

# The Mercury.

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE FOR STAMP & COIN COLLECTORS.

EDITED BY GEO. W. MORTIMER & W. LAIRD-CLOWES.

VOL. I. No. 1.]

MAY, 1875.

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**George W. Mortimer & Co., Stamp Importers, Hull.**

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A MONTHLY MAGAZINE FOR STAMP & COIN COLLECTORS.

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## TO OUR READERS.

—

IT is with a little timidity that we present ourselves for introduction, but, feeling proud at the thought of being useful and interesting, we gain confidence, and patiently await the critics' judgment.

We make our appearance in a very small form, but owing to the short space of time given us, and wishing to be punctual with our first number, we have had to be satisfied with eight pages, but we shall have twelve pages for our June issue.

When we first decided to publish "The Mercury," it was with the intention of making it a Philatelic Journal alone; but obtaining the co-operation of some of the best known numismatic writers, we determined to couple the two in one. This was too late for anything practical to be done for the present month; hence the absence of notable matter on coin-collecting.

The programme we propose to carry out, is to print a good supply of well-written articles, short papers on our contemporaries, and a description of new issues in our stamp department; and to present to our coin-collecting friends anything that may be useful and interesting.

As an advertising medium for dealers and others we shall not be surpassed; in fact, ours is almost the only stamp or coin magazine that inserts advertisements from dealers, other than the proprietors themselves.

In conclusion, we leave ourselves in the hands of our readers, and hope to have the support and co-operation of every lover of those pursuits, which, at any time, will drive away *ennui*, and give to their votaries pleasure and knowledge that might never be obtained without studying Philately and Numismatics.

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## A HISTORY OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

—

IT may be said that the history of postage stamps is the history of the civilised world since the date at which postage stamps were first introduced. In almost every country the accession of a new monarch, an increase of territory, a change of currency, or a revolution, has brought with it corresponding alterations, more or less important, in the national emissions. In time of war special labels have been issued; and, as civilisation has progressed, its march has been marked by increased beauty of design and delicacy of engraving in postage stamps. Hence a philatelic collection is not only a collection of portraits and engravings, but also an historical epitome; a more or less valuable piece of property, and something in the arrangement and preservation of which no little taste, skill, and industry may be shown. In order to put stamps at their full advantage as historical and geographical mementoes, they should be arranged in the album in chronological order, care being also

taken to place the emissions of different countries in their natural, and not in their alphabetical, positions. Thus, for instance, the labels of the various German States should be arranged in successive pages of the collector's volume, and the dates of the different issues should never be lost sight of. School-boys, who collect from mania, and in order to have something on which they may occupy their minds, are proverbially careless in these minor details; and many indeed are the rare stamps which have been spoilt in process of transfer from the *negligé* album of the small boy to the better managed one of his more thoughtful friend, by the application of liberal doses of warm water, administered in order to extract the said stamps from places in which they ought never to have been. And this reminds us that in affixing stamps in a book great care, combined with considerable skill, is requisite. The back of the label should never be smeared recklessly over with gum; and we may add, for the information of our very youngest *confrères*, that it is not necessary to gum or paste both sides of a stamp under any conceivable circumstances. Often have we seen an album, the pages of which, in consequence of careless applications of the paste brush, have hopelessly stuck together, making the volume a malodorous mass of nastiness, instead of what it ought to be, "a thing of beauty and a joy for ever." But we must reserve any consideration of the art of arranging postage stamps for another occasion: our business at the present time is with their history, and first of all, with their origin.

Dr. J. E. Gray claims to have been the first to propose the system of a small uniform rate of postage, to be prepaid by stamps. This was in 1834, but it was not until 1837 that anything further on the subject was done. In that year Mr., now Sir Rowland, Hill published for private circulation a pamphlet advocating a uniform penny postage to be prepaid in money; and, in a second

edition of his work, he suggested that the postage should be collected by means of stamped covers. At this period considerable agitation arose in various parts of England on the subject of cheap uniform postage. A committee was established, and the matter came several times before Parliament, until, at the end of the year, a Mr. Whiting designed some parti-coloured stamps as specimens of what adhesive labels ought to be.

On December 5th, 1837, a uniform rate of postage (fixed at fourpence for all inland prepaid letters) was adopted by government; and on Jan. 10th, 1840, the rate was reduced to one penny for a letter weighing half-an-ounce. Still, however, there were no stamps, and it was not until May 6th, 1840, that the well-known cover, designed by Mr. Mulready, R.A., was issued to the public. But the "Mulready Envelope" was too cumbersome and too inartistic to be long-lived. It may be that it was only intended as a provisional makeshift, for in less than a year it was superseded by the adhesive stamp, and thus one of the greatest revolutions of modern times was wrought out, silently and successfully.

To Sir Rowland Hill the world owes a debt of gratitude, which can never be repaid, for his efforts in the cause of cheap postage. England, as usual, led the reform, and other countries followed her example in issuing adhesive postage stamps in the following order:

- 1843. Brazil, Switzerland, United States.
- 1849. Bavaria, Belgium, France, Tuscany.
- 1850. Austria, Prussia, Thurn and Taxis, British Guiana, Hanover, New South Wales, Saxony, Spain, Schleswig-Holstein.
- 1851. Baden, Denmark, Sardinia, Trinidad, Wurtemberg.
- 1852. Brunswick, Holland, Luxemburg, Modena, Parma, Oldenburg, Rome, Victoria, Sandwich Islands.
- 1853. Jamaica, Portugal, Tasmania.
- 1854. Moldavia, India, Norway, Phillipine Islands, Western Australia.
- 1855. Sweden, Bremen, Mauritius, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, St. Helena, South Australia, Cuba.

1856. Argentine Republic, Canada, Réunion, Italy, Mexico, Finland, Uruguay.
1857. Cape of Good Hope, Ceylon, Natal, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Russia, Naples.
1858. Buenos Ayres.
1859. Bahamas, Hamburg, Ionian Islands, Lubeck, Colombia, Peru, Romagna, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Sicily, Venezuela.
1860. French Colonies, New Caledonia, Grenada, Liberia, Malta, Prince Edward's Island, Poland.
1861. Bergedorf, British Columbia, Chili, Confederate States, Greece, Nevis, Sierra Leone.
1862. Antigua, Roumania, Hong Kong, St. Domingo, Turkey.
1863. Costa Rica, Dutch Indies.
1864. Mecklenburg-Strelitz, Nicaragua.
1865. Bermuda, Ecuador, Egypt, Shanghai.
1866. British Honduras, Cashmere, Servia, Virgin Islands.
1867. Bermuda, Heligoland, Salvador, Singapore, Turk's Island, Guatemala.
1868. Azores, Madeira, Orange Free States, Paraguay
1869. Transvaal Republic.
1871. Alsace and Lorraine, Japan, Fiji.

There exists some little doubt as to the precise date of issue of the stamps of more than one country, but in the above table we are, we believe, about as correct as it is possible to be in all the dates we have given.

Postage stamps are divided into several classes according to their form, and the various uses for which they are intended. These classes include respectively, covers, wrapper stamps, envelope stamps, embossed adhesive stamps, plain adhesive stamps, card stamps, newspaper stamps, registration stamps, and returned-letter stamps. In England the first class finds its representative in the "Mulready"; the second in the newspaper stamp of recent introduction; the third in the embossed envelope stamps; the fourth in the ordinary letter stamp of 1847 for foreign postage; the fifth in our letter stamp of to-day; the sixth in the stamps on our postal cards; and the seventh in the old, brick-red, hand-printed stamp on the corners of the newspapers of ten years ago; the eighth and ninth classes are unrepresented at

present in England, but the former appears in the Queensland Registration stamp, and the latter in the Bavarian label which bears the legend "Vom empfänger zahlbar," *i.e.*, "payable by the receiver." To the above classes may be added the "Too late" stamp of Victoria, and the unpaid letter stamp of Bavaria, which are almost solitary specimens of their respective kinds.

And now, without trespassing on the *minutiae* of Philately, we can scarcely say more unless we chronicle our sincere hope that before another year has elapsed, the introduction of a cheap and uniform tariff of international postage may give us an opportunity of adding a few more lines to this short account of one of the most useful and important evidences of nineteenth century civilisation.

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#### SOME RECENT ISSUES.

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CURAGAÛ.—Head of the King of Holland in profile to left, above a circle containing figure of value, on an octagonal disc within a rectangular frame, the corners of which are filled in with heart-shaped shields; on the upper border the word "Curaçao," and on the lower border of the octagonal disc the word "Cent" twice repeated. 2½ c., pink; 5 c., green; &c.

SERVIA.—Head of Prince Charles in profile to left, in an oval disc, within a rectangular frame. In each corner the figure of value; and on the border a legend. 2 para, black; &c.

SPAIN.—(1.) Head of Don Carlos to right, in a circular disc, within a rectangular frame. In the upper border the word "España," and in the lower the word "Franqueo." 1 real, grey; &c. (2.) Head of Don Carlos, half face, to right, in an oval disc, within a rectangular frame, inscribed "Franqueo" and "España," value in lower spandrils. 1 real, blue; &c. (3.) Central Government. Seated figure of Liberty with balances, in an oval disc, in a rectangular frame,

bearing on its lower edge "Espana," and in each of the lower spandrils the figure of value. In the inner edge of the disc is inscribed, "Comunicaciones; S. C. D. Peseta." 2, yellow; 5 grey; &c.

JAPAN.—A post-card has been recently issued for this enterprising empire, bearing the  $\frac{1}{2}$  sen stamp in the right hand corner, and surrounded by an ornamental frame-work. The colour is orange, inclined to pink.

HUNGARY.—In an oval disc a reversed envelope, charged with the figure of value, and encircled by ornaments, surrounded by a beaded rectangular frame, and inscribed "Magyar Kir Posta." 1, orange; &c.

Other recent issues we hope to describe in the June number of the *Mercury*.

#### RARE ENGLISH COINS.

ALTHOUGH there are scarcely any English Coins which are equal in rarity to some of the earliest emissions of Greece and Rome, there are nevertheless a few, the prices realized for which at collectors sales give evidence of their great value in the eyes of numismatists. Thus, gold coins of Cunobeline have sold for as much as five pounds; and a penny of King Baldred was once knocked down for thirteen pounds. A good specimen of King Biornwolf's penny was sold in 1824, for £10 15s. 0d.; and a penny of Alfred has brought as much as £40. The coins of Anlaf, Edgar, Harthacanute, and Edward the Elder, are also scarce. In 1802, a gold penny of Henry III. brought £52 10s. 0d.; and a proof groat of Edward II., in 1830, £11 5s. 0d. Sovereigns of Henry VII., and Perkin Warbeck's groats are very rare; and Elizabeth's shilling, of 1558, bearing a key as a mint-mark, frequently fetches as much as £15 10s. 0d. During the Civil Wars money was coined in very considerable variety; and thus it happens that some of King Charles' pieces are of great value

in the present day. Chief among them are the "Oxford Crown," the 20s. piece of 1644, and the half-crown of the first coinage with Arabic numerals on the reverse. Some of the crowns, half-crowns, and shillings of the Commonwealth are also scarce; but perhaps the scarcest English coin of all, is what is known as "the petition crown" of Charles II., a specimen of which, in 1832, was sold for £225. The only really rare varieties of the Queen Anne's farthing, are the issues bearing on the reverse Britannia under an arch, or a figure of Peace in a car, with the legend, "Pax missa per obem." The other kinds are all more or less common, in spite of the vulgar belief to the contrary.

#### COINAGE IN BRITAIN DURING THE ROMAN PERIOD.

From the "National History of England."

IF the Britons were ignorant of the use of money and the art of coinage when Cæsar was in Britain, they did not long remain so. Ancient British coins extant testify to the fact that the art was known before Claudius visited the island. The most remarkable and the most perfect of those in existence were struck in the reign of Cunobeline, who lived between the first and second Roman invasions. These coins are of different metals—gold, silver, and brass, or bronze—are circular in form, and display considerable taste in their execution, all of them being of different dies or stamps. Tacitus speaks of Prasutagus, King of the Iceni at the time of the invasion by Claudius, as a prince of great wealth; and Caractacus in his noble speech to that emperor, alludes to his wealth, in which it is presumed money was included. The Roman Conquest, however, not only entirely changed the coinage of the Britons, but in a short time increased the quantity. It was no longer that of British princes used in trade and commerce, but Roman money stamped with the image and titles of the Roman emperors. They were stamped on coins of gold, silver and copper, and the original abundance of Roman money in this island is testified by the quantities of Roman coins bearing the image and superscription of all the Roman emperors during their domination, which have been found from time to time in almost every part of the country.

**G**ENUINE USED MULREADY COVER for Sale. Can be sent for inspection with a Sheet of Stamps, price 2s. 6d.  
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Parties who do not wish their names to be published will please inform us, and we will affix a number instead of name. When answering advertisements to which numbers are attached, please enclose in a blank envelope, putting the numbers on same. This, together with one penny stamp, must be enclosed in an envelope and sent to us, when we will add the name and address, and forward, thus bringing the several parties into communication.

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- No. 4.**—Contains 12 rare Foreign and Colonial Stamps, including Brazil, Cape of Good Hope, Hong Kong, Queensland, West-Indies, Papal States, &c. Post free 7d.
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- No. 8.**—THE HALF-CROWN PACKET of Stamps, contains 50 varieties, including Uruguay, Orange States, St. Helena, Turkey, Nova Scotia, Straits Settlement, Kustendjie, (20 paras. unused) &c., all different. Post free 2s 7d.
- No. 9.**—THE FIVE SHILLING PACKET of rare Stamps, contains 100 varieties, including Sarawak, Sandwich Isles, Nicaragua, Chili, British Guiana, Japan, Van Dieman's Land, British Honduras, Nevis, &c. Post free.

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A MONTHLY MAGAZINE FOR STAMP & COIN COLLECTORS.

VOL. I. No. 2.]

JUNE, 1875.

[PRICE 2d.

## TO READERS AND CORRESPONDENTS.

IN the July number of this journal, an exhaustive catalogue of all known coins will be commenced. The catalogue will be copiously illustrated, and cannot but be found useful by all numismatists. In every alternate issue the Catalogue of Postage Stamps, commenced in the present number, will be continued.

Any new or peculiar stamps or coins which may be forwarded to the Editors for description in the *Mercury*, will be received with thanks and returned immediately.

All communications intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, and must reach the Editors on or before the 20th of the month.

## OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

THE *Allgemeiner Briefmarken Anzeiger*, for May, is on the whole a very readable number. The proceedings of the Hamburg Philatelists' Club will be read with interest by those of our readers who are conversant with German; and an exhaustive article on Japanese Stamps is of considerable value. The author of this paper is Mr. Schuck, of Kiel; and he certainly deserves credit for the way in which he has executed his task. In the portion of the journal devoted to recent issues, we find that the Half-penny Bermuda has appeared with the value "One Penny" surcharged in black ink.

The *Philatelist*, for May, maintains its usual high standard. Mr. Earée continues his "Spud Papers," a useful guide for the detection of forgeries; and Mr. Penard contributes a "History of the Hawaiian Post Office." An Essay, also by Mr. Earée, on "How to mount Post Cards," is rather weak and superficial, but useful nevertheless; and a short paper by "the great Sala," on "A Russian Postman Twenty Years Ago," is a good specimen of its talented author's style. All recent issues are well chronicled, and on the whole we cannot but compliment the editor upon the way in which he conducts his magazine. Still we may be allowed to mention that the literary style is not always what it might be, and there is an amateurish tone which might advantageously be dispensed with by such an old-established journal as the *Philatelist*.

*Le Timbre-Post*. M. Moen's magazine is, we think, the most scientifically conducted of all the continental candidates for philatelic favour. The illustrations are always very good, and the letter-press is always very interesting. Among the recent issues are chronicled five new Indian Service stamps, the new 15c. Sumatran, and the two new labels for Lagos, 3d. brown, and 1s. orange, Capitally written papers on the Finland envelopes, and the local Argentine stamp, form the *pièces de résistance* of the May number of *Le Timbre-Post*; and the record of the proceedings of the French Timbrological Society will be read with interest.

## INTERNATIONAL POSTAGE.

WE confidently hope that, in view of what has been recently said and done, a cheap tariff of International Postage will soon be submitted to the various governments interested. It seems monstrous that at the present time the cost of conveyance of a letter to France should be identical in amount with that for a letter to any part of the United States or Canada; or, to look at the matter in another light, that it should be three times as expensive to write from London to Calais, as it is from London to John O'Groat's House, a far greater distance. Doubtless some excuse for the high rate of postage between England and France may be found in the fact that the French Government is very much in want of money, and that it seeks to recoup itself in some measure for its immense losses during the war of 1870-71 by taxing the letter-writing portion of the community; but it seems to us that the screw might advantageously be applied in some other way.

The International Postal Congress will, we hope, not ignore the question of International Postal Cards. Even such a small charge as one half-penny each for these would amply repay the expense of transporting them round the entire globe; for five or six square inches of pasteboard are not heavy, neither are they very cumbersome. For these and for newspapers, labels should be issued bearing the value, one half-penny, and the proportionate value of the same sum in the currencies of the principal civilised nations. For Austria, this would be 1 kreuzer; for Belgium, 5 centimes; for India,  $\frac{1}{2}$  anna; for Hong Kong, 1 candareen; for France, 5 centimes; for Germany,  $\frac{1}{2}$  groschen; for Holland,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  cents; for Italy, 5 centesimi; for Portugal, 50 reis; for Russia, 1 kopee; for Spain, 35 mils de escudo; for Sweden and Norway,  $\frac{1}{2}$  skilling; for Turkey,  $\frac{1}{4}$  piastre; and for the United States, 1 cent.

## RECENT ISSUES.

SANDWICH ISLANDS.—We hear that a new issue of stamps for the Sandwich Islands has just been issued. It is doubtful whether any specimens can have yet arrived in this country, although *Le Timbre-Poste* contains an engraving of one.

BERMUDA.—The one shilling stamp, surcharged with the value 1d. in black ink, has, according to a correspondent of the *Briefmarken Anzeiger*, made its appearance.

SHANGHAI.—The 12 candareen stamp of 1867 has appeared with the figure 1 surcharged in blue; and several other provisional issues are reported.

UNITED STATES.—A new post card, in mauve, was issued in April. The label, consisting of a portrait of the goddess Liberty, occupies the lower left-hand corner.

HELIGOLAND.—The new issue for this "tight little island," is, we think, an improvement upon the old one. A profile of the Queen to the left, occupies the centre oval, which is surrounded by a garter, bearing the name "Heligoland" and the value in both English and German currency. The design of the label on the post card is identical with that described above, and the value is 3 farthings, or 5 pfennige. The type of the envelope stamps is also the same.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—The new issue for this colony bears a profile of Queen Victoria to the left, in cameo, upon an oval disc, surmounted by the words "South Australia" upon a band. The only value at present issued appears to be the one penny, pea green.

RUSSIA.—As far as we can learn, the following are the Russian towns which up to the present time have issued local stamps: Achtyra, Alexandrowski, Berdjanski, Bogorodski, Boronitz, Borovitch, Borisoglebk, Belozerski, Charkoff, Cherson, Dankoff, Demianski, Demitron, Ekaterionslav, Elizavetgrad, Gdoff, Griazovetz, Jelatz,

Kiriloff, Kotelnitch, Louga, Livni, Marinopol, Maloarchangel, Melitipol, Orgaev, Oustsisolski, Pereiaslav, Perm, Podolsk, Riasin, Rjeff, Sapajok, Schuleselberg, Soummy, Tchern, Tirasopol, Tver, Voltschanski, Wassyl, and Wissiengonski. This is rather a formidable list, but probably, long as it is, it may be added to.

DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

EUROPE.

ALSACE AND LORRAINE.

1870-71. Large figure of value on a ground of net work printed in colours upon white paper: rectangular, perforated, adhesive stamps:—

- 1 centime..... green.
- 2 centimes ..... brown.
- 4 „ ..... grey.
- 5 „ ..... bright green.
- 10 „ ..... bistre.
- 20 „ ..... blue.
- 25 „ ..... dark brown.

The above stamps are now obsolete.

AUSTRIA.

1850. Double eagle on shield in rectangle; "Kepost-stempel" above, value below; unperforated, adhesive stamps:—

- 1 kreuzer ..... orange.
- 1 „ ..... light yellow.
- 2 kreuzers ..... black.
- 3 „ ..... red.
- 6 „ ..... brown.
- 9 „ ..... blue.

1859. Embossed profile of the Emperor to left, the ornaments and *minutiæ* of each stamp varying slightly; adhesive, perforated:—

- 2 kreuzers ..... yellow.
- 2 „ ..... orange.
- 3 „ ..... black.
- 3 „ ..... green.
- 5 „ ..... red.

- 10 kreuzers ..... brown.
- 15 „ ..... blue.

1861. Embossed head of Emperor to right, within an oval band on which is inscribed the value; adhesive, perforated stamps:—

- 2 kreuzers ..... yellow.
- 3 „ ..... green.
- 5 „ ..... red.
- 10 „ ..... brown.
- 15 „ ..... blue.

1863. Embossed double eagle in oval band on which is inscribed the value; adhesive, perforated stamps:—

- 2 kreuzers ..... yellow.
- 3 „ ..... green.
- 5 „ ..... rose.
- 10 „ ..... blue.
- 15 „ ..... brown.

1867. Laureated head of Emperor to right in a circular inner frame; value below. Rectangular, perforated, adhesive stamps:—

- 2 kreuzers ..... yellow.
- 3 „ ..... green.
- 5 „ ..... rose.
- 10 „ ..... blue.
- 15 „ ..... brown.
- 25 „ ..... violet.
- 50 „ (larger size) salmon.

FOR FOREIGN POST OFFICES. 1867. Same type as the last, but with value in *soldi*:—

- 2 soldi ..... yellow.
- 3 „ ..... green.
- 5 „ ..... rose.
- 10 „ ..... blue.
- 15 „ ..... brown.
- 25 „ ..... violet.
- 50 „ (larger size)..... salmon.

NEWSPAPER STAMPS. 1850. Head of Mercury, without value; square, unperforated, adhesive stamps:—

- ( $\frac{1}{2}$  kreuzer) ..... blue.

(6 kreuzers) ..... yellow.  
 (30 „ ) ..... red.

1858. Embossed head of Emperor to left, without value; rectangular, unperforated, adhesive stamps:—

(1 kreuzer) ..... blue.  
 (1 „ ) ..... lilac.

1861. Embossed head of Emperor to right, without value; unperforated, rectangular, adhesive stamps:—

(1 kreuzer) ..... lavender.  
 (1 „ ) ..... grey.

1861. Double eagle in square frame, on which is inscribed the value, and “Kais. Kon. Zeitungs Stempel”; unperforated, adhesive stamps:—

1 kreuzer ..... blue.  
 1 „ ..... black.  
 2 kreuzers..... brown.  
 2 „ ..... red.  
 3 „ ..... yellow.  
 4 „ ..... red.  
 4 „ ..... brown.

1863. Embossed double eagle in oval disc within an octagonal frame, bearing “K. K. Zeitungs Post-Stempel,” without value; unperforated, adhesive stamp:—

(1 kreuzer) ..... lavender.

1867. Bucolic head of Mercury to left, within an oval circumscribed by an ornamental rectangular frame; unperforated, adhesive stamp, without value or inscription:—

1 kreuzer ..... lilac, violet, or grey.

1872. Newspaper band bearing a rectangular label.

2 kreuzers..... yellow.

POST CARDS. 1870. Cards bearing head of Emperor to right, in a circle within a rectangle:

2 kreuzers..... yellow.

Varieties of these cards have been issued for

Austria, Bohemia, Poland, Italy, Ruthenia, and the Slavonian Provinces.

POST CARD FOR FOREIGN OFFICES. 1873.

4 soldi ..... rose on buff.

(To be Continued.)

### THE TIMBROMANIAC.

“Oh! dearest treasure of my heart,  
 “I love thee more than words can tell:  
 “How bright and beautiful thou art,  
 “My exquisite! *ma belle!*”

Thus, in an amatory mood,  
 A smitten being raved and cried:  
 But what was it that was so good—  
 A maiden in her pride?

No; not a maiden. Women he  
 Looked down upon with calm disdain;  
 He was a bachelor so free,  
 Who knew not Cupid's chain.

Then, what was it that troubled him,  
 That made him rave and roar and ramp;  
 That filled with joy his every limb?  
 Only a postage stamp.

### NUMISMATICS.

BY W. H. TAYLOR.

A passion for the acquisition of some selected and cherished object, varying in its nature according to the particular taste or fancy of the individual collector, is doubtless implanted in the minds of all sorts and conditions of men. Among the manifold ways in which this inherent quality makes itself apparent, we may note the popular ones of making collections of Shells, Pictures, Autographs, Stamps and Coins.

Perhaps there is no pursuit of the kind, which combines more varied amusement with useful and real information, than does the latter. By the aid of ancient coins, the dry and and sometimes prosy records of the old chronicles of the

past are illustrated and made plain. History then becomes a wonderful and delightful romance, for in the little silent pieces of metal, corroded and time-worn though they may be, we see reflected vivid pictures of the past. Visions arise of those days when great and heroic deeds were wrought, when mighty kings, flushed with the pride of victory, led their conquering hosts across the battle-fields to conquests new. It is from coins that we get to know much about the Greeks and Romans unobtainable from books, as, for instance, concerning their mythology, customs, manners, and buildings; again, the portraits on them tell us what kind of men the famous emperors were and how the Roman ladies dressed their hair.

If space permitted, we might enlarge considerably on the subject, and show how, in many other ways, the study and collection of coins is both profitable and even essential to every person claiming to possess refined and cultivated tastes; but for the present it will be enough to urge the claims of this fascinating pursuit upon all our readers, feeling assured that if intelligently and thoroughly entered into, the collecting of coins, whether ancient or modern, cannot fail to be both a source of instruction and recreation to the student, who will never, we believe, regret either the time or money which may be expended on this most agreeable and sensible of hobbies.

#### QUEEN ANNE'S FARTHING.

WE extract the following from a letter written by Mr. James Sykes to the *Hull News* of 7th November, 1868:—

“There are six different types of the farthing of Queen Anne in the British Museum, but only one was circulated, and this variety has on the obverse a bust of the Queen, with the legend “*Anna dei gratia*”; on the reverse the figure of Britannia; and below it, in the exergue, the date 1714. It is worth 10s. to 15s.; and if good, 20s.

to 25s. Some of this style have a broad rim, are considered by collectors more scarce, and will often bring 30s. The other five varieties are termed pattern pieces, of which very few were struck, and none of them for circulation. The portraits on the obverse are nearly the same; but the reverse differs from that of the common farthing. The one with “*Anna Regina*” on the obverse is rather scarce, and is worth 30s. to £2, according to condition. The one dated 1713, with “*Anna Augusta*” on the obverse, and bearing on the reverse the figure of Peace, in a car drawn by two horses with the legend “*Pax missa per orbem*” (peace sent forth throughout the world), is very rare, and worth £5 to £6. On another reverse the figure of Britannia is seated on a globe beneath a portico, with the legend “*Britannia*,” and date 1713. This type will fetch £2 10s. to £3 10s. Another has Britannia, but differing from the one dated 1714; the right leg is more exposed, the drapery on the bust much different, and the date following the legend, instead of being in the exergue. This is not so rare, being worth £1 10s. to £2. The scarcest of the whole is one with the bust of the Queen. It is of rather inferior work, and the letters of the name, instead of being raised, are sunk. On the reverse, Britannia is represented erect, with an olive branch in her right hand, and in her left a spear; legend “*Bello et pace*.” This piece is extremely rare, and will fetch from £8 to £10, or more. These prices are only for those struck in copper. There are a few of each sort in fine gold and silver. It may be as well to mention, after describing the farthings of Queen Anne, that there are a common lot of tokens in brass and copper which at times have caused much trouble to the possessors, and very often to the authorities of the British Museum. These farthings are much thinner than the farthings of Anne. On the head side they have a very poor portrait of the Queen, with a long scraggy neck.

### CAUTIONS TO COIN COLLECTORS.

IT is not easy to account for the strange notions which, from time to time, seem to possess the minds of some people concerning the value of certain coins. Take, for example, the popular belief in the rarity, and therefore high value, of those shillings of George II., bearing on the obverse the figure of a lion. Advertisements frequently appear in the newspapers inviting offers for a number of them, as:—"What offers for 40 lion shillings?" or—"For sale, 20 lion shillings: highest offer above 25s.;" &c.

It does not seem to strike the simple-minded advertiser that if one person possesses no less than forty of them, they can not be very rare. The fact is that lion shillings, as they are popularly called, are of no fancy value whatever, unless in very fine preservation. Sixpences, however, it may be well to mention, of the same coinage, are not common, being worth if fine two shillings or half-a-crown each.

Another fallacy which obtains with some, is the imaginary value of the Victoria florin, best known as the "graceless one," so called from being struck without the letters D.G. (*Dei Gratia*) after Victoria. This piece is quite common. Some mistaken people too will assert that the bronze pennies of the year 1864 are very rare; this delusion we need hardly say needs no refutation or explanation.

### COINAGE IN BRITAIN DURING THE SAXON PERIOD.

From the *National History of England*.

AS regards the coin of this period, it varied considerably. At first it was of course Roman money that was used. The Romans had carried much of this money with them; but much was left behind them in the hands of the provincial Britons. It was probably as much

their cash in hand that tempted the invasion of the Saxons as the fertility and beauty of the country. It was certainly one of the chief objects of their piratical expeditions; and when they had settled by invitation in the island, no sooner did they quarrel with the Britons than they seized their cash as well as their goods and estates. The current coin, therefore, at this time, was that on which was stamped the image of imperial Cæsar. But this money could not last for ever. When much of it had been spent in commerce, it became necessary to produce a new coinage. At what time the several Anglo-Saxons Kings of the Heptarchy began to coin money is uncertain; but it would appear that this prerogative of royalty was exercised soon after the Saxon chiefs assumed the regal dignity. All the fines specified in the laws of Ethelbright, King of Kent, are estimated in shillings, which were Saxon denominations of money: a proof that shillings were the current coin of the Kingdom of Kent in his reign, if not before. With the exception of Ethelbright's shilling, the oldest coin discovered is one of Edwin's, King of Northumberland, but probably there were many others struck by the early Kings of the Heptarchy. Coins of a later date—as those of Ethelwulf, Ethelbert, of several Kings of Wessex, Mercia, East Anglia, and Northumberland, and of Edgar and Ethelred—have been discovered in recent years, a rare collection of which are deposited among the treasures of the British Museum.

And now comes the question: what were the coins or denominations of money current among the Anglo-Saxons, and what was their relative value? This is a question that has puzzled antiquarians, and cannot be satisfactorily answered. Doubts and differences of opinion exist both as to the value or weight, and as to the relative value of nearly every one of them. The only thing absolutely certain seems to be that the pound was always understood to be a

full pound of silver. This, however, does not appear to have been the common troy pound, but a measure long known in Germany as the Cologne pound, which was three-quarters of an ounce less than the pound troy: that is, it was only eleven ounces and a quarter, troy weight, or 5,400 grains. This was evidently the money pound of the Anglo-Saxons, and out of every such pound of silver were coined 240 silver pennies, each weighing  $22\frac{1}{2}$  grains, making twenty pennies out of every ounce. The next denomination of money among the Anglo-Saxons is the mark, which appears to have been introduced by the Danes when they obtained a settlement in England by the treaty between Alfred and Guthrum. That the mark had its origin in Scandinavia, and was brought from thence into England and France, is clear. It is first mentioned in the article of agreement between King Alfred and Guthrum, the Danish chief, which is full proof of its Scandinavian origin. The weight and value of the mark is not clearly ascertained, but the most probable conjecture is, that it weighed 3,600 grains troy, of gold or silver, and was equal, in weight of the latter, to £1 17s. 9d. of our present money, and exactly two-thirds of £2 16s. 3d., the weight in silver of the Saxon pound. The mancus is another species of money mentioned in the laws and chronicles of the Anglo-Saxons. It is a matter of dispute whether the mancus was a real coin, or only, like the pound and mark, a denomination. It seems probable, however, that the mancus was a real gold coin, and that this coin was struck by several of the Anglo-Saxon Kings, as well as by contemporary sovereigns. According to Archbishop Ælfric, the mancus was worth thirty Saxon pennies: the weight of it, therefore, must have been 675 troy grains, which was the actual weight of gold coins current in the middle ages, both in Europe, Asia and Africa, though under different names. A coin of the same

value and weight must have been a great convenience to merchants, and it seems to point out the fact that it was a medium of commercial intercourse between the various nations with whom it passed current. Its value was seven shillings and a fraction of our present money. The next species of money mentioned, is the ora, but whether that was a real coin or only a denomination is uncertain. Like the mark, it was introduced by the Danes, and it appears to have been the eighth part of the mark in weight. Its weight, therefore, was 450 troy grains, equal to 4s.  $8\frac{1}{4}$ d. of present money. And now comes the Saxon shilling. There is no coin mentioned in the Anglo-Saxon laws and chronicles more frequently than this. It was in shillings that penalties were estimated; that the price of life and limb, and payments and prices of commodities were fixed. But, notwithstanding, antiquaries and historians long considered that the Saxon shilling was a denomination and not a coin. Many at the present day hold this opinion, although there is the plain testimony of several Anglo-Saxon writers that the shilling was a coin. Archbishop Ælfric distinctly states that the English have only three names for their coins—mancuses, shillings, and pennies. The doubt seems to have arisen from the circumstances that no Anglo-Saxon shillings have been discovered, which is no reason that the coin should not have been issued from the mint. Of the exact weight and value of the shilling there is no doubt. As 48 were coined out of the pound or 5,400 grains troy, each of them must have weighed  $112\frac{1}{2}$  grains, equal to 1s. 2d. of our money.

*(To be continued).*

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## NOTES AND QUERIES.

*Under this heading, we propose to insert information on Numismatic, Philatelic, and Antiquarian subjects, and to answer any questions on the same which may be currently addressed to us by our readers.*

**BRITISH COINS.**—The weight of the English sovereign is 5 dwt.  $3\frac{3}{11}$  qrs.; of the half-sovereign, 2 dwt. 13 qrs.; of the crown, 18 dwt.  $4\frac{7}{11}$  qrs.; of the half-crown, 9 dwt.  $2\frac{3}{11}$  qrs.; of the shilling, 3 dwt.  $15\frac{3}{11}$  qrs.; and of the sixpence, 1 dwt.  $19\frac{7}{11}$  qrs. All coins are weighed by Troy weight; and the English gold coinage consists of 22 parts of virgin gold and 2 parts of copper; while the silver is composed of 37 parts of silver and 3 of copper. From a pound of standard gold are coined  $46\frac{2}{3}$  sovereigns; and from a pound of silver, 66 shillings. The silver penny of Ethelbert weighed  $22\frac{1}{2}$  grains, and that of Elizabeth  $7\frac{2}{3}$  grains.

**HALL MARKS.**—The district hall marks on gold and silver are as follows: Birmingham, an anchor; London, a leopard's head; Dublin, a figure of Hibernia; Edinburgh, a castle and lion; Chester, a dagger or three wheat-sheaves; York, five lions and a cross; Sheffield, a crown; Exeter, a castle and two wings; Glasgow, a tree and a salmon; and Newcastle-on-Tyne, three castles. The "standard mark" for gold of 22 carats, and for silver containing 11 oz. 2 dwts. of silver to 18 dwts. of alloy, is for England, a lion passant; for Ireland, a crowned harp; for Edinburgh, a thistle; and for Glasgow, a lion rampant. The "duty mark," or head of the king or queen, signifies that the duty has been paid. A letter, signifying the date, is also added, and this is changed every year. For 1874 it was a small old English *u*, as far as the Goldsmiths of London were concerned.

**GUN MONEY.**—Of all the various modes adopted by royal personages in their endeavours to "raise the wind," perhaps there is none more remarkable than that employed by our James II. This monarch, previous to his last struggle with William of Orange for possession of the English crown, struck some very extraordinary specimens of money. "Silver and gold had he none," so he employed as a substitute the metal obtained from cannons previously melted down: from this base compound he caused to be coined, crowns, half-crowns, shillings, and sixpences. On the obverse they bear the king's laureated bust with the usual legend, and on the reverse, a crown crossed by two sceptres, with the name of the month and date of issue. None of the gun money is rare, excepting the crown-piece with the king on horseback, which is uncommon.

**NEW AMERICAN COIN.**—Washington despatches for the Press state that Dr. Linderman, Director of the Mint, has selected and approved the design for the 20-cent silver piece authorised by Congress in March. On one side will be Liberty seated, surrounded by 13 stars, the date being underneath; on the reverse, an eagle and the inscription "Twenty Cents," and "United States of America." The piece is too small to admit "in God we trust," and for the same reason "E Pluribus Unum" is also left out. The new coin is wanted in the Pacific coast, where a silver dime worth ten cents circulates.—*Glasgow Herald.*

**QUERY.**—1. What is the meaning of the motto "Mallia Cadreene," which appears on an Oxford token of the seventeenth century, which is in my possession?—W. H. T. [Is W. H. T. sure that the above are the words which occur? They look like the anagram of some name.—Ed.]



# The Mercury.

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE FOR STAMP & COIN COLLECTORS.

VOL. I. No. 3.]

JULY, 1875.

[PRICE 2d.

## HINTS TO STAMP COLLECTORS.

THE Stamp Collector's first business is to buy a book in which to preserve his specimens, and in the choice of a book he should be guided by the following considerations. He must remember that new stamps are constantly being issued, and that all albums are worthless which do not allow space for future as well as for past emissions. He must remember, also, that there are such things as post-cards, envelopes, and news wrappers, and he must settle in his own mind whether these shall be inserted in his album; taking care, if he decides in the affirmative, to procure a book suited for the purpose, and containing plenty of guards, so that it may shut flatly even when full. He must, too, take care that the pages of his album are stout, and not likely to be appreciably injured by the removal of a label. The would-be collector will then do well to procure a good descriptive catalogue of Stamps, on the principle of the one which we are now publishing in this paper. The one by M. J. B. Moens, of Brussels, and that by Dr. J. E. Gray, of the British Museum, will be found quite suitable, and equally trustworthy; but the former is unfortunately in French, and we do not think that it has been yet translated into English.

A glance or two at a well arranged collection will do more towards instructing the beginner than will anything that we can say here; but

for those who are not able to avail themselves of this advantage, we may append a few directions.

Our maxims are:—

- 1 In the arrangement of your stamps, trust implicitly to some one particular catalogue.
- 2 Take especial care not to soil a stamp.
- 3 Do not be in a hurry in sticking your stamps in.
- 4 Leave plenty of room for future emissions, so that you may not have to make room.
- 5 In removing a stamp from an envelope, &c., always use cold water, and never either stick in the stamp, backing and all, or attempt to separate the two by simple tearing.
- 6 Never use anything but smooth paste, in which a little alum has been dissolved, for sticking in your stamps.
- 7 After sticking in stamps, never close your album until they are perfectly dry.

If it is necessary to remove a stamp from another book, or from a piece of paper which cannot be immersed, a piece of clean white blotting-paper should be dipped into the water and suffered to lie upon the label until it can be safely extracted with a knife. We recommend paste in which alum has been dissolved for sticking in stamps, since paste so prepared does not turn sour; and, while it is adhesive, it can be dissolved with very little difficulty, and with no risk to the stamp. Some of the Russian labels are printed in very fugitive ink; but if care be used, and they be not handled with the fingers,

these may be placed in cold water without hurt, in order to remove their backs.

How to stick in stamps is a difficult question to answer. Nearly all beginners cover the whole of the back with paste or gum, and fasten the unfortunate label bodily into the book; but a far better, neater, and less risky way is to paste a strip of tissue paper to the top of the stamp, bend it backwards and fasten it to the page, so that it forms a sort of hinge upon which the stamp can work freely. The same plan will be found useful for post-cards, and for envelopes, and it is the only one which we advocate, although a score of other methods have been suggested.

Another difficult question to answer is, "What shall I collect?" If your album is to be called a postage stamp album, we would advise that postage stamps only should find a place in it. Nevertheless, telegraph, revenue, and other stamps are interesting, and often richly executed, and they may be advantageously be collected, unless their great number and infinite variety deter any one from having to do with them. If they are collected, they should find their places in separate volumes, or at least in a volume which does not pretend to contain postage stamps only; and in that class we think that we are justified in including all labels, stamps, or cards which frank the conveyance of a written communication by post. In view of the immense quantity of stamps that have been issued since 1840, we should not now advise anyone to collect varieties of watermark, perforation, or shade; but it is important not to overlook provisional emissions, and stamps which have been officially surcharged, either with an inscription or with a new value.

Forgeries must be very carefully guarded against. Now-a-days they are so well executed, that they often deceive even practised eyes; but the collector who has had much experience, is seldom taken in by forgeries of any stamps of

which he has ever seen genuine specimens. No infallible guide for their detection can be given, and in this, as in many other matters, *experientia docet*. A good microscope will, however, we may add, be of very considerable assistance; and we may mention that we have never seen a forged stamp printed on watermarked paper. We might give other hints to would-be collectors of postage stamps, but we have said enough to enable anyone of ordinary intelligence to commence operations, and this is all we meditate in the present paper.

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#### RECENT ISSUES.

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**AZORES.**—The 240 reis, violet, now completes the set for these islands.

**BERMUDA.**—The following provisional stamps have lately been issued for Bermuda. The values are surcharged in black, thus:—

3d. on 1d. ....	red;
3d. on 2d. ....	blue;
1d. on 1s. ....	green.

**TURKEY.**—A new series of labels for Turkey is expected this month. All the inscriptions, with the exception of that part of them which denotes the value, will be in Turkish. In the meantime a provisional emission has just appeared. On all the current stamps the value in Roman has been added; and an additional label, of the value of  $1\frac{1}{4}$  piastres, has been issued.

**AUSTRIA.**—The 2 kreuzer band now appears without its coloured border.

**SWITZERLAND.**—The label on the Swiss post card is now printed in brown; and the card itself no longer bears any inscription.—We ought to warn our readers that apocryphal Rigi stamps are in the market, purporting to be a second issue for an hotel which now makes use of the Swiss Federal labels.

**LUXEMBURG.**—The new Luxemburg post cards

are as follows, the type being as in those in use hitherto :

- 5 centimes, violet, on bluish card ;
- 6 centimes, red, on flesh-coloured card.

The double post cards, for answers, are of the same colours.

GUATEMALA.—The Columbian Bank Note Company has engraved some envelope stamps and journal labels for Guatemala. The design consists of a laureated profile of Liberty to left, within an oval engine-turned band bearing the word "Guatemala," and the value both in words and figures. The envelope stamps are as follows :

- $\frac{1}{2}$  real..... green ;
- 1 real..... blue ;
- 2 reals..... vermillion.

The label on the newspaper band is black, and the value is  $\frac{1}{4}$  real.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—The 2d. stamp now appears surcharged as One Penny in yellow.

BAVARIA.—The Bavarian post card no longer bears any directions.

RUSSIA.—Local stamps have, since we last wrote, been issued for Irbit, Ochanski, Glassoff, and Ostrov.

FINLAND.—The *Timbre-Poste* notices some stamps issued by a steam-ship company, trading between Tavastehus and Tammerfors. The form is oval, and the values are :

- 10 penni..... red ;
- 20 „ ..... red ;
- 25 „ ..... red.

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OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

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THE *Timbre-Poste*, for June, is full of illustrations as usual, and, besides a useful chronicle of recent issues, contains articles on "The Stamps of Persia," "The Spanish Forgeries

of 1873," and "The Stamps of the Portuguese Indies." The accustomed report of the proceedings of the French Timbrological Society is also appended. The Society is now engaged upon the stamps of Belgium.

*The Philatelic News Letter* is as usual full of interesting information, and Mr. Overy Taylor's gossipy article is especially interesting.

*The Criterion* has, we see, copied *in extenso* an article in our May number, on "The History of Postage Stamps." We are very much obliged.

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GENERAL POSTAL UNION.

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THE following is the substance of a document which has just been issued by the Postmaster-General :—

"In accordance with the provisions of an International Treaty concluded at Berne on the 9th of October last, the whole of the States of Europe, the United States of America, and Egypt have formed themselves into a General Postal Union for the reciprocal exchange of correspondence, and have agreed to adopt low and uniform rates of postage for all correspondence despatched from one State of the Union to another.

"As a general measure, these provisions, which extend to Letters, Post Cards, Newspapers, and other Printed Papers, Patterns of Merchandise, and Legal and Commercial Documents, will take effect on the 1st of July next, but, in the case of France, not until the 1st of January, 1876.

"All correspondence addressed to France will continue subject to the existing rates of postage, and it will be necessary in some cases to levy temporarily higher rates than the Union rates on the letters, &c., forwarded by the route of France to other States of the Union, but such letters, &c., will be forwarded through France only in those cases where a rate of postage for the transmission

by that route is given in the following table:—

	Otherwise than via France.				Via France.			
	Letters.		Printed News-Papers, &c.		Letters.		Printed News-Papers, &c.	
	Per ½oz. d.	Each 4oz. d.	Per 4oz. d.	Per 2oz. d.	Per ½oz. d.	Each 4oz. d.	Per 4oz. d.	Per 2oz. d.
Austria ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Belgium ..	..	..	..	..	2½	1½	1	1
Denmark*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Egypt....	..	..	..	..	{ 2½†	1½	2	2
Germany .	..	..	..	..	{ 6†	3½	2	2
Gibraltar.	..	..	..	..	2½‡	1½	2	2
Greece ...	..	..	..	..	6	3½	2	2
Heligoland	2½	1½	1	1	6½	3½	2	2
Italy ....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Luxembg.	..	..	..	..	4	2½	2	2
Netherland.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Norway ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Portugal	..	..	..	..	6	3½	2	2
Roumania.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Russia ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Servia ....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Spain ....	..	..	..	..	6	3½	2	2
Sweden ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Switzerland	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
U. States...}	2½	1½	1	1	..	..	..	..
Malta.....	..	..	..	..	{ 4†	2½	2	2
Turkey ...	..	..	..	..	{ 6†	3½	2	2
Canary Islands	2½	1½	1	1	..	..	..	..

\* Including Iceland and Faroe Islands.

† Via Brindisi.

‡ Via Marseilles.

§ Only correspondence for Alsace and Lorraine will be forwarded via France.

|| Including Madeira and the Azores. ¶ Via Italy.

"FOREIGN POST CARDS.—The Post Cards which have been manufactured for use in this country bear an impressed stamp of the value of 1½d. The additional postage, therefore, required in those cases where they will be forwarded *via* France must be prepaid by means of adhesive stamps to be affixed to the cards. On the front or stamped side of a Post Card nothing must be written or printed except the address.

"NEWSPAPERS.—The ordinary charge on a Newspaper addressed to any county of Union is 1d. per 4oz. But, for the present, the charge on Newspapers sent through France, except to Belgium, will be 2d. per 4oz. In all cases the postage must be prepaid.

"NEW STAMP OF THE VALUE OF TWOPENCE-HALFPENNY.—For the convenience of persons corresponding with the countries of the Union, a new adhesive postage stamp of the value of 2½d. has been issued, and may be procured at all post-offices.

## HISTORY AND NUMISMATICS.

By F. W. PALEY.

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

Coin are, however, of the greatest value to

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

We will give a few instances in coins of various dates, in order that our readers may for themselves observe what we have endeavoured shortly to point out. In the coins of Athens, well known probably to all, bearing on the obverse the head of Pallas, and on the reverse the owl, a full length figure of Pallas or of Jupiter with the thunderbolt, all will at once observe the massiveness and bold relief (the earlier coins having these characteristics in a more especial degree), shewing the vigour and solidity of the Athenian race. A very good instance of the exactly opposite class of coins is to be found in the later coins of Corinth, especially after it

became a Roman province: the workmanship being truly magnificent, and the heads on them having all the characteristics of beauty, though of a luxurious and almost licentious nature, and lacking the bold and striking character of the early coins of the same place, denoting, as history informs us, the prosperity and wealth of Corinth; which, however, led to luxury and the decadence of its power. The same thing may be observed in the coins of all ancient nations, and our readers may find much instruction of an interesting nature in observing coins from this position as well as from a merely antiquarian point of view.

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### A CATALOGUE OF COINS.

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(NOTE.—*The italic letter placed after the description of each coin denotes its approximate degree of rarity in England; and the letters range from a to h, a being the commonest and h the rarest.*)

#### GREEK REGAL COINS.

##### MACEDON.

Alexander I., B.C., 501. Silver:

Tetradrachm, *h*.

Drachm, *h*.

Perdiccas, II., B.C., 458. Silver, with *Perdik* in Greek characters:

Hemidrachm, *h*.

Archelaus I., B.C., 430. Silver, with a horse on the reverse:

Tetradrachm, *f*.

Drachm, *e*.

A brass coin, *f*.

Archelaus II., B.C., 403. Silver, with Jupiter on the reverse:

Tetradrachm, *g*.

Pausanias, B.C., 389. Silver:

Tetradrachm, *h*.

- Amyntas II., B.C. 389. Silver, with *Basileos Amuntou* in Greek characters :  
Tetradrachm, *d*.  
2nd Brass, *d*.  
3rd Brass, *f* (without portrait).
- Alexander II., B.C. 370. Silver, with *Alexandrou* in Greek characters, and a horse on the reverse :  
Tetradrachm, *f*.  
3rd Brass, *d*.
- Ptolemy Alorites, B.C. 369. Silver, with *Ptolemaiou Alorit* in Greek characters :  
Didrachm, *f*.
- Perdiccas II., B.C. 366.  
2nd Brass, bearing a club, horse, or lion, *f*.
- Philip II., B.C., 360. Silver, with *Ba, Ph*, in Greek characters :  
Didrachm, *a*.  
Gold—Didrachm, *a*.  
Hemidrachm, *e*.  
Brass, *a*.
- Olympias, with *Olumpia Basilissa* in Greek characters, and reverse of a man on horseback, *h*.
- Alexander the Great, B.C. 334. Gold :  
Tetradrachm, *d*.  
Didrachm, *a*.  
Hemidrachm, *e*.  
Silver, with portrait, *h*.  
Silver, without portrait, *a*.  
Brass, *a*.
- Philip Aridaeus, B.C., 312.  
Exactly like the coins of Alexander, but bearing *Basileos Philipou* in Greek characters :  
Gold, *f*.  
Silver, *d*.  
Brass, *e*.
- Cassander, B.C. 315. Brass :  
2nd, *b*.  
3rd, *b*.
- Antigonus, B.C., 296. Brass, with *Basileos Antigonou* in Greek characters :  
2nd, *h*.
- Antipater I., B.C., 295. Brass, with *Antipatrou* in Greek characters :  
2nd, *d*.  
3rd, *d*.
- Demetrius Poliorcetes, B.C., 292. With *Demetriou*, and sometimes *Soteros* in Greek characters.  
Silver, *d*.  
3rd Brass, without, *h*.
- Lysimachus, B.C., 286.  
Gold—Octodrachm, *g*.  
Tetradrachm, *d*.  
Didrachm, *b*.  
Silver—Tetradrachm, *a*.  
Drachm, *a*.  
(with lion)—Hemidrachm, *h*.  
Brass—2nd, *b*.  
3rd, *b*.
- Ptolemy Ceraunus, B.C., 281.  
With *Keraunou* in Greek characters, and head of Alexander, silver, *g*.
- Meleager, B.C., 280. With *Meleagrou* in Greek characters :  
Gold, *h*.  
3rd Brass, *h*.
- Antipater I., B.C. 280.  
With *Antipatrou* in Greek characters.  
Gold, *h*.
- Sosthenes, B.C., 280. With *Sosthenou* in Greek characters, and bust of Alexander :  
Silver, *h*.
- Antigonus Gonatus, B.C. 278.  
With *Antigonou Gonatou* in Greek characters :  
Silver, *b*.  
3rd Brass, *a*.

- Demetrius II., B.C. 242. Silver :  
Tetradrachm, *b*.  
3rd Brass, *a*.
- Antigonus III., B.C. 242. With *Antigonou* in  
Greek characters, and head of Pan :  
Gold—Didrachm, *f*.  
Silver—Tetradrachm, *e*.  
3rd Brass, *c*.
- Philip III., B.C. 219. Silver, *f*.  
Brass, *d*.
- Perseus, B.C. 177. Silver :  
(Without head) Tetradrachm, *d*.  
(Without head) 2nd Brass, *c*.  
(With portrait) 3rd Brass *b*.

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NOTES AND QUERIES.

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*Under this heading, we propose to insert information on Numismatic, Philatelic, and Antiquarian subjects, and to answer any questions on the same which may be currently addressed to us by our readers.*

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With regard to W. H. T.'s query in our last, Mr. Henry Christie, of 28, Devenant-Road, London, writes to say that some time ago he asked the same question in the *Antiquary*, at the same time suggesting that the words, "Mallia Cadreene," might be an anagram; but he received no satisfactory reply. (*Vide Antiquary*, vol. iii., pp. 263, 293; and vol. iv., p. 96.)

ERRATA.—In the *Mercury* for June,  
Page 8, line 19, for *red* read *green* ;  
,, 10, line 7, for *George II.* read *George IV.*  
,, 10, line 11, for *obverse* read *reverse*.

H. C. will find his courteous communications answered by the above.

POST CARDS.—Post cards are now issued by the following countries: Austria, Baden, {Bavaria, Belgium, Canada, Ceylon, Chili, Denmark, Dutch

Indies, France, Germany, Great Britain, Heligoland, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Luxemburg, Norway, Roumania, Russia, Finland, Servia, Shanghai, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United States, and Wurtemberg.

THE GAD WHIP MANORIAL SERVICES, RENDERED AT CAISTOR.—Particulars of this ancient custom

will be gathered from the following petition presented to Parliament, in 1836, by the lord of the manor, who was wishful to stop the Gad Whip Service:—

*"To the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament Assembled.*

*"The petition of the undersigned, Sir Culling Eardley Smith, of Bedwell Park, in the county of Hertford, sheweth, that your petitioner is lord of the manor of Hundon, near Caistor, in the county of Lincoln. That the lord of the manor of Broughton, near Brigg, in the same county, yearly on Palm Sunday, employs a person to perform the following ceremony in the*

parish church of Caistor:—A cart-whip of the fashion of several centuries since, called a gad whip, with four pieces of wyche-elm bound round the stock, and a leather purse attached to the extremity of the stock, containing thirty pence, is, during divine service, cracked in the church porch; and while the second lesson is reading, is brought into the church, and held over the reading desk by the person who carries it. It is afterwards deposited with the tenant of Hundon. That the performance of this superstitious ceremony is utterly inconsistent with a place of



Christian worship. That it is generally supposed that it is a penance for murder, and that in the event of the performance being neglected, the lord of the manor of Broughton would be liable to a penalty to the lord of the manor of Hundon. Your petitioner being extremely anxious for the discontinuance of this indecent and absurd practice, applied to the lord of the manor of Broughton for that purpose, who declined entering into any negotiations until the deed should be produced under which the ceremony was instituted, which deed (if it has ever existed) your petitioner is unable to produce. That your petitioner subsequently applied to the Bishop of Lincoln to use his influence to prevent the repetition of the ceremony, and offered to guarantee the churchwardens against any loss in consequence of their refusal to permit it. That your petitioner believes there are no trustees of a Dissenting chapel who would permit the minister or officers of their chapel to sanction such a desecration. That the ceremony took place, as usual, on Palm Sunday in this year. Your petitioner therefore prays that your lordships will be pleased to ascertain from the Bishop of the diocese why the ceremony took place; that if the existing law enables any ecclesiastical persons to prevent it, the law may hereafter be enforced; and that, if the present law is insufficient, a law may be passed enabling the Bishop to interfere for the purpose of saving the national church from scandal. And your petitioner will ever pray," &c.

The foregoing petition had not the desired effect, as the ceremony was repeated in 1837, and continued until the land was sold in 1846. The whip last used in this singular ceremony is in the possession of Mr. William Andrews, of Hull, who is the author of a valuable paper on the "Caistor Gad Whip Manorial Service."

BRITANNIA.—It is not commonly known that the figure we call "Britannia," which appears on

our bronze coins, and which is supposed by many to be symbolical of England's dominion over the sea, is really nothing more than a representation of the goddess Roma, to be found on several Roman coins. She is generally depicted as seated upon a rock, signifying the subjugated province, Britannia. A similar figure appears on coins recording other Roman conquests.

GREEK SILVER COINS.—The silver coins of Greece are of the following denominations:

	Weight in grains.
Tetradrachm, or 4 drachms...	264
Tridrachm, or 3 drachms ...	198
Didrachm, or 2 drachms.....	132
Tetradobolion, or 4 oboloi .....	44
Drachm, or 6 oboloi .....	66
Hemidrachm, or 3 oboloi ...	33
Diobolion, or 2 oboloi.....	22
Obolus.....	11
Hemiobolion, or $\frac{1}{2}$ obolus ...	$5\frac{1}{2}$
Tetartobolion, or $\frac{1}{4}$ obolus..	$2\frac{3}{4}$

The first, or largest, piece of Greek brass was the chalcos, or one-eighth of an obolus, which was divided into eight parts.

ANTIQUITY OF MONEY.—Precious metals are older than history. Two thousand years before Christ, Abraham, the Chaldean shepherd, whose children have never lost their faith nor thrift through a hundred and fourteen generations, returned to Egypt "very rich in cattle, in silver and gold." Afterwards says the Biblical record, he bought the cave of Machpelah—where his bones were to rest beside those of Sarah, the wife of his youth—for "four hundred shekels of silver, current money with the merchant." The Catholic version has it "common current money," Herodotus asserts that coinage originated with the Lydians.

1. Can anyone give me any information as to the genuineness of the gold and silver coins of Boadicea which were sold at the Dinsdale sale, in 1824, for £9 15s. and £1 10s. respectively, and which are believed to be antique?—SETHO.

2. What are the arguments for supposing that the coins of Henry VII., with the head *in profile*, are the first English pieces bearing a *likeness* of the sovereign? Is not the face on the Chester Silver Penny, of William the Conqueror, a portrait?—SETHO.



# The Mercury.

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE FOR STAMP & COIN COLLECTORS.  
AND JOURNAL OF ANTIQUITIES.

Vol. I. No. 4.]

SEPTEMBER, 1875.

[PRICE 2d.

EDITORIAL NOTICE.—*In consequence of unavoidable circumstances the publication of the "Mercury" was suspended during the month of August. It is intended shortly to considerably extend the scope of the Magazine: and we beg to suggest that our readers may greatly assist us in this respect, by contributing to our column of NOTES AND QUERIES, interesting information on questions connected with Philatelic, Numismatics, and Antiquarian science.*

## RECENT ISSUES.

**BELGIUM.**—Two new stamps appeared on the 1st of July, values and colours as follows:

25 centimes.....yellow-brown.

50 ,, .....black.

Generally speaking the type is very similar to that of the rest of the series.

**BERMUDA.**—New provisional stamps for this colony are appearing eternally. The following are a few of the latest vagaries:

Black Surcharge.

"Threepence" on one shilling, green.

" " " "

" " one penny, red.

" " "

" " two pence, blue.

"One Penny" " one shilling, green.

" " two pence, blue.

" " threepence, yellow.

**DENMARK.**—Service stamps and cards have been abolished in the various government departments.

**GUATEMALA.**—On April 19th, a decree was published ordering the withdrawal of the 20, 10, and 5 centavos stamps on May 15th. New stamps have now been issued, bearing a laureated head of Liberty to left, the surroundings differing slightly in each label, as follows:

$\frac{1}{4}$  real.....black.

$\frac{1}{2}$  ,, .....green.

1 ,, .....blue.

2 reales .....red.

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA.**—The following stamps are now issued with "Too late" obliquely surcharged in black:

Twopence.....yellow.

Fourpence.....violet.

Sixpence .....blue.

**HOLLAND.**—A stamp of the same design as the rest of the series appeared on July 1st: 12½ cents, grey.

**BAVARIA.**—A violet stamp, value 1 mark, has been issued.

**CANADA.**—The band-stamp, newly issued, bears a profile of the Queen to right within an oval frame, having figures of the value at each side: 1 cent, blue.

**GREAT BRITAIN.**—By this time everyone will have seen the new stamps for our own country. The 2½d. stamp reminds us of the 30 cents Singapore. That on the Post Card is a miraculous specimen of ugliness, and, we think, a most disgraceful specimen of engraving. Mr. Taylor however is enchanted with it.

**WURTEMBERG.**—Composition envelopes have been issued for Wurttemberg. One wears the 2 kr. stamp green, and the 5 pfen., violet; and the other, the 3 and 10 kr., stamps, both rose.

**RUSSIA.**—For Russia, stamps of the value of 2 and 8 kopecks respectively have appeared. The patterns of the older stamps are preserved. The late issue is now complete as follows:—

Stamp	2 kop	.....	red and black.
„	8	„	..... grey and scarlet.
Envelope	8	„	..... grey.
Card	4	„	..... green.

**JAPAN.**—The 4 sen stamp has been issued in green, and the 6 sen in orange.

**PUNJAB.**—A new stamp in blue-grey on white has appeared. In a reversed, heart-shaped frame within a square it has a native inscription surmounted by the letter R.

**SHANGHAI.**—The 4 cand. stamp is now printed on yellow paper, in yellow, and the 3 cand. in carmine, on pink.

**UNITED STATES.**—Head of Z. Taylor within an oval on a shield in a rectangular frame;—

5 cents.....blue.

Notices of other new stamps must, on account of their number, be deferred.

## OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

**WE** have before us for notice the July and August numbers of the *Timbre Poste*, Mr. Moen's interesting philatelic serial. In the July emission are good engravings of the new stamps for Spain, Finland, Guatemala, Wurtemberg, and several Russian towns; and, in the August number, of new issues for the Punjaub, Philippine Islands, Argentine Republic, Finland, United States, Belgium, Spain, Hungary, England, and Russia. The literary matter is as usual very instructive, and we would especially notice a lengthy article criticising the decision of the United States' Postal Department to re-issue its earlier stamps. Mr. Moens seems to think that this re-issue is ordered with a view to exhibit a complete collection of American stamps at the approaching Centenary Exposition at Philadelphia.

We have also on our table two numbers of the *Allgemeiner Briefmarken-Anzeiger*, but both are, we are sorry to say, singularly uninteresting. The state of the Continental Stamp Market was, we are told, as follows:—Hamburg, July 7th, business slight; Lubeck, low; Bremen, also low. Certainly appearances are not encouraging, but then the weather is very hot.

*Messrs. Smith's Monthly Circular* for August contains engravings of the new English, Shanghai, Guatemala, and Spanish stamps. Mr. Overy Taylor asserts that the new 50c. Belgium is of a dark grey colour, and not black, as Mr. Moens would have it. We have seen a black specimen: but we would not for the world venture to disagree with Mr. Taylor, who is evidently fond of looking on the lighter side of things. It is a case of the chameleon of the fable over again, if Mr. Taylor has really seen a grey specimen; for in a dealer's shop in London, we have lately seen a sheet of the stamps in question, and we can confidently aver that they were black.

DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

EUROPE.

AUSTRIA (Continued.)

ENVELOPES. 1858. Embossed head in oval frame :—

3 kreuzer..... green.

1863. Eagle in oval. Design similar to the adhesive stamps of the same year :—

3 kreuzer ..... green.

5 " ..... rose.

10 " ..... blue.

15 " ..... brown.

25 " ..... violet.

1867. Head to right, in circle. Design similar to that of the adhesives of the same year :—

3 kreuzer (rectangular)..... green.

5 " " ..... rose.

10 " " ..... blue.

15 " " ..... brown.

25 " " ..... violet.

1867. For Foreign Post Offices. Design same as above :—

3 soldi (rectangular)..... green.

5 " " ..... rose.

10 " " ..... blue.

15 " " ..... brown.

25 " " ..... violet.



AUSTRIAN ITALY.

(Venice and Lombardy).

1850. Design same as that for Austria of the same year ; adhesive :—

5 cents (rectangular) ..... yellow.

10 " " ..... black.

15 cents (rectangular) ..... red.

30 " " ..... bistre.

45 " " ..... blue.

1858. Design similar so that for Austria of the same year ; adhesive :—

2 soldi (rectangular) ..... yellow.

3 " " ..... black.

5 " " ..... red.

10 " " ..... brown.

15 " " ..... blue.

1861. Head of Emperor to left ; adhesive :—

3 soldi (rectangular) ..... green.

1862. Design similar to that for Austria of 1861 :—

2 soldi (oval) ..... yellow.

3 " " ..... green.

5 " " ..... red.

10 " " ..... brown.

15 " " ..... blue.

1863. Design like that for Austria of the same year :—

2 soldi (oval)..... yellow.

3 " " ..... green.

5 " " ..... rose.

10 " " ..... blue.

15 " " ..... brown.

ENVELOPES. 1861. Head in oval to left :—

3 soldi..... green.

1863. Similar in design to those of Austria of the same year :—

3 soldi (oval)..... green.

5 " " ..... red.

10 " " ..... blue.

15 " " ..... brown.

25 " " ..... violet.

BADEN.

1850. Type-printed adhesives. Number with- in circle in square frame :—

1 kreuzer..... buff.

3 " ..... blue, yellow, green.

6 kreuzer.....	green, yellow.
9 „ .....	rose, red.
1860. Arms in square shaded disk :—	
1 kreuzer.....	black.
3 „ .....	blue.
6 „ .....	orange.
6 „ .....	blue.
9 „ .....	rose.
9 „ .....	yellow.

(To be continued.)

## ROMAN COINS;

By W. H. Taylor.

### CHAPTER I.—INTRODUCTORY.

FOR a long time after civilised nations had adopted money as a convenient medium wherewith to carry on their commercial transactions, gold was the only metal employed for this purpose, and we find the states of Asia Minor had no other coinage. The Greeks, however, found silver to be of more utility, and hence that metal was more commonly used in their cities and colonies.

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

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

The *drachm* and the *obolus* were the weights regulating the size of gold and silver, whilst

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

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

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

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

time as the usual reverse of the *uncial* coinage, calculated by ounces, is supposed to refer to the landing of Saturn in Italy.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The last mentioned coin, the *assarius*, or third brass, was the last coin struck by the Roman Emperors of the West, so that the primitive Roman coin was also the latest issued by the dying empire: larger bronze, silver, and gold, disappeared successively, until the wretched sub-

stitute of the diminished "as" was the only Roman coin minted; thus the "as" was, though in different forms, both the earliest and latest coin of the Roman mint.

(To be continued.)

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#### SALE OF COINS.

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THE prices realized for the interesting specimens of the coinage forming the collection of Mr. Marshall, sold by Messrs. Sotheby, Wilkinson, and Hodge, on Friday and Saturday, August 13th and 14th, were generally very high, showing the great estimation in which these curiosities of numismatics are held by collectors. The most important were as follows:—A pattern five-guinea piece of George III., £26 5s.; a similar one, £23 5s.; a pattern five-guinea piece (1777), £19 10s.; a pattern £5 piece, by Pistrucci, with St. George and the Dragon, £15; pattern half-sovereign, by Wyon, £10 12s. 6d.; pattern seven-shilling piece, no date, by Pingo, £6 6s.; a pattern crown in gold (1817), by Wyon, £28; a pattern crown by Pistrucci, in gold (1818), £55; pattern half-penny in gold (1790), by Dron, £4; a broad rim twopence in gold (1797), by Kuchles, £12; a proof farthing in gold (1797), £3 11s.; a proof Irish penny, gold, £4 13s. Several pattern crowns in silver by Pistrucci fetched from £7 to £16 15s. each; a pattern seven-shilling piece in silver sold for £3 11s.; a pattern five-pound piece of George IV. in gold, by Wyon, £26 10s.; a pattern half-sovereign, by Pistrucci (1821), £5 2s. 6d.; a pattern crown in silver, George IV., by Pistrucci, £17 5s.; a pattern crown, by Wyon (1829), £16; a similar one with plain edge, £18; a pattern half-crown, by Pistrucci (1822), £9; a pattern shilling (1824), by Wyon, £9; a pattern crown in gold of Wm. IV. £14 5s.; pattern crown in silver, by Wyon, £16; a pattern five-pound

piece, of Victoria, by Wyon, £9 10s.; another, £12 15s.; a quarter sovereign (1853), £13 10s.; a pattern ducat (1867) for international coinage, £13; a proof "Gothic" crown piece (1847), gold, £29; a pattern crown piece in silver, by Wyon (1839), £13 10s.; a pattern crown in silver, with the *Una* and the lion on the reverse, £12; another, with arms, queen on on reverse, £17 15s.; a pattern shilling in silver, rejected as having an old-looking head of queen, £5. There were others sold for the same price. A Hong Kong dollar pattern (1864), £11; a Hong Kong half dollar, proof, £5. The total amounted to £1,411 12s.

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#### ANTIQUARIAN NOTES.

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##### RUSH BEARING.

**I**N the Peak of Derbyshire, on Midsummer Eve, it was customary during the last and the early part of the present century for the villagers to turn out *en masse* and with a cart richly decorated with garlands and streamers proceed to some place previously selected, to cut the rushes, with which their conveyance was soon loaded. They then perambulated the village, and on reaching the church the rushes were taken out and strewed on the floor, which was usually unpaved. The cart was preceded by a band of musicians, and the day kept as a general holiday. Rhodes, in his "Peak Scenery," published in 1818, thus refers to the custom:—"Previously to our leaving Glossop we visited the village church, a plain and lowly structure, and as little ornamented in the interior as it is without. Here we observed the remains of some garlands hung up near the entrance in the chancel. They were the mementos of a custom of rather a singular nature that lingers about this part of Derbyshire, after having been lost in nearly every other. It is denominated 'Rush bearing,'

and the ceremonies of this truly rural *fête* take place annually on one of the days appropriated to the wake, or village festival. A car, or waggon, is on this occasion decorated with rushes. A pyramid of rushes, ornamented with wreaths of flowers, and surmounted with a garland, occupied the centre of the car, which is usually bestrewed with the choicest flowers that the meadow of Glossop Dale can produce, and liberally furnished with flags and streamers. Thus prepared it is drawn through the different parts of the village, preceded by groups of dancers and a band of music. All the ribbons in the place may be said to be in requisition on this festive day, and he who is the greatest favourite among the lasses is generally the gayest personage in the cavalcade. After parading the village, the car stops at the church gates, where it is dismantled of its honours. The rushes and flowers are then taken into the church and strewed among the pews and along the floors, and the garlands are hung up near the entrance into the chancel in remembrance of the day. The ceremony ended, the various parties who made up the procession retire, amidst music and dancing, to the village inn, where they spend the remainder of the day in joyous festivity."

In the old churchwarden's accounts of Castleton for the year 1749, we find the following entry: "Pd. at the rush cart for ale, 1s. 8d.;" and probably in many of our old parish registers similar entries may be found. As late as the year 1820 the church of Castleton was unpaved, but at that time straw was used in the place of rushes.

J. B. ROBINSON, F.R. Hist. Soc.

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##### CURIOUS CHARITIES.

There is a singular order as to dress, in a charity founded in 1669, by a Mr. Strode who left the means to establish almshouses for four

poor men, Protestants, of the parish of Shepton Mallet, Somersetshire. The men on entering the houses had to be furnished with wearing apparel as follows:—

A new grey hat, edged about with red narrow silk galloon lace, the hat so laced, to cost 5s. and no more.

One plain neckcloth and dowlas shirt, both to cost 5s.

A loose-bodied coat, with letter E cut in blue cloth, and well sewed on the right sleeve, and the letter S on the left sleeve, plain to be seen. And a pair of large breeches made of red cloth, at 6s. the yard.

A large waistcoat made of white cloth, or linsey woolsey, of 1s. 4d. a yard.

A pair of blue, strong, yarn stockings, of 1s. 6d. a pair.

A strong pair of russet leather shoes at 3s. 6d. a pair, with a pair of blue leather points to tie the shoes.

Each old man to be habited accordingly once in every two years against Easter.

Another singular charity is that founded by Henry Greene, of Melbourne, Derbyshire. By his will, dated 22nd December, 1769, he gave to his sister, Catherine Greene, during her life, all his lands at Melbourne and Newtown, and after her decease to others in trust, upon condition that the said Catherine Greene should give four *green* waistcoats to four women every year, to be lined with *green* galloon lace, and to be delivered to the said poor women on or before the 21st December yearly, that they might be worn on Christmas Day. We may here state that in lieu of the four waistcoats, which have not been provided for many years, two pounds per annum is given in bread and clothing to the poor of Melbourne.

#### A POETICAL YORKSHIRE WILL.

The following is the last will and testament of Mr. Hickington, proved at the Deanery Court at York:—

“ This is my last will,  
I insist on it still,  
So sneer on and welcome,  
And e'en laugh your fill.  
I, William Hickington,  
Poet of Pocklington.

Do give and bequeath,  
As free as I breathe,  
To thee Mary Jarum,  
The Queen of my Harum,  
My cash and my cattle,  
With every chattle,  
To have and to hold,  
Come heat or come cold,  
*Sans* hindrance or strife,  
Though thou art not my wife,  
As witness my hand,  
Just here as I stand,  
The Twelfth of July,  
In the year seventy.

WM. HICKINGTON.”

#### NOTES AND QUERIES.

*Under this heading, we propose to insert information on Numismatic, Philatelic, and Antiquarian subjects, and to answer any questions on the same which may be currently addressed to us by our readers.*

ORIGIN OF THE DOLLAR MARK.—A writer in the *Atlantic Monthly* has a curious paper on the origin of the dollar symbol (\$). In brief, his theory is that the two parallel upright marks may be traced back to the pillars of Hercules, and the S-like figure to the scroll entwined around them. According to tradition, when the Tyrian colony landed on the Atlantic coast of Spain, and founded the ancient city of Gades, now Cadiz, Melcarthus, the leader of the expedition, set up two stone pillars as memorials, over which was built a temple of Hercules. As the temple increased in wealth, the stone pillars were replaced by others, made of an alloy of gold and silver, and these two pillars became, in time, the emblem of the city, as a horse's head became that of Carthage. Centuries later, when Charles V. became Emperor of Germany, he adopted a new coat of arms, in which the pillars of Gades, or Cadiz, occupied a prominent position in the device. Hence, when a new coin, the *colonnato*,

was struck at the Imperial Mint, it bore the new device—two pillars, with a scroll entwined around them. This coin became a standard of value in the Mediterranean, and the pillars and scroll became its accepted symbol in writing. The two horizontal bars which cross the symbol of the English pound sterling are also thought to have a similar origin. In the same paper the symbolic origin of the pillars of Hercules is traced far back into the remote era prior to the dispersion of the human race from its Asiatic birth-place. They are identified with the household of the Scandinavians, and the idea from which the pillars of concrete embodiment spring is to be found alike in the Sanskrit Vedas and in the glowing imagery of the Hebrew poets. They are the symbols of day and night, of light and darkness, which, to the dawning intelligence of the Arian races, were evidences of the Omnipotent, and to the Jewish patriarchs the work of a revealed Creator.

A REMARKABLE COLLECTION of coins has been sold by Sotheby and Co. recently. It is known as "Chieri's," and contains treasures which very few numismatists have succeeded in acquiring. The most noticeable are certain Jewish shekels of the time of the Maccabees, struck at Jerusalem, and having engraved on them the golden pot for manna, Aaron's rod which budded, a pomegranate and other devices. There are also Greek coins of various values, and some rare English coins, such as a Henry VIII. gold crown and a Commonwealth farthing.

UNITED STATES POSTAGE STAMPS.—The first postage stamps in the United States, were issued under an Act of Congress of March 3, 1847. Two values only were introduced—viz., five cents. and ten cents., bearing respectively the portraits of Franklin and Washington. They remained current until July 1, 1851, when in consequence of an alteration in the rates, they were withdrawn, and replaced by three new values, viz., one cent., three cents, and twelve

cents. In May, 1855, a ten-cent. stamp was issued, and subsequently, at intermediate dates, a complete series, ranging in value from five to ninety cents. They remained current until the breaking out of the great rebellion in 1861, when it being considered desirable to change the issue of stamps, a new set were prepared, and issued August 14th of that year, with two new values, the designs being somewhat similar to preceding issue. The entire set still pass current. In March, 1869, the late current series, corresponding in value to the preceding issue, was, by the direction of the government, also prepared by the National Bank-Note Company; but the public feeling being wholly against them on account of their small size, the government, in 1870 authorized the company to prepare a new set, and in the spring of 1870 (April) they produced an elaborate series. The portraits upon them are mostly engraved from standard marbles, and are wonderfully truthful in every detail. The series comprises the value of one cent. with Franklin's head; two, Jackson; three, Washington; six, Lincoln; ten, Jefferson; twelve, Clay; fifteen, Webster; twenty-four, Scott; thirty, Hamilton; ninety, Perry; to which has lately been added, for German postal service, a seven-cent stamp, bearing a portrait of the late Secretary of War, Stanton, photographed from life, and a five cent. stamp with the head of General T. Taylor. The Post-office department has received the congratulation of several foreign governments upon the beauty and workmanship of this issue of stamps. They are undoubtedly as fine a set of stamps as any in the world, and for delicacy of engraving, symmetry of design, and general contour, may stand comparison even with those of this country. The United States has the honour of having used the largest stamps for postal purposes in the world, known as the "Periodical Stamps," which were used for newspapers carried outside the mails.



# The Mercury.

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AND JOURNAL OF ANTIQUITIES.

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## Numismatics.

Ambition sigh'd : she found it vain to trust  
To faithless column and the crumbling bust,  
Huge moles whose shadow stretched from shore to  
shore,  
The ruins perish'd, and their place no more ;  
Convinced, she now contracts her vast design ;  
And all her triumphs shrink into a COIN.

POPE.

### SOME FAMOUS COIN COLLECTORS.

By W. H. TAYLOR.

HOW many shallow-minded and commonplace individuals are to be met with in all sections of society, who, having no particular hobby or occupation to divert their attention, when not plunged or absorbed in the cares of business, pretend to despise or disparage those who have. By such uninteresting people, any pursuit not resulting in an immediate pecuniary benefit, is considered altogether flat, stale, and unprofitable, and chuckling, maybe, at their own imagined immunity from all such trifling foibles, they

"Do a wilful stillness entertain,  
With purpose to be dress'd in an opinion  
Of wisdom, gravity, profound conceit,  
As who shall say 'I am Sir Oracle,  
And when I ope my lips, let no dog bark."

If an enthusiastic collector—say of coins or books—exulting in some recent acquisition, hastens to show his prize to a friend of this too numerous class, how often he is received with either stony indifference or open-eyed wonder,

and perhaps is told with a significant shrug of the shoulders, that 'a fool and his money is soon parted.'

As the numismatist would not improbably be considered by some to merit undoubtedly the title given in this rather trite proverb, it may not be out of place to glance briefly at the long roll of famous men, who have in different ages, and in different lands, made the study and collection of coins, one, at any rate, of their favourite amusements, and who have not deemed the science either puerile or profitless.

With the dawn of light and knowledge in Italy, at the latter part of the fifteenth century, after the long years of ignorance and darkness which followed the downfall of the great Roman empire, learning and fine arts made rapid progress, and the study of medals, so intimately connected with both, came to be very extensively cultivated.

Petrarch, a true king of the men of letters at this epoch, was one of the first to set an example in the science of numismatics: it was he who presented to Charles IV. a collection of gold and silver ancient coins, with this remarkable dedication: "Behold to what men you have succeeded !  
"Behold whom you should imitate and admire !  
"to whose very form and image you should compare your talents ! This invaluable present I  
"should have given to nobody but you: it was  
"due to you alone. I can only know or describe  
"the deeds of these great men ; your supreme  
"office enables you to imitate them."

Alphonso, king of Arragon, in later years, caused all the ancient coins that could be found throughout Italy to be collected, and he himself took great pleasure in viewing them as they were obtained.

The celebrated Cosmo de Medici perceived the value and interest attaching to these beautiful and precious relics of antiquity, and founded the present fine collection at Florence. Anthony, Cardinal of S. Mark, a famous Italian, who afterwards became Pope, and Corvinus, king of Hungary, also formed cabinets of coins.

Francis I., of France, a great patron of all that concerned the fine arts, laid the foundation of the present great French collection, which is second to none in Europe. By means of the cabinet of medals, formed by Maximilian I., emperor of Germany, Joannes Hultichius was enabled to publish, in 1525, his illustrated history of the lives of the emperors; the engravings being taken from the coins themselves.

Charles V., Michael Angelo, Canova, Rubens, and Vandyck, were all attached to this interesting science; later still, and nearer our own days, the great Napoleon himself found time amidst the endless enterprizes and campaigns in which he was almost incessantly engaged, to acquire a fine collection of medals.

In our own country likewise, collectors can proudly point to a lengthy list of famous men who may be numbered in their ranks. Alfred the Great made coins a hobby. Charles I., and his great enemy, Oliver Cromwell, Evelyn, the author of the famous Diary, and Clarendon, the historian of their days, were all possessors of coins. The merry monarch, Charles II., Selden, Sir Christopher Wren, Walpole, Sir R. Cotton, Sir Hans Sloane (who bequeathed his collection to the nation, and thus founded our British Museum), Chantrey, Camden, Addison (who wrote the Dialogues on Ancient Medals), and a host of lesser celebrities, were all coin collectors.

We might continue the list almost *ad infinitum*, but as that would not only be tedious, but unnecessary, we will forbear to do so. It is sufficient to endeavour to show that celebrated men, in all ages, and in different lands, have found both time and inclination to enter into a pursuit which is both honourable and useful; and when next time a timid young collector is rebuffed or discouraged by the sneers of an ignorant or thoughtless friend, let him direct such an one's attention to the long roll of heroes and kings, of poets and sages, devoted to the science: then surely the scoffer will, if he do no more, at least be silent.

#### COINAGE IN BRITAIN DURING THE SAXON PERIOD.

(Concluded.)

ANOTHER species of money mentioned in the Anglo-Saxon laws is the thrisma: money which has also greatly perplexed antiquarians. Some make it of the value of three Saxon shillings, others equal only to a Saxon penny, while others confess their utter ignorance of its value. The fact appears to be that the thrisma was never universally circulated; that it was coined only for a short time, and then laid aside as unnecessary. Its weight, according to the most probable conjecture, was  $67\frac{1}{2}$  troy grains, equal to 3 Saxon pennies, and  $8\frac{1}{2}$ d. of present money. The Saxon penny was the most common coin struck by the Anglo-Saxon monarchs. It is mentioned in the Anglo-Saxon laws under the names of pending, penning, penniga, or penny. The weight and value of this coin was the same throughout the whole of this period. As before mentioned, it was of silver, and as 240 were coined out of the Saxon pound, its weight was  $22\frac{1}{2}$  grains, and was therefore equal in weight and value to our present three-penny pieces. But though the Saxon silver penny was small and insignificant it was at that date a coin of no mean value. It would have purchased as much

provisions or goods of any kind as five shillings would at the present day. Nay, more: in the days of King Athelstan four Saxon pennies would have purchased, according to law, one of the best sheep in England, and thirty would have purchased a good fat ox. Supposing sheep and oxen to have been of the same quality as those fed by our graziers, that must have been a low price indeed for it would now be troublesome to count the silver three-penny pieces it would take to pay for either the one or the other. Other coins of the Anglo-Saxons, were the triens, 15 grains troy, of the value of 2d.; the halfings, or halfpennies, 11¼ grains troy, of the value of one penny farthing; the feorthlings, or farthings, about 5½ grains troy; and the styca, a copper coin which was in value about one-eighth of a farthing.



SILVER COINS OF ALFRED.

All the Saxon coins were of rude workmanship: a circumstance from which it has been argued that the art of coining was derived from Germany and not acquired by imitation of the Roman models. Besides the coins struck by the Anglo-Saxon monarchs, the archbishops of Canterbury and York appear to have been privileged to have mints of their own. Several foreign coins, also, appear to have been in circulation, among which may be mentioned gold byzantines, or byzants, each weighing 73 grains troy, and being of the value of 40 Saxon pennies, or 9s. 4½d. of our present money. There appears, also, to have been silver byzantines, which according to Camden were of the same value as the florin of Queen Victoria. The byzantines were coined at Constantinople or Byzantium, whence they derived

their name, and few coins ever had a longer or more universal currency; they having been coined from the very commencement to the close of the Eastern Empire, not only in all its provinces, but in those countries, as Britain, which had been under the rule of the Western Empire. They passed current in the days of Dunstan; for it is recorded that he purchased the estate of Hindon, or Hendon, in Middlesex for 200 gold byzantines, of King Edgar; an estate he afterwards presented or bequeathed to the monks of St. Peter at Westminster. Other foreign coins, in circulation during this period in England, were the ancient Frank solidus, which was the same in weight and value as the Saxon mancus; and the lesser Frank solidus which was equal in value to 12 Saxon pennies, or 2s. 10d. of our present money. It was from the use of the lesser Frank solidus, that the present division of our money pound into 20 shillings, each shilling containing 12 pence, was introduced.

As no coins either of Scotland or Wales have been discovered, it has been doubted whether any metallic money was coined in those countries. That doubt is untenable. As regards Scotland, when it is considered that the Picts and Scots were near neighbours to the Saxons, and that about the middle of the tenth century its kings ruled over the Saxon population between the Forth and the Tweed, it is not probable that they were ignorant of the use of money and the art of coining it. At all events, if they did not mint money themselves, from the constant intercourse which the Scots had with the Saxons, they must have been familiar with its use. It is still more improbable that the Britons were ignorant of the use and art of coining money. Their ancestors had been well acquainted with both from the earliest times, and more particularly when under the Roman domination, and they could not therefore have been ignorant of its value as a medium of trade. That the kings of Wales did coin money

is proved to demonstration by their laws; for they mention the coining of money as one of the four unalienable prerogatives belonging to them. Then again the kings of England are recorded to have imposed a certain tribute on the kings of Wales, part of which was paid in money; and the salaries of the great officers in their courts were paid, and the prices of all commodities were rated in money. In a word, the *Leges Wallicæ* distinctly mentions both gold and silver coins as existing in Wales at this period, so that there can be no doubt that the princes of Wales had a coinage of their own. There is no reason, however, to believe that coined money was plentiful either in Scotland or Wales; as in truth it was not among their richer neighbours the Anglo-Saxons. It was from the scarcity of money in England that the prices of commodities were so low, particularly of such as were plentiful; as land, for instance, an acre of which, even of the richest quality, was not worth more than sixteen Saxon pennies, or about four shillings of our present money.—*Nat. Hist. of England*.—W. Collins, Sons, & Co.

#### SOME ACCOUNT OF THE SILVER COINS OF ENGLAND FROM THE CONQUEST.

BY J. HENRY.

THE coinage of England, although not to be compared either in design or execution to the beautiful issues of Greece and Rome, will yet well repay the student for his research, representing in its successive stages the gradual rise and progress of the art of engraving and minting, from the barbarous issues of the earlier kings to the fine examples from the hand of the celebrated Thomas Simon, in the 17th century, who produced coins which have never been surpassed, if equalled, in beauty of execution to the present day. Indeed, though the issues of the present reign are carefully executed, still the tameness of the design does not allow of the artist exhibiting

that masterly art shewn on the coins of ancient nations.

The money which circulated immediately before and during the reigns of the monarchs succeeding William I. to Henry III. inclusive consisted solely of silver pennies, or sterlings, coins of about the size of the present sixpence, and weighing, on an average, about 22 grains Troy, the obverse usually bearing a crowned head in profile, or front face, with the king's titles variously abbreviated; the reverse having an ornamental or plain cross, with various ornaments in the angles, and the moneyer's—the person who was authorized to strike money—name, with that of the place of mintage.

Of Edward I. and Edward II. there are pennies, halfpence, and farthings. Edward III. struck groats, half-groats, pennies, halfpence, and farthings; as did the succeeding monarchs to Henry VII., who, in the 18th year of his reign, added the testoon, or shilling. Edward VI. issued crowns, half-crowns, sixpences, and threepence, in addition to the previous denominations. In the reign of Elizabeth appeared three-halfpenny and three-farthing pieces, being the only reign in which they have ever been issued. Charles I. minted twenty-shilling or pound, and ten-shilling or half-pound pieces, as well as the various coins to the halfpenny; after which, the only silver coins are the crown, half-crown, shilling, sixpence, groat or fourpence, threepence, twopence, penny, and halfpenny, the last coin not being issued after the Commonwealth. After 1663, (Charles II.), the coins below the groat were not issued for general currency, being only struck for Maundy-money, until William IV., when the groat, and during the present reign, also the threepence were added to the current coin. Of William IV. there are no crowns struck for currency, the pieces extant being 'proofs' or patterns, he being the only sovereign who omitted the crown from Edward VI.

There is considerable difficulty in correctly assigning the pennies of the first two Williams to their respective issuers, owing to the sameness of the legends and type, and to there being no numeral denoting the first or second monarch on any coins yet discovered; still there are various peculiarities in the types, &c., which have enabled numismatists to attribute many of the coins; the remainder, being of doubtful attribution, will be found under the heading of William I. or II. In this account, the most generally received attribution is adopted.

WILLIAM I., 1066-1087.

The obverse of the pennies of William I. has a crowned head, and his name, spelt PILLEM REX, and sometimes AN or ANGLO, with various spellings. The reverse has an ornamental cross with the moneyer's name and place of mintage for legend, the obverses being as follows:—

1. Crowned full-faced head of the king, under a pavilion or canopy.



PENNY OF WILLIAM I. No. 1.

2. Crowned profile face of the king, to the left, with a sceptre.
3. Full-face, with a peculiar crown, having tassels at the sides, called the bonnet type.



PENNY OF WILLIAM I. No. 3.

4. Crowned bust, full-faced, a sceptre on either side of the head.
5. Crowned profile of the king, to the right, with a sceptre.

6. Crowned bust, full-face, a sword in his right hand.
7. Full-faced bust, having a star to the left of the head, and a sceptre in the right hand.
8. *Obverse*.—Crowned bust, full-face, a sceptre in right hand. *Reverse*.—A cross within a circle, having the letters P. A. X. S in the angles, known as the Paxs type. A good coin of a common mint is worth about 5s.



PENNY OF WILLIAM I. No. 8.

Most of the above types are rare; No. 5 being extremely so. No. 3 is worth from 10s. to two guineas; the others, except No. 5, from about two to five guineas, according to preservation.

WILLIAM I. OR II.—UNCERTAIN PENNIES.

9. *Obverse*.—PILLEM REX, or PILLELM REX. Crowned bust of the king, to the right, with a sceptre in right hand. *Reverse*.—Cross patée within a circle, a trefoil in each angle, with moneyer's and mint name as legend.—*rare*.
10. *Obverse*.—As preceding. *Reverse*, similar to the reverse of No. 8 of William I.; of extreme rarity.
11. *Obverse*.—Crowned profile, to the right, and having a sword in right hand. *Reverse*.—A cross fleury upon a cross patée, or reverse, a cross patée enclosed within a quatrefoil are also extremely rare.

# Philately.

## RECENT ISSUES.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—A castle and flags within a double oval frame, bearing the words "Cordoba," and "5 Cen." Colour blue.



EQUADOR.—The half-real stamp of 1875 has appeared, printed in blue on white.

SPAIN.—The colours and values of the new Spanish stamps, bearing the effigy of Alphonso XII., are as follows:—



- 2 cents .....dark yellow.
- 5 „ .....mauve.
- 10 „ .....blue.
- 20 „ .....ochre.
- 25 „ .....carmin.
- 40 „ .....brown.
- 50 „ .....lilac.
- 1 peseta.....black.
- 4 „ .....green.
- 10 „ .....bright blue.

The backs of the above labels bear the figure of value printed in blue ink. A returned-letter stamp has also lately appeared, printed in black on a chamois envelope. In a shield, surmounted by a crown, are the arms of Spain, surcharged with a date, and surrounded by the legend "Espana Correos; Circulacion Franca." Below

the shield is a scroll, bearing the words "Dovolucion de Correspondencia Sobrante."

BRITISH GUIANA.—The present 1 cent stamp has appeared, with the word "Official" surcharged in red; and the 2 cent with the same in black.

MEXICO.—New stamps of the values of 10, 20, 25, 35, 50, and 100 centavos have, we understand, been recently issued for this country. We have not, however, seen specimens, and we go upon the authority of the *Ami des Timbres*. The *Timbre Poste* considers that the new stamps are not for postal purposes.

UNITED STATES.—For the future the current 2 cents, brown, will be printed in vermilion; and the stamps of the values of 7, 12, and 24 cents will be withdrawn from circulation.

JAPAN.—A new series of stamps for Japan has recently appeared. Specimens of the ½ sen, grey, and of the 1 sen, brown, have reached Europe. The new post-card bears a circular stamp, of the



value of 1 sen, blue; and is surrounded by an artistic ornamental bower.

CASHMERE.—A stamp of the value of half an anna has appeared, printed in orange-red.

FRANCE.—The type for the proposed new issue for France has been made a subject for competition. The design is to be the same for each value, and is to bear the word "Poste," and "République Française," in a conspicuous position. No political features are to be introduced into the design. Such were the official rules under which the competitors laboured; and the prize "essay" may be described as follows. Between allegorical figures, representing Peace and

Commerce, is a globe, on which the figure of value will be indicated. It is probable that the actual colours for the different values will be retained in the new series.

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#### OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

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THE *Timbre Poste* for September maintains its usual high standard. Besides the usual notices of philatelic novelties, the number before us contains an article on the short-lived post-cards of Helsingfors, and another on the proposed re-emission of the stamps of the United States, to which we alluded in our last issue.

The September number *Briefmarken-Anzeiger*, contains amongst other matters an interesting article on the proceedings of certain anti-philatelists, who have made themselves ridiculous.

*L'Ami des Timbres* is a monthly journal which we have not previously had occasion to mention. The publisher is M. Charles Roussin, of Paris, and the magazine, though containing a certain amount of information, partakes very much of the nature of a trade circular.

The *Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal* is in Germany what the *Timbre Poste* is in Belgium—the national exponent of Philately. Beautifully got up, and copiously illustrated, it treats Philately in every respect as a science more than as an amusement. The number for September, which lies before us, has a well-written critical article on the American reprints; another on postal arrangements in China; and a third on Russian local stamps, besides the usual notices of new issues, etc.

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#### PHILATELIC FORGERIES.

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THE science of Philately has suffered much at the hands of the makers and sellers of fac-similes; or, to speak plainly, of forgers. Stamp-dealers of good business repute have, before now,

been entangled in the meshes carefully prepared for them by unprincipled rascals. They have begun, often, by selling fac-similes, ostensibly as such—a practice which ought, from the temptations to which it leads to be discouraged—and they have sunk deeper into the mire until they have been barefaced enough to palm off worthless imitations of rare specimens at very high prices. These swindlers have been over and over again abused by all respectable philatelic publications; and they have even been proceeded against in courts of law; and now, we are happy to say, their trade appears to have dwindled to abject nothingness. Hamburg, the depôt of the manufacture of cheap champagne, cheap cigars, and cheap worthlessness of all sorts, was for a long time the residence of stamp-forgers, who flooded not only the continent, but England as well, with their miserable productions. America, too, the land of wooden hams and shoddy cloth, was also to blame; and the impudent attempts at imitation which owe their existence to the honest Yankee, must be seen to be appreciated. In our own country, it should be added, we have also our culprits; and we could even at the present moment name a villain in Glasgow who has secured to himself a comfortable competency by swindling little boys into the belief that what he sold them were indeed genuine postage-stamps. His trading days are, however, numbered. He did too much, poor fellow, and he got into hot water; for one day, thinking he had caught a big fish, he forwarded, in blissful ignorance, a large quantity of his wares to a well-known collector, warranting them genuine and asking a good round price. The canny Scot was ill-at-ease in a day or two, when a solicitor wrote to inform him that the matter would not be allowed to drop; and we can imagine the disgust with which he disgorged a considerable number of his ill-gotten "bawbees," at the close of the consequent legal proceedings. If any gentlemen of a

similar nature are now at work, we strongly advise them to keep clear of us, for when we *do* catch a swindler, he will find that we have made most thorough and complete preparations for hanging him up by the heels, and coaxing the money from him at a considerably faster rate than that at which he made it. To a wise man a word is more than enough; unfortunately most knaves are fools more or less, and so we think it necessary to speak with unwonted perspicuity.

#### NOTES AND QUERIES.

*Under this heading, we propose to insert information on Numismatic, Philatelic, and Antiquarian subjects, and to answer any questions on the same which may be currently addressed to us by our readers.*

**THE JERSEY CURRENCY.**—A difficulty connected with the currency in Jersey is daily exciting more and more attention. The coinage of the island consists of pence and half-pence only, of which 13 and 26 respectively are the equivalents of a shilling, or, as the inhabitants prefer to call it, by way of contradiction, a "British" shilling. There is no special gold or silver coinage for the island. In addition to the Jersey coppers, English, French, and Guernsey coins find ready circulation, the French ten and five centime pieces and the Guernsey eight and four "double" pieces being reckoned as the equivalent of the English pence and half-pence. The inconvenience to tradespeople arising from these several currencies is just now giving rise to earnest efforts to secure a settlement of the currency on a uniform basis. Attempts hitherto made have proved abortive, owing to the prejudice that exists against any radical change. Since the failure, however, of the mercantile union of the joint-stock banks, and the withdrawal of the private issue of £1 notes, with the introduction of larger supplies of English gold into the island, tradesmen have felt the necessity of adopting measures to effect gradually the desired change,

having little hope that the States will move the matter. The majority of the tradesmen now deal for British money only—that is, they take the shilling (English) piece as of the value of 12 pence only, instead of 13 pence, as heretofore, and give change in English coppers. While they do not refuse to accept Jersey coppers, they take them only for sums of less than 6d., though the railway station, where "British" money is charged, a premium of a halfpenny is added to fares of less than 6d. paid in Jersey coppers. In a few establishments, also, neither French nor Guernsey coins are accepted, only English or Jersey being recognised as a legal tender. Visitors to the island this season have, as a consequence of all these capricious and independent meddlings with the long-established mixed currency, found themselves much embarrassed, receiving at one establishment change which they could not pass at another. At the next session of the States it is expected that a measure will be introduced to fix the currency on a satisfactory basis, by determining whether the copper currency shall be English or Jersey. There is a large majority of the town inhabitants in favour of the former, and nearly all the tradesmen will support such a change. The "country interest," however, which is very powerful in the States, will undoubtedly be opposed to the change, backed by the poorer classes of the country people, who cannot be made to see the advantage of having an uniform currency, or led to forego the much-prized advantage of receiving thirteen pence for a shilling, however questionable, in reality, that advantage may be.

**MANORIAL SERVICE.**—I am told at Rothley, Leicestershire, a curious manorial custom is still enacted every year. Particulars of the ceremony will oblige.—ANTIQUARY.

**CURIOUS OLD CUSTOM AT HALLATON, LEICESTERSHIRE.**—At this place every Easter Monday, a singular custom prevails. A large pit is dug on a piece of ground a little way out of the village, and the men from this and neighbouring villages get into it, and scramble for a hare, a large meat pie, and a keg of beer. The men of each place try to convey the keg off into their own parish. Can anyone give any further information, and the date when this usage originated?—E. F. MAXWELL WALKER.



# The Archæologist.

A MEDIUM OF INTERCOMMUNICATION FOR THE

ANTIQUARY, NUMISMATIST, STUDENT OF SCIENCE AND ART,  
AND PHILATELIST.

With which is incorporated "THE MERCURY."

Vol. I. No. 6.]

NOVEMBER, 1875.

[PRICE 2d.

## Numismatics.

### SOME ACCOUNT OF THE COINS OF ENGLAND FROM THE CONQUEST.

(Continued.)

WILLIAM II. (RUFUS), 1087 - 1100.

TO William II., who succeeded to the throne on the death of his father, are assigned only five types of pennies, with what degree of certainty must be left to the individual collector. The principal reason why so many coins are attributed to William I. may be the length of his reign and great wealth compared with that of William II.; the names of the moneymen employed by the former found on the coins, being in many cases identical with those of his predecessor, Harold II.; and lastly, the great number of mints at which his coins are struck,\* and which in very many instances do not appear on the coins assigned to William II., who, as the records show, did not issue from many of the mints his father had used.† William Rufus, by his extravagance, soon squandered the treasure left at his father's death, and so poor did he be-

\*William I. had mints at Bath, Bristol, Bedford, Bridport, Canterbury, Chester, Chichester, Colchester, Cambridge, Cricklade, Dover, Derby, Dorchester, Durham, Exeter, Gloucester, Hythe, Huntingdon, Hastings, Hereford, Hertford, Ilchester, Ipswich, Lincoln, Leicester, Lewes, Lichfield, London, Malmsbury, Malton, Marlborough, Nottingham, Norwich, Northampton, Oxford, Pevensey, Peterborough, Rhuddland, Rochester, Rumney, Sandwich, Shaftesbury, Stafford, Southwark, Stepney, Shrewsbury, Stamford, Salisbury, St. Germans, Southampton, St. Edmundsbury, Tamworth, Taunton Thetford, Totness, Wallingford, Wareham, Worcester, Warwick, Wilton, Winchester, Witney, and York.

†The mints of William II. are Bath, Bristol, Canterbury, Colchester, Cambridge, Crewkerne (?), Dover, Dorchester, Exeter, Gloucester, Hartford, Huntingdon, Hastings, Hereford, Ipswich, Lincoln, Leicester, Lewes, London, Nottingham (?), Norwich, Oxford, Rochester, Rumney, Sandwich, Shaftesbury, Southwark, Shrewsbury, Stamford, Southampton, St. Edmundsbury, and Sudbury.

come, that in the year 1095, he, under the pretence of lending his brother Robert, Duke of Normandy, 10,000 marcs of silver, raised a great sum from the Bishops, Abbots, and Abbesses, who, to supply his wants, broke up their plate, together with their gold and silver ornaments, thus affording another proof that the amount of circulating medium in the country could not have been great, or such extreme measures would scarcely have been resorted to. It was also probably on account of his poverty that the oppressive tax called "moneyage" was instituted in this country in his reign. This tax was the sum of twelve pence, paid by each householder once in every three years, for the right of cutting wood for fuel; and further, that the money should not be altered by the King, *i.e.*, called in, and re-coined, the Seigniorage exacted being very excessive. The silver bullion was purchased by Troy weight, and the coins issued by the Tower weight, which was three quarters of an oz. less than the Troy pound; thus the King, or other privileged person, gained about 16 out of every 250 pennies coined; and when it is taken into consideration that at this period wheat could be purchased at twopence farthing per bushel, a sheep for fifteen pence, a hog for twenty-four pence, an ox for 7s., and a cow for 6s., whilst a labourer earned but twopence per day, the oppression caused by the infliction of this tax will be sufficiently understood.

The coins assigned to William II. are as follows:  
12. *Obv.*—PILLEM REX AN, a crowned bust of the king, full-face, and having a star at



each side of the head. *Rev.*—A tressure of four sides, a pellet at each angle over a cross, the ends terminating in three pellets.

13. *Obv.*—PILLEM REX, a full-faced crowned bust of the king, a star at each side, but of different design to the last. *Rev.*—A voided



cross, the ends terminating in crescents, upon a cross, each end terminating with an annulet.

14. *Obv.*—PILLEM REX, crowned full-faced bust of the king, having a sword in his right hand. *Rev.*—A cross patée within a quatrefoil, an annulet upon the centre of the cross.
15. *Obv.*—PILLEM REX, bust of the king full-faced, crowned, with a sword in his right hand. *Rev.*—A cross patée, a floret in each angle.
16. *Obv.*—Crowned bust, full-face, having a sceptre in the right hand, and a star to the left of the bust. *Rev.*—An ornamental double cross of rude workmanship.

All these coins are very rare, particularly No. 14: number 16 is perhaps unique. The coins of William I. and II., must, from their roundness, have been struck in a collar.

### A FEW WORDS ABOUT NUMISMATISTS.

BY GEORGE MARKHAM TWEDDELL,

Fellow of the Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries, Copenhagen; Corresponding Member of the Royal Historical Society, London; Honorary Member of the Manchester Literary Club, and of the Whitby Literary and Philosophical Society, &c. &c.

**C**OLLECTORS of coins and medals may be divided, like capitalists, into two classes; one merely hoarding up their treasure, without either properly enjoying it themselves, or allowing others to enjoy it; the other putting it to profitable use, and thereby benefiting both themselves and others: for it is a law of God, fixed and unalterable as those which govern the courses of the planets, that we cannot really benefit ourselves without at the same time benefiting our fellow-creatures. Hence, when the great master-mind,

William Shakspeare, caused old Polonius (who is no fool, though some ignorant players have attempted to make him such,) to tell his son, young Laertes (Hamlet, 1.3.),

“This above all,—to thine own self be true,  
And it must follow, as the night the day,  
Thou canst not then be false to any man,”

he only uttered an incontrovertible truth, patent to all men, numismatists or others.

Simply to collect coins and medals for the sole purpose of being able to say that we have them, is as foolish in the sight of the true numismatist, as it can be to those who care nothing for all the antiquities and curiosities in the universe. Mat. Prior sings:—

“What toil did honest Curio take,  
What strict inquiries did he make,  
To get one medal wanting yet,  
And perfect all his Roman set!  
'Tis found! and oh! his happy lot!  
'Tis bought, lock'd up, and lies forgot!”

Not the most honourable and useful office to which Curio's complete collection of Roman medals could be put, certainly, Mr. Matthew Prior! But two things strike me very forcibly: one is, that had thou possessed a little more love of antiquities, thou might have been saved from many of thy profligate courses, as the laudable taste for collecting Roman or other medals is a much healthier one than that essentially low one of thine of associating with drabs; and the other is, that though Curio had only the pleasure of completing his collection, he preserved what otherwise might have been destroyed, and handed down for the use of others what they might not, but for him, have been able to have obtained either for love or money. So even the Curios of society have their uses, seeing that they can at most only hold a monopoly in their collections for a few years. The hand of Death will soon unloose their grip of them, and force them to leave their treasures behind them for the use of others.

The poet Pope, as correct a rhymer and a truer bard than poor Mat. Prior, remarks:—

"'Tis strange the miser should his care employ,  
To gain those riches he can ne'er enjoy."

But who that has ever looked upon that remarkable picture by the *quondam* blacksmith of Antwerp, Quintin Matsys, now at Windsor, I mean the "Two Misers," or has examined a good copy, even in a wood engraving, has not felt convinced that acquisitiveness has its pleasures; however much one may agree with that fine passage in good Bernard Gilpin's sermon before the boy-king, Edward the Sixth:—"Covetousness hath cut away the large wings of charity, and plucketh all to herself. She is never satisfied. She hath chested all the old gold of England, and much of the new. She has made that there was never more idolatry in England than at this day; but the idols are hid; they come not abroad. Alas, noble prince, the images of your ancestors, graven in gold, and yours also, contrary to your mind, are worshipped as gods, while the poor lively images of Christ perish in the streets through hunger and cold. This cometh when covetousness hath banished from amongst us Christian charity; when, like most unthankful children, we have forgotten Christ's last will, which He so often before his passion did inculcate, *Love one another.*"

A man or a woman need not study Adam Smith's "Wealth of Nations," or the "Exercises, Political and others," by that equally great political economist, the late Col. T. Perronet Thompson, M.P., to discern that capital should be actively employed. And it needs small knowledge of antiquities,—coins, medals or others—to perceive how useful they can be made in throwing light upon the history of the past, which light men will long for more and more.

Since Addison's "Treatise on Ancient Medals" was published, (which was not till the collected edition of his works, in four quarto volumes, shortly after his death, June 17th, 1719, under the editorship of his friend Tickell) English

writers and English readers generally have become aware of the value of coins and medals to illustrate the history of mankind, and one can scarcely take up any decent history without finding many of them engraved for it. Like every other study, it is liable to be abused; but the abuse is one thing, and use is another. And, as Sterne says:—"Nay, if you come to that, sir, have not the wisest of men in all ages, not excepting Solomon himself—have they not had their hobby-horses—their running horses—their coins and their cockle-shells, their drums and their trumpets, their fiddles, their pallets—their maggots and their butterflies? and so long as a man rides his hobby-horse peaceably and quietly along the king's highway, and neither compels you or me to get up behind him—pray sir, what have either you or I to do with it?" Sneerer, "answer me that, and unyoke!"

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## ROMAN COINS;

By W. H. TAYLOR.

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

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### CHAPTER II.—COINS OF THE REPUBLIC.

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

Long before this time Greek silver had been circulated in Rome, but it was not until the date recorded by Pliny, that the Romans themselves began to imitate the coins of their vanquished rivals. This was chiefly brought about owing to the large influx of silver obtained by the acquisition of Tarentum (Tarento): it is rather

singular that this coinage seems to have been considered of inferior importance to that of bronze, which, so long as the nation existed, remained under the control of the senate, whilst the minting of the precious metals was peculiarly a prerogative of the emperors.

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

According to Varro there were also smaller divisions of the denarius viz:—the *libella* half the *sestertius*; the *sembella*, half the *libella*; and the *teruncius*, half the *sembella*; but as no specimens of these minute coins are extant, some writers have supposed them to have been merely terms used in reckoning, and not actual coins.

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

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

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

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

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

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

*To be continued.*

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## Antiquities.

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### CURIOUS ASSEMBLY RULES.

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A COPY of the following quaint regulations may be seen in the Derby Public Museum:

#### RULES TO BE OBSERVED IN THE LADIES ASSEMBLY IN DERBY.

1. No Attorney's Clerk shall be admitted
2. No Shopkeeper, or any of his or her family shall be admitted, except Mr. Franceys.

3. No lady shall be allowed to dance in her long white apron.
4. All young ladies in Mantua's shall pay 2/6.
5. No Miss in a Coat shall dance without leave of the Lady of the Assembly Room.
6. Whoever shall transgress any of these rules shall be turned out of the Assembly Room.

Several of the above-mentioned Rules having of late been broke through, they are now printed by our order, and signed by us, the present Ladies and Governors of the Assembly.

ANNE BARNES,  
DOROTHY EVERY,  
ELIZABETH EYRE,  
BRIDGETT BAILY,  
R. FITZHERBERT,  
HESTER MUNDY.

We have from our friend Mr. Llewellynn Jewitt, F.S.A., the well-known *litterateur*, a few particulars respecting these rules, which fixes the period of the Assembly, as well as furnishes historically interesting information.

Mr. Jewitt says "Mr. Henry Franceys, in favor of whom the exception of rule 2 was made, was a man of mark in those days. He could gain access, and so could his family, to this select 'Assembly,' while no other 'Shopkeeper' could! The fact is, he was a wealthy man, and one whom the town in return for his public spirit, and for his excellent dinners and entertainments, delighted to honour. In 1733, when an Alderman of the borough of Derby, he gave an entertainment to several ladies and gentlemen at his own house, in honour of the marriage of the Prince of Orange and the Princess Royal; after supper was ended, the healths of the Princess Royal and the Prince of Orange were drunk in Burgundy, then was brought in a salver of orange coloured cockades, which were distributed among the company; the healths of the Royal Family being cheerfully drunk in the same liquor, the night was concluded with great joy. In 1745, some of the distinguished persons in the retinue of the Pretender lodged at his house, and in 1747, the year he died, Mr.

Franceys was made Mayor of Derby—an office which his father, William Franceys, had thrice held. Mr. Franceys' shop was in the Corn Market."

As our readers may be puzzled with rule 3, forbidding the wearing of long white aprons, we give the following interesting notes on the subject by Mr. Jewitt:—

"Aprons have in one form or other, and of one material or other, formed a conspicuous part of female costume from Anglo-Saxon times to the present day. In Chaucer's time they were called 'harne-cloths:—"

"A *harne-cloth* eke, as white as mare milk,  
Upon her lences, full many a gore."

Meaning that her white apron was tied round her loins, and was ornamented with gores, or puffings, in the upper part. In the 14th and 15th centuries the apron was worn tolerably plain, and were generally confined to good housewives, but in the 16th century they were again adopted by ladies, and were made of so fine a texture, and so elaborate in decoration, that they provoked the ire of some of the satirists of the period. Thus in 1596 Gosson wrote:—

These *aprons* white of finest thread,  
So choicelie tied, so dearly bought;  
So finely fringed, so nicely spread;  
So quaintly cut, so richly wrought;—  
Were they in work to save their costs  
They need not cost so many groats."

At this time they were edged with the most costly lace, and worked with gold and silver thread and with various colours. In the reign of William and Mary aprons became an indispensable part of the dress of a lady; they were very small, edged and puffed with a profusion of lace, and were worn over the upper part of the rich petticoat, the front of which was fully displayed by the open gown then worn. In the time of Queen Anne the apron grew to somewhat larger proportion, and was worn by every lady—the Queen not excepted. In her reign it was often decorated with gold and silver spangles, rich needlework of divers colours, gold lace, rosettes, puffs of lace, and even pictures painted on pieces of satin and stitched on. In the time of George II. and the early part of the reign of George III., aprons were worn very long and plain, without lace or ornament—simply long white aprons and nothing more. These long white aprons, *circa* 1750-60—certainly not being very becoming to ladies—attracted the attention of "Beau Nash," the master of the ceremonies at Bath (or King of Bath," as he

was commonly called) and provoked his rage to such an extent that it was decreed no ladies should appear in white aprons at any of the public balls in that fashionable city. So stringently was this rule enforced that it is recorded on one occasion, when the Duchess of Queensbury infringed the regulation and made her appearance in a white apron, Nash walked up to her grace in the ball room, and, without ceremony, quietly took off the offending garment, and threw it among the waiting women, observing that none but Abigails wore such things! With such an example before them it is no wonder the ladies of the "Assembly" at Derby should enact that "no lady shall be allowed to dance in a long white apron," and that fines should also be levied on the wearers of other articles of dress which fashion desired to abrogate."

We believe Mr. I. Jewitt, F.S.A., was the first to re-print these curious rules—many years ago—and consequent on that Charles Dickens wrote a pleasant chatty little notice of it.—*Extracted from an unpublished volume entitled "The Social History of the People of the North of England in the Olden Time," by William Andrews, of Hull.*

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## Philately.

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### RECENT ISSUES.

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GRENADA.—The type for Grenada has been modified, the name of the colony now appearing below, and the value surcharge above two lines.



One Shilling..... Violet.

THE GOLD COAST.—It is reported that a series

of four stamps has appeared for this colony. Values: 1d., 4d., 6d., and 1s.

LIVONIA.—Instead of the 2 Kop. stamp, a circular blue one has appeared bearing no value, and charged with the words, *Weudnsche Kries Brief-post.*

HUNGARY.—Post-cards have just been issued. Also a stamp of the value of 2 centesimos. No specimens have as yet arrived.

CABUL.—Stamps have been issued recently as follows. The form of all is circular.

1 shahi.....	blue.
2 shahis .....	violet.
4 „ .....	black.
8 „ .....	„
16 „ .....	„

DENMARK.—Another Post-card has been issued, in form similar to its predecessors, and also a new stamp:

Post Card.

10 ore..... green on white.

Stamp.

20 ore..... vermilion and grey.

BARBADOES.—New stamps as follows have appeared:

1 penny.....	blue.
4 „ .....	red.
6 „ .....	orange.
1 shilling .....	purple.

UNITED STATES.—A handsome Post-card, value One cent. bearing a head of liberty in black, has been issued.

PERU.—The envelope stamps for this country are now as follows:

5 centav.....	green on yellow.
10 „ .....	red on white.
20 „ .....	purple on white.
50 „ .....	carmine on white.

## OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

THE *Illustrirtes Briefmarken-Journal* for October is remarkable for a very clever and exhaustive article on the "Commune Stamps" of Paris, by Dr. Moschkau, and for another, equally good, on the stamps of Columbia, by Herr Ludwig Berger, the well-known Brunswick timbrophilist. The other contents of the number are up to the average, and the chronicle of recent issues is more than ordinarily complete.

*Le Timbre-Post*, M. Moens' well-known organ, is as usual full of illustrations and interesting matter. Three of the new French essays are reproduced, and judging by them, French art must be in a very flourishing condition. We notice that part of the Bulletin of the French Timbrological Society has now appeared, and that copies may be had from M. le baron A. de Rothschild, 33, Faubourg St. Honore, Paris.

*L'Ami des Timbres* is only remarkable for an exceedingly clever article on the imaginary stamps of Zanzibar, written in the form of a skit, we believe, by M. Roussin.

The *Allgemeiner Briefmarken Anzeiger*, among non-illustrated philatelic publications, is still a *factle princeps*. The two numbers before us are full of useful intelligence.

The *Pictorial World* of October 16th, was kind enough to notice us in the column of gossip, so ably presided over by Mr. Mortimer Collins.

## Notes, Queries, &amp; Replies

*Under this heading, we propose to insert information on Numismatic, Philatelic, and Antiquarian subjects, and to answer any questions on the same which may be currently addressed to us by our readers.*

A RARE COIN.—Mr. Sykes, Hull, numismatist, has just added to his already valuable collection of coins an exceedingly rare concave silver medallion. It is in a very fine state of preservation, and was found only a short time ago near Constantinople. Authentic works on coins give this as a medallion of one of the Princes Theodorus, who reigned at Thessalonica and at Nicæa, during the occupation of Constantinople by the Crusaders. It is difficult to say to which of these princes belong the coins which bear their name, but Mionnet, a great authority on the subject, prefers placing them to the reign of the second Theodorus. On the obverse of the medallion there appears the Emperor and Christ standing, the Emperor in the imperial habit, holding in his right hand a sheathed sword, in his left a scroll. The right hand of Christ is raised placing a garland on the head of the Emperor; In his left he holds the book of the Evangelists; the nimbus encircles the head. On the reverse, the virgin seated, full-faced, with a hood on, the nimbus encircling her head, and holding with both hands an infant head on her knees. The following scrap of history in connection with this medallion may not be considered uninteresting:—"Theodorus II., the son of Johannes Angelus, held possession of a part of Epirus and other provinces, after the death of his brother Michael, who had formed a State, after the taking of Constantinople by the crusaders. He took the title of Emperor, and

caused himself to be crowned at Thessalonica, in Macedonia, in the year of Rome 1976 (A.D. 1223). In 1230 A.D. he was defeated and made prisoner by Azan, King of the Bulgarians. This barbarian caused the captive Emperor to be deprived of sight, but Theodorus shortly after regaining his liberty, returned to Thessalonica, when he found that his brother Manuel had usurped the sovereignty. Manuel was driven from the throne, when Theodorus renounced in favour of his son Johannes, who was soon deposed by Johannes Vatatzes."

"TOSsing" PENNIES.—It is but the other day that we calmed the public mind as to the notorious "H" penny, and explained that the mysterious and ill-used letter was in that case simply the initial of Mr. Heaton, a contractor with the Royal Mint for the stamping of bronze coins. Now Mr. Heaton himself, in addition to issuing genuine money, has given currency to a strange story about tossing pennies, which also requires elucidation. He states that a correspondent in the North sent him an order, with remittance, for two pennies of a very peculiar kind. One was to have "two heads," and the other "two tails." They were admittedly for tossing purposes, Mr. Reid (the gentlemen from whom the order came) having, unfortunately, paid away his own double-headed penny by mistake! Mr. Heaton does not state what reply he returned to his Scotch correspondent, nor whether "the goods" were forwarded or not, but the order itself was sent on to Tower Hill with the following curious note addressed to the Deputy Master of the Mint:—"Dear Sir—The note inclosed, with 8½d. stamps, arrived here yesterday. As I think the application so unique, and as we cannot oblige the applicant with his "Tossing pennies," I have

taken the liberty of sending it to you, and remain," &c. "Tossing" coins are produced in every mint in the world. They are, however, made by accident, and ought to be relegated at once to the furnace. Occasionally through inadvertence on the part of the workpeople, they escape with ordinary coins and reach the hands of the public; or they are abstracted from the factory by petty larceny. It would require much detail to explain exactly how double-headed and double-tailed coins of every denomination come sometimes into existence in the rapid striking of money at the Mint. They are simply the result of occasional slips in the action of the machinery, and are known in the language of Her Majesty's coiners as "brookages" or "wasters." Formerly such coins were made for sale from two good coins reduced and brazed together, but we question whether they are often now made. These brazed "tossing" coins were sold (in copper) at from 1s. to 2s. 6d. each, according to artistic merits; and for this reason we think the Master of the Mint should find out by what method Mr. Reid estimated the value of the two coins he required with carriage at 8½d. only.—*Iron.*

SETHO.—In your No. 3, "Setho" asks as to genuineness of gold and silver coins of Boadicea in the Dinsdale Catalogue. I have not that catalogue by me, but if he will refer to Mr. John Evans' work on the coins of the Ancient Britons, published by Russell Smith, 1864, he will find at page 137 the attribution of coins of Boadicea most fully refuted.—L.K.F., Southsea.



# The Archaeologist.

A MEDIUM OF INTERCOMMUNICATION FOR THE

ANTIQUARY, NUMISMATIST, STUDENT OF SCIENCE AND ART,  
AND PHILATELIST.

VOL. I. No. 7.]

DECEMBER, 1875.

[PRICE 2d.

ROMAN COINS;

BY W. H. TAYLOR.

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

CHAPTER III.—CONSULAR OR FAMILY COINS.

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

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

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

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

An eminent writer on the subject says, “It

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

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

It may be well to mention in passing that in Roman names, the first or *prenomem*, denoted the person; the second or *nomen*, the family; and the third or *cognomen*, further distinguished the individual from others bearing the same name. The *agnomen*, which is often found on the imperial coins, as Germanicus, Africanus, &c., was simply employed as an epithet.

Most of the consular coins belong to a period of about fifty years before the reign of Augustus. Although the head of some deity, generally Roma or Pallas, appears on the obverse, yet the workmanship is superior, and the design more

ambitious and elaborate than those of the earlier coins of the republic. No portraits are found until Julius Cæsar, who was the first Roman who figured on a coin.

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

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

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

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

1. Heads of deities; as Jupiter, Hercules, &c.
2. Sacred, natural, or artificial objects.
3. Symbolic figures of certain towns or countries; as Roma, or Hispania.
4. Heads or figures of allegorical personifications; as "Honor et Virtus," which appears on a coin of the family Marcia.
5. Fabulous monsters, as Scylla (Pompeia).
6. Heads or figures of ancestral personages; as that of Numa on a coin of Calpurnia.
7. Events connected with ancestors.
8. Places associated with historical exploits.
9. Symbolic representations commemorating

contemporary events.

10. Heads of living persons exercising dictatorial power; as that of Sulla (Cornelia).
11. Representations connected with military matters; as legionary standards and trophies.

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

*To be continued.*

#### SOME ACCOUNT OF THE COINS OF ENGLAND FROM THE CONQUEST,

(Continued)

HENRY I.—1100—1135.

ON hearing of the accident which terminated the life of William Rufus, on Wednesday, August 1st, 1100, Henry seized upon the throne in the absence of Robert, the lawful heir, and, after some slight opposition, established himself. In order to ingratiate his new subjects, he repealed many of the obnoxious laws of the last reign, and, in 1103, the tax on the coinage called "Moneyage." Owing to the bad state of the currency, through the operations of the moneymen, who for their own gain falsified the coin, he, in 1105, ordered very severe measures to be taken against them, enacting that the forgers of bad money should lose their right hands and sight, with further mutilations. These harsh laws do not seem to have had any effect, as in the year 1123 the censures of the Church were called in, but to no purpose; for to such a pass had the money arrived in 1125, that, in the words of a cotemporary writer, "a man might have a pound, and not be able to spend a penny." Henry, being at this time in Normandy, sent to England and commanded that the whole of the moneymen or minters should lose their right hands for falsifying the money. In obedience to this mandate, Roger, Bishop of Salisbury, shortly before Christmas, 1125, ordered the whole of the moneymen to appear at Winchester with their dies or irons, as they were called. On their arrival they were taken apart singly, and underwent the dreadful infliction; and it is stated that of ninety-seven moneymen only three, all belonging to Winchester, escaped, being declared innocent, and to their care was committed the new coinage. It is per-

fectly clear, however, from the evidence of the coins themselves, that no great improvement was made in the design or workmanship, whatever may have been effected in the purity of the metal of which they consist; for they are certainly, as will be seen on reference to the engravings, rather more barbarous than those of his immediate predecessor.

The coins of Henry I. yet discovered are all silver pennies, and may be generally described as having on the obverse the king's bust in profile or front face with his name and title expressed "Henry or Henricus, Re" or "Rex;" reverse, the moneyer's and mint name, with an ornamental cross. To this there is a remarkable exception in the penny engraved below :



PENNY OF HENRY I.

This has the moneyer's and mint name in two concentric circles, being the only instance of a double legend upon an English penny.

The following pennies will give a good idea of the various types of his coinage :

*Obv.*—Full face, crowned, between two annulets.  
*Rev.*—A cross fleury, three pellets, and a triangular ornament in each angle.

[By an oversight this engraving was inserted in page 38 of our last number.]

*Obv.*—Full-faced bust of the King crowned and mantled; three pellets on the left, and an annulet on the right shoulder. *Rev.*—Moneyer's and mint name, with the word PAX across the field; two annulets above and below.

*Obv.*—Profile of the King to the left, crowned; an ornament in front of his face. *Rev.*—A cross with an annulet in each angle.

*Obv.*—Front or full face, with sceptre; ornaments in the field. *Rev.*—An ornamental quatrefoil enclosing a cross of pellets; a star in the centre, with a fleur-de-lis in each angle.



PENNY OF HENRY I.

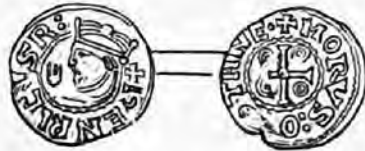
*Obv.*—Full face of the King crowned, a sceptre in right hand; a star in the field. *Rev.*—A voided cross; a floret in each angle.

*Obv.*—Three-quarter face to the right, with sceptre; ornaments in front. *Rev.*—A cross potent over a cross fleury.



PENNY OF HENRY I.

*Obv.*—Profile of the King to left, crowned, and having some little ornament before his face. *Rev.*—A cross pierced in the centre, with an annulet enclosing a pellet in each angle. This penny is of smaller dimensions than any of the others.



PENNY OF HENRY I

Leake, in his "Historical Account of English Money," 8vo, 1745, mentions having seen half-pennies of this reign, but Ruding, in his "Annals" concludes that the coins seen by him were pence clipped down to the inner circle. Probably he might have mistaken a coin similar to the last for a halfpenny, being of so much less size than the usual pennies.

Henry I. issued coins from numerous mints.\* His chief engravers were Otto the younger and William Fitz Otto. The penny still remained at 22½ grains Troy.

All the coins of this king are scarce, some types extremely rare, and when in fine condition realize at the sales large prices.

J. H.

\* His mints were: Bath, Bedford, Bristol, Canterbury, Chester, Chichester, Colchester, Gloucester, Hastings, Hereford, Ipswich, Lewes, Lincoln, London, Northampton, Newark, Norwich, Nottingham, Oxford, Rochester, Rumney, Stamford, Salisbury, St. Edmondsbury, Sudbury, Southwark, Tamworth, Thetford, Wareham, Wallingford, Winchester, Worcester, York and Reading. To the last place he granted a mint and one moneyer, in 1125, but no coins are extant.

NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.—At a meeting of the Numismatic Society, held on the 21st October, J. Evans, Esq., President, in the chair. Mr. E. Burns exhibited a shilling and sixpence of the Commonwealth, both dated 1659, and with the anchor mint-mark; Mr. H. Willett, a Dutch silver jetton commemorating the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588; Mr. J. W. Singer submitted a manuscript work entitled "A Continuation of the Dissertation on the Coins of this Realm from the Earliest down to the Present Time (that of Queen Anne), by A. Mackerell;" Mr. Evans exhibited a gold half-crown of James the First, with the thistle mint-mark, attributed by Mr. Cochran-Patrick to the Scottish series; also a small silver Gaulish coin, one of a find lately discovered in Jersey, and inscribed *ESVIOS*, a name which is remarkable as re-occurring at a later date in the form of *ESUVIUS* as one of the names of the Emperor Tetricus.—*Athenæum*.

## Popular Antiquities.

EDITED BY WILLIAM ANDREWS.

*In this part of "The Archæologist" it is our desire to furnish Original Articles on Manners, Customs, and Literary, Political, and Social Life of the Olden Time, Obsolete Laws, Forgotten Literature, Folk Lore, Legends, Traditions, &c., &c.*

*We most respectfully solicit Contributions on the subjects named, and on kindred matters. All articles to be written on one side of the paper only, and addressed to the Editor, Mr. William Andrews.*

ASTROLOGY AND MURDER.—[As the long winter nights is the time for relating stories, we think it the most suitable period to give the following sketch extracted from an unpublished volume entitled "Social History of the People of the North of England in the Olden Time," by William Andrews, of Hull.]—In the accounts of the Overseers of Bramley, near Leeds, are records of the following singular payments:—

	s.	d.
1783		
Dec. 8th. Expenses on bargaining with Conjuror from Skipton to cure Matthew Hudson's daughter .	1	0
1784		
Feb. 1st. Astrological Doctor for Hudson's Daughter .....	12	6

Previous entries shew that this female was subject to fits, but we fail to gather if the curious mode of treatment proved successful. The good people of Bramley attended to the soul as well as body, for in 1709 we find

To one Byble for Abraham Burn ..... 2s. 0d.  
Seeing how superstitious the people of Bramley were, we do not feel surprised at the following story, as related by the Rev. John Wesley, who visited the village on the 24th of July, 1761. In his journal he says:—"About one I preached at Bramley, where Jonas Rushford, about 14 years of age, gave me the following relation:—"About this time last year, I was desired by two of our neighbours to go with them to Mr. Crowther's, at Skipton, who would not speak to *them* about a man that had been missing twenty days, but bid them bring a boy twelve or thirteen years old. When we came in he stood reading a book. He put me into bed with a looking-glass in my hand, and covered me all over. Then he asked me whom I had a mind to see, and I said 'My mother.' I presently saw her, with a lock of wool in her hand, standing just in the place, and the clothes she was in, as she told me afterwards. Then he bid me look again for the man that was missing, who was one of our neighbours, and I looked and saw him riding towards Idle, but he was very drunk. He stopped at the ale-house and drank two pints more, and pulled out a guinea to change, and two men stood by, a big man and a little man, and they went on before him and got two hedge-stakes, and when he came up, on Windle Common, at the top of the hill, they pulled him off his horse, and killed him, and threw him into a coal-pit. And I saw it all, as plain as if I was close to them! And if I saw the men I should know them again. We went back to

Bradford that night, and the next day I went with our neighbours, and showed them the spot where he was killed, and the pit he was thrown into, and a man went down and brought him up; and it was as I had told them; his handkerchief was tied about his mouth, and fastened about his neck." The historian of Bramley observes "Mr. Wesley, it is evident, could scarcely credit this marvellous narrative. Still the young man's clear and apparently honest statement seems to have produced a great impression on his mind, for he concludes his record by saying, 'It is improbable only, or flatly impossible, that all this should be pure fiction. They that can believe this may believe a man's getting into a bottle!'"

THE YULE-LOG ON CHRISTMAS-EVE.—We trace the burning of this to our Scandinavian ancestors, who, during the feast of Juul at the winter solstice, kindled huge bonfires in honour of their god Thor. In the old baronial halls, with their wide hearths, the log was brought in with great pomp, and round its cheerful blaze all comers were welcomed. Freely flowed the wassail bowl, which drowned old animosities and created good feeling. Sir Walter Scott in "Marmion" says:—

"England was merry England, when  
Old Christmas brought his sports again.  
'Twas Christmas broached the mightiest ale;  
'Twas Christmas told the merriest tale;  
A Christmas gambol oft could cheer  
The poor man's heart through half the year."

Bringing in the yule-log was honoured with minstrelsy. Robert Herrick, that rare good old poet, who was born in Cheapside, London, in 1591, gives the following inspiring stanzas:—

"Come bring with a noise,  
My merry, merry boys,  
The Christmas log to the firing;  
While my good dame, she  
Bids you all be free,  
And drink to your heart's desiring.  
With last year's brand  
Light the new block, and  
For good success is spending,  
On your psaltries play,  
That sweet luck may  
Come while the log is tending.

Drink now the strong beer,  
Put the white loaf here,  
The while the meat is a shreading;  
For the rare mince-pie,  
And the plums stand by,  
To fill the paste that's a kneading."

In the second stanzas we have an allusion to the practice of laying aside the half-consumed brand to light the next year's log. This we saw faithfully carried out three years ago in a small Yorkshire village. It is believed by the superstitious that the preservation of the Christmas log is a most effectual security to the house against fire. Our fore-elders regarded it as an omen of bad luck if a squinting person entered the hall during the burning of the log, and a similarly equal sign if a barefooted person, or above all a flat footed woman, entered! As an accompaniment to the yule-log, the yule or Christmas candle was burnt to light the festive board during the evening; and to-day even, where gas and lamps on other occasions are used in our rural and even manufacturing villages, the good old folk will have candles. Brand tells us, in his "Popular Antiquities," that in the buttery of St. John's College, Oxford, an ancient candle socket of stone still remains, ornamented with the figure of the Holy Lamb. It was formerly used for holding the Christmas candle, which, during the twelve nights of Christmas festival, was burned on the high table at supper.

THE BLACK COFFIN: A DERBYSHIRE TALE.—Some long time ago a Derbyshire lass, sitting at work near midnight in the lower room of the house in which she lived, was visited for some purpose or other by a *black coffin*. She, however, expected the visit, and was sitting up so late so as to accommodate the circumstance to the hour. Perhaps she had undertaken to receive the visit with a purpose, but I never could get to know if such was the case. Whether or not, she was prepared and fortified for the event by having a foreknowledge of the following distich (a charm in fact), and the proper time when to use it:—

Open hills, open hills,  
And let the night-light in!

A sensible distich perhaps though rather obscure as to the why and wherefore. When the time arrived—the orthodox midnight hour—the black coffin arrived too, and began to rattle and bump against the windows and shutters as if seeking admittance. The girl repeated her distich,

Open hills, open hills,  
And let the night-light in!

when the window flew open, and into the room glided, feet end foremost, the *black coffin*. Without taking particular notice of it (a very strong-minded girl certainly) she again repeated the distich. This encouraged the coffin, or the managing spirit of it, to further action. As if it was a feather it floated about the room, and at length settled on the girl's head. She again repeated the lines, and the coffin rolled and settled on her breast. The distich was again repeated, when the coffin rolled to her knees, resting there. Again were the lines said, and the coffin rolled to her feet, whereupon she placed her foot upon it, again repeating the distich. This last repetition had a most extraordinary effect, for the coffin lid flew open and out came a complete prince! I am sure it was a prince, for everyone who related the marvellous tale said so! What followed the advent of the prince remains a mystery, and is likely to so remain, unless some reader of *The Archæologist* has heard, or can suggest, the sequel.

*Thomas Ratcliffe, Worksop.*

A RICHMOND DINNER 300 YEARS AGO.—We find in the Lansdowne Manuscripts that about Christmas, 1508, certain officials of the court of King Henry VIII. dined together at the village of Shene, now called Richmond, and that at the end of the entertainment my host of the Star and Garter, with many salutations, handed to them the following bill:—For brede, 12*d.*; ale 3*s.* 4*d.*; wyne, 10*d.*; two leynes moton, 8*d.*; maribones, 6*d.*; poudred beef, 5*d.*; two capons, 2*s.*; two geese, 14*d.*; five conyes, 15*d.*; one legge moton,

51*lb.* Weight, 4*d.*; six plovers, 18*d.*; six pigeons, 5*d.*; two dozen larkes, 12*d.*; salt sauce, 6*d.*; buter and eggs, 10*d.*; maiden's gaynes, 12*d.*; herbes, 1*d.*; spices, 2*s.* 4*d.*; floure, 4*d.*; whight cuppes and cruses, 6*d.*; which, summed up, gives exactly 1*l.* sterling as the total expenses of this feast. Many a party, gentle and simple, has since that time dined at the Star and Garter, but none ever got so many substantial things for their 20*s.* as the subjects of the young King Henry VIII.—C.C.

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### PHILATELIC GOSSIP.

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THE Berlinese have started an Imperial Postal Museum. Amongst the articles exhibited are models and drawings of the most beautiful German post-offices. There are life-size figures of officials in uniform, and 30 models of mail carts, which show how present arrangements have been gradually developed from the most humble beginnings. Railway mail carriages are represented by two models, in which every convenience, even the most minute, is faithfully copied. The "field post" has also ample justice done to it. A fine collection of books and maps includes drawings dating as far back as the thirteenth century, and a magnificent collection of postage stamps attracts much attention. The example might be profitably followed in England. Our post-office is one of the few government institutions of which we may be justly proud. The number of insufficiently directed envelopes would alone form a wonderful collection, from the immortal "Uncle John, opposite the church, England," upwards. Surely an odd corner might be found somewhere at South Kensington for a museum of the kind.

The *Illustrirtes Briefmarken-Journal* for November is, as usual, a readable and well-illustrated number. It contains a pregnant article on for-

geries, and another on the Persian Post Office. *L'Ami des Timbres* has nothing but the catalogue of new issues, and the *Timbre-Poste*, except for the article on envelope stamps, is not noteworthy:

Among new issues are the following:—

CANADA (old type)—

5 cents, green.

DUTCH INDIES (old type)—

2½ cents, yellow.

FINLAND (old type)—

8 penni, blueish green.

GRENADA (old type)—

9 pence, orange.

AZORES (old type)—

15 reis, chocolate.

SERVIA (new type, which we have not yet seen)

—1 para, orange; 5, green; 10, violet; 15, green; 20, blue; and post cards as follows—5, violet, 5 and 5 (double card) violet; 10, green.

PUNJAB (type as described a month or two since—½ anna, grey; 1, blue; 2, yellow; 4, green; 8, red.

FIJI (the threepence, surcharged)—2 pence, green.

UNITED STATES (large rect. with full-length figure, for bundles of journals)—3 dollars, vermilion; 6, blue; 9, orange; 12, green; 24, purple.

CABUL (type somewhat similar to the last, but with the outer circle unfrayed)—1 shahi, black; 3, red; 4, 8, 16, black.

GOLD COAST (head of Victoria to left, in Oct., within rect.)—1 penny, blue; 4 pence, violet; 6 orange.

BAVARIA.—A new issue is in preparation.

#### LITERARY NEWS.

THE authoress of "Comin' thro' the Rye," one of the most successful novels of the year, is engaged upon a new work which will probably be published in about six months' time, by Mr. Bentley. The lady, who, by the bye, is

not Miss M. E. Braddon, will, we believe, in her new book take some of her characters from low life. She has also a poem in blank verse in preparation, which deals with incidents occurring about the time of the Norman Conquest.

The Rev. Charles Maurice Davies, well-known as the author of several works treating of the various phases of religious life in the metropolis, has a new novel in preparation. His last romance, "Broad Church," which was published by Tinsley Brothers, has set a certain set of critics by the ears. We think Dr. Davies burdens himself with more work than he can do justice to; for, during the last twelve months he has written and published no less than five volumes; has continuously edited a weekly newspaper, the *Kensington News*; and has at the same time contributed a monthly *pot-pourri*, called "The Social Status Quo," to *Tinsley's Magazine*, besides writing a number of occasional articles in the daily papers, both London and provincial. Dr. Davies, we believe, is also the author of one of the pieces in the *Figiad*, Messrs. Ward and Lock's last annual.

Mr. Robert Browning's new poem has just appeared, and its publication has been looked forward to with some degree of interest, in spite of the fact that the present year has been singularly fecund in verse of better or worse quality. Among the best of the works of this class, which have been published during the last twelve months, are Tennyson's drama, "Queen Mary;" Mr. Herbert Todd's "Arvan;" Stella's "Sappho;" a good translation of Lermontoff's "Demon;" Mr. William Morris' "Æneids of Virgil;" Lord Lorne's "Guido and Lita;" and Longfellow's "Masque of Pandora," and other poems. Mr. W. Laird-Clowes has a blank verse epic nearly ready, entitled "Meroë;" and Mr. Algernon Swinburne is, we understand, working hard for the press on a long poem.

The *London Magazine*, a mid-monthly of light

literature, promises well in its first number. Among the contributors are Austin Dobson, Mortimer Collins, Henry S. Leigh, William Sawyer, Lady Duffus Hardy, H. J. Byron, and C. H. Ross: and Will Williams of the *Pictorial World*, fills the editorial chair. Mr. Sawyer, who we believe to be a true poet in spite of the fact, contributes the worst piece in the magazine, some verses called "Dream Love." *Palmam qui meruit*, etc.

Mr. Sawyer is, by the bye, the editor of the new and popular periodical known as *Funny Folks*, which has proved itself a successful rival of all the older comic publications.

We are informed that neither Baron Grant, nor Mr. Labouchère has any proprietary interest in the *World*: Mr. Edmund Yates is editor and sole proprietor:—and let him who sayeth to the contrary be *anathema*.

The *Hour*, after many vicissitudes, during all of which its editor, Capt. Hamber, has bravely stuck to it, is now the property of Mr. McDougall, the sworn rival of Baron Grant and Mr. McHenry, the financiers. Baron Grant is owner of the *Echo*, the evening edition of which is now edited by Mr. George Barnett Smith; and the two newspaper proprietors may fitly echo the gladiators' words, *Morituri salutamus*.

LEH-TE.

## Notes, Queries, and Replies.

*Under this heading, we propose to insert information on Numismatic, Philatelic, and Antiquarian subjects, and to answer any questions on the same which may be currently addressed to us by our readers.*

ONE HUNDRED TONS OF NEW MONEY.—Messrs. Heaton, of the Royal Mint, in Birmingham, have just received an order for 100 tons of new bronze coins for circulation in this country. There will be 50 tons of pennies, 30 tons of halfpennies, and 20 tons of farthings. The total number of coins

included in this order will be 50 tons of pennies, numbering 4,376,000; 30 tons of halfpennies, 5,376,000; and 20 tons of farthings, 7,168,000; or, altogether, 17,920,000 pieces. The whole manufacture of the coins is being completed by Messrs. Heaton, under the supervision of the Government Mint officers. The execution of the order will probably occupy about three months. Messrs. Heaton have also at present on hand extensive orders for bronze coins for Norway, Germany, and other countries on the Continent. *Birmingham Daily Gazette*.



MEDAL OF HENRY THE EIGHTH.—The above finely-executed wood-engraving represents a brass medal of King Henry the Eighth, which was found at Rosebury Topping, some forty years ago, and is now in the possession of the Messrs. Cail Brothers, of Stokesley. The reverse is blank. As I would like to notice it more fully in my *People's History of Cleveland and its Vicinage*, now in course of publication, I will be glad of any information, tending to show for what special purpose it was struck, from any of readers of the *Archæologist*.

GEORGE MARKHAM TWEDDELL.  
Rose Cottage, Stokesley, November 18, 1875.