcel of the one great American Republic, a confederation that will neither stoop to issue commemorative labels nor surcharge its stamps for use in outlying dependencies. We are sufficiently optimistic to believe that in another quarter of a century stamp collecting will have returned to the primitive simplicity of forty years ago.

### Unnecessary Issues.

In the meantime collector and dealer should combine to wage war on the unnecessary issue. Unnecessary stamps are issued to make profit



out of stamp collectors. The remedy is in the collector's hands. If a stamp be shown to be unnecessary, let dealers refuse to stock it, and collectors refuse to give it a place in their albums. Impecunious countries will soon find that there is no profit in the business and go into some more remunerative enterprise. With regard to the current De la Rue issues for British Crown Colonies, and the various French and German Colonials of similar and uninteresting types, let every general collector secure a single set of these and make a note in his album that other sets are similar. This is all that is necessary to get rid by federation of postal systems of scores of countries that now issue stamps. When it is found that the stamp collector will no longer purchase the stamps of every rock in the ocean or petty new protectorate, the authorities in these places will soon discover that separate postage stamps are too expensive a luxury. Why should not one issue do for the British West Indies? Why should not New Zealand stamps, unsurcharged, serve for all British Islands of the Pacific?—they will all be federated with New Zealand sooner or later. The remedy, it seems to us, lies in the collector's own hands. We shall do little by setting our faces against new issues, but we shall do much by setting our faces against *unnecessary* new issues and refusing altogether to give them more space in our albums than they deserve.

## OUR ENGLISH LETTER.

(BY BERTRAM W. H. POOLE).

**A**T the time of writing—the holiday month of August—philately, as is usual at this season of the year, is at a somewhat low ebb, but there is every indication that the forthcoming season will be a flourishing one. The recent total withdrawal from use of all British overprinted official stamps has given a strong impetus to the collection of these labels. Most collectors put off obtaining the King's head values thinking, that as they were current, there would be plenty of opportunities for getting them later on. Consequently directly the surprising news that they were obsolete came along collectors were almost tumbling over one another in their eagerness to obtain the necessary specimens to complete their sets. As very few dealers had anything approaching a representative stock of these values the large demand and strictly limited supply has sent prices up by leaps and bounds. This particular attention to "officials" has had the effect of increasing interest in all kinds of British stamps, and there seems a fair prospect of there being quite a boom in English this winter.

In view of this interest in British varieties the Junior Philatelic Society are arranging an exhibition of stamps of our own country on the same lines as a very successful one held in 1901, and this will doubtless have the effect of raising the enthusiasm of the rising generation of collectors.

The mention of exhibitions reminds me that the very much talked of Berlin Philatelic Exhibition is now open, and by the time these notes are in print will be a matter of past history. Many of our leading philatelists are taking the opportunity of visiting the German capital, and being

able to talk stamps to their hearts content at the same time. Nearly all our chief dealers are present at the show, and will doubtless be able to sell sufficient stock to pay their expenses, and bring a small profit back with them !

Reverting again to English officials—the Somerset House prosecution last year had the effect of making these stamps in mint condition practically unsaleable, but the fact that the stamps are now out of use has aroused a great demand for them, and there is little doubt that many varieties in really mint condition are rarities of the first water. At the same time it is surprising to find how many unused specimens have found their way on to the market. I suppose after the prosecution holders carefully hid their specimens away and the present demand has caused these little hoards to be unearthed. At any rate they change hands quite freely and were offered without disguise in many of the recent auctions, notwithstanding the fact that the Inland Revenue Commissioners have stated that their objections to the sale of these stamps in unused condition are in no way affected. However, it is hardly likely that there will be any more trouble over the matter.

Indeed it is quite within the bounds of possibility that if anyone has occasion to inquire for information, in a few years time, of the Inland Revenue authorities regarding their special stamps they will almost deny that they ever issued such stamps !

It is hoped that Mr. A. F. Basset Hulls' work on the " Stamps of Australia "—to be issued by the London Philatelic Society—will be ready this season. Rumour asserts that matters are well forward and that the probable date of issue may be announced any day now.

London, August 25th, 1904.

## UNDER THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER.

### Our American Letter.

(BY AMY LOUISE SWIFT.)

**N**OT content with the distinction and labour involved in supplying two issues at once, our indefatigable authorities at Washington have been looking around for new fields in which to expend a few surplus energies, and having decided that our current 2c. envelope was capable of improvement, they promptly proceeded to improve it by re-touching the die. All the lines have been deepened and widened, and as a consequence all of the lettering is larger and heavier, the line outside of the saw-tooth border is wider, and there is an appreciable difference in the figures of date, 1742-1799. The down strokes of the sevens are now straight instead of curved, and the nines are a better shape, with a longer tail, and more distinct top. Other differences are present also, but these are the most prominent ones, and are quite sufficient to permit recognition of the die.

As the stamp now stands, the design is much plainer, but to some eyes this result has been gained by the sacrifice of what might be called daintiness, the effect in general being much coarser than of yore. Very

probably the new die will be used for all the colours of envelopes, which means another full set of many sizes and shapes for the entire list. So far, however, I have seen it on the white envelopes only.

"Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News," the leading weekly of the United States, has inaugurated a rather unique contest by calling for opinions as to which is the handsomest stamp in the world, this stamp, when duly decided upon, to be crowned "Queen of the Adhesives." Nominations are in order up to August 31st, when Messrs Lombard and Green, two well-known collectors, will balance the various claims, decide which weigh the heaviest, and distribute favours accordingly. To make things a bit more interesting two nice stamps have been donated by a Boston stamp firm as first and second prizes, each stamp on original cover. They are, first, a 6p. Canada 1852 on thin wove paper, catalogued by Scott at \$5. ; second, a 3p. New Brunswick 1851 catalogued by the same authority at \$4.50. These are worth the striving for, so there have been numerous entries, and the chief fun in it all lies in the fact that no two persons see alike ; what one admires another doesn't. Methinks the two judges will find themselves in hot water, figuratively speaking, when they hand forth their decision and the prizes, for there will be too many folks who will think they should have decided differently. More of this subject when the "Queen" is crowned. Meanwhile, what would be your choice ?

American collectors are always looking for new worlds to conquer, either because they like to lead the procession, or because the worlds already discovered aren't exciting enough. One of their (comparatively new fads is the collecting of pre-cancelled stamps, *i.e.*, the varieties which are cancelled in the entire sheet before being placed on mail matter instead of separately in the usual way. These are used on circulars, &c., of which large quantities are posted at once, and being mainly cancelled by printers rules and type save lots of work for the postal employees. Perhaps it was the similarity to surcharges that first attracted attention and interest, but now the pursuit is for any style of obliteration so long as it was done in full sheets, and the interest has swelled until the fad has a society of its own, a very respectable number of members, and a long list of "varieties" to collect, probably between two thousand and three thousand. There is even a catalogue, or check-list as it is called, and our leading weekly chronicles each new "variety" as gravely and carefully as it does a new issue of any British colony.

Many of these stamps are easy to pick up in the post office lobbies, from waste baskets, and so on, so that the very ease of obtaining a few of them without cost has started many to saving them who would not buy, but after all is said, such a collection is merely a collection of cancellations and not of stamps. As a bit of the variety which spices life it is excusable, but when it comes to spending large sums of money for such things instead of for stamps proper which are so much more worth the expenditure of philatelic cash and ardor, I must admit that the chase rather verges on the ridiculous in my own eyes. Are you New Zealanders intending to urge a like proceeding of cancellation and collecting in your own country? "It's a very fascinating line of Philately," say its devotees here. Oh, well! "Many men, many minds."

Up to the middle of 1898 Uncle Sam had no personal knowledge of what surcharged stamps might be, then came the transformation of the 1c. and 2c. postage into revenue by the overprint "I.R.," followed later by surcharges making our stamps available in Cuba, Porto Rico, Guam, and Philippines, and now, having nicely gotten the "hang" of the thing, come similar doings for the benefit of the folks who are laboring up in Panama to fix that troublesome canal so that it will be of some use to us and to the world. First, \$1000.00 worth of the surcharged Panama Stamps (second printed series) were purchased and over-printed "CANAL ZONE" and then the current U.S. series of low value followed suit, the former being intended for use merely until the latter could be sent there, so that they are bound to be scarce. According to various reports, eight post offices have been established in the zone, viz., Ancon, Bohio, Christobal, Empire, Gatun, Gorgona, Labora and Tavemilia.

## A List of New Zealand Stamped Envelopes and Wrappers.

### ENVELOPES.

1900, same type as current adhesives.

½d., grey lilac.      1d., pale carmine.      2d., lake.

Note.—No account is taken in this list of various sizes and shapes of envelopes.

1900 Queen's head embossed.

½d., green.      1d., carmine.      2d., purple

1901, same type.

1d., purple surcharged ONE PENNY in red.

1902, King's head embossed.

½d., green.      1d., carmine.

Envelopes are stamped to order if required and no note need be taken of varieties of paper.

REGISTRATION.—Registration envelopes in three sizes were issued in 1894 with "R" in a square but not stamp. As these did *not pay* registration we omit them.

1898 with stamp on flap.

3d., ultramarine, with inscription REGISTRATION-FEE THREEPENCE on two sides of stamp.

3d., ultramarine, with inscription on one side.

The stamp on the issue of 1898 is similar to the 3d. adhesive of 1874.

1901, with stamp on flap, King's head.—3d., ultramarine.

### OFFICIAL ENVELOPES.

Official envelopes with no value marked have been issued as follows:

#### PRINTING AND STATIONERY DEPARTMENT—

"Postage free" red, with letters P. A. S. D.

" " " black " " "

" " " black, V. R. monogram.

" " " black, E. R. monogram.

Similar stamps also appear on slips used for pasting on parcels.

#### TREASURY—

"Treasury free," black.

## PUBLIC TRUST—

“On Public Trust Office Business, free,” crown design.

## AUDIT OFFICE—

“Audit Free,” black.

Most Government Departments frank their letters with the facsimile of the signature of the chief of the department. These franks are found in endless variety.

## WRAPPERS.

1878-91—Plain border to instructions.

½d., rose on white paper.

“ „ „ buff paper.

1889--Wavy border to instructions.

½d rose, on buff paper.

1895—Instructions in 5 lines. Wavy border.

½d., rose, on buff paper.

“ „ „ on cream paper.

1903—King's head inclosed in Maori design.

½d. green, on cream paper.

½d green, on smooth surfaced buff paper.

## STAMP BREVETIES.

One shilling, English, Queen's head, red and green, is going to be a scarce stamp in good condition. The green colour runs in water

Scott's catalogues gives New Zealand 1s. yellow green, wmk star, imperf., full faced Queen type, half used as 6d. Was this official?

The green 3c. jubilee stamp of Porto Rico with the picture of Columbus landing was printed by private enterprise and sold by the Government for five days only. The stone was then defaced.

Paraguay has lately issued Postage Due Stamps. They are of four values and all values are found on the same sheet.

Blue and purple are never employed in printing Chinese stamps. These are the colours of mourning among the Celestials.

## ARROW HEADS.

One of the most delicate compliments that could well have been paid to us has just come from America. *The New Zealand Philatelist* has been very largely quoted in Philatelic journals over there, and many of its best articles have been published in full in leading magazine. Now *The Adhesive* goes one better. The leading article in that journal is devoted to explaining that the *New Zealand Philatelist* printed a word incorrectly in its May number. The editor goes on to say that *we won't like his article*. We wonder by what process of reasoning he arrived at that conclusion. He says furthermore that we do not like American journalism. Don't we! If it is of the kind of *The Adhesive's* recent article we shall enjoy it to the full. Shade of Artemus Ward, we like a "goak," and rejoice to think that the editor of *The Adhesive* has the saving grace of humour.

American Philatelic journalism is weak in that it allows the interest in stamps to be overshadowed by the interest in stamp men. To our mind the former are much more interesting. Of course we do not condemn all American philatelic journalism with one comprehensive curse. On the contrary, much that is good, solid and helpful to the collector appears in stamp papers over there, but when a comparison is instituted between papers British and American we hold the British the best, and so will most American readers.

The Afghan Post Office has an original method of cancelling its stamps. The officials tear off the corner.

"In the majority of recent issues there is precious little philately and less history, but there is a superabundance of finance." So writes J. N. L. in the *American Journal of Philately*. No doubt these remarks are all right, coming as they do from the pen of a great philatelist, but like the famous "Jabberwocky" of Lewis Carroll they seem to fill ones head with ideas only we can't quite find out what they are. Are stamps issued to teach history? Are they issued in the interest of philately? Are they not rather a means by which public and post office regulate their financial accounts one with another? Surely J.N.L. has said the kindest possible thing in favour of the new issues he means to condemn. May we be saved from labels intended to teach history, and likewise from those issued for philatelists, and may all post office authorities stick for ever to stamps issued in the honest interests of finance. Would that the makers of stamps were ignorant of history and blind to the existence of the stamp collector!

Minute differences in the surcharges on British Official stamps are now engaging the attention of philatelists in England. Specialism in this direction has received an impetus since the various surcharged issues have been withdrawn from sale.

"When a stamp collector," said a writer in an English journal lately, "leaves off counting his stamps he has become a philatelist." There is a heap of truth in that. Counting the stamps is a mark of the second rate worker in the fields of philately. The mere numerical strength of a collection is a small matter when contrasted with the specimens that compose it, their condition and their arrangement. The printed album makes for the counting system, but the genuine student of stamps soon learns that the printed album is not for him.

Mr. M. P. Castle, editor of the London Philatelist, has done marvellous things in the way of amassing and selling stamp collections. In 1887 he began to specialise in the stamps of Australia. In 1894 he sold his collection for £10,000. He then began to make a collection of European stamps which in 1900 he sold for £27,500. He is now, we understand, completing a fresh collection of Australians.

All kinds of fancy specialism are being indulged in. One collects stamp portraits of Queen Victoria, another makes a "stamp zoo," a third has stamps pictures of scenery, a fourth, alas, collects surcharges only, but we have never yet heard of the far more legitimate specialising of the work of a particular firm of engravers. The stamps produced by Messrs Perkins, Bacon & Co., would form a series worth looking at.

In a recent article published in this journal it was suggested that the early stamps of New Zealand were printed on paper which intention-

ally varied in thickness. We believe a better explanation may be found in the paper having been hand made and therefore of varying thickness, but not designedly so. Of course this is only conjecture. We give the suggestion for what it may be worth.

If you want to find out how the craze  
That there was in the happy old days  
For stamps old and new  
"Pettered out" and "fell through,"  
Why it happened in various ways.

There was a republic, brand new,  
And its treasury dollars were few,  
Till its post office scamps  
Began issuing stamps,  
And levied their taxes on you.

There was a small rock in the sea  
With a white population of 3,  
But its stamps were sixteen,  
All surcharged in bright green,  
And with errors as rare as could be.

A clever man worked out a sum  
Of how a great fortune would come  
If he bought the stamp stocks  
Of some islets and rocks—  
Now he's boiling them down for the gum.

*Mekeel's Weekly* is having a competition to decide on the most beautiful stamp ever issued. Perhaps our taste is Philistine, but we vote every time Great Britain, 1840, 1d. black.

Second place would be won by some of the varieties of Nova Scotia, or one of the large square stamps produced by Messrs Perkins Bacon for New South Wales and issued in 1854.

1854 is a date which belongs to a page in the ancient history of Philately, but how proud the Commonwealth might be to-day if they had an Australian issue equal in design and execution to the one referred to.

Which is the ugliest stamp in the world? A difficult question; but the "Commonwealth" 9d., and the New Zealand 1½d should get among those from which the final selection would be made.

What is the best design you can put on a stamp! Undoubtedly, a portrait. Emblems, pictures of scenery, monkeys, hump-backed goats, crocodiles, tigers and the like may amuse, as a side line, collectors of picture post-cards, but no stamps are so satisfactory as those which bear the head of a reigning sovereign, a president, a general, or, failing these, of even Ceres or Liberty.

Scenery reproduced on a stamp becomes, as a rule, trifling, emblems are never properly understood, and the emblematic picture is usually too minute in its detail to stand the ordeal of the cancelling stamps. Heads, we say!

New Zealand stamps are evidently not without their admirers in the United States of America. In the "Queen of Adhesives" competition in *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* both the current 1d. of New Zealand and the 5s. have found supporters. It is true that it is the English printings of these stamps that find favour.

If we were to give our choice among New Zealand stamps we think the lot would fall on the 6d., 1863, one of the fine, rich, chocolate-brown early printings of the stamp. The Queen's portrait on these is simply magnificent.

A correspondent of *Mekeel's Weekly* mentions the fact that among the members of a deaf, dumb and blind company recently visiting Moana in New South Wales two were ardent stamp collectors.

At the Berlin Philatelic Exhibition grand gold medals were won in the British Colonial class by Messrs H. J. Duveen, L. L. R. Hausburg, and Baron A. De Worms. Mr. Charles J. Phillips, who took charge of the English exhibits, had entrusted to him stamps to the value of £30,000, and the total exhibition was insured for £125,000.

A general collection in 85 volumes for stamps and 25 volumes for essays sounds pretty big, but this is the little exhibit which won a grand gold medal for a general collection of used and unused mixed at the Berlin exhibition. Little wonder it is described as highly specialised in many countries. The owner of this marvellous accumulation of treasures is Herr Martin Schroder.

Errors in the formation of the watermarks on British stamps are not the kind of varieties generally looked for, but they are nevertheless exceedingly interesting. *Ewen's Weekly* has some notes referring to these, the most serious of which occurred in connection with the well-known "emblems" watermark. This consists of two roses, a thistle, and a shamrock, but on one stamp occurs the remarkable error of three roses, and one shamrock. This appears on the 3d. of 1865.

The first issue of *The Stamp Recorder* published by Mr. W. E. Neave, of Charlestown, Natal, has reached us. The paper is well got up, but does not contain much original matter. It seems to aim at the philatelic education of the young collector and will doubtless prove useful.

The peculiar description of the value on the rare 12d. stamp of Canada is explained in the following way. There were at the time of its issue several shillings of different value in use in Canada and to leave no room for doubt the value was expressed in pence.

A most valuable Priced catalogue of South Australian stamps, compiled by Mr. Geo. Blockey, and with the prices revised by the South Australian Philatelic Society, is being published in the *Australian Philatelist*. Three columns of prices are given—unused, very fine used, and ordinary used. Valuable notes are inserted in the list.

Mr. A. F. Basset Hull suggested in his recent lecture on Philately delivered in Sydney, that the term "philately" meaning "love of immunity from tax" would apply equally well to Free Trade.



Mr. T. H. Nicolle, of Sydney, advertises in this issue and the collector who does not study his advertisements is blind to his own interests.

Our American correspondent has in this issue an interesting note on American pre-cancelled stamps, and wants to know if we in New Zealand are going in for the same kind of thing. No, we have already gone one better. Circulars and newspapers are postmarked straight away without a stamp either cancelled or pre-cancelled, and as far as we can hear the system works well. America leads in some things but New Zealand in most.

We publish this month the first letter from our English correspondent, Mr. Bertram W. H. Poole. Mr. Poole has a world-wide fame as a Philatelic journalist and our readers can rely on his notes from London being right up-to-date.

A letter accidentally posted in Nelson without a stamp safely reached its destination in the United States, but it got there with the inscription "25 centimes" over a large T in an octagon. We are puzzled to know how the French mark got there as letters from New Zealand are sent by the Frisco mail.

### Varieties of the 1d. "Universal Postage."

WHILE a great deal of attention has been given to the varieties of perforation and paper of the 1d., "Universal Postage," little or no attention has yet been manifested in the numerous shade varieties of this stamp. Yet these, to say the least of it are quite as interesting. Shade varieties of carmine stamps are not as a rule a very attractive study, but here we have quite a range of printings in each of which the stamp presents quite an altered appearance. It is true that these printings bore at first a certain relationship to the various papers employed so that an expert could tell almost at a glance from the face of the stamps what the paper would on examination prove to be; but since the regular printings on the current paper there have been quite a number of distinct shade varieties produced. Probably the day is not far distant when the exceedingly pale stamps (apparently from a worn plate) will be as much sought after as some of the varieties of paper and perforation. We note with satisfaction that there is now a great general improvement in these stamps as issued.

## PHILATELIC LIBRARY NOTES.

### New Zealand Stamp Journals.

THE very keen interest taken in England and in America in the collection of Philatelic literature will doubtless soon spread to our own part of the world. As an American writer in the *Philatelic Inter-Ocean* said recently "anyone thinking of forming a philatelic library had better begin soon." Of very many philatelic publications there were not nearly enough copies issued to go round, and as the libraries increase in number the demand will become the greater.

New Zealand has not done much in the way of issuing stamp litera-

ture, save in the very modest way of dealers' price lists. Even these are often interesting as marking the changes in the local market values of our stamps, but the main local interest centres upon the philatelic journals that have been issued in this colony. Of these we append a list :—

*New Zealand Stamp Collector's Quarterly*, Auckland, one number issued, October 1st, 1880.

*The Philatelic Times*, Auckland, issued monthly, May to July, 1881.

*The Sterling Monthly*, Nelson, issued June, 1903, merged in *N.Z. Philatelist*, January, 1904.

*The New Zealand Philatelist*, Nelson, issued January, 1904.

*The Oceania Philatelic Journal*, Greatford, issued June, 1904.

We should be glad to receive information of any other publications which may have appeared in this colony, and we should be glad to procure copies of the *N.Z. Collector's Quarterly* and *The Philatelic Times*. The first and second numbers of *The Sterling Monthly* are quite out of print and we should be glad to hear from correspondents who can supply them.

### A Half-Penny Post Card.

NEW Zealand has been very much to the fore in postal matters as in much besides. In 1901 an all but universal penny postage on letters weighing half an ounce was introduced into the colony, and proved a very great boon without any resultant loss to the Post Office Department. Letter cards were at the same time reduced in price from 1½d. to 1d., and this also was a step in the right direction. But, side by side with these advances remains the anomaly of the penny post-card. The user of the postcard gains no advantage whatever by leaving his correspondence open to the public view, and may just as well use a letter card which he can close and on which he can write a great deal more. Surely this is a matter that might with advantage be looked to. We have no objection to the issue of more varieties of post cards or anything else provided there is a real use for them, and we trust that before long this valuable reform will become an accomplished fact.

Has not the time arrived also for the cheapening of postal rates on printed matter. Our standard of currency is against the issue of fractional stamps, and we shall hail with pleasure the introduction of a decimal system, but in the meantime the postage on printed matter might well be reduced to ¼d. per two ounces. We have not the least doubt that such a reduction would before long prove profitable in the greatly increased number of circulars and the like sent through the post. The ¼d. stamp would not be a novelty. Malta already possesses one, France issues a stamp for less than half that amount, Canada has a label of the ½ cent value and our own colony has already issued discount stamps of the value of ¼d. To such journals as our own the reduction would be of great benefit. While at present we can send a letter to the very frontiers of the civilized world and even beyond for a penny, it costs a half-penny to send a copy of the *New Zealand Philatelist* from Nelson to Wellington. For the same price we can send it to Calcutta, Cape Town or New York.

## EXCHANGE ADVERTISEMENTS.

*Advertisements are inserted under this heading at a uniform rate of a penny for three words. No advertisement of less than 36 words will be inserted.*

**Fiscal Catalogue.**—A complete catalogue of the fiscal stamps of the world has been issued in France. This is what we have been waiting for for a long time. The price, post free, in New Zealand will be 7s 6d. Orders should be booked early as the number imported will be limited.—STERLING STAMP CO., NELSON, Agents.

**Wanted.**—Seychelles; also New Zealand Dues, express delivery, and various Australian of medium grade, used preferred. Will exchange by sheets, basis Gibbons or Scott. Will also send 100–200 stamps in return for same number from any country. Good condition only.—MISS ANV L. SWIFT, Box 335, Whitman, Mass. U.S.A.

**Post Cards.**—Send me 25 or 50 Post Cards of your country or colony and receive same of America, including old issues. Stamps, envelopes and wrappers exchanged. Prompt reply—JNO. STRALEY, Comanche, Texas, U.S.A.

**Holland & Colonials.**—C. Meyer, Hoogstraat 5, Groningen (Holland) wishes exchange with Australasian stamp collectors for Holland and Colonials. Also view cards exchanged.

**Send 6 used stamps** catalogued at 6d. each, and I will send you a copy of "The British and Colonial Directory" 70 pages, post free. W. Webster, 11 Leonard St., Derby, England.

**Japan.**—Send 3d in stamps of any country, for a beautifully coloured Postcard of Japan, stamped with small values in Japanese stamps, to Karl Lewis, Photographer, No. 136—D, Honmura Road, Yokohama, Japan.

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